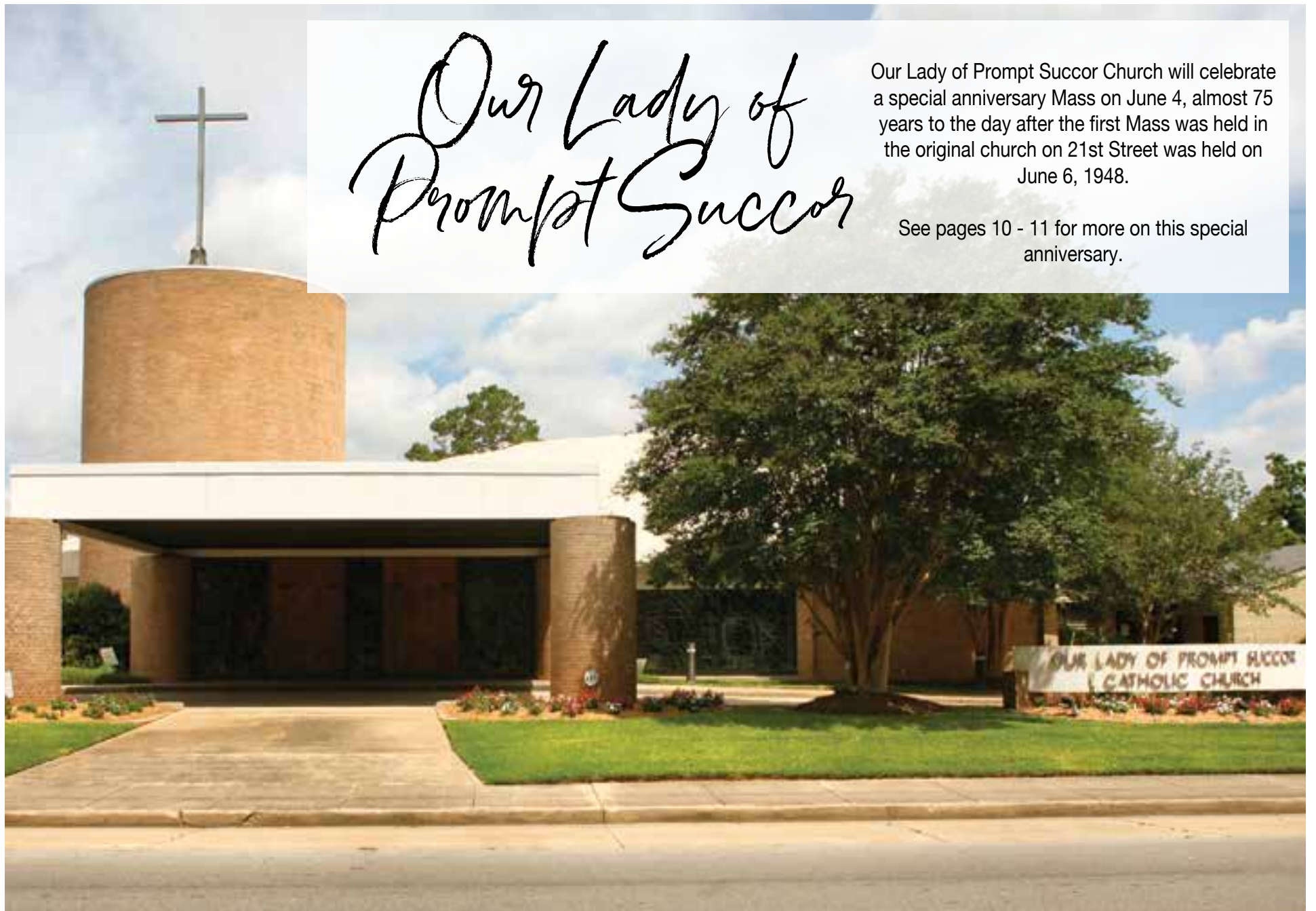

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIV, No. 5

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 22, 2023



Our Lady of Prompt Succor

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church will celebrate a special anniversary Mass on June 4, almost 75 years to the day after the first Mass was held in the original church on 21st Street was held on June 6, 1948.

See pages 10 - 11 for more on this special anniversary.

INSIDE

Sharing Eucharistic faith with a new generation

With all of the “modern” challenges faced today, Bishop Marshall offers a few suggestions to help parents connect their 21st century children with the ever-ancient, ever-new Catholic liturgies. See page 2 for nine simple helps.

4 ways to welcome a new priest

Bishop Marshall announced several clergy appointments, to be effective on July 1, 2023. See page 4 for clergy appointments, and page 9 for 4 ways to welcome a new priest to your parish.

Catholic Charities of Central LA reminds you to Get Storm Ready

In order to prepare before a disaster rather than respond after it occurs, Catholic Charities of Central LA offers several links and resources concerning disaster preparedness. See page 8 for more information.

INDEX

Bishop's Column	2
Feature	3
Diocesan News	4
Feaures	6
Social Justice	8
Vocations and Burses	9
Local News	10
Picture Spread.....	12
Features	13
Schools / Youth.....	20
Diocesan Briefs	22
Calendar	23

CHURCH
TODAY

Volume LIV, No. 5
May 22, 2023

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

Publisher:
Most. Rev. Robert Marshall
Publication Manager / Editor:
Cari Terracina, ext. 255,
cterracina@diocesealex.org
Multimedia Manager /
Advertising:
Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;
joanferguson@diocesealex.org
Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209;
starver@diocesealex.org

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

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

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

Over the course of the last 50 years, technology has moved us from a letter-writing society to one that communicates by text messages. Instead of leisurely reading the morning paper, we are now bombarded by information popping up on our phones at all hours of the day and night. Childhood used to be filled with imagination and outdoor play – now it is marked by advancing levels in the latest video game. With liturgies that touch the very basics of our human existence – bread and wine, water and oil, proclamation of the Word, meaningful gestures – there is little wonder that we Catholics are seen as out-of-step with the digital age. For decades, parents have lamented the fact that their children and grandchildren do not practice their Catholic faith with the same commitment as did their ancestors. With all of these “modern” challenges, I offer a few suggestions to help parents connect their 21st century children with the ever-ancient, ever-new Catholic liturgies. These suggestions are simple and, perhaps, self-evident, but I present them just to spark some interest and creativity.

1. Read to your children from a young age. One of the best training grounds for both spiritual and academic excellence is a connection to the written word. Even before they can read for themselves, introduce your children to books, not just to video screens. Someone else’s imagination comes to life in the digital world. Help fuel your children’s own imagination through the words of a book. And, with age-appropriate selections and stories, introduce them to the Bible and especially to Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God.

2. Have dinner with your children on a regular basis. Too often, our meals are fast food – either from a take-out restaurant or from our refrigerator as we are walking out the door. Have a scheduled time for a meal, sit at the table and have a family conversation that includes your children. It does not need to feature fine china or linen tablecloths every night, but there should be plates and flatware and napkins. We cannot expect our children to appreciate a Eucharistic liturgy that is intimately connected to the Passover meal if they have no regular experience of gathering for a family meal.

3. Pray with your children.



Live, Jesus, in our Hearts Forever

The Joy and Promise of the Most Holy Eucharist

By Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

EPILOGUE: Sharing Eucharistic Faith with a New Generation

Help them to develop regular times for prayer – in the morning, at meal time, before bed, and at other times that may work for your family. This is an opportunity to teach your child the basic prayers – Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Grace before meals, etc. – and a time to encourage them to pray spontaneously, in their own words. Invite them to name those people or events that they would specifically like to pray for. Being open to hearing their intentions and joining them in prayer teaches them that prayer is not just repeating a formula but actually taking their needs to God.

4. Introduce your children to the liturgical year and help it come to life. Most of us decorate our homes for Christmas, and we have some decorations for Easter, but other solemnities, feasts and seasons get neglected. Help your children appreciate the anticipation of the season of Advent with an Advent wreath and appropriate prayers, for example. Talk about the connection between the Epiphany and the King Cake of Carnival season. Simplify décor and table settings in Lent and encourage sacrifices. Continue celebrating Easter beyond the dyed eggs. The lengthy periods of Ordinary Time are opportunities to make the Gospel parables and images come to life – sow seeds in a garden, bake bread (with and without leaven), take your children fishing or out to a farm to pick some fruit or vegetables, or help your children with a simple carpentry project – and talk about the Biblical connection before, during and after the activity. At an appropriate age, visit your family’s cemetery plot/mausoleum on or near All Saints and All Souls Days and introduce the concept of praying for the dead and the many uncanonized saints in our own families. In

other words, be creative in helping your children connect their faith to real life experiences.

5. Introduce your children to liturgical prayer. At mealtime or other times of family prayer, incorporate a Scripture reading and include a responsorial psalm or intercessions, a prayer to the saint of the day or Alleluias in the Easter season. Take some Holy Water home and have your children use it to bless themselves – especially in the Easter season. These simple additions can make the Church’s Sunday liturgy more accessible to a child.

6. Recognize and celebrate each child’s patron saint. If your child has a saint’s name, obtain a medal or statue or just print out a picture of the saint. Discuss why you gave your child that name – whether directly for the saint or because of the connection to a family member or friend. Encourage your child to learn about their saint and invoke the saint on a regular basis. Make the saint’s feast day something special in your home – engage in an activity with a connection to the saint’s life or just enjoy a festive dessert on that day.

