

CHURCH TODAY

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970 September 26, 2022



Wishing everyone a great school year!

Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Memorial of Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian with the community of St. Frances Cabrini School on Friday, Sept. 16. Bishop Marshall thanks Father Chad Partain, Deacon Larry Feldcamp, Sister Nina Vincent, and the students, faculty, staff, and parents of Cabrini School for their very kind welcome, and wishes a great school year to all those back in the classroom!

See pages 12 and 13 for more pictures of back to school celebrations!

INSIDE

Forty hours devotion set for each deanery in our diocese

As part of our diocesan observance of the National Eucharistic Revival, we have arranged to present the Forty Hours Devotion in each of our four deaneries. For more information, including dates and locations, see page 5.

Catholic Charities assists those still struggling from Hurricane Laura

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana strives to be good stewards of life by empowering individuals, families, and communities to become self-sustainable, recognizing the dignity of all people. See page 6 for more on the work of this new ministry.

“Those who are called to the table of the Lord must glow with the brightness.” // St. John Capistrano

See page 15 for just a sampling of the many opportunities available throughout our diocese to both serve and be served.

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Bishop Marshall attends Course of Formation in Rome

Bishop Robert Marshall attended the Course of Formation for new bishops in Rome in early September. This course has been postponed for two years due to the pandemic. The following are from the social media posts that Bishop Marshall shared while on this trip from September 1-8.

I am attending the Course of Formation for new bishops at the Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum in Rome. This course has been postponed for two years due to the pandemic. This session includes bishops from throughout the world ordained in late 2019 through 2020. A second session follows in a week or so with 2021-2022 bishops.

It is sometimes a challenge to find a common language with a fellow participant. Fortunately, most know either English or Spanish. I am with Bishop Francis Malone (Diocese of Shreveport) in the first photo. Happy Birthday, Bishop Malone!



BISHOP IN ROME. Bishop Marshall with Bishop Francis Malone of Shreveport.

Our conference began on Thursday evening (Sept. 1) with Eucharistic Adoration and Vespers led by Cardinal Marc Ouellette, Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. The Opening Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State. It was a multilingual celebration for approximately 150 bishops from throughout the world.

Our conferences on Sept. 2 focused on synodality and our experiences of listening sessions in our dioceses. We broke into small groups by language and geographic diversity. I was with



BISHOP IN ROME. Bishop Marshall with the other American bishops attending the first session of Course of Formation for new bishops.

Latin bishops from England, Norway and the Philippines, Eastern Rite bishops from Iraq and Australia, and three other American bishops from California, New Jersey and New York. The Catholic populations that we served ranged from 7,000 to 700,000 (Alexandria was in between). It was amazing to hear of the work of the Holy Spirit among peoples in vastly different climates, cultures, political, and economic regions. The Church is truly universal.

On this first Saturday of September (Sept. 3), we new bishops were honored to

concelebrate our morning Mass in the Borghese Chapel of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the four major basilicas in Rome and the largest church in Rome dedicated to Our Lady (see photo below). In the Borghese chapel is the famous icon of our Lady and the child Jesus referred to as "Salus Populi Romani." Also in the Basilica, under the main altar, is the Chapel of the Nativity which contains a reliquary that is said to include wood from the Manger in Bethlehem which held the newborn Christ. The Borghese Chapel is covered in marble and is larger than many of the churches

in our diocese. I offered my Mass for the people of the diocese.

Another memorable day in Rome. Today, Sunday, Sept. 4, most of the new bishops traveled to St. Peter's Basilica (photo top left on opposite page) to concelebrate the Mass of Beatification of Pope John Paul I, who reigned for only 33 days in 1978. The Mass was celebrated in the Plaza (photo on opposite page). It has been hot throughout our time here so we came prepared with sunscreen. It was raining this morning, however, so most of us came with umbrellas as well. It rained for the first half of Mass but it stopped



BISHOP IN ROME. Bishop Marshall in The Borghese Chapel.





the Eastern Churches in union with Rome from Cardinal Leonardo Sandro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches. Of the 151 bishops participating in this conference, 45 are from Eastern Rite Churches. Today will focus on the family and on universal fraternity.

After a full day (Wednesday, Sept. 7) of presentations by Cardinal Kevin Farrell and the Dicastery of the Laity, the Family and Life, and by Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, and the Dicastery for Integral Human Development, the American bishops traveled to the Pontifical North American College where many of the American seminarians in Rome live. It is a beautiful place with a spectacular view from the roof. None of us could resist having our picture taken where so many television reporters have stood before (photo below). Thank you to the new rector, Msgr. Tom Powers, and to the faculty and staff of the PNAC for their hospitality.

Thursday, Sept. 8 was another very memorable day at St. Peter's Basilica. We began with the celebration of Mass on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our



(Above left and above) BISHOP IN ROME. Bishop Marshall at St. Peter's Basilica. (Left) Bishops process into the Plaza.

Dicastery for Communications and his colleague Dr. Natasha Govekar. We also heard reflections on the administration

of a diocese from Cardinal Peter Erdo, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest and a prominent canon lawyer, and received an update on

see "Bishop in Rome" on page 17.

at about the Preparation of the Gifts and the sun was coming out toward the end of Mass. Although his voice was clear, the Holy Father used a wheelchair to come in and merely presided at Mass while a cardinal was the principal celebrant. Our buses were parked in the Vatican gardens and we vested in the basilica itself. What a wonderful experience.

This evening, many of the American bishops were the guests of the priest-residents of Villa Stritch, a residence and community for American diocesan priests who work in the various offices or dicasteries of the Holy See. There

are 15 active American diocesan priests working at the Vatican - bringing an American perspective to the reflections and decisions of the Curia. Thank you, Fathers, for your hospitality and your service to the Church.

Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 5) was a full day at New Bishops' School. We began with Mass celebrated by Cardinal Lazaro You Heung-Sik, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy. We had presentations on the change of epoch from sociology professors and about how to communicate in these changing times from Dr. Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the



BISHOP IN ROME. Bishop Marshall on the roof of the PNAC (Pontifical North American College) with the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica in the background.



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Reflecting on the mystery of the Eucharist in the life of the Church

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As you may have heard by now, the Church in the United States was startled a few years ago when we viewed the results of a national poll. It seems that two-thirds of those who identify themselves as Catholic do not believe that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. In other words, they do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar.

In response to this statistic, and sensing that – though the poll numbers may be exaggerated – there *has* been a decline in Eucharistic faith among Catholics over the last few decades, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops prepared and released a document entitled, “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church.” It is a fine document that seeks to explain the sacramental theology of the Real Presence. In addition, the bishops have authorized a three-year “National Eucharistic Revival” which seeks to encourage a renewed interest



Live Jesus in our hearts

By Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

in the Mass – our central act of worship as Catholics.

Both of these efforts are valuable. We need to study, to refresh our understanding of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and the USCCB document can help with that task. We also need to reawaken our interest in the Mass and in the Eucharist and the Revival may indeed bear fruit. Yet if two-thirds of American Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist – I suggest that it is not because we have failed to adequately explain our doctrine or have made Mass attendance too difficult or receiving Holy Communion too burdensome. No, I am convinced that over the last few decades, as our world has transitioned from in-person communication to

electronic and digital platforms, from a face-to-face conversation to a quick text message, from a close relationship with family and friends to one that is more distant and remote – some how we abandoned or forgot or never experienced the close, abiding, intimate encounter with the Lord offered to us in the Holy Eucharist. We have *heard* that Christ is there in the Eucharist – his Body and Blood hidden under the appearances of ordinary bread and wine – but we have not always experienced his presence. We may have a faith that is now based on memory or curiosity or habit, but we need to experience – or to re-experience – the overwhelming love of God poured out for us in all of the sacraments and especially in the Eucharist. Jesus is anxious

to encounter us. We need to rediscover the path to him and to remove any obstacles that block the way. Jesus wants to heal us, comfort us, to nourish and sustain us. In the silence of our hearts, we have to be willing to admit that we need his loving presence.

I intend this letter to be the preface of a Pastoral Letter that will ultimately be called: *Live, Jesus, in our Hearts Forever: The Joy and Promise of the Most Holy Eucharist*. I hope to present a chapter a month here in the *Church Today* and on our website. As the letter progresses, they will be assembled on our website and, perhaps, eventually published in some form. I am under no illusion that I have the definitive answer to the difficulties of our time. My hope is that I can present enough examples, spark enough interest, and offer enough suggestions for prayer or spiritual growth that each person – in his or her own way and with the help of God – may experience a true encounter with Jesus Christ. I invite you to continue reading. At the end of each section, I will present some questions that you

can take to prayer or discuss with your family, friends, or prayer group. Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Questions:

- Can you identify a time when you had a real encounter with the Lord? Describe the encounter. Have you returned to that physical, emotional, or spiritual place seeking to renew that encounter?
- Do you find yourself more cutoff from personal contact with others? Is much of your life spent online? Do you find these digital encounters satisfying?
- Are you nourished and fulfilled by your faith or are you just going through the motions? Do you have real hope of an encounter with the Lord or have you settled for dryness and distance?
- What are the obstacles in your life that may prevent you from an encounter with the Lord? If you can name them, have you prayed about how to overcome them or put them aside?

U.S. bishops release national synthesis outlining common themes raised in synod listening sessions

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued the National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America. They synthesis marks the completion of the Diocesan Phase of the 2021-2023 Synod: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.

