

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIII, No. 5

[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 30, 2022



## *Genesis of Eve*

The weekend of May 13-15 saw over 500 women from across the country visit central Louisiana to attend the first *Genesis of Eve Catholic Women's Conference*. The much anticipated event was held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. The purpose for the formation of Genesis of Eve is to give women an opportunity to **Encounter** the Lord through the sacraments, **Empower** them to be good stewards of God's gifts to them, and encourage the women to **Evangelize** by spreading the Good News of Jesus to those in their community. See page 6 for photos from the event.

### INSIDE

#### Clergy appointments and diaconate ordinations

The Diocese of Alexandria is pleased to announce that thirteen men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate. See page 5 for this year's clergy assignments and transitional deacon ordination, and page 9 for more information on our permanent deacon candidates.

#### Adopt-a-Mom program

The "Adopt-a-Mom" program, facilitated by the "Let Them Live" organization, helps moms-to-be with resources and financial aid in order to help them through a unplanned pregnancy. Fr. Taylor Reynolds tells the story of his church parish experience with the program and how you can participate on page 8.

#### First Communion and Confirmation season

Churches have been celebrating their First Communion and Confirmation candidates all across the diocese this month! See the center spread for photos, with more to come in the next issue of the Church Today, or at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).

## INDEX

Feature .....	2
National News .....	3
Question Corner .....	4
Diocesan News .....	5
Features .....	6
Vocations and Burses .....	8
Parish Spotlight .....	10
Local News .....	11
Picture Spread.....	12
Features .....	14
Schools / Youth.....	20
Diocesan Briefs .....	22
Calendar .....	23

CHURCH  
TODAY

Volume LIII, No. 5  
May 30, 2022

P. O. Box 7417  
Alexandria, LA 71303  
churchtoday@diocesealex.org  
318-445-6424

## Publisher:

Most. Rev. Robert Marshall  
Publication Manager / Editor:  
Cari Terracina, ext. 255,  
cterracina@diocesealex.org  
Multimedia Manager /  
Advertising:

Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;  
joanferguson@diocesealex.org  
Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209;  
starver@diocesealex.org

The CHURCH TODAY (USPS  
393-240) is published by the  
Catholic Diocese of Alexandria,  
once a month, free of charge to  
members of the parishes in the  
Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana.  
Out of diocese subscriptions are  
\$20 a year.

The office is located at  
4400 Coliseum Blvd.,  
Alexandria, LA 71303.  
Periodicals postage paid at  
Alexandria, LA.

## Postmaster:

Send address changes to  
The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box  
7417, Alexandria, LA 71306  
Website: www.diocesealex.org  
To receive a free subscription,  
call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or  
e-mail starver@diocesealex.org

## Religious Freedom Week 2022: June 22-29

RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM  
WEEK

Religious Freedom Week takes place June 22-29 each year. It begins with the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and ends with the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

The Church plays a crucial role in both bearing witness to the gospel of life and serving all of those people who will be affected by these discussions and their outcomes.

The USCCB provides “Pray - Reflect - Act” resources at [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek), one for each day on different religious liberty topics. These materials help teach about religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, pray about particular issues, and act on what they learn by advocating for policies that promote religious freedom.

The theme for this year is *Life and Dignity for All*. Among some of this year’s issues, as we approach the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, we are especially mindful of the debates around our country about abortion. The Church plays a crucial role in both bearing witness

to the gospel of life and serving all of those people who will be affected by these discussions and their outcomes.

The Committee for Religious Liberty has collaborated with the Office of International Justice and Peace to raise awareness about the religious liberty in China. We need to be in solidarity with people throughout the world who suffer for their faith.

Domestically, a major area of concern continues to be freedom for Catholic institutions, such as schools, hospitals, and child welfare service providers, to carry out their missions with integrity. In particular, protecting Catholic adoption and foster care will become even more vital, as we take new steps in building a

culture of life and dignity for all in the United States.

To build a culture of life and dignity for all, the Church must support women and children. In 2020, the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities launched *Walking with Moms in Need*. This initiative seeks to help parishes become places where pregnant and parenting women can find support and accompaniment. We encourage Catholics to learn about how their parishes can connect with local institutions and accompany women and children at [www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com).

Pregnancy resource centers provide counseling and support for moms who want to choose life. In some places, though, abortion activists have sought to curtail the

activities of these centers, working to force them to advertise abortion. In 2018, pregnancy resource centers in California successfully defended their work at the U.S. Supreme Court. But in places like Connecticut, for example, abortion activists show no signs of stopping their campaign against pregnancy resource centers. These centers support life and dignity for all.

Beginning in July 2021, the Committee for Religious Liberty began publishing articles on basic issues in religious liberty. This resource helps Catholics learn more about Church teaching and fundamental questions related to religious freedom. The essays are available at [www.usccb.org/FirstFreedomBlog](http://www.usccb.org/FirstFreedomBlog).

Connect with the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty. Text FREEDOM to 84576 and Sign up for First Freedom News, the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty’s monthly newsletter.

Through prayer, education, and public action during Religious Freedom Week, we can promote the fundamental right of religious freedom for Catholics and for people of all faiths.

## 50th anniversary reunion of Scout Troop 6 set for June 18

There will be a reunion for Boy Scout Troop 6 on Saturday, June 18 at 1:00 p.m. at Camp Attakapas near Jena, LA.

The event will celebrate the Troop’s 50th anniversary as well as Mr. Emile Oestriecher’s 50th anniversary as Scout Master. Mr. Oestriecher has been scout master since May 1, 1972, and was present during the founding of Troop 6.

All current and former scouts, their leaders, and families are

invited to this event. There is no cost to attend but donations will be accepted. Dinner will be provided. The day will close with a campfire at about 9:00 p.m.

Troop 6 is sponsored by St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria and is in the Attakapas District of the LA Purchase Council of Scouts which covers 20 civil parishes in Louisiana. Troop 6 currently has sixty boys and is the largest troop in the 20

civil parishes. Over the years, Troop 6 has turned out 160 Eagle Scouts and six scouts have become Catholic priests.

For more information about

the reunion or how to become a member of Troop 6, visit [www.troop6.org](http://www.troop6.org). Or contact Emile Oestriecher at [emile.o@cpa.com](mailto:emile.o@cpa.com) or call (318) 308-3556.



**PHILMONT RANCH, NEW MEXICO.** Troop 6 poses for a group photo during their annual trek to New Mexico last year.



**50TH ANNIVERSARY AS SCOUT MASTER.** Mr. Emile Oestriecher became scout master on May 1, 1972.

## Buffalo bishop lays flowers, personal prayer at mass shooting memorial

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) -- Bishop Michael W. Fisher of Buffalo joined mourners outside a Tops grocery store where 10 people were killed and three others were injured in what law enforcement authorities said was a racially motivated crime.

Placing flowers and a handwritten note remembering “the souls of our brothers and sisters lost to the acts of violence and racism” at a growing memorial outside the store, Bishop Fisher paid his respects to the victims May 17, the Western New York Catholic reported.

Cheryl Calire, director of pastoral ministries for the Buffalo



**BISHOP MICHAEL W. FISHER.** Bishop Michael W. Fisher of Buffalo, N.Y., places flowers at a memorial May 17, 2022, in the wake of a weekend mass shooting at a Tops supermarket. (CNS photo / Brendan McDermid, Reuters)

Bishop Fisher visited the scene after President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden left the area. The Bidens also laid a bouquet of flowers and grieved with family members of the victims.

In a speech during his visit, the president vowed that “white supremacy will not have the last word.”

Also at the memorial site were Father Paul Seil, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Buffalo and a chaplain for the Buffalo Fire Department, and Felician Sister M. Johnice Rzadkiewicz, executive director of the Response to Love Center on the city’s east side.

Father Seil met with two deputy fire commissioners, the Western New York Catholic reported. Police officers led Bishop Fisher and Father Seil through part of the crime scene as well.

Bishop Fisher also briefly met with other religious leaders who were at the scene.

“It was a good pastoral visit,” Calire said. “People were coming up to him and asking him to pray for them. It was so nice to see a shepherd in his element. That’s what he has been called to do. And he was on the street with the people bringing comfort just by his presence.”

Shortly after the shooting, Bishop Fisher condemned on Twitter “the scourge of senseless gun violence that has taken the lives of so many across our nation

and changed the lives of countless innocent men, women and children must come to an end.”

On May 17, he later updated his remarks saying that innocent people were victimized in the killing spree. “No love was shown in this rampage, only the deepest of hate,” he said.

“This country has struggled for years with the practice of racism and white supremacy that has victimized communities of color and has weakened us all. My heart is so heavy, and I pray for the victims, their families, friends and this community traumatized by this tragedy,” he said in a statement.

