

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVI, No. 6

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June 23, 2025



*Avoyelles says  
goodbye to OLS*

Recently, Sacred Heart Catholic School of Moreauville said thank you, farewell, and Godspeed to Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, OLS, and Sr. Kalen Sarmiento, OLS. Read more on page 5 and more about the history of the OLS Sisters on page 4.

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### New saints for a new generation

Pope Leo XIV sets Sept. 7 canonization for Blesseds Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati during the Jubilee Year of Hope. See page 2 for more on this exciting announcement.

### End of an era

Sacred Heart bids farewell to Sr. Sandra and Sr. Kalen, closing a 70-year chapter of OLS Sister ministry in Moreauville. See page 5 for more information.

### Getting to know Pope Leo XIV

From Wordle to White Sox, meet the first American-Peruvian pope through 16 fun faith-filled facts. See page 15 to get acquainted with Pope Leo XIV!

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

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# Pope Leo XIV announces Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati canonization date

*By Ascension Press*

VATICAN CITY – Exciting Catholics worldwide, Pope Leo XIV has confirmed that the canonizations of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will take place on September 7, 2025, during the Vatican’s Jubilee Year of Hope. This historic event will draw pilgrims from across the globe to St. Peter’s Square and marks a powerful moment for young Catholics seeking modern role models of faith.

**Who Are the New Saints? The First Millennial Saint: Blessed Carlo Acutis**

Blessed Carlo Acutis, born in 1991, will become the first millennial saint in Catholic history. Known as the “Cyber Apostle of the Eucharist,” Acutis created a website cataloging Eucharistic miracles around the world before dying of leukemia at just 15 years old. His deep devotion to the Eucharist, daily Mass attendance, and use of digital media for evangelization have made him a spiritual role model for the digital age.

Carlo’s beatification took place in Assisi in 2020, and his story has since sparked a worldwide movement of Eucharistic revival among youth and families. His canonization will officially recognize him as a Saint of the Church, and he is expected to be named the patron of the digital apostolate.

**Pier Giorgio Frassati: Man of the Beatitudes**

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, born in 1901 in Turin, Italy, is beloved for his active faith, devotion to the poor, and passion for mountain climbing. Known for his motto, “Verso l’alto” (“to the heights”), Frassati lived a vibrant life of service, prayer, and political activism rooted in Catholic social teaching. He died of polio at just



**CANONIZATION SET FOR SEPT. 7, 2025.** Blessed Carlo Acutis, patron of teenagers and computer programmers, pray for us!

24 years old, and his funeral was filled with the poor he had quietly served throughout his life.

Often called the “man of the Beatitudes,” Pier Giorgio has long been a favorite among Catholic youth and young adults. His canonization by Pope Leo XIV will affirm his role as a model of lay holiness in the modern world.

**A Historic Moment: Canonizations Under Pope Leo XIV**

The announcement marks one of the first major acts of Pope Leo XIV, elected on May 8, 2025, following the death of Pope Francis. Formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, Pope Leo XIV is the first American-Peruvian pope and the 266th successor of Saint Peter. His pontificate has already been marked by a clear pastoral emphasis on evangelization, youth, and holiness rooted in everyday life.

The September 7 canonization Mass will take place in St. Peter’s Square during the Vatican’s Jubilee Year of Hope, drawing pilgrims from around the world. Originally planned by Pope Francis, the canonizations were delayed due to his death

now. These men didn’t wear collars or habits. They didn’t live in monasteries or seclude themselves from the world. They lived in the heart of the modern world—and gave everything for Christ.

These canonizations under Pope Leo XIV will be a spiritual high point of 2025 and a prophetic sign of what the Church is calling young people to be: courageous, joyful, and holy.

**How to Participate and Learn More!**

The canonization Mass will be held in St. Peter’s Square, Rome, on September 7, 2025.

Pilgrimage Opportunities: Parishes and Catholic organizations worldwide are organizing pilgrimages and special events to mark the occasion.

Stay Updated: Follow official Vatican news and Catholic media for live coverage, resources, and ways to celebrate locally.

earlier this year.

**What Do These Canonizations Mean for Catholics Today?**

The dual canonizations of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati send a clear message: holiness is possible today—at any age, in any vocation, and especially for the young. In an era of digital noise and cultural confusion, the Church is lifting two young laymen who lived with clarity, purpose, and deep faith in Jesus Christ.

For Catholic educators, youth ministers, parents, and parishes, this moment presents a renewed opportunity to introduce young people to these powerful witnesses and invite them into a deeper relationship with the Church and the Eucharist.

**Why This Event Matters: Saints for the Digital and Social Age**

As we prepare for the canonizations of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, the Church is not just honoring the past—it’s declaring boldly that sainthood is for



**BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI OF TURIN, ITALY** set to be canonized Sept. 7, 2025.



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# Jubilee Year is a time to build bridges, not walls, pope says

By Our Sunday Visitor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world marked by division and ideological conflict, Pope Leo XIV urged Catholics to reject walls of separation and embrace Jesus as “a door that unites,” reminding pilgrims that true Christian hope lies in connecting rather than dividing.

Addressing thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Basilica June 14 for a special Jubilee audience, the pope said the Holy Year 2025 must be lived as a mission of communion, rooted in the theological virtue of hope.

“To hope is to connect,” he said, stating that the Jubilee is an “open door” to the mystery of God’s connection with humanity which is rooted in Christ’s incarnation.

The audience continued a series begun by Pope Francis exploring a dimension of hope through the example of a spiritual figure. This time, Pope Leo focused on St. Irenaeus of Lyon, whom he described as a “master of unity” and a bridge between East and West.

Born in 130 in Asia Minor and later serving as bishop in present-day France, St. Irenaeus “carried with him the witness of those who had directly known the Apostles,” the pope said. His life and ministry reflected the way in which cultures, peoples and churches can mutually enrich one another — a dynamic the



**POPE LEO XIV ADDRESSES JUBILEE PILGRIMS IN ROME.** Pope Leo XIV prays at the conclusion of an audience with pilgrims in Rome for the Holy Year 2025 in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican June 14, 2025. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

pope likened to today’s migrant communities, which he said often revitalize faith in their host countries.

Amid early church divisions, St. Irenaeus did not retreat in despair, but instead “learned to think more deeply, always focusing on Jesus,” the pope said. In a world fragmented by doctrinal disputes, political pressures and

persecution, he found unity not by suppressing difference, but by recognizing how Christ reconciles opposites in his own person.

