

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LV, No. 6

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

June 24, 2024



Priestly Ordination

On Saturday, May 25, Larry Donald "Donnie" Kuzma, Jr. was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Pictured after the ordination (l to r): Father Kuzma, Bishop Robert Marshall, Father Joshua Rodrigue, Rector of Notre Dame Seminary, and Father Luke LaFleur, Diocesan Director of Vocations. Please pray for the seminarians continuing in formation and for an increase in Vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. See photos on page 9.

INSIDE

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passed through Louisiana

The Diocese of Alexandria participated in the San Juan Diego leg of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it passed through the state of Louisiana in early June. We caught up with the procession in New Orleans. See page 7 for the story and page 11 for more photos.

Catholic Charities leads in disaster readiness

With hurricane season underway and in the interest of being prepared for any natural disaster, Catholic Charities of Central LA prepared 190 firesafe "Wildfire Go Bags" to be distributed to residents affected by wildfires. See the story on page 12.

Bishop Marshall announces new deacon assignments

Four deacons receive assignments and one retires. Also, a report is available regarding the state of the diaconate in the United States, the results from a national survey conducted by Georgetown University last year. See page 5 for more.

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ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION. At the conclusion of our Corpus Christi Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, we had a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of downtown Alexandria. Thank you to all who organized and participated in the procession. In spite of a few sprinkles, our presence as the Body of Christ outside the door of the church gave witness to the community of our faith, hope, and love!

Farewell good and faithful servants!

On May 5, 2024, at a farewell reception and breakfast, the parishioners of Christ the King Church in Simmesport recognized two of the giants serving our church parish. Retiring church secretary, Belinda Rabalais and retiring president of the Ladies Altar Society, Sadie Thevis, are stepping down from their positions as of June 1. Together, these two faithful parishioners have served Christ the King for a combined 83 years. Belinda served as secretary for 38 years and Sadie served as president of the Ladies Altar Society for 45 years.

In their service, they have tended to the needs of ten priests beginning with Rev. Harvey Fortier, Msgr. Patrick Murphy, Rev. Bernie Zack, Rev. Wilbur Cloutier, Rev. James Nellikunnel, Rev. George Krosfield, Rev. Dan Corkery, Rev. Dwight Dejesus, Rev. Paul Kunnumpurum, and Rev. Kurian Zachariah.



Pictured above from left to right are John Eric Rabalais, CTK Pastoral Council President; Rev. Kurian Zachariah, Pastor; Sadie Thevis, Robert Thevis, Cindy Voiselle, incoming Ladies Altar Society President; Wayne Coco, Finance Council Chairman; Belinda Rabalais, and Krista Ducote, incoming church secretary.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS DONATE TO SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND. Presentation of check by the officers of Catholic Daughters of the Americas' Court Bishop Desmond #1459 for the Diocese of Alexandria's Seminarians Education Fund on June 6. From left to right: Lori Paulk, Treasurer; Marilyn D. Price, Regent-Elect; Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.; Ona Wilson, Regent; Reverend Luke LaFleur, Director of Vocations and Seminarians.

Catechetical Formation Enrichment Day, set for Sept. 28

Join us Saturday, September 28 to dive into the vision for the ministry God has placed you in, the community around you, and the tools you'll need to get to work. Learn more at steubenvillesouth.com, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on this Catechetical Formation Enrichment Day, offered to all those who perform Catechetical ministries in the Diocese of Alexandria, as well as those youth ministers at this summer's Steubenville South Conference. Registration opens July 30.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp officials overjoyed as namesake heads toward canonization

*By Colleen Rowan
Executive Editor of
The Catholic Spirit
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

(OSV News) — Its mission is to lead young people to a deep relationship with Jesus Christ through his church. And the Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp does just that each summer for young Catholics in West Virginia.

Set deep in the southern region of the state in the small town of Huttonsville amid the breathtaking mountains of Randolph County, the camp has offered generations of children and young people the opportunity to grow closer to Christ while enjoying the summer camp experience. And the last three years of this ministry has been presented to young Catholics reflecting the love of and dedication to the Most Blessed Sacrament that the teenage boy, for whom the camp is named, had in his life.

“It’s no coincidence that as we begin preparing for an incredible summer of Catholic camping, that our namesake should formally be on the way to canonization,” said Nick Chancey, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Discipleship for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

“Blessed Carlo Acutis loved Jesus in such a unique and beautiful way, most especially in the real presence of the Blessed Sacrament,” he said. “It’s unique, in part, because he was so young and had very few people around him to support him in his work and in his devotion to the Eucharist.”

“I think many of the young people who come to our camp can relate to that, especially in the face of an ever-secularizing world,” he told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the statewide diocese. “What better way then, than to bring them together in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia, where they can have fun, make lifelong friendships, and come to know our Lord the same deeply intimate way that Blessed Carlo did, in the Eucharist.”

Pope Francis will hold a consistory with cardinals in Rome July 1 for the final approval of the canonization of several sainthood candidates, including

Blessed Carlo Acutis, according to the master of papal liturgical ceremonies. The date or dates for the canonizations could be announced during the ceremony.

Activities at Camp Carlo include a high ropes course, a giant swing, swimming, water slide, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, fishing, canoeing, field games and more. At the center is Christ, camp officials said, “and humbling ourselves in front of the true presence of our Lord during



Blessed Carlos Acutis

Mass and adoration.”

The camp was founded 59 years ago by the late Father Leon Alexander as the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s youth camp with the title Camp Tygart. After a few named changes throughout the years, the camp was renamed Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp in 2021 in honor of the first millennial to be beatified. With the new name came a new motto: “Cum Ipso in monte” (With Him on the Mountain), referencing the Transfiguration, according to the Camp Carlo website. It further notes, “A reflection of the Transfiguration, life at Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp draws young people into direct encounter with the divinity of Christ.”

Blessed Carlo, being an incredible figure of what young holiness can look like, shows young Catholics that they too can be saints, Chancey said.