“Faith,” he continued, “compels us to reject the abject evil of racism and white supremacy, and to say ‘no’ to terror, and ‘no’ to the intent to silence Black and Brown voices.”

The bishop will host an interfaith prayer service May 23 at St. Martin de Porres Church, located near the grocery store.

Religious communities and individuals participated in an online prayer service May 17 organized by #Onebody, a diverse ministry that addresses racial and social justice.

---

Contributing to this story was Patrick J. Buechi, a staff reporter at the Western New York Catholic, the news outlet of the Diocese of Buffalo.

### HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS for June 2022

#### Families

We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

## B.K. ROOFING, LLC

### Call the Pros! Residential Roofing Experts

[www.bkroofingllc.com](http://www.bkroofingllc.com)

**Brian Maddox, Owner**  
13 years experience  
Licensed & insured • References available

“It doesn’t cost any more to get it done right!”

**Free estimates!**  
Most estimates in 2 days

Experienced in dealing with Insurance Companies  
Let us handle the details!

# 318-201-9065

17 Glade St. • Pineville, LA 71460

Emergency  
service  
available



Diocese, told the Buffalo diocesan news outlet that the bishop’s visit was a way to offer a “prayerful, peaceful way of being present” with others who had gathered at the site.

Bishop Fisher talked with police and fire department officials who were coordinating the investigation at the crime scene as investigators combed the store and surrounding area for evidence that could be linked to the suspect in the mass killing, 18-year-old Payton S. Gendron of Conklin, New York.

All of those who died were Black as was one of the three who were injured.

Police said Gendron, who is white, allegedly was wearing tactical gear and armed with an assault weapon when he entered the supermarket around 2:30 p.m. May 14 and began shooting people he encountered. He has been charged with first-degree murder and remained in custody without bail.

Gendron has entered a plea of “not guilty.” He is scheduled for another court appearance May 19.

Authorities said they discovered a chilling 180-page manifesto that was posted online in which Gendron allegedly stated he wanted to “kill as many Blacks as possible” and claimed some groups are trying to replace white people in the U.S. with people of color.

Accompanied by Calire,



Diocese of Alexandria Website  
[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)



Diocese of Alexandria Facebook  
[facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria](https://facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria)



Diocese of Alexandria Instagram  
[@dioceseofalexandria](https://@dioceseofalexandria)



Diocese of Alexandria  
on Spotify

Visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)  
for updated COVID-19  
information and resources  
for our diocese.

## Forgetting eucharistic fast / Site of the Ascension

**Q:** Recently I graduated from high school, and I have a question about the eucharistic fast. This morning I went to the 7:30 Mass and had a cup of coffee with a protein shake in it before I left for church. The church was only a few minutes away, and I received Communion at the Mass, not thinking anything about the fast.

Is this a mortal sin? It was a complete mistake, but I feel so horrible for accidentally disrespecting the Eucharist, and I would greatly appreciate your guidance (city and state withheld).

**A.** Of course it's not a mortal sin -- or any sin at all. It was simply -- as you said -- a mistake, done without any thought at all. Sin requires a deliberate intention to do something wrong. And here is my question for you: What do you think God is really like?

For me, God is not some giant scorekeeper in the sky whose primary interest it is to keep track of rights and wrongs. God is the person who brought you into existence out of love, wants you to be happy here on earth and to be with him forever in heaven. So try to relax and know how much God loves you.



### Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

**Q.** Where did the Ascension take place? Matthew and Mark tell us that the apostles are to go back to Galilee, but Luke says that they should stay in Jerusalem until Jesus has risen. (Louisville, Kentucky)

**A.** On top of the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem's Old City is a small hexagonal chapel that commemorates the site of the ascension of Jesus.

St. Luke narrates in the Acts of the Apostles how the disciples gathered with Jesus and "as they were looking on, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight." Then, Luke notes, "they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath's journey away" (Acts 1:9-12).

In the weeks following his rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to the apostles and disciples on a number of

occasions, both in Jerusalem and in Galilee.

On Easter itself, he appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the women at the tomb, to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and to the 10 apostles in Jerusalem (when Thomas was not present).

A week later, when Thomas was with them, he appeared again to the apostles in Jerusalem. Later,

he appeared to seven disciples as they were fishing near the shore of the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1) and to 11 disciples on a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16).

The ascension marks the final departure of Jesus for heaven following this series of apparitions. From then on, the disciples were to live by faith and communicate with Jesus through prayer and the sacraments.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 659) explains the sequence, "Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.

"But during the 40 days when

he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.

"Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand."

*Father Kenneth Doyle writes the Catholic News Service column "Question Corner." He is based in Albany, N.Y.*

## Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe passes away

Monsignor Ronald Cyril Hoppe, a priest of the Diocese of Alexandria, passed from this life on April 4, 2022 at the age of 92. Born in New Orleans on September 13, 1930 to William Francis Hoppe and Elizabeth McInerney, he attended St. Mary of the Angels Parochial School and Holy Cross High School before continuing his studies at Loyola University. He was received as a seminarian for the Diocese of Alexandria by Bishop Greco in 1948 and went on to study at St. Joseph Seminary College, Maryhill Seminary and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. He was ordained a priest on June 7, 1958.

During his more than fifty years of ministry, Msgr. Hoppe served as a parochial vicar at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine, St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport and as an instructor at Maryhill Seminary. He served as pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Deville, St. Jude's Church in Bossier City and at St.



**Msgr. Ronald C. Hoppe**  
1930-2022


Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria. He also served as pastor of St. Louis Church in Glenmora and its missions in Elmer and Seiper.

In addition to his parochial duties, Msgr. Hoppe served the diocese in various roles as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, as a member of the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Finance Council and the Presbyteral Council. He served as the Episcopal Vicar for Retreats and Spirituality and as Vicar for Religious. He

also served as the Diocesan Administrator before the appointment of Bishop Jacobs in 1989. In recognition of his service to the Church, Fr. Hoppe was named a Prelate of Honor with the title Reverend Monsignor by Pope St. John Paul II in 1988. He retired from active ministry in 2009.

Msgr. Hoppe was invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and was a faithful member and supporter of the Knights of Columbus. A born storyteller with an infectious smile, Msgr. Hoppe never lost his love for his native New Orleans and its culture. He shared his faith and spirituality through missions and retreats across the country and through a regular column in the Alexandria Daily Town Talk. A fantastic chef, Msgr. Hoppe loved to nourish the body as well as the soul.

He is survived by his cousins: Sr. Rosemary Hoppe, Dominican Sisters of Peace, Janell Blei, Louis Morgan, Joy Morgan and Alton Morgan Sr.



**Panda Restaurant**  
Chinese Cuisine


*Dine in or Take out . . . order from our extensive menu or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet.*

**2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA**  
**Ph: (318) 767-8596**

**Lunch:**  
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Dinner:**  
Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**Sunday:**  
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.



# Clergy Appointments

The Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Jr., Bishop of Alexandria, has made the following clergy appointments, effective on July 1, 2022:

**Father John Brocato**, formerly Pastoral Administrator, is appointed Pastor of St. Joseph Church, Colfax, and St. Patrick Church, Montgomery, while retaining his position as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana.

**Father Blake Deshautelle** is appointed Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Mansura.

**Father Peter Faulk**, formerly Pastoral Administrator, is appointed Pastor of St. Margaret Church, Boyce, St. Cyril Chapel, Flatwoods and St. Margaret Mary Chapel, Gorum, while retaining his position as Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Alexandria.

**Father James Ferguson** is granted a two-year extension to his term as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

**Father Jason Gootee** is appointed Pastor of St. Mary Church, Winnsboro, and St. John Church, Columbia and Parochial Administrator of St. William Church, Olla.

**Father Rick Gremillion** is re-appointed Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga.

**Father Daniel Hart** is appointed Pastoral Administrator of St. Mary Church, Jena and St. Edward Church, Fishville.

**Father Ryan Humphries** is re-appointed Pastor of St. Edward the Confessor Church, Tallulah.

**Father Luke LaFleur** is appointed Pastoral Administrator of St. Juliana Church, Alexandria, while retaining his position as Director of Vocations.

**Father Martin Laird** is re-appointed Pastor of Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine.

Father Kenneth Michiels is granted a two-year extension of his term as Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville.

**Father Dale Meade** is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville.

**Father Kenneth Obiekwe** is re-appointed Pastor of St. Louis Church, Glenmora, St. Peter Church, Elmer, and St. Jude Church, Sieper.

**Father John O'Brien** is re-appointed Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches.

**Father Christian Ogbonna** is re-appointed Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville, Holy Family Church, Monet Ferry, and Holy Rosary Church, Emmanuel.

**Father Binochan Pallippambil** is re-appointed Pastor of Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin.

**Father Charles Ray** is re-appointed Pastor of St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle and St. Anne Church, Old River.