“Jesus is not a wall that

separates, but a door that unites us,” the pope said. “He is life itself among us. He gathers the opposites, makes communion possible.”

Pope Leo warned against the dangers of ideology and verbal violence, noting that in the modern world “ideas can go mad and words can kill.” What grounds society, he said, is the shared human condition: “the flesh,” which “binds us to the earth and to other creatures.”

In this, too, Christ is central. “The flesh of Jesus must be welcomed and contemplated in every brother and sister, in every creature,” he said. “Let us hear the cry of the flesh. Let us be called by name through the pain of others.”

Hope, the pope said, is not a distant ideal but a daily commitment. It is a call to “move toward communion,” to become builders of bridges, not guards of gates. “Distinguishing is useful,” he said, “but never dividing.”

Echoing a line from the Lord’s Prayer, “on earth as it is in heaven,” Pope Leo said the Jubilee Year must inspire Catholics to act as agents of connection in a fragmented world. “Let us open doors,” he said. “Let us connect worlds and there will be hope.”

## 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.

## 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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### Sacred Heart School, Moreauville Hires New Principal

We are happy to announce that Amy Coco has been hired to serve as the new principal at Sacred Heart School. She is a Moreauville native and graduated from Sacred Heart in 1987. She graduated from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1995, and a master's degree in Educational Technology in 1998. She has served as an educator for 29 years in Louisiana and in Texas. Amy has also coached basketball and the math team. She has received several awards for her teaching, and has given presentations to the faculty at Sacred Heart on technology and educational methodology.



We hope that Ms. Coco can help Sacred Heart to continue to nurture and develop our students on their journey of academic, emotional, and spiritual growth. Sacred Heart will continue to offer new and innovative learning opportunities under her leadership.

### The history of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows in Louisiana

The Congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows was founded in Italy and dates back to December 10, 1839, seventy-one years before the Diocese of Alexandria was created.

Called by Bishop Charles P. Greco, the Mother General of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows of Remini, Forli' Italy, Mother Zita Verni arrived in Louisiana on October 22, 1947 at Moreauville, accompanied by thirteen sisters.

Initially, despite their limited command of English, the sisters worked at the Don Bosco Boys Home in Cottonport, at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Moreauville and at St. Anthony's School in Cottonport. Their educational work spread to the black Catholic community of Pineville. With their visa status secured with the help of then Senator John F. Kennedy, the sisters were able to establish a home and school for handicapped children at Clarks, Louisiana in 1954.

In 1963 the sisters took charge of Sacred Heart School in Moreauville and in 1964 laid the foundation for a second school for handicapped children, Holy Angels, in Shreveport. In 1968 the sisters took charge of Christ the King School in Bossier City and in 1974, St. Mary's Training School was moved from Clarks to Alexandria.



**BISHOP GRECO INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING OLS CONGREGATION TO THE DIOCESE.** Bishop Charles P. Greco greets the OLS sisters upon their arrival in Alexandria in the 1940s.



Today, the OLS Sisters teach and administer care for individuals with developmental disabilities in their assisted living home. They also run the Cookie Jar Bakery in Alexandria.

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*Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

Psalm 66: 1  
 Responsorial Psalm for July 6  
 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time

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# Avoyelles era ends as OLS Sisters leave 70 year legacy of ministry

Recently, Sacred Heart Catholic School of Moreauville said thank you, farewell, and Godspeed to Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, OLS, and Sr. Kalen Sarmiento, OLS.

Sister Sandra has been reassigned to Lafayette, Louisiana. She has served as principal of Sacred Heart School since 2010, after first serving as vice principal. Sr. Kalen has been reassigned to Alexandria after teaching at Sacred Heart for 26 years.

In a heartfelt message, a spokesperson for the school writes:

“Thank you to all who made the Our Lady of Sorrows Sisters Celebration a beautiful afternoon of well wishes and fellowship on

May 13, 2025.

We thank Bishop Robert Marshall for his inspirational remarks and the Proclamation from the Diocese of Alexandria for seventy years of dedicated service by the OLS Sisters. It was presented to Sacred Heart School and Sacred Heart Parish. We will forever be grateful for the ministry and service of our beloved OLS Sisters. Father Brian Seiler also included how thankful the school and community was for their ministry and gratitude to the OLS Sisters for their ministry in Moreauville.”

Pictured, left to right, Bishop Robert Marshall, Jr., Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, Sr. Kalen Sarmiento, Fr. Brian Seiler.



“Let us bind ourselves tightly to the Sorrowful Heart of our Heavenly Mother and reflect on its boundless grief and how precious is our soul.”

*saint padre pio*

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# St. Anthony Bunkie Altar Society celebrates 125 years

Saint Anthony Altar Society in Bunkie observed its 125th Anniversary with a lunch reception on June 11 hosted by Monsignor Scott Chemino, Pastor.

In May 1900 the Catholic ladies of Bunkie met to form the first adult organization in the life of the newly established church parish. A new wooden chapel had been built on the north end of the community and Father Alphonse Blume from Hessmer, Louisiana road a horse to celebrate Masses on a regular basis in Bunkie. To care for the new chapel and prepare for these Masses, the ladies formed the Saint Anthony Altar Society.

Parish history details that while one society was formed, it included two groups of ladies: one was French speaking and the other was Italian speaking. Despite the language differences, both groups



**MEMBERS OF ST. ANTHONY ALTAR SOCIETY, BUNKIE,** gathered on June 11 at the parish Rectory to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the organization. Monsignor Scott Chemino honored the ladies with a lunch reception and offered a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving for the steadfast dedication of the membership.

of ladies began to work together and established good friendships through the years.

By 1925-26, a new brick church was being constructed under the leadership of Father Leopold Van Lint, the first resident pastor of the parish. With the new church, the two groups of ladies formally merged as one organization that still attends the altars and interior of the church.

During the lunch reception, Monsignor Chemino reflected on the history of the church and Altar Society, expressing gratitude for its years of untiring service. A special prayer was offered by several ladies of the organization. The gathering ended with presentation of holy cards observing the recent election of Pope Leo XIV and Monsignor gifting the ladies with individual prayer books.



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Turn to  
the Lord  
in your need,  
and you  
will live.

