



THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

# THE Church TODAY

Volume XII, No. 12

[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

December 12, 2011

## On the Inside

### Sister Carla Bertani leaving St. Mary's to be new OLS Superior General

After 32 years of service to St. Mary's Training Facility, Sister Carla Bertani, OLS, will be leaving in January to begin her new assignment as Superior General of the congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, with its office in Rome. Read more on pg. 9

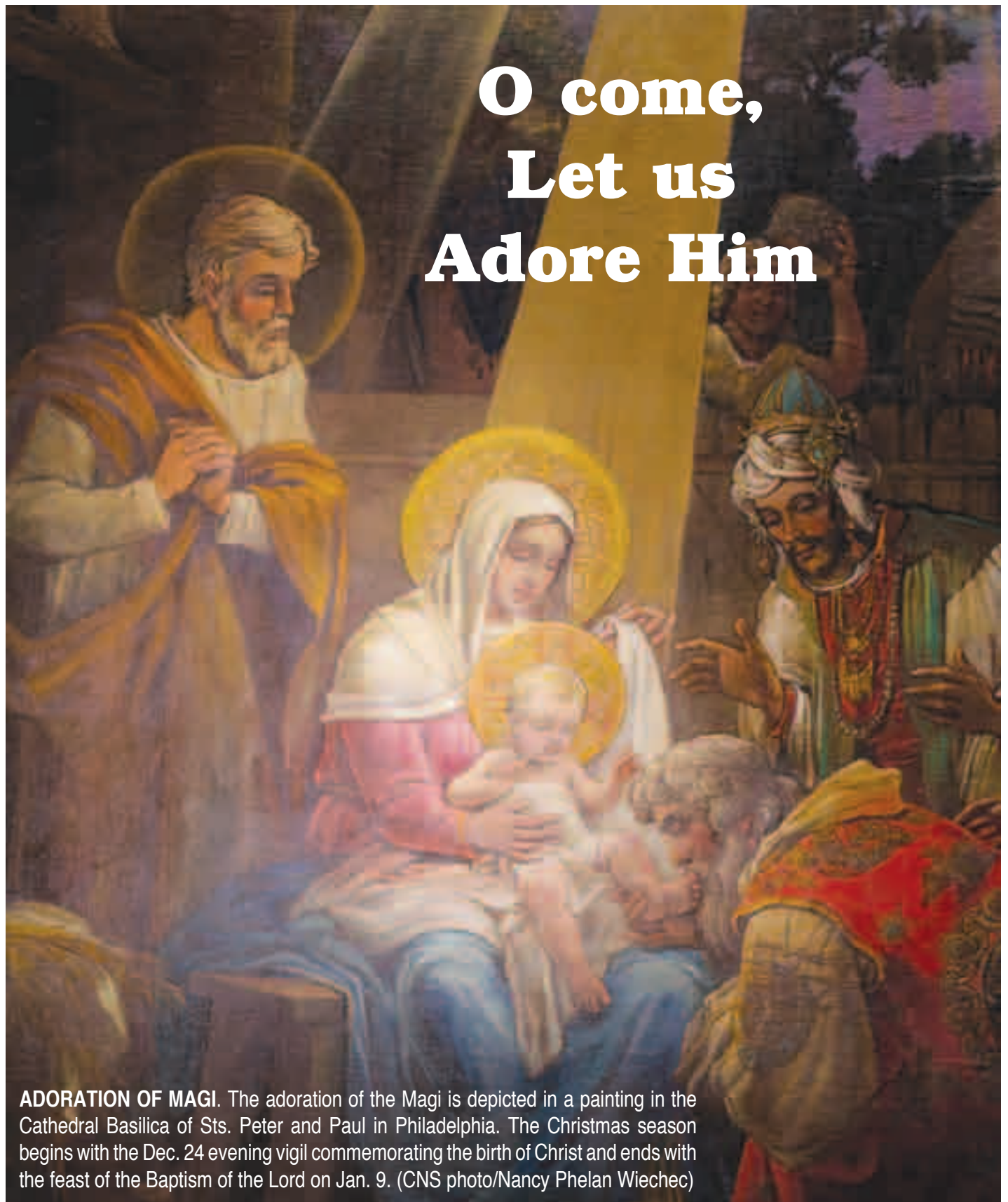
### How are you adjusting to the new Missal changes?

After years of planning, catechesis, and training workshops, the new English translation of the Roman Missal was implemented Nov. 26-27. Find out what people around the diocese are saying about the new changes. See pg. 10

### Students around diocese bring Christmas to others

With Christmas just around the corner, the students in our area have been busy helping others less fortunate to have a little something for Christmas. Find out what our kids are doing to help others on pgs. 12-13.

## O come, Let us Adore Him



**ADORATION OF MAGI.** The adoration of the Magi is depicted in a painting in the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 9. (CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiechec)

# Christian families are called to evangelize

December 16 - January 8

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christian families are called to welcome, demonstrate and spread the love and presence of Christ in the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

A family, founded on the marriage of a man and woman and open to having children, is "the human space for an encounter with Christ," he said Dec. 1 to members of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

The council, founded by Pope John Paul II, was marking the 30th anniversary of its establishment by focusing on the role of the family in the "new evangelization."

"The eclipse of God, the spread of ideologies contrary to the family and the degradation of sexual ethics appear to be connected," the pope said. In the same way, he said, "the new evangelization is inseparable from the Christian family."

Like the church as a whole, the Christian family "is called to welcome, radiate and demonstrate the love and presence of Christ in the world," he said.

The family does so by being a community of lifelong, self-giving love, he said. It is open to welcoming new life, it educates its members in the faith and in charity, and its civic involvement and charitable activity is motivated by faith.

When a Christian family "is able to live love as communion and service, as a mutual gift and openness toward all, it reflects the splendor of Christ and the beauty of the divine Trinity in the world," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said the church needs strong couples involved in its pastoral work, too, especially in educating children, teaching young people about the Christian vision of sexuality, preparing engaged couples for marriage and helping married couples strengthen their relationships.

# National Catholic ads to air on TV

By Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- A new advertising campaign aims to bring Catholics back to church with ads airing on major television networks Dec. 16-Jan. 8.

The campaign, sponsored by the Atlanta-based organization Catholics Come Home, aims to reach 250 million TV viewers in more than 10,000 U.S. cities.

Tom Peterson, the group's founder, said the campaign's "inspiring messages" are an invitation to Catholic neighbors, relatives, and friends to come to the "largest family reunion in modern history."

The ads -- airing in prime time on broadcast and cable channels -- focus on the richness and history of the Catholic Church and highlight Catholic traditions of prayer, education and help for the poor.

"If you've been away, come home to your parish, and visit



**NATIONAL CATHOLIC TV AD.** This is a screen grab, filmed in St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix, from one of the Catholics Come Home television spots which aired last year. An estimated 92,000 inactive Catholics have come back to the church in the diocese in large part because of the campaign. (CNS photo/courtesy Catholics Come Home)

Catholicscomehome.org today" is part of the ad's message scheduled to air more than 400 times starting before Christmas and going through the feast of the Epiphany.

Since they began their media campaigns in 2008, Catholics

Come Home officials say Mass attendance has increased 10 percent in the markets where the ads have shown and 300,000 people have come back to the church. An estimated 42.7 million Catholics, or two-thirds, do not attend Sunday Mass.