**Father Taylor Reynolds**, formerly Pastoral Administrator, is appointed Pastor of St.



**Fr. Blake Deshautelle**  
St. Paul the Apostle and  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
Mansura



**Fr. Irion St. Romain**  
Minor Basilica of the  
Immaculate Conception  
Natchitoches



**Fr. Jason Gootee**  
St. Mary Church  
Winnsboro  
and its missions



**Fr. Daniel Hart**  
St. Mary Church  
Jena  
and its missions



**Fr. Luke LaFleur**  
St. Juliana Church  
Alexandria



**Fr. Dale Meade**  
Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Pineville

Joseph Church, St. Joseph, and St. Francis of Assisi Church, Waterproof, while retaining his position as Ecclesiastical Judge of the Diocesan Tribunal.

**Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez** is granted a two-year

extension of his term as Pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Hessmer.

**Father Irion St. Romain** is appointed Pastor of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches.

In addition to these

appointments, Bishop Marshall extends his sincere gratitude to **Father Vincent Manuel** for his service as Parochial Administrator of St. Juliana Church and wishes him well as he resumes his retirement.

## Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

## Joshua Burch ordained a transitional deacon

Joshua Burch was ordained a Transitional Deacon on Saturday, May 21 at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches with Bishop Robert Marshall presiding.

A Transitional Deacon is a seminary student in the process of becoming ordained as a priest.

Deacon Josh Burch will complete his priestly formation in the upcoming year and be ordained to the priesthood in 2023.

Please pray for Deacon Josh Burch and his vocation as well as the rest of the seminarians of the diocese.



# Genesis of Eve Womens Conference brings over 500 attendees to Alexandria

After nearly two and a half years of cancellations and postponements due to COVID-19, the much anticipated Genesis of Eve Women's Conference was held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria from May 13-15. Over 500 women from 17 states came to central Louisiana for two and a half days of spiritual renewal.

Conference speakers were Sarah Swafford, internationally known author, speaker, mother and wife; Father John Burns, priest of the Diocese of Milwaukee, retreat director and author; Sister Miriam James, SOLT, cohost of *Abiding Together* podcast, author and former college student/athlete; and Heather Khym, director of the Celtic Cross Foundation, internationally known speaker and cohost of *Abiding Together* podcast.

The conference founders are: Colette Glankler, Jerri Grafton, Nicole Mitchell, Charlotte Wasmer and Deacon Richard Mitchell.

The purpose for the formation of Genesis of Eve is to give women an opportunity to **Encounter** the Lord through the sacraments, **Empower** them to be good stewards of God's gifts to them, and encourage the women to **Evangelize** by spreading the Good News of Jesus to those in their community.

The conference is sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria.



**DEACON CANDIDATE VOLUNTEERS.** Lending a hand at the conference: Lee Moreau, Les Glankler, Deacon Richard Mitchell, Fr. John Burns, Ken Primeaux, Jason Lavergne, Roger Christopher. Not pictured: Reggie Ducote, Doug Moreau.

**SPEAKERS.** This year's conference speakers: Sarah Swafford, Father John Burns, Sister Miriam James, SOLT, Heather Khym.



## Upcoming Retreats

- June 2 - 5, 2022  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor,  
Alexandria  
Women's ACTS
- July 7 - 10, 2022  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor,  
Alexandria  
Teen ACTS Retreat

A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at [www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/).

visit us at **DESPINOTIRE.COM**

LIKE US ON **facebook**

### Listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on

## KLIL 92.1

8 a.m. Sunday Mass

## KZLG 95.9

7 a.m. Sunday Mass



Brigitte Kelso  
Owner/Agent  
2918 S. MacArthur Dr.  
Alexandria, La. 71301

Phone: 318.448.2226  
Fax: 318.448.2280  
bkelso@kelsoinsurance.com

Auto, Home, Recreational Vehicles, Collector Cars, Commercial



**CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD.** Knights of Columbus Council #9418 of Fifth Ward/Moncla recently presented its 2022 Catholic Youth Leadership Award to give encouragement and public recognition to Catholic seniors for their outstanding leadership in their church, community, and school. Winners were: Ava Williber, a senior at LSASA, and William Blalock, a senior at Marksville High School. Pictured with the winners are CYLA council chairman Ken Ducote and Father Kurian Zachariah.

**Budget Blinds**  
a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings  
Shutters • Draperies • Blinds

Huge selection of the best brands!

**(318) 443-9730**  
FREE In-Home Consultation & Estimates

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise  
Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated  
[www.budgetblinds.com](http://www.budgetblinds.com)

Signature Series • Lafayette Interior Fashions  
Exterior Window Screens

*Choosing Kramer Funeral Home  
means choosing 145 years of  
compassion, respect, and dignity.*

*Since no two people are alike,  
no two funerals should be alike.*

*We are here for you and your family  
yesterday, today, and tomorrow.*

**KRAMER**  
Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
Est. 1875  
[www.KramerFunerals.com](http://www.KramerFunerals.com) 318-445-6311

### A message from the Diocese of Alexandria's Safe Environment Program

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please call: Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437).

If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report also should be made to the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp at 318-542-9805.

For updated information, news articles, and documents regarding ongoing activity and planning for securing and maintaining a Safe Environment for all, visit [www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing) (visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) and look for "A Safe Environment For All" under the "Our Faith" tab). Here, you can find more information, as well as updates from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also found on this page is the letter from Pope Francis to all Bishops in the United States regarding a meeting in February 2019 at the Vatican entitled "The Protection of Minors in the Church."

**SABINE STATE  
BANK**  
& Trust Company



Member FDIC



Call your local  
branch for  
information.  
(318) 256-7000

### POSITION AVAILABLE: Diocesan Director of Religious Education and Faith Formation

The Diocese of Alexandria office of religious education and faith formation is the means by which the Bishop, as head of the community and teacher of doctrine, directs and moderates all of the catechetical activities throughout the diocese.

#### Duties and responsibilities to include (but not limited to):

- To work with all diocesan and parish ministries to further the diocesan mission of religious education and evangelization, specifically working closely and collaboratively with Pastoral Leadership, Office of Divine Worship, and all other diocesan programs associated with the development of faith formation.
- To analyze the catechetical needs of the Diocese and develop policies and procedures to achieve these needs.
- To establish/Manage a Diocesan Certified Catechist program.
- To coordinate liturgical training/certification programs
- Develop and manage continuing education programs for adults of all ages.
- Prepare budget and engage in strategic planning for the office
- Other duties and responsibilities may be assigned to meet the needs of the diocese.
- To assist parishes/Directors of Religious Education (DREs) with guidelines, evaluation, resources, training, develop processes and budgets.

**Requirements:** A Master's Degree or equivalent in Religious Studies, Religious Education, Theology or a related field preferred. Other training or formation as a religious, permanent deacon or certified teacher along with experience as a catechetical leader on a parish, regional, or diocesan level may substitute for the Master's Degree requirement.

The diocesan director of religious and faith formation should be an exemplary Catholic with advanced academic training in theology, catechesis or a related field; proven experience in parish catechesis; excellent communication and leadership skills; and the ability to collaborate effectively. In addition, this person should have a working knowledge of computer programs and technology, especially as it relates to catechesis.

For a complete list of job duties for this position,  
please visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).

To apply, please email CV and resume to: [jobs@diocesealex.org](mailto:jobs@diocesealex.org)

**Deadline to apply is June 17, 2022.**



DIocese OF ALEXANDRIA

# Adopt-a-Mom program: Being pro-life for mother and child

*By Father Taylor Reynolds  
Pastor of St. Joseph Church,  
St. Joseph, LA*

It is always disheartening when I hear people criticize the pro-life movement as simply being anti-abortion and that we throw out life once it is born. Obviously, this is not true and I always look for ways to show that we support women and children. It is sometimes hard to show a concrete example.

That changed in the spring of 2021. I came across a pro-life organization called “Let Them Live” which not only provided outreach programs to mothers considering abortion for the purpose of changing their mind, but also provided finances, support, counseling, prenatal care, and everything the mother needs to overcome challenges.

Unfortunately, 73% of all abortions occur simply because the mother does not have the means to support a child. Many others have an abortion because of lack of support from family. “Let Them Live” is geared to change that. After I researched the organization, I began to be committed as a donor. I immediately began to receive phone calls and letters from actual moms who said that my donations helped them to keep their child! I felt driven to do more.

I reached out to “Let Them Live” and asked what I could do to help more in their mission. At the time, they were launching a pilot program called “Adopt-A-Mom” where a church would sponsor a mother who was considering abortion and the church would become their support community. Some people will ask, “does the mother want to give the child up for adoption?” Sometimes that happens but “Let Them Live”



**ADOPT-A-MOM.** Pictured above is Yahaira, and her baby, Anders, who was the adopted mom and baby for Cabrini Church in 2021.

says the goal is to encourage and empower the mom to be a mother for her child. The church raises funds, writes letters, sends gifts and in return the church receives ultrasounds, letters, updates and eventually a personal contact with the mother! I was excited about the program and overwhelmed to discover that St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria (where I was assigned at the time), would be the first church in the U.S. to participate!

