

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIV, No. 9

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970 September 25, 2023



Back to School!

The Eagles of Holy Savior Menard Central High School welcomed the Tigers of St. Mary's Catholic School, Natchitoches on Friday, Sept. 15 for the annual "Bishop's Bowl" football game. Adversaries on the field, both teams and schools share an abiding faith in Jesus Christ and a profound respect for the dignity of every human life. See page 10 for more pictures from the beginning of the school year! (Photo by Cindy Campbell)

INSIDE

Louisiana could soon see 8 new saints with ties to our state

There are currently eight "Servants of God" who are undergoing the process of becoming potential saints in the Catholic Church, all with ties to our state. See page 6 for more information on these incredible individuals.

Feast for Good celebrates 15th year with Chef John Folse

Famed Louisiana Chef John Folse is coming back to Central Louisiana, and would like to invite you to his table on Wednesday, Oct. 11. See page 8 for more information on how to reserve your ticket.

Fall Festival season has finally come

Fall Festival season has finally arrived! See page 17 for a list of festivals and parish events scheduled throughout the diocese in the coming month.

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CHURCH TODAY



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Notre Dame Seminary celebrates 100 years of formation

Clarion Herald

Father Joshua Rodrigue, the rector-president of Notre Dame Seminary, reflected on a Scripture passage from Isaiah as he told the story of the seminary’s 100 years as the place in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans where thousands of men have been prepared for the priesthood.

“The prophet Isaiah reminds us of what has happened over the century within the walls of Notre Dame Seminary,” Father Rodrigue said in his homily at the Centennial Mass at St. Louis Cathedral, honoring the seminary’s founding in 1923. “Their holocausts and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

“In the heart of our seminary - in (the Blessed Mother’s) chapel - hundreds of thousands of Masses and the holocausts and sacrifices offered on the altars in our chapel have been acceptable to our Lord. ... And it is not just the chapel that is designated as a house of prayer. The seminary itself is a house of prayer.”

Archbishop Gregory Aymond was the principal celebrant of the centennial Mass, and he was joined by seven other bishops and priests of the archdiocese.

Father Rodrigue said just as the apostle John learned more about Jesus by taking Mary into his home as Jesus requested at the foot of the cross, so do seminarians learn more about a personal relationship with Jesus during their time studying and interacting with other



NOTRE DAME SEMINARY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF FORMATION . Bishop Robert Marshall joined Archbishop Gregory Aymond and the community of Notre Dame Seminary at a Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, in celebration of the seminary’s 100th Anniversary.

seminarians.

“I see Notre Dame Seminary today as a home because it is in the home that vocations truly begin,” he said. “It is in the home at Nazareth where our Lord experienced the school of Mary and Joseph. And, from our Gospel today, it is in the home of John that the beloved disciple finished his formation in the school of Mary.”

“From his years of formation with Jesus, John learned the teachings and the Gospel way of life. But, in taking Mary into his home, would not the beloved disciple have learned more about the Lord that he loved? The hours of hearing from Mary what Jesus was like as a boy, the story of him living in the home at Nazareth. That’s how you get to know about someone - from their parents.”

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.

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*

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Psalm 25: 6a | Responsorial Psalm for October 1 | Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Seitz: Jesus compels us to ‘respond with charity,’ address ‘coercive forces’ driving migrants

By Gina Christian
Our Sunday Visitor



BISHOP MARK J. SEITZ TO U.S. BISHOPS: JESUS COMPELS US TO ‘RESPOND WITH CHARITY,’ ADDRESS ‘COERCIVE FORCES’ DRIVING MIGRANTS . A migrant from Cameroon carries her child Sept. 15, 2023, at the port on the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, Italy, while waiting to be transferred to the mainland. (Our Sunday Visitor New photo / Yara Nardi, Reuters).

(OSV News) — As the Catholic Church in the U.S. marks National Migration Week Sept. 18-24, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chair of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, highlighted the need to “address the coercive forces driving people to migrate.”

While often used interchangeably, the terms “migrant” and “refugee” are separately defined under international law, with refugees specifically protected due to perilous conditions — such as war or persecution — that make returning to the country of origin impossible. In contrast, no uniform definitions of “migrant” or “forced migration” exist at the international level, according to the United Nations, although migrants are nonetheless protected as human persons under international human rights law.

In his message prepared for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees observed Sept. 24, Pope Francis reflected that “the decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not.

“Conflicts, natural disasters, or more simply the impossibility of living a dignified and prosperous life in one’s native land is forcing millions of persons to leave,” said the pope. “Migrants flee because of poverty, fear or

desperation. Eliminating these causes and thus putting an end to forced migration calls for shared commitment on the part of all, in accordance with the responsibilities of each.”

Those insights were echoed by Bishop Seitz in a Sept. 15 statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops ahead of National Migration Week.

“Through our belief in

Jesus Christ, we are compelled to respond with charity toward those who must uproot their lives in search of refuge,” Bishop Seitz said. He added that “efforts to manage migration — even when predicated on the common good — require that we also address the coercive forces driving people to migrate.”

“For millennia, people have been forced to flee their homelands, seeking safety and security, because of factors beyond their control,” Bishop Seitz said. “Pope Francis reminds us that Sacred Scripture reveals the Holy Family’s own flight into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel.”

Bishop Seitz said, “Only through collective efforts to alleviate these (coercive) forces and by establishing the conditions required for integral human development can people truly avail themselves of the right to remain in their country of birth.

“May God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, sustain us in these pursuits and protect those whose lives depend upon their success,” said Bishop Seitz.

In their 2000 pastoral letter “Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity,” the U.S. bishops pointed to Catholic social teaching on migration, which balances both the needs of migrants and the concerns of the nations to which they relocate.

The three principles of that teaching hold first, that people have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families; second, a country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration; and third, a country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

The bishops of the U.S. and Mexico issued a 2003 joint pastoral letter, “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope,” stating, “All persons have the right to find in their own countries the

economic, political, and social opportunities to live in dignity and achieve a full life through the use of their God-given gifts. In this context, work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need.”

The bishops also declared in the letter that “migrants have a right to claim refugee status without incarceration and to have their claims fully considered by a competent authority.”

Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News. Follow her on X (formerly Twitter) at @GinaJesseReina.