7. Discuss with your child what they learned in their religious education class. When your children are school-age, enroll them in a Catholic school or in a parish religious education (CCD) class. These classes help them to make friends with other Catholic children and learn about their faith in a classroom setting. No formal religious instruction, however, is an adequate substitute for learning the faith from their parents – in word and by example. When they return from class, talk with them about what they learned and help to reinforce the lesson or make the connection to their everyday life. Religious instruction is important, but a classroom teacher cannot always touch the heart of each child

with the important truths of faith. As you are your child’s primary religious educator, please help to bridge this gap or respond to their curiosity if they were particularly intrigued by a topic.

8. Make Sunday special. Whenever possible, make the connection between church and home. At Sunday dinner, discuss the readings, prayers or homily your family heard at Mass. Light candles at the Sunday table. Invite guests to your Sunday dinner or share some of the food with a neighbor, friend or relative who may not cook for themselves. Pay special attention to what is said in the car during the ride to and from Mass. If your children hear you mention something that you particularly remember from the readings or prayers of Mass, then they will learn to listen for themselves. If they hear nothing but complaints about the homily or the music or distractions at Mass, then that is what they will look for. As often as possible, talk positively about liturgy and about your parish. Your children will find the negative – you do not need to be the one to point it out.

9. Share your own faith with your children. This is probably the most important point. Your children need to hear how faith helps you live your life. Discuss with them the reasons you help others or make charitable contributions. Share with them your favorite Scripture passages. Talk about important moments in your faith journey – how you felt at First Communion, Confirmation, at the major annual feasts. Share with your children how God supported you in difficult times – the death of a loved one, an illness or a disappointment in life. Discuss the moments in your life when you felt closest to God. If you want your children to have a faith that is alive, they first need to know that you have a faith that comforts and sustains you.

Holy Year 2025 website to go live; Registration opens in the fall

By Carol Glatz
Our Sunday Visitor



HOLY YEAR 2023 NEWS CONFERENCE. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of Dicastery for Evangelization's section that is coordinating the Holy Year 2025, speaks at a news conference at the Vatican on preparations for the yearlong celebration May 9, 2023. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican office in charge of coordinating plans for the Holy Year 2025 announced they are launching a new website and releasing an app to help people register and to guide them along their pilgrimage in Rome.

By registering online at iubilaeum2025.va or on the jubilee app, people will receive a free digital "pilgrim's card," which will be needed to participate in jubilee events, especially gaining access to the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, said Msgr. Graham Bell, undersecretary of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section that is coordinating the Holy Year.

The jubilee website was to go live May 10 and be available in nine languages, he said at a news conference at the Vatican May 9.

People can begin registering online starting in September, he said, "by clicking on the 'participate' button." After registering, people will be able to access a personal page on the site's "pilgrim's zone," which will also go live in September.

Registrants will receive a digital "pilgrim's card," which is a personal QR code needed to access jubilee events and better facilitate the pilgrimage to the Holy Door, the monsignor said. There also will be an option to purchase a "service card" for a nominal fee to receive special discounts for transportation, lodging, food and museums during the pilgrimage.

The jubilee website and app will give news and information on the Holy Door of St. Peter's and the other basilicas as well as offer the possibility of organizing one's own pilgrimage within the city, Msgr. Bell said.

People can choose from three proposed pilgrimages: "the traditional pilgrimage of St. Philip Neri with the seven churches; the pilgrimage on the churches dedicated to the women doctors of the church and patrons of Europe; and the 'Iter Europaeum,' that is, the 28 churches in 27 different European countries, plus the church that represents the European Union."

"Tools are being prepared to better introduce pilgrims into these paths and to promote knowledge of the works of art in the various churches," he said. It marks "an important effort carried out in agreement with the (Italian) Ministry of Tourism, which will encourage the discovery of many places often unknown to tourists themselves."

"Rome has always been a cultural attraction and our aim is that the pilgrim may also become a tourist, just as the tourist may be fascinated by the pilgrim experience," said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the section.

Starting in September, he said, they will open an exhibition "with works by the great Spanish Renaissance artist, El Greco."

The pieces "have never left Spain and are being made available for this very occasion," he said. The exhibit will be held in the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone facing onto Piazza Navona and will feature El Greco's three masterpieces: "The Baptism of Christ," "Christ Carrying the Cross" and "Christ Blessing."

Other art exhibits will take place throughout the run-up to and during the jubilee, including ones that will rotate into places like hospitals and prisons, he said. "We want as much as possible for these events to have free access, in order to encourage

the participation of citizens in the contemplation of beauty that allows a better relationship with the city and its people."

Archbishop Fisichella said Pope Francis has asked Catholics worldwide to prepare for the next jubilee year by spending 2023 studying the documents of the Second Vatican Council, especially its four constitutions, which focused on: the liturgy; the church as the people of God; Scripture; and the role of the church in the modern world.

"In order to help local churches in their catechetical, human and especially Christian formation paths, and to give younger people the opportunity to know and rediscover the central contents of the council," he said, the dicastery published a series of 35 small volumes titled, "Council Notebooks," in December.

The "notebooks" have already been translated into Spanish in one hardcover volume titled, "Cuadernos del Concilio," he said, and they are now being

translated into English by ATC Publishers-India.

Since the pope wants 2024 to be dedicated to prayer in preparation for the jubilee, the dicastery will publish an in-depth series called "Notes on Prayer" to promote "the centrality of prayer, personal and communal," the archbishop said.

"We are studying the possibility of a 'school of prayer' with pathways that would cover the vast world of prayer," he added.

The opening and closing dates of the jubilee year will be announced in the pope's "Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee, which will be published according to tradition on the feast of the Ascension, May 9, 2024," Archbishop Fisichella said.

The ordinary jubilee will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in December 2024, he said, and there will be "major jubilee events" throughout 2025. For example, Jan. 24, 2025, will be dedicated to the World of Communications, May 30-June 1, 2025, will be dedicated to families, and July 28-Aug. 3, 2025, will be dedicated to young people.

The archbishop also announced that Italian composer Francesco Meneghello was the winner of the competition for an original score for the official hymn for the Holy Year 2025 that highlights its theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." The lyrics were written by Msgr. Pierangelo Sequeri, an Italian theologian, composer and musician.

The city of Rome has estimated more than 30 million people will come to Rome for the jubilee year.

At least 87 public works projects are set to begin at an initial cost of 1.8 billion euro. Projects include revamping key areas, increasing accessibility and transport, and improving reception services and infrastructure.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for June 2023

For the abolition of torture //

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Amen.



Diocese of Alexandria Website
www.diocesealex.org



Diocese of Alexandria Facebook
facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria



Diocese of Alexandria Instagram
@dioceseofalexandria



Diocese of Alexandria
on Spotify

Clergy Assignments

The Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Jr., Bishop of Alexandria, has made the following clergy appointments, to be effective on July 1, 2023:



Father Wade DeCoste
Parochial Vicar
St. Anthony of Padua,
Natchitoches



Father Dwight DeJesus
Pastor (re-appointed)
St. Francis de Sales, Echo
and St. Joseph, Cheneyville



Father Derek Ducote
Pastoral Administrator
St. Alphonsus Church,
Hessmer



Father William Gearheard
Pastor, St. Augustine
Church, Isle Brevelle
and its missions



Father Daniel Hart
Pastor
St. Mary Church, Jena and
St. Edward Mission, Fishville



Father Paul Kunnumpuram
Pastor, St. Peter Church,
Bordelonville and
St. Michael Church,
Rexmere



Father Luke LaFleur
Pastor, St. Juliana,
Alexandria and Chaplain for
Holy Savior Menard H.S.



Father Kenneth Obiekwe
Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes,
Fifth Ward and St. Martin of
Tours, Belledeau



**Father Remigius
Owuamanam, SMMM**
Chaplain for Rapides
Regional Medical Center



Father John Pardue
Pastor (re-appointed),
St. Patrick, Ferriday and St.
Gerard Mission, Jonesville



Father Charles Ray
Pastor
St. Mary's Assumption
Church, Cottonport



**Father Edwin Rodriguez-
Hernandez**
Pastor, St. Louis, Glenmora
and St. Peter Mission, Elmer.



Father Louis Sklar
Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes,
Winnfield and St. William
Chapel, Olla.



Father John Wiltse
Leave of Absence



Father Kurian Zachariah
Pastor, Christ the King,
Simmesport

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.

// prayer for priests

Priest Ordination

Deacon Josh Burch will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.



The 79th Annual Louisiana State Convention of the Knights of Peter Claver and the Ladies Auxiliary was held at the Paragon Casino and Resort in Marksville. On Saturday, April 29, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass with the Knights and Ladies.



ST. MARGARET CHURCH, BOYCE. On Sunday, May 7, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Margaret Church in Boyce. Their pastor, Father Peter Faulk, was out of town and Bishop Marshall was happy to fill in. Thank you to Deacon Alex Mangini and the parishioners for their very kind welcome.

Louisiana State Catholic Schools Student of the Year



It was a BIG night for Catholic Schools of Louisiana as the Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year program winners were announced in Lafayette!

The statewide competition—the first time among Catholic school students only, debuted this year and is designed to recognize outstanding students. 169 Catholic schools within the seven dioceses in Louisiana selected their top 5th grader, 8th grader, and 12th grader who have demonstrated excellence in discipleship, leadership, service, citizenship, and academic achievement.