“We now have this beautiful modern example,” Chancey said. “This 21st-century boy who devoted his whole life, his whole being really to promoting



WEST VIRGINIA SUMMER CAMP NAMED AFTER CARLOS ACUTIS CELEBRATES CANONIZATION NEWS.

A young girl shows her Eucharistic artwork at Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp in Huttonsville, W.Va., in this undated photo. (OSV News photo/courtesy of Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp)

the Blessed Sacrament in the Eucharist. What better figure for us, whose primary goal is the evangelization of young people, than Blessed Carlo Acutis. And that love and that devotion that he had for Jesus in the Eucharist — that’s what we’re hoping to instill in these young people.”

Upon learning of the news that Pope Francis had recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Carlo Acutis, clearing the way for him to be formally recognized as a saint, Camp Carlo’s new director Kara Milinovich was overwhelmed with excitement.

“Having a young person so passionate for their faith and our Eucharistic Lord is wonderful but having them canonized so close to their death is incredible!” she said. “What an example for each of us.”

Kara co-directs the camp with her husband, Steve. The ministry of the camp, she said, reflects the life of Blessed Carlo and his love of the Most Blessed Sacrament in many ways.

“At Camp Carlo, we are blessed with busy priests from the diocese coming to (celebrate) daily Mass, hear confessions, and offer adoration and benediction this summer,” she said. “Camp

Carlo has the Eucharist at the center of camp life. As Catholics we are blessed with Jesus truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity. And at camp we celebrate and embrace this. Blessed Carlo made Mass and adoration the key part of his day and, at camp, we do too.”

The camp is open to high school students and children in grades three to 12. Campers are led by 14 young adults who serve as camp counselors. According to the camp website, all staff members are required to comply with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Safe Environment protocol. The Safe Environment protocol entails a background check, acknowledgement of the diocese’s policy relating to abuse, and completion of awareness training. They also receive a code of conduct for working with and supervising children and are educated regarding the state of West Virginia’s 24-hour reporting requirement.

As the camp looks to have a successful summer, Chancey is looking to add a permanent tribute to the camp’s namesake. He is currently in talks with a Catholic artist who has provided a rendering of a Blessed Carlo

statue, “hopefully soon to be St. Carlo Acutis statue,” he said.

As for a possible location, Chancey envisions the statue to stand at the center of the camp’s small courtyard, saying, “That really is the heart of the camp.”

It’s the perfect place to honor a boy who loved Christ so much and was so drawn to the Most Blessed Sacrament and Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist.

SAVE THE DATE! Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference set for Dec. 7

Calling all middle school students! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join us at Beyond the Limits, Jr. High Conference on Saturday, December 7 to be illuminated in the light of Christ.

All students in grades 6–8 are invited to attend this retreat with their parish youth group. Learn more soon at steubenvillesouth.com, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

Father Francis Xavier Kronemeyer

“Father of the Eastern Deanery” helped establish the Church in eastern Louisiana

Fr. Francis Xavier Kronemeyer, a German priest, served as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Vidalia from 1923 until his death in 1949.

Born in Uelzen, Germany on June 1, 1888, Francis Kronemeyer studied in Holland and Austria from 1899 to 1912. He was ordained a priest for the Society of the Divine Word in Moedling, Austria on September 29, 1911 and was sent as a missionary to the then German colony in New Guinea in 1912.

At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, he was transferred to the Philippine Islands. By 1918, his health had deteriorated and he was sent to the United States. Unaccustomed to community life and restless in the classroom, Fr. Kronemeyer sought transfer to a missionary diocese and petitioned Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven of Alexandria to receive him. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Alexandria in 1924. At the time of his appointment by Bishop Van de Ven, the parish of Vidalia served two missions, in St. Joseph and Waterproof, LA. Fr. Kronemeyer took up residence in a small three-room rectory and set to work with the zeal and energy of a true missionary. This remarkable man began, in 1924, to gather in and organize the Catholics in the area of the civil parishes of Concordia, Catahoula, Tensas, Franklin and LaSalle. Many had not seen a priest for many years.

In addition to serving



Father Francis X. Kronemeyer

Vidalia, he opened missions in Ferriday, Winnsboro and Harrisonburg. Beginning in Ferriday, Fr. Kronemeyer began offering Mass once a month in a private home with about seven people attending. A plot of land was donated for the erection of a small chapel and by the end of 1924 the first chapel was built.

In 1934, the church in Ferriday was destroyed by a tornado and had to be rebuilt. In 1927 LaSalle Parish was detached from Vidalia and placed under the care of the Cathedral in Alexandria. In 1935 Franklin Parish and the church at

Winnsboro were detached from Vidalia. In 1940 the mission of St. Joseph in St. Joseph, Louisiana was erected as an independent parish by Bishop Desmond and placed under the care of the Josephite Fathers. In all of these places the groundwork had been laid through the efforts of Fr. Kronemeyer.

He was pastor in Vidalia during the moving of the town in 1939-1940 and supervised the moving of the church and rectory to the present site which was donated by Dr. Magoun. In 1945 Fr. Kronemeyer's health began to fail and he was forced to give up teaching the catechism classes he so loved.

On January 1, 1949, Fr. Kronemeyer realized his dream of completing 25 years of service as pastor in Vidalia; a place he had come to identify with completely and for which he had given his life. With that sense of completion, “having finished the work he had been given to do”, Fr. Kronemeyer died on the steps of the rectory on February 5, 1949. After the funeral Mass his body was laid to rest in Natchez. Those who remember him recall that he was a shy man with a quiet sense of humor and a heavy German accent that never left him. His record reveals a conscientious



RELOCATION OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA. The church after it was moved. The whole town had to be relocated due to the construction of a new levee and that is why there are no trees or shrubs. The other buildings are unrelated to the church.

man filled with faith and a zeal for souls. The parishes he helped establish now form the Eastern Deanery of the Diocese and so he can truly be called the ‘Father of the Eastern Deanery’.