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

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



ST. AUGUSTINE ATTENDS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Many members of the St. Augustine Church ACTS team from Natchitoches parish attended the Genesis of Eve Women's conference on Saturday, Sept. 8-10.

be not afraid



GENESIS OF EVE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. The Genesis of Eve Women's Conference, was held Sept. 8-10 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. Over 600 women attended. Pictured left to right with Dcn. Richard Mitchell and Bishop Robert Marshall are founders of the conference, Charlotte Wasmer, Jerri Grafton, Nicole Mitchell and Colette Glankler.

**Lector Formation
and
Extraordinary Ministers
of Holy Communion
Workshops**

will be offered this fall at the St. Joseph Catholic Center!

- **Lector Workshop:**
October 7, 9:00 a.m.

- **Extraordinary Minister Workshop:**
October 10, 6:00 p.m.

More information and dates will be available at www.diocesealex.org.



MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT. A Couples Retreat was held Aug. 18-19 at Maryhill Renewal Center. The retreat was facilitated by Mario Sacasa, a licensed marriage and family therapist. 19 couples attended.



STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE'S 3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY, held Aug. 19 with 74 women in attendance. The theme was "I am a Warrior" and was centered on Ephesians 6:10 where we "put on our Armor and Go into the battlefield." The retreat included speakers, activities, group discussions, adoration and Mass. The goal was for retreatants to walk away feeling more confident to battle the attacks of the Devil.



ST. JAMES MEMORIAL KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER. The Bishop D.F. Desmond Knights of Peter Claver Council and Court #91, along with the Jr. Knights and Jr. Daughters celebrated the feast day of St. Peter Claver at Mass on Sunday, Sept. 10, in honor of his feast day on Sept. 9. The Council and Court, represented by Grand Lady Felecia Aaron and Grand Knight Joseph Augustine gave monetary donations to the parish to the parish "Preserve His Promise Fund."

*The vineyard
of the Lord
is the
house of Israel.*

Isaiah 5:7a
Responsorial Psalm
for October 8
Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time



ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER. The catechists of St. Alphonsus met to prepare to welcome back the children for the 2023-2024 school year.

In Memoriam – Fr. Richard Alain Fale 1919-1987

As summer turns to fall our thoughts often turn to those who have gone ahead of us – not just friends and family but also those who helped shape the world around us. If you have spent time at Maryhill you may have wondered who painted the striking murals in the main chapel. The answer is Fr. Richard Alain Fale. A talented artist in oils and watercolors, Fr. Fale (pronounced *fall-ee*) was responsible for the murals at Maryhill as well as the murals at the convent chapel of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word at Cabrini Hospital. In addition to his paintings, Fr. Fale also designed and constructed the



MURALS IN THE MARYHILL CHAPEL, PAINTED BY FR. FALE. The art was painted while Fr. Fale was a priest of the diocese.



FATHER RICHARD ALAIN FALE, 1919-1987.

stained glass windows at Maryhill and was an accomplished potter. He taught ceramics and pottery to the seminarians at Maryhill as well as to students at Holy Savior Menard. Many families still cherish the beautiful glazed Nativity sets he produced with his students.

Fr. Richard Fale was born on Jan. 17, 1919 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, to immigrant parents. He graduated from Sheboygan Central High School in 1936 and enrolled in the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee. During the Second World War he served as a radio operator and gunner in the South Pacific. After the war he worked for Conrad Schmitt

Studios doing church decorating and painting. In 1950, during a renovation project in Los Angeles, Richard Fale felt the stirrings of a religious vocation and decided to enter the Carmelites at Holy Hill in Wisconsin. Later while working in Louisiana he saw the need for diocesan priests in the rural south and petitioned Bishop Charles P. Greco of Alexandria, LA to receive him as a seminarian. Bishop Greco welcomed the talented young man and sent him to complete his studies at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. Richard Fale was ordained for the Alexandria diocese on May 31, 1958 at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee.

He served in the diocese until 1972- first as an associate at St. Matthew's Church in Monroe and then as spiritual director and religion teacher at Maryhill Seminary and in the art department of Holy Savior Menard Central High School in Alexandria. Fr. Fale left the Alexandria diocese with permission to care for his aging parents and was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1974 where he served as an associate pastor in his home parish of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Shaboygan where he had been baptized in 1919. He was appointed administrator of the parish in 1981 and served

until his death from cancer on December 1, 1987.

Some of Fr. Fale's work survives at the Maryhill campus where the murals decorate both the main chapel and the retreat chapel. The murals at Cabrini Hospital were lost when the convent chapel was torn down for the construction of the new ER facility. A large canvas of the Madonna and Child is part of the collection at St. Juliana Church in Alexandria where Fr. Fale served as administrator in 1964. Large watercolors featuring scenes from Melrose Plantation can be seen at St. Augustine's Church at Ile Breville.



MARYHILL UPDATES. The old swimming pool adjacent to the Youth Center has been deconstructed and filled in. Plans include a renovation of the restroom building.

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Upcoming Retreats:
November 9 - 12
St. Augustine, Isle Breville
Women's Retreat

November 16 - 19
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
Women'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.

Historic times: Louisiana could soon see 8 new saints with ties to our state

*By Julie LeBlanc Sober
Digital Content Manager,
KALB-TV*

Louisiana is home to the New Orleans Saints Football Team, but with the state's strong roots in Catholic faith, it may not be surprising to hear we may be growing some Catholic saints of our own!

There are currently eight "Servants of God" who are undergoing the process of becoming potential saints in the Catholic Church, all with ties to our state.

On Aug. 8, three Catholic priests from different dioceses in Louisiana met with KALB, the local NBC news affiliate in Alexandria, LA, to share the stories of these eight brave souls who died in faith.

Father Peter Mangum, a priest from the Diocese of Shreveport, is the Episcopal Delegate for five priests from the Shreveport area who died in 1873 during the yellow fever outbreak. Known as the Five Martyrs, they are Father Isidor Quemerais, Fr. Jean Pierre, Fr. Jean Marie Biler, Fr. Louis Marie Gergaud, and Fr. Francois Le Vezouet. All of these priests are originally from Brittany, France but were brought to Louisiana by the first Bishop of Natchitoches, Bishop Auguste Martin. Fr. Magnum spoke of the priests' heroism as they each knowingly went to their deaths to serve the dying people in northern Louisiana and administer the sacraments.