Our mom’s name was “Yahaira” and starting in March of 2021, we created a display board in the church, had fundraisers, collected letters and prayed for her. As the program grew, we got beautiful little ultrasounds, a handwritten letter, an update on the gender and name (his name

was ‘Anders’) and eventually I was able to Facetime with Yahaira. I was so moved when she broke down and cried and said keeping her child was the best decision she ever made and that she couldn’t have done it without our support. Just our encouragement got her through it.

In April of this year, “Let Them Live” reached out to me again to see if my new parish in St. Joseph, LA would be interested in adopting a mom. We unanimously agreed and our parish is currently assisting another mom. We have been raising money, writing her cards and letters, and planning days of prayer for her. Our entire parish is excited and is very involved in the process.

I invite anyone who wants to promote pro-life to engage in

deeper levels: 1) explore “Let Them Live” and see how you can help. Your parish may want to participate in the Adopt-a-Mom program. 2) Please consider helping St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph, LA with our adopted mom. You can send donations to St. Joseph Catholic Church, P.O. Box 198, St. Joseph, LA 71366. Checks can be made out to “St.

Joseph Catholic” and on the memo line, write “Adopt-a-mom” 3) The founder of “Let Them Live” is actually coming to St. Joseph, LA to give a talk on “Let Them Live”! Consider joining us on June 19 at 10:00 a.m. for Emily Berning as she speaks on the mission of “Let Them Live”, join us for Mass and then stay for a luncheon after for a Q & A session with her.

“Understand this well: there is something holy, something divine hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of you to discover it.”

*|| Saint Josemaria Escriva*

**LUMBER**  **Jeansonne's Millworks & Cabinet Shop**  
\* Architectural Millwork  
\* Custom Cabinets & Moulding  
Phone 445-5665 \* FAX 445-5276  
GUY JEANSONNE Owner 1843 Sterkx Road Alexandria, LA 71301

P.O. Box 5624 Alexandria, LA 71307  
3306 Giamanco Street  
Phone: (318) 473-8751 Fax: (318) 473-4045 EMail: DonaldJBaker@aol.com

**BAKER**  LAND & TIMBER MANAGEMENT, INC.  
Donald J. Baker, ACF/RF/CF  
CONSULTING FORESTER  
Licensed Urban Tree Consultant

**YOUR COMMUNITY STORES**

**Y-NOT STOP**  Refueling & Refreshing Communities Since 1970  
**WWW.YNOTSTOP.COM**

**Petrus**  
**FEED & SEED**  
2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA  
**442-2325**

**Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions**  
June 21, 6:00 p.m.,  
St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

NOTE: Minors are not allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and discussions. To register, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

**NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT**  
Need Social Security Disability Benefits?  
**561-2500**  
**NBALawFirm.com**  
Richard J. Arsenault 2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria



## Diaconate Ordination set for June 4

The Diocese of Alexandria is pleased to announce that thirteen men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on June 4. Because of the large group that will be ordained at one time, and due to limited seating in the Cathedral, **we regret that the ordination will not be open for public attendance and is limited to the deacon candidates' families only.**

**However it will be live-streamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page.**

In the Catholic Church, the diaconate is the first of three ranks in ordained ministry. Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons. Those not

planning to be ordained priests are permanent deacons and may or may not be married.

Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came "to serve and not to be served."

The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.

Our deacon candidates and their home parishes are: Fidel Andrade, St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville; Roger Christopher, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga; Reginald Ducote, Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville;

Les Glankler, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria; Mark Guidry, St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle; Sam Jones, St. Patrick Church, Ferriday; Jason Lavergne, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral; Alex Mangini, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral; Doug Moreau, St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport; Lee Moreau, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville; Ken Primeaux, St. Winifred Mission, Effie; Kenny Sayes, Mary Mother of Jesus, Woodworth; Chad Thibodeaux, Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches.

In next month's Church Today we will list their first assignments as deacons. Please pray for our deacon candidates and their ordination.



**DEACON CANDIDATES RETREAT.** Saturday, April 23, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at Maryhill with the thirteen candidates preparing for ordination as permanent deacons. At the Mass, the candidates made their formal profession of faith which will accompany their petition for Holy Orders. Thank you to Deacon Richard Mitchell for his hard work coordinating the deacon formation program and for his help with this liturgy.

## Supper with the Seminarians set for June

Supper with the Seminarians is an opportunity to meet the men in priestly formation for the Diocese of Alexandria as well as enjoy a delicious meal they have prepared for you! Reserve your space at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).

This year's events are:  
**Saturday, June 18**  
St. Mary's Church, Winnsboro

**Monday, June 20**  
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Campti

**Monday, June 27**  
Christ the King Church, Simmesport

**Thursday, June 30**  
St. Rita Church, Alexandria

## Seminarian Burses

### April 2022 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez Burse	
<b>Catholic Daughters of America Court #2072</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Bishop Charles P. Greco Burse	
<b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller</b> .....	<b>\$200.00</b>
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$400.00</b>

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.

-- Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino, Chairman

## Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Lord, send out your Spirit,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

Psalm 104: 30 | Responsorial Psalm for June 5 | Pentecost Sunday

YOU GET IT ALL AT



WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM

Alexandria: 318.448.4225 • Ville Platte: 337.363.6322 • Toll Free: 800.766.4819

OFFICE SUPPLIES • OFFICE FURNITURE • OFFICE MACHINES  
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS • BREAKROOM & FOOD SERVICE SUPPLIES  
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES • JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT • PRINTING

## Parish Spotlight: St. Genevieve Church, Brouillette established 1953

In 1907, Mr. A. Brouillette donated a section of his land so that a chapel could be built in the area along Red River north of Marksville. Plans for a new chapel were drawn up by Fr. Jean B. Limagne of St. Joseph's in Marksville and the structure was completed in 1908 and dedicated in honor of St. Genevieve, the patroness of Paris. Fr. Limagne's assistant, Fr. Hippolitus Benezit, baptized five persons in the little chapel on March 1, 1908. The community would become known as Brouillette.



ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH, BROUILLETTE.

In 1910, there were 100 families who worshipped regularly at St. Genevieve's. By 1914 the number had increased to 520 communicants. The small chapel was struck by lightning and burned in 1915 but it was rebuilt by Fr. Nicholas Judermanns by 1920.

The second church was destroyed by a tornado. It was rebuilt and dedicated by Bishop Daniel Desmond on October 20, 1940.

In 1953, Bishop Charles Greco established St. Genevieve's as an independent parish. Fr. Marcel Anderson was named the first pastor of the new parish. Fr. Anderson built a rectory and a parish hall during his term as pastor.

Under Fr. Armando Fuoco, ground was broken for a new church in 1963. The new structure, built by James Eiland,

Jr. of Bunkie, was completed in December of 1963 and blessed by Bishop Greco on April 12, 1964.

Under Fr. Louis Voorhies a new hall was built in 1974 and a new rectory in 1975. Mr. James Eiland was the contractor on all these projects and contributed greatly to their completion.

Today, St. Genevieve still serves its small community along the Red River north of Marksville.



**COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY - PRICE**  
**WE DELIVER!**  
 WITHIN LIMITED AREA • CHECKS ACCEPTABLE

Everything from cheese to our "Full House"

#1 ALEXANDRIA 902 VERSAILLES BLVD. 448-4104	#2 BALL 6301 MONROE HWY 640-2983	#3 PINEVILLE HWY 28E AT STILLEY RD 445-9249
---	--	---

VALUABLE COUPON

**Two Medium Pizzas \$19.99**  
 Single Topping only

Additional Toppings Extra • Not valid with any other coupon  
 All prices subject to change

Expires 6/27/22

### PEST AID CO.

We Sell  
 Do-It-Yourself  
 Pest Control  
 Supplies



Termites • Ants  
 Fleas • Roaches  
 Mice • Cats

**COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL.**  
 Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.

**473-0228**  
 pestaid@bellsouth.net  
 www.pestaidco.com  
 2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA




**St. Frances Cabrini School is hiring for the 2022-2023 school year.**

The following positions are available:  
 Curriculum/Development Director  
 Librarian  
 Early Childhood Teacher  
 Lower Elementary Teacher  
 Upper Elementary Teacher  
 Part-time Janitor

Please send resumes to Sr. Nina Vincent at [nvincent@cabrinischool.com](mailto:nvincent@cabrinischool.com) or call the school for more information (318)448-3333.