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HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS for July 2024

*For the
pastoral care of the sick:*

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it, and their loved ones, the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

Deacon Assignments

The Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Jr., Bishop of Alexandria, has made the following diaconal appointments, to be effective on June 30, 2024.



Deacon Harlan Mark Guidry
St. Anthony of Padua Church,
Natchitoches



Deacon James Lee Moreau
Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
Winnfield



Deacon Paul T. Sunderhaus
St. Martin Church, Lecompte
and Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Forest Hill



Deacon Chad A. Thibodeaux
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate
Conception, Natchitoches



Deacon LG Deloach
Retiring from active
diaconal ministry



Upcoming Retreats:
August 8 - 11, 2024
Men's Acts Retreat
for more information
OLPS at (318) 445-3693

All retreats are held at Maryhill
Renewal Center.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, July 17, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center
ALEXANDRIA

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

*Our eyes
are fixed
on the Lord,
pleading for
His mercy.*

Psalm 123: 2
Responsorial Psalm
for July 7
Fourteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Annual survey gives insight into State of the Permanent Diaconate in the Church

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations has released its annual survey, A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate in 2023: A Study for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Since 2005, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University has conducted this survey which provides important statistics and forecasting trends on the state of the permanent diaconate in the Church in the United States.

Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations expressed his gratitude for the service of permanent deacons in the Church: "An important part of the life of deacons has been their service of the poor or vulnerable by bringing them the love of Christ and guidance. The faithful and tireless witness of deacons is greatly appreciated, and it challenges each of us to strive to serve our neighbor better. I invite the faithful to pray and support deacons in their efforts to spread the Word of God and serve those who are many times the least, the last and the lost."

The survey utilized contact information from the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) and was sent to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in the Latin and Eastern Rite (arch)dioceses and eparchies. In total, CARA received

responses from 128 of the 185 (arch)dioceses/eparchies whose bishops are members of the USCCB and have an active Office of Deacons, for a 69% response rate.

The estimated number of permanent deacons in active ministry was 13,718 in 2023, roughly 69% of all permanent deacons in the Latin Church.

The Archdiocese of Chicago had the greatest number of permanent deacons (827) followed by Galveston-Houston (346), New York (357), and Joliet in Illinois (307).

There were 587 men ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2023. Since 2014, the estimated number of ordinations averaged 613.

Most active deacons are between 60-69 years old (42%) followed by deacons 70 and older (36%).

Most permanent deacons are Caucasian/white (73%) followed by Hispanic/Latino (20%), Asian/Pacific Islander (3%), African American/black (3%), and Native American/other (1%).

Active permanent deacons most commonly serve in a parish ministerial position, such as a DRE or youth minister (23%), followed by a parish non-ministerial position, such as administration or business (20%), diocesan non-ministerial positions (12%). Additionally, 9% were entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes, 8% serve in prison ministry and hospital ministry.

The Diocese of Alexandria participated in this survey. We have 30 active deacons with 14 deacon aspirants in formation.

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

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Fete-Dieu du Mississippi Eucharistic procession set for Aug. 14-15

The Tenth Annual Eucharistic Boat Procession, born on the Bayou, this year will jump ship to the River!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime cultural and religious event! Families, parishes and pilgrims are encouraged to gather at revival sites along the river for prayer and reception of the blessing. Lead your own pilgrimage to an area safe for watching the procession pass on the river.

The extraordinary procession will begin on Wednesday, August 14 at 8:00 a.m. with a Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist by Bishop Michael Duca, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Baton Rouge. Following Mass there will be a procession to the Mississippi River where the 130-mile journey and blessing will commence. The boat procession will pass Plaquemine at about 12:36 p.m. and Donaldsonville at approximately 3:50 p.m. and is slated to arrive at Convent, LA at about 5:40 p.m. where there will



be a procession to the historic St. Michael Church for all-night adoration. Join in Adoration or attend one of the revivals in each town on the route.

On Thursday, August 15 at 8:45 a.m. there will be a procession from St. Michael's back to the river dock. At 10:00 a.m., the boats will depart for New Orleans. The procession will pass Luling at about 1:40 p.m. and Audubon Park at about 3:40 p.m. and arrive at about 4:25 p.m. in the French Quarter where we'll a Great Benediction on the levee in front of Jackson Square, followed by a procession into St. Louis

Cathedral for the final blessing and Solemn Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Archbishop Gregory Aymond.

The 2-day festivities will conclude with a celebration in Jackson Square at 7:30 p.m.

To register for the all-night vigil and find more information visit www.fetedieuduteche.org or email us at fetedieuduteche@gmail.com Companies who desire to register boats should contact Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC at frchampagne@yahoo.com No small crafts will be allowed this year.

We hope to see you there!

Extraordinary Minister Workshop

July 27, 2024

St. Patrick Church, Ferriday

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

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Diocese of Alexandria participants join National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

The National Eucharistic Congress happening July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis is ready to welcome thousands of pilgrims to the 10th Annual Congress. However, before this powerful weekend of transformation occurs, a historic journey of the Blessed Sacrament is taking place.

Four Eucharistic processions are crossing the United States leading up to the National Eucharistic Congress. These four routes will travel across 1,000 host cities over a period of 60 days for a total of 6,500 miles traveled. The St. Juan Diego Route, which started at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Brownsville, TX, traversed the state of Louisiana with stops in Dioceses along the I-10 corridor.

On Friday, June 7, Bishop Robert Marshall led a group of 56 pilgrims from the Diocese of Alexandria to New Orleans. The group departed by bus, stopping along the way for a wonderful meal and fellowship at Don's Seafood in Gonzales. After traveling the remainder of the way, the group checked into the hotel to settle in and refresh before departing for Notre Dame Seminary where they joined other pilgrims from across the region for the Eucharistic Procession from the seminary to St. Rita's Catholic Church.