Father Taylor Reynolds, a priest from the Diocese of Alexandria, is the Episcopal Delegate for a little 12-year-old girl named Charlene Richard, who died of leukemia in 1959. Charlene showed extraordinary faith in the last two weeks of her life, offering up her terrible pains for others in need, showing us a courageous example of redemptive suffering.



EPISCOPAL DELEGATES FOR THE 8 SERVANTS OF GOD. The causes of canonization of 8 individuals with ties to the church in Louisiana are being represented by Fr. Travis Abadie and Fr. Mark Ledoux, both from the Diocese of Lafayette; Fr. Peter Mangum of the Diocese of Shreveport; and Fr. Taylor Reynolds of the Diocese of Alexandria. All were in Alexandria recently to appear on KALB-TV for a story about these remarkable people.

Father Mark Ledoux, a priest from the Diocese of Lafayette, is the Episcopal Delegate for Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur, a young priest and military chaplain who gave his life trying to save men at sea in 1944 during World War II. Fr. Lafleur also showed great selflessness and sacrifice during his time as a prisoner of war, helping anyone he could without a thought for himself.

Father Travis Abadie, a priest from the Diocese of Lafayette, the Episcopal Delegate for Auguste "Nonco" Pelafigue, was not able to attend the interview

with KALB, but we learned about his cause through Fr. Reynolds. "Nonco" lived from 1888 to 1977 and was just a man who lived a simple, holy life, showing great humility and kindness to others.

It was also a historic day for these four priests, who met together in person for the first time as they discussed the 8 "Servants of God" and their causes for canonization.

At this stage, each candidate is referred to as "Servant of God." The next step is the "inquiry of miracles" where a period of time is spent documenting testimony

regarding "miracles" that happened due to the intercession of an individual. Once miracles have been documented, a recommendation is submitted to the Pope, by whose authority they would then be deemed "Venerable." The next steps include verifying the miracles for beatification where they will be referred to as "Blessed" and then canonization where they become Saints.

You can learn more about these truly remarkable people by visiting www.kalb.com to watch the full interview with the priests. Search for "KALB EXCLUSIVE: Historic moment for Louisiana as 8 people with ties to the state up for sainthood" in the search feature on the website.

Perhaps we can take the time to learn more about them and take their examples of faith to heart.

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*I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*

Psalm 23: 6 | Responsorial Psalm for October 15
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



BISHOP MARSHALL CELEBRATES MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL IN BLACK LAKE. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel in the Black Lake community of Natchitoches Parish. Father Gus Voltz was sick this weekend, so Bishop was the parish's substitute. Thank you to all of the parishioners for their welcome, and to Deacon Chad Thibodeaux who assisted and took this photo.

ST. JOSEPH MISSION CHURCH, TRICHEL, LA. Still covering for Fr. Gus Voltz due to illness, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Joseph Chapel in Trichel, LA. Thank you to the parishioners and again to Deacon Chad Thibodeaux, our photographer who accompanied Bishop to all three Masses this weekend.



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CAMPTI. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campti. Their parish feast day is this Friday, September 8, which also marks their 192nd anniversary as a parish! What a legacy of faith!



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for October 2023

For the synod //

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world. Amen.

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Feast for Good celebrates 15th year with Chef John Folse!



Boyce, LA -- Famed Louisiana Chef John Folse is coming back to Central Louisiana and he would like to invite you to his dinner table!

On Wednesday, October 11, 2023, Chef Folse will once again partner with St. Mary's Residential Training School to host Feast for Good at England Airpark Community Center. Guests will enjoy a gourmet meal prepared by Chef Folse and his team, a live cooking demonstration by Chef Folse, and access to exclusive live and silent auction items from vendors across Louisiana.

Chef Folse has been named "Louisiana's Culinary Ambassador to the World" by the state legislature. He has prepared meals for some of the world's most elite including American presidents and Pope John Paul II. Chef Folse's relationship with St. Mary's has spanned more than

a decade, bringing this living Louisiana treasure to share his dinner table with Cenla guests.

"We couldn't ask for a better friendship than the one we have with Chef Folse," said Tamara McNulty, St. Mary's Director of Development. "The service we provide Louisiana families is invaluable, yet so many people right here are unaware of the difference we make in the lives of young people with developmental disabilities. Chef Folse has not only made it his mission to personally support St. Mary's work, but also provide this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for others to join him and make a difference as well."

Tickets to this year's Feast for Good fundraiser are \$100 per person, and are limited to the first 250 guests. Proceeds will go towards St. Mary's residential services. As home for 202 of your neighbors with developmental disabilities, the residential program of St. Mary's not only provides a stable home, but the support services that your neighbors with the toughest disabilities rely on.

For more information or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact St. Mary's development department at 318-445-6443 ext. 2144 or tamara.mcnulty@stmarys-rts.org. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.stmarysalexandria.org.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ALTAR SOCIETY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT. Work was completed at St. Joseph Church, Colfax by ProScapes, Richard Graham and Jason Chumley. Also pictured is Brenda Slater, Altar Society President.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Sunday, Oct. 8, 2:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport

Thursday, Oct. 12, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

Thursday, Oct. 19, 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Church, MANSURA

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

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Sister Margaret Ann Verzwylt, CDP

Sister Margaret Ann Verzwylt, CDP, (also known as Sister M. Gregory) entered eternal life on August 20, 2023, at the age of 89. She was born May 31, 1934, in Alexandria, Louisiana to Fabian and Eva (Matthews) Verzwylt and was one of six children. The Sisters of Divine Providence have been a part of her life since she was a child. When she answered God's call to religious life, it was a natural and easy transition to the Congregation of Divine Providence.

She professed her first vows as a Sister of Divine Providence on June 22, 1954. Sister Margaret Ann's steadfast prayer life and deep devotion to our Blessed Mother were a constant during her lifetime of service to God's people through various ministries in Texas and Louisiana, and her presence and community service at the convent during the last nine years of her life.

Sisters Margaret Ann earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, Texas. However, she spent 25 years in education that encompassed various roles: teacher grades 1-7, principal, and girls' coach. She transitioned to the dietary ministry at the congregation's Moyer Retreat Center in Castroville, Texas for the next ten years. Her cooking skills were savored and enjoyed by

many.