Psalm 69: 33  
Responsorial Psalm  
for July 13  
Fifteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

# Seminarian Burses

## February 2025 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Blake Deshautelle Burse	
<b>Mr. Vince Aymond.</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Wade DeCoste Burse	
<b>Mr. Vince Aymond.</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Daniel O'Connor Burse	
<b>Mr. Vince Aymond</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Rusty Rabalais Burse	
<b>Knights of Columbus</b>	
<b>Fr. Ryan General Assembly #0317</b> .....	\$100.00
Father George Krosfield Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller</b> .....	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Ms. Elizabeth S. Arthur</b> .....	\$200.00
Father John H. Cunningham Burse	
<b>Ms. Elizabeth S. Arthur</b> .....	\$200.00
Father Louis Sklar, III Burse	
<b>Dr. Joseph Landreneau.</b> .....	\$1,000.00
Edna Rabalais Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	\$1,900.00

## March 2025 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Blake Deshautelle Burse	
<b>Ms. Patricia Belaire.</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Joshua Burch Burse	
<b>Ms. Elizabeth R. Holmes.</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Daniel Hart Burse	
<b>Mr. Vince Aymond.</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Wade DeCoste Burse	
<b>Mr. Vince Aymond.</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Daniel O'Connor Burse	
<b>Mr. Vince Aymond</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Rusty Rabalais Burse	
<b>Ms. Katherine Dupuy-Bennett</b> .....	\$50.00
Seminarian Will Brittain Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Marian French</b> .....	\$100.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller</b> .....	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	\$650.00

**In next month's Church Today:  
Steubenville South  
Corpus Christi Procession  
Back to School!**

## April 2025 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	\$25.00
Msgr. James Ferguson Burse	
<b>Catholic Daughters of America</b>	
<b>Court Bishop Greco #2072.</b> .....	\$50.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco Burse	
<b>Dr. Joseph W. Landreneau</b> .....	\$1,000.00
Edna Rabalais Burse	
<b>Drs. Marlon and Nina Holmes</b> .....	\$7,000.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	\$8,100.00

## May 2025 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	\$25.00
Msgr. Scott Chemino Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Joseph Desimone Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. M.A. French</b> .....	\$100.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vandersypen</b> .....	\$200.00
Msgr. James Ferguson Burse	
<b>Mr. Dwight E. Beridon</b> .....	\$250.00
Msgr. John M. Timmermans Burse	
<b>Mr. Dwight E. Beridon</b> .....	\$250.00
Harold and Lillie Beridon Burse	
<b>Knights of Peter Claver Assembly #27</b> .....	\$300.00
Msgr. Henry A. Thompson Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	\$1,175.00

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.

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:

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--- Very Reverend  
M. Craig Scott, Chairman



### Upcoming Retreats:

**July 10-13**  
**Teen ACTS Retreat**  
hosted by St. Mary's  
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**July 31-August 3**  
**Cenla Teen ACTS Retreat**  
hosted by Cenla ACTS  
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All retreats are held at Maryhill  
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### Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

**Thursday, July 10, 6:00 p.m.**  
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NOTE: Minors are not allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and discussions. To register, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, LEESVILLE.** On Thursday, May 29, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville. Twelve disciples (youth and adults) were sealed with the Holy Spirit. Thank you to Father Adam Travis, Deacon Stephen Gramigna, Deacon Richard Mitchell (who took this photo), the catechists, sponsors, and parishioners for their prayers and support for these Confirmandi.



**CONFIRMATION, HOLY GHOST CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** On Friday, May 30, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Holy Ghost Church in Marksville for the parishioners of Holy Ghost and St. Richard Chapel in Hickory Hill. Four young disciples were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to Father Joseph Desimone, Deacon Ted Moulard, the catechists, sponsors, parents and parishioners for their prayers and support for these Confirmandi. And many thanks to these newly confirmed young men for their commitment to Christ and their witness of faith.



**CONFIRMATION, CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SIMMESPORT.** On Saturday, May 31, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Christ the King Church in Simmesport. Four young disciples were sealed in the Holy Spirit. Thank you to Father Kurian Zachariah, the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners for their prayers and support for these Confirmandi. My personal thanks to Deacon Richard Mitchell who has driven me around the diocese, organized the liturgies while I was visiting with the candidates, taken these group photos, and served as Master of Ceremonies.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL IN ALEXANDRIA AND ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, COLFAX.** On Sunday, June 8, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Seven young disciples were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit - from Cathedral parish, St. John the Baptist Church, Deville; St. Joseph Church, Colfax; and St. Juliana Church, Alexandria. Thank you to Monsignor James Ferguson and Father Albi Mulloth who concelebrated, Deacons Jason Lavergne and Richard Mitchell who assisted, and to all of the parents, catechists, sponsors, and parishioners who supported these Confirmandi. Today's celebration brings Confirmation Season 2025 to a close. It has been an encouraging year in which Bishop confirmed 358 youth and adults!

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop**

July 26, 9:00 a.m.  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura

**Lector Workshops**

July 19, 9:00 a.m.  
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Campiti

July 26, 12:30 p.m.  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura  
(follows the EHM Workshop)

dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org

“Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace - it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, “Abba! Father!”  
*catechism of the catholic church 1303*

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**CHILDREN OF MARY CONGREGATION AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, BUNKIE.** On Sunday, May 18, eight children were received into the Children of Mary Congregation at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie. Thank you to all the parents who are instilling beautiful values and faith roots into their children. Love begins at home and then we go and spread the love of Christ to all!



**FIRST COMMUNION, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** Eight children from St Francis Xavier Cathedral CCD and OCIA made their First Communion this year.



**MAY CROWNING AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** Children helped celebrate May Crowning at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on May 4 by bringing flowers in a procession and crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother. Some are pictured here with Msgr. James Ferguson.



**FIRST COMMUNION, CHRIST THE KING, SIMMESPORT.** Father Kurian Zachariah celebrated First Holy Communion

on Sunday, April 27.



**BLESSING OF THE BOATS, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN ST. JOSEPH, LA.** Father Taylor Reynolds blessed the boats on Lake Bruin on Memorial Day weekend.

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS OF 2025 FROM STS. FRANCIS & ANNE CHURCH IN KOLIN.**



**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SIMMESPORT.** Knights of Columbus Council 10546 hosted breakfast following Mass on Mother's Day for all mothers of the church. Pictured with the mothers is Fr. Kurian Zachariah.