The Eucharistic Procession

started at 6:30 p.m. and was led by Archbishop Gregory Aymond, with Archbishop Hughs and Bishop Marshall in procession. Included in the procession were servers of the Archdiocese, members of the Knights of Columbus, Knights of Peter Claver, The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and other religious organizations. The voices of the faithful rang out as hymns were sung during the procession, the crowd was so large that you could hear the singing echo as it traveled throughout the procession. It was estimated that over 800 people accompanied the Blessed Sacrament to St. Rita's church, where it was overflowing with adorers as people stood both inside and outside. With periods of silent adoration, music, reflection from one of the national pilgrims, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Benediction, the time at St. Rita's was one of true Revival in Spirit. One of our local pilgrims described the experience as "Such a great blessing! It was truly special and spiritually uplifting to experience this event in community with fellow believers from our Diocese and beyond. I am so glad I was able to take part."

After the events at St. Rita's, our group gathered back at the hotel for continued fellowship, and reflection of the day's events. There we were treated to a

charcuterie board that covered an entire 6-foot table, with various selection of meats, cheeses, fruits, nuts, and simply too much to mention! The next morning after breakfast, the group departed the hotel for the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor on State Street in New Orleans. There we took part in a planned private tour of the Shrine, and listened to the historical roots of the Ursuline Sisters and the church, and joined in the Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Marshall. At the conclusion of mass, a private tour of the museum was offered where relics of the days of old were on display, highlighting the rich history of the Ursuline sisters in New Orleans. After the tour, the pilgrims boarded the bus and journeyed back to Alexandria, where the Bishop said a final blessing and our part in the route of the Eucharistic Pilgrimage concluded.

Thanks to a generous gift from Catholic Home Missions, the cost of the trip was subsidized to an affordable rate for all who attended. Please, the next time you hear of a second collection for Catholic Home Missions, your support would be greatly appreciated.

For more information on the National Eucharistic Revival, Pilgrimage, and Congress, please visit eucharisticrevival.org.



(above) **OLPS SHRINE.** Pilgrims from the Diocese of Alexandria on the steps of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Shrine, New Orleans.

(left) **BISHOP MARSHALL CELEBRATES MASS DURING PILGRIMAGE.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Shrine on Saturday, June 9.

(below) **PROCESSION OF HUNDREDS.** A procession of hundreds makes its way through the streets of New Orleans as they participate in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.





VBS ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE held its Vacation Bible School from June 10-14. At “Breaker Rock Beach VBS”, kids were challenged as they discovered God’s truth never changed and everyone needs Jesus. The adventures continued each day as kids explored the immovable Breaker Rock!



SISTER EVELYN HALSEY, FORMER TEACHER AT ST. RITA SCHOOL IN ALEXANDRIA. In Louisville for the USCCB Plenary Assembly, Bishop Robert Marshall took the opportunity to visit the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky to catch up with two sisters who were his teachers in grade school. While there, he was also fortunate to meet up with Sister Evelyn Halsey, SCN (formerly Sister Alice William) who incidentally was a teacher many years ago at St. Rita School here in Alexandria. She is now 109 years old and recently celebrated her 90th jubilee as a religious sister. Thank you, Sister Evelyn, for your dedicated service in Alexandria and in many other places, for the witness of your 90 years of religious life, and for the example of your faith in Jesus Christ!

*Lord, let us see
your kindness,
and grant us
your salvation.*

Psalm 85: 8
Responsorial Psalm
for July 14
Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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Priestly Ordination of Fr. Donnie Kuzma

Father Donnie Kuzma was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, May 25 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Father Luke LaFleur, Vocations Director for the diocese, served as the vesting priest and seminarian, Matthew Bonner was the lector. Father Joshua Rodriguez, Rector of Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, was in attendance.

Your continued prayers are appreciated as Fr. Kuzma begins his priestly ministry for the diocese. His first assignment as parochial vicar is at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville.



PRIEST ORDINATION. Bishop Robert Marshall performs the laying on of hands portion of the rite of ordination.



The ordinand lays prostrate during the litany.



Fr. Luke LaFleur assists in vesting.



PRIEST ORDINATION. Fr. Donnie Kuzma gives Bishop Marshall the first blessing.

Seminarian Burses

May 2024 Donations

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Dr. and Mrs. Harris Poret	\$25.00
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--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman



Supper with the Seminarians is taking a break this summer

We will be back next Summer! The Seminarians are extremely grateful for the generous support you have shown at these events and for your prayers. If you would like to support their education this year, you can send donations by check to:

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The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 23: 1
Responsorial Psalm for July 21
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Confirmation & First Communion



ST. MARY CHURCH, WINNSBORO. On Wednesday, May 29, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Mary's Church in Winnsboro. Three young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Jason Gootee, Seminarian Matthew Kramer, the catechists, sponsors, parents, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SIMMESPORT. On Thursday, May 30, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Christ the King Church in Simmesport. Six young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Kurian Zachariah, Deacon Jason Lavergne, the catechists, sponsors, parents and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE. On Friday, May 31, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the final Confirmation Mass of the 2024 spring season at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville. Fifteen young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Dale Meade, Deacons Jason Lavergne and Lee Moreau, Seminarian Blaine Phillips, and the parishioners for their kind welcome and for their prayers and support of the Confirmandi.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, FIRST COMMUNION. On Sunday on May 19 Alonzo [redacted], Jasmine [redacted] and Abe [redacted] were presented crucifixes after mass by Reverend Louis Sklar.



(below) ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. On June 2, 2024, seven children received their First Communion at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. This is the last communion class before the restoration of the church in Bunkie begins.



LEGION OF MARY CURIA, MAY CROWNING, Saturday, May 4 at St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria. Participants from Cabrini in Alexandria, St Juliana in Alexandria and St Anthony's in Bunkie participated in the annual ACIES renewal of consecration to the Blessed Mother.

