

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVI, No. 7

www.diocesealex.org

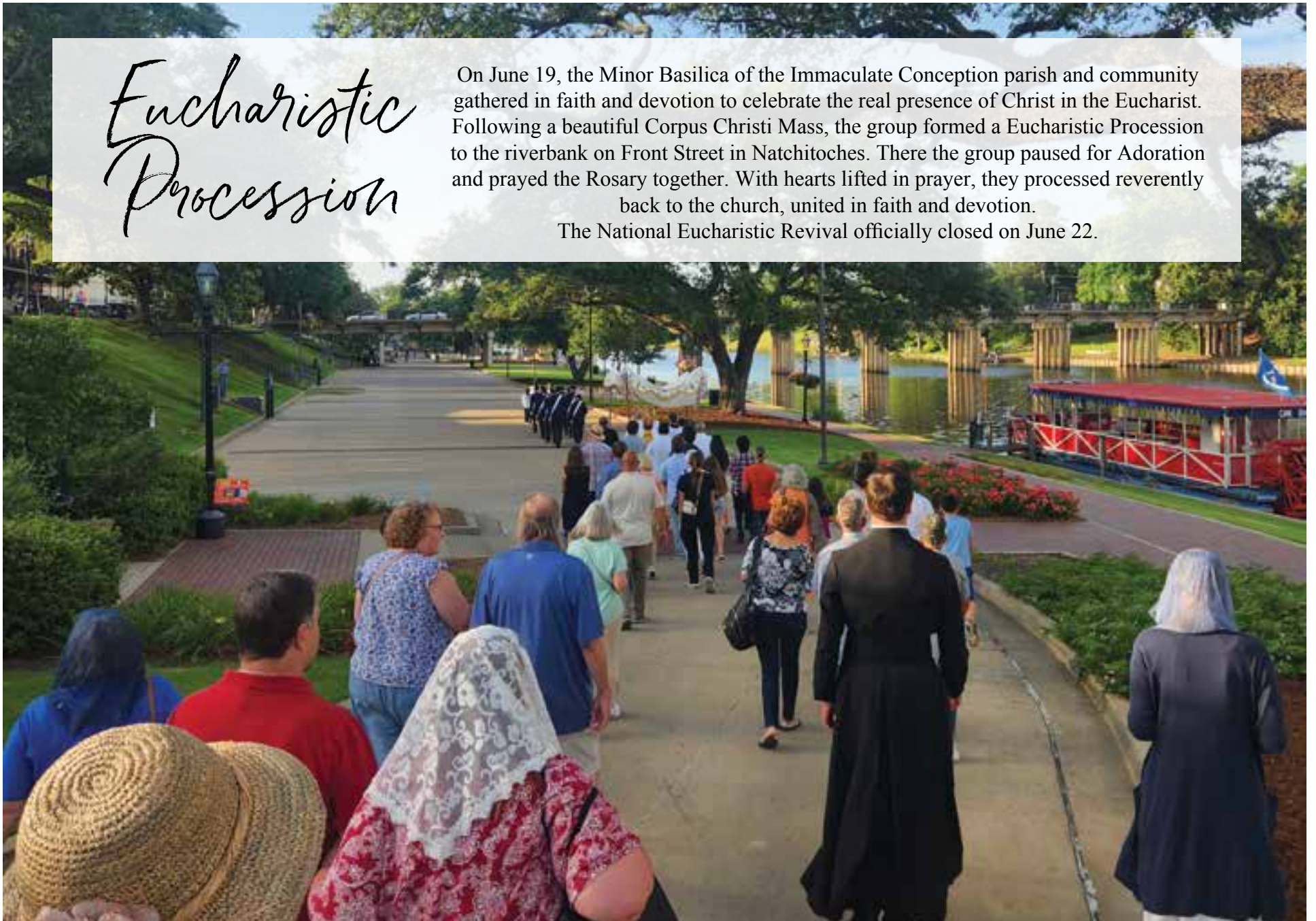
Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

July 28, 2025

Eucharistic Procession

On June 19, the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception parish and community gathered in faith and devotion to celebrate the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Following a beautiful Corpus Christi Mass, the group formed a Eucharistic Procession to the riverbank on Front Street in Natchitoches. There the group paused for Adoration and prayed the Rosary together. With hearts lifted in prayer, they processed reverently back to the church, united in faith and devotion.

The National Eucharistic Revival officially closed on June 22.



INSIDE

Sealed in the Spirit

Bishop Marshall reflects on the grace and hope of Confirmation in a special message to our young people and their families. See page 4 for more.

Compassionate care for every soul

Grief, transition, and anxiety can overwhelm teens - but caring adults can offer steady, Christ-centered support. Read more about holding space with hope on pages 12 and 13.

Equipping the Called

Two powerful formation days - one for catechists, one for youth ministers - offer inspiration, insight, and practical tools for mission. See pages 8 and 9 for details and registration info.

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Former head of Cabrini Hospital pastoral ministry, Fr. Chris Nayak, passes away

Fr. Christudas A. Nayak, a priest of the Diocese of Alexandria, passed from this life in Alexandria on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. Fr. Nayak, a native of India, was born in Mariapuram, Kerala on May 28, 1944 the son of Peter Arumanayakam and M. Mariamma. He completed his theological studies at St. Joseph's Pontifical College in Alwaye, Kerala and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Neyyattinkaya in Trivandrum, Kerala on December 20, 1968. As a newly ordained priest he served as executive secretary to Bishop Bernard Perriera.



**Father Christudas Nayak
1944-2025**

Fr. Chris came to the United States in 1974 and studied at Seton Hall University until 1979. He would go on to complete an M.A. Degree from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri later in

1992. From 1979 to 1982, Fr. Nayak served as a parochial vicar and administrator at St. Margaret's Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He completed his CPE training at St. Elizabeth Hospital

in Washington DC and served for one year as a chaplain at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette, Louisiana. From 1985 to 1987 Fr. Chris served as chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital in Dickinson, North Dakota.

In 1987 he was welcomed in Alexandria by Bishop John Favalora and hired by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word as the priest-chaplain at Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria. Fr. Chris served as chaplain until his retirement from active ministry in 2018. During that time, in addition to his hospital duties, he served as a cultural liaison for foreign born priests ministering in the diocese and assisted in many parishes. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Alexandria by Bishop Ronald Herzog in 2008.

During his long tenure in Louisiana, Fr. Chris never forgot his native country and supported the work of the diocese where he was ordained. With the permission of the bishop, he raised money for an orphanage, Navajeevan Home for Boys, run by his brother, Msgr. A. James, and visited home as regularly as he could.

Fr. Nayak is survived by his sister, Cicily Thomas, his brother and sister-in-law, Arun and Jaya Lawrence and his nieces and nephews: Melvin Thomas, Sandhya Thomas, Telma Stephen, Dr. Valentine Stephen, Sonai Kunnumpurath, Yesudasan Sujith, Sumith Yesudasan, James Lawrence and Cindy Lawrence.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, June 28 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria.