Last October, Pope Francis invited the global Catholic Church to reflect on walking together and listening to one another. This “Synod on Synodality” is a two-year process that began with local dioceses and parishes engaging in dialogue through listening sessions. Each diocese then prepared a report of what was heard at these sessions. In turn, those local reports were then sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and a national summary was created and sent to the Holy See on

August 29, 2022.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Doctrine, who shepherded the preparation of the synthesis, wrote, “With immense gratitude, I have the distinct honor of sharing the National Synthesis.

This pivotal document is the culmination of ten months of intentional listening carried out throughout the Church in the U.S. The synodal consultations, from parishes, dioceses, and national regions express the voices of hundreds of thousands in our local churches.”

The National Synthesis represents the synodal efforts of the 178 Latin dioceses in the United States, including the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter that serves both the United States and Canada. Due to their long history of synodal practice, the Eastern Catholic Churches shared their reports directly with the Holy See.

Catholic associations, organizations, and national ministries in the United States were also invited to participate in the Synod by submitting a summary report from their listening sessions to the USCCB’s Synod Team. In all, one hundred twelve (112) submissions were received from organizations, and combined with the reports from each of the (arch)dioceses, two hundred ninety (290) documents in total were received. These contributions represent over

22,000 reports from individual parishes and other groups. There were over 30,000 opportunities to participate in the Synod through in-person and virtual listening sessions as well as online surveys. An estimated 700,000 people participated in the diocesan phase of the Synod in the United States.

Bishop Flores expressed that “The synthesis is, among other things, an expression of the common joys, hopes, and wounds the bishops have heard and are hearing from the wider body of the Church. The publication of this document is not a concluding moment, it is instead an invitation to continue to dialogue and discern, together, those matters that weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of Catholic in the U.S.”

The National Synthesis is available in both English and Spanish.



Forty Hours Devotion set for each Deanery throughout the Diocese

As part of our diocesan observance of the National Eucharistic Revival, we have arranged to present the Forty Hours Devotion in each of our four deaneries. This devotion – which can last more or less than 40 hours – is an opportunity for a community to focus its prayer on the Most Holy Eucharist.

Often beginning with a Thursday Evening Mass, and concluding with a Saturday evening Vigil Mass, the Eucharist – the Blessed Sacrament – is exposed in a monstrance for most of those intervening hours. (Sometimes exposition is interrupted for another scheduled Mass or for security reasons in the wee hours of the morning.) During this period, the faithful are invited to come to the church to pray quietly before the Blessed Sacrament, or to participate in periods of public prayer scheduled throughout the



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

period of exposition.

Forty Hours Devotion dates back centuries and is often celebrated to prepare for a major feast (such as in the seasons of Advent and Lent) or to implore God’s grace for a particular need (in time of war, famine or disease, for example). In this National Eucharistic Revival, we plan to offer Forty Hours Devotion in each of our four deaneries to invite Catholics from throughout that deanery to come before the

Blessed Sacrament in prayer. If we hope to restore faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, then our people must experience his presence.

Though security will be planned, some people will not be comfortable participating in the night hours. Others who work during the day may find the night hours perfect for their schedule. Regardless of when you come, I hope that everyone will be able to spend an hour in prayer before the Lord –

thanking him for his many blessings, seeking his guidance, strength and grace in the many difficulties of life, and inviting him to make a dwelling in our hearts.

The specific hours and the schedules of Masses, Liturgy of the Hours celebrations, rosaries, and other periods of public prayer will be determined by each location and published in advance.

Dates of the celebration within each deanery:

Central Deanery
• Nov. 3-5, 2022
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria

Eastern Deanery
• Dec. 8-10, 2022
St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, Louisiana

Natchitoches Deanery
• Jan. 12-14, 2023
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches

Avoyelles Deanery
• February 23-25, 2023
St. Joseph Church, Marksville

Local state representative wins award - selects St. Mary’s to receive donation on her behalf

Boyce, LA - Louisiana State Representative Rhonda Butler is passionate about the care adults with developmental disabilities receive. It’s why Rep. Butler jumped at the chance to champion legislation that enables adults with I/DD to have access to dental care services through the state and won! In July, 2022 new legislation went into effect that provides comprehensive dental benefits for adults with special needs.

In honor of her legislative victory, DentaQuest named Representative Butler a 2022 Health Equity Hero and is awarding a \$5,000 donation to a charity of her choice.

“St. Mary’s is very fortunate to have Rep. Butler as an advocate in our mission to help people with special needs flourish

in a happy, healthy environment,” said Christi Guillot, St. Mary’s Administrator. “This new law reduces St. Mary’s medical costs so that we can refocus those funds in other areas like resident activities or our learning programs. Those savings along with the grant from Denta Quest will have a remarkable impact on the lives of our residents with developmental disabilities.”

Representative Butler presented the donation at a check presentation on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at St. Mary’s Residential Training School.

Now in its eighth year, the DentaQuest Equity Hero program celebrates individuals and organizations responsible for extraordinary work that champions equitable access to health care (medical, oral

health, behavioral health) and optimal overall health outcomes. This year, DentaQuest selected forward-thinking agents of change - heroes taking action to transform health systems in their communities in an effort to remedy long-standing disparities.

“Over the last two years, it’s become startlingly clear that our current health systems are in desperate need of transformation,” DentaQuest President Steve Pollock said. “These Health Equity Heroes are earnestly taking action, finding innovative and inspiring ways to champion change and create a more inclusive system. We are privileged to honor them as heroes and give thanks to them and so many others who are making a difference in oral and overall health.”

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For more information about those facing developmental disabilities, please visit www.stmarysalexandria.org and their work with

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Nov. 29

**to support the ministries of the Diocese of Alexandria and your local church parishes and schools through #iGiveCatholic!
See the next issue of the Church Today or the diocesan website for more information soon.**

Catholic Charities assists those still struggling from Hurricane Laura

By Jennifer Gilchrist
Catholic Charities of Cenla

The Central Louisiana Long Term Recovery Group, comprised of local non-profit and community stakeholder representatives, has been assisting families whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Laura in 2020. The group began hearing cases vetted and presented by Disaster Case Manager Program workers in September of last year. We have been blessed with four sources of funding for this work: The Rapides Foundation Hurricane Disaster Recovery Fund, the Episcopal Church in Western Louisiana, Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana and a grant from Center for Disaster Philanthropy.

Since September of 2021, over \$163,000 has been committed to restoring homes to a safe and livable condition. Most recently FEMA has offered some residents in Temporary Housing Units (THU) an option to purchase their trailer with all interior furnishings, "as is, where is" at a very affordable price. This has made it possible for the Long Term Recovery Group to



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA. Ms. Sliska Larry shows off the signed title to her newly purchased home. Pictured with her are Joy Owensby of the Episcopal Diocese, Father Craig Scott, Jennifer Gilchrist, Fr John Brocato and Hiedi Wampler.

purchase these homes outright, placing families in new and permanent housing.

On Monday, Sept. 12, there was a celebratory event for Ms Sliska Larry of Colfax where our fiscal agent, the Episcopal

Church in Western Louisiana, and Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana, who sponsored her new home, presented her with the check for purchase. It was a day of blessing, thanksgiving and joy!

Applications are still being accepted for the Disaster Case Management Program by calling 1-844-711-9326 or by visiting their website at www.dcmpla.com.

The program expires in 2023, so residents should apply now.

Like the Good Samaritan, Catholic Charities provides comprehensive care to anyone in need. We care for others not because they are Catholic, but because we are.

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is currently in need of

donations for basic needs. To donate or for more information on the mission and service of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana, please visit www.cccenla.org, or scan the QR code below.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for October 2022

A Church Open to Everyone // We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

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 (visit 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."



PERMANENT HOUSING. Father John Brocato, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana, congratulates Ms. Sliska Larry on acquiring the FEMA provided housing unit that she had been living in since Hurricane Laura damaged her home in 2020.

Sister Suellen: 'Thank you!'

By Peter Finney, Jr.
Clarion Herald

During her nearly five months of captivity in Burkina Faso, West Africa, Marianite Sister Suellen Tennyson wondered aloud where God was hiding in the midst of her isolation and loneliness.

Then, in an instant, she looked down at her feet, where one of her toenails had been battered and bloodied during a harrowing post-kidnapping motorcycle ride deep into the forests of West Africa, after which she was turned over to a rival Muslim group.

Her new captor saw her gouged toe and, inexplicably, began washing her feet.

"He washed my feet," Sister Suellen told the Clarion Herald Sept. 13. "I'm sitting there, and this Muslim man is washing my feet. And I said, 'God, is something going on here?' It was like God was using him in some kind of way. I was just taken aback."

In a pre-dawn raid by 10 armed men between April 4 and 5, Sister Suellen, 83, was abducted from the medical mission residence in Yalgo that she shared since 2013 with two other Marianite sisters and several lay employees.

After five months of her congregation hearing nothing about her whereabouts or her condition, Sister Suellen, the former international leader of the Marianites of Holy Cross, was freed peacefully in neighboring Niger – to the east of Burkina Faso – and released into the custody of the FBI and personnel of the U.S. embassy and Air Force.

No ransom was paid, Sister Suellen said, another one of the inscrutable mysteries of her captivity and release.