**Holy Savior Menard High School now hiring for the 2022-2023 school year.**

Make an impact with your talents & abilities through a teaching career at Holy Savior Menard High School. HSM is seeking Junior High and High School professionals with a love for teaching and a desire to share their passions with students. Join Our Team!

To apply; visit our website at [www.holysaviormenard.com/join-our-team](http://www.holysaviormenard.com/join-our-team) or email Assistant Principal, Laura Davis, at [LDavis@holysaviormenard.com](mailto:LDavis@holysaviormenard.com).

### Lacombe Floor Finishing

**310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322**  
 Specializing in installation

- Floor Finishing
- Ceramic Tile Floors
- Hardwood Floors
- Reseal Tile Floors

**Ph: (318) 481-0950**  
 Morgan Newton, Owner

# NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

**561-2500 • NBALawFirm.com**

Richard J. Arsenault      2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED:**

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please first call the Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency. If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report should then also be made to the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist at 318-542-9805.



**ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, KNIGHTS OF ST. PETER CLAVER AND AUXILIARY.** Sunday, April 24, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. James Memorial Church in Alexandria on Divine Mercy Sunday. Joining us in prayer were the Knights of St. Peter Claver and the Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you to Father Craig Scott, VG, to Deacon Richard Mitchell, and to the wonderful parishioners of St. James for their welcome.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT REGINA PACIS 1372.** At the monthly meeting for April, Catholic Daughters of the Americas hosted Jennifer Luna, Exec. Director of the Women's Resource Center in Natchitoches. Jennifer spoke about the services offered to young women and the upcoming "Run Baby Run" fundraiser on May 7.



Pictured are Kathleen Hicks (Regent for CDA), Jennifer Luna and Cheryl Rambin (Financial Secretary for CDA).

CDA Court Regina Pacis 1372 provides support to the Women's Resource Center, St. Mary's Catholic School, Divine Providence Nuns, and other organizations. For more information, contact the church office at (318) 352-3422.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4TH DEGREE PATRIOTIC ESSAY WINNER.** Miss Alli [redacted], daughter of [redacted] of Plaquemine, was presented financial awards for her participation in the Knights of Columbus Patriotic Essay Contest. She attends St. Mary's School in Cottonport. Her essay was advanced to the Diocesan level. Presenting the awards are: 4th Degree Circle 317, Bunkie, Faithful Navigator: Gerald Adams; and Council 2142, Plaquemine, Financial Secretary, Stephen Couvillion. Also pictured is Father John Wiltse.



**Flu Shots & Vaccinations**

Many gifts including large selection of religious items:

- My Saint My Hero religious jewelry
- Holy Medals
- Jesus Calling & other inspirational books
- Rosaries
- ACTS bracelets
- First Communion, Confirmation & Baptism gifts

Follow us on Facebook @ Cottonportcornerdrug.giftboutique

**(318) 876-3665**

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

206 Choupique Lane • Cottonport, LA 71327

**Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners**

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

**PETER J. LEMOINE**

**Social Security Disability Law**

Offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge,  
Lafayette, Lake Charles, Cottonport

Adjunct Professor, Southern University Law Center

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives, Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State Bar Association).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited," "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C," "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings," "An Unsolved Mess: Analyzing the Social Security Administration's Methodology for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers."

**318-717-1995**

You're invited to join us at the table.

To see available Mass times near you, visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).

**LEGLUE NISSAN INC.**

**NEW & USED CARS •  
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS**

**6400 COLISEUM BLVD.  
WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM  
318-767-3300**





**CONFIRMATION, MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH, WOODWORTH.** Saturday, April 23, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and Mass for the Second Sunday of Easter at Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth. The four Confirmandi are enthusiastic disciples of the Lord. Thank you to Father Paul LaPalme, Deacon Paul Sunderhaus and the parishioners of Mary, Mother of Jesus parish.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Sunday, April 24, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. James Memorial Church in Alexandria on Divine Mercy Sunday which included the Sacrament of Confirmation with five of their young parishioners. Pictured with Bishop Marshall and the confirmandi are Dcn. Richard Mitchell and pastor, Fr. Craig Scott.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER.** Monday, April 25, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer. Twenty-one parishioners were confirmed as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you to Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez and the parishioners of St. Alphonsus for their warm welcome.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE.** Wednesday, April 27, Bishop Robert Marshall traveled to Bunkie to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with fourteen young people of St. Anthony of Padua parish. Thank you to Father Scott Chemino and the parishioners of St. Anthony for their support of these Confirmandi.



**CONFIRMATION, MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.** Friday, April 29, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. The Confirmandi were from the Basilica parish and from Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Campti. Father Blake Deshautelle, pastor, and Father Derek Ducote, parochial vicar of the Basilica parish, and Father Gus Voltz, pastor of Nativity parish, concelebrated. Deacons John Whitehead and Richard Mitchell assisted. Thank you to the parents, sponsors and catechists who prepared these young people.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH, MANSURA.** Saturday, April 30, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Third Sunday of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura. Three young parishioners were confirmed and Bishop also blessed a new statue of St. Paul. After Mass (and photos), the parish hosted a wonderful dinner for the confirmands, their family and guests and those involved in the liturgy. The second photo is with the cooks (Deacon Richard Mitchell was the photographer for both). Thank you to Father Irion St. Romain and the great people of St. Paul for their wonderful hospitality.



**CONFIRMATION, STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN.** Sunday, May 1, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sts. Francis and Anne Church in Kolin. Five young men were confirmed. Thank you to Father Bino Pallipparambil, Deacon Greg LeBlanc and the parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



**CONFIRMATION, MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH, PLAUCHEVILLE.** Monday, May 2, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaucheville. Eighteen young parishioners were confirmed. Thank you to Father Martin Laird and the parishioners for their kind welcome and their support of these Confirmandi.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, TALLULAH.** Wednesday, May 4, Bishop Robert Marshall, celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Edward the Confessor Church in Tallulah. Four young parishioners received the sacrament. Thank you to Father Ryan Humphries and the parishioners of St. Edward for their welcome.



**CONFIRMATION, SACRED HEART OF JESUS, PINEVILLE.** Thursday, May 5, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with 11 young parishioners at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville. Thank you to Deacon Mike Young and Deacon Richard Mitchell for their assistance. The Confirmandi were well prepared and enthusiastic.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. MARTIN CHURCH, LECOMPTE.** Saturday, May 14, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with 16 parishioners of St. Martin Church, Lecompte, and Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Mision, Forest Hill. Thank you to Father Marc Noel and the parishioners of both communities for their hospitality and support of these Confirmandi.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, ALEXANDRIA.** Sunday, May 22, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Sixth Sunday of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation with three young parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral parish. Fathers Jim Ferguson and Bill Gearheard concelebrated, Deacons Luke White and Richard Mitchell assisted. Thank you to the Cathedral parish family for their welcome and their support of the Confirmandi.



**CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, ALEXANDRIA.** Monday, May 16, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. Thirty-five parishioners were confirmed. Thank you to Fathers Rusty Rabalais and Thomas Kennedy who concelebrated, Deacon Richard Mitchell who assisted and to the catechists and parishioners of OLPS who supported these Confirmandi.

---



---

**More First Communion and Confirmation photos to come in the next issue of the Church Today!**  
As always, you can view all the photos in the galleries at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

---



---



**CONFIRMATION, CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SIMMESPORT.** Monday, May 23, Bishop Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Christ the King Church in Simmesport. Nine young parishioners were confirmed. Thank you to Father Paul Kunnumpuram, MSFS, and the parishioners of Christ the King for their welcome and their support of these Confirmandi.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, NATCHITOCHES.** On Wednesday, May 25, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches. Twelve young parishioners of St. Anthony were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to Father John O'Brien and Father Peter Kuligowski who concelebrated, Deacon Steven Newbury and Deacon Richard Mitchell who assisted, and the catechists, parents, sponsors and parishioners who supported these Confirmandi.



**SENIOR MASS FOR ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE AND OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, MANSURA.** Graduation Mass at St. Paul's Church on May 22. Pictured with pastor, Fr. Irion St. Romain are left to right:



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH IN WINNFIELD,** celebrated Senior Sunday on May 22. Aaron [REDACTED], Calvin High School graduate, received a scholarship from the Ladies Group. Fatima [REDACTED], graduate of NSU, was recognized as the first college graduate from the Spanish congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes. Both graduates received a Bible and a special blessing from pastor, Fr. Wade DeCoste.



**CYLA SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE.** The Catholic Youth Leadership award is granted to two Catholic seniors for encouragement and public recognition in support of their outstanding leadership in their church, community, and school. Pictured: Justin Coco, grand knight, Chandler [REDACTED], (boy recipient) and Fr. Brian Seiler, pastor. Not pictured Ella Venable (girl recipient).