She returned to Alexandria to help care for her elderly parents and also providentially found herself in her most rewarding ministry: child care. She took care of various families' children from infancy to school age and was a beacon of hope and strength to those who experienced the loss of a pregnancy or who grieved due to a divorce. Additionally, she took care of the children where the parents needed time for a night out or parent meetings. She often spoke about the children's accomplishments and asked for prayers during the chapters of their lives.

During her years in Alexandria, Sister Margaret Ann was the coordinators for the local Associates of the Congregation of Divine Providence. These lay people formally accepted to follow the charism and value of Providence. Together Sister Margaret Ann and the Associates served the needs of the poor in the area by spreading the charism of Providence.

Sister valued her contribution to her congregation and always made sure to do her part. In 2014, Sister Margaret Ann returned to Our Lady of the Lake Convent and put her strong sewing skills to use at Feltin Center. She was a part of the team who made quilts, and sewed



items for annual arts and crafts sales. Her talents were shared until less than a year ago when she fully retired to McCullough Hall Nursing Center. She enjoyed God's daily blessings in her life. Now all who knew her will thank God for the great blessing of Sister Margaret Ann in their lives.

She is survived by her siblings Carl Verzwylt and Joyce DeKeyser, numerous nieces and nephews, and the Sisters of Divine Providence who will all miss her greatly. She was preceded in death by her parents Fabian and Eva Verzwylt and brothers Blanchard, George, and Richard.

Funeral services were held August 25 and 26, 2023. If you wish to make a memorial contribution, please send to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.

Seminarian Burses

August 2023 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
Deacon Ken Primeaux Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Vanderlick	\$100.00
Monsignor Scott Chemino Burse	
Ms. Patricia Vandersypen-Basco	\$100.00
Jerome and Audrey Vandersypen Burse	
Ms. Mary Ann Greiner	\$200.00
Mary Lee and Gersld Robichaux, Sr. Burse	
Total	\$450.00

Correction from Complete Seminary Burse List in Church Today August 28, 2023, page 7:

Left off completed burses list at \$15,000 each:
- Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Shores

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, Chairman

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!

Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament | October 9, 2023

Bishop's Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Seminarian Education will be held Monday, Oct. 9 at Oakwing Golf Club, Alexandria.

To sign up a team or to become a sponsor, contact Sandi Tarver at starver@diocesealex.org.

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.

11 prayer for priests



Diocese of Alexandria Website
www.diocesealex.org



Diocese of Alexandria Facebook
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LSUA CAMPUS MINISTRY MASS. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass on Wednesday, Sept. 6 for the community of Louisiana State University of Alexandria in the Brumfield Caffey Ballroom. In attendance were Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil, Amelia Bordelon, Campus Ministry Coordinator, and many students, faculty members, administrators, and other LSUA Generals. Thank you to all who joined us in prayer.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. Fr. Brian Seiler, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, blesses the gymnasium at Sacred Heart School on Thursday, Aug. 17. Fr. Seiler blessed all the classrooms to keep the school safe for the new school year.



(above) **ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL (NATCHITOCHE)** VIRTUE OF THE MONTH. The Virtue of the Month for August was Perseverance.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL (NATCHITOCHE) RECOGNIZES POSITIVE BEHAVIOR. The following students were selected as PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) winners for demonstrating good characteristics during the month of August.



FLAG BEARERS, MOREAUVILLE. Congratulations to our 2023-2024 Flag Bearers. Thank you to Fr. Brian, the administration, our faculty, staff, and students who participated in today's ceremony. May God continue to bless our school and country. Heartfelt prayers also continue for our citizens in Hawaii and we pray for peace in the Ukraine and around the world.

(above) Sacred Heart School 8th graders were commissioned as Flag Bearers, for the 2023-2024 school year.

(left) Fr. Brian Seiler presents the flag.



MENARD VS ST. MARY'S. The annual "Bishop's Bowl" football between Holy Savior Menard's Eagles and St. Mary's Catholic School's Tigers took place at The Eagles Nest on Friday, Sept. 15. St. Mary's prevailed, winning the game, 26-13, claiming the trophy for the third consecutive year (Photo by Cindy Campbell).

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL FOOTBALL. St. Anthony of Padua School's (Bunkie) first football game of the 2023-2024 season was held on Wednesday, Sept. 6 versus St. Edwards of Eunice. This year's St. Anthony football coaches are Kendrick Leary, Adam Newton, Shawn Vasquez and Blake LaPoint.



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS DIGITAL ART CONTEST WINNER. Sean [REDACTED], 5th grader from St. Frances Cabrini School, won second place in the International Catholic Daughters of the Americas digital art contest! He is the first ever winner from Central Louisiana. Congratulations, Sean!



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL BLESSING. OLPS pastor, Fr. Rusty Rabalais, blessed Our Lady of Prompt Succor School to begin the 2023-2024 school year. Parishioners, school administration and students participated in the blessing.



(Above) ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, ISLE BREVELLE. Lynn Christophe, Bank of Montgomery representative presents a donation for the Creole Heritage Festival to Fr. Bill Gearheard, pastor of St. Augustine Church.



(Left) DEACON RETREAT. Deacons from across the Diocese gathered Sept 15-17 for an annual retreat at Maryhill. Fr. Louis Sklar and Fr. Luke Lafleur (not pictured) provided the reflections for the weekend. Centered on ministry in the Diocese, the weekend also included times for Adoration, Mass, time for individual reflection and fraternity.

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:

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

By appointment only

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

Clothes Closet and Food Pantry

Monday through Saturday

No Limit for Recovery Clubhouse

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Alexandria, 71302

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Coming Soon! Counseling

- For professional therapy

By appointment only

To learn more, visit:

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

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

Christian 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

- A new session will begin in mid-summer

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

Catholic Charities celebrates one year of services to Central Louisiana

*By Jennifer Gilchrist
Cenla Catholic Charities*

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, and praying the Rosary is reflecting on the Gospels and the life of Christ. Serving the marginalized and at-risk people of our communities is core to the work of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana as we strive to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy. As acts of love that help us care for the needs of others, the Works of Mercy are an opportunity for Catholics to give witness to Christ.