Speaking from a safe haven in the Archdiocese of New Orleans – where she returned quietly on Aug. 31 via medical transport – Sister Suellen said she was full of gratitude that her life was spared and for her safe treatment in captivity and the invisible actions of the thousands of people who prayed and worked for her release.

"That's what I want to say – 'Thank you to all these people,'" Sister Suellen said. "I am truly humbled by all of this. And the only way I can say thank you is



MARIANITE SISTER SUELLEN TENNYSON. Marianite Sister Suellen Tennyson, who is now safe in the United States after being held captive in Burkina Faso for nearly five months, is pictured Sept. 13, 2022, during an interview with the Clarion Herald, New Orleans' archdiocesan newspaper. During her loneliest moments in captivity, Sister Suellen said, she prayed for "peaceful patience." (CNS photo/Peter Finney Jr., Clarion Herald)

'thank you.' My heart is filled with gratitude."

Living nightmare unfolds

The kidnapers, part of the first Muslim group, grabbed her from her bed without her shoes, glasses or medicine. They blindfolded and gagged her to keep her from yelling out to the two other Marianite sisters – Sister Pauline Drouin, a Canadian, and Sister Pascaline Tougma, a Burkinabé – who were locked in their rooms.

"I thought maybe they were going to leave me sitting on the porch, but all of a sudden they wrapped me up and took me," Sister Suellen said.

"Whoa, this was not what I thought was going to happen. But from the beginning, I was asking God to please use this for good. I don't understand why it's happening; I don't understand why they took me. And a lot of good has happened – all these people praying."

Sister Suellen was placed on the back of a motorcycle and told to hang on. Her captors rode through the night and for most of the early morning until she was handed over to the second group, which treated her reasonably well and did not physically harm her.

Her captor at one point gave her a few pieces of paper and a red pen, which she used to mark her days in captivity on a handmade calendar. Whenever she was moved to a new, unknown

location, she would draw a horizontal line to symbolize the latest segment of her journey.

At the end of each week, she drew the numbers 7, 14 and 21 and circled them to keep track of her time.

She had absolutely no idea where she was.

"I told my caretaker, 'I can't run away – I can't run, and I don't know the way!'" Sister Suellen said, smiling.

Faith sustained her

Before the rainy season came in June, she slept outside under a hand-crafted, tent-like structure with branches and leaves for the roof and a cloth that could be moved to keep the direct sun out of her eyes. For most of her captivity, she had no books of any kind to read, so she relied on her Catholic formation to recite prayers she has known since childhood and Bible verses.

She also began every day with the prayers of the Mass – remembering what she could and reflecting on Scripture.

"Prayer sustained me," she said. "I went through my Mass every day. I did each part of the Mass and received spiritual Communion. During the day, at least three or four times a day, I would do a spiritual Communion. That was the thing that kept me going because I had nothing."

Yalgo is in northern Burkina Faso, not far from the border with Mali. Reliefweb reported in

April that in the last two years, Burkina Faso's northern and eastern regions had seen a "sharp deterioration in the security situation ... due to the presence of non-state armed groups."

Sister Suellen said there was nothing very much out of the ordinary in the days leading up to her abduction.

"We had been having many problems with local terrorists who had been causing trouble, so I thought they were the ones who abducted me," she said. "I thought they were just coming to rob."

Sister Suellen said she contracted malaria and lost 20 pounds during her captivity. Her diet consisted of "spaghetti, rice, sardines; spaghetti, rice, sardines – but no Italian sauce or good Creole sauce. No red beans and rice. But, I did have my cup of coffee in the morning. I had a piece of bread every day, but I had the hardest time swallowing it. I have no desire for sardines any more."

During her loneliest moments, Sister Suellen said she prayed for "peaceful patience," because she saw no end in sight.

"I had many conversations with God," she said. "I would say, 'OK, God, what's your word to me today at this moment?' Sometimes it was a Scripture passage or a story from Scripture. But, after a while, it was just messages to me. And the one that stayed with me the longest was 'peaceful patience. You need to be peacefully patient.'"

"I prayed the mysteries of the rosary and the Way of the Cross many times. And, you know, Jesus felt his father had abandoned him. I said, 'Have you abandoned me, God?' And he said, 'Suellen, I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have called you, and you are mine.' I said, 'OK, I know you haven't abandoned me, but I just don't know how much longer I can go on.'"

Inching toward freedom

At some point, her captor found a sofa for her so that she did not have to sleep on the floor.

In August, without warning, she moved again, this time on a motorcycle ride in which she had to cross three rivers. She was so tired at the time she begged for a rest because she was barely able

to hang on.

Then, finally, at a rest stop, she saw three men dressed in African garb along with another man dressed in a nice shirt and pants.

"I was thinking, 'Oh Jesus, is this another group I'm going to have to start up all over again with?'" she said. "But the good news is they had a truck and not a motorcycle. One of the men came to me and said, you can take that jacket off. And he turned to me and he said, 'You're free!' I said, 'What? I'm free? Who are you?'"

They were now in neighboring Niger, where the men took her to someone's house.

"We stopped to get something to eat, and the man said, 'You need to take a shower. Let the woman of the house help you,'" Sister Suellen said. "Oh, I felt like I was in heaven. And then it dawned on me. That was the first woman I had seen in five months."

Sister Suellen arrived back in the archdiocese on Aug. 31 and went for medical checkups. She is regaining her strength and using a walker to guard against falls, but she is getting stronger.

"I sang 'Amazing Grace' I can't tell you how many times," she said. "And I would just add the verse and put how many days I had been in captivity. But I still have just one day to praise the Lord – today."

Note: To honor Sister Suellen's request for privacy, the only information available is the following story on the Clarion Herald website. (Photos by Peter Finney Jr., Clarion Herald)

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Kirk Cameron spins life-affirming message at Gift of Life Banquet

By Bob Tompkins
Guest Contributor

A record crowd of nearly 1,100 people packed the Ned Randolph Riverfront Center on the night of Sept. 13 for the Cenla Pregnancy Center's fourth annual Gift of Life Fundraising Banquet.

Claire Lemoine, the outgoing executive director for the CPC, said God had a hand in the timing of the local release of "Lifemark," an adoption-affirming movie that brings together the Kendrick brothers and Kirk Cameron for the first time since "Fireproof." The movie, inspired by the 2017 Louisiana-based documentary, "I Lived on Parker Avenue," was showing in Alexandria when Cameron was the featured speaker at the banquet. Last year, a little more than 800 attended the banquet.

Cameron, an actor and evangelist who first became known to millions as "Mike Seaver" in the 1980s ABC sitcom "Growing Pains," told the crowd about his personal conversion and his passionate attraction to the bedrock values upon which America was founded.

"I'm from California, the land of fruits and nuts," he quipped. "I've not always been a person of faith. I was an atheist when on the set of 'Growing Pains.' I was famous, making money. Anything I wanted, I could get."

He had his eye on a "young lady" (the female co-star) on the set of 'Growing Pains' and wanted to meet her, and she agreed, but on the condition that they meet in church. He didn't want to go to church but he figured, "I can fake it – I'm an actor."

The "young lady" would become his wife, Chelsea, and the preacher at that service he attended, the evangelical Christian pastor Chuck Swindoll, wove a biblical tale so compelling that the young, 17-year-old Cameron began to consider the possibility of a God and how he might talk to Him.

Cameron said he also found the Christian book "More Than a Carpenter" by Josh McDowell to be "really helpful" in his journey to conversion.



when you're seeking God, God finds you.

He eventually found himself pleading, "God, if you're real, please show me. Make me the man you want me to be."

Then he sensed something had changed. He said he realized, "When you're seeking God, God finds you."

Kirk and Chelsea Cameron have six children, four of whom were adopted, and Chelsea herself was adopted. Considering



CENLA PREGNANCY CENTER'S GIFT OF LIFE BANQUET. Standing with the featured speaker at the Gift of Life Fundraising Banquet, Kirk Cameron (center), are members of the Cenla Pregnancy Center staff, from left: Kimberly DeLoach, incoming executive director Kim Lyons, Kelly Hatcher, Abby Rose Nichols, outgoing executive director Claire Lemoine and Heidi Peavy. Not present for the photo was Maria Burke.

how disordered our country is, he said he wondered how our Founding Fathers might handle things if they were around, and he believes he found an answer from a relatively unfamiliar landmark, the National Monument to the Forefathers, in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The 81-foot-tall monument, commissioned by the Pilgrim Society, features -- on the main pedestal -- the heroic figure, "Faith," with her right hand pointing towards heaven and her left hand clutching the Bible. Other figures included "Morality," "Law," "Justice," "Evangelist," "Mercy," "Education," "Wisdom," "Liberty" and "Peace."

"How many of you think we need to bring back these values to America?" he asked, triggering applause. "When I think about the Cenla Pregnancy Center, I see this whole strategy being carried out in a beautiful little microcosm right here in Alexandria and your satellite locations.

From August 2021 through July 2022, the Cenla Pregnancy Center and its two satellites – the Avoyelles and Miss-Lou centers – have seen 361 clients and seen 331 babies saved. The Miss-Lou center in Vidalia opened in July. The three centers offer free, confidential services such as pregnancy testing, limited obstetrical ultrasound and options counseling. They also assist with material needs, prenatal and parenting classes and post-abortion healing, including abortion pill reversal.

"We've got to overcome the darkness by flooding it with light," said Cameron.