**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, ISLE BREVELLE.** Natchitoches Central High School graduate and St. Augustine parishioner, Ashlyn [REDACTED], received the St. Joseph Scholarship given based on academic achievement and church involvement. Ashlyn plans to attend NSU this fall. Pictured with Ashlyn is Mr. Thomas Roque, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Alexandria.



**2022 GRADUATES HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA.** Commencement was held on Monday, May 10 for the class of 2022 from Holy Savior Menard Central High School.



**2022 GRADUATES ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHE.** Graduation for St. Mary's was held May 15. Graduates pictured with Father Blake Deshautelle

**SENIOR MASS, ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, LEESVILLE.** St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville celebrated their graduates with Senior Mass on Sunday, May 15. Pictured with pastor, Fr. Kenneth Michiels:



**BACCALAUREATE, SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE.** Sunday, May 1, Sacred Heart Church celebrated Baccalaureate Mass for their graduating high school seniors. First row, left to right:



**2022 GRADUATES ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE.** Graduation was held on Wednesday, May 11.

*O Lord, our God,  
how wonderful your name  
in all the earth!*  
Psalm 8: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for June 12  
The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

**ST. AUGUSTINE GRADUATES.** Both high school and college graduates gathered to celebrate Mass on Sunday, May 22 at St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle.





**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, CLOUTIERVILLE.** First Communion was held at St. John the Baptist in Cloutierville on April 24.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE, KOLIN, SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH.**



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, TIOGA.** First Communion was celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga, on Sunday, May 1.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, LEESVILLE.** First Communion was held Saturday, May at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville. Pictured with pastor, Fr. Kenneth Michiels

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** On Sunday, May 1, three children from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral made their First Holy Communion. Pictured with Father James Ferguson:



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, MANSURA.** First Holy Communion was celebrated on May 1, at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura. Pictured with the first communicants are teacher, Mrs. Tonia Lemoine, pastor, Fr. Irion St. Romain and DRE, Amie Smith.



**FIRST COMMUNION, STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE, KOLIN.** David [redacted] was welcomed into the Catholic Church on April 16, 2022. Pictured with David are Deacon Greg LeBlanc, Father Bino Jacob, and Anna Vaughn (sponsor).

*You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.*  
Psalm 110: 4  
Responsorial Psalm for June 19  
Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ





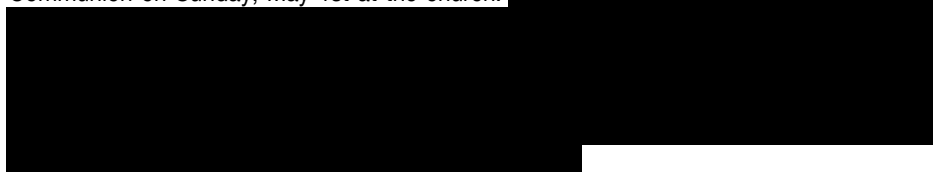
**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, MATER DOLOROSA, PLAUCHEVILLE.** On Sunday, May 1, the First Communion students received their sacrament at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaucheville with Father Martin Laird officiating.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NATCHITOCHE.** Second grade students of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church and St. Mary's Catholic School received the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 1st at the church.



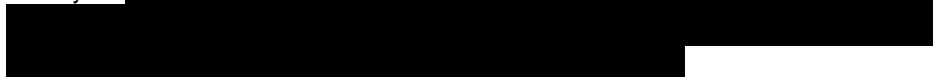
**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE.** The children of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Bunkie made their First Communion on April 24. (Photo by Gina Juneau.)



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ECHO.** St. Francis de Sales in Echo celebrated First Communion on May 15.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA.** On May 8, First Communion was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph, LA. Pictured with the communicants is pastor, Father Taylor Reynolds.



More First Communion and Confirmation photos to come in the next issue of the Church Today! As always, you can view all the photos in the galleries at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

Telephone 318-445-1446  
 Fax 318-445-1449

Certified Gemologists  
 Registered Jewelers

Under the clocktower

**Schnack's**

FINE JEWELRY  
 Established 1865  
 1438 Dorchester Drive  
 Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408  
[www.schnacks.com](http://www.schnacks.com)

American Gem Society

**WILLIE MAYEUX**

LIFE INSURANCE BROKER

Phone Number : 318-305-1225  
 Email: [wm.wm671@gmail.com](mailto:wm.wm671@gmail.com)  
 FINAL EXPENSE, WHOLE AND TERM INSURANCE  
 CONTRACTED WITH MAJOR CARRIERS SUCH AS  
 MUTUAL OF OMAHA AND MANY MORE. LET ME FIND A  
 PLAN THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU.



**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO** had their May Crowning on Mother's Day, May 8. Lucia [redacted] crowned the Virgin Mary and Fr. Dwight De Jesus officiated. Roses were given to all Mothers in attendance as well.



**MAY CROWNING, HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.** May Crowning was held at Menard on Monday, May 2. Pictured are students with school chaplain, Father Bill Gearheard.



### Prayer to Our Lady

O morning star, O dove of light,  
Come to our aid during this flight.  
Give us the grace we need each day  
To fight the world, for this we pray.

As a suckling babe in a mother's arms,  
Protect us from evil and all that harms;  
Lead us to your Son Most High.

Thus, when all is done,  
We can say with a sigh:  
All praise and honor to God on high.

by Marcus Descant, Leesville, Louisiana

lizdescant@gmail.com  
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant



**MAY CROWNING, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** On Sunday, May 1, children from the CCD classes at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral participated in a procession bringing flowers to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dawson [redacted] crowned Mary to observe the month of May.

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE.** May Crowning was, Thursday, May 5 in Mater Dolorosa Church. Seniors chosen to crown Mary were Brooke [redacted] and Ethan [redacted]. Students chosen as crown and cloak bearers were Chloe [redacted] and Jarrod [redacted].



**MAY CROWNING, NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CAMPTI.** May Crowning was held May 8 at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campti.

**MAY CROWNING, SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE.** Sacred Heart School held its annual May Crowning on May 6. Hundreds of flowers were offered by our students, faculty, and staff. The Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was prayed and a decade of the rosary followed.

*You are my inheritance,  
O Lord.*  
Psalm 16: 5 | Responsorial Psalm  
for June 26  
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Pope tells grandparents to leave grandkids their legacy of wisdom

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis told older people to use retirement as a time to serve others and to sow the seeds of their wisdom.

When people retire, starting the new chapter in life requires “a creative attention, a new attention, a generous availability,” the pope said during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square May 11.

“The previous skills of active life lose their constraint and become resources to be given away: teaching, advising, building, caring, listening ... preferably in favor of the most disadvantaged who cannot afford any learning or who are abandoned in their loneliness,” he said.

Communities, he said, must



understand “how to benefit from the talents and charisms of so many elderly people who are already retired, but who are a wealth to be treasured.”

The pope continued his series of talks dedicated to the meaning and value of “old age” and reflected

on the biblical figure of Judith, a pious widow, who, as a young woman, “had won the esteem of the community with her courage” in killing the commander-in-chief of the threatening armies of Nebuchadnezzar.

With her heroism, she lived “to the fullest the mission the Lord had entrusted to her,” the pope said, and then, as an older widow with no children, she saw “it was time for her to leave the good legacy of wisdom, tenderness

and gifts for her family and her community.”

When people reach retirement age, they usually can expect to have many years ahead of them, he said. They may wonder what they should do and ask, “how can I grow in authority, in holiness, in wisdom?”

If there are grandchildren, there will be “the task, joyful and tiring” of looking after them, he said.

“The little ones learn the power of tenderness and respect for frailty” from their grandparents, and grandparents learn that “tenderness and frailty are not solely signs of decline: for young people, they are conditions that humanize the future,” he said.

But sometimes family members live far apart, there are fewer children, and employment and housing conditions may be “unfavorable” to an intergenerational family, or families may not want grandparents to have an educational role or to do more than just help out when

needed, he added.

With so many new demands on today’s families, he said, they must learn to “reshape the traditional connection between the generations” and make their “conditions more human, more loving, more just.”

“When we think of a legacy,” he said, “at times we think of goods, and not of the goodness that is done in old age, and that has been sown, that goodness that is the best legacy we can leave,” not just goods or assets.”

The pope encouraged people to read the Book of Judith to be inspired by her example. “Judith is not a pensioer who lives the emptiness it brings melancholically: she is a passionate mature woman who fills the time God gives her with gifts.”

“This is how I would like all our grandmothers to be: courageous, wise and who bequeath to us not money, but the legacy of wisdom, sown in their grandchildren,” he said.



**MAY CROWNING, MANSURA.** On May 22, St. Paul the Apostle and Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Mansura celebrated May Crowning.



**MAY CROWNING, ST. MARY’S, NATCHITOCHE.** Students from St. Mary’s School participated in the May Crowning and Procession on Friday, May 6. This annual tradition began in the 1920’s when the school was located in downtown Natchitoches “on the hill”.