CHURCH TODAY



Volume LVI, No. 7
July 28, 2025

P. O. Box 7417
Alexandria, LA 71303
318-445-6424

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

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

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

All invited to Closing Ceremony for Cause of Canonization for 5 priests on August 28

On July 1, the Diocese of Shreveport, in conjunction with the Diocese of Alexandria, completed the final stage of the process in the diocesan inquiry for the cause of Canonization for the five priests of the diocese of Natchitoches that died ministering during the yellow fever epidemic in 1873 – Frs. Jean Pierre, Isidore Quemerais, Joseph Bilier, Louis Gergaud, and Fr. Francois Levezouet.

Beginning in 2020, the diocese of Shreveport opened the beginning phase, or the

diocesan inquiry, of the cause of canonization. The actions of the priests were examined under the category of “Martyrs of Charity”, a new category opened by Pope Francis in 2018 in addition to the categories of blood martyr or living a heroic life.

Over the past five years, over 5000 pages of archival documents, interviews, proof of reputation of holiness, and other evidence was gathered from the local churches to offer proof and substance to the reality of the fame of holiness of the 5 priests

as well as evidence of the reality of their sacrifice.

From June 30-July 2, all of the documents were officially collected, cataloged, numbered, notarized and then triplicated in preparation for the official Closing Ceremony on August 28.

During this Closing Ceremony, the boxes containing the documents will be sealed and then two sets will be hand delivered to the Dicastery in Rome to begin the Roman Phase. The Closing Ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. August 28 at

Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Shreveport. Priests and lay people from both the Diocese of Shreveport and the Diocese of Alexandria are invited since these priests were part of the diocese of Natchitoches, which originally compromised both dioceses. Several priests and lay people from both dioceses contributed to the work and testimonies that are within the documents.



Fr. Jean Pierre

Fr. Isidore Quemerais

Fr. Joseph Bilier

Fr. Louis Gergaud

Fr. Francois Levezouet

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop

August 23, 9:00 a.m.
St. Edward the Confessor
Mission Church, Fishville (Pollock)

Lector Workshops

August 23, 12:30 p.m.
St. Edward the Confessor
Mission Church, Fishville (Pollock)
(follows the EHMC Workshop)

dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org



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Archbishop Wenski leads Knights on Bikes to pray rosary at Alligator Alcatraz

By Gina Christian
Our Sunday Visitor



ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ. Motorcycles ridden by Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami and Knights on Bikes are parked in front of the entrance to Alligator Alcatraz, a controversial immigration detention facility some 55 miles from Miami in the Florida Everglades. The archbishop and his fellow bikers stopped to pray a rosary for detainees July 20, 2025. (OSV News photo/Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski)

(OSV News) — Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami and some 25 Knights of Columbus saddled up their motorcycles to pray a rosary at the entrance of Alligator Alcatraz, the controversial migrant detention center recently opened in the Florida Everglades.

The archbishop posted images of the July 20 gathering to his X account, saying that he and his fellow riders — members of the Knights of Columbus’ Knights on Bikes International fraternal organization — “stopped at the entrance of Alligator Alcatraz and prayed a rosary for the detainees.”

In his post, Archbishop Wenski noted that the Archdiocese of Miami “is still waiting for approval to access” Alligator Alcatraz “to provide Mass for detainees.”

According to a recent report by organizations affiliated with Catholic and evangelical Christian churches, Christians account for approximately 80% of all of those at risk of deportation. The Christians most at risk of

deportation are Catholics, 61% of the total.

Alligator Alcatraz, located some 55 miles from downtown

Miami at the Dade Collier Training and Transition Airport, consists of tents with groups of bunk beds in cage-like units of

chain-link fencing, and exposed communal toilets.

Water, sewage management, power and air conditioning are supplied by portable units, according to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. The facility, estimated to hold 3,000, has plans to be expanded to accommodate 5,000.

Alligator Alcatraz has drawn condemnation from clergy and Democratic lawmakers alike for its conditions and location — with Trump, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and DeSantis, a Catholic, touting the hostile environment as a security feature and immigration deterrent during their July 1 tour inaugurating the opening of the facility.

“It basically is in a swamp,” Archbishop Wenski told OSV News in a July 15 interview. “There are numerous alligators and pythons (and) boa constrictors, and tons and tons of mosquitoes.”

Detainees have told The New York Times that the frequent rains have created leaks and insect intrusions, while access to showers, full meals and

medication is limited. Illness, sleep deprivation and unrest is also in evidence, they said.

NBC 6 South Florida reported that from July 1-18, there were 34 emergency calls to 911 from Alligator Alcatraz, an average of two per day.

Records obtained by The Miami Herald/Tampa Bay Times show only a third of those currently housed at the site have criminal histories.

“There’s more questions than answers about this place,” Archbishop Wenski told OSV News July 15.

He said, “We don’t want dangerous people walking the streets freely. But the majority of the immigrants are not bad actors. They’re basically people that have tried to, through hard work, create a future of hope for themselves and their children. And as such, they have contributed to the prosperity of our nation. And some have done so for years, even decades.”

The archbishop added, “There’s no home to go back to, because home is here.”



JUBILEE PILGRIMS FROM HOLY GHOST CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. The Holy Ghost pilgrimage group visited Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church in Forest Hill, one of the designated pilgrimage sites within the Diocese of Alexandria.

View more Jubilee Year photos at
www.diocesealex.org/all-photo-galleries

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

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.

From the Second Sunday of Lent through Pentecost Sunday, I celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in 31 separate liturgies. Because 2025 is a Jubilee Year, I took a different approach to my pre-liturgical conversations with the candidates for Confirmation. Usually, I talk to them about the Sacrament of Confirmation and I try to reassure them if any are anxious. I did that again, but this year I also focused our conversations on the theme of this Jubilee Year – “Pilgrims of Hope.” We talked about a life of faith as a journey. Faith, after all, is not a “one and done” experience, but a lifelong journey/pilgrimage.

Our faith may begin quietly when we are introduced to prayer or in a burst of energy after a life-changing experience, but that beginning is not meant to be the end. We are called – impelled by the Spirit, in fact – to nurture our faith and to grow in our relationship with the Lord. Almost all of the candidates could relate to this experience and recognized that their journey of faith was not taken alone. Countless others walk with us – parents, relatives and friends; godparents and Confirmation sponsors; fellow candidates for Confirmation and fellow parishioners; as well as those saints who have gone before and are supporting us with their prayers in heaven. If we are, indeed, walking toward the Father, then our pilgrimage



Live, Jesus, in our Hearts Forever

By Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

Confirmation Season 2025: A Journey of Hope

is supported by our Lord Jesus Christ and our steps are encouraged and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

Yes, the “pilgrim” part of our conversations went very well. Things became more difficult when we tried to speak about “Hope.” I should point out that there were a few adults confirmed at some parishes, but the majority of our Confirmation candidates are high school Juniors (11th grade). Regardless of the age of the candidate, most found it difficult to define the word hope – at least in Christian terms. Hope, for many, was eventually getting what they want – hoping for a new car or for a college scholarship or for things to get better. Some found it difficult to remember a time when they were hopeful. Others had lowered their expectations – hoping only for what they knew that they could achieve on their own. Still others equated “hope” with “faith” in that faith in Jesus Christ means that all of my

dreams are possible.