The banquet also featured two client testimonies, a poignant farewell from Claire Lemoine of Marksville, whose time as the CPC's first executive director ended after the banquet, and her introduction of the new executive director, Kim Lyons of Alexandria. Brian Gunter, the first president of the CPC Board of Directors, who now serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Livingston, presented a pearl necklace, on behalf of the CPC Board, to Claire as he called upon God to "bless you in where He is leading you.

Lemoine plans to return to a career in nursing.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM SEMINAR. Five local men from the Diocese of Alexandria were able to attend a Criminal Justice Reform seminar in Chicago, Illinois sponsored by the Catholic University of Loyola. This annual workshop is for Catholic Dioceses who are seeking to expand their current prison ministry or to begin a new jail ministry program. This program provides an educational opportunity for new and current leaders so that they may deepen and enhance their knowledge of restorative justice ministry. Participants learn to better understand the social contexts as well as the mental, physical, and spiritual health needs of the community. Participants are also resourced to create restorative justice practice and ministries, in collaboration with local officials and law enforcement, which are able to address issues of poverty, mental illness, punishment, and retribution with the Mercy and Love of Christ. Diocesan participation was provided through a grant from Catholic Extension and in participation with Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana.

Golf Tournament Oct. 10

Plans for the 26th Annual Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament are underway! The tournament will be held on Monday, Oct. 10 at Oak Wing Golf Club. The tournament is a 4-person scramble and entry fee includes green fees, cart, mulligans, range balls, lunch, dinner after the tournament and refreshments throughout the day.

To sign up to play or to sponsor please contact Sandi Tarver at 318-445-6424 ext. 209 or starver@diocesealex.org for more information.

Seminarian Burses

August 2022 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
Father John Wiltse Burse	
Ms. Elizabeth R. Holmes	\$50.00
Father Daniel Hart Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$100.00
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
Ms. Patricia Vandersypen-Basco	\$100.00
Jerome and Audrey Vandersypen Burse	
Ms. Ingrid Cannella	\$3,000.00
Seminarian Matthew Bonner Burse	
Total	\$3,300.00



Upcoming Retreats

November 3-6
St. Augustine Church
Women's ACTS

November 17-20
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Women's ACTS

A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/. All retreats are held at Maryhill Renewal Center.



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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.



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If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Psalm 95: 8 | Responsorial Psalm for October 2 | Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

Parish Spotlight: Holy Cross Church, Natchitoches established 1968



HOLY CROSS CHURCH, NATCHITOCHES.

In 1909, Catholic students attending Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, formed the Apostleship of Payer, a League of the Sacred Heart, and met on Sunday evenings, often with Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven, Bishop of the Diocese of

Natchitoches, attending.

In 1925, the Apostleship of Prayer group was replaced with the Newman Club. A building on campus was used, which was also shared with the other religious denominations.

In 1953, the present building

was constructed as the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. For the next 15 years, the Newman Center served the Catholic students at NSC as a “home-away-from-home” connection to their faith.

On Feb. 11, 1968, Bishop Charles P. Greco approved the establishment of Holy Cross as a non-territorial campus parish to serve the needs of the students attending NSC, known today as Northwestern State University.

In 1992, long-term planning began for a major renovation of a deteriorated church building. The completion of the \$400,000 project was not a small task for the relatively small, average-income parish, however, with the help of the Good Lord, the work was accomplished.

The church was re-dedicated by Bishop Sam G. Jacobs on Oct. 30, 1999. Holy Cross is still the only campus parish in the Diocese.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN ST. JOSEPH, LA held a Farmers Mass on Sept. 7. In response to the torrential rains in the area that severely affected the farmers, a votive Mass was held and many local farmers attended. Prayers were offered for favorable weather and a good harvest. Fr. Taylor Reynolds gave them a special blessing at the end of Mass.



MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Parishioners of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Brunch at Lasyone’s Restaurant in Natchitoches after Mass. The morning included Marian hymns by the Church choir, as well as a reflection on “The Feminine Genius of the Blessed Virgin Mary”. Pictured are members of the Church choir and parishioners of MBIC.

*The Lord has revealed
to the nations his saving power.*

Psalm 98: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for October 9
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

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Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

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





(Above and below) **ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, LEESVILLE.** Blessing of the backpacks took place for back to school. Father Kenneth Michiels blessed backpacks at all masses the weekend of August 27.



THE MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, NATCHITOCHEs coordinated with the Religion department at St Mary's Catholic School to provide help to one of the families that the St. Vincent DePaul ministry at MBIC has been assisting. The family's home was destroyed by fire several months ago. After staying with different family members and friends, they finally have a new place to call home. Students, with the help of some parents and teachers, worked together to clean the house so that it was ready for move in.



MATER DOLOROSA AND ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL. Mater Dolorosa Church Parish and St. Joseph School Families of Plaquemine celebrated the Queenship of Mary on Monday, Aug. 22 with a rosary procession around the school and church. Pray for us Queen Mother.

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ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. On Thursday, Sept. 8, St. Joseph School's elementary religion classes celebrated Mary's birthday. Each class celebrated by saying their prayers, playing religious games, and enjoying sweet treats. Pictured is the PreK 4 class.



SACRED HEART MOREAUVILLE THIRD GRADER WINS STATE WRITING COMPETITION. Congratulations to third grade student Maddox [redacted] on winning first place in the "Louisiana Writes Competition" that was held last year. His short story, "The Crawfish Boil," fascinated the judges and they commented on the originality and mastery of his writing skills. He competed as a second grader last year when the competition was held and winners were announced this past week. We are so proud of him for representing SHS! The Awards Ceremony will be held on October 29, on the grounds of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Maddox enjoys reading stories and writing them too.

(Below) ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL BUNKIE. SAS 2nd graders learned in a fun and engaging way about where their favorite foods originated from: Italian, Chinese, Japanese and Mexican foods seem to be some of their favorites!



(Above and below) ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL, BUNKIE. SAS wait for the annual "9/11 Remembrance Parade" which honors first responders and remembers all those lost during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. First responders from all over Avoyelles Parish participate in this parade every year and drive through the entire parish and all of the schools wait outside for them. The entire SAS student body was present for this event.

(Below) OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL MASS. Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass with the community of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria on Sept. 15. On the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, they reflected upon the fact that God is with us in good times and in bad - and so is our Blessed Mother. Thank you to Father Rusty Rabalais, Father Thomas Kennedy, Deacon Les Glankler, and Deacon Mike Young for their welcome and assistance.



The 2022-2023 school year is in full swing

BISHOP'S BOWL FOOTBALL GAME. The annual "Bishop's Bowl" match up between St. Mary's High School (Natchitoches) and Holy Savior Menard High School (Alexandria), was held Friday, Sept. 16 at Northwestern State University's Turpin Stadium. St. Mary's Tigers came away with the win, 35-7. Pictured left to right: Menard Principal, Chris Gatlin, HSM

██████████ Bishop Robert Marshall, St. Mary's player Adam ██████████ and St. Mary's Principal, Jason Lachica.



To see more photos from around the diocese, visit www.diocesealex.org and click on All Photo Galleries at the top

2022-23 SAS BULLDOG FOOTBALL. St. Anthony School football team and cheerleaders prepare for the jamboree on August 27. (Below) Father Scott Chemino prays over SAS football players and coaches before the game on Wednesday, Sept. 7 against St. Edmunds Catholic School, Eunice. The game was held at the Bulldog field in Bunkie. SAS Bulldogs took the win 28-0!



ST. ANTHONY VS OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL. Scenes from the football game between St. Anthony of Padua (Bunkie) and Our Lady of Prompt Succor (Alexandria) on Wednesday, Sept. 14. SAS got the win 40-0. (Photo by P. Quibodeaux Photography)

Men of faith: The story of the Marksville lighted rosary

By Donna Culotta
Guest Contributor

In 1959, Marksville celebrated its 150th birthday and the town pulled out all the stops.

Besides the traditional men in beards and ladies in bonnets, there was a parade, fireworks, dignitaries, and lots of fun.

The celebration went on for a week, and the last event on the last day was a special rosary prayed with “hundreds of people present,” George Couvillion remembered.

“It was in front of a very tall lighted rosary placed on the largest and flattest mound in the Indian Park.”

Now closed, the Marksville State Historic Site Indian Park, was then the traditional site for picnics, family fun, and July 4 celebrations.

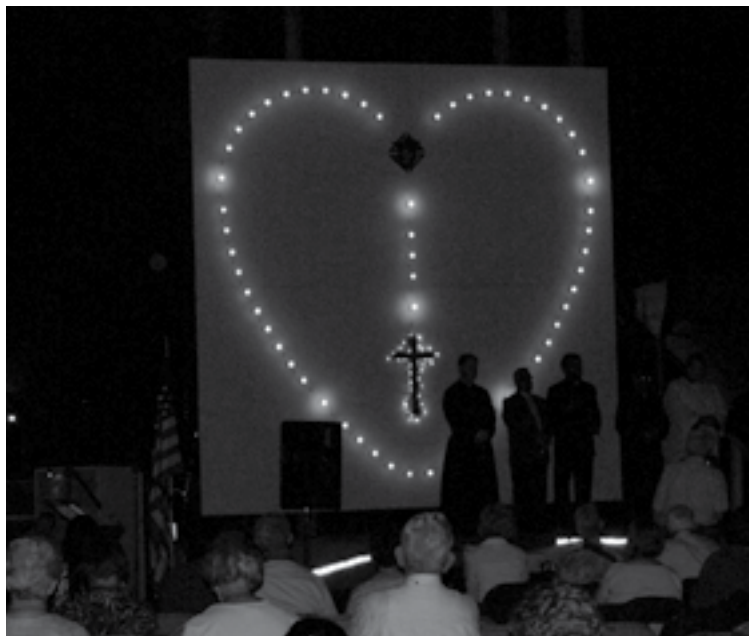
George was about 10-years old at the time, and his father, Richard Couvillion, was involved in building the big structure.