**PEST AID CO.**

*Season's Greetings*

**473-0228**  
**1-800-256-0450**

2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA

**Special thanks to:**

**E.L. GREMILLION**

**sponsor of**

**Bishop's Golf Tournament**

We wish you the blessings of peace,  
the beauty of hope, and the spirit of love  
this holiday season.

From your friends at

**RED RIVER BANK**  
An Independent Community Bank • Member FDIC

# Results of Pew report: *Lobbying for the Faithful*

## USCCB and other Catholic organizations dispute Pew's calculations

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The degree to which religiously based organizations push for change in Washington will likely always be open to debate and differing interpretations, but the truer measure may be their effectiveness, even in the midst of a cranky Congress dealing with cash-short coffers.

It may astound some to think there are 212 faith-based groups that have a presence in Washington, and that 41 of them are Catholic in their orientation -- although just how Catholic some of them are could be one area of dispute.

A bigger point was the outlay by these groups, as calculated by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life in a study released Nov. 21, "Lobbying for the Faithful: Religious Advocacy Groups in Washington, D.C." One bone of contention is that many groups would say their work is not lobbying, but advocacy. Another is the definition of advocacy.

The combined total for all 212 groups -- at least those whose public financial statements could be examined by a team led by Allen Hertzke -- was \$390 million for 2009, the last year for which data could be obtained and which represented a slight downtick of \$14 million from the presidential election year of 2008. Hertzke, a Pew visiting senior research fellow from 2008 to 2009, teaches political science at the University of Oklahoma.

Catholic Advocacy in Washington	
<p>Pew Forum calculation of 41 groups in the Catholic tradition (the number in religious lobbying or religious-related advocacy) in Washington. They include some groups with no official ties to the Catholic Church and at least one that promotes positions against Catholic teaching.</p>	
\$1 MILLION OR MORE	
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops	\$28.7 million
American Life League	\$2.7 million
Catholic Relief Services	\$2.7 million
National Life Promotions	\$2.8 million
Catholic Family Center	\$2 million
Catholic Charities USA	\$2.5 million
Catholic Family and Human Rights Services	\$1.4 million
Center of Concern	\$2 million
NETWORK	
Catholic Health Association of the United States	\$1 million
LESS THAN \$1 MILLION	
Our Lady Office	\$331,000
National Committee for a Humane Life	\$265,000
Center for Alliance for the Common Good	\$250,000
Jewish Refugee Service USA	\$211,000
Franciscan Action Network	\$197,000
Catholic Life Fund	\$181,000
White Faith & Justice Network	\$180,000
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities	\$175,000
National Catholic Center of the Holy Spirit of the Good Shepherd	\$100,000
EXPENDITURES NOT AVAILABLE	
Administration of Catholic Colleges and Universities	
Catholic League for Immigration Reform, Inc.	
Catholic Missionary Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty	
Committee Against Capital Punishment	
Catholic United	
Confederation of Major U.S. Catholic Bishops, Priests and Pastors Office	
Catholic Life	
Interreligious Catholic Migration Commission, Inc., USA	
Health Conference, Testimony for Social and International Affairs	
Leadership Conference of Women Religious	
Marionist Office for Global Concerns	
Medical Mission Society, Alliance for Human Rights	
Ministry of Catholicism of Mary Immaculate, Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office	
Missions Society of St. Columba, Catholic Center for the Family & Culture	
Pro-life Catholic Educational Association	
National Catholic Federation on Disability	
National Council of Catholic Women	
National Pro-Life Council	
The Center for Life	
Office of Mary of the Americas	
Office of Holy Family of the Holy Spirit and Pastoral Office	
World Council of Catholic Mission Societies	

The biggest expenditure -- nearly \$88 million -- was by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which could lead to another line of argument. While some may contend that AIPAC is not a religiously based lobby, Hertzke said, its goal of the preservation of Israel as a Jewish state would qualify it.

Ranked second by Pew was the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, at \$26.66 million. In a footnote, Hertzke said that the figures for the USCCB, "whose mission includes more than advocacy, is for the group's

'policy activities' expenses. The conference's total operating expenses were more than \$143 million in 2009."

One panelist at a Nov. 21 Pew symposium on the report, National Organization for Marriage founder Maggie Gallagher, said that absent such an explanation, "I'd wonder how the USCCB spends \$26 million."

But the number drew a stern rebuke from Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, the USCCB's director of media relations.

In a Nov. 22 blog posting on the USCCB website, she lit into

be no funds for USCCB's central efforts in evangelization, liturgy, helping the poor, educating Catholics, doctrine and canon law."

In a Nov. 30 telephone interview with CNS, Sister Mary Ann said she has sent a copy of her blog posting to Pew and has "had a conversation with them." The response, she added, was that "it's a broad interpretation of the word 'advocacy,'" noting that every USCCB expense not related to administrative and pastoral line items was considered advocacy by Pew. Sister Mary Ann said work was being done to offer a lower, more accurate figure to Pew.

Pew's estimates for USCCB's advocacy expenses included the Department of Communications' costs, including publishing, media relations, digital media and Catholic News Service.

Tony Spence, CNS director and editor-in-chief, took issue with CNS being lumped in with USCCB advocacy efforts, and urged Pew to fix the study.

"Pew's assumption that Catholic News Service is part of the USCCB's advocacy work is simply a wrong one," Spence said in a statement. "The USCCB does not fund the activities of this news service. CNS does not now, nor has it ever in its 92-year history, engaged any kind of advocacy work. Our mission is to report fully, fairly and freely on the church and society. News reporting is not advocacy, it's

Pew's calculations.

"The USCCB does engage in government relations -- not in electioneering -- and has three full-time staff assigned to the task. None of them hands out money and the cost of their efforts reaches nowhere near \$26 million," Sister Mary Ann said. "The entire cost of salary and benefits for the entire USCCB staff, in Washington, Miami, New York and Rome, is \$29 million, somewhat more than the \$26 million Pew claims USCCB pours into lobbying/advocacy.

"If Pew were right, there'd

See PEW REPORT, pg. 10

**LEGLUE NISSAN INC.**

NEW & USED CARS • SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

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



**HIXSON-DUCOTE | AVOYELLES**  
FUNERAL HOME | MONUMENTS

Ray & Marie Ducote  
Owners

302 St. John Street  
Bunkie, Louisiana 71222

(518) 346-6116  
Fax (518) 346-6117

As the year 2011 draws to a close, we again look forward to the great celebration of the coming of the Son of God into human history in human form. It is fitting that this annual solemnity has so many unique customs that span the cultures of the world. All of them struggle to express the inexpressible. How can we as humans find words or gestures to articulate such a great and marvelous mystery! And yet each year we try and find joy and satisfaction in that effort.

Without doubt the Season of Advent that we are in the midst of assists us because it gives us a perspective of the Lord's coming that is broader and richer than the historic event of the birth of Jesus. These days invite us to consider his return in glory at some unknown time yet to come as well as



*One in the Lord.*

—Most Rev. Ronald Herzog  
Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

the impact of his public ministry introduced by preaching and baptizing of John. And, of course, we need to take time to ask what the Incarnation means in our own personal lives. It is true that Advent is a rather brief time but clearly one lavish in its richness and depth.