BLESSING OF THE BOATS. Fr. Taylor Reynolds, pastor of St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA, offered the blessing of the boats Sunday, May 26 of Memorial Day weekend at Netterville Landing Marina on Lake Bruin in Tensas Parish near the Mississippi River.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD. The catechism classes of Our Lady of Lourdes , Winnfield, enjoyed an end of the year party. The gathering had a great time on a waterside!

The youth of Our Lady of Lourdes Church enjoyed an end of the year party with a trip to Surge in West Monroe. It was a day filled with bowling, zip lining, mountain climbing, Ninja Warrior climbing, laser tag and video games.



National Eucharistic Pilgrimage



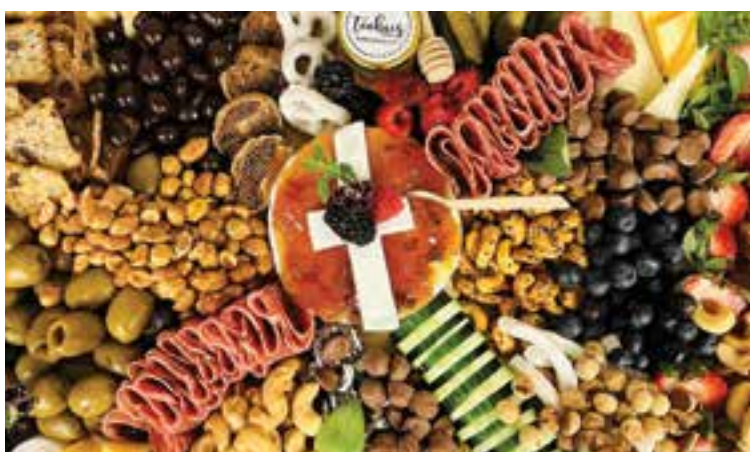
NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE. More images from the San Juan Diego leg of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it passed through New Orleans, June 7-8.

(above) Hannah Morgan, Executive Assistant to the Office of Development, shares a view of pilgrims during the procession to St. Rita Church in New Orleans.

(left) Lay people and religious participate in the procession.

(below left) The impressive charcuterie board the hotel prepared for our pilgrims from the Diocese of Alexandria.

(below) Another angle of the hundreds participating in the procession as they walked through the streets of New Orleans on their way to St. Rita Church.



Catholic Charities: a core lead in Central Louisiana's disaster readiness

by Cynthia Hawthorne,
CCCLA Disaster Relief
Volunteer

Let me share with you a little about our Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is a member of the 168 Catholic Charities agencies united in faith and mission to serve our communities. CCUSA operates in 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 5 territories offering programs to assist individuals in improving and restoring their lives. CCUSA is the official Domestic Relief Agency of the US Catholic Church that provides support to communities before and after a disaster strikes. In 2022, CCUSA distributed 9 million dollars as one of our nation's major Response Teams. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana received relief dollars from CCUSA to assist in the long-term relief and recovery support for Central Louisiana following Hurricane Laura. That is just one example of the many ways CCUSA answers the call to assist Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana in helping our community.

The ferocity of the Derecho

that hit Houston with wind speeds 75 to 100 mph illustrates the increasing need to prepare for natural disasters and human disasters that may strike our communities. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana offers a 3-part Disaster Preparedness Program to assist families, parishes, and communities in adapting responses to fit their needs. Part 1 focuses on individuals and families making disaster plans to reduce anxiety, reduce potential damage, and to better protect our households and families. Some of the issues addressed include getting Emergency Warnings, shelter or evacuation plans, and checklist for supplies, emergency papers and even pet needs. Part 2 focuses on securing Parish Operations and protecting the church, so it is available to serve the parish with Mass, sacraments, and parish needs. Part 3 Sharing our Gifts is a call to reach back out to our community with time, talent, and resources during a disaster. Our faith tells us in 1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Disaster



WILDFIRE GO BAGS. CCCLA staff and volunteers prepared 190 firesafe "Wildfire Go Bags" to be distributed in Vernon Parish communities like Acacoco, Sundown and Leesville. The bags are distributed to residents by local fire agencies during a wildfire emergency. The backpacks include first aid kits, N95 mask, flashlights/batteries, flash drive for documents, fire safe document zip bag, solar battery charger, bottled water, small bags of pet food.

Planning is one way to use our gifts for family and community.

The variety and magnitude of floods, storms, wildfires, and natural disasters striking our country means we must take

the steps to follow God's call for us to be neighbor helping neighbor. Check out how you can be Disaster Prepared by going to www.cccenla.org for a link to Disaster Relief, then, scroll down

to CDPP Video Series or go to YouTube Catholic Charities USA: Disaster Preparedness Series for Individuals & families (part 1).

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www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/resource/cdpp/

If interested in supporting preparedness in your parish, please email info@cccenla.org

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- **La Dept of Transportation & Development/Road Closures & Evacuation Routes** information - www.511la.org or dial 511.
- **Louisiana Get a Plan/Disaster planning**, prepare for mitigation and ways to get thru a disaster - <https://www.getagameplan.org/make-a-plan/family-plan/>
- **Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Guide** - https://gohsep.la.gov/media/epguide/EmergencyPreparednessGuide_2024.pdf
- **Weather Wireless Emergency Alert** - <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>.
- **LA Department of Health/Emergency Preparedness** - <https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/17>
- **Disaster SNAP Enrollment** - <https://www.dcs.louisiana.gov/page/dsnap>
- **FEMA Preparedness** - <https://www.ready.gov/>

Hurricane Preparedness weather.gov/hurricane

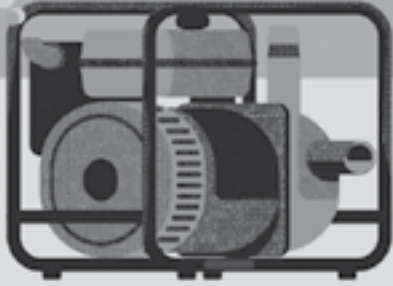



Prepare Before Hurricane Season

- Develop an evacuation plan
- Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cash
- Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions
- Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts
- Strengthen your home



Generator Safety Tips

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- 2 Do NOT use your generator:**
 - Inside an enclosed structure like a garage.
 - Within 20 feet of your home.
- 3 Cool before refuel!**
Turn off the generator and wait 15 minutes before refueling to reduce risk of accidental fire.
- 4 Stay Alert!**
Place at least one battery-operated carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home near bedrooms. Call 911 if the alarm goes off.
- 5 Protect your household.**
If you or someone else experiences headaches, dizziness, or confusion, immediately vacate your home and go to your nearest healthcare provider.