Celebrating one year of services to Central Louisianans, we are proud of the contributions we have made to those most in need in our Diocese.

- 60 Mental Health Counseling sessions (Fr John Brocato)

- Hurricane Laura Recovery Assistance through the Central LA Long Term Recovery Group: \$100,000 in grant funding to help over 20 households get into safe and livable homes.

- Catholic Disaster Preparedness Program Training/Materials to all 50 church parishes in the Diocese

- Emergency Basic Needs Assistance: \$12,000 to 115 persons in crisis

- SNAP Enrollment Assistance to 69 households, including 11 with children.

- Ramsey Solutions Budget Class for Basic Needs Assistance Clients

- Christmas Cheer Giving December 2022

- o Homeless Coalition – hygiene kits, socks, blankets

- o Cenla Pregnancy Center – baby hygiene kits

- o Re-Entry Solutions – coats, hygiene kits

- o NL4R – coats, other clothing closet donations

- o St Anthony in Natchitoches – Thanksgiving dinner boxes with turkey gift card

- o Avoyelles Nursing Home – socks, hygiene kits

As Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter, ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE, reflects, “Jesus invited us to turn to God with insistence and the confidence that we will be heard: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Mt 7:7). The basis for this power of prayer is the goodness of the Father, but also the mediation of Christ himself (cf. 1Jn 2:1) and the working of the Holy Spirit who “intercedes for us” according to the will of God (cf. Rom 8:26-27). For “we do not know how to pray as we ought” (Rom 8:26), and at times we are not heard “because we ask wrongly” (cf. Jas 4:2-3).”

We pray our request and petition to you, the Catholic Faithful, is received with open hearts and prayerful discernment. Students and volunteers give their time and talent, yet this work still requires funds to address the physical needs of the people. The second collection on Sunday, October 8, is for Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana and we pray you will bless us with the means to continue to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our communities through our work.

If you are unable to give during the second collection, but wish to contribute, you may visit our website donation page at <https://cccenla.org/hero-of-hope> or send payment to Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana, PO Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.

+May God bless you for your generosity and support. “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.’” Matthew 25:40

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English as a Second Language (ESL) courses offered for adults

The Diocese office of Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCDH) is collaborating with Cenla Interfaith and the Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) to offer English as a Second Language (ESL) courses for adults.

This program is designed to help non-native speakers in our local community develop English language skills and prepare for employment or higher education.

Evening classes are available at the CLTCC campus, located in downtown Alexandria, as well as an off-campus facility in Forest Hill, LA. Evening classes are available.

The classes are free of charge.

For more information, please call 1-800-278-9855 or email adulthoodeducation@cltcc.org.

Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

Do you have a devotion to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

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

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

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

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

The "Heart of Saint Kateri" Circle meets:
2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 p.m.

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

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- Ability to stand in one place for hours at a time, handle extreme heat and work shifts
- The ability to work on your feet for most of the day and lift 50 pounds at a time several times a day
- Ability to place cases, pans, utensils and plates on both low and high shelves
- Manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination to handle tools, such as knife techniques for chopping, slicing, cutting and dicing
- Accuracy and speed in executing tasks
- Valid Louisiana driver's license
- Ability to respond to emergency situations to avoid endangering themselves or others

Send Your Resume to

CENLAMANNAHOUSE@GMAIL.COM

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

11 jeremiah 1: 5

Prayer to Guardian Angel

by Marcus Descant, Leesville, LA

O Angel of Light,
O Spirit so bright,
Show us the way
In this darkness of night.

Protect our souls
During the coming storm
And from all those things
That can cause us harm.

Please lead us to
Our Mother's side.
For, to Jesus through Mary
Our Hearts will reside.

lizdescant@gmail.com
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What is the Eucharistic Revival?

A movement for the life of the world

By Sr. Alicia Torres
National Eucharistic Revival

As a recent college graduate, I had two options before me as I discerned my personal vocation: I could turn in on myself or turn out in love. The inward turn was where I perceived safety and control. The outward movement felt like it would result in loss of control and journeying into the doomed unknown. I paused, breathed deeply, and felt the beating of my own heart, yet I sensed that there was a more palpable presence in that tiny chapel. And in that Presence—Jesus' Eucharistic Presence—I chose to journey into the unknown, trusting I would never be alone.

I wish I could say this pivotal moment of decision was one and done. Alas, not so! My decision to enter religious life was indeed foundational, but I still confront the choice to move inward or outward each and every day. This invitation to outward movement that characterizes the Christian Life isn't neat and tidy, it has no ten-year plan, and there is only one guarantee if we choose life in Christ: the Cross and the Glory in our eternal home.

I believe the movements that stir in each of our hearts are truly the interior bedrock of the National Eucharistic Revival.

What Makes the Eucharistic Revival Different?

As our vision statement

testifies, we aspire to inspire “a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out on mission ‘for the life of the world.’”

We live in a world replete with movements: humanitarian, social, political, spiritual, ideological, existential... so, what sets the Eucharistic Revival apart? How is it different, and why should we allow ourselves to be caught up in it?

One word: Jesus.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not saying Jesus isn't part of any of the other movements out there. Any movement that captures truth, goodness, or beauty has its origin in our God. As Christians, we have a 2,000-year tradition of recognizing that where there is truth, goodness, and beauty, there we find the *logoi spermatikoi*—the seeds of the Word, and the Word is Christ. We neither blindly support nor quickly condemn any movement, but rather discern where we find Jesus within it and how he may be inviting us to take part.

What distinguishes the Eucharistic Revival from all other movements is that it is totally fixed on Jesus.

The Life of the World

Jesus in the Eucharistic Sacrifice renewed at every Mass is truly the center of the Universe. This “source and summit” of the

Christian life (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 11) is the origin of all truth, goodness, and beauty. This is what the Church teaches, and this is why the Eucharistic Revival is different: it is a movement wholly fixed upon the Presence of Jesus and his desire for communion with us forever.

Jesus, the Divine Mover, courses through human history not to condemn us but to save us through his total gift of self, his final sacrifice offered on Calvary and triumphant at the moment of Resurrection. In a real way his sacrifice is made present to us at every Mass. “... a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 11).