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**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL FIELD DAY.** Field Day - On a rainy Friday, OLPS held it's annual Field Day! We held our games inside, but we were able to have our 6th grade vs. staff kick-ball game! Congratulations to our 6th graders for breaking a 20 year winning streak for the teachers!



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE.** A Memorial Day Blessing took place at Pythian Cemetery in Bunkie on Monday, May 26. Msgr. Scott Chemino, pastor, blessed a wreath and the graves of known veterans.



**JUBILEE PILGRIMS OF HOPE FROM ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, DEVILLE.** A group of 40 pilgrims made their way throughout the diocese on May 31. They were able to visit five of the Diocese of Alexandria pilgrimage sites: Holy Ghost Church, Marksville; St. Paul the Apostle, Mansura; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie; Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Forest Hill; and St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. Pastor of St. John's in Deville, Fr. Albi Mulloth, accompanied them. The picture was taken while the group was at St. Paul's in Mansura.



**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, CAMPTI.** The Annual Youth Family Fun outing was held at Dark Woods Buccaneers Bayou Mini Golf.



**CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS OF ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH MEET FOR 103RD YEAR.** The Confraternity of Christian Mothers from the parish of St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle, met for their 103rd Annual Meeting in May. Following the meeting, members gathered for a group photo in front of the church, then gathered for Mass and Communion. During Mass, Fr. William Gearheard inducted six ladies to the Confraternity. New members pictured left to right: Karen Eugene, Cinderella Rodriguez, Tellie Metoyer, Patricia Jones Simpson, Sue Scott, and (not pictured) Jeanette Smith.



**STS. FRANCIS & ANNE CHURCH JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE.** During their Diocesan Jubilee Year pilgrimage, members of Sts. Francis & Anne Church in Kolin enjoyed the beauty of St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD,** celebrated Deacon Lee Moreau's 3rd anniversary as a deacon with a surprise dinner. The gathering of parishioners enjoyed an evening filled with fellowship and a delicious dinner. Reverend Louis Sklar praised Deacon Moreau for his dedication to Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Lee's family, Brandy, Cayson, and Bryce also joined in the celebration.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO.** "Trusting Jesus In A Wild World" was the theme for Vacation Bible School at Saint Francis DeSales Catholic Church in Echo.



**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** May was a busy month for the Catholic Daughters as they participated in May crowning on Mother's Day and a prayer service at Mausoleum #1 on Memorial Day. Several veterans were there to participate as well.



**PAINT AND PRAY AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** On May 27, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral hosted a "Paint and Pray" event. Facilitated by artist Harleigh Leonards, attendees were guided through painting an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Through step-by-step instruction, each final painting took on the unique characteristics of the individual painter. The night was enjoyed by friends and families over a meal, prayer, fellowship, and painting. If you would like to host Harleigh in your parish, you may contact her via email at: [harleighleonardsdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:harleighleonardsdesigns@gmail.com).



**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO.** Fr. Dwight DeJesus celebrated our graduates with special Mass on May 21.

# It's officially hurricane season: BE PREPARED!

We officially are in hurricane season. Please visit the Catholic Charities website for the link to the Catholic Charities USA Disaster Preparedness Program. The Catholic Disaster Preparedness Program (CDPP) is a three-part video training series that explores the natural intersection of our Gospel Call, the needs of those suffering, and the gifts we have to share before, during, and after a disaster event. Through this video training series, Catholic Charities agencies enhance disaster preparedness within their diocese by preparing:

- Individuals and families for disasters and emergencies
  - Church parishes so that sacraments and services will be available to those recovering
  - Members of the community to help all of our neighbors in time of crisis
- This is a self-paced, self-directed series that church parishes can view and implement on their own timeline. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer at [jgilchrist@cccenla.org](mailto:jgilchrist@cccenla.org). Also included on the website are the following resources
- Get a Game Plan: Family Preparedness Documents
  - Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide 2024
  - FEMA Preparedness Information

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- Fill up your car's gas tank, park in a garage if possible.
- Cover windows with hurricane shutters or plywood.
- Secure outdoor objects or bring them inside.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed.

Ready ✓

*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

**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE?**

- At least a 3-Day Supply of Food, Water and Medications
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- Spare Batteries
- Battery / Hand-Crank Powered Radio
- First Aid
- Flashlight

Ready ✓

FEMA

# Breathe, Believe, Begin Again: Catholic Charities' Grief Support Ministry

**By Cindy Upton**  
*Manager of Coaching Programs  
for Catholic Charities  
of Central Louisiana*

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana supports the Diocese of Alexandria in bearing "witness to the charity of Jesus Christ, in both word and deed" by serving as the arm of social welfare through a wide range of compassionate services.

In response to a growing need for a safe and supportive space to process grief, Catholic Charities is offering a seven-week program designed to foster healing, growth, and forward motion. While grief is most often

associated with the death of a loved one, it can also arise from other life-altering experiences such as divorce, illness, job loss, empty-nesting, or even the loss of a beloved pet. Regardless of the source, grief is deeply personal—and healing is nurtured through community, understanding, and hope.

Beginning July 7, Catholic Charities' Christian Life Coaches will lead participants through a structured grief support program built around a seven-step model known as B.R.E.A.T.H.E.®. Each weekly session is designed to meet individuals wherever they are in their grief journey, offering practical tools, measurable goals,

and spiritual encouragement. With a focus on growth and openness, the program invites anyone navigating loss, regardless of their story, to take part in a shared journey of renewal. What unites all participants is a mutual longing to find peace in their loss and take meaningful steps toward healing.

B.R.E.A.T.H.E.® sessions will be held every Monday from July 7 through August 18, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the Diocese of Alexandria Conference Room, located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, LA 71303.

To register, visit the Catholic Charities website at [cccenla.org](http://cccenla.org).

org and navigate to the Mental Health Services/Life Coaching section. For more information, contact Catholic Charities at 318.445.6424, Ext. 506.

"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus—a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you."

— St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

*He who  
does justice  
will live  
in the  
presence  
of the Lord.*

Psalm 15: 1  
Responsorial Psalm  
for July 20  
Sixteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

## Services Offered by Catholic Charities of Central LA

Visit [cccenla.org](http://cccenla.org) to access a variety of services. Appointments are required and can be made online.