True Christian hope, the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, “is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness . . .” (CCC ¶1817). In other words, our hope is not that God will grant us every wish. Our hope is that our needs, desires, and wants will lead us to conform our lives to the will of God. Yes, we hope to achieve happiness. Hope and faith complement one another when we accept that true happiness, the fulfillment of all our hopes, will only be found in the person of Jesus Christ. That is where we people of faith often diverge from those without faith. For those without faith, hope is reduced to a gift registry or a “Letter to Santa.” For those with faith, those who recognize that our only happiness will be found in God, hope becomes the spark by which we let go of mundane desires and instead long for the most profound blessings of an eternal

relationship with our loving God.

In calling for the celebration of a Jubilee Year in 2025, the late Pope Francis quoted St. Paul’s letter to the Romans: *Spes non confundit*, which means “Hope does not disappoint.” We know that “hoping” for the fulfillment of all of our desires will disappoint us eventually: when the new car breaks down, when our health gives out, when the dream job becomes difficult. True hope – Christian hope – does not disappoint because it leads us directly to Jesus Christ.

I often concluded my conversations with our Confirmation candidates by letting them know that they are a reason for my hope. Their desire for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation gave me hope that the mission of the Church will continue in subsequent generations. I also invited them to spend a few minutes before the Confirmation Mass began in prayer, asking God to pour out

upon them the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the one or ones that they might feel that they needed most at that time.

All in all, I was impressed and encouraged by my conversations with our young people. True, a few may have been just going through the motions – but I always remember that God can work with anything. Most of the candidates, however, were truly seeking the fullness of God’s Spirit in their lives. I have no doubt that God rewarded their sincere hope.

*Live Jesus in our hearts,
Most Reverend
Robert W. Marshall, Jr.
Bishop of Alexandria*

“Let no one
have contempt
for your youth,
but set an
example for those
who believe,
in speech,
conduct, love,
faith, and purity.”

1 Timothy 4: 12

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

Psalm 90:1
Responsorial Psalm
for August 3
Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary time

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

PETER J. LEMOINE

Social Security Disability Law

*Recipient of Social Security Disability Leadership Award:
National Top 100 Social Security Disability Law Firms*

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, Lafayette Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives

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

(318)717-1995

Catechist Enrichment Day set for Sept. 20 at Maryhill

Evangelization and Catechesis go hand in hand in fulfilling the mission of the Church and that is to lead people to a deeper encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. Presenters will share teaching techniques, insights into the Sacraments, OCIA/Tribunal process, how to make scripture come alive, and more. If your role involves sharing the faith with others, please join us this day of relational ministry enrichment.

Speakers for this event are:

Dr. Amber Hyatt

Amber Hyatt, Ph.D., grew up in Deville, Louisiana. She has served as an educator in the K-12 public school system and her specialization is Special Education. She currently teaches at Louisiana Christian University and runs Learning Differently, a Dyslexia Therapy and Academic Tutoring Center. She is married to Daniel and they have 5 children. She has taught 1st and 7th grade Catechism at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Tioga.

Sylvia Y. Davis

Sylvia Yancy Davis was raised by educator parents in a rural community in St. Helena Parish. She never forgot her grandfather's stories about hard work and strong faith and promised herself that when she was an adult, she would tell stories to inspire just as her grandfather had inspired her. She's traveled the state and beyond as a storyteller, often making appearances at Louisiana libraries for their summer reading programs



and at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Mrs. Davis enjoyed a successful career as a teacher and administrator in the public school system and at Holy Savior Menard. Today, she is the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Alexandria.

Father Taylor Reynolds

Father Reynolds is pastor of St. Joseph Church in the rural town of St. Joseph, Louisiana. He has taught elementary level Physical Science classes at St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria.

Father Taylor is also a canonical lawyer, receiving his JCL in 2019 and serves in

the Tribunal for the Diocese of Alexandria where he was named Ecclesiastical Judge and serves on annulment cases, penal cases and canonization causes.

Deacon Les Glankler

Deacon Les is married to his High School sweetheart, they are tremendously blessed with three grown children, eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

He is assigned to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, where he and his family have been life-long parishioners. His ministries

at the parish include but are not limited to assisting with OCIA classes, Sacramental education and preparation, Spiritual Direction, Retreat Direction and Parish Liturgies. He also assists the Diocese with spiritual renewal conferences, retreats and Diocesan Liturgical events.

He maintains a business as a Financial Planning practitioner; loves to hunt, fish, play golf and hang out with and cook for family and friends.

Nicole Mitchell

Nicole is one of the founders of the Genesis of Eve Women's Conference. She has served as a Women's ACTS Retreat Director, Retreat consultant and was a founding member of the Diocese of Alexandria's ACTS Mission Chapter which brings ACTS Retreats to parishes throughout the Diocese.

In 2019, she entered the Spiritual Direction Program facilitated by the Archdiocese of New Orleans and became a certified Spiritual Director in 2023. Nicole is married to Deacon Richard Mitchell and they have two adult daughters and one grand daughter.

Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

Bishop Robert Marshall was ordained to the episcopacy and installed as the thirteenth Bishop of Alexandria on August 20, 2020.

Bishop Marshall was born

and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. A graduate of Catholic schools, Bishop-elect Marshall attended St. Michael School, Christian Brothers High School, and Christian Brothers University, all in Memphis. He obtained his law degree from Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis) and practiced law for twelve years in both St. Louis, Missouri and Memphis.

Discerning a call to priesthood, Bishop Marshall studied at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana, and was ordained on June 10, 2000, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Memphis.

Bishop Marshall served in parish ministry in a number of parishes in the Diocese of Memphis, most recently as the pastor of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Memphis.

Among many administrative assignments in the Diocese of Memphis he served Bishop David Talley and the diocese as Vicar General until his appointment as the thirteenth bishop of Alexandria.

There is no cost to attend but please register by scanning the QR code no later than September 10 to reserve your space.



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



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August 15
Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Holy Day of Obligation



DCN. TED MOULARD RETIRES. On Sunday, June 29, a Farewell/Retirement luncheon was held for Deacon Ted Moulard. Hosted by the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver of Holy Ghost Catholic Church and St. Richards Chapel in appreciation for 7 years of service to the parish. The parishioners thanked him for his time, dedication, guidance, support and sharing God’s word with them. He will be greatly missed.

What is my Vocation?

Do you want guidance in learning about God the Father’s specific plan for you? Do you feel called to give more and be more? Do you have questions about how to discern your Vocation? Join us! **Saturday, November 8, 2025** The day will include an extensive panel of vocations experts made up of religious brothers, sisters, and priests. Open to All Youth and anyone discerning his/her vocation.

Where: St. Mary’s Assumption Catholic Church in Cottonport
Save the date!
More details to follow.



A Prayer for Priests

Oh Holy God, Lord of Hosts
Bless our priest with the Holy Ghost.

Give them graces to come through the day,
Shower them with love for this we pray.

You placed them on earth to imitate you,
Many were called but you chose only a few.

You gave them power to change bread and wine,
Into your body and blood, eternally divine.

So, protect them from the evil one,
And stay by their side until your work is done.

lizdescant@gmail.com
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

Seminarian Burses

June 2025 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
Father Robert Johnson Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
The Robichaux Children	\$2,200.00
Mary Lee and Gerald Robichaux, Sr. Burse	
Total	\$2,450.00

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

**Chancery Office,
Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417**

Thank you for your generosity!
--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT BISHOP GRECO #2072, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville presented a check to Bishop Robert Marshall on July 16 for the Seminary Education Fund. Pictured left to right: Edna Smith, Treasurer; Sherry Perkins, Regent; Murlene McKnight, Member of Court and Bishop Marshall.