The saving graces of redemption won for us are represented at the altar every time a Catholic priest celebrates the Liturgy, and these graces are offered for us to receive into our own bodies in Eucharistic communion. Jesus' Flesh is the Life of the World. This is why this movement is different: because it courses toward eternal life in a way no other movement ever could.

A Truly Eucharistic Movement

In this movement, Jesus isn't shackled to an altar, a tabernacle, or the pyx of a hospital chaplain.

He goes out... he MOVES. He makes his Real Presence known. His Eucharistic Presence is pervasive because it can be given and received: he chooses to move among us and (how remarkable!) within us!

Jesus thirsts to be ever more alive in us, transforming and renewing us so that we can journey with him. As I open my heart to him, I come to know him as a friend: Jesus and I become mutually vulnerable. He gives himself and I can choose to respond by giving a little more of myself. That vulnerability leads to a deepening intimacy, a bond of love and communion that is life-changing and ecstatic—it moves us out of ourselves! It unites us not only to Jesus but also to all his other friends, so that we experience deeply what it means to be his Body, the Church. This outward movement is a truly Eucharistic Movement!

Every time we receive the Eucharist, saying “amen” with a humble, contrite heart, we proclaim the Death of the Lord and his Resurrection. Receiving communion is a profound act of faith. Jesus' life is renewed and imbibed ever more intensely with us, flowing through our own veins, mingling with our own blood. Slowly, over time, we grow in the desire to be like Jesus—to offer our own flesh, in communion with him.

From this movement, we can

be Jesus' presence in all the other noble movements that surround us, Christifying them so that these other movements are caught up in the one movement, the only movement that will last until the end of time: Jesus' own movement through human history to “draw all creation to Himself” (*Jn 12:30–32*) and to journey with us back to the Father, so that we may have that abundant life we have always thirsted for but could never attain on our own.

A dear theology professor from my graduate school years once said, “Good Friday is when the Homeland enters exile so that the exiles may enter the Homeland.” What happened on Good Friday is represented for us in the Eucharist. My friends, the Homeland is right here, right now!

So, what is the National Eucharistic Revival? It is a movement inviting us to rediscover Jesus' desire to give us his flesh for the life of the world. It is sweet in its simplicity, intentional in its integrity, and heartfelt in its humility. The world needs Jesus, and Jesus has entrusted himself to the Catholic Church—in a way unlike any other—in the Holy Eucharist. Let's allow his Real Presence to draw us into this movement, his movement, our movement, so that we, with Christ, can offer our own flesh in loving service and passionate self-sacrifice for the life of the world.

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(Above) EXCELLENCE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DONATION. John Morovich, Diocesan Coordinator for the Knights of Columbus, presents a check for Excellence in Religious Education to Bishop Robert Marshall recently. He also presented Bishop with a plaque for the Clergy of the Year 2022 - 2023.



**Silent Carmelite Retreat
November 10-12
Maryhill Renewal Center**

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelite Community of Alexandria is hosting a Silent Carmelite Retreat at Maryhill Renewal Center, northside. The theme is "The Face of God" with presenter Fr. Bill John Melancon, OCDS. Check in time is Friday, Nov. 10 at 3:00 p.m. For more information or to register:

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(318) 346-6860 or (318) 481-9638**

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Pilgrimages

Italy

Join Fr. Dwight DeJesus for a pilgrimage to Italy, departing November 6 and returning 17, 2022. The trip includes visits to Shrines in Sorrento, San Giovanni Rotondo, Loreto, Assisi, Florence and Rome. Contact info: Father Dwight DeJesus or Gwen Barr at gwenbarr12@gmail.com or (318) 359-1425.

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 1-800-842-4842.

Mexico/OLG Shrine

Join St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport on a journey to Mexico City, Mexico, in honor of the life and ministry of Fr. José Robles-Sánchez, to see sites significant to the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego. Fr. Charles Ray will be the spiritual director. Travel dates are November 13-18, 2023. For more information, visit www.holytravels.org/tour/stmarysmexico/ or call Magnificat Travel at 337-291-1933.

Discover Catholic Schools Week: November 12-18

Discover Catholic Schools Week will be held November 12-18, 2023.

This week is designated to help schools connect with prospective families, donors, educators, and other community members. We want to help showcase what makes Catholic schools

the best when families are looking to find the right school for them.

For more information on Discover Catholic Schools Week, visit www.ncea.org/csw/CSW/About_CSW/Discover_Catholic_Schools_Week.aspx.

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| <p>1. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.</p> <p>2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.</p> <p>3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.</p> <p>4. We provide a balanced</p> | <p>academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life.</p> <p>5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.</p> <p>6. We instill in students the value of service to others.</p> <p>7. We teach children respect of self and others.</p> <p>8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.</p> <p>9. We prepare students to</p> | <p>be productive citizens and future leaders.</p> <p>10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.</p> <p>11. We cultivate a faculty and staff who are dedicated, caring, and effective.</p> <p>12. We provide a safe, and welcoming environment for all.</p> |
|---|--|--|

REMINDER: *Political activity*

This election season, pastors and principals are reminded that any parish, school, or other Church-owned facility is NOT TO BE USED for any activity related to the support of or opposition to any candidate for political office, nor as places for partisan debate. The pulpit, especially, is NEVER to be used by candidates or incumbents to advance their political views or their positions. Moreover, the pulpit is NOT TO BE USED as a forum by any individual -- even a priest or deacon -- to support or oppose a candidate, public official, or political position.

For a full explanation of diocesan policy regarding political activity, please refer to Article 1400 on page 13 of the Diocesan Policy Manual, located on the Diocesan website.

If you have any further questions, please contact David Brook at 318-445-6424, ext. 215.



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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.



save the dates:

beyond the limits jr. high conference
December 2-3, 2023

steubenville south conference:
June 21-23, 2024

more information coming soon at
steubenvillesouth.com

We're hiring! Look for information on a part-time position in the Steubenville South Office at steubenvillesouth.com

Listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on

KLIL 92.1 KZLG 95.9

8 a.m. Sunday Mass

7 a.m. Sunday Mass

Give the Lord glory and honor.

Psalm 96: 7 | Responsorial Psalm for October 22
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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."

**Outdoor Lighted Rosary:
September 7 - October 26**

The outdoor lighted rosary at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marksville will be held at 7:00 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m. beginning Thursday, Sept. 7. The rosary is prayed every Thursday evening through Oct. 26. It is held on the parking lot next to the church hall. You may bring a lawn chair or sit in your vehicle. The lighted rosary is sponsored by Marksville Council #1217 of the Knights of Columbus.