- **Mental Health Counseling**
- **Christian Life Coaching**
- **Christian Support Groups:**  
Grief/Loss B.R.E.A.T.H.E.  
Peace in the Mds of Crisis Divorce Support
- **Vaping/Tobacco Cessation (Youth and Adult)**
- **Disaster Preparedness Resources**
- **Financial Literacy Budget Class**  
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- **Assist.Educate.Elevate.**  
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- **SNAP Enrollment Assistance**  
To support our work, thank you for your donation of time, talent, or treasure!
- **Volunteer** - [cccenla.org/volunteer](http://cccenla.org/volunteer)
- **Donate** - [cccenla.org/hero-of-hope](http://cccenla.org/hero-of-hope)

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# 16 fun facts about Pope Leo XIV

By Ascension Press

As the Church welcomes Pope Leo XIV, and the new pontiff takes up his residence in Vatican City, the whole world is eager to learn all about him. We've gathered some facts, from the essentials to some extra-special details, to help you get acquainted with Pope Leo XIV!

## 1. Pope Leo is the first American pope.

For generations, Americans have wondered if one of their own would ever be elected pope. That moment has come with Pope Leo XIV, born and raised in the Chicago area. His choice of name is also significant—honoring Pope Leo XIII, who helped shape the Church in the United States by encouraging two future American saints in their missionary work: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and St. Katharine Drexel. Pope Leo XIV continues that legacy, the first American pope following in the footsteps of a pontiff who

believed deeply in the Church's mission in the West.

## 2. Pope Leo likes to play Wordle!

In a light moment before stepping into one of the most sacred decisions in the Church, Pope Leo was playing Wordle! According to his brother, the soon-to-be pontiff squeezed in a quick puzzle session right before the Conclave—proof that even popes enjoy a little brain game before making history.

## 3. He is also the first Peruvian pope.

Pope Leo XIV is a naturalized citizen of Peru—although he was not born there, he legally obtained citizenship of the country. He spent 20 years in Peru, serving as Apostolic Administrator and then Bishop of the diocese of Chiclayo and as Apostolic Administrator of Callao for a few years. This means that he is a dual-citizen of both the United States and Peru—and the first pope from both countries!



He's the second pope with a Latin American connection, as Pope Francis was an Argentinian, the first Latin American pope.

## 4. Pope Leo watched "Conclave" right before his very own Conclave!

Just before heading into the Conclave that would change his life forever, Pope Leo had wrapped

up watching "Conclave"—yes, the movie about electing a pope! His brother shared the timing with a laugh, and it's hard not to appreciate the irony. Fr. Mike has a review of "Conclave" you can check out here.

## 5. He has a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics.

Our new pope graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Villanova University in Pennsylvania in 1977. This is a unique academic path for a man who would one day become pope!

## 6. Pope Leo met Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis!

Pope Leo's journey to the papacy included some unforgettable moments—he met Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis! And yes, we've got the photos to prove it—holy encounters captured in time.

## 7. Pope Leo XIV's birthday is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Pope Leo XIV turned 69 in September, before he was elected pope. His birthdate is September 14, 1955, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, commemorating the day that St. Helen located the relics of the True Cross of Christ in Jerusalem.

## 8. Pope Leo's favorite sport? Tennis!

The new pope brings a new athletic interest to the Vatican. Argentinian Pope Francis fancied soccer, but it sounds like Pope Leo XIV won't pass up a game of tennis. We suddenly find ourselves fans of tennis, too! The sports news site Bolavip reports him telling an Argentinian newspaper:

*"I consider myself a great tennis fan... Since I left Peru, I've had few opportunities to practice, so I'm looking forward to getting back on the courts."*

"I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling. I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God's love, for he wants us all to be united in one family."

*pope leo xiv*

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 You are the king of heaven and earth.

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 Because we have sinned, on account of the fall.

Through your goodness you gave us new life,  
 To handle problems that would cause us strife.

Because of your mercy and love of the cross,  
 Another chance was given to all who were lost.

We all have to confess and say from the heart,  
 Forgive us Lord, and "thanks" for a new start.

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**9. His native language is English, but he speaks and reads several languages.**

Given his American upbringing, Pope Leo XIV is fluent in English as his first language. But there's more: it takes all the fingers on one hand to enumerate how many languages Pope Leo XIV knows how to speak: English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese. Additionally, he can read Latin and German, two important theological languages.

**10. Pope Leo is the youngest of 3 boys.**

Pope Leo XIV has two older brothers: Louis and John. The upbringing of the Prevost boys was solidly rooted in the Catholic Faith, and they all served their Chicago parish of St. Mary of the Assumption as dedicated altar boys, musicians, lectors, and volunteers.

**11. Pope Leo's parents: his dad was a Navy Lieutenant, his**

**mom ran the parish and worked in the library.**

Pope Leo XIV's mom, Mildred Martinez Prevost, was one of the fabled "church ladies" — cleaning the church, running fundraisers, singing in the choir, and somehow leading both the altar society and the Rosary group without cloning herself. She also had a degree in library science and a master's in education, which means she could shush you in six different ways and explain why. Meanwhile, his dad, Louis Prevost, was a Navy vet from World War II who later became a school superintendent, a principal, and — because he apparently didn't believe in free time — a catechist too.

**12. Pope Leo is a Chicago White Sox fan!**

Pope Leo may be the first American pope, but let's settle one thing right now—he's a White Sox fan, not a Cubs fan. Grace builds on nature, after all. Sorry, North



**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS.** Catholic Daughters Court Bishop Desmond #1456 presented a check to Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr., and Reverend Luke LaFleur to benefit the Diocesan Seminarians Education Fund, from left to right: Lory Paulk, Marlene Sawrie, Marilyn Price (photo of Bp. Desmond), Bishop Robert Marshall, Jr., and Father Luke LaFleur.

Side! And in case you need further proof, here's a photo of him at the World Series in 2005.

**13. He grew up surrounded by priests.**

Pope Leo XIV's mother enjoyed hosting priests and cooking for them—and they enjoyed frequenting the family's

home for Mrs. Prevost's excellent cooking when the pope was a young boy. Given this regular and familiar exposure to the priestly vocation, his family and friends were not surprised when he felt drawn in the same direction!

**14. Young Robert Prevost was the smartest boy in his class.**

According to one of Pope Leo XIV's elementary school classmates, our new Holy Father is a bit of a genius. The Chicago Sun Times reports here on his intellectual abilities. Through rigorous academic training in his student years and a very structured elementary school experience, he was dedicated to learning his Catechism well. In high school, he was a member of the National Honor Society and a participant in speech and debate.