**MAY CROWNING, OLPS SCHOOL.** On Friday, May 6, Our Lady of Prompt Succor School celebrated May Crowning. The May Crowning court was comprised of 6th graders selected by their peers, with the flower girls and ring bearers being 2nd grade siblings of 6th graders.



**MAY CROWNING, ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL.** On Friday, May 6, St. Frances Cabrini School celebrated May Crowning. Talia [redacted] (then 8th grader) was our May Queen for this year.



**MAY CROWNING, OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD.** Autumn [redacted] crowned the Blessed Mother on Sunday, May 1, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield, Louisiana.

## It's time for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

### VBS Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

June 13-17

DESIGNED BY GOD! Let your children explore how God, "The Marvelous Creator" made us, in Vacation Bible School on June 13-17. You can register online or in the church office. Ages for VBS are Pre-K through 5th grade and the cost is \$30.00 per child. No children in your home? Consider sponsoring this event. Contact Shelley Michiels at (318) 481-7668 or shelley.michiels@olpschurch.org.

### VBS Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville

June 13-17

We are looking for adult volunteers who are VIRTUS trained or willing to be VIRTUS trained to help with various groups. Please contact Leia Craig at 318-541-3257. You may also go to [www.JesuinPineville.com](http://www.JesuinPineville.com) and register your child(ren) for Vacation Bible School.

### Vacation Bible School, St. Joseph, LA

June 18-22, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA will be hosting their VBS July 18-22 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register at church office by calling (318) 766-3565. No cost but donations accepted.

### VBS St. Rita Church, Alexandria

June 20-24, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Please join us at St. Rita Church Holy Family Center for a week of fun and fellowship for Monumental: Celebrating GOD's Greatness. To register as a student (grades PK-6th) or Volunteer (grade 7 and all ages above) follow the link on our website- [www.strita.org](http://www.strita.org).

### Vacation Bible School, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria

June 20-24, 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.

Lunch and snack provided, t-shirt if registered by June 8. Cost is \$30 per child, families of 3 are \$75 and families with 4 or more will be \$100. Ages PreK4-6th grade, please use the grade your child will be going into. Call Ashley at 318-445-4588 or email [ashely@cabrinichurch.com](mailto:ashely@cabrinichurch.com)

### Vacation Bible School, Leesville

July 10-14, 5:30 p.m.

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville will hold their Vacation Bible School for kids ages K-6th Grade from July 10-14 starting at 5:30 daily with dinner. There is no charge. Older kids may volunteer. For more information contact the church office at (337) 239-2656.

### Vacation Bible School, Moreauville

July 17-21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville will hold their VBS for ages PK3-6th Grade. This year's theme: "Monumental: Celebrating God's Goodness!" Lots of music, singing, dancing, praising, crafting, bible stories and more! Supper served every night. Cost: donations appreciated. Kids in 7th grade and up and adult volunteers needed. For more information contact Andre' Spruill at (318) 359-7542 or [andrespruill@gmail.com](mailto:andrespruill@gmail.com)



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHE.** The religion department has a different virtue each month that is discussed and taught in class. Students that display characteristics of that particular virtue of the month are selected by their teachers. The Virtue of the Month for April was Perseverance.



**ST. ANTHONY STUDENTS ATTEND CHRISM MASS.** St. Anthony of Padua (Bunkie) 8th grade students are attended the annual Chrism Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. During this special Mass, Bishop Marshall blessed the sacred oils that will be used in parishes over the next year. Priests also renewed their commitment to priestly service.

**Catholic Campus Ministry is provided at  
LSU of Alexandria, Louisiana College,  
and Northwestern State University.**

**LSU of Alexandria:**

Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956

**Northwestern State University**

Catholic Student Organization

FOCUS Ministries: <https://nscatholic.org/focus>

**Louisiana College:**

Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956

Adult volunteers are needed for this summer's Steubenville South Youth Conference, June 24-26, 2022!

Volunteers attend FREE and are needed to work in the Bookstore, First Aid, Prayer Ministry, Security, and Ushers.

For more information, visit [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com), email [info@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:info@steubenvillesouth.com).

## Healthy habits: rebuilding relationships this year

By Matthew Zemanek  
Guest Contributor

When I was in graduate school, I took a class on faith and culture that included a segment on immigration. Instead of getting into the issue, we were first asked to share the stories of how our families came to this country. Then, we took the time to listen to how every single person in the room had personally been affected by the issue. It was one of the most powerful experiences of community and vulnerability that I have ever had, simply because we started with listening and sharing our stories.

With the start of summer comes new opportunities to build or rebuild relationships with the staff we serve with, our parishioners, parents, and especially our teens. It will be tempting to sink back into old structures, habits, and modes of doing ministry “the way things were.” However, the ways we minister going forward will require vulnerability, and we will need to continue to adapt to new needs, issues, and circumstances.

### Things are different now

We have experienced a collective cultural shift encompassing a wide variety of issues and events: a global pandemic with extraordinary losses and suffering, political and religious division, a surge in activism and deeper awareness of social justice issues, a radically fluctuating economy, and a substantial increase in addiction, depression, anxiety, and suicide.



The odds are that everyone you come into contact with has been impacted somehow and is different because of it. Unfortunately, many of them may be holding on to unprocessed grief, loss, anxiety, or trauma. We have to act as though we are beginning at square one with everyone at our parish if we want to avoid running past the important things in the lives of those around us that the Lord is calling us to be present to.

### You are called to service, not slavery

Before we can do any of that, we also need to acknowledge the ways we are different, the ways we have been hurt, and the ways we have felt taken advantage of, forgotten, or mistreated in ministry. There is a lot of rebuilding to do, but it is not all up to you, so set healthy boundaries. You are called to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39), which you cannot faithfully do if you

are not prioritizing caring for and loving yourself. Every time you say “no” to something, you are saying “yes” to something else. So, this is your permission to say “no” more this year so you can say “yes” to the things that are genuinely priorities. Say “no” to overcommitting, overworking, losing sleep, working 12-hour days, and not delegating things that other people can easily do for you.

All that being said, here are a few suggestions on how to build and rebuild relationships at your parish this summer:

### First and Foremost:

Root yourself in prayer and set aside time to be spiritually, mentally, physically, and emotionally recharged before you dive into ministry.

Treat every relationship as if it is brand new and invest time in relational ministry.

Intimacy requires vulnerability, and vulnerability is a two-way street. Be willing to initiate conversations and share

how you have changed and your struggles. Sharing personally can be incredibly powerful and break down barriers to build a deeper sense of trust.

### Parish Staff:

Recognize that many of those you work with have been through similar experiences that you have.

Spend time in prayer and conversation together. If you do not already, suggest incorporating sharing Glory stories from ministry or personal lives and praying together at your staff meetings.

Pray specifically for the intercession of your parish namesake.

Avoid “silo-ing” by building bridges with other ministry leaders and staff members.

Collaborate to put on an intergenerational event or mission for the whole parish for Lent, Easter, or Advent instead of several separate ones. Planning together will allow more time to build stronger relationships and see how your gifts fit together to serve the parish community collectively.

### Parishioners:

Be present. Instead of jumping back into planning a bunch of events, try attending different Masses and other ministries to meet parishioners you would not normally encounter. Pray with the Rosary group, play bingo or bridge with the game group, stick around after Mass to meet someone new without the intention of recruiting them or getting them to come to something.

Attend a parish event simply to enjoy it with those around you

without having to do anything and focus on reengaging with and meeting new parishioners.

Listen and ask questions to gauge where parishioners are at and what they need so that you can bring this valuable feedback back to the staff and your core team.

### Parents and Teens:

Spend more time than anything else you do focusing on relational ministry.

Have open office hours where they can drop by to catch up or pray with you.

In every email, text, phone call, or personal interaction, ask how you can pray for them. If possible, pray for them on the spot.

Ask regularly for prayer requests on social media and at Life and Edge nights.

Create a designated place for written prayer requests in your youth room, office, or in your meeting space.

When appropriate, share prayer requests (without using names) with your core team, parish staff, or prayer team.

There is much rebuilding to do, but you are not called to rebuild a ministry that would serve people well two years ago. God has chosen you to specifically serve in your specific parish at this time in salvation history with those who are around you. He has put you all in each other’s lives for a purpose, so be present to those you serve and serve with. Only then will the path forward become clearer, and you will likely find a wider group of support, friends, and coworkers in the vineyard trekking forward alongside you.

### a note from the catholic schools office

- Counselors have been actively working with seniors to apply for and receive acceptance to various colleges and universities. If your high school student needs assistance with applying for acceptance, please contact your school guidance counselor.

- Looking to register your child at one of our Catholic schools? Now is the time! Contact the individual school or the Catholic Schools Office for more information. Please also contact us for information on financial assistance and scholarship opportunities.