Overall winners for the state were announced, and Emily [redacted] of Holy Savior Menard Central High School was named the Louisiana Catholic School 8th Grade Student of the Year! Emily will receive an engraved brick with her name and award to be placed at Maryhill Renewal Center to forever commemorate this extraordinary achievement.



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

Phone: 318.448.2226
Fax: 318.448.2280
bkelso@kelsoinsurance.com

Auto, Home, Recreational Vehicles, Collector Cars, Commercial

Lacombe Floor Finishing

310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322

Specializing in installation

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

Ph: (318) 481-0950

Morgan Newton, Owner



Upcoming Retreats

June 29-July 2
Cenla ACTS
Teen Retreat

August 10-13
Cenla ACTS
Men's Retreat

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

Visit the sign-up form at www.diocesealex.org, or email starver@diocesealex.org with your name and mailing address to receive the Church Today FREE of charge!

The Red Mass

Bishop Robert Marshall was invited to deliver the homily for the Red Mass for the Diocese of Shreveport at Holy Trinity Church in Shreveport, on May 5. A full transcript of Bishop Marshall's homily follows:

Bishop Malone, brother priests and deacons, members of the judiciary, members of the Red Mass Society, lawyers, and others involved in the administration of justice, thank you for your invitation to preach at this Red Mass. I am sure that you invited me not only because I am the bishop of a neighboring diocese but also because you heard that many years ago I was a practicing attorney. Before I entered the profession, however, I must say that what I knew about law was limited to television programs. Indeed, the summer before I entered law school – more than forty years ago now – I worked in a part-time job in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. My supervisor and her husband had just built and moved into a new home, but the closing had barely finished when they began the process of divorce. Each was unwilling to give up on their dream home, so my boss made several phone calls each day to her attorney. Presumably her husband did the same. There were no private offices at this location, so I couldn't help but hear the phone calls move from financial matters to the division of household chores, to even



THE RED MASS. Bishop Robert Marshall delivers the homily for the Red Mass held at Holy Trinity Church in Shreveport on May 5.

more mundane complaints. At some point during this long, hot summer, I thought to myself – in a few years, if I am not careful, I am going to be the one on the other end of that phone dealing with hysterical clients. Is this what the practice of law is really all about? Is this all that I have to look forward to? What have I gotten myself into? A few weeks into law school, as I briefed cases in fear that I would be called upon in Torts and Contracts classes, I forgot about that summer's adventures in family law – though I must admit that I did continue to ask myself – What have I gotten

myself into? Like you, I suspect, I got swept along with the endless study, the cramming for exams, the construction of a resume, and the search for employment. My initial doubts about a career in law faded away as the workload loomed ever larger on my desk.

The contentious divorce situation I encountered all those years ago was startling to a young and naïve college graduate. I had never seen anything like that before. These days, with the advent of email and text and twitter, I suspect that what I witnessed was incredibly civil and remarkably tame when

compared to what many of you encounter on a daily basis. In very many ways, our society has moved from one that is at least open to building consensus with opponents to one that seeks to destroy all adversaries. And this attitude is by no means limited to the context of family law. Business transactions that used to be fair and equitable have degenerated into winner-take-all scenarios. Our legislatures are too often gridlocked by extremely

partisan politics. Neither side is interested in compromise for the good of the country if it means that their opponents are not crushed in the process. And rather than building the slimmest of coalitions to get something passed, the executive branches of government too often resort to demonizing their opponents so as not to alienate their own fragile and extremist base. And when this conflict boils over – as it inevitably does – the judicial system, already overburdened by having to deal with problems too long ignored, is dragged into the fray. I wish I could say that those who do the dragging are looking to the judicial system to bring wisdom to a situation that sorely lacks it, but too often they are merely seeking a barely civil venue in which to continue their fight to the death. Centuries past, citizens lined up to watch gladiators battle and lions devour Christians. These days, cable news networks dissect the most recent trial of the century. We can step back and shake our heads and ask what has happened to our culture – or we can read the pages of history and understand that technology has changed, but that human nature is largely the same.

see RED MASS, page 11



BIBLE QUIZ BOWL WINNERS! Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church won the Diocesan Quiz Bowl. Members of the team were Dillan [redacted], Alan [redacted], Colby [redacted] and Angel [redacted]. The coaches for the team were Tracy Kelley and Laure Derr. Reverend Chad Partain awarded the team with a trophy and a check for \$500.

*Glory and
praise
for ever!*

Deuteronomy 3: 52
Responsorial Psalm
for June 4
The Solemnity of the
Most Holy Trinity

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."

Corpus Christi: The secret of the day

*By Susanna Parent
Blessed is She Ministry*

The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the church and to the whole world. -Pope St. John Paul II

It is commonly repeated from the Catechism of the Catholic Church that "The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life'" (CCC 1324). With this in mind, it is no surprise that the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

The Feast of Corpus Christi

Pope Urban IV declared the Solemnity of Corpus Christi a universal feast in 1264. He requested that great Doctor of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, compose the liturgical texts for this feast day.

Aquinas is known for his *Summa Theologiae* and for showing the natural harmony between faith and reason. It was a timely request. It came during a time when many scholars debated Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist. Aquinas on the other hand, provided the philosophy behind his definition of transubstantiation. He wrote that God extends his action "...to the whole nature of being" and that, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist:

...the whole substance of the bread is changed into the whole substance of Christ's body, and the whole substance of the wine into the whole substance of Christ's blood. Hence this is not a formal, but a substantial



conversion; nor is it a kind of natural movement: but, with a name of its own, it can be called "transubstantiation". -ST III. Q75. A4.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said about Aquinas, "The beautiful hymns that the liturgy of the Church sings to celebrate the mystery of the real presence of the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharist are due to his faith and theological wisdom."

These hymns include texts which Aquinas wrote for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi such as *Adore te Devote*, as well as the *Tantum Ergo*, both of which are often sung during Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

Eucharistic Processions

In addition to the beautiful hymns that our Church sings

to celebrate the Real Presence, we also have the tradition of Eucharistic processions. Processions are an ancient tradition which have taken place from the Old to the New Testament. From the Ark of the Covenant in the Old to the procession of Jesus on Palm Sunday in the New.

The Council of Trent encouraged the tradition of processions in order to emphasize the Catholic Church's belief in the True Presence. In medieval times, whole towns and cities would participate in the procession, including nobility and military guards.

As the Eucharist passed by the townspeople's homes, they would kneel outside of their homes in reverence.

with Jesus before us, we are also walking with Him on our earthly pilgrimage to Heaven.

Bringing Christ Enfleshed with Us Everywhere

Benedict XI said that the tradition of the Corpus Christi procession gives us the opportunity to "immerse [Christ], so to speak, in the daily routine of our lives, so that he may walk where we walk and live where we live."

This Solemnity, I will be evaluating how well I am immersing Christ in the daily routine of my own life. Are you aware of Jesus' presence in your walk and in your home? If not, ask Him how He wants you to bring Him into your daily routine. Ask Him to make His presence known to you as you walk with Him each day. Remind Him that He is invited into your home.

Happy Feast of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Jesus!

"The Eucharist is
'the source and
summit of the
Christian life.'

*// catechism of
the catholic church
(1324 - 1327)*

This custom provides us with a great opportunity to give a public witness of our Faith. It reminds us that as we walk

Susanna Parent is a regular contributor to the Blessed is She blog and a freelance writer. While a Wisconsin native, she now begins her mornings brewing French press coffee in the home she shares with her husband and children in the Twin Cities. When the sun sets, you'll find her with friends enjoying a glass of red wine, preferably outside underneath twinkly lights. When not exploring all that the Twin Cities has to offer, she is indulging her wanderlust spirit by brainstorming their family's next new adventure. You can find out more about her at fiatandaily.blogspot.com.

Pilgrimages

Egypt/Nile River

Join St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville on a pilgrimage to Egypt plus Constantinople! This pilgrimage includes a 4-night Nile River Cruise. Father Kenneth Michiels will be the spiritual director. Travel dates are November 7 - 19, 2023. For more information, visit www.selectinternationaltours.com or call 1800-842-4842.

Mexico/OLG Shrine

Join St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico! This pilgrimage is in honor of the life and ministry of Fr. Jose Robles-Sanchez. Fr. John Wiltse will be the spiritual director. Travel dates are November 13-18, 2023. For more information, visit www.holytravels.org/frwiltsemexico or call Magnificat Travel at 337-291-1933.

The Feast of Corpus Christi
will be celebrated Sunday, June 11



Jeansonne's Millworks & Cabinet Shop

* Architectural Millwork
* Custom Cabinets & Moulding

Phone 445-5665 * FAX 445-5276

GUY JEANSONNE
Owner

1843 Sterkx Road
Alexandria, LA 71301

Catholic Charities of Central LA reminds you to Get Storm Ready!

Catholic Charities USA is the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. Our disaster response team, along with the knowledge and expertise of our member agencies, mobilize quickly and effectively to aid those experiencing or recovering from disasters.

In order to prepare before a disaster, rather than respond after it occurs, Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana will be hosting Train the Trainer Workshops in all four deaneries for parish Disaster Preparedness Facilitators. The Catholic Disaster Preparedness Program (CDPP) is a three-part video training series that explores the natural intersection of our Gospel Call, the needs of those suffering, and the gifts we have to share before, during, and after a disaster event. These workshops will occur during the months of May and June to prepare church parishes for continuity of ministry, should there be an event in their community.

With Hurricane season beginning on June 1, now is the time to help your family prepare for an event that could result in widespread power outages. Shown to the right is a list of basics to have ready in your home.