**15. Pope Leo's seminary formation began in high school.**

Let's just say, no one is surprised that Pope Leo is where he is today. Drawn to the priesthood from a very young age (his brother John says he knew that "from the time he could walk" that his brother was going to be a priest), Pope Leo XIV chose to attend St. Augustine Seminary High School for his secondary school education.

**16. Pope Leo XIV was an editor-in-chief for his school yearbook.**

Long before he was shepherding the global Church, Pope Leo was editing high school memories—literally. As editor-in-chief of his yearbook, he was already shaping stories and spotlighting classmates like a pro. Here's a local newspaper clipping of his accomplishments!

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# May my hunger for you far exceed my reach

By Rachel Bulman  
Word on Fire Ministries

When I was a teenager, I was head-deep in the Church of God denomination. I was leading praise and worship, speaking at our youth group, going on mission trips, and more. There was this book that fascinated me. It was *Godchasers* by Tommy Tenney, and it recounted a revival that happened in a church where the presence of God was so heavy that people literally pulled off of the roads and wandered into the church not totally aware of why they felt the desire to do so. They just knew that whatever was in that church was something that they needed.

Other than the compelling testimony, there was one line that was riveting: “God, may my

hunger for you far exceed my reach.” And I still carry that prayer with me today.

I never would have imagined—as a passionate pastor’s kid, daughter of a missionary, and heavily involved Protestant youth—that I would find myself where I am today. But I know that the Eucharist led me here.

It was Easter morning, and I really didn’t know what to expect. Mass began at 11 a.m., and when we strolled into the place around 10:55, we found ourselves in the back of the choir loft, high enough to not be able to see anything going on down below. I don’t remember what hymns were sung, but I do remember the clang of the thurible and the smell of the incense. I remember the unified shuffling when the people would stand, sit, or kneel, and I remember the

Liturgy of the Eucharist most of all.

There was this pregnant silence that filled the place when the Liturgy of the Eucharist began. Bells were rung, and incense once again wafted through the room into the rafters. I was overwhelmed. In that moment, I had no idea why my heart felt such peace, such joy. I just took it all in.

## *Hunger for Christ. Reach for Christ.*

When Mass ended, I climbed into my boyfriend’s car as we headed to his parents’ house for Easter dinner, a short ten-minute drive away. I didn’t say a word. In my mind, I think I was still sitting in the pew and taking all of the Mass into my heart, and when we got to his parents’ driveway, my boyfriend couldn’t handle the

silence anymore. As we got out of the car, he said, “Okay. What’s going on? You haven’t said a word since we left the church. Did you hate it? Are we breaking up now?”

A few weeks before this, we had made a sort of pact. After figuring out that there is a great chasm between his Catholic faith and my Protestant faith, five little words set us on this mission: “We both can’t be right.” Those words that I had spoken without haste or worry, I clearly see now as the work of the Holy Spirit. We decided to go to each other’s churches, read some books, and seek counsel.

And there we were, in his parents’ circle driveway, where I hadn’t spoken a word, and he’s anxious to know what brought on the silence. “What’s going on?” he had asked.

My eyes began to well up with tears, and I responded, “I found home. I don’t know what it was, but I found everything my heart has longed for in that Mass.”

It felt as if I had been on a spiritual quest my entire life, unsure of what I was looking for, knowing that it was the Lord but also knowing that what I had discovered thus far was not enough. Growing up, I was a part of some beautiful churches. They were all hyperfocused on Scripture as the only source of truth, and most services included lively music, an altar call (a call to repentance), prayer, and a sermon. But I still found myself with a

deep question: “Is it possible to be closer to God than this?” Not just closer spiritually—as that didn’t seem to be enough—but closer in proximity and tangibly. I needed something I could touch. And that lingering question was answered that day in the Mass.

## *In Sacramentum Caritatis, 35, it says,*

The liturgy is inherently linked to beauty: it is veritatis splendor. The liturgy is a radiant expression of the paschal mystery, in which Christ draws us to himself and calls us to communion. As Saint Bonaventure would say, in Jesus we contemplate beauty and splendor at their source. This is no mere aestheticism, but the concrete way in which the truth of God’s love in Christ encounters us, attracts us and delights us, enabling us to emerge from ourselves and drawing us towards our true vocation, which is love.

Shortly thereafter, I came into communion with the Church, and I can truly attest to the conversion that began in my heart at that particular Mass and continues at every Mass since. In the Gospel of Mark, a father brought his son to Christ. His son was possessed by demons, and the father told Jesus that this had been going on for years. Then he said, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Jesus said to him, “If you

*Continued on next page.*



**OLPS DARE GRADUATION.** Congratulations to our amazing 5th grade students on their D.A.R.E. graduation! Over the past 13 weeks, they have learned valuable skills for making safe and healthy decisions. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you!

## ATTENTION Parents!

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St. Frances Cabrini School offers both Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 classes! Our youngest students enjoy a newly built early childhood wing with a covered courtyard perfect for outdoor classes and picnics, along with updated playground equipment. The Pre-K curriculum is comprised of academics, spirituality, and enrichment. Pre-K students engage in letter/sound/number recognition, letter/sound relationship, Preschool math, counting, shapes, and Science/Social Studies units, to name a few! There are daily religion classes, weekly Mass with the rest of the school, Religious Feasts, All Saints Day Parade, and Service projects. Our PreK students also attend art, music, library, computer, and PE once a week.

For more information and/or to register, please visit our website: [cabrinischool.com](http://cabrinischool.com), or call 318-448-3333. You may also request a tour of the school. Come join our Cabrini family!

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*Continued on previous page.*

can! Everything is possible to one who has faith.”

*And the father’s response has been mine on occasion too: “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:21-24).*

It seems like a strange dichotomy to, on one hand, admit belief, and on the other, to ask

for help with unbelief. I think this is the same prayer that’s said by many Catholics today. As we gaze upon the Host, we are to believe that it is Christ, but to believe requires a certain level of suffering, a call to change the way we live, and that’s a suffering that many cannot bear.

Christ in the Eucharist provides us with a “here but not yet” encounter. We receive who we desire to imitate, and we pray

to become more and more like that which we receive. We run to the altar with pain and longing, receive the Host, and then enter back into the longing and pain with redemption pumping through our veins.