In the Catholic faith, a rosary is a series of beads divided into five decades of ten each. Prayers center on the life of Jesus Christ.

The idea was to have a large rosary where each bead was a light bulb that lit up as that prayer was said. By the end of the rosary, the whole thing was completely lit and was spectacular.

Richard Couvillion as the Shop teacher at the time and the whole structure was built at Marksville High School by the boys in his class.

“The power company ran a



ANNUAL LIGHTED ROSARY AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.
The lighted rosary in 2010.

special line to it so that there was electricity,” George explained.

The rosary design with the light bulbs made a heart shape and in the middle, Richard had placed frosted glass.

It was George’s job to frost the glass. “I used some kind of rubbing compound, he remembered.

Behind the rosary was an opaque projector that threw scenes of Christ’s life on the glass as the prayers were said.

“They asked one of the Brothers from Don Bosco School in Cottonport to lead the rosary because he had a Midwestern accent,” George continued.

As soon as the festivities were over, the structure was taken

down and hauled away.

“But I remember the poles stayed up for a long time,” Groge said.

Fifty years later in 2009, it was time to celebrate the Bicentennial of Marksville and the Knights of Columbus group at St. Joseph Church decided to recreate what had been done for the Sesquicentennial of the town. They would build another lighted rosary, only this time it would be at St. Joseph.

Ironically, George Couvillion was also a member of that group and helped build and erect the

second lighted rosary.

It was built under the watchful eye of the late Nolan Bordelon in the largest classroom in the old Presentation School.

Using 4x8 pieces of plywood the lighted rosary would be 16x16 tall with four foot lattice on the bottom to dress it off.

The plywood was attached to ten 2x6 pieces of lumber that had been secured to the poles.

Jimmie Bordelon drilled 60 holes for the light bulbs, connected the electrical circuits and devised the switches.

“I built the control panel at our house and used an old refrigerator. We were trying to save money,” he remarked. Jimmie calculated the Knights of Columbus spent a little over \$800 to build the rosary with many items donated.

As with the lighted rosary of 50 years ago, a light bulb goes on with each prayer being said. This is all done manually and today Jimmie is the one at the switch box.

Jimmie had to drill each hold and measure exactly so the light bulbs were the same distance apart and matched the ones on the other side.

The newer rosary has blue bulbs for the five decades and red for the prayers in between each decade. There is also a lighted crucifix that begins and ends the rosary.

Larry Breaux of Mansura, and a member of the St. Paul Knights of Columbus, brought a large piece of heavy equipment commonly called a ‘cherry picker’ and helped put the completed rosary in place. It had to drop precisely in the holes that had been bored by the power company. According to Jimmie, the whole thing went in perfectly.

James Bordelon, a Knights of Columbus member, figured to the nth degree the holes for the supporting poles. And not just the size but the correct depth of all three so everything would be even.

Once the structure was in the ground, James used a laser level to make sure it was all straight.

Later the roof over the rosary was added as a way to protect it from the elements.

The Knights of Columbus members decided to keep the lighted rosary up after the town celebration ended. It has been standing at the edge of the St. Joseph church hall parking lot for the past 13 years. Hurricane winds and weather of all kind has not dented it.

These men of faith, back then and today, came together for a common purpose. Each used God-given talents to contribute to the success of a project that represented something greater than themselves.

Day of Recollection - November 12

The Carmelite Community of Alexandria will host a DAY of RECOLLECTION on November 12, 2022 at Maryhill Renewal Center. Father Ryan Humphries will present talks on “Stress, Anxiety, and the Practical Spiritual Life in our Times”. More information will be sent to those who would like to attend. Contact Mary Jo McCoy at (318) 346-6860 or (318) 481-9638.

St. Anthony in Bunkie to host 40-Hour Devotion

Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie will host a beautiful Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotion Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

This prolonged period of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is in observance of the Year of the Eucharist that will continue into 2023. This will be an opening event to bring a renewed focus on the miracle and gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Catholics from ALL of church parishes of Avoyelles are cordially invited to visit Saint Anthony Church during the Forty Hours Devotion. It will begin

with a Mass of the Most Holy Eucharist at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31. The enthronement of the Eucharist at the Altar of Adoration will follow the Mass.

The church will remain open day and night for the next forty hours. There will be several Masses offered on Monday, Nov. 1. These will include 6:30 a.m., 8:20 a.m., 12:00 Noon, and 6:00 p.m. Adoration will continue between all of the Masses. The closing Mass for the Forty Hours will take place at 8:20 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Because the devotion has been planned to

coincide with All Saints and All Souls days, the event is being called “Forty Hours Adoration – A Communion of Saints”.

The Knights of Columbus and men of the parish are signing up to provide adorers through the night hours on both Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Please be assured, anyone who wishes to visit the church and parking areas will be most safe through the nights.

Special prayer booklets will be available for all who wish to visit the church for adoration. For more details, please call the Rectory Office at (318) 346-7274.

Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for October 16
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Those who are called to the table of the Lord must glow with the brightness. // *saint john capistrano*

Adoration Chapel // Daily

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville, Perpetual Adoration Chapel will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in the Community Center. You will need to call the office during office hours to obtain the code to the chapel: 318-445-2497.

Insights Prayer Group // every Tuesday

The Insights Prayer Group (formerly Tuesday Afternoon Prayer Group) has resumed its weekly meetings every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. in the **Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville**. Anyone interested in gaining insight into the role of Sacred Scripture and power of prayer as tools to navigate Catholic life in the present is invited to attend. For more information, contact Melba LaCaze at 318-445-6851 or Rhonda England at 318-452-9739.

Food Pantry Distribution, Pineville // Wednesdays

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 600 Lakeview Street, Pineville. Distribution bags are for “cook” and “non cook,” bread, sandwiches, personal hygiene items (when in supply) will be available. Food distribution will be every other Wednesday, from 8:00 a.m. until noon, in front of the church office. Please call Linda Boniol for more information at 318-623-1492.

Book Study on Saints // every Wednesday

Every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., Father Taylor Reynolds will lead a book study on his recently published book titled, “*No Longer Strangers*.” Discussion will follow 5:00 p.m. Adoration and confession, and 6:00 p.m. Mass at **St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA**. For more information or to acquire a book, contact Fr. Taylor at stjosephinstjoe@gmail.com or 318-766-3565.

A Guide to Catholic Devotion series // every Wednesday

Father Thomas Kennedy invites you to join him for this weekly series of presentations titled, “*Lord, Teach Us to Pray: A Guide to Catholic Devotions*.” Meetings will take place every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the **Madonna Room at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria**. Reinvigorate your prayer life through this reintroduction to devotional practices.

Maryhill Real Presence Prayer Group // every Wednesday

The Real Presence Prayer Group will meet every Wednesday evening at **Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville**. Rosary begins at 7:00 p.m. with Charismatic Praise and High Worship at 7:20 p.m. and Healing Prayer at 8:00 p.m. (Closing by 11:00 p.m.). Wheelchair accessible. Directed by Jim Gootee. For more information, call Joey LaFossee at 318-332-2234 or Bob Weeks at 318-442-1794.

Food Pantry // every 2nd and 4th Thursday

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is open every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. It is a walk-in style pantry, located on the backside of **St. Francis of Assisi Church in Waterproof, LA**. All are welcome to come and receive or to donate.

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 7:00 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.

Divine Mercy Hour // every Friday

Sacred Heart Church of Moreauville has a weekly Divine Mercy Hour at 3:00 p.m. on Fridays. There will be adoration with benediction, recitation of the divine mercy chaplet, and confessions available. Everyone is invited.

St. Timothy Food Pantry // last Saturday every month

Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria conducts its St. Timothy Food Pantry distributions on the last Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the St. Timothy Center, 409 21st Street. Anyone in need of food is welcome to come. For more information, contact Chris Bayonne at 318-955-1222.

Holy Hour with Benediction, Moreauville // every weekend

Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville has Holy Hour with Benediction every weekend before Mass. The times are: before Saturday Vigil Mass, starting at 3:00 p.m., and before Sunday evening Mass starting at 4:00 p.m.

National Eucharistic Revival // sign up for the newsletter!

The Diocese of Alexandria is participating in the **National Eucharistic Revival**. The mission of this three-year revival is “*to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist*.” Stay current with the national movement by registering to receive the weekly “Heart of the Revival newsletter.” To do so, follow this link and scroll down to provide your name and email address” <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>.

All Saints and All Souls

Mark your calendars for All Saints Day on November 1, and All Souls’ Day on November 2. Check your parish bulletin for more information.

Family Missions Company co-founder Frank Summers passes into eternity

ABBEVILLE, LA ---

Family Missions Company announced with a heavy heart the passing of its co-founder Frank Wyrnerth Summers II on September 11, 2022. Frank was a passionate missionary for Jesus Christ and a tireless advocate for the poor, both around the world and also near his home in southern Louisiana.