Additional resources include the State of Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide: a comprehensive preparation for Hurricane Season, found at <https://bit.ly/42EGsWf>.

The LA Department of Health in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness offers the Get a Game Plan App. Search Google Play or Apple to download the app.

Hurricane Laura in 2020 taught us that hurricanes can and do impact Central Louisiana parishes. Vernon, Rapides, Grant, LaSalle, and Winn were all FEMA declared affected parishes for this unprecedented storm.

Catholic Charities of Central LA, with the support of Catholic Charities USA, is available to our diocese for support and resources. Please pray for our organization, our diocese, and our state as we enter the 2023 storm season.



MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS, WOODWORTH, YOUTH GROUP. Mary, Mother of Jesus youth served at the Food Bank during Holy Week, doing community service by packing bags and boxes of non-perishable foods. Our youth group also helped with Easter activities such as the egg hunt and photo booth.

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION THIS HURRICANE SEASON

O God, Master of this passing world,
hear the humble voices of your children.
The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.
You are still the Master of land and sea.
We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control;
the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant,
can awake from its seeming lethargy,
overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land,
and spread chaos and disaster.
During this hurricane season, we turn to You, O loving Father.
Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid,
and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother,
we ask you to plead with your Son of our behalf
so that spared from the calamities common to this area
and animated with a true spirit of gratitude,
we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son
to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us.
Amen.

*Composed by Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1985 - 1981)
Second Bishop of Lafayette (1956 - 1973),
following Hurricane Audrey in 1957*

NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK BASIC SUPPLY LIST

- Water.
- Non-perishable food.
- Battery radio.
- Batteries.
- First Aid Kit.
- Flashlight.
- Blanket
- Candles.
- Can opener.
- Prescription Medicines.
- Pet food.
- Warm clothing.
- Cell phone.
- Matches.
- Whistle.
- Cash and keys.
- Hand Sanitizer.
- Basic tool set.
- Trash bags.
- Baby supplies.
- Emergency Contacts.
- Personal hygiene items.
- Dust mask.
- Important documents.

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE PETER J. LEMOINE Social Security Disability Law

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

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, Lafayette Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives,

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

Admitted to Practice: US District Court For Western District, Eastern District, Middle District and US Court of Appeal Fifth Circuit.

(318) 717-1995

Seminarian Burses

April 2023 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
Deacon Luke White Burse	
Catholic Daughters of America	
Court Bishop Greco #2072	\$50.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco Burse	
Ms. Catherine Lee	\$50.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Anonymous	\$100.00
Mary Lee and Gerald Robichaux, Sr. Burse	
Ms. Patricia Vandersypen-Basco	\$100.00
Jerome and Audrey Vandersypen Burse	
Total	\$350.00

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. A Seminary Burse may be names of anyone - bishop, priests, religious, or lay person - chosen by the original donor, and may be added to and allowed to grow. A burse is completed when it reaches \$15,000.00 but another burse of the same name can be started. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the

Chancery Office,
Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.
--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott

Supper with the Seminarians

Please join us this summer for Supper with the Seminarians! Enjoy a menu of wonderful food prepared and served by our Seminarians. Bring your friends and family because everyone is invited! This event is free, but donations are welcome. All donations will be used to assist in funding our Seminarians' education. The diocese has five men in priestly formation at this time: Donnie Kuzma, Matthew Bonner, Blaine Phillips, Jacob Cass and Gabe Dowden. Transitional Deacon Josh Burch is set to be ordained to priesthood on June 10.

This year's dates and locations:

Tuesday, June 13 -- Christ the King Church, Simmesport

Tuesday, June 27 -- St. Mary Church, Winnsboro

Tuesday, July 18 -- Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campti

Thursday, July 27 -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria

To reserve your seat, contact Sandi Tarver at (318) 445-6424, ext. 209 or email starver@diocesealex.org.



SUPPER WITH THE SEMINARIANS. Seminarian Jacob Cass serves dinner rolls and salad. Bishop Robert Marshall, seminarian Matthew Bonner and transitional deacon Josh Burch also manned the serving line at last year's Central deanery date held at St. Rita Church, Alexandria.

4 ways to welcome your new priest

And what to do when your beloved pastor is leaving.

As priests move into new homes and new roles this summer, it's a perfect time to explore some of the best ways to welcome them.

Check out these five suggestions or come up with your own way to welcome and pray for your new pastor.

1. It may seem obvious, but say hello and introduce yourself! Some priests may be blessed with an innate ability to remember faces and names after just one meeting, but most would appreciate it if you say your name the first several times you meet them. Just remember, you are only meeting one new pastor; he is meeting hundreds of new parishioners.

2. Food is always a wonderful and traditional way to welcome, but consider asking about preferences before you cook, bake, or buy. Priests have allergies and aversions just like the rest of us, so ask about any dietary restrictions before dropping off goodies. Also, instead of a casserole that may only keep for a short while, consider giving your priest a gift card to your

favorite nearby restaurant. If he is new to town, he will appreciate the recommendation. (Also consider recommendations for local bookstores, walking trails, and the best place to get a cup of coffee.)

3. Be patient and try to trust. There are countless items competing as top priorities when a pastor walks into the parish office. Imagine moving and getting a new job in the same week. Now, also imagine a young couple anxiously waiting on you to approve a wedding date, a family who has just lost a loved one waiting on you to confirm a funeral time, and another family who just called from the hospital and needs you right now. This is all not counting day-to-day operations that are involved. Trust that he's been given the information he needs, and be patient as he navigates his way.

4. Most importantly: pray for your pastor. Ask God to give your pastor strength and guidance. Your prayer can be anything from devoting a rosary for him to adding him and other parish leaders to your prayer

intentions.

It is easy to forget, as we see our pastors each week at Mass, just how much they do behind the scenes. They need our support. Whether your parish priest is newly installed or has been around for years, make sure that hospitality is part of your parish profile.

On the other hand, when a pastor leaves a parish due to a new assignment, it is often a time of sadness, but also an opportunity to send them with our prayers and God's blessings into whatever new community or ministry God is calling them.

Think of it this way: By letting him go, you'll be a good steward. And God's generosity is never outdone.

Please take the opportunity to pray for our Bishop and the priests of the diocese, that God guides them to do their best in shepherding the people.

"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."
Romans 15: 7

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Psalm 147: 12 | Responsorial Psalm for June 11
Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

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.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church Celebrates 75 Years

By Janet Tompkins

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church will celebrate a special anniversary Mass on June 4, almost 75 years to the day after the first Mass in the original church on 21st Street was held on June 6, 1948. The special event will be at the 10:30 a.m. service followed by a community meal for parishioners and special guests in the adjacent Divine Providence Center.

Bishop Charles P. Greco founded two new parishes in 1947-- Prompt Succor and St. Frances Cabrini -- to accommodate the new families and more children that were in the city following the post-war boom. Rev. Aloysius Olinger was named pastor, and 15 months later the first service was held in the new church.

Although OLPS Parish was established in 1947, plans were made to celebrate the anniversary in 2023 on the anniversary of the first Mass, rather than in '22, due to earlier COVID restrictions.

The parish began with 549 families, and now has more than 1,200 registered families. "Our mission is to know Christ Jesus," said Father Rusty Rabalais, pastor. "The rich legacy of those who have built this parish is expressed even more simply with our theme: 'We are family and this is our home.'"

An article in the July 1947 Alexandria Town Talk showed the architects' ideas for a two-story school adjacent to a large parish hall that would serve as a temporary church. In actuality, that temporary church was finished in 1948 and served the congregation until a new church was finished in 1974.

A school (that was one-story) was built in 1949 staffed by the Sisters of Divine Providence. Msgr. Steve Testa attended the school and remembered



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, ALEXANDRIA. Parishioners gather outside the new Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church (first located on 21st St.) after its completion in 1948.

Sister Helen Margaret Schad, the first principal of the 1st-8th grade school. Today it is a preschool through 6th grade with 405 students. The rectory was completed in 1959 and the convent for the sisters was located on 580 Chester Street in 1965.

All through those early years, the church and school were adjacent to Providence Academy for high school girls on Elliott Street and down the road from Menard High School for boys.

In 1968, the parish bought the Providence property to

provide a site for the building of a new church. The Menard and Providence schools were merged into a new location for a coed high school on Hwy. 28 West and plans were made to build a new church on the Elliott St. lot. Father Olinger died in 1969 before it was designed and built. Rev. F.J. Lyons was in charge of building the new church.

Architects Barron, Heinberg and Brocato designed the new church to be in line with Vatican II with an open sanctuary and expansive front altar. It was completed in September 1974 and dedicated in January 1976 by Bishop Lawrence Graves and retired Bishop Charles P. Greco. The original church was renamed Olinger Hall and is still used for school and church functions.

"Our church is more than buildings and Sunday services," said Sid McDaniel, chair of the 75th anniversary committee. "It has instilled a great foundation of faith handed down through the generations."

More than 900 Masses are celebrated each year along with baptisms, confirmations, and funerals. The parish also provides outreach through numerous ministries such as Our Lady's Manor, a home for the retired, which is sponsored by Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish through a loan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban



KYRLE'S

Seafood & Steak House

MANSURA, LA

318-964-2448

"The Church (like so many other things in life) is not so much something we inherit from generations past or take over from our predecessors as it is something on loan to us from future generations."