The prayer of the aforementioned Protestant spiritual book is still mine today: May my hunger for you far exceed my reach. So, too, with the Eucharist—that this Bread

may satiate for a moment, but inevitably it awakens within me a longing to be closer, an eternal closeness that the saints called beatitude. And when you receive the Host at the next Mass that you attend, may your entire person be renewed beneath the weight of his glory. We all know that there are many among us who do not believe in the Real Presence, and my brothers and sisters, that burden is ours to bear. For if

we are not transformed by the reception of him who we profess to be present under the appearance of bread, then how does one become convinced of the renewal offered therein?

Hunger for Christ. Reach for Christ. And may our collective hunger far exceed our reach so much so that all of our lives will be leaning toward eternity with him so that we may finally be filled with the food that we long for.

## Over 2,100 hearts set ablaze: God moved at Steubenville South, and he’s just getting started

This past weekend, something extraordinary happened in Alexandria, Louisiana. Over 2,100 teens and adults gathered from across the region for the 2025 Steubenville South Youth Conference — and the Holy Spirit met us there in power.

Teens walked in carrying the weight of the world — anxiety, insecurity, sin, loneliness — and walked out changed, renewed, and restored. The sacraments were celebrated with reverence and joy. Confession lines wrapped around the building. Adoration brought silence so deep you could hear hearts beating, whispering “yes” to a God who has never stopped pursuing them.

But the most powerful truth? God’s work didn’t end Sunday afternoon when the buses rolled out. He’s just getting started.

Every year at Steubenville



South, we say that the weekend is a launching point — not a destination. And this year was no different. We didn’t gather for a spiritual high or a temporary fix. We gathered to encounter the living God and to be sent back into the world with fire in our bones and truth in our hearts.

Now, the mission begins.

To the young people who said yes to Jesus this weekend: stay close to Him. Get involved in your parish. Be bold in your faith. Start the Bible study, invite your friends, go to adoration even when no one else does. God has placed something unique and

unrepeatable in you — and He’s ready to use it.

To the adults, chaperones, priests, and volunteers who showed up in faith and sacrifice: thank you. Your “yes” is what made this weekend possible. The seeds you helped plant will bear fruit in families, parishes, and communities for years to come.

To the parishes, diocesan leaders, and donors who made this weekend a reality: you are helping to build the Church, one soul at a time. Thank you for believing in the next generation.

And to anyone who feels like they missed out or who wonders if a weekend like this really matters — we promise you, it does. Lives were changed. Vocations were stirred. God showed up. And we’re not going back to business as usual.

The fire of Steubenville South doesn’t stay in the arena.

It spreads — into homes, youth groups, schools, and quiet personal moments of prayer. It burns in every heart that said yes to Jesus and is willing to follow Him wherever He leads next.

So don’t wait for next year to encounter Him again. He’s with you now, and He’s not finished.

This is the beginning. Let’s geaux!

**Host a VIRTUS Training Class at Your Church or School!**

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kcoco@diocesealex.org  
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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  
“Wildcat Catholics”  
318-447-2956.  
Follow us on Instagram @wildcatcatholics



*Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.*

Psalm 138: 3  
Responsorial Psalm for July 27  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## B.R.E.A.T.H.E.® Grief Support Sessions - July 7-August 18

Catholic Charities' Christian Life Coaches will lead participants through a structured grief support program built around a seven-step model known as B.R.E.A.T.H.E.®. Each weekly session is designed to meet individuals wherever they are in their grief journey, offering practical tools, measurable goals, and spiritual encouragement. B.R.E.A.T.H.E.® sessions will be held every Monday from July 7 through August 18, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria. To register, visit the Catholic Charities website at [ccenla.org](http://ccenla.org) and navigate to the Mental Health Services/Life Coaching section. For more information, contact Catholic Charities at (318) 445-6424, Ext. 506.

## VBS, Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville - July 13-17

6:00-8:00 p.m. Theme: True North-Trusting Jesus in a Wild World! Ages PK3 to 5th and 6th and up as teen helpers. Meals served each night. Includes a T-shirt! No fee. Donations appreciated! Contact person: Andre' Spruill (318) 359-7542

## VBS, Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin - July 14-18

6:00-8:15 p.m. The theme this year is "True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World". \$15 for one child, \$25 for a family. Kids welcome to sing at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass July 20, followed by a party. Please register kids using link. Thank you!

## Lector Formation Workshop - July 19

Lector Formation workshops are for those individuals who are interested in serving or who currently may serve as a Lector in their parish. All training workshops present the same material and run about two and a half hours. For more information, contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at [dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org).

### Saturday, July 19 – 9:00 a.m. – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Campti

There is no need to register and no charge to attend. When the session is completed you will receive a certificate. We will be happy to have you!

# DIOCESAN BRIEFS

## VBS, St. John the Baptist Church, Deville - July 21-25

6:00-8:30 p.m. "The Great Journey with Jesus Through the Church Year" Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 21-25 for grades Pre K – 6th at St. John the Baptist in Deville. There is no charge and supper will be served each night. Kids in 7th grade and up and adult volunteers are needed. If you would like to help in any capacity, please contact Lejean Moore at 318-466-3693.

## EMHC Workshop - July 26

The next workshop for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will be held on July 26 at the St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura. The average time for the workshop is about three hours so please plan accordingly. For more information, contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at [dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org).

### Saturday, July 26 – 9:00 a.m. – St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura

There is no need to register and no charge to attend. When the session is completed you will receive a certificate. We will be happy to have you!

## Lector Formation Workshop - July 26

Lector Formation workshops are for those individuals who are interested in serving or who currently may serve as a Lector in their parish. All training workshops present the same material and run about two and a half hours. For more information, contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at [dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org).

### Saturday, July 26 – 12:30 p.m. – St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura (after the EMHC Workshop)

There is no need to register and no charge to attend. When the session is completed you will receive a certificate. We will be happy to have you!

## Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop - August 2

These one-day workshops will be at the St. Joseph Catholic Center located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd,

Alexandria, LA. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., the day will include presentations on various topics that are vital to a couple's lifelong marriage. The workshop will end at approximately 3:00 p.m. and lunch will be included. Space will be limited, so please register for a workshop as soon as possible.

Registration for the August 2 workshop is now open.

There is a fee of \$60 per couple. You may pay online after submitting the registration form.