This year the Season of Advent offers us an additional component, the first use of the new English translation of the Roman Missal. It will take all of us a few

weeks (months?) to get familiar and feel at ease with the changes, but I am confident that the beauty of the text, the restored imagery, the clearer connection to the beauty of the scriptures and the need to pay closer attention to what we say and do will produce great benefits and rich blessings.

On a very practical note: We have received the dates for what is known as the Ad Limina visit. All

bishops of dioceses are required to submit a detailed report to the Holy Father periodically and to meet with him to discuss the status of the diocese. Traditionally, these have taken place every five years but, because of the death of Blessed John Paul II, it has actually been almost eight years since the last one. The bishops of Region V will be in Rome from January 22-31, 2012 for this very special time. It will be my first. I ask that you keep us in your prayers during that time. I hope to give a somewhat detailed account when I return.

I also look forward to the ordination of the men who have been in formation for more than four years to be able to serve the Church of Alexandria as Deacons. To make it possible for more friends, family

members and parishioners to join them, we have divided the group into two segments and scheduled their ordinations for February 2012. More details will be published later.

As you make your Advent journey I would ask you to consider making a special effort to reach out to any Catholics you know that have drifted away from the active practice of their faith. Perhaps you could make sure they have the parish schedule and even invite them to join you for Christmas Mass.

May these very special days that await us enrich your faith and strengthen your family ties!

*Ronald P. Herzog*

## The promise of becoming divine is worthy of constant preparation

Every year we are reminded that Advent is a time for preparation. This reminder offers many spiritual benefits as each of the Sunday readings throughout Advent offer hints that something different is about to happen.

However, we are engaging these readings from our own time-bound perspective. We see them through a particularly Christian lens and from this perspective, it is easy to lose sight of how truly magnificent the birth of Christ was. After all, we already know how the story ends.

It is often said that, "Context determines content." The birth of Christ is one of those events that this is ever so true. Consider that prior to the birth of Christ, outside Jewish monotheism, the Western World was largely pantheistic – that is, even good and pious people worshiped many gods.

Greek mythology offers a list of twelve Olympian gods, most descended from Zeus, who claimed their divinity by relationship and were known as the god or goddess of certain human attributes, talents, or ruled certain elements.

Even though the twelve Olympian gods sat upon Mount Olympus and ruled from on high, Greek myth literature shows they were far from perfect. Some were adulterous, some were murderers,



**'We Believe'**

—John Whitehead  
Permanent Diaconate Aspirant

and one was even cast off Mount Olympus by the others for simply being ugly. In short, other than being so-called "gods," they were like us in every way, including sin.

With the Incarnation, God, as usual, far exceeds our limited human perceptions and expectations. Whatever was expected from the gods of pantheism was rejected and turned upside down. A mere human did not go up the mountain and become a god. Rather, God came down, and became a helpless and totally dependent infant, like us in every way except for sin.

With the Incarnation, god is no longer in the wind, hiding behind a tree, or a tyrant with whom favor is to be gained or lost. Nature and the physical world are not explained simply because the gods are pleased. Rather, with the birth of Jesus, God is with us. He can be touched, speak to us in our own language, laugh, cry, suffer, and die.

Thus, instead of mere mortals struggling to ascend the mountain and claim divinity, God entered time and space and became man. Clearly, something radically different was intended with and by the Incarnation.

John Paul II opened his first encyclical, "Jesus Christ is the center of the universe and of history" (Redemptor Hominis, 1). Indeed, context determines content, for since the Incarnation, everything changed, both before and after. The gates of heaven were flung open, the Temple curtain torn, and God's will was revealed so that we "should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature" (CCC, 51).

It was famously noted by St. Athanasius, "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God" (CCC 460). That is a promise alone that is worthy of constant preparation.





December 12, 2011 Vol. XLI, No. 12

P.O. Box 7417  
Alexandria, LA 71306  
churchtoday@diocesalex.org  
318-445-6424

PUBLISHER:  
Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog

EDITOR: Jeannie Petrus; ext. 255 |petrus@diocesalex.org  
ADVERTISING & AD DESIGN: Joan Ferguson; ext. 264 |joan@diocesalex.org  
CIRCULATION MGR: Sandi Tarver; ext. 209 |sttarver@diocesalex.org

THE CHURCH TODAY (USPS 393-240) is published by the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, once a month free of charge to members of the parishes of the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. Office of publication: 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA. Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, LA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the CHURCH TODAY, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306.



**ADVENT  
PENANCE SERVICES**

- Dec. 14**
  - Sacred Heart Church, Pineville, 6:10 p.m.
  - Immaculate Conception, Dupont, 4-5 pm for kids; 5-6 pm for adults
  - St. Genevieve, Brouillette, 6-7 p.m.
  - St. Anthony Church, Bunkie, 6 p.m.
  - Christ the King, Simmesport, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 15**
  - Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 16**
  - St. Charles Church, Goudeau, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 20**
  - OL of Lourdes, Winnfield, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 21**
  - OL of Prompt Succor, Alexandria, 6:30 p.m.

Updated at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

# Why do we have a Christmas Midnight Mass?

Throughout the years, Midnight Mass has been a popular Christmas Mass choice for many Catholics. Remember when young girls dressed as 'Midnight Angels' and young boys stayed up late to serve as altar boys?

But how did the tradition of this Mass begin?

In the early history of the Church, vigils were held before every feast for the purpose of preparing for the feast itself. Mass would be held in the evening, followed by a period of prayer and contemplation. Solemn services were then held the next morning. As more feasts arose, the number of vigils kept was decreased.

In the current Roman Calendar, there are six Masses designated as vigils to proceed the feasts the next day: vigils for Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, Ascension, Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and the Feasts of Saints Peter and Paul. Vigil Masses are so designated because their propers and readings differ from the Masses for those feasts themselves, while remaining tied to the feasts.

Vigil Masses therefore differ



from normal anticipated Masses, which are the same as the Mass taking place the next day, but held the preceding evening.

The vigil Mass for Christmas, held Christmas Eve, also differs from the Christmas Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day actually has three separate Masses that are or can be held, in addition to the vigil – at midnight, at dawn, and during the day. It is not known exactly how the tradition of the three Masses originated, as even

## Christmas Midnight Masses listed at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

the origin of the feast of Christmas itself isn't certain – depending on the city, something resembling a Christmas celebration started in different years (and at varying times of the year, as well).

By the end of the fourth century it was almost universally held on December 25, with Rome having started celebrating it on that date before 354, and Constantinople not before 379. The celebration of Epiphany on January 6 had previously been the major Christmas-like celebration, but once December 25 became the widely agreed-upon date of Christmas, the celebrations moved to that date as well.

In the 380s, a Christian woman named Egeria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, observing for three years and keeping a journal of the customs and liturgies she saw there. She witnessed the Christians celebrating the birth of Christ

on January 6, since it appears the tradition of celebrating Christmas on December 25 had not yet begun there, beginning with a midnight vigil in Bethlehem, which was followed by a torchlight procession to Jerusalem culminating with a gathering in Jerusalem at dawn. When the basilica of St. Mary Major was built in Rome around 430, Pope Sixtus III included a replica chapel of the Bethlehem cave where Jesus was born, and much like had been the practice in Jerusalem when Egeria visited, he instituted the celebration of a midnight Mass in this chapel.