// matthew kelly

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

KLIL 92.1

8 a.m. Sunday Mass

KZLG 95.9

7 a.m. Sunday Mass

Development. It was completed in November 1983. The parish also sponsors a monthly food distribution program called St. Timothy's Pantry and a Helping Hands ministry providing minor maintenance and repairs at parishioners' homes.

"Our youth and adult retreats through the ACTS program have added a vitality and freshness to our parishioners' faith lives as well as those from other churches who have experienced it," Fr. Rusty said. The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters have had a presence at the church from its beginning and they continue their important service today.

The youth programs have been a vital part of the Prompt Succor ministry highlighted by summer work camps and trips to see the Pope at various times.

Other long-time pastors include Rev. Steve Testa, the late Rev. Gerald Bordelon; and Rev. Dan O'Connor, who shepherded the church for 18 years.

The faith and spirituality of the parish is witnessed also by the number of vocations since 1947 of sisters, priests and deacons: Sisters Patricia Ann



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH. This photo of the first church at Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria shows the brick interior and the altar without the large crucifix that was added later.

Kimball; Janez Schonfeld; Cecile Clare Vanderlick; Virginia Lee Vanderlick; Dale VanGossen and Margaret Ann Verzwylt, all belonging to the Congregation of Divine Providence; Monsignors John Wakeman and Steve Testa; Fathers Terry Allen, John Brocato, Ellis Depriest, Peter Faulk, Ryan Humphries, Luke LaFleur, Phil Michiels, Bruce Miller, Bill Provosty, Brian Seiler, Pike Thomas, and Dutch

Voltz.

In 2013 a new parish hall with a commercial kitchen was built between the church and school to accommodate large gatherings. It was named the Divine Providence Center, after the order of nuns who served the parish for so long.

For more information, contact the church office at (318) 445-3693.

RED MASS

Continued from page 6

An illustration of this is the patron saint of lawyers, St. Thomas More, a knight of the realm and Lord Chancellor of England, who suffered martyrdom at the hands of a king who refused to accept silence as victory, but who instead demanded total verbal acquiescence. Victory wasn't enough if it did not also involve humiliation. St. Thomas died, in his own words, the king's good servant, but God's first. And over the centuries, countless people of faith have been forced into making similar choices – between king and God, between human law and divine law, between stature and position in contemporary society and the blessings of eternal life. St. Thomas' life and death are but one tragic example of a brutal regime's reaction to a person who hears the Word of God and actually keeps it.

In our readings today, the prophet Ezekiel tells us of the Lord God's promise to place his Spirit within us. And the process of inspiration that he suggests is

the removal of the stony hearts from our bodies, so that he might give us natural hearts. "Let me give you my list of transplant recipients," we are tempted to reply. "All of my adversaries have stony hearts; mine, of course, is pure." Now, I was never a tax lawyer, but I don't see a loophole in the words of the prophet. Your stony heart must be replaced and so must mine. And in today's gospel, Jesus tells us how that beating, natural heart will transform us, will bless us. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, the clean of heart, Jesus tells us. That's what the Holy Spirit offers us. That's what the Spirit challenges us to become. And truthfully, as lawyers and judges, we can see ourselves in the beatitudes: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. That's our calling, isn't it? That's our task in this society – to bring victory

to those who are persecuted with a hunger and a thirst for righteousness. That is the special gift of the legal profession – to give a voice to those who are voiceless, to bring those who are aggrieved to the possibility of righteousness. Yes, that is our mission – that, and yet so much more.

You see, just as there was no loophole to the stony heart transplant list, so there is no line item veto to the Beatitudes. We don't get to pick and choose which ones we are called to live out. The Spirit of the living God impels us to embrace them all. And in this time in our history, in this climate of partisanship and hostility, those of us given the privilege to stand in the breach must at the same time hunger and thirst for righteousness and strive to make peace. We must champion the cause of those who are persecuted and at the same time show mercy. And, tough as it may seem, we must strive to do all of this by living out the call to be meek and poor in spirit

and clean of heart. We do that when we seek not to get our client everything he or she wants, but to strive to bring all parties to a fair outcome. We live the Beatitudes when we treat adversaries with respect – even in the absence of reciprocation. We are spirit-filled when we spend less time looking for our face on television or our name in the newspaper and more often lifting up those who are marginalized and forgotten by our society.

We will not change our culture overnight. Our efforts to live out the Beatitudes will likely not bring about a renewal of bipartisanship in the halls of our government, or even guarantee a respect for the fundamental rights of conscience. But if we cooperate

with God's Spirit, if we allow our stony hearts to be replaced by natural hearts, then when that vindictive client calls, we might be moved to bring calm to the difficult situation. When that greedy client calls, we might be moved to encourage a more reasonable outcome. And when we are tempted to be vindictive or greedy or self-righteous, we might be moved to repent. What have we lawyers gotten ourselves into? A profession with the potential to make a difference; a life that can bring healing in the midst of pain; a calling to bring peace in the midst of conflict. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.



Come Holy Spirit

by Marcus Descant, Leesville, LA

O Holy Spirit, come down from above,
Give us gifts and gentle love.
Come to our aid with a helping hand,
To pray and praise the best we can.

Help us to fight the enemy here,
And let us know that you are near.

Our flesh is weak,
Our hearts seek to be strong,
Please keep us from sinning
And doing what's wrong.

Show us the way to the Father and Son,
That we may worship God,
Three in One.
Blessed Trinity, the Name we call,
A mystery from Heaven,
For one and all.

lizdescant@gmail.com
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant



CONFIRMATION, ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION, COTTONPORT. Friday, April 28, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport. Twenty-two were confirmed. Thank you to Father John Wiltse, pastor, with Fr. Rusty Rabalais and Deacon Doug Moreau.



CONFIRMATION, ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, MANSURA. Friday, April 28, Bishop Robert Marshall confirmed three from Our Lady of Prompt Succor and St. Paul the Apostle parishes in Mansura, were confirmed. Thank you to their pastor, Fr. Blake Deshautelle. The confirmation Mass was held in Cottonport at St. Mary's Assumption.



CONFIRMATION, ST. GENEVIEVE, BROUILLETTE. Friday, April 28, Bishop Robert Marshall confirmed one from St. Genevieve was confirmed. Pastor, Fr. Abraham Palikkattuchira concelebrated. The confirmation Mass was held in Cottonport at St. Mary's Assumption.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. On Wednesday, May 3, fourteen young disciples were confirmed at St. Joseph Church in Marksville. Bishop Marshall was out of town so Vicar General, Father Craig Scott, celebrated the liturgy with the assistance of Father Dan O'Connor, Pastor and Deacons Gary Schupbach, Ken Primeaux, and Richard Mitchell. Thank you to the parents, sponsors and catechists for their support of the Confirmandi



CONFIRMATION, ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. Friday, May 5, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Rita Church in Alexandria. Twelve young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Anthony "Raj" Dharmaraj, Deacon Kenny Sayes, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the parents, sponsors and catechists for their prayers and support for the Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, NATCHITOCHES. Thursday, May 11, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. Seventeen young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Irion St. Romain, Pastor, Father Derek Ducote, Parochial Vicar, Father John Cunningham who concelebrated, Deacon John Whitehead, Deacon Richard Mitchell and Deacon Chad Thibodeaux who served as Masters of Ceremonies. Many thanks to the parents, sponsors, catechists and parishioners who supported and encouraged these Confirmands.



CONFIRMATION, HOLY CROSS CHURCH, NATCHITOCHEs. On Friday, May 12, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church, Natchitoches. Holy Cross is a non-territorial parish that serves the students at Northwestern State University and the Louisiana School for Math, Science and The Arts. Eight young disciples were confirmed tonight. Thank you to Father Jose Pallipurath, Deacon Chad Thibodeaux, and the catechists, liturgical ministers, sponsors and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, NATCHITOCHEs. On Saturday, May 13, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and Mass of the Sixth Sunday of Easter at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches. There were 11 young disciples confirmed: six from St. Anthony, four from Our Lady of Lourdes in Winnfield and one from St. Anne in Spanish Lake. Thank you to Father John O'Brien (Pastor of St. Anthony), Father Wade DeCoste (Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes), Deacon Steven Newbury, Deacon Chad Thibodeaux (MC and photographer), the parents, sponsors, and the catechists and parishioners of all three churches for their support of these Confirmandi. We also prayed for and blessed mothers on this special weekend.



CONFIRMATION, ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH. On Sunday, May 14, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mothers' Day and the Sacrament of Confirmation at historic St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle. Eight young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Charlie Ray, Deacon Mark Guidry, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the catechists, sponsors and parents for their support of these Confirmandi. Thank you to the parishioners of St. Augustine for their very kind welcome.



ST. JOSEPH, MARKSVILLE, FIRST COMMUNION was held Sunday, April 16 with Fr. Dan O'Connor.



THE FIRST COMMUNION MASS OF HOLY GHOST CHURCH/ST. RICHARDS CHAPEL was held on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at St. Richards Chapel in Hickory Hill. Officiating was Father Abraham Varghese, pastor, Deacon Ted Moulard, Rose J. Noel, DRE and teachers, Betty Augustine and Patricia Lavalais.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT ST. JULIANA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. Pastor, Fr. Luke LaFleur celebration First Holy Communion Mass at St. Juliana Church.



FIRST COMMUNION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES, FIFTH WARD. First Communion was held at OLL in Fifth Ward on Sunday, April 23.