*Blessed
the people
the Lord
has chosen
to be his own.*

Psalm 33: 12
Responsorial Psalm
for August 10
Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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.

Completed Burses at \$15,000.00 Each:

- Bishop Charles P. Greco
- Monsignor Henry Fr. Beckers
- Monsignor Milburn Broussard
- Monsignor Thomas F. Early (3 Completed)
- Monsignor Bruce Miller (2 Completed)
- Monsignor B. A. Scallan
- Father H. Gerald Bordelon
- Father Daniel Corkery (3 Completed)
- Father Michael P. Kammer
- Father Christian Ogbonna
- Father William B. Provosty (2 Completed)
- Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard
- Bobby D. Basco
- Angelo R. And Ena F. D'Angelo
- John Dominick Driscoll
- Miss Mary F. Early
- Daryl "Pat" Mauterer
- Irvin and Elma Moreau, Harrison P. Moreau, Michael N. Moreau, Deborah S. Moreau Bouche, Emily A. Moreau, Tom and Mary Candiotta, and Ruby Moreau
- David Stafford "Brother" O'Shee
- Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Shores
- John Gregory Simms
- John T. Simms, Jr.
- Sadie Stroud

The following is a list of established burses and amounts in each:

St. Damien De Veuster	175.00
Bishop William Friend	100.00
Bishop Lawrence P. Graves	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco	1,750.00
Bishop Ronald P. Herzog	450.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs	1,200.00
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.	700.00
Bishop David P. Talley	525.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock	1,535.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor S. Scott Chemino	750.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	650.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	560.00
Monsignor James Ferguson	1,875.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	1,100.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwaitaal	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Bruce Miller	300.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	965.00
Monsignor Mozart Pelletier	100.00
Monsignor John V. Plauche	400.00
Monsignor F. Joseph Pateau	570.00
Monsignor Russell J. Richie	616.14
Monsignor B. A. Scallan	10,085.90
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	10,006.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	10,975.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	960.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	10,820.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putten	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	2,770.00
Father Walter Ajaero	350.00
Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
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Father Chad Partain	250.00
Father Martin L. Plauche	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi	1,000.00
Father George Pookkattu	50.00
Father William B. Provosty	105.00
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Father Sheldon Roy	250.00
Father Lloyd M. Samson	50.00
Father Craig Scott	2,000.00
Father Brian Seiler	50.00
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Father Ker Texada	200.00
Father August Thompson	1,390.00
Father Adam Travis	100.00
Father Abraham Varghese	25.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde	1,300.00
Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
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Father Silvan A. Watercotte, OFM	160.00
Father Kenneth Williams	880.00
Father John Wiltse	250.00
Father Joseph Xavier	100.00
Father Bernard Zagst	1,275.00
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Deacon Patrick C. McCusker	100.00
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In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches	100.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Alexandria	3,260.00
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Tallulah	100.00
St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Cottonport	700.00
General Fund	2,000.00

Total **785,654.17**

After the mountaintop: Helping teens carry Steubenville South into daily life

They came back glowing. You saw it in their eyes, heard it in their voices, maybe even caught them humming worship songs around the house. So now what?

Every summer, teens from across our diocese experience the powerful presence of Christ at the Steubenville South Youth Conference. They laugh, cry, sing, kneel, receive the sacraments, and encounter the love of God in a way that leaves a lasting mark. It's not uncommon for parents or grandparents to say, "I've never seen them so alive in their faith!"

But once the suitcases are unpacked and the T-shirts are tossed in the laundry basket, the reality sets in: spiritual mountaintop moments don't always translate easily into the routines of everyday life. That's where you come in.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, godparent, or mentor, you have a vital role to play in nurturing what God began in your teen's heart that weekend.

Here are three ways you can help:

1. *Make space to listen.*

Ask open-ended questions about the conference—What stood out to them? What did they feel during Adoration? What are they still thinking about? You don't have to fix or analyze anything. Just listen. Show them their spiritual life matters to you.

2. *Support their next steps.*

Many teens come home with a new desire to pray, read Scripture, attend youth group, or



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH 2025. Members of this year's speaking team, Oscar Rivera, Vale Montes, and Lauren Gothard, ride a bus with a group of Steubenville South Conference participants.

go to Confession more regularly. Encourage them! Offer to pray with them, drive them to youth events, or simply remind them it's okay to start small.

3. *Be a quiet witness.*

Your own faith life speaks volumes. A teen who sees their mom praying the Rosary or their grandfather reading the Gospel is receiving a daily witness of consistency. You don't have to

preach—your faithfulness is preaching all on its own.

Finally, know this: conversion is not a one-time event. It's a lifelong journey. Your teen's encounter with Christ at Steubenville South was real—but so is the journey ahead. With your love, your prayers, and your gentle support, they won't be walking it alone.

And maybe, just maybe, their fire will rekindle your own.

"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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Steubenville South Follow-Up Resources for Families

PRAY TOGETHER:

- Try a family Rosary walk or a weekly "grace & gratitude" prayer at dinner.
- Invite your teens to lead prayer once a week!

LISTEN TO WORSHIP MUSIC:

- Steubenville Worship playlist on Spotify or Apple Music
- The Vigil Project or Sarah Kroger for Catholic artists

APPS YOUR TEEN MIGHT LIKE:

- Hallow (Catholic prayer + meditation)
- Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz
- Laudate (free prayer & saint app)

BOOKS FOR TEENS:

- Do Something Beautiful for God – Mother Teresa quotes
- The Catholic Youth Bible
- Boundless by Jenni Lien (daily meditations for young women)

CONNECT LOCALLY:

- Reach out to your parish youth minister or ask your priest if there's a small group or Bible study your teen could join.
- Consider attending family Adoration or teen-friendly Masses together.

QUESTIONS?

We're here for you!

Contact the Steubenville South team anytime:

hello@steubenvillesouth.com

steubenvillesouth.com

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MOTHER BETTINI THRIFT CENTER RE-OPENS. St. Anthony Church in Bunkie, re-opened the Mother Bettini Thrift Center at 610 Rose Street on Friday, June 6. The newly renovated center features gently used clothing for all ages, small household furnishings, and kitchenware. It also sells occasional holiday items. The center is an outreach ministry of the church parish and is managed by volunteers from the St. Anthony Catholic Daughters, Court #968. Hours of operation for shopping and sales are each Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Donations are best delivered to the carport of the center by Monday of each week when ladies are available for processing.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. MARY CHURCH, WINNSBORO was held on May 11. Father Jason Goozee is pictured with Paul K [redacted] and Lucy T [redacted].



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. ANNE CHAPEL, SPANISH LAKE. Fr. Thomas Paul celebrated First Holy Communion Mass recently with five students.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS, COURT SAINT ANTHONY NO. 968 OF BUNKIE celebrated their 100th Anniversary recently with Msgr. Scott Chemino as celebrant. Participation was Sheila Moore, State Regent, along with members from visiting courts Court Padre Pio, Court Bishop Desmond #1459 (St. Rita Church, Alexandria), and Court Notre Dame #1452 (Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria).

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MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS YOUTH GROUP ATTENDS STEUBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE. Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth Youth leaders and Chaparones led a group of 13 to the Steubenville South Conference.