Around 550 AD, the Pope began to celebrate a Mass in the Church of St. Anastasia before dawn on Christmas Day, initially because the feast of St. Anastasia was celebrated on December 25.

See MIDNIGHT MASS, pg. 15

**\$200** For a Limited Time only!

off each book

## Anniversary Books

\$54 for set  
\$28 for 11.5 X 11.5 book  
\$8 for 8 X 8 books  
\$8 for ornament

Available at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA  
Hours: Mon-Thur. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m. - noon or call 318-445-6424, ext 255

Creator and host Fr. Robert Barron illuminates what Catholics believe and why, while immersing you in the art, architecture, literature, music, and all the riches of the Catholic tradition.

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

Don't Miss This Incredible 10-part Video Series

Thursdays -- January 12 - March 15  
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.  
St. Joseph Catholic Center  
Hwy 28 West • Alexandria

FOR OTHER VIDEO SERIES VISIT [WWW.CATHOLICTRADITION.COM](http://WWW.CATHOLICTRADITION.COM)

Meet Deacon Candidate  
**Gary Schupbach**

**Home Parish:** St. Joseph Catholic Church, Marksville

**Occupation:** Assistant Manager, Paragon Cinema

**Marital Status:** Married 40 years to Dianne Schupbach

**Military Service:** 8 years in US Air Force

**Parish Involvement:** I am a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, altar server, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, lector. I am also called on from time to time, to assist with funerals, holy day events, and have assisted with catechism.



*Gary Schupbach*

**Why I Became a Deacon:** I think understanding the need for permanent deacons is one reason that I began studying for the diaconate, but the initial influence was recognizing the call and the help of our priests to discern the still small voice. The perks are being in an exceptional position to serve the faithful, the priests and our bishop.

**Ministry Interests:** Not sure, but my experience leads me toward some area of management.

**Most Interesting Part of the Program:** The most interesting area of formation was Old Testament His-

tory and equally Church History; the two go hand in hand. These two were also the most difficult for me. I was inspired by the quality of instruction we received.

**Thank You:** To all of the people who helped me along the way including (first and foremost) my wife Dianne. Also Father Keith Ishmael, who initially and continually encouraged me; Father Rusty Rabalais for his continued encouragement and support, and of course, Father Dan O'Connor, who offered his time and talent to shepherd the flock of candidates.

Meet Deacon Candidate  
**William Shaidnagle**

**Home Parish:** St. Patrick Catholic Church, Ferriday

**Occupation:** Retired Lt. Col/USMCR

**Marital Status:** Married

**Education:** BS in Agriculture, MS in Education, and MS in Environmental Engineering.

**Parish Involvement:** Man's Club, lector/acolyte at Mass, server for funerals, 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus with the Bishop R.D. Gerow Council 1034 in Natchez, MS.



*William Shaidnagle*

**Why I became a Deacon:** I knew I had a calling since high school. I considered priesthood and also becoming a Brother of the Sacred Heart, however, I also had a greater desire to be married and have a family. At this time I did not know about deacons and their role in the Church since this was prior to the completion of Vatican II. In 1999, I attended a silent retreat at Manresa and met a fellow Marine who was a deacon for the Diocese of New Orleans. After discussing with him the role of the deacon in the Church, I knew this was my calling.

**Influences in Faith:** the Holy Spirit, my wife, and close friends.

**Ministry Interests:** Canon Law /annulment process, Virtus, marriage prep programs, working with the elderly.

**Best part of the Program:** Studying the history of the Catholic Church. Knowing where we came from and where we are now is a testament to Scripture that says, "Upon this Rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail."

**Thank you:** No. 1 is my wife, who has supported me throughout this program. To Father Louis Sklar, my pastor, who has involved me in many aspects of parish life; to Father Luke Melcher, my spiritual adviser; and to Bishop Ronald Herzog, for implementing this diaconate program.

Merry Christmas

ON OUR SAVIOUR'S BIRTHDAY

**THE EVANGELINE BANK & TRUST COMPANY**

MEMBER FDIC

A Louisiana Banking Tradition for over 100 years.

YOU GET IT ALL AT

WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM

**OFFICE SUPPLIES  
OFFICE FURNITURE  
OFFICE MACHINES  
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES**

318.448.4225  
1405 MacArthur Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
fax 318.448.4171  
toll free 800.766.4819

337.363.6322  
109 N. W. Railroad Ave.  
Post Office Box 333  
Ville Platte, LA 70586  
fax 337.363.4501



**NOTRE DAME SEMINARIAN COMMISSIONED TO READER MINISTRY.** Seminarian Joseph Desimone from the Diocese of Alexandria, was instituted into the Ministry of Reader Oct. 21 at St. Rita Church in New Orleans, during a special Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Shelton Joseph Fabre, auxiliary bishop of New Orleans. Joseph is a theology student at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.



**PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM SEMINARIANS COMMISSIONED TO READER MINISTRY.** Seminarians Dale Meade and Brian Seiler from the Diocese of Alexandria were instituted into the Ministry of Reader from the Pontifical College Josephinum on Nov. 13 during a special Mass celebrated by Most Reverend David R. Choby, Bishop of Nashville, and Father James Wehner, rector. First-year theology students installed as Readers are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful. Photo by seminarian Patrick Welsh of the Diocese of Columbus.

## Seminaries bursting at the seams

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In a recent report, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University said enrollment was up for those studying for the priesthood, diaconate and lay ecclesial ministry during the 2010-11 academic year -- the latest for which statistics were available.

In all, there were 3,608 post-baccalaureate U.S. seminarians last year, a net increase of 125 seminarians, or 4 percent, over the previous year and the highest number since the early 1990s. More than three-quarters of them were studying for the diocesan priesthood, while 24 percent intend to be ordained for religious orders.

The trend goes beyond Catholic schools to all seminaries, according to figures from the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada from 2010-11.

The organization that accredits theological schools said 75,431 people were studying for the ministry at 261 institutions during the last academic year, an increase of .6 percent from the year before.

But Father Phillip J. Brown, rector of Theological College, where enrollment is bursting at the seams, said a rise in enrollment is only part of the story.

"It's not just the numbers but the quality and spirit of the men who are coming," he told CNS.

"I'm tremendously impressed with the quality of the candidates, their zeal," he added. "We're seeing a real renewal of the priesthood."

Father Brown said the full house has led to "a nice and interesting atmosphere" at Theological College because of the racial and ethnic diversity of the seminarians, who come from "a wide diversity of backgrounds and from a wide diversity of parts of the U.S."

He added, "our goal is not to produce academicians or intellectuals but to provide good pastors for parishes."

*One Family In Mission*

*To us comes the Good Angel*

Sister Margaret Mweshi is an "angel" to some 40 children in northern Zambia -- revealing to each one every day, the "Good News" of God's love, just like the angel did that first Christmas.

Sister Margaret runs a home where these little ones receive treatment and physical therapy for their disabilities. "I know that I have to do more than provide medical help," she says. "I have to be a mother to them."

This Christmas, will you be an "angel" for the Missions? Will you support the work and witness of local Sisters through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith?