- Our Catholic schools are always searching for teachers, staff, and lunchroom personnel to join us! Check with individual schools for more information on how to apply for specific positions.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WINNFELD, celebrated Mother’s Day at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on May 8. Fr. Wade DeCoste presented roses to all the mothers. The mothers also received a special blessing.

## Outdoor lighted rosary, Marksville - every Thursday

St. Joseph Church in Marksville has begun its weekly outdoor lighted rosary every Thursday now through October. The rosary begins at 8:00 p.m. in the parking lot next to the church hall. In inclement weather, the rosary is prayed in St. Joseph church. Participants may bring chairs to sit outside or remain in their vehicles. The lighted rosary is facilitated by St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council #1217.

## Discernment Retreat - June 3-5

Join us for a Discernment Retreat for diocesan priesthood and religious life at St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, LA. Our speakers will be Fr. Josh Johnson and Sr. Josephine Garrett. All men and women ages 18-40 are invited to attend. For more information, or to register, please visit [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations).

## Silent Retreat in Lake Charles - June 10-12

Join us on the beautiful Holy Grounds of the Saint Charles Center and experience an incredible journey toward God like no other lead by Deacon Brian Soileau. This silent retreat happens June 10-12 at Saint Charles Center, 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway in Lake Charles. Cost is \$195/ per retreatant. Both, men and women are welcome. We have 36 Private Rooms. To register, call 337-855-1232, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Disalced Carmelite Meeting - June 11

The Order of Disalced Carmelites holds its monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. every second Saturday, at Maryhill Renewal Center. Anyone is invited to attend morning prayer followed by Mass and then the meeting. If you are interested in Carmelite spiritual studies, please contact Mary Jo McCoy (318) 346-6860 or (318) 481-9638.

## Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession - June 19

Bishop Robert Marshall invites you to join him for a Eucharistic Procession from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to St. James Memorial Church on June 19 at the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. Mass or approximately 12 noon. The route will follow Beauregard St. to 9th Street to Winn Street. Walk with us or watch along the route as Bishop Marshall processes with our Lord. The procession will conclude with Benediction at St. James.

# DIOCESAN BRIEFS

## Pro-Life speaker - June 19

On June 19, St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA will be hosting Emily Berning, founder and president of the prolife organization "Let Them live." She will speak in the church at 10:00 a.m., join the community for Mass followed by a reception and a question and answer session. All are invited to attend and hear of her great prolife work! For more information, contact Fr. Taylor Reynolds at [frtreynolds@diocesealex.org](mailto:frtreynolds@diocesealex.org).

## Religious Freedom Week - June 22-29

Religious Freedom Week takes place June 22-29 each year. It begins with the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and ends with the feasts of Sts. Peter and Paul. The Church plays a crucial role in both bearing witness to the gospel of life and serving all of those people who will be affected by these discussions and their outcomes. The theme for this year is Life and Dignity for All. The USCCB provides "Pray-Reflect-Act" resources at [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek), one for each day on different religious liberty topics.

## Steubenville South - June 24 - 26

Calling all high schoolers! Throughout the Bible, the Lord tells us over and over again, "Be not afraid," and he continues to speak these words to us today. Join hundreds of Catholic teens at Steubenville South in Alexandria, LA on June 24 - 26, 2022 to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is always faithful.

All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this retreat, and all safe environment trained adults and parents are encouraged to volunteer. Learn more at [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com), email [info@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:info@steubenvillesouth.com), or contact your church parish for more information. We can't wait to see you there!

## National Tekakwitha Conference - July 20-24

If you are interested in sponsorships, volunteering or would like to attend the conference, please contact the National Tekakwitha Conference office at (318) 483-3908

## Men's Silent Retreat - August 25-28

Join us at Our Lady of the Oaks Jesuit Retreat House, located in Grand Coteau, LA for a men's silent retreat. Take time to reflect, refresh, and renew! You may even discover the inner strength to help with issues that may be facing you. Spiritual counseling will be available or just the sympathetic ear of someone else who has been where you are now. If you've considered a retreat in the past, don't miss this opportunity for an uplifting and fulfilling experience! The retreat weekend suggested offering is \$310.00 which includes a \$50 non-refundable fee at the time of application. If you need financial assistance, please contact either of the retreat coordinators. Jason Lavergne, (318) 446-0217 or [jasonlavergne@aol.com](mailto:jasonlavergne@aol.com) or Gary Bonnette, (318) 793-9063 or [gbonnette@suddenlink.net](mailto:gbonnette@suddenlink.net).

## Pilgrimage to UK - October 10-19

Fr. Thomas Kennedy will be the spiritual director for a pilgrimage to England and Scotland this fall. Visit beautiful holy sites including the Durham Cathedral, Our Lady of Walsingham Shrine and the ruins of St. Andrew's Cathedral. Other highlights include: Westminster Cathedral and the Tower of London; Shrine of St. Margaret and Edinburgh Castle, both in Scotland. Limited space left! Contact Magnificat Travel at <https://holyltravels.org/englandandscotland> or call (337) 291-1933.

## We need teachers! Elementary • Middle • High School

If interested, please contact the Office of Catholic Schools at 318-445-6424, ext. 227, or fill out and submit an application on the diocesan website: <https://www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/>

## JOB AVAILABLE: Youth Faith Formation Director, Conway, AR

St. Joseph's Church parish in Conway, AR is seeking a full-time individual with an enthusiasm for youth and the Catholic faith. This person should possess a strong background in leadership, organization, and recruiting skills. Additionally, individual must have a passion for evangelization and discipleship. Reporting directly to the Business Manager and the Pastor, the Director develops and implements youth faith programs and oversees all existing programs. College diploma or equivalent work experience required. Resumes should be mailed to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1115 College Ave., Conway, AR 72032 or emailed to [mamallett@sjparish.org](mailto:mamallett@sjparish.org). Please no phone inquiries.

## Church Today News Deadlines

**June 27**  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, June 16

**July 25**  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, July 14



Emile P. Oestrieche, III, CPA

Anne M. Oestrieche, CPA, CFP®

## Oestrieche Financial Management Services

Let us help your family pursue your financial goals.

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303

(318) 448-3556

[www.o-fms.com](http://www.o-fms.com)

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC



# June 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAY <b>30</b>  MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY	<b>31</b>  PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	JUNE <b>1</b>  PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	<b>2</b> Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Marksville  PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIKWE	<b>3</b>  PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN	<b>4</b> Diaconate Ordination 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Aleandria  Discernment Retreat, Covington, LA FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	<b>5</b>  PENTECOST SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA
<b>6</b>  PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA	<b>7</b>  PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL	<b>8</b>  PRAY FOR FR. J. PALIPURATH	<b>9</b> Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Marksville  PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	<b>10</b>  PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN	<b>11</b> Discalced Carmelite Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center  Silent Retreat -- Saint Charles Center, Lake Charles PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL	<b>12</b>  PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO
<b>13</b>  PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	<b>14</b>  PRAY FOR FR. R. RAY	<b>15</b>  PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	<b>16</b> Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Marksville  PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX	<b>17</b>  PRAY FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	<b>18</b> Troop 6 Reunion 1:00-10:00 p.m. Camp Attakapas  Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 p.m. St. Mary Church, Winnsboro  VBS, St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, LA PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH	<b>19</b> Pro-Life Speaker 10:00 a.m. St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, LA  Eucharistic Procession 12 noon, SFXCathedral  SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST and FATHERS DAY  PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT
Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 p.m. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campti <b>20</b>	VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria <b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA	Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Marksville <b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	<b>25</b>  PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	<b>26</b>  PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS
VBS, St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, LA		Religious Freedom Week "Life and Dignity for All"			Steubenville South Catholic Youth Conference	
Vacation Bible School: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville			Vacation Bible School: Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria			
Vacation Bible School: St. Rita Church, Alexandria (morning)			Vacation Bible School: St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria (afternoon)			
<b>27</b> Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 p.m. Christ the King Church, Simmesport  PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	<b>28</b>  PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	<b>29</b>  PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS	Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria  Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Marksville <b>30</b>  PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	<b>JULY 1</b>  PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	<b>2</b>  PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	<b>3</b>  PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ

Individualized Treatment.  
Personalized Care.



*With CHRISTUS Health, it's all about you.*

At CHRISTUS Health, we provide comprehensive cancer care with personalized treatment designed to heal the whole person, not just the disease. Our cancer care team at CHRISTUS is with you every step of the way, and with the most advanced technology available right here, you can remain close to home and family, from diagnosis, to treatment through follow-up care.

With CHRISTUS Health you're never alone.

*Are you at risk?  
Take the Cancer Risk  
Assessment and  
find out.*



 **CHRISTUS<sup>®</sup>**  
**ST. FRANCES CABRINI**  
Cancer Center

CHRISTUShealth.org