ST. RITA YOUTH GROUP ATTENDS STEUBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE. St. Rita Church, Alexandria Youth leaders and Chaparones led a group of 16 to the Steubenville South Conference.



SACRED HEART CHURCH YOUTH GROUP at the Steubenville South Youth Conference. June 20-22, 2025. 1st row: Andre' Spruill, Group Leader; Leah D [redacted], Leah L [redacted], Jenna A [redacted], Kimora H [redacted], Mary Ducote, Chaperone; Madison W [redacted], and John Alex J [redacted]. 2nd row: Margeaux F [redacted], Brynn J [redacted], Narella D [redacted], Ellen G [redacted], Samuel G [redacted], Mac F [redacted], Broden G [redacted], and Deacon Reggie Ducote,



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH 2025. A special thanks to our staff and volunteers for working so tirelessly behind the scenes to bring so many teens and their families closer to Christ.



SACRED HEART CHURCH-MOREAUVILLE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS coming together on a Saturday afternoon during the Steubenville South conference to cook a huge Avoyelles style jambalaya for thousands of participants from all over the southern part of the country. Pictured left to right: Bryce Lemoine, Kyle Lemoine, Felix Bordelon, Adam Laborde, Dale Couvillion, Justin Coco, and Rodney Desselle. Alex Laborde pictured in the back. Thank you!



ST. ALPHONSUS YOUTH GROUP ATTENDS STEUBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE. St. Alphonsus Church, Hessmer Youth leaders and Chaparones Janell Dauzat, Myranda Roy, Holly Ash, Brandon Roy and Chelsi Dauzat led a group of 18 youth to the Steubenville South Conference.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, DUPONT hosted their VBS from June 18-20. Forty kids attended and many youth and volunteers helped during the two-day event.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ST. JOPSEH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. VBS was held June 23-27.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. Fr. Brian Seiler leads the kids in song during a fruitful day of Vacation Bible School.

ST. MARY'S COMMUNITY AND SERVICES



FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY took place recently. It was the first since COVID, and turned out wonderfully! We had a water zone with a splash pad, an indoor pool, and a game zone featuring large-scale games like bowling, jump space walks, and even a dancing area. Food was generously donated and served by our local Knights of Columbus group, who continue to be incredible supporters of St. Mary's Community.



ST. MARY'S HERO AWARD. Last month, thanks to donor-funded training, our staff saved two residents from choking in two separate emergencies. Because of their quick action, both Chris and Shiloh are safe and smiling today. To honor their bravery, we created the first St. Mary's Hero Award—recognizing Darvis, Viola, Rosanna, and Sandy for their life-saving efforts. Left: Chris & Darvis. Right: Shiloh with Viola & Sandy.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL OLPS, ALEXANDRIA was held June 9-13. The theme was "True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World".

To see more photos of events from across the Diocese of Alexandria, visit the photo galleries at www.diocesealex.org

Supporting Mental Health: Affordable Counseling Through Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana

In today's fast-paced world, mental health care is more important than ever. Whether facing personal struggles, stress, or simply seeking guidance, having access to compassionate support can make all the difference. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana recognizes this need and is committed to providing affordable mental health counseling services to the community.

At the heart of this initiative is Fr. John Brocato, a licensed practical counselor with a dedication to helping individuals navigate life's challenges. Fr. Brocato works with clients to address emotional, psychological, and personal concerns in a confidential and supportive environment.

These counseling services are available at a low-cost fee, ensuring that financial barriers

do not prevent individuals and families from receiving the assistance they need. Catholic Charities strives to offer mental health support that is accessible to all, fostering healing and well-being within the community.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit the website of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana (cccenla.org). Help is available, and you are never alone.

Services Offered by Catholic Charities of Central LA

Visit 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**
- in partnership with Red River Bank and OFMS
- **Assist.Educate.Elevate.**
Emergency Basic Needs Assistance
(For those at risk of utility disconnect and eviction, victims of house fires, and information and referral)
- **SNAP Enrollment Assistance**
To support our work, thank you for your donation of time, talent, or treasure!
• **Volunteer** - cccenla.org/volunteer
• **Donate** - cccenla.org/hero-of-hope

Questions? Email info@cccenla.org



PLAUCHEVILLE KNIGHTS DONATE TO PREGNANCY CENTERS. On June 25, 2025, Knights of Columbus Council #2142, Plaquemine, donated \$200 to the Avoyelles Pregnancy Center, through the Cenla Pregnancy Center area office. Mrs. Heidi Peavy accepted the donation. Pictured left to right, in front: Johnny Lemoine, Stephen Couvillion, Mark Daigrepoint, Mrs. Heidi Peavy, Johnny Knott, Father Abraham Varghese, E.J. Cox. Back row: John Sprague, Father Martin Laird, pastor of Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine.



Upcoming Retreats:

“When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who... simply share our pain.”

Henri Nouwen

August 28-32
Mens ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Joseph Church, Marksville

September 4-7
Mens ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Alphonsus Church, Hessmer

September 18-21
SPANISH
Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by Our Lady of Guadalupe, Forest Hill

September 25-28
Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport

All retreats are held at Maryhill Renewal Center.

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Holding space for teens in turbulent times

Adolescence is often a whirlwind of change. But when teens experience the death of a classmate, the uncertainty of changing schools, or the emotional weight of preparing for college, the turbulence can become overwhelming. As parents, mentors, and caring adults, we are called not only to guide our young people but to walk beside them—offering comfort, wisdom, and the steady presence of Christ.

When Grief Comes Early

The loss of a peer can shake a teenager’s sense of identity and safety. Christian counselors remind us that grief is not linear. Teens may express it in ways that seem distant, angry, or even humorous. They need space to grieve in their own way.

- Model vulnerability. Share your own sadness and memories. Teens often need permission to feel.
- Invite spiritual reflection. Gently guide them toward Scripture, such as Psalm 34:18: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted.”
- Avoid rushing healing. Grief is sacred ground. Let them linger there with God.



Navigating the Transition to College

College represents both freedom and fear. Many teens mourn the loss of friendships, routines, and the familiarity of home—even as they look forward to what’s ahead.

- Affirm their identity in Christ. Remind them that their worth is not tied to performance or popularity.

• Pray together. Invite God into the unknown. Jeremiah 29:11 offers hope: “For I know the plans I have for you...”

- Normalize anxiety. Even Jesus wept and felt anguish. Emotions are not a weakness—they are human.

Changing Schools and Losing Familiarity

Whether due to relocation

or academic needs, changing schools can feel like social exile. Teens may feel invisible, isolated, or misunderstood.

- Create safe spaces at home. Make your home a refuge—a place where they are fully known and fully loved.
- Encourage connection. Help them find youth groups or Christian clubs where they can rebuild community.

- Speak life over them. Words matter. Remind them of their resilience, kindness, and courage.

Faith as Anchor in Disruption

Christian counseling emphasizes that healing is not only emotional—it is also spiritual. Disruption, though painful, can become a divine invitation to deeper trust.

- Teach lament. The Psalms are full of holy sorrow. Let teens know it’s okay to question, cry, and wrestle with God.

• Practice presence. Sometimes the most powerful ministry is simply sitting beside them in silence.