The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH  
a Pontifical Mission Society

Mail to: Msgr. Steve J. Testa  
P.O. Box 7417  
Alexandria, LA 71303-0417  
Attn: Dept C

Enclosed is my Christmas gift for the Missions of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

www.givetothemissions.org www.onefamilyinmission.org

3010 N. MACARTHUR DR  
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71303  
318.445.6757  
FAX 318.448.3032  
BY CHOICE HOTELS

**ABM**

Alexandria Business Machines

Copiers, Printers, Fascimile and Office Supplies  
5527 Coliseum Blvd.  
Alexandria, LA 71303-3708



# Burses

## Donations in November

- Roderick Broussard ..... \$50.00  
Msgr. Milburn Broussard Burse
- CDA Court Bishop Desmond #1459..... \$50.00  
Msgr. Joseph Susi Burse
- Dr. Joseph Landreneau..... \$100.00  
Msgr. Henry Beckers Burse
- CDA Court Bishop Demond #1459..... \$100.00  
Msgr. Joseph Susi Burse
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael C. Monceau..... \$100.00  
Msgr. Joseph Susi Burse
- Mr & Mrs. Leonard E. Johnson..... \$100.00  
(In memory of Francis & Mary Vanderlick)  
Msgr. Joseph Susi Burse
- Mr. & Mrs. Eugene P. Cicardo, Jr..... \$200.00  
Msgr. Joseph Susi Burse
- CHRISTUS Cabrini Foundation ..... \$250.00  
Msgr. Joseph Susi Burse

Total this month..... \$950.00

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 named for anyone - bishop, priest, religious, or lay person - by the original donor, and can be added to and allowed to grow. A burse is complete when it reaches \$15,000.00, but another burse of the same name can be started. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, P. O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306.

## Bishop Herzog named K of C state chaplain

State KC Deputy Ronnie Boudreaux recently named the Most Reverend Ronald Herzog, Bishop of Alexandria, as the State Chaplain of the Louisiana State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Bishop Herzog succeeds Msgr. Joseph Susi, who served as state chaplain from 2004 until the time of his death on Oct. 23, 2011.

With the appointment of Bishop Herzog, this marks the fourth priest/bishop from the

Diocese of Alexandria to serve as state chaplain. Others from the diocese have been Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven, 1912-1915; Bishop Charles Greco, 1954-1987 (who also served as Supreme Chaplain); and Msgr. Joseph Susi, 2004-2011.

"I am honored to serve as state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus and look forward to working with the state organization," said Bishop Herzog.

During his 30 years of



military service, Bishop Herzog served as staff chaplain in the U.S. Army National Guard.



**FR JACOB THOMAS CELEBRATES 35 YEARS.** A Mass and reception dinner celebrating Rev. Jacob Thomas' 35th year as a priest was held Oct. 21 at St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle. Other priests from the Diocese who concelebrated Mass with him included Fathers Abraham Varghese, Harold Imamshah, Joy Retnazihamoni, Ryan Humphries, Chris Nayak, Antony Aelavanthara, Thomas Paul, Kenneth Obiekwe and Kurian Zachariah.

*...it's about living*

When you are faced with an incurable illness and need services not traditionally offered. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Pam Brossell, RN, Administrator*

**(318) 443-5545**  
**1-888-443-5550**  
**FaithHospice@bellsouth.net**

*Promises of God • Isaiah 41:10*  
*So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*



**Faith Foundation Hospice**

P.O. Box 11757 • Alexandria, LA 71315 • Fax: (318) 561-6531

*A Christmas Wish*

*We join those who sing out the many praises of this special season and wish you and yours a most memorable holiday.*

**M&M HYUNDAI**

*Oliver McMickens, owner*



# Sr. Carla leaving St. Mary's to be OLS superior general

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

After 32 years of service to St. Mary's Training Facility, Sister Carla Bertani, OLS, will be leaving in January to begin her new assignment as Superior General of the congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, with its office in Rome.

She was elected Superior General on July 19, 2011, has already taken office and has been living in Italy since Sept. 12, but has temporarily returned to Louisiana to transition out of her responsibilities at St. Mary's and OLS community homes.

"These three months have been truly a special time for me since, for the next six years, I will be living in Rome," she said.

Sister Carla came to Louisiana from Italy in 1979, to work with children with developmental disabilities at St. Mary's.

"I remember when I first arrived at St. Mary's, I could not speak a word of English," she said. "But the children and staff of St. Mary's welcomed me and accepted me with open arms."

She spent most of her early years at St. Mary's working with the children on a daily basis and going to school to earn a bachelor's and masters degree in Speech Pathology.

"I remember the Christmases spent in the dorm with the children who could not go home

the birthdays we celebrated every month, and the outings with the children, which were always an adventure.

"I remember the times when a child needed to be consoled, helped, held in my arms, and how all of this made me feel like a mom.

"I remember the staff, who worked along side me, day after day, providing care and training to the children.

"I remember the rodeos I attended -- a sport unknown to me since we have no rodeos in Italy -- and enjoyed seeing the children being so excited.

"I remember the Sunday Masses I played and sang for, the baptisms, first communions and confirmations that we prepared the children for and how happy I was that even our special children were able to worship the Lord."

Through the years, Sister Carla and her staff

- opened the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Center, where 25 of the youngest autistic children are educated;

- started the St. Mary's Annual Autism Conference to share with the community information on best practices for working with people with autism.

The sixth conference will be held Jan. 27, 2012 in Shreveport.

- reorganized the facility with better services for the residents, better communication, and revised recruitment and training programs for the employees.



**SISTER CARLA BERTANI**, OLS reads a story to [redacted], a resident at St. Mary's Training Facility. Sister Carla will leave St. Mary's in January to take on a new role as Superior General of the Congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows.

- completed the Noise Mitigation program that reduced the noise on campus with retrofitting doors, windows and putting on all new roofs.

- secured free and appropriate education for all the school-age children who live at St. Mary's, a right that is protected by federal and state law.

But for Sister Carla, the most meaningful project at St. Mary's has been the establishment of the community/group homes.

After Katrina, a successful \$5 million capital campaign funded the completion of five group homes on campus, the renovation of the staff house into a 10-bed group home, and the purchase of two houses in the community for two more community homes. With the two group homes that were already on campus, St. Mary's now has 10 group/community homes.

"Because of this smaller living environment, the clients

**A Farewell Luncheon**  
honoring  
**Sister Carla Bertani, OLS**

**Sunday, Jan. 8**  
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
St. Rita Family Life Center  
\$25 per person

**RSVP: 318-445-6443**

can handle a greater degree of freedom," she said. "It makes me happy to see the children grow into mature young men and women, as a result of living in these smaller group environments."

Sister Carla is grateful to have known St. Mary's founder, Bishop Charles P. Greco.

"Knowing him, gave me an insight into his mission for St. Mary's and has guided me as I've tried to live out his legacy. He was a father to us at St. Mary's and a provider who, for many years, cared about every child on this campus and every employee."

But when the time comes for Sister Carla to pack her bags and leave Louisiana, it will be the children of St. Mary's that she will miss the most.

"I will definitely miss the children the most," she said. They are the reason I came in the first place, and caring for them has been my greatest reward. I will miss the staff and the unpredictability of this wonderful place."