You can also pay the day of the workshop via check, money order or cash. Or you can prepay by mailing your check or money order (payable to Diocese of Alexandria) and mail to: Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne in the Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207

## School year start dates

Most of the Catholic schools in the diocese will begin classes on Thursday, Aug. 7:

- **Friday, Aug. 1:** St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport
- **Wednesday, Aug. 6:** St. Mary's School, Natchitoches
- **Thursday, Aug. 7:**

Holy Savior Menard, Alexandria

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria

St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

St. Joseph Elementary and High School, Plaquemine

Sacred Heart School, Moreauville

St. Anthony School, Bunkie

## Save the date: Empower Youth Ministry Training - August 9

The Steubenville South Office is excited to offer a foundational training day for parish youth ministers and volunteers - designed to equip your adult volunteers for long-term success. Whether you're just getting started or strengthening an established team, this day is for you.

Mark your calendar! Saturday, August 9 at Maryhill Renewal Center. More information coming soon at [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com).

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Catechist Enrichment Day - Sept. 20

We are excited to bring back our Catechist Enrichment Day this year. All are welcome to attend the day who share the faith in our Diocese: Priests, Deacons, DREs, Catechists, Catholic School teachers. Location details and registration information will be coming soon, but please save the date and share with those in your parish.

## Church Today News Deadlines

**July 28**

**Deadline for news:  
Thursday, July 17**

**August 25**

**Deadline for news:  
Thursday, August 14**



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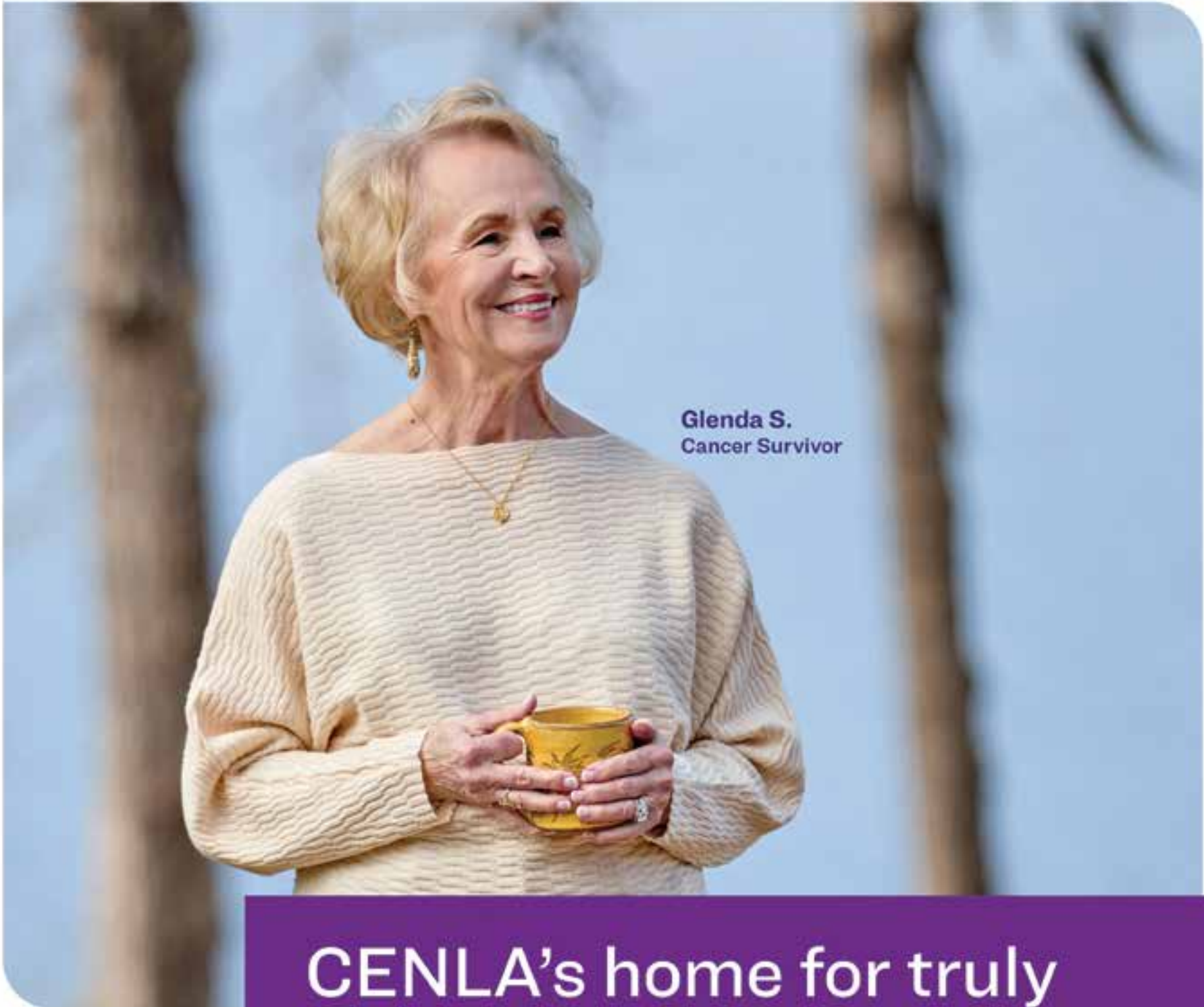
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# July 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
JUNE 30 PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH	JULY 1 PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	3 PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL	5 FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO	6 PRAY FOR DCN. K. PRIMEAUX
7 B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	8 PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY	9 PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	10 PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX	11 PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	12 Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center PRAY FOR DCN. K. SAYES	13 Vacation Bible School begins for Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville 6:00-8:00 P.M. PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH
B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria 14 PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	15 PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER	16 PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY	17 PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA	18 PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	19 Lector Workshop 9:00-11:30 a.m. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Campti PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	20 PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS
Vacation Bible School -- Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville - 6:00-8:00 p.m.			Vacation Bible School -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin - 6:00-8:15 p.m.			
21 B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR DCN. C. THIBODEAUX	22 PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	23 PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	24 PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS	25 PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	26 EMHC Workshop 9:00 a.m.-12 noon St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura Lector Workshop 12:30-3:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	27 PRAY FOR REV. G. VOLTZ
Vacation Bible School -- St. John the Baptist Church, Deville - 6:00-8:30 p.m.						
28 B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE	29 PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD	30 PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	31 PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG	AUGUST 1 First Day of School only for St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	3 PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA



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