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*

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Psalm 145: 16
Responsorial Psalm for July 28
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Newlyweds who became Martyred Saints

by **Robbie Simon**
www.chastity.com

In the early days of Christianity, many Catholics suffered for the holy faith. The Roman emperor Diocletian, who ruled from 284 to 305, was an especially brutal executor of the followers of Christ. On one particular day, he had a Catholic young man named Timothy arrested and thrown in jail. He was charged with being “a keeper and copyist of divine books”; that is, Timothy was a reader during special liturgies at Church, and he kept and made copies of sacred texts used for the worship of God. Now, the emperor Diocletian had ordered that all such books were to be confiscated and burned, so soldiers brought Timothy before a pagan governor who demanded that this Christian man hand over the sacred books. Timothy refused to obey this unlawful command, and as a result, he was subjected to horrible tortures: he had white-hot irons shoved in his ears; he was blinded and his eyelids were cut off; he was hung upside-down with a stone around his neck. Indeed, so extreme did his tortures become that even his torturers implored the governor to ease up. And yet Timothy preferred enduring all these tortures to denying Christ.

At about this time, the pagan governor was told by assistants that Timothy had a young wife named Maura, who was married to him just twenty days beforehand. Upon hearing this, the governor immediately demanded that his wife be brought to the scene in order to break the will and spirit of Timothy. If he couldn't tempt him to deny Christ for his own sake, thought the pagan governor Arian, surely he could induce him to give in to apostatizing for Maura's sake. When Maura arrived, Arian appealed to Maura's hopes and dreams to try to persuade her to get Timothy to apostatize. “After all,” insisted Arian, “you've only been married for three weeks. Don't you want to live the life you've been promised? Don't you want to raise a family with your husband, to grow old with him? All Timothy has to do is hand over the Scriptures and he will be set free to live in peace

to a happy old age with you.” Timothy, however, urged his wife to remain faithful and to not fear the torturers. Faced with this dilemma, Maura boldly declared to her husband, “I am prepared to die with you.” She courageously professed that she too was a Christian and would prefer death over a life lived apart from Christ.

Enraged, the pagan governor commanded that her hair be torn from her head, and her fingers cut off. Various other tortures were employed, but all to no avail. Timothy and Maura remained faithful. Finally, the governor ordered that they be crucified upon crosses that faced directly across from each other.

As they hung upon these crosses facing each other, they mutually supported one another by praying together, singing hymns, and encouraging each other as they suffered for Christ. When one was weak, the other would be strong, reminding the beloved of what Jesus suffered for them and of the LORD's promise of everlasting life. After ten days of incredible fortitude and fidelity to Christ displayed by the two of them, both found themselves welcomed into the

kingdom of God as glorious martyrs. This incredible witness of their courage and abiding joy so inspired their torturer that he soon became a Christian, was later martyred himself, and is now venerated in the Eastern Church as St. Arian of Alexandria!

Though they were married for less than a month, Saints Timothy and Maura displayed an incredible understanding of — and witness to — the purpose of marriage. Far more important than growing old

together with your spouse and having your romantic dreams fulfilled in your relationship, marriage is ultimately meant to be a martyrdom of sacrificial witness to Christ. Spouses ought to challenge and encourage one another to ever more closely follow Christ, enduring both suffering and joy together in doing so, with their ultimate goal being to present their best friend before the Lord as spotless and holy, worthy of sharing in the glorious inheritance of the saints (cf. Eph. 5:26-27).

And so, how stunningly beautiful is the married couple that models this mutual love for Christ and desires their spouse to

be united with the Lord more than anything else for them! In other words, how beautiful are spouses who each love God more than they love each other, and hence their love for each other is driven by the ultimate desire to see their spouse united with God! Because Saints Timothy and Maura both had this greater love for God than for each other, and hence they each submitted themselves to the mission of getting each other to heaven, they were able to encourage one another through unimaginable pain and suffering; indeed, their suffering became a cause of rejoicing as they sang hymns together during their crucifixions, for their hope of seeing the other united with

God was being fulfilled in their becoming glorious martyrs of Jesus Christ.

As Saints Timothy and Maura so wonderfully model, when couples live out the Sacrament of Matrimony in all its beautiful potential, it enables man and woman to make visible the mystery of Christ's faithful and sacrificial love for his Church. Modern married couples, therefore, are called to bear the same witness to this mystery before the world through a life of chastity within marriage (using the gift of their sexuality according to God's designs). Though this is not always easy,

See **NEWLYWEDS** on next page...



A VOICE FROM THE HEART

by Marcus Descant

Oh heart of love, oh heart divine,
what can I do to make you mine?

I look to the left, I look to the right,
to get help from Him to fight the good fight.

Many times I'm down and all looks dim,
but I know I can make it when I look at Him.
He gives me strength through His gentle love,
and I will follow it through until I am with Him above.

My ups and downs are such a strife,
but I know He is the only way to eternal life.

lizdescant@gmail.com

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NEWLYWEDS

Continued from previous page:

the times it is difficult can become precisely the sources of greatest joy for the spouses, as the two of you are suffering as witnesses to Christ to the world. And, just like the witness that Saints Timothy and Maura provided for St. Arian, you never know who might become the next holy convert to the faith because of the beautiful witness to Christ that you and your spouse are providing for the world!

Saints Timothy, Maura, and Arian, pray for us!