And, she added, "I will miss the green open spaces of Louisiana."

\* \* \*

Sister Mavis Champagne, originally from Parks, Louisiana, will become the new administrator in July, 2012. Sister Mavis has a BA in Art Education and an MA in counseling. She has taught art in grade schools, been involved in formation work for the Congregation, involved with the Catholic Student Center at ULL, and served a co-director at the Renzi Education and Art Center in Shreveport.

## Pew report Despite a few rough spots here and there,

Continued from page 3  
journalism."

Catholic Relief Services, the bishops' international relief and development agency, also has a bone to pick with the Pew report, which ranked the agency 19th on the list and said it spent \$4.67 million in 2009 on advocacy efforts.

However, according to John Rivera, CRS' communications director, CRS reported \$800,000 in advocacy expenses on its last federal form. "We didn't spend \$4.6 million lobbying," Rivera said. "We all do a little bit of advocacy work -- 10 percent of our time -- because we support everyone in the agency," he added.

The remaining funds are "connected more to fundraising than advocacy," Rivera said, but "they are maintaining it is (a) legitimate (number) in that we are educating our people."

In a Nov. 28 email reply to Rivera's complaint provided to CNS, Hertzke said, "In the case of CRS, we faced a difficult choice, because your self-reported 'advocacy' expenditures -- just under \$300,000 out of a total budget of more than \$800 million -- appeared to reflect a much narrower definition of advocacy than we have used in our report. Your 'public awareness' expenditures seemed to be a better fit with our definition and more consistent with the figures we chose for other international relief groups."

Hertzke acknowledged in the email that the Pew study "adopts a broad definition of religious advocacy," but noted that "we sought to apply this broad definition as consistently as possible" across the 212 groups identified, and that "we sought to be as transparent as possible about our decision rules and the choices we made" since "other researchers might want to apply different definitions or make different choices" in assembling a survey methodology.

Not every group has a dispute with Pew's numbers. The report cited Jesuit Refugee Service/USA as having the 10th-largest percentage increase in advocacy expenditures from 2008-09 -- an increase of \$86,773, or 30%.

Compiled by Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor and CNS reports

Years of planning went into it, followed by catechesis over the past several months via workshops, classroom and video presentations, diocesan communiques, bishops' pastoral letters, parish bulletin inserts, and countless stories and special sections in Catholic newspapers.

All of it was done to prepare everyone, from clergy to the people in the pews, for the first use of the new English-translation of the Roman Missal as Advent began with Masses Nov. 26-27.

By all accounts, despite "a few rough spots here and there, and occasional 'and also with your spirit' and other hybrid responses ... it looks like we made it!" said Father Richard Hilgartner, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship.

"We are now praying with the



enrich prayer life.

Deacon candidate Richard Mitchell, from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral said he thinks the new translation is great for several reasons.

"First, since there is a change, we are having to actually think about what we are saying and praying instead of just reciting what we have come to memorize over the last several years," he said.

"Second, I like the fact that we are using wording that is more closely related the original text. In my family, the new text has created conversation with my children who asked "What does consubstantial mean?". Hopefully people will ask these questions and look for the answers and better understand how beautiful our liturgy truly is."

Julia Voinche from St. Genevieve parish in Brouillette, agrees.

"The only word I stumbled on is the "consubstantial." It's a little tongue twister, especially for young children," she said.

Roman Missal!"

Father Hilgartner said that it will take time for people to grow accustomed to the new language, which is more literally translated from the original Latin than the earlier translation.

"I still forget and use the old words sometimes, but we will all learn in time, to be true to the change," said Ray Gibson, from Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Tioga.

While there may be a short-term sense of entering uncharted waters, Father Hilgartner said, in the long term the new translation may provide opportunities to

Anna Lemoine, secretary at Immaculate Conception Church in Dupont said, "I believe most people stumbled a little the first time they recited the new words, but the changes are not that difficult to adjust to."

"Implementing the new changes to the English translation of our Mass takes me back to 1994, the first time I walked into a Catholic Church," said L.G. DeLoach, a deacon candidate and also a Catholic convert. "Everything was new and foreign to me and I realized that I had a lot to learn if I was going to

### What should be done with the 'old' Sacramentary?



The USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship has provided guidance for disposing of the old Sacramentary since implementation of the new Roman Missal. Dioceses must handle disposal "with respect" by burying it in "an appropriate location on church grounds, or perhaps in a parish cemetery if there is one."

"In lieu of burying old liturgical books, they could be burned, and the ashes placed in the ground in an appropriate location on church grounds. It is advisable to retain a copy of the Sacramentary for parish archives or liturgical libraries."

**KRAMER**

FUNERAL HOMES  
*The Complete Funeral Services  
Three Convenient Locations*

2905 Masonic Drive  
Alexandria, LA  
(318) 445-6311

128 Second Street Collax, LA (318) 627-3511	1924 Hwy. 1 Fifth Ward, LA (318) 240-8305
---	---

Affiliated with  
Kilpatrick Life Insurance Co.

Our Family Serving Your Family Since 1875

Merry Christmas!

from all of us at :

**Westerchil**  
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



# we are now praying with the new Roman Missal!

participate in the celebration of Mass. In time I learned the words and when to stand, sit or kneel. These changes have us all on the same level learning to celebrate our Mass. He added:

"After two Masses I'm running about 50% on the response "And with your Spirit" as opposed to "And also with you". My wife; however, enjoys letting me know that she is getting the response correct 100% of the time."

Just like Elke Coburn, from St. Michael Church in Leesville. "Outside of having to learn some new phrasing, I do not have any problems with the new translation. The changes bring us closer to the original Latin meaning of the words and may, therefore, provide us with a deeper connection. It will be interesting for a while, as we all relearn our automatic responses.

"I have to pay close attention to the Word & Song 2012 missalette that has the new translation in it - otherwise I definitely "stumble" over the words," said Shirley Chevalier, from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Cloutiersville. She added:

"The more we use it, the less we will need the book. The new translation is more "today". I like change and I believe eventually it will help all have a better understanding and appreciation of the Mass."

Patrick McCusker, from St. Rita parish summed it up. "The Mass is so beautiful and with these new words, the Mass is even more beautiful."

## What are people around the diocese saying about the new translation?



"I think the changes are great. We are having to actually think about what we are saying instead of what we have come to memorize."

**Richard Mitchell**  
St. Francis Xavier  
Alexandria



"The only word I stumbled on was "consubstantial." It's a little tongue twister, especially for children."

**Julia Voinche**  
St. Genevieve  
Brouillette



"The changes have helped me and others to appreciate and have a better understanding of the Mass."

**Benny Broussard**  
Prompt Succor  
Alexandria



"All the information we received prior to Nov. 27, made it easier to adapt and understand the changes."

**Cheryl Bernard**  
St. Mary's Assumption  
Cottonport



"I get it right about half of the time. My wife enjoys letting me know she gets it right 100% of the time."

**L.G. DeLoach, Jr.**  
St. Winifred  
Effie



"The new translation is a most welcome and most blessed renewal of the Word of God. I love it!"

**Peggy Smith**  
Nativity of the BVM  
Campti



"It's the priests I feel sorry for. They have all new Eucharistic Prayers and other parts of the Mass to learn."