"I met Frank and Genie Summers and their son Beau decades ago in an airport in Fiji - crisscrossing in our respective missionary work," said Ralph Martin, S.T.D., President of Renewal Ministries. "I was inspired then to meet them and have remained so through the decades. The Summers family under the leadership of Frank has truly blazed new trails for lay

Catholic mission work. He has been one of the great Catholic lay leaders of our times and leaves an amazing legacy. Thanks be to God for Frank, his faith, his obedience, his family!"

Frank and his wife of 59 years, Genie, founded Family Missions Company (FMC) in 1997, after spending over two decades living among the poor on mission with their children in Tonga, the Bahamas, American Samoa, the Philippines, and Mexico.

Frank believed that the Great Commission to make disciples was an invitation and duty for all baptized Catholics. He and Genie founded FMC to share their real-world experience through an ongoing, sustainable program of missionary formation open to all

lay Catholics.

Over the last 25 years, FMC has trained hundreds of families and single lay missionaries and commissioned them to serve the poor and preach the Gospel in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Arrangements

A gathering of friends and family was held on Friday, September 16, 2022, at Vincent Funeral Home, Abbeville, LA. A rosary was prayed by Family Missions Company Missionaries that same day, followed by a celebration of praise.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, September 17 at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, Abbeville, LA.



So I do not run aimlessly

By Teresa Kiehl
Family Missions Company

*So I do not run aimlessly;
I do not box as one beating
the air. But I discipline my
body and keep it under control,
lest after preaching to others I
myself should be disqualified.
// 1 Corinthians 9:26-27*

God is so good! After nearly two years of construction and fundraising, of sweat and blisters, we have finally completed our Ezekiel Fitness Center in the heart of Chontapunta!

We recently began inviting our local community to come over and get in shape, both physically and spiritually. The first stage of the project began with our youth cafeteria and faith formation program that feeds both spirit and body. We began feeding 40-50 people Monday through Friday following a weekday faith formation prayer service for youth. It has been so good to see the kids learn prayers and songs, as well as Bible stories and Catechesis.

The dream for this project was born during the COVID pandemic when we were stuck in our house with three other single missionaries. We began cooking daily meals together, learning about nutrition, and the best things to keep our bodies healthy and strong. This was especially important when we knew so little about the COVID virus.

We realized we would be better prepared to resist sickness if we were getting all of our needed vitamins. We also began an exercise routine to both keep us occupied and to build up our bodies. We studied Spanish every day while our kids were homeschooling and reading a lot. We had daily prayer time and faith formation, growing together in our love of Jesus and developing our minds to use for His work.

One day after morning prayer, we began talking of the possibility of offering these insights to our community. We started dreaming up a plan to build a fitness center and a school of faith and art to inspire local

kids to live better. Many of the local youth only get one or two meals a day, and these are often just rice, noodles, plantains, or yuca (cassava).

We were able, with the help of so many, to buy a couple of acres of land in town and began construction. It was beautiful seeing so many come together to help us build. I still remember our son Moses, along with DJ and Michael, two of the single guy missionaries, breaking ground with some of the locals.

As we built, the project developed into a larger building with two large dorm rooms for groups that visit us to help us in our mission here. We built a house for a family who could live at the site, maintain the grounds, and cook for the soup kitchen. We only lacked the people to help us run the ministries. We began praying as Jesus tells us in Matthew 9:38: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." And God was so faithful!

Last year we were blessed to have two Ecuadorian families join

us. We have begun training them and they help with the Ezekiel Project in a variety of ministries. In January, we received our third family who now lives above the gym and helps run the gym and cook for the cafeteria.

Just a few weeks ago we hired our gym manager and opened the gym to great acclaim in our town. There is much excitement because nothing like this has ever been built way out here!

We hope to eventually have a variety of classes, some beginning even this month, including English Kichwa language, art, guitar and piano, faith formation for adults, and nutrition. As we develop the project we hope to include a technology center, a small pharmacy for the poor, and our town's first library.

The vision is great and sometimes we feel its weight. We have heard the voice of our Lord and are following with all of our strength.

I am reminded of the words from the letter to the Hebrews: "Therefore, lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed." // Hebrews 12:12-13

God is doing so much in Chontapunta! Please continue to pray for us!

Family Missions Company sends out lay Catholic families and singles to proclaim Jesus Christ and His Gospel to the poor! Since the ministry's founding as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 1997, they have trained and sent out hundreds of families and individuals to serve as evangelists and servants to the poor around the world. We feel blessed as we watch our missionary family continue to grow as billions of people still wait to hear the Good News.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Psalm 34: 7 | Responsorial Psalm for October 23
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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BISHOP IN ROME

(cont. from pg. 3)

celebration was at the Altar of the Chair directly behind the High Altar. This chapel features the famous stained glass window of the Holy Spirit. After Mass, the bishops walked down the stairs in front of the High Altar to venerate the Tomb of St. Peter. And that was just the beginning of our day!

After Mass, Father J. Stephen, MSFS, General Councilor and General Secretary of the Missionaries of St.

Francis de Sales, met me in St. Peter's Basilica (photo right). The Missionaries are the order to which Father Anthony "Raj" Dharmaraj of St. Rita parish and Fr. Paul Kunnumpuram of Christ the King parish belong. Fr. Stephen had invited me to the Generalate, but our schedule was too busy. I was honored that he came to St. Peter's to greet me.

After we took off our vestments, we were escorted to



BISHOP IN ROME. Bishop Marshall with Father J. Stephen, MSFS.

BISHOP IN ROME. Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (DeLaSalle Christian Schools).



BISHOP IN ROME. All of the bishops attending this session of Course of Formation gather for an audience with Pope Francis.

packed and went our separate ways. This afternoon, I went on a pilgrimage to the Generalate (Headquarters) of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools - the DeLaSalle Christian Brothers (photo above). I graduated from Christian Brothers High School and Christian Brothers University in Memphis and have a long association with the Brothers and their ministry. Their founder is St. Jean Baptiste De La Salle, a French priest with a deep concern for the education of youth. His statue is high in the sanctuary of the Generalate's Main Chapel and his relics lie in honor there. There is a museum at the Generalate that includes St. DeLaSalle's cassock and a chair he once used in classroom instruction. I am very grateful that my visit coincided with that of Brother Tim Coldwell, FSC who was in from his current assignment in San Francisco. Brother Tim was my tour guide.

I was honored to be able to meet and visit with Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, the new Superior General of the Institute (pictured with me before an image of the Founder). Brother Armin was just elected to a seven year term at the General Chapter held earlier this year.

Another feature of the main chapel is a side chapel dedicated to the Christian Brothers recognized as martyred saints or blessed. Among the stained glass windows is one honoring Blessed Brother James Miller from the Midwest District. We are praying for his canonization.

This afternoon was a prayerful and joyful reminder of my Lasallian heritage and proof that all roads lead to Rome.

the Sala Clementina (Clementine Hall), a salon in the Apostolic Palace that was constructed in the 1500s by Pope Clement VIII in honor of Pope St. Clement I, the fourth pope. The hall is filled with marble and beautiful frescos. As we walked in we found chairs in a U shape in three rows around the room. At the front of the room was a large white chair. It was clear that our audience with the Holy Father would take place here (photo above). At about 10:05 a.m. (before we were told to expect him), Pope Francis entered the room by his own power, supported by a cane. He sat in the

chair and engaged in a dialogue (questions by bishops, answers or thoughts from him) for almost an hour and a half. Regrettably, I do not speak Italian so I only got bits and pieces of what was said, but the Holy Father was alert, engaged, animated, and humorous from time to time. He seemed to be completely relaxed. I was most impressed. Then we greeted him one by one. I hope that photo will be available soon. It was a wonderful and moving experience.

At the conclusion of our audience with the Holy Father, we returned to Regina Apostolorum,

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The Holy Name of Mary

By Rocio Hermes
Blessed is She

I always had a problem with my name growing up. I wondered why my parents didn't give me an easy-to-pronounce name. Rocio, although beautiful when pronounced rightly in Spanish, felt like a burden when teachers at school tried different variations: Rocchio, Roxio, Rokio. I could

get started on a list of funny and embarrassing moments tied to my name, but the point is that it was a struggle. I did not want to accept my name.

It wasn't until I was a young adult beginning my journey of discerning religious life that the Lord started to do something unexpected: He began to connect the dots between my name, my identity, and my mission.

Accepting My Own Name

Through a series of events, including a prophetic encounter you can read about here, I began to take ownership of my name and what the Lord had entrusted me with. I discovered that in my name, which translates to "dew," He was inviting me to be a consolation to others and to be intimately attune to the Holy Spirit of which dew is a Biblical and liturgical image. The things I learned during those years remain with me even now, since the Lord was redeeming such an essential part of my identity: my name.

When we think about the feast day of the Most Holy Name of Mary, some might think, what's the big fuss? Why have a whole day dedicated to her name? We love her and all of that, but isn't that a bit excessive?

Well, maybe I would have been on board with that same thinking before—but not anymore. Now, I know well from experience the connection and importance between who we are, the name we are given, and the mission we are entrusted with.

The woman chosen from all time for the most important task of bearing in her body, feeding at her breasts, and holding to her heart the Savior of the world and the Son of the Most High did not just happen to have the name Mary (Mariam in Greek/Miryam in Hebrew). It must have been for a reason. Although the exact definitions of the name of Mary vary, I think it would help us in our devotion to take a look at the different meanings and what they can tell us about her identity and mission.