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana Services Offered

SNAP Enrollment Assistance

(in person or by phone)

By appointment only on Mondays and

Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Location varies - see website

By phone: flexible days

To schedule visit: <https://cccenla.org/basic-needs>

Emergency Basic Needs Assistance

- Utilities, rent, fire, information and referral.

By appointment only on Wednesdays and

Thursdays:

9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Location:

No Limit for Recovery Clubhouse,
2403 Harris Street, Alexandria, 71302

To schedule visit: <https://cccenla.org/basic-needs>

Budget Class

Facilitated by Ramsey Solutions

Master Financial Coaches

2nd Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m., Westside Library

4th Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m., Downtown Library

By appointment only

To schedule visit: <https://cccenla.org/basic-needs>

Clothes Closet and Food Pantry

Monday through Saturday

No Limit for Recovery Clubhouse

2403 Harris Street

Alexandria, 71302

Call 318.277.0203

Life Coaching

(for personal life changes)

By appointment only

To schedule visit:

<https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#COACHING>

Peace in the Midst of Crisis

Divorce Support

By appointment only

To schedule visit: <https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#SUPPORTGROUPS>

Veteran's Support Group

(March 1 thru April 12)

*A second session will begin in mid summer

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., Downtown Library

By appointment only

To schedule visit: <https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#VeteransSupportGroup>

Vaping/Tobacco Cessation

For teens and adults

American Lung Association evidenced-based

10 session program by Certified Tobacco

Treatment Specialist

Group or individual sessions: Dates TBD

By appointment only

To schedule visit: <https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#VAPING-TOBACCO>

Coming soon!

Grief/Loss Support

Families/Substance Use Support

Disaster Relief

Catholic Disaster Preparedness Program:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/resource/cdpp/>

If interested in supporting preparedness in your parish, please contact Jennifer Gilchrist, at jgilchrist@cccenla.org or call 318.445.2401, EXT 533

Volunteers

Help is needed in all service areas.

If interested, please contact Jennifer Gilchrist, at jgilchrist@cccenla.org or call 318.445.2401, EXT 533

“And the King will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

1 matthew 25: 40



Flu Shots & Vaccinations

Many gifts including large selection of religious items:

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

Follow us on Facebook @ Cottonportcornerdrug.giftboutique

(318) 876-3665

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

206 Choupique Lane • Cottonport, LA 71327

Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners

P.O. Box 5624
Alexandria, LA 71307

3306 Giamanco Street

Phone: (318) 473-8751
Fax: (318) 473-4045
EMail: DonaldJBaker@aol.com



Donald J. Baker, ACF/RF/CF
CONSULTING FORESTER
Licensed Urban Tree Consultant

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

Certified Gemologists
Registered Jewelers



1438 Dorchester Drive
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408
www.schnacks.com



LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

NEW & USED CARS •
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

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



YOUR COMMUNITY STORES



Refueling
& Refreshing
Communities
Since 1970

WWW.YNOTSTOP.COM

“The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”

// pope benedict xvi

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.

St. Nicholas Thrift Shop // Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church St. Nicholas Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Thrift Shop is located at 616 Lakeview Street, Pineville. For more information, call 318-442-2072.

Food Pantry Distribution, Pineville // every other Wednesday

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.

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.

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.

Please visit www.diocesealex.org, the Diocese of Alexandria on Facebook, or your church parish’s website for the most up to date information on ministries and service opportunities.

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.

Instagram as an evangelizing tool

By Kelly Tramontin
Originally published at
www.wordonfire.org



Hans Urs von Balthasar died in 1988, only a handful of years after the internet became mainstream. In the time since then, the online frontier has grown with breathtaking speed and imagination. Countless advancements have been made in thousands of different fields thanks to this newfound technology. Arguably, one such advancement is social media—websites or platforms built to promote the creating, sharing, and discussing content from one corner of the earth to the other. Instagram is one kind of social media platform and is unique in that it allows millions of users to share images that they find beautiful with the rest of the world. While the goal might not always be for the sake of sharing the beautiful alone (Instagram is also a means of sharing current events, advertisements, recipes; my mother-in-law follows a lot of fly fishing accounts . . . there's a little bit of everything), the app itself has fundamentally changed how people—and I would specify young people—find beauty in the world around them and share it with others. With the words of Barron and Balthasar advising me to “start with beauty” ringing in my ears, knowledge of how popular Instagram is particularly with the young generation of “nones,” and seeing how this app attunes young people to finding beauty, I can't help but ask the

question: What would Hans Urs von Balthasar think about Instagram? Would he see it as a useful tool or a hazardous trap along the path to finding God?

An Insta Primer

Instagram is a social media

platform that centers on the idea of sharing images and short videos. Users sign up for Instagram and assign themselves a username or a handle that starts with the “@” symbol. For example, Bishop Barron's Instagram handle is @bishopbarron, Pope Francis'

(yes, he has an Instagram) handle is @franciscus. Users post photos to Instagram to share with anywhere from a handful of close friends and family members to the 100 million (plus) Instagram users worldwide, depending on one's privacy settings. When uploading images, users can choose from various “filters” to apply to their photo—changing the lighting, colors, brightness, or mood. Additionally, users can write a brief description beneath the photo and add one or more hashtags—words or phrases preceded by a “#” symbol to connect photos and videos from several users. For example, Bishop Barron's Instagram posts often include #Catholic, #wordonfire, or #Bishopbarron. Similarly, users can search Instagram by searching to see all images with a particular hashtag attached to it. More than 95 million photos and videos are uploaded to Instagram every day, making it one of the most popular social media platforms.

Instagram and the “Nones”

An important statistic for us to know is that 73 percent of US internet users aged thirteen to twenty-four are on Instagram and either looking or posting

multiple times a day. That is a lot of attention paid to this particular app by the same age range of people who are currently leaving the Church in a mass exodus. We would be silly not to at least consider Instagram to be an evangelizing tool to reach these nones (or, soon-to-be nones). If beauty is the means to which we start the conversation with the unaffiliated, Instagram could serve as a familiar venue to have that conversation. We have already seen Bishop Barron, Pope Francis, and other Church leaders put this plan into action with great success. However, I believe that there's something more to this Instagram connection, something in the rhythm or the process of posting images to the site. Balthasar believed that witnessing beauty compelled us to want to enter into communion with it, to consume it, to make it a part of ourselves. Users participate in this very process when posting a photo to Instagram. A user sees something beautiful and is so moved by what they witness that they are compelled to bring it inward, to make it a part of themselves . . . or part of their digital self. In today's modern world, they do so by taking a picture or video of the

*We are
his people:
the sheep
of his flock.*

Psalm 100: 3
Responsorial Psalm
for June 18
Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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

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

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

KRAMER
Funeral Home and Cremation Service
Est. 1875
www.KramerFunerals.com 318-445-6311

**FLYING
WOK
BUFFET**

(formerly Panda Restaurant)

2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA

Ph: (318) 767-8596

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

CLOSED TUESDAYS

Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 3:30 pm.

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

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

beautiful thing and then posting it to their feed: a digital identity—something that tells others about who they are as a person. They have taken that experience with beauty and attempted to make it a part of themselves—to be in communion with it. The path between beauty and God is laid out before the unaffiliated; it is even well-trod thanks to apps like Instagram. Our job as evangelizers is to challenge and guide their understanding of the beautiful and its connection to God.

Beautiful vs. Pretty

While there is a lot of beauty on Instagram, I would argue that there is also a lot of prettiness mistaken as beauty. This could present a potential problem. Balthasar would be quick to point out that various “bottle cap challenges,” “outfits of the day,” or (as much as it hurts me to say this) my mother-in-law’s ten-pound brown trout are

not true, revelatory examples of beauty. They are pretty, sure, but not beautiful. This is where the use of Instagram as an evangelizing tool becomes tricky, because young people often struggle differentiating between beauty and prettiness. True beauty stirs the soul; it forces us to ponder meaningful questions, and it draws us closer to the divine. Prettiness is visually satisfying but ultimately relative, temporary, and used to sell things like makeup or TV shows or various products—things that offer immediate satisfaction and temporary happiness, things that distract us from God. Pope Benedict XVI recognized this in his “Meeting with Artists” when he said, “Too often . . . the beauty that is thrust upon us is illusory and deceitful, superficial and blinding, leaving the onlooker dazed; instead of bringing him

See **INSTAGRAM**, page 19

U.S. Bishops with Mexico-bordering dioceses reaffirm humanitarian commitment

Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — Eight U.S. Catholic bishops whose dioceses share a border with Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to promoting human dignity and their cooperation with government officials as the church and its partner organizations provide humanitarian aid.

“Daily, we witness the human consequences of migration, both its blessings and its challenges,” the bishops said in a May 12 statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “As pastors of border communities, we minister to migrants and native-born persons alike. Our congregations include asylum seekers, enforcement officers, landowners, and elected officials, who come together, not as strangers or adversaries but as sisters and brothers, equal in dignity and worth before the Lord.”

The statement came the day after the May 11 expiration of Title 42, a federal U.S. public health law granting the federal government some authority to implement emergency action to prevent the spread of contagious diseases by prohibiting some migrants from entry. It expired in tandem with the end of the federal public health emergency declared in 2020 for COVID-19.

With the end of Title 42, U.S. immigration policy defaults to a set of laws known as Title 8. While the status of some migrants not eligible for U.S. entry under Title 42 may change, recent Title 8 policy updates suggest those migrants may face new hurdles. Both Title 42 and Title 8 have been criticized by Catholic immigration advocates as insufficient, especially for migrants seeking asylum.