**Bert Thibodeaux**  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Winnfield



"We did stumble over the words, but Father Sklar smiled with us all. The new words have truer meaning."

**Bill Shaidnagle**  
St. Patrick  
Ferriday



"Father Joy's video training sessions at our parish helped me learn a great deal about the changes. I love it."

**Jo Mabou**  
Sts Francis & Anne  
Kolin



"Despite the wonderful training we had in our parish, I still fumbled with the missalette, the pew card, & hymnal."

**Ann Keene**  
St. Edward  
Tallulah



"For some reason, I seem to stumble more on 'and with your spirit.' I think it will get easier with time."

**Bill Travis**  
St. Francis Xavier  
Alexandria



"The changes remind me of the Mass that was implemented in the Netherlands after Vatican II. I feel a certain level of familiarity."

**Jo Tassin**  
St. Martin  
Lecompte

**Pop-A-Lock**

Merry Christmas  
... and a blessed New Year

**487-6736**

*May the peace of the Christ Child be with you this Christmas season and throughout the year*

**Jeansonne's**  
Millworks & Cabinet Shop  
Harold Jeansonne & Family

*Thank you to all of our Church Today Advertisers*

*For your support throughout the year*

*Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year!*

# Catholic students count their blessings . . .



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) COUNTS BLESSINGS AT THANKSGIVING.** Sacred Heart School held its annual Thanksgiving Liturgy Nov. 18 at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville. The procession was lead by Mrs. Deborah Veade, religion teacher. Seventh and eighth grade students participated "reminding the school community of the countless and precious gifts God has bestowed upon our country and its people. Some of these gifts included, freedom of religion, SHS faculty and staff, family, food, clubs, and freedom to live in the United States of America. This day was also celebrated by wearing red in honor of our military.



**OLPS SCHOOL (Alexandria) COMPLETES ADVENT PROJECTS.** Rather than exchanging gifts among themselves, the students of OLPS School choose and participated in a special project to serve or assist those in need during the Christmas season. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn the gift of giving, volunteerism and that there are those in our community that are not as fortunate as themselves. The students will raise funds for each program themselves by saving & doing small chores at home.

- **Pre-School & Pre-K** classes are donating "gently" used toys from home to Santa (sponsored by the Junior League of Alexandria). The children will present the gifts to Santa and he will share them with children in need across Central Louisiana.
- **Kindergarten** students are donating to the "Doll & Toy Fund" sponsored by the Alexandria Town Talk & the Alexandria Rotary Club.
- **1st Grade** students are adopting families from the OLPS Christmas Cheer program. Each child will donate funds raised by doing chores at home. The teachers will shop for the gifts and the students will wrap gifts for each "Christmas Cheer" family.
- **3rd Grade** classes are donating needed materials to the Hope House of Alexandria. The Hope House provides housing to homeless women & their children of Central Louisiana.
- **2nd & 4th Grade** classes are doing special jobs at home to raise money for the Sisters of Divine Providence (CDP) in appreciation for all that the CDPs throughout the years, have done for OLPS including Sr. Virginia Lee, Sr. Pat Kimball & Sr. Romaine Bell.
- **5th Grade** students are giving a prayer quilt and raising funds to purchase gift cards for Maci Callahan's family. Maci is an infant sibling of an OLPS 5th grade student who has been fighting a rare form of cancer since birth.
- **6th Grade** students of OLPS are donating money, gently use toys and/or toiletries to the Turning Point shelter, which provides shelter and services for battered women and children in the Cenla area.



**CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOL SAINTS.** Local Homeschool families celebrated "All Saints Day" with a show and tell guessing game of their chosen saint and bible hero. They also played carnival-type games including 3-legged races, sack-races, and apple bobbing for the big kids and bean bag toss, ping-pong target games, find hidden toys in the mystery mixture and in the sand box for the younger children. The day concluded with jambalaya for lunch and wonderful homemade sweet treats. If you are interested in homeschooling or would like to join us for our next event, please contact Sandra West at 442-9042.



**SABINE STATE BANK**  
 & Trust Company  
 Member FDIC

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

Member National LENDER

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

**KLIL 92.1**      **KZLG 95.9**

**8 a.m. Sunday Mass**      **7 a.m. Sunday Mass**

# . . . by giving to those less fortunate in the area



**ST. FRANCIS & ANNE (Kolin) YOUTH GROUP DELIVERS FOOD TO MANNA HOUSE.** Members of the Sts. Francis & Anne Catholic Church youth group and the Catholic Daughters delivered 100 lbs of dried beans, 92 lbs of rice, 20+ lbs of pasta and 5 lbs of cornmeal to Manna House on Nov. 11. All of the items were donated by members of the church parish. Pictured are



**SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL (Natchitoches) COLLECTS FOOD FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FOOD PANTRY.** Members of the SMS National Honor Society, along with Saint Mary's students, collected and delivered food items to the Immaculate Conception Church Food Pantry. Pictured in the front row are

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) HONORS CLASSMATE DYLAN CASHIO.** Mrs. Liz Coco's 5th grade class at Sacred Heart School wanted to do something extra for Thanksgiving. A small group of girls in the class began to collect money by selling baked goods and soon the whole class wanted to contribute to the cause. "The Cause" was in memory of a fellow student at Sacred Heart, Dylan Cashio, who recently passed away and who had been treated at St. Jude's Hospital. Everyone in the class contributed in some way and the results were a \$300 donation to St. Jude's Hospital.



**SAINT MARY'S (Natchitoches) FBLA AND 4H members participated in the Operation Christmas Child program.** Specially designed Christmas shoe boxes were filled with personal items, clothes, books, and small toys and will be delivered to needy children throughout the world. Pictured are

**RADIO MARIA**  
 ...a Christian voice in your home  
 580 AM Alexandria  
 89.7 FM Natchitoches  
 Mass broadcast: Weekdays 8:00 am; Sundays 9:00-11:00 am  
 1-888-408-0201  
 www.radiomaria.us

**Mary's Heart**  
**CATHOLIC GIFT STORE LLC**  
**443-2135**  
 Monday-Friday: 10am-6pm  
 corner of Dan Kaplan & President in Alexandria, just off MacArthur Drive traffic circle.





## 2nd annual Louisiana Life March set for Jan. 21, 2012

The 2nd annual Louisiana Life March in Baton Rouge, set for Jan. 21, 2012 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon, is expected to be twice as large as it was last year.

Last year's Life March drew approximately 3,000 people from all around the state. But it was the first year it was organized and even more are expected this year.

The Louisiana Life March is an attempt to "gather the people to build a culture of life," according to Benjamin Clapper, executive director of the Louisiana Right to Life Federation and organizer of the march.

Other sponsors include the Louisiana Family Forum, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, Concerned Women for America, and the Knights of Columbus.

The March will gather on the steps of the Old State Capitol and proceed up 4th Street to the current State Capitol.

In addition to the Louisiana Life March on Jan. 21, the National Life March will be held in Washington, D.C., where pro-lifers from around the country will gather and stand up for the 51 million babies who have died since Roe v Wade.

Roe v Wade is the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case in 1973 that made abortions legal in the U.S. Every year since that time, pro-lifers have gathered in Washington D.C. to show their support for life.