Blessing of the Animals: October 1

St. Rita Church will have Blessing of the Animals for the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the Prayer Garden. All dogs, cats, birds, etc. are welcome to come for the blessing.

Blessing of the Animals: October 7

Join us in honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church for the Blessing of the Animals Oct. 7 at 9:00 a.m. The blessing will take place under the drive through in front of the Church. The Rite of Blessing will be led by Father Thomas Kennedy. For your safety and in courtesy to other animals, please have your animals appropriately secured as other animals and people will be present. Everyone is welcome to attend, rain or shine!

Feast for Good!: October 11

Legendary Louisiana Chef John Folse is returning to celebrate St. Mary's Residential Training School at Feast for Good. Scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 11, guests are invited to enjoy a night of fine dining at the England Airpark Community Center in Alexandria. Seating is limited, so please purchase your tickets early! Tickets are available online at www.stmarysalexandria.org or by contacting St. Mary's at 318-445-6443, ext. 2144.

fall festival
season 2023

**2023 Annual Creole Festival:
October 13 - 15**

Celebrating more than 200 years of culture, cuisine, faith, family, and friends! Join us on the grounds of St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13 for a fish fry while listening to the music of Deep Water Rehab band. On Saturday, the fun begins at 10:00 a.m., and includes a bike tour, river tour, bingo, raffles, gumbo, meat pies, tamales, and more! Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. Saturday by Father Bill Gearheard. On Sunday, activities begin again following 10:30 a.m. Mass. Music for Saturday and Sunday provided by DJ Doc Couty. Everything is family friendly! For more information, contact the church office at 318-379-2521 or watch our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/staugustineontheisle>.

**St. Joseph School Fair, Plaquemine:
October 14 - 15**

Location: St. Joseph School, Plaquemine. The fun starts after 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Oct. 14: live entertainment provided by Cajun Outlaw, Parker James Trio, Kendall Shaffer; Saturday's food includes friend catfish dinners provided by Knights of Columbus Council #2142, hamburgers, crawfish pies, funnel cakes, Carlos' famous eggrolls, tornado potatoes; Sunday's dinner: cochon de lait pork, BBQ chicken, rice dressing, yams, coleslaw roll. We'll have a silent auction and grand raffle, bingo on both days, tons of games for kids young and old! Tickets are available at the school office and local businesses. Come pass a good time with us! All proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic School, Plaquemine.

**Sacred Heart School Fair, Moreauville:
October 21 - 22**

Location: Sacred Heart School, Moreauville. Saturday: 5k Run/1 Mile Fun Color Run/\$25.00 entry fee. Contact Lindsey Lambert at 318-359-2445. Poker Run registration/\$30.00 per bike. Contact Lacey Lemoine at 318-359-9572. Following Vigil Mass: Catfish Dinners, \$10; games, Bingo, Silent Auction, inflatables for the kids, music, and lots more family fun!

Sunday: Cochon de Lait & BBQ Chicken Dinners, \$13; Silent Auction closes at 1:00 p.m. Drawing for the Grand Raffle Prizes (\$1.00 Raffle tickets): 400lb. butcher calf; Surface brand laptop computer; \$500 cash; 4x LSU vs. Texas A&M tickets; \$300 cash, MedSpa package; \$250 cash, and more! For more information, contact Karen Moreau at 318-359-1943 or the school office 318-985-2772 or email karen.moreau@shsmoreauville.com.

St. Rita Fall Festival: October 28

St. Rita Church will hold its Fall Festival at the Holy Family Center from 4:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 28. Gumbo (\$6 until sold out), hamburgers, meat pies, nachos, popcorn. Costume contest for ages 0-10 at 5:00 p.m.; Bingo and Trunk or Treat at 5:30 p.m.; Sweet Shoppe and Silent Auction Saturday, 4:00 - 8:30 p.m., and Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cabrini Fest: October 28

Join us for a day of fun at St. Frances Cabrini Church and School, Alexandria! From 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. there will be bouncy houses, a zip line, bingo with great prizes, photo booth, train rides, great music, food, and much more! Play as many classic carnival games as you like and take a chance on one or more of our enormous raffle prizes! Get your tickets for \$1.00 each or play all day with a \$30.00 bracelet. Be sure to purchase some gumbo dinner tickets ahead of time and take your supper home with you. All proceeds benefit St. Frances Cabrini School. We look forward to seeing you there!

Special Collection Date: October 8 for Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana

A special collection will be taken up for Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana. Celebrating one year of services, Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana has helped hundreds of people in need by providing Mental Health Services, Disaster Response, and Basic Needs Assistance. Their efforts have impacted over 500 individuals and families across the four deaneries of the diocese. Interns and volunteers give their time and talent; however, this work requires funds to address the physical needs of residents. The Sunday, Oct. 8, second collection is for Catholic Charities; thank you for blessing them with the means to bring the corporal works of mercy to our communities. To learn more, visit www.cccenla.org.

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Psalm 18: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for October 29
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Campus Ministry:

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

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

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

Outdoor Lighted Rosary - Sept. 7 - Oct. 26

The outdoor lighted rosary at St. Joseph Church in Marksville will be held at 7:00 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m. beginning Thursday, Sept. 7. The rosary is prayed every Thursday evening through Oct. 26. It is held on the parking lot next to the church hall. You may bring a lawn chair or sit in your vehicle. The lighted rosary is sponsored by Marksville Council #1217 of the Knights of Columbus.

Lector Formation Workshops - begin Oct. 7

The Diocese of Alexandria will be offering Lector workshops for those individuals who are interested in serving or who currently may serve as a Lector in their parish. To serve in this role, one must be of good standing with their Catholic faith and need the approval of their pastor. If you have any questions, please email or call Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org or 318-445-6424, ext. 297. All training workshops will present the same material and will last no longer than two and a half hours. Please sign up for the session that best fits your schedule at the Diocese website at www.diocesealex.org.

The tentative dates, times, and locations are: October 7, 9:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria; October 21, 9:00 a.m. at Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches; Nov. 11, 9:00 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales Church, Echo.