- Point to redemption. Remind them that God never wastes pain. Every loss, every change, is part of a greater story.

A Final Encouragement

You don’t need perfect words—just a willing heart. Your presence, prayers, and patience can be the balm that helps a teen find peace in the storm. As Romans 12:15 exhorts us, “Mourn with those who mourn.” In doing so, you reflect the heart of Christ.

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Lord, come to my aid!

Psalm 40: 14
Responsorial Psalm for August 17
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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“Too busy to breathe”: What our teens need most might surprise you

If you’ve ever tried to get your teen or grandchild to commit to something—a family dinner, a youth night at church, or even a weekend retreat—you may have heard some version of:

“I want to come, but I just have so much going on.”

Or perhaps: “Let me see how the week goes.”

It’s not just you. Youth ministers across our diocese are hearing the same thing from students. One recently put it this way:

“If I could wave a magic wand, I’d help teens be less over-committed. They’re exhausted—and it’s making it hard for them to show up fully to anything, including church.”

That might feel discouraging to hear. But really, it’s a powerful insight—and an

invitation for us, as parents, grandparents, and mentors, to consider the pace of life we’re helping shape.

This generation of teens is incredible: smart, driven, and deeply capable. But they’re also exhausted. Between school, sports, theater, dance, clubs, jobs, and social pressures, their lives often leave very little margin. Add to that the constant hum of technology, and it’s no wonder they’re reluctant to commit to one more thing.

Here’s the surprising part: they’re not resisting youth ministry or family time because they don’t care. They’re just tapped out. And often, the activities crowding their schedules are good things—but good things piled too high can still weigh us down.

So what can we do?

1. Protect Margin

Help your teen learn that rest isn’t laziness—it’s wisdom. God modeled Sabbath for a reason. Creating space in their calendar for unstructured time, prayer, or even boredom gives their soul a chance to breathe.

2. Encourage Commitment to What Matters

Teens need help discerning what to say yes to. A packed schedule doesn’t always mean a purposeful life. Help them prioritize the things that form them spiritually and emotionally—including faith formation, Mass, and healthy relationships.

3. Lead by Example

If our own calendars are packed to the brim, our kids notice. Modeling a slower, more intentional way of life speaks volumes. It also helps them feel

permission to slow down, too.

4. Affirm Identity Over Achievement

Our teens are under immense pressure to perform—at school, on the field, online. Remind them often: you are enough because you are loved. Not because of a GPA or a trophy shelf.

The Church offers something teens are longing for, even if they don’t know how to name it: a place to be still. A place to be known. A place to encounter a God who isn’t measuring them by how much they do—but who delights in who they are.

Your encouragement can help them say “yes” to that sacred space. Not as one more thing to add to the calendar—but as a place to finally rest.

Enrollment is now open for the Retrouvaille Weekend, March 21-23, 2025, at Grand Coteau Retreats in Grand Coteau, LA. Retrouvaille is a three-phase program designed to help couples navigate marriage challenges in a healthy & productive way.

To register for the weekend retreat, followed by ongoing monthly marriage support, visit helpourmarriage.org or call 1-800-470-2230.

For more information, contact the Community Coordinator Couple, Randall and Robin Bellard, at 225-271-4092 or 2009@helpourmarriage.org.



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, CAMPTI, honored all fathers on Father’s Day with a breakfast brunch.

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Psalm 117: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for August 24
Twenty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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FOURTH DEGREE OFFICERS. On Saturday, July 12, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Frances Cabrini Church and attended the Installation of Officers for the Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #9294. Newly Installed Grand Knight Austin Ducote, Deputy Grand Knight Tyler Brouillette and other officers and Fr. Dwight (Chaplain) installed by Ed Gremillion (Former District Deputy Grand Knight) Saint Francis DeSales Knights of Columbus #9294 in Echo.

Sisters of the Holy Family Eucharistic Celebration Honors Jubilarians

The Sisters of the Holy Family held a Eucharistic Celebration event honoring their Jubilarians on June 14. Sister Gloria Lewis, S.S.F. lived in our diocese for many years and was one of those honored. Sister Gloria has been a professed sister of the Sisters of the Holy Family for over 70 years. During those years, Sister Gloria earned several degrees and taught Spanish and American History. Eventually, she began teaching English as a second language to students who came to Alexandria from Latin America. Due to health reasons, Sister Gloria has moved back to New Orleans.

The Sisters of the Holy Family trace their official origin to 1842. Henriette Delille served as founder and first superior.

She inspired a small band of women to assist the sick and the dying and to catechize and instruct both slaves and free persons.

These sisters served at Holy Ghost Catholic School in Marksville from 1945 until its closure.

During Hurricane Katrina the Sisters found shelter here when they were forced to evacuate their motherhouse in New Orleans. After the storm, the Sisters



SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY JUBILEE CELEBRATION. Sister Gloria Lewis, S.S.F., was one of the honorees at the celebration held at St. Maria Goretti Church in New Orleans on June 14.

secured homes here in Alexandria to serve as places of refuge in case of hurricane evacuation.

Sisters of the Holy Family have served in both public and private schools in Alexandria since Hurricane Katrina. Currently, Sister Elizabeth Ann Holmes, S.S.F., teaches at St. Frances Cabrini School.

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Free formation day for youth ministry leaders coming to Maryhill Life Teen and Steubenville South partner to bring Empower Louisiana to the Diocese of Alexandria

By Cari Terracina
Steubenville South
Coordinator

On Saturday, August 9, the Steubenville South Conference Office is partnering with Life Teen to bring an Empower Training Day to Maryhill Retreat Center — a one-day formation and training experience for adults serving in youth ministry.

This event is free of charge and open to all Steubenville South group leaders, chaperones, volunteers, priests, and adult ministry leaders throughout the region. Whether someone is just beginning their ministry journey or has served faithfully for years, Empower Louisiana offers a chance to refocus, reconnect, and be renewed in mission.

Rooted in the heart of the Church's call to evangelize and disciple young people, Empower is more than just a training day — it's a space to remember why we said "yes" in the first place. The sessions are designed to be Spirit-led and deeply practical, offering tools and insight that adult leaders can bring back to their parishes immediately.

Session topics include:

– *Finding Radiant Hope:*



Looking to Mary as our Guide

– *The Role of Prayer in Preparation:* Cultivating Spiritual Readiness for Ministry and Life

– *The Art of Asking Good Questions:* How curiosity opens doors for deeper faith and connection

– *Teens, Tech, and the Truth:* Navigating digital culture to lead young hearts toward Christ.

– *Shepherds, Not Chaperones:* Shifting the volunteer mindset and rediscovering the role of adult volunteers.

– *The Ministry of Showing Up:* Consistency that converts.

– *From Talk to*

Transformation: Crafting talks that engage teens.

Empower Louisiana is about forming the hearts of those who are forming the next generation. We want every adult leader to leave feeling encouraged, equipped, and ready to launch into a new year of ministry with joy and clarity.

For many adults serving in youth ministry, fall can feel like jumping straight into the deep end — new small groups, confirmation classes, youth nights, retreats, and all the behind-the-scenes planning those roles require. Empower Louisiana offers a chance to pause before the busyness begins, to be reminded of the

sacred nature of this work, and to receive the same kind of intentional care and formation we hope to offer our teens.