The Holy Name of Mary // Sea of Bitterness or Drop of the Sea?

Among some of the translations found for the name of Mary, the connection to water is common. Some say Our Lady's name could mean either a sea of bitterness or a drop of the sea. I invite you to reflect with me today on the possibility of Our Lady's name meaning "a sea of bitterness." Why would this be a fitting name for the Mother of Christ?

The sorrows our Mother was to undergo were possibly alluded

to in her name. It would suffice to remember the words of Simeon in the temple at the entrance of the holy pair with the Messiah in their arms to understand why Our Lady's identity and mission could be tied to bitterness. After being moved by the Spirit to proclaim what Jesus would be, namely salvation (see Luke 2:27, 30), Simeon looks to Mary and confesses rightly that a sword will pierce her own heart (2:35).

To think of Our Lady as being a "sea of bitterness" is not to deem that her heart was full of bitterness and ill-will because of the suffering she was going to pass through. Instead, we can understand it to be a reference to the immense sorrows of Our Lady's heart: the sorrow that came with knowing in anticipation the suffering the Messiah was to undergo, witnessing the rejection of His own people, and the torments of her Son during the Passion. Being unable to relieve her child of this suffering would be enough to cause an increase of pain in her own heart—an experience comparable to a sea of pain, a whole ocean of bitterness.

She who experienced immense heartache was entrusted with a mission: to accompany all of the children entrusted to her from the Cross (see John 19:26) on their own journey of heartache and bitterness. She would be the model for her children on how to carry these things in one's heart (see Luke 2:51). Some translations say she "treasured" them in her heart. The things she did not understand, the pain of separation already experienced by them in the young life of Jesus, the expectation of all that was to come—she treasured all of these things. She did not become bitter because of it, although she was only just beginning to walk on the shores of this sea.

May we learn from her the mysterious art and mission of remaining joyful in the midst of bitter anguish.

The Name of Mary: Beloved

The name of Mother Mary can be found in the Old Testament, belonging also to the sister of Moses (see Numbers 26:59). Miriam was considered a prophet and led

the people in praise of the Lord who had freed them (see Exodus 15:20-21). Because the Israelites were in Egypt during this time, it is important to take into consideration what the Egyptian root of the name Mary/Miriam could be.

One of the possibilities of the Egyptian meaning of the name is "beloved" (source). One of my favorite titles of Mary is her as the Beloved Daughter of the Father. It cannot be denied that she was beloved by God. Here one might be tempted to say that she was so loved by the Father because of the importance of her mission. But we would be forgetting one important thing: her identity precedes her mission. Mary is loved first because of who she is. Her belovedness was not bound up to how faithfully and fruitfully she would fulfill her mission—which she did perfectly beyond exaggeration—but her loveable-ness is found first in the essence of her being Mary.

The Father looked upon her and loved her. In the same way, before all that we do and any mission we may feel called to fulfill, you and I are loved first and foremost because of who we are. We are loved because we exist and we exist because we were loved into existence. Our origin and our destiny is love. How fitting it is, then, for Our Lady's name to mean "beloved" since we know this to be true about ourselves! She is the beloved daughter of a very good Father, the beloved mother and sister (see Matthew 12:50) of Christ her Savior, and the beloved espoused by the Spirit.

Her Name Remains a Model

Can you and I see in Mother Mary a model of living out one's belovedness? She lived this in total trust and abandonment to the Father. May we also learn to live from our identity, dependent not on our own strength or the loftiness of our mission to somehow earn His love but by realizing we are already the beloved right here and now.

May she who held a sea of bitterness in her heart and was at the same time beloved, pray for us to receive and accept our names, our identities, and our mission on this earth.

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7 a.m. Sunday Mass

Marriage Prep Day (Pre-Cana) - November 12

Pre-Cana Day of Reflection for Engaged Couples will be held at Cabrini Church in Alexandria on Saturday, Nov. 12 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Ducote Hall. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Cost is \$50 per couple. To register please call Emily Ann at 448-3333 or Michelle at 445-4588.



ST. RITA ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY. St. Rita Altar & Rosary Society completed a tour of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Saturday, Aug. 27. Their tour guide, Mr. Peter Couvillion, shared the rich history of the Cathedral during the tour. St. Francis Xavier Church was built in 1895. At that time, the diocese was the Diocese of Natchitoches. The clock tower was completed in 1907. In 1910, the See City was transferred from Natchitoches to Alexandria and St. Francis Xavier Church was designated the Cathedral. To schedule a tour, contact the church office at (318) 445-1451.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

October 18, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center
Alexandria

October 25, 6:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart School
Moreauville

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

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Part-time job opportunity at Radio Maria

Radio Maria has an immediate opening for a Sound Board Operator to work Monday-Friday afternoons/evenings (can fluctuate as needed) and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., as needed. A sound board operator is responsible for connecting/announcing presenters on live programs, recording live programs, and exporting/editing live programs for re-broadcasting. He/she may also record promotional announcements, pre-record programs as needed for broadcasting, and pray on-air as needed. Skills include dependability, organization, ability to work independently as well as take direction from others, and ability to properly use sound board equipment and other equipment/software as trained. Approximately 15-20 hours per week at \$10 per hour. Send resume with cover letter to kfontenot@radiomaria.us.

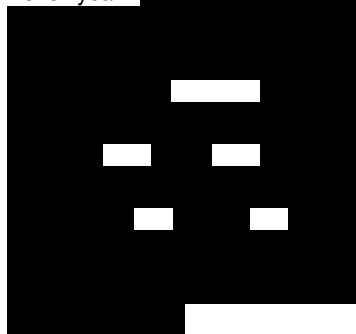


OUR LADY OF SORROWS FEAST DAY. The Sister of Our Lady of Sorrows celebrated their feast day on October 15. They renewed their vows during school Mass, and the entire school offered prayers at the grotto after Mass. The SHS faculty, staff, and Parent's Club provided gifts and refreshments for the Sisters to enjoy. All personnel were invited. The entire body showered the Sisters with cards and well wishes. Congratulations from Sacred Heart School for your continued ministry and devotion to our school!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL JUNIOR HIGH, NATCHITOCHE. Students in Junior High Religion at St. Mary's Catholic School celebrated the Nativity of Mary by praying the Rosary at the school's Grotto. Seventh grade students in Mrs. Brandi Harrington's class



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. The 4-H Club elected their officers for the 2022-2023 year.



IGNITE AT HSM. During the Ignite Rally, students and faculty gathered together as a community on August 13 for Mass as well as introducing the fall and winter sports teams. The MAC (Menard Apostles for Christ) team is teaching a lesson about faith through a skit they created.



*I will praise
your name
for ever,
my king
and my God.*

Psalm 145: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for October 30
Thirty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time

**Catholic
Campus Ministry
at our local
universities:**

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Catholic Student Organization,
318-447-2956

Northwestern State University
Catholic Student Organization
FOCUS Ministries:
<https://nsucatholic.org/focus>

Louisiana College:
Catholic Student Organization,
318-447-2956



LIFETEEN CORE LEADERSHIP TRAINING. Youth group core team members from both St Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport and St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie traveled to Holy Cross in Lafayette for LifeTeen training on August 27.



LSUA CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER. Sunday, Aug. 28, Bishop Robert Marshall returned to the campus of Louisiana State University of Alexandria to celebrate Mass in the St. John Paul II chapel of the Catholic Student Center. Thank you to Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil, Campus Ministry Coordinator Amelia Bordelon, and the students and other members of the LSUA community for their welcome. It is encouraging to see young people celebrating and nurturing their faith.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD. (LEFT) The school year began at Menard with the Catholic Identity Project in which each HSM student is assigned a prayer partner. During their time together, they get to know one another and will lift one another up in prayer all year.



SMS STUDENTS ASSIST AT FOOD PANTRY. Students at St. Mary's Catholic School recently spent time volunteering at the Cane River Food Pantry. They packed boxes of food items to be distributed to community members who are in need of assistance. Junior high and high school students are required to spend time serving in the community, as St. Mary's seeks to cultivate the heart of a servant in its students.

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Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

Do you have a devotion to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

Do you have a desire to learn and become more involved with this vital ministry to and with our indigenous brothers and sisters?

Are you looking for new opportunities to pray, serve and grow alongside believers right in your own community?

You are invited to **COME & SEE** what we're all about!

- Tribal affiliation, though welcome, is not a requirement •

The "Heart of Saint Kateri" Circle meets:
2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 p.m.
Tekakwitha Conference National Center
2225 North Bolton Avenue • Alexandria, LA 71303

For more information, call (318) 483-3908 or (318) 471-2044

Divorce support group - begins September 29

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is sponsoring a group for those experiencing divorce as a part of "Our Lady Queen of Peace Ministry of Healing Life Wounds." Processing loss is an important component to living a more integrated and peaceful life. Join us as we unite together in God's grace and support one another. Each session will be led by trained facilitators and professionals. Sessions will begin Thursday, Sept. 29 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. Groups will be capped at 15 participants. Registration opens Sept. 1. Visit www.cccenla.org to register. The cost of the group will be \$50 for nine sessions. Sessions are scheduled for: Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17, and Dec. 1. We look forward to seeing you there.

St. Joseph School Fair, Plaquemine - October 8-9

Festivities start with a corn hole tournament on Saturday, Oct. 8, at the St. Joseph School gym pavilion, registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Call (318) 451-3453 to register.