Robbie Simon hails from Redondo Beach, California and is a recent graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is currently serving as a missionary in Toledo, Ohio with The Culture Project, a Catholic organization dedicated to speaking to teenagers and young adults on the topics of love, sex, and relationships.

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HOLY SAVIOR MENARD JUNIOR HIGH. Friday, May 17, 8th grade Mass.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SHS'S EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES!



SACRED HEART SCHOOL STUDENTS THANK THE CAFETERIA STAFF. Sr. Kalen Sarmiento's PK4 A class showed their gratitude to the SHS cafeteria staff. We at Sacred Heart School appreciate all that the cafeteria staff does for our school. The cafeteria staff reaches our students twice a day by providing nutritious meals daily.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. St. Joseph Lady Eagles made it to State Softball Tournament semi-finals in Sulphur. Last year they were State Runner-up. The state tournament was held April 26-27. Congratulations Lady Eagles!



LSUA 2024 GRADUATES. LSUA Catholic Center's grads include Carson Dausat, Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology; Emily Galindo, Bachelor of Science in Biology; Max Mallach, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Jonathan Hotard; Bachelor of Arts in History. Other CSO members from LSUA and LCU also graduated this semester but are not pictured.



ST. MARTIN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #12103 OF LECOMPTE provided the Wednesday meal recently for the LSUA Catholic Center. Pictured are Dale Hebert, Bill Wood, Fr. Daniel Hart and Tim Hart.

US bishops pass new youth, young adult pastoral framework

The first in nearly 30 years

By Ruby Thomas

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (OSV News) — Just days after the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops met June 12-14 for their Spring Plenary Assembly in Louisville, the bishops finally achieved the threshold needed to pass their national pastoral framework to guide ministries with youth and young adults.

Despite overwhelming support, the pastoral framework had originally failed by two votes to cross the two-thirds majority threshold needed to pass at the bishops' meeting June 14 after too many individual bishops had already left for their home dioceses by the time the vote was taken that morning.

After canvassing the bishops eligible to vote, 10 more votes in favor had been secured by late June 17, allowing "Listen, Teach, Send: A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults" to finally pass, according to a June 18 USCCB news release.

As of the close of June 17, the vote on "Listen, Teach, Send" was 188 in favor, four against and four abstentions.

Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, chair of the bishops' Committee

on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, presented the pastoral framework that will aid pastors, ministry leaders and families. During his June 13 presentation, the bishop said his committee had engaged in "concerted listening" with youth and young adults, pastoral ministers, families and bishops.

"What we heard was a strong desire to develop a framework that was streamlined and straightforward — one that could be used not just by pastors and pastoral ministers, but also by families and by young people themselves who can evangelize and guide their peers to Christ," said Bishop Barron. "We heard a desire to name and address issues including sexuality, mental health, disaffiliation, racial justice, polarization and the desire of so many young people to transform our society."

Bishop Barron went on to share with the bishops, "Most importantly, we heard that we cannot be silent or inactive when it comes to the engagement and accompaniment of youth and young adults."

He said the committee's hope is that the framework — modeled on the story of the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus found in

Luke's Gospel — will offer "new life" to youth ministers.

Bishop Barron said to the bishops that the 1993 World Youth Day gathering in Denver and the release of two national frameworks on youth and young adults around 30 years ago constituted the "last major moment for our church's work with these age groups. Since then, frankly, enthusiasm has waned while disaffiliation has risen."

The committee hopes that "Listen, Teach, Send" together with Pope Francis' encouragement in the 2018 Synod on Young People and his 2019 post-synodal apostolic exhortation "Christus Vivit" can produce "another watershed moment," Bishop Barron said. The framework also includes a letter to young people from the bishops imitating Pope Francis' letter in "Christus Vivit" with a summons to "missionary discipleship and Christ-like leadership."

Bishop Barron described the new framework as "a summons to the church to renew her engagement with youth and young adults" imitating Jesus on the journey to Emmaus.

Like Jesus in the Gospel story, "We are called deeply to listen to the realities facing young people ... to teach in a new way ... and finally, to send youth and young adults forth," as they follow God's call in their mission to transform the world, he said.

Michal Horace, who leads the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Youth and Young Adults, told The Record, the

archdiocesan newspaper, that his office is "excited" about this new framework.

"It'll invigorate the field and remind folks that everyone is a youth minister," he said in an interview prior to the framework's passage. "The best thing is it takes what we learned — from the synod on youth, the fruit of 'Christus Vivit,' V Encuentro — and brings it all together."

Horace said the story of the road to Emmaus has long been his model for doing youth ministry. He was pleased to see that the national framework is modeled on the Gospel story as well, he said.

"Jesus was such a great model. He listened first to figure out their situation and what they needed," he said. "It's a great model for all of us."

According to the USCCB, the promulgation of "Listen, Teach, Send" comes on the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' message to young people in "Christus Vivit."

In a June 18 statement, Bishop Barron said the Emmaus story provided the inspiration and guide to the development of the pastoral framework and was a story Pope Francis also frequently emphasized as a model for ministry.

"Jesus gave us a wonderful example of how to accompany youth and young adults on their paths of life through the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus," Bishop Barron said.

"Like the Lord on the road

to Emmaus, we first listen to the stories, joys, and concerns of those we encounter along the way. We respond with dynamic, kerygmatic (effectively sharing the core message of Jesus Christ), and heartfelt teaching that shares the light of Christ and seeks to bring about a conversion of heart," he said. "And finally, we set the conditions in our ministries and families to send the young forth to follow God's call for their lives, so that they might transform the world with love."

Prior to "Listen, Teach, Send," the U.S. bishops pastorally addressed youth, young adult, and college young adult ministries in "A Vision for Youth Ministry" (1976); "Empowered by the Spirit" (1985); "Sons and Daughters of the Light" (1996); and "Renewing the Vision" (1997).

The bishops' 2023 national plan for Hispanic/Latino ministry "Missionary Disciples Going Forth with Joy" also addressed Hispanic/Latino youth and young adult ministries.