Beyond the sessions themselves, Empower is also a space for connection — a chance to meet others who are walking the same road, to swap ideas and stories, and to build relationships across parish

lines. Whether you're part of a large youth ministry team or the only volunteer in your parish, you'll find encouragement, community, and the reminder that you're not alone in this mission.

Participants will leave with practical takeaways for parish ministry and renewed confidence in how to accompany teens through the complexities of faith, digital culture, and identity. And perhaps most importantly, they'll leave with hearts re-centered on the One who called them into ministry in the first place.

Registration is required and space is limited.

To sign up, visit www.lifeteen.com/empower and click on Empower Louisiana.

For questions or more information, contact the Steubenville South office at hello@steubenvillesouth.com.

BRUMFIELD vs DODD POLICY.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following statement is published:

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA NON-DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY | July 2025

The Diocese of Alexandria School System re-affirms its non-discriminatory policy on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities and employment policies in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Sections 4.03(a) and 4.03 (c) Revenue Procedure 75-50.

All students, faculty members and staff, without exception, are admitted to all rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available at the schools which do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its employment policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

- Sacred Heart School, Moreauville
- St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie
- St. Joseph Elementary and High School, Plaquemine
- St. Mary Assumption School, Cottonport
- St. Mary's Elementary and High School, Natchitoches
- Holy Savior Menard Central High School, Alexandria
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

– Most Rev. Robert W. Marshall, Jr.,
Bishop of Alexandria

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teaches us to
remove our
sandals
before the
sacred ground
of the other.”

Joseph Francis



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Youth Retreat for Latino/Hispanic communities set for Aug. 23 at OLPS

The purpose of this retreat is to offer the surrounding Latino/Hispanic communities a day of retreating from the world and spending this time with God and the family He has blessed us with. This retreat is open and inviting not only the Hispanic youth, but their family and friends as well. We will have multiple speakers designated to each group attending to best fit the perspective needs of each individual group: kids in elementary to junior high school, teens in high school, the adults and parents willing to attend this event. This is an opportunity for families to unite and fortify the familial bond and love within, all through God's glory. This bilingual and cultural experience will grant insightful perspective and understanding in how God carries out the most instrumental role in the health and spiritual development and growth of the Latino Family.

Speakers for this event:

Dr. Alex Gotay, Speaker and retreat facilitator for the high school youth. Alex Gotay is a Christ follower, husband of 24 years, father of four boys, National teen and young adult speaker, retreat leader, evangelizer, missionary, 4th Degree Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Blackbelt and full-time Youth Minister, who has been

there and is now living it REAL for Christ!

Brandon Morel, speaker for elementary to junior high school grade levels. Brandon Morel, affectionately known as the "The Symbol", is a husband, nurturing father, Catholic creative, retreat leader, emcee, Youth Minister and dynamic Hip Hop artist. Due to his imaginative process, Mr. Morel brings to life the basic kerygma, both in person and online. With 15 years of dedicated service in all aspects of Youth Ministry across diverse communities within the New York City area

Karla Alvarez, Director of Multicultural Ministry for the Diocese of Shreveport, along with Sister Daira Figueroa S.T.J., speakers for adults and parents. Karla Alvarez facilitates spiritual care to Spanish speaking communities. She continuously offers support to churches and members of the Hispanic communities, including leadership and ministry training. Her experience includes coordination in annual activities, including the weekend retreats Emmaus, for men and women; Busqueda for teens; Experiencia Cristo for young adults. With her dedication and experience, she is eager to share God's love through



THE 2025 JORNADA JUVENIL, an event for Latino youth of the Diocese of Alexandria held at OLPS in January of this year.

her service for others.

Sister Daira Figueroa S.T.J. is joining us from the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus and is currently an active member of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Convent. She is dedicating her

time and services to collaborate and contribute to the growth of our Hispanic communities within the Diocese of Alexandria. With her extensive experience in collaborating with the youth ministries of different parishes,

she will offer insight to parents and adults in understanding their teens, and advice in spiritual accompaniment and guidance, that one can offer as a parent.

Retreat location: Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church Divine Providence Center, 530 21st St. Alexandria, LA 71301

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

• Registration not Necessary
Lunch and dinner will be provided

For any questions or inquiries please contact Jonathan Felix (318) 445-2401 ext. 230 or jfelix@diocesealex.org

Also, if there is a group from different churches or parishes planning to join, please contact Jonathan Felix at the Diocese of Alexandria to keep active accountability of people attending. Or message [@pastoraljuvenilalexandria](https://www.instagram.com/pastoraljuvenilalexandria) on Instagram for more information.

ATTENTION Parents!

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For more information and/or to register, please visit our website: 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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CLOSED TUESDAYS

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

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

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

Campus Ministry:

LSU of Alexandria:
LSUA Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956.
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NSU Catholic Student Organization
FOCUS Ministries.
Contact Holy Cross Church:
(318) 352-2615

Louisiana Christian University:
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*God,
in your
goodness,
you have made
a home
for the poor.*

Psalm 68: 11
Responsorial Psalm
for August 31
Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Monday, Aug. 4, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center
4400 Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 6:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church,
Pineville, LA

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.

Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop - August 2

The day will include presentations on various topics that are vital to a couple's lifelong marriage. Lunch will be included. Space is limited, please register as soon as possible here: <https://www.diocesealex.org/pre-cana-marriage-prep-workshop/>

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

Please join us for An Evening with the Seminarians - August 6

An open house to meet the seminarians of the Diocese of Alexandria on Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at St. Rita Catholic Church Hall, 4401 Bayou Rapides Road, Alexandria 71303. Please take this opportunity to meet and get to know the men who are discerning priesthood for the Diocese of Alexandria while enjoying food, drink and entertainment! Free of charge; donations for seminarian education gratefully accepted!

RSVP by Thursday, July 31 starver@diocesealex.org or (318)556-6424 ext. 209

Women at the Well prayer group - Aug. 6

Join us for Women at the Well, a women's prayer group hosted by the ladies of St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. A light meal will be served. For more information, contact Lisa Dufour at (318) 563-4530.

Disclaled Carmelites - August 9

The Order of the Discalced Carmelites holds its monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. every second Saturday, at

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

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.

Empower Youth Ministry Training - August 9

The Steubenville South Office is excited to offer a foundational training day for parish youth ministers and volunteers on Saturday, August 9 at Maryhill. The day will be held 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., free of charge, and is 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.

Visit lifeteen.com/empower, and click on Empower Louisiana to register today!

Faith of the Fathers: Discovering the Early Church - Sept. 3-Nov. 19

Join us as Fr. Thomas Kennedy explores the lives and teachings of the Early Church Fathers—those saints and scholars who laid the foundations of Christian doctrine. Classes meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, LA. All are welcome!

Catechist Enrichment Day - Sept. 20

Join us for Catechist Enrichment Day at Maryhill Renewal Center. Evangelization and Catechesis go hand in hand in fulfilling the mission of the Church and that is to lead people to a deeper encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. Presenters at this event will share teaching techniques, insights into the Sacraments, OCIA/Tribunal process, how to make scripture come alive, and more. If your role involves sharing the faith with others, please join us this day of relational ministry enrichment. Speakers will be: Dr. Amber Hyatt, Nicole Mitchell, Sylvia Davis, Deacon Les Glankler, Father Taylor Reynolds and Bishop Robert Marshall.