The Fair will start after the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Mater Dolorosa Church. Knights of Columbus Council 2142 will be serving fried fish plates for \$10 Saturday evening. A Silent Auction opens at noon on Saturday and close at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Entertainment for the fair will be Parker James at 7:00 followed by Dustin Sonnier and the Wanted from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Food booths, Carlos' famous eggrolls, a cake booth, and more, games for the kids, young and old, including Bingo in the air-conditioned gym!! Sunday Cochon-de-Lait dinner, \$12 for pick up in the school cafeteria from 10:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Dinner tickets can be purchased at the school and at nearby stores. Bingo will be played throughout the day on Sunday. Come out and support Saint Joseph School!

Discalced Carmelite Meeting - October 8

The Order of the Discalced 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 at 318-346-6860 or 318-481-9638.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Bishop's Annual Golf Tournament - October 10

Plans for the 26th Annual Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament are underway! The tournament will be held on Monday, Oct. 10 at Oak Wing Golf Club. The tournament is a 4-person scramble and entry fee includes green fees, cart, mulligans, range balls, lunch, dinner after the tournament, and refreshments throughout the day. To sign up to play or to sponsor, please contact Sandi Tarver at 318-445-6424, ext. 209 or starver@diocesealex.org for more information. The money raised from the tournament goes towards the Seminarian Education Fund.

Training Program in Spiritual Direction ONLINE Informational Meeting - October 10

Trained spiritual director, Jeanne Burmaster, a graduate of the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center's Internship in Spiritual Direction and Associate Staff Member of the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center, will hold an ONLINE Virtual "Informational Meeting" on Monday, Oct. 10 about the next Training Program in Spiritual Direction. There will be two meeting times on Oct. 10: 10:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m. Registration is required. Over the years, this Internship in Spiritual Direction has certified over 200 spiritual directors now serving a number of dioceses in Louisiana. At this online meeting, we will discuss the program, its purpose, prerequisites, and structure. The two-year Internship in Spiritual Direction Program will begin in August, 2023. Register online at <https://nolacatholic.org/asc> or email archspirctr@arch-no.org or call 504-861-3254.

Feast for Good with Chef John Folse - October 12

Save the date for an exquisite culinary experience in support of your neighbors with developmental disabilities. Chef John Folse will be at the England Airpark Community Center to help raise money for St. Mary's Residential Training Facility. To save your seat, visit the reservation website: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/Q554DA?preview=1&vid=twq4s>

Sacred Heart School Fall Festival - October 15-16

Sacred Heart School in Moreauville is so excited to host our Fall Festival this year! It all begins with Saturday morning's 5KRun/1 Mile Fun Color Run, \$25.00 entry fee includes a t-shirt, please register by Oct. 3. Contact: Michelle Daigrepoint (337) 344-3218.

Poker Run, \$25.00 per bike, to register, contact Lacey Lemoine (318) 359-9572.

All booths will open following Mass on both days. Bingo, silent auction, corn hole tournament, games, petting zoo, cakes, funnel cakes, food, drinks, inflatables, split the pot, DJ music, spinning wheel, train rides and more family fun! Grand Prize Raffle tickets are \$1 each and prizes include: 500 lb butcher calf, \$500 Cash, 4 LSU vs UAB tickets with parking pass for Nov. 19, 2022, DETEL Chromebook, AND MORE!

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Catfish Dinner, \$10; Sunday 10:30 a.m. Cochon De Lait and BBQ Chicken Dinners, \$13. For more information contact Karen Moreau: karen.moreau@shsmoreauville.com or call (318) 359-1943 or SHS (318) 985-2772.

White Coat Mass - October 18

Please join us for the White Coat Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 12:05 p.m. The White Coat Mass is a Mass celebrated for medical health professionals and providers: physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, medical technologists, lab technologists, dental hygienists, mental health professionals and providers, emergency medical personnel, medical and mental health practice office workers, etc.

Silent Directed Retreat - November 3-6

The Diocese of Alexandria will offer a Silent Directed Retreat: *Building Relationship with God*, Nov. 3-6 at Maryhill Renewal Center. A silent directed retreat differs from a "preached" retreat and offers an environment of both inner and outer silence to foster a closer relationship with Christ through prayer, meditation, journaling, adoration, and the sacraments. Discussions with retreatants are confidential. The assigned director will assist you in discerning the movement of God during your prayer and reflections. All spiritual directors are trained and certified. Space is limited. Cost is \$275, including room and meals. To register please contact Ingrid Cannella 318-792-3331 or icnewell@yahoo.com or Renee Aldridge 318-542-1966 or renee.aldrige1@gmail.com.

Church Today News Deadlines

October 24
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Oct. 13

November 28
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 17



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October 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
OCTOBER 3 PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	4 Insights Prayer Group 12:45 p.m. Sacred Heart, Pineville Community Center PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	5 Guide to Devotions 6:30 p.m. OLPS Madonna Room Study on the Saints 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph, St. Joseph, LA Real Presence Prayer Group 7:00 p.m., Maryhill PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS	6 Divorce Support Group 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR DCN. C. THIBODEAUX	7 Divine Mercy Hour 3:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	8 Discaled Carmelite meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville Post-abortive Healing Support Group 10:00 a.m. Location TBA St. Joseph School Fair -- Plaucheville FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	9 PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS	
10 Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament 12:00 p.m. Oak Wing Golf Club Spiritual Direction Informational Online Meeting INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	11 Faith Formation Series 10:00-11:30 a.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth Insights Prayer Group 12:45 p.m. Sacred Heart, Pineville Community Center PRAY FOR FR. VIC VEAD	12 Food Pantry 8:00 a.m. Sacred Heart, Pineville Guide to Devotions 6:30 p.m. OLPS Madonna Room Real Presence Prayer Group 7:00 p.m., Maryhill Feast for Good England Airpark Community Center PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ	13 Divorce Support Group 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE	14 Divine Mercy Hour 3:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD	15 Post-abortive Healing Support Group 10:00 a.m. Location TBA CHRISTUS Cabrini 1 mile Fun Run 6:00 p.m. Walker Toyota, Alexandria Sacred Heart School Fall Festival -- Moreauville PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE	16 PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	
17 PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG	18 Faith Formation Series 10:00-11:30 a.m. MMJ Church, Woodworth White Coat Mass 12:05 p.m. SFX Cathedral, Alexandria VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	19 Guide to Devotions 6:30 p.m. OLPS Madonna Room Study on the Saints 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph, St. Joseph, LA Real Presence Prayer Group 7:00 p.m., Maryhill PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	20 Divorce Support Group 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	21 Divine Mercy Hour 3:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville PRAY DCN. W. ALDRIDGE	22 PRAY FOR DCN. F. ANDRADE	23 PRAY FOR FR. JOY ANTONY	
24 PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE	25 Faith Formation Series 10:00-11:30 a.m. MMJ Church, Woodworth Insights Prayer Group 12:45 p.m. Sacred Heart, Pineville Community Center VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m., Sacred Heart School, Moreauville PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	26 Food Pantry, 8:00 a.m. Sacred Heart, Pineville Guide to Devotions 6:30 p.m., OLPS Madonna Room Study on the Saints 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph, St. Joseph, LA Real Presence Prayer Group, 7:00 p.m., Maryhill PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	27 Divorce Support Group 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Marksville, PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	28 Divine Mercy Hour 3:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	29 St. Timothy Food Pantry 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon OLPS St. Timothy Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR DCN. R. CHRISTOPHER	30 PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY	
31 PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	NOVEMBER 1 Faith Formation Series 10:00-11:30 a.m. MMJ Church, Woodworth Insights Prayer Group 12:45 p.m. Sacred Heart, Pineville Community Center ALL SAINTS DAY Holy Day of Obligation PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 Guide to Devotions 6:30 p.m. OLPS Madonna Room Real Presence Prayer Group 7:00 p.m., Maryhill ALL SOULS DAY PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	3 Divorce Support Group 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	4 Divine Mercy Hour 3:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville PRAY FOR DCN. LG DELOACH	5 PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	6 PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	
Forty Hours Devotion -- St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie		Forty Hours Devotion -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral		St. Augustine Church Women's ACTS Retreat -- Maryhill Retreat Center		Silent Directed Retreat -- Maryhill Retreat Center	

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHRISTUS CABRINI BREAST HEALTH CENTER & CANCER CENTER

GLEAUX FOR GIRLS

1-MILE FUN RUN
THE BREAST RACE IN CENLA


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

SUPPORT BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Race Headquarters

Walker Toyota
5735 Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria, LA 71303

Schedule of Events

- 6 pm Survivor Happy Hour
- 7 pm 1 Mile Fun Run Shotgun Start
- 7:45 pm Bra Decorating Contest 
- 8 pm Raffle Winners Announced

Pink Toyota Raffle

Presented by Walker Toyota

Visit our website or Walker Toyota to purchase your \$15 Raffle Ticket for a **Pink 2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser**.

The drawing will take place at 8 pm on race day.

You need not be present to win.



Pink Golf Cart Raffle

Presented by Cenla Moto Sport

Visit our website or cenlamotosport.com to purchase your \$15 Raffle ticket for your chance to win a hot pink golf cart.

The drawing will take place at 8 pm on race day.

You need not be present to win.

For more information, visit www.christuscabrinifoundation.org/gleaux

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