Bishop's Golf Tournament - Oct. 9

Bishop's Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Seminarian Education will be held Monday, Oct. 9 at Oakwing Golf Club, Alexandria. To sign up a team or to become a sponsor, contact Sandi Tarver at starver@diocesealex.org.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshops - begin Oct. 10

The next workshops for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on the dates, times, and locations below. The average time for the workshop is about three hours so please plan accordingly. The same information will be presented at each session. If you would like to sign up, please visit www.diocesealex.org or

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at 318-445-6424, ext. 207, or by email at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

The tentative dates, times, and locations are: Oct. 10, 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria; Feb. 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m. at Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church, Natchitoches; Apr. 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales Church, Echo.

Feast for Good! - Oct. 11

Legendary Louisiana Chef John Folse is returning to celebrate St. Mary's Residential Training School at Feast for Good. Scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 11, guests are invited to enjoy a night of fine dining at the England Airpark Community Center in Alexandria. Seating is limited, so please purchase your tickets early! Tickets are available online at www.stmarysalexandria.org or by contacting St. Mary's at 318-445-6443, ext. 2144.

White Coat Mass - Oct. 18

Please join us for a White Coat Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 12:05 p.m., celebrated for medical professionals and providers including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, medical technologists, lab technologists, dental hygienists, mental health practice office workers, etc.. Bishop Marshall will be the principal celebrant for this Mass. The public is invited.

Silent Directed Retreat for everyone Save the date! - Nov. 2-5

The Diocese of Alexandria, along with clergy, deacons and spiritual directors are hosting a silent retreat, "Growing In Holiness," on Nov. 2-5 at Maryhill Renewal Center. This retreat is open to all, men and women, 18 or older, who are seeking quiet reflective prayer time. This retreat will include daily Mass and adoration, daily time with a spiritual director and the sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered. It begins Thursday night and ends Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Cost of \$275 includes: private room and meals. A deposit of \$75 and a registration form is required.

Limited availability. To register contact Renée Aldridge 318-542-1966 at renee.aldrige1@gmail.com or Ingrid Canella at icnewell@yahoo.com.

The Blue Mass - Nov. 6

The Blue Mass will be celebrated on Monday, Nov. 6 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All law enforcement officers, firefighters, and medical emergency providers are invited to attend as the special honored guests. The Mass is also open to the public.

Informational meeting for the Internship in Spiritual Direction - Nov. 8

There will be two informational meetings on Wednesday, Nov. 8 via ZOOM. The first meeting will be at 10:00 a.m., and repeated again at 6:00 p.m. Trained spiritual director and Internship Instructor, Mike Van Vranken, will facilitate these meetings announcing our next Training Program in Spiritual Direction. Over the years, this program has certified over 200 spiritual directors now serving a number of dioceses in Louisiana. At this meeting we will discuss our program, its purpose, prerequisites, and structure. Learn more by attending one of these informational meetings. To register for the Zoom meetings, visit nolacatholic.org/registration or email archspiretr@arch-no.org, or call 504-861-3254.

Silent Carmelite Retreat - Nov. 10-12

The OCDS Carmelite Community of Alexandria is hosting a Silent Carmelite Retreat at Maryhill Renewal Center, northside. The theme is "The Face of God" with presenter Fr. Bill John Melancon, OCDS. Check in time is Friday, Nov. 10 at 3:00 p.m. Contact Mary Jo McCoy for more information at 318-640-6860 or 318-481-9638.

Talk on Charlene Richard - Nov. 15

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 15 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria as Father Taylor Reynolds presents a talk on Servant of God, Charlene Richard. Fr. Reynolds is a Bunkie native and pastor of St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA. Charlene Richard (1947-1959) of Richard, LA, died of leukemia. She accepted her illness for the recovery of others or that others by converted to Catholicism. "The Little Cajun Saint" had the process of her beatification and canonization as a saint opened by the Diocese of Lafayette in 2020. Fr. Reynolds will have books about her and prayer cloths available.

Church Today News Deadlines

October 23
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Oct. 12

November 27
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 16



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October 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>SEPTEMBER 25</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>Financial Peace Univ. 6:30 p.m. Virtual</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS</p>	<p>29</p> <p>FEAST of SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, and RAPHAEL, the ARCHANGELS</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP</p>	<p>OCTOBER 1</p> <p>Blessing of the Animals 2:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>
Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Fr. Ramji Shoury						
<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. J. FERGUSON</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>Financial Peace Univ. 6:30 p.m. Virtual</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lector Workshop 9:00 a.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>Blessing of the Animals 9:00 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>8</p> <p>VIRTUS 2:00 p.m. St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. M. GUIDRY</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament 12:00 p.m. Oakwing Golf Course, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Workshop 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>Financial Peace Univ. 6:30 p.m. Virtual</p> <p>Feast for Good! England Airpark Community Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>VIRTUS 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. JONES</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. KENNEDY</p>
				St. Joe School Fair -- Plaucheville		
				Creole Festival -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle		
<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>Financial Peace Univ. 6:30 p.m. Virtual</p> <p>White Coat Mass 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>VIRTUS 6:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lector Workshop 9:00 a.m. Minor Basilica, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. J. LAVERGNE</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. LEBLANC</p>
				Sacred Heart School Fair -- Moreauville		
<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. A. MANGINI</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>Financial Peace Univ. 6:30 p.m. Virtual</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Cabrini Fest 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</p> <p>Fall Festival 4:00-8:30 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>



Invitational Bishop's GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefits the Seminarian Education fund

Monday, October 9, 2023 Oakwing Golf Course

Lunch 11:00 a.m. • Tee-off time 12 noon

**4-person scramble
green fees, cart,
mulligans, range balls
and refreshments included**

Dinner after tournament

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■ **Platinum Chalice Sponsor \$2500**

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■ **Gold Chalice Sponsor \$1000**

Includes medium prominent sign, 4-person team entry, recognition in the diocesan newspaper, *The Church Today*, announcement in church bulletins.

■ **Team Sponsor \$540** Includes 4-person team entry only.

■ **Silver Sponsor \$250**

■ **Hole Sponsor \$150** Includes small sign.

Other sponsorship levels available.

**For more information,
call Sandi Tarver at (318) 445-6424, ext. 209
or starver@diocesealex.org**



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