The bishops did not specifically refer to U.S. immigration policy in their

statement, or connect their statement to recent events.

“Since our nation’s founding, Catholics across this country have been at the forefront of efforts to welcome newcomers of all faiths and nationalities,” the bishops said. “As Christians, we are called to see the face of Christ in those who suffer, those who lack the basic necessities of life, and we judge ourselves as a community of faith by the way we treat the most vulnerable among us. We are each bound by a universal call to serve one another and to protect the sanctity of human life in all its forms.

“Therefore, we remain committed to supporting the efforts ongoing within our dioceses and beyond to promote the God-given dignity of every person, including those who have recently arrived in our communities. Further, as a Church committed to the common good, we always cooperate in the administration of humanitarian aid with local, state, and federal officials, frequently in partnership with faith communities and like-minded secular organizations.

“Finally, we join together in prayer, entrusting these works of mercy to Our Lady of Guadalupe as a source of unity throughout the Americas,” they said. “May each of us be blessed with a humanitarian heart that beats with fraternal compassion for those in need.”

The statement noted the bishops were endorsing the statement “as the pastors of the U.S. communities along the southwest border.”

Signatories were Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego; Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio; Bishop Peter Baldacchino of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas; Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas; Bishop Michael J. Sis of San Angelo, Texas; Bishop James A. Tamayo of Laredo, Texas; and Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Tucson, Arizona.

—
Bishop Flores is chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, and Bishop Seitz is chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration.

NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

Need Social Security Disability Benefits?

561-2500

NBALawFirm.com

Richard J. Arsenault

2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

SABINE STATE BANK

& Trust Company

Member FDIC



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

YOU GET IT ALL AT



WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM

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

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

PEST AID CO.

We Sell
Do-It-Yourself
Pest Control
Supplies



Termites • Ants
Ticks • Roaches
Mice • Fleas

COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.

473-0228

pestaidd@bellsouth.net

www.pestaidva.com

2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA





FIRST COMMUNION, CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SIMMESPORT. Fr. Paul Kunnumparam celebrated First Communion Mass on April 16.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE.

“The Eucharist is the heart of the Church. Where Eucharistic life flourishes, there the life of the church will blossom.”

11 pope saint john paul ii

Budget Blinds
a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings
Shutters • Draperies • Blinds

Huge selection of the best brands!

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

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise
Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated
www.budgetblinds.com

Signature Series • Lafayette Interior Fashions
Exterior Window Screens

BU'S PIZZA HOUSE

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

Everything from cheese to our "Full House"

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

VALUABLE COUPON

Two Medium Pizzas \$22.99
Single Topping only

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

Expires 6/26/23

B.K. ROOFING, LLC

Call the Pros!
Residential Roofing Experts

www.bkroofingllc.com

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

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

Free estimates!
Most estimates in 2 days

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

318-201-9065
17 Glade St. • Pineville, LA 71460

Emergency service available

NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

SERVING LOUISIANA FOR CAR, TRUCK, OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS, WORKERS COMPENSATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY ?

318-561-2500
RICHARD J. ARSENAULT ALEXANDRIA, LA WWW.NBALAWFIRM.COM LA-23-14823



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL. Father James Ferguson celebrated First Communion Mass on Sunday, May 7.

INSTAGRAM-

(continued from pg. 17)

out of himself and opening him up to horizons of true freedom as it draws him aloft, it imprisons himself within himself and further enslaves him, depriving him of hope and joy.” Yes, tools like Instagram can lead us to understand the beautiful, but it could just as easily blind us with distractions or cloud our understanding of beauty.

Can Instagram Beauty Save the Unaffiliated World?

I hate to be so wishy-washy, but I guess the answer really is a kind of “yes and no.” Or, more specifically, a “yes, but.” I do believe that Instagram can be a useful tool for engaging and evangelizing people for two reasons. The first is that there is a lot of beauty to be seen on Instagram. Landscapes, art, music . . . yes, there are lots of examples of traditional forms of beauty that can be found and stir the soul of the viewer. However, there is also beauty to be found in other, less traditional examples that something only like social

media could offer. I see beauty in communities banding together for just causes, I see beauty in strangers offering kind words to grieving parents, and I see beauty in the face of my daughter beaming with pride as she holds up her first fish my mother-in-law helped her catch. Additionally, and maybe more importantly, I think Instagram can be a useful tool to help train our ability to distinguish between prettiness and beauty. Using Instagram to strengthen our muscles of discernment can help us, and the nones, differentiate between what can bring us into communion with God and what can lead us astray. As Benedict continues from the quote above, “Authentic beauty, however, unlocks the yearning of the human heart, the profound desire to know, to love, to go towards the Other, to reach for the Beyond. If we acknowledge that beauty touches us intimately, that wounds us, that it opens our eyes, then we rediscover the joy of seeing, of being able to grasp the profound meaning of our existence.”

Kelly Tramontin is a professional wife, mother, theologian, and an amateur everything else. She studied Theology at Loyola Marymount

University where she earned her Masters degree in 2010. From there she taught high school theology until the birth of her first daughter. She has spoken at national conferences on building teen leadership skills through faith formation and locally on topics ranging from biblical studies to tech integration in the religion classroom. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

**Wednesday, June 7,
6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center
Alexandria**

**Tuesday, June 27,
6:00 p.m.
Minor Basilica of the
Immaculate Conception
Natchitoches**

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.



We are looking for host families to welcome an international exchange student that will study in an American high school. If you're able to open your home to one of these students, please contact (Rebecca Lacombe) at (318-419-0854) or (rebeccalacombe@gmail.com).

“Our student filled a space in our family we didn't even know we had.” - DeGroot family, June 2018

STS Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing memorable cultural exchanges between young people and American families.

We believe in bringing people together with mutual respect, promoting personal growth and a positive global perspective which can break down cultural barriers, and increase respect and understanding of each other's way of life.



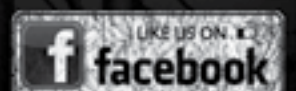
www.stsfoundation.org

Petrus
FEED & SEED

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA
442-2325



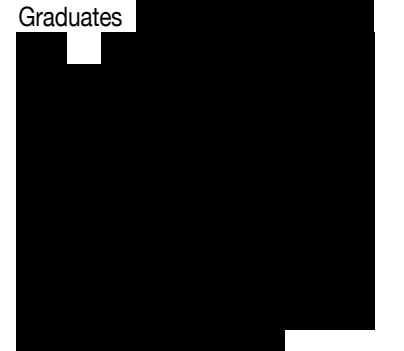
visit us at
DESPINOTIRE.COM





2023 HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS. Graduation ceremonies were held on Tuesday, May 9 at the POA Auditorium. Menard had 72 graduates for 2023.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHEES. St. Mary's Catholic School, Class of 2023 Graduates



GRADUATION, ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. Wednesday, May 10, Bishop Robert Marshall travelled with Superintendent Thomas Roque to Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine for the Graduation Ceremony of St. Joseph High School. Thank you to Fr. Martin Laird, Pastor, Mr. Billy Albritton, Principal, Ms. Rhiannon Moreau, Assistant Principal, and the faculty, administration, and staff for their welcome. Congratulations to the twenty new high school graduates!

LHSAA STATE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL RUNNERS UP, DIV. V (select). St. Joseph School, Plaquemine is the 2023 Softball LHSAA State Runner-up. They fought hard against the #1 ranked Claiborne Christian Crusaders in Sulphur, LA on April 29, 2023. This is the first time since 2016 that St. Joseph has advanced to the finals. Way to go Lady Eagles!



Catholic Campus Ministry at our local universities:

LSU of Alexandria:
Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956

Northwestern State University
Catholic Student Organization FOCUS Ministries:
<https://nscatholic.org/focus> | evan.morley@focus.org

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

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Psalm 69: 14 | Responsorial Psalm for June 25
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The healing gaze of love

By Jackie Francois Angel
Originally published at
www.wordonfire.org

“For God, to gaze at is to love.” —St. John of the Cross, Spiritual Canticle (B) St. 31, no. 8

My husband Bobby Angel (Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger Fellow of Parish Life at Word on Fire Institute) and I have been very late to the party in watching *The Chosen* series on the life of Jesus and his followers, but we’ve been enjoying it immensely. There have been quite a few times in the series when actor Jonathan Roumie portrays the loving gaze of Christ profoundly, but one such moment triggered in me a flood of memories, taking me back nineteen years to my own conversion when I first experienced that gaze—what I call the “healing gaze of love.”

Anyone who has experienced a conversion of mercy knows it. It’s the gaze that makes you



evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.” Because of that gaze, I (and many before me) have accepted the invitation to “Come, follow [Him],” and our lives have never been the same.

As human beings, our first encounter with that “healing gaze of love” is from our parents. As St. John Paul II said in *Familiaris Consortio*, the unconditional love of our parents is “the visible sign of the very love of God.” Although a newborn baby cannot remember the events of his or her first years of life, they absolutely know the security of being loved and gazed at as being good for their own sake—just for their mere existence. And as a toddler begins the phases of immense meltdowns (trust me, my kids go through those stages, too), the look of love from the parent when all has calmed down lets the child know that he or she is still loved, even when emotions run amok and get the best of them (because it happens to us as adults, too).