Ruby Thomas is a staff writer for The Record, the Archdiocese of Louisville's newspaper. OSV News staff contributed to this report.

Campus Ministry:

LSU of Alexandria:

LSUA Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956
Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @lsuacatholics

Northwestern State University:

NSU Catholic Student Organization
FOCUS Ministries
Contact Holy Cross Church:
(318) 352-2615

Louisiana Christian University:

LCU Catholic Student Organization
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Summer Camp for Youth, Plaquemine - July 1-3

Join us for a fun Summer Camp for Youth at Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine. Theme is "Look to Him and be RADIANT." Open to children 4-7 years old from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and for kids 8-11 years old from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per child. To register go online to tinyurl.com/r9y5arxu

Vacation Bible School, MBIC at St. Mary's Catholic School, Natchitoches - July 8-11

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. to be held at St. Mary's Catholic School for any kid ages Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Theme is "Who is My Neighbor? Learning to Love Like Jesus." Snacks will be provided. No cost to attend. To register, email Lisa Guillet: development@smstigers.org

Vacation Bible School, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville - July 8-12

8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon for ages Pre-K through 6th Grade. T-shirts available for purchase the week of VBS. To pre-register, email the Sacred Heart of Pineville Church office at rgraham@sacredheartpineville.com

Vacation Bible School, Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin - July 8-12

6:00-8:00 p.m. The theme this year is Scuba - diving into friendship with God. Contact the church office for more information at 318-767-2078.

Disalced Carmelite meeting - July 13

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

Vacation Bible School: Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville - July 14-17

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Supper provided. T-shirts, crafts, music, fun, friends, outdoor activities Registration opens Saturday, June 15. No registration fee. Monetary donations appreciated! Contact the church office at (318) 985-2774.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Summer Retreat for Youth, Natchitoches - July 18-20

All 6-9th Grade students invited to a Middle School Retreat to be held 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the CDA Hall, 130 Trudeau Street, Natchitoches. This three-day retreat includes learning about faith through testimonials, art, faith sharing, videos and skits. There will be time for Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mery and Confession. The retreat will conclude at 4:00 Vigil Mass on Saturday, July 20th with families invited to attend. Food and snacks will be provided and there is no charge for the retreat. Registration forms are available in Church office, gift shop or via email to Lisa Guillet (development@smstigers.org).

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshops - July 27

The next workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on July 27 from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon at St. Patrick Church, Ferriday. If you would like to sign up, please visit www.diocesealex.org, or contact Dcn. Jason Lavergne at 318-445-6424, ext. 207, or by email at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Please note that registrations are low, the workshop may be cancelled.

UPDATED: St. Mary's Catholic School, Natchitoches - Positions open for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Algebra 1/Geometry Teacher
- PE Teacher
- Boys Basketball Coach

For information about any of these positions, please contact 318-352-8394, Principal, Stephen Wren: swren@smstigers.org.

Holy Savior Menard Central High School, Alexandria - Positions open for the 2024-2025 school year:

- High School Theology Teacher
- Science Teacher

Contact us at: (318) 445-8233 or communications@holysaviormenard.com.

St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria - Positions open for the 2024-2025 school year:

- 1st Grade Teacher
- 5th Grade Teacher
- Middle School Math and Science Teacher
- Extended Day Director

For information about any of these positions, contact us at: (318) 448-3333 or nvincent@cabrinischool.com

Pre-order OCIA guides now!

Available in November 2024 but available for pre-order now, the new Ritual text for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is on its way. The first day of use will be the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024, and a mandatory use date of Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Preorder your copies today from Liturgical Press Resources for Revised Translation of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (litpress.org). As more information becomes available, we will share it with you.

Catechetical Formation Enrichment Day - Sept. 28

Join us Saturday, September 28 to dive into the vision for the ministry God has placed you in, the community around you, and the tools you'll need to get to work. Learn more at steubenvillesouth.com, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on this Catechetical Formation Enrichment Day, offered to all those who perform Catechetical ministries in the Diocese of Alexandria, as well as those youth ministers at this summer's Steubenville South Conference. Registration opens July 30.

SAVE THE DATE! Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference - Dec. 7

Calling all middle school students! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join us at Beyond the Limits, Jr. High Conference on Saturday, December 7 to be illuminated in the light of Christ.

All students in grades 6 – 8 are invited to attend this retreat with their parish youth group. Mike Patin will lead us for the day. Learn more soon at steubenvillesouth.com, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

See the latest news from around the Diocese at www.diocesealex.org

Church Today News Deadlines

July 22
Deadline for news:
Thursday, July 11

August 26
Deadline for news:
Thursday, August 15



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July 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
JUNE 24	25 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	26	27	28	29 VIRTUS Facilitator Training 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	30
ORATORY SUMMER CAMP -- ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA						
PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER	PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK
JULY 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SUMMER CAMP -- MATER DOLOROSA, PLAUCHEVILLE			INDEPENDENCE DAY PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR DCN. D. MOREAU	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR DCN. L. MOREAU	PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD
PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS	PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER	PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL				
8	9	10	11	12	13 Discalced Carmelite meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center	14 VBS -- SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE -- 6:00-8:00 p.m.
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- AT ST. MARYS SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHEs -- 9:00 TO 11:30 A.M.			VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE -- 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON			
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN -- 6:00 TO 8:00 P.M.						
PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH	PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY	PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIKWE	PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN	PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR
15	16	17 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	18	19	20	21
VBS -- SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE -- 6:00-8:00 p.m.			SUMMER RETREAT FOR YOUTH -- MINOR BASILICA of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CDA HALL, NATCHITOCHEs			
PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA	PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA	PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL	PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH	PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN	PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL
22	23	24	25	26	27 EMHC Workshop 9:00 a.m. St. Patrick Church, Ferriday (Tentative depending on number of signups)	28
PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO	PRAY FOR DCN. K. PRIMEAUX	PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY	PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX	PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ



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