To register, complete the form here: https://form.jotform.com/dcnjlavergne/2025_Catechist_Day

Or contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org

Retrouvaille Weekend: Marriage Help - October 3-5

Restore. Refresh. Renew. Retrouvaille is a Christian marriage program and is Catholic in origin. A team of three couples and a clergy member team present the Retrouvaille weekend. The presenting team members have grown through serious disillusionment, pain, and conflict in their own relationships. They offer hope as they share their personal stories of struggle, reconciliation, and healing. Our next Weekend Program will be held at Grand Coteau Retreats in Grand Coteau, LA on October 3-5, 2025 enrollment is now open.

Hope Youth Fest 2025 - October 11

Join us for at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Retreat Center in Chatawa, MS, for a one-day fest that will bring together high school teens from across the region for a joyful and faith-filled celebration of our Catholic identity. The day will feature powerful worship, engaging speakers, and opportunities for prayer and sacrament. Featuring: The Vigil Project (live music), Colin & Aimee MacIver, Kathleen Higgins, Fr. Paul Gros, and emceed by Deacon Michael Parker. The event will include Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, and Holy Mass, followed by an evening of praise and worship with The Vigil Project. **Registration instructions:** Youth Directors and School Representatives must register first using the link. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with a private registration link to share with the parents of the youth in your group. This ensures that all youth are properly connected to a registered group leader. Register Here: <https://ourladyofhopems.com/youth-fest>

SAVE THE DATE!

What is my Vocation? Vocations Panel - November 8

Do you want guidance in learning about God the Father's specific plan for you? Do you feel called to give more and be more? Do you have questions about how to discern your Vocation? Join us on Saturday, Nov. 8 at St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport.

The day will include an extensive panel of vocations experts made up of religious brothers, sisters, and priests. Open to ALL YOUTH and anyone discerning his/her vocation. More details to follow.

Church Today News Deadlines

August 25
Deadline for news:
Thursday, August 14

September 22
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Sept. 11



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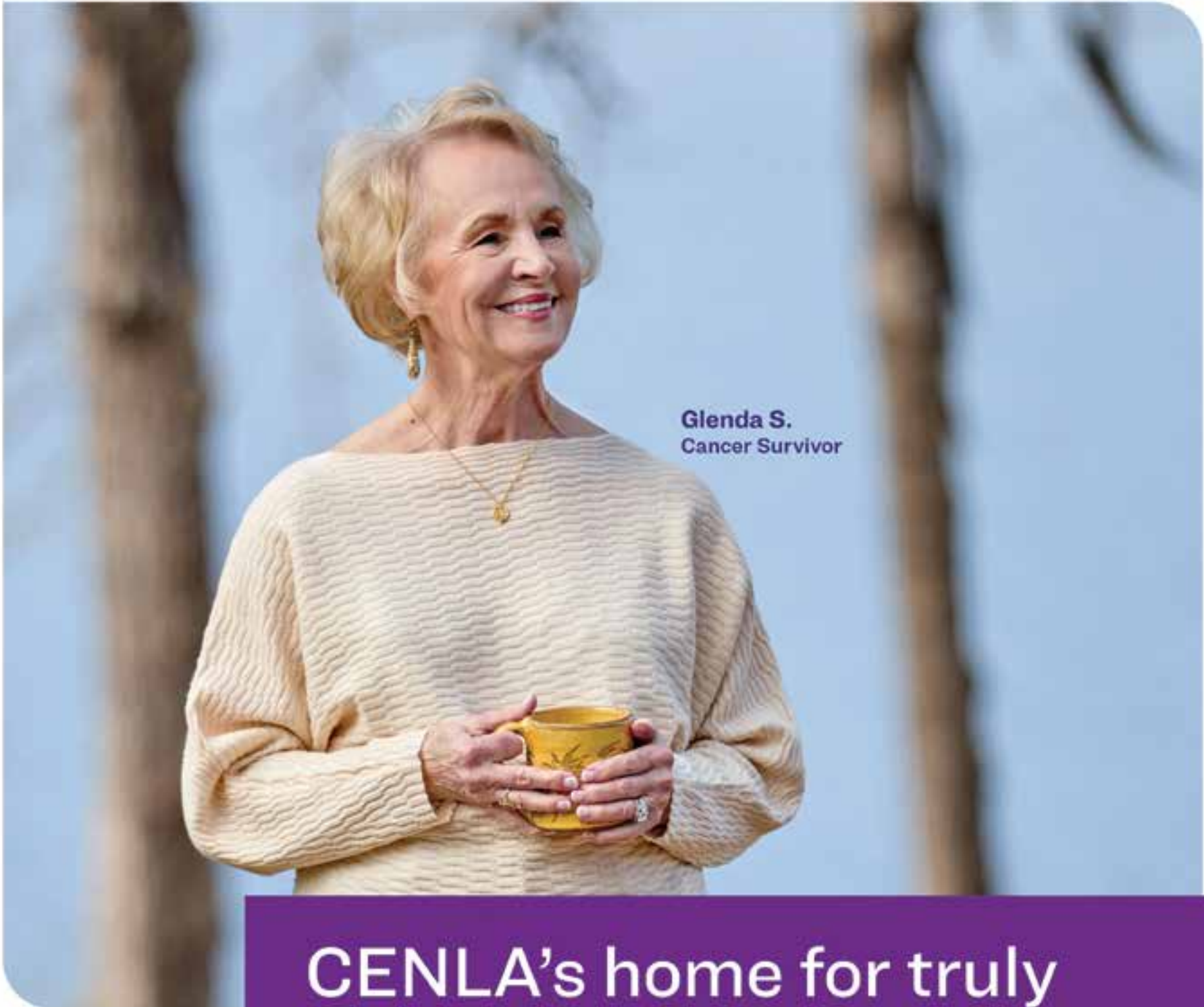
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August 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>JULY 28</p> <p>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p>31</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG</p>	<p>AUGUST 1</p> <p>School Starts St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>
<p>4</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. F. ANDRADE</p>	<p>6</p> <p>School Starts St. Mary's School, Natchitoches</p> <p>Evening with Seminarians 5:30-8:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</p> <p>Women at the Well 6:00 p.m. St. Francis de Sales, Echo</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>	<p>7</p> <p>School Starts: Menard, Alexandria Cabrini School, Alexandria OLPS School, Alexandria Sacred Heart, Moreauville St. Joseph School, Plaucheville St. Anthony School, Bunkie</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Empower Youth Ministry Training Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>Disalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>
<p>11</p> <p>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BURCH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. CHRISTOPHER</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (a Holy Day of obligation)</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. LG DELOACH</p>
<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Hispanic Youth Retreat 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</p> <p>EMHC Workshop 9:00 a.m. followed by Lector Workshop 12:30 p.m. St. Edward Mission Church, Fishville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>
<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. J. FERGUSON</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Document Prep Closing Ceremony for Canonization of 5 priests 5:30 p.m. Holy Trinity Church, Shreveport</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Menard Football Jamboree vs. Winnfield 6:00 p.m. NSU Football Stadium, Natchitoches</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>Men's ACTS Retreat hosted by St. Joseph Church, Marksville -- Maryhill Renewal Center</p>						
PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. FERGUSON	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA	PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION



Glenda S.
Cancer Survivor

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