Maybe some of us have encountered Christ through that healing gaze of love from a friend or mentor who called us out, reminded us of our worth, or inspired us to something more, something greater than the mediocre or sinful life we were living. Or maybe some of us received that healing gaze of love from our spouse, who gazed at us with unconditional love and prompted us to think, “Me? Are you sure? You actually love me even though you know the worst parts of me?”

St. John writes that “we love, because [God] first loved us” (1 John 4:19), which causes me to think that we can only love others to the extent that we have allowed God to love us. You’ve probably heard the saying “Hurt people hurt people,” so as disciples of Jesus called to evangelize and heal the Body of Christ (John 17) with the saving love of God, it is of utmost importance that we allow God’s healing gaze to transform our lives, make us new creations, soften our hardened hearts, and propel us to make a gift of self to those around us, even if that involves just a simple smile to those whom we see in passing. As

St. (Mother) Teresa of Kolkata would say, “Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.”

We cannot give what we do not have, though. We cannot help heal the Mystical Body of Christ if we don’t allow God to heal us. We cannot love ourselves or others properly if we don’t allow God to love us. And for those who are parents, if we are to show our children God’s love, we must allow ourselves to rest in God’s healing gaze and remember that we are secure in His love, “for thou alone, O Lord, makest me dwell in safety” (Ps. 4:8).

There is a profound quote that expresses this point, which is usually attributed to St. Teresa of Avila:

Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Yours are the feet with which he walks through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Watching *The Chosen* may have reminded me about the first time I experienced the healing gaze of Christ nineteen years ago, but more importantly, it reminded me, inspired me, and encouraged me to always be the healing gaze for my children, my husband, and every person I meet, so they too can encounter God’s unconditional, healing love through me.

A native of Orange County, CA, Jackie Francois Angel is a speaker, vlogger, author, singer-songwriter, and homeschooling mom of four. Together with her husband, Bobby Angel, she has written *Pray, Decide, and Don’t Worry: 5 Steps to Discerning God’s Will, and Forever: A Catholic Devotional For Your Marriage*. She attended Cal State Fullerton as a President’s Scholar and earned a BA in Comparative Religions and minors in Psychology and Sociology.

Refuge

Join us at this summer’s
Stuebenville South
Conference
for a life-changing
encounter, June 23 - 25!



Host Chris
Padgett



Jason Evert



Bishop Joe
Espallat, II



Jackie Francois
Angel



Chris Mueller



Worship Leader
Josh Blakesley

fall flat on your face and lets the floodgates of tears and snot open wide. It’s the gaze where one experiences (either for the first time or in a moment of renewal) an overwhelming experience of God’s unconditional love and mercy, causing the cry of the heart to be united with that of the Psalmist:

*When I look at thy heavens,
the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars which
thou hast established;
what is man that thou art
mindful of him,
and the son of man that thou
dost care for him?*
(Ps. 8:3-4)

Or, reframed for our modern ear, consider this chorus from one of the rock band NEEDTOBREATHE’s latest songs that aches with awe and humility: “Who am I to be loved by you?!”

As seen with the biblical characters in *The Chosen*, that healing gaze of love changes everything, as it did in my life as well. Not only does it bring the “peace of God that surpasses all understanding” (Phil. 4:7), but to borrow from words attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, this love “will decide what will get you out of the bed in the morning, what you will do with your

Open to students in grades 8 - 12.

Visit www.stuebenvillesouth.com to register,
or email info@stuebenvillesouth.com for more information.

Follow along on Instagram for updates!

“Come to me all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”
// Matthew 11: 28

Vacation Bible School - June 5-9

Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth will hold its VBS from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Early drop off begins at 7:30 a.m. Register online at mmjchurch.com under the Faith Formation Tab.

Disclalced Carmelite meeting - June 10

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. **If you plan to attend.....Please call Mary Jo McCoy at the numbers listed above OR Deacon Bill Travis at 318 640-2827 or 318 664-7069 and someone will meet you at the Maryhill gate.

Priest Ordination - June 10

Deacon Josh Burch (Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches) will be ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All are welcome to attend.

Vacation Bible School - June 12-16

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville will hold their Vacation Bible School from June 12-16, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For kids Pre-K to 6th Grade. Theme this year is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light" For more information contact the Sacred Heart Office, (318) 445-2497 or Sherry Rabalais (318) 445-2497, ext 15.

Vacation Bible School - June 12-16

St. Joseph Church in Marksville will hold Vacation Bible School June 12-16 in the church hall from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon (Friday will be a Fun Day until 12:30 p.m.) The theme is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light." Registration is free for children ages 5 through 10. Class sizes are limited. Please register by Monday, June 5. Call the church office at (318) 253-7561

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Supper with the Seminarians - June 13, 27, and July 18, 27

Bring your friends and family because everyone is invited! These events are free, but donations are welcome. All donations will be used to assist in funding our Seminarians' education. The diocese has five men in priestly formation at this time: Donnie Kuzma, Matthew Bonner, Blaine Phillips, Jacob Cass, and Gabe Dowden. This year's dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, June 13, Christ the King Church, Simmesport.
- Tuesday, June 27, St. Mary's Church, Winnsboro.
- Tuesday, July 18, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Campti.
- Thursday, July 27, St. Rita Church, Alexandria.

To reserve your seat, contact Sandi Tarver at 318-445-6424, ext. 209, or email starver@diocesealex.org.

Vacation Bible School - June 19-23

St. Rita Church in Alexandria would like you to save the dates for their Vacation Bible School this summer! This year's theme is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light" and is open to kids PreK-6th grade. Currently signing up teen and adult volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer contact cbrinkman@strita.org or call the church office at (318) 445-7120.

Steubenville South Conference**- June 23 - 25**

Calling all high schoolers! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join hundreds of Catholic teens at Steubenville South on June 23 - 25 to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is our refuge and never wearies of loving us.

All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this weekend retreat. Learn more at www.steubenvillesouth.com, or contact your youth minister for more information.

Women's Silent Retreat - July 14-16

Retreat Director, Claire Gallagher, will lead a weekend silent retreat at Maryhill Renewal Center where she will invite women to sit at the feet of Christ. The retreat will explore the spirituality of the feminine genius. Claire will draw on scripture, the wisdom of St. Therese of Lisieux and her own life experiences to help women grow in their spirituality and intimacy with Christ. Visit www.diocesealex.org to register. For more information, contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org. Sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria.

Married Couples Retreat - August 18 - 20

Retreat Director, Dr. Mario Sacasa, a licensed marriage and family therapist in practice for over 15 years, will lead couples in presentations and time for reflection during the weekend at Maryhill Renewal Center. Dr. Sacasa brings years of combined ministry to married couples and offers insightful, practical, and humorous ways that will encourage and bless your marriage. Visit www.diocesealex.org to register. For more information, contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org. Sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria.

Calling all graduates of the Christos Encounter Course!

If you are a graduate of the Christos Encounter Course, facilitated by Jim and Christy Gootee, please email Jim Gottee at jimgootee3@gmail.com with your name, mailing address, and phone number. Thank you in advance!

Please visit www.diocesealex.org, the Diocese of Alexandria on Facebook, or your church parish's website for the most up to date information on ministries, parish activities, and service opportunities.

Church Today News Deadlines

June 26
Deadline for news:
Thursday, June 15

July 24
Deadline for news:
Thursday, July 13



Emile P. Oestrieher, III, CPA

Anne M. Oestrieher, CPA, CFP®

Oestrieher Financial Management Services

Let us help your family pursue your financial goals.

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303

(318) 448-3556

www.o-fms.com

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



June 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAY 22 PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE	23 PRAY FOR DCN. F. ANDRADE	24 PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	25 PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE	26 PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	27 PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	28 PENTECOST SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO
29 MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	30 PRAY FOR DCN. R. CHRISTOPHER	31 PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY	JUNE 1 PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	3 FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	4 SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY TRINITY PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS
5 PRAY FOR DCN. LG DELOACH	6 PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	7 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	8 PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ	9 PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC	10 Discalced Carmelites monthly meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center Priest Ordination Josh Burch 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria	11 SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (Corpus Christi) PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE
VBS Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth, 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.						
12 PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS	13 Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 p.m. Christ the King Church, Simmesport	14 PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP	15 PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON	16 PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	17 PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER	18 FATHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE
VBS St. Joseph Church, Marksville, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (until 12:30 p.m. on Friday)						
VBS Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville 5:30-8:30 p.m.						
19 PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA	20 PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	21 PRAY FOR DCN. M. GUIDRY	22 PRAY FOR FR. D. HART	23 PRAY FOR FR. J. HASEIBER	24 PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	25 PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH
VBS St. Rita Church, Alexandria, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon						
STEUBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE -- Alexandria						

STEUBENVILLE SOUTH
JUNE 23 - 25, 2023

Inviting high-schoolers into a
life-changing encounter with Christ!

Registration opens January 16, 2023
Contact your youth minister or
email info@steubenvillesouth.com for
more information.

steubenvillesouth.com

Refuge

MT 11:28



Diocese of Alexandria



STEUBENVILLE
CONFERENCES

An outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville

FRANCISCAN

Care you can **trust** -
close to home.



NOW ACCEPTING PATIENTS

Sablaa Ali, D.O., Endocrinology

CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic welcomes board-certified
endocrinologist, Sablaa Ali, DO.

Dr. Ali offers thyroid, parathyroid, adrenals, and
pituitary glands care as well as weight management.



3311 Prescott Rd. | Suite 417 | Alexandria | LA 71301

CHRISTUShealth.org | 318.528.4455