Make plans to attend. Reserve a bus for your group (discounts are found online).

For more information, go to [LALifeMarch.com](http://LALifeMarch.com), or call 1-866-463-5433, or text "ProLife" to 22828 to join.

**RAPIDES RIGHT TO LIFE** had a float in the Pecan Festival Parade held in Colfax in November. Donna Domzalski, club president, and other members of the group rode on the float.

**ROSARY RALLY IN PLAUCHEVILLE.** A Rosary Rally was held Oct. 15 at the home of Linda Couvillion in Plaquemine as part of the America Needs Fatima campaign and in celebration of October as the month of the Rosary. Several members of the Plaquemine Youth Group participated this year.



Shouldn't **15,000 people** be seeing an ad about **your business every month?**

Advertise in **The Church Today**  
Contact the Church Today  
318-445-6424, ext. 264

**Panda Restaurant**  
Chinese Cuisine & Mongolian Grill

*Dine in or Take out . . . order from our extensive menu or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet and Mongolian grill . . . We do party trays . . . all major credit cards accepted.*

2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA  
Ph: (318) 767-8596/Fax: (318) 767-2250

**Lunch:**  
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**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.

**JoJo's Flowers**  
Full Service Flower & Gift Shop  
Free delivery in the Greater Baton Rouge area

406 N.W. Miami St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(504) 733-8024

235 Acme Rd.  
Marronville, LA 71351  
318-283-7414

JoJo Jensen / Owner

**Special thanks to:**

**Red River Bank**

**sponsor of**

**Bishop's Golf Tournament**

**VETERANS DAY FLAG DEDICATION AT STS FRANCIS & ANNE.** In honor of Veterans, the Flag flew for the first time at St. Francis and Anne in Kolin on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. The Knight of Columbus, Council 13296, built and erected a flag pole to honor all veterans. Veteran and KC member, Jimmy Tuma, led the Pledge. Father Joy blessed the flag and pole before the Sunday morning Mass. The Flag was raised by the local Boy Scout Troop.



**Amicus Club Rodeo coming in January**



**AMICUS CLUB RODEO JAN. 20-21 WILL BENEFIT ST. MARY'S.** A young cowboy competes in the mutton busting contest during intermission at the Amicus Club PRCA Rodeo that will be held Jan. 20-21 in the Rapides Parish Coliseum. The rodeo will be held at 7:30 p.m. on both Nights and also at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$10 per person; children under 12 get in free with a coupon from their school. All proceeds from the PRCA sanctioned event will benefit St. Mary's Residential Training Facility. The Amicus Club is a service organization whose sole purpose is to organize this annual rodeo as its primary fundraiser for St. Mary's Residential Training Facility.



**STS. FRANCIS & ANNE (Kolin) CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COLLECT FOOD FOR MANNA HOUSE.** The CDA collected from parishioners 100 lbs of dried beans, 92 lbs of rice, 20+ lbs of pasta and 5 lbs of cornmeal and had the youth group deliver it to the Manna House on Nov. 11. Pictured are (front row) Cheryl Gray, Susie Barlow & Barbara McQuillin. Back row: Pauline Johnson, Pat Theriot, Stacy Mayeux, Deanna McNeal, Erlene Nunez. (not pictured: Terri Edens, Debbie Humphreys & Dawn Humphreys)

*Come by John Huffman and see "Baby" Santa! May all your Christmas wishes come true!*

We have hundreds of loose diamonds to choose from!

**John Huffman Fine Jewelry**

4116 Jackson St. • 473-2903  
Over 27 Years Continuous Growth!  
www.huffmanjewelry.com

**12 Months No Interest**  
Subject to special terms and conditions.

Spread the magic of Jimbo Claus...

Give Tunks Gift Certificates this holiday season. They make great stocking stuffers and perfectly magical gifts, because Tunk's has something for everyone.

Join us on Facebook!

Call 487-4014  
Hwy 28 West  
8.5 Miles past the Coliseum  
www.tunkscypressinn.com  
Visa • MC • AmEx • Discover

**TUNK'S CYPRESS INN**

**Midnight Mass**

From pg. 5

Eventually, though, this evolved into a second Christmas Mass that seemed to replicate the dawn celebrations that Egeria witnessed in Jerusalem. This Christmas Mass would be followed by the Pope going to St. Peter's to celebrate the dawn office of Christmas with the faithful.

Until sometime before 1156, only Popes were allowed to celebrate the three Christmas Masses, but by 1156 there is evidence that priests began to say all three as well, which still occurs today. A single priest can celebrate all three Christmas Day Masses, provided they follow the correct times (midnight, dawn, and sometime during the day).

Any of the four types of Christmas Masses (vigil, midnight, dawn, or day) is valid for fulfilling the Christmas Mass obligation.

# Website fosters faith, fellowship among college students

By Laura Dodson  
Catholic News Service

MELBOURNE, Fla. (CNS) -- They are the future of the church and world and it just makes sense that as young adults pursue advanced education for their careers, they should be able to deepen their faith with prayer, fellowship and knowledge about their faith at the same time.

At [www.newmanconnection.com](http://www.newmanconnection.com), young adults are doing exactly that. Via the virtual world, they are connected to a community of others just like themselves.

"Campus ministry is where I found my faith," said Katrina Teano, a 23-year-old graduate student at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. "I'm connected with Newman Connection, do the online classes and really like it because it's connected to people in other schools in the country. All kids are welcome and if this gets someone involved -- that's the benefit."

The Newman Connection, a nonprofit organization founded in July 2009, unites Newman centers across the country, providing a medium for communication as well as a support structure and ongoing development for students and the centers.

"There's so much work to be done in campus ministry," said Bill Zerrusen, its founder and president. "Through the Newman centers, we want to create a Catholic home within the public university boundaries where the



**VANDERBILT STUDENTS IN TENNESSEE AMONG STUDENTS FROM AROUND COUNTRY INVOLVED IN NEWMAN CONNECTION.** Father John Sims Baker, chaplain of Vanderbilt Catholic, talks with Vanderbilt University students Dec. 1 in Nashville, Tenn., who are planning a group trip to the upcoming March for Life in Washington. They are, from left, Stephanie Brennan, a senior from Fort Mitchell, K.Y., Stephanie Best, a junior from Brentwood, Tenn., and Elise Burgett, a senior from Medway, Mass. Vanderbilt Catholic is the Nashville Diocese's campus ministry serving Catholic students at the university and one of the campus minis tries involved in the Newman Connection. (CNS photo/Rick Musacchio, Tennessee Register)

kids can come and get the support they need."

Newman centers were inspired by Blessed John Henry Newman, who encouraged societies for Catholic students attending secular universities. The first Newman center was founded in 1893 at the University of Pennsylvania, and there are now about 1,500 of the diocesan-sponsored campus ministry

centers.

"I discovered God in law school," said Chad-Michael Cunningham, 28, who is director of Catholic campus ministry and development at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. "God has made it an amazing ride, a really unique place to be in the world, a neatly carved-out job of working with students who might not know things, but know

they want to know."

In late August, Newman Connection launched two online educational courses, "Exploring 'YouCat'" and iFACTS, which stands for the Institute For Advancing Catholic Thought and Studies.

"YouCat" is a new youth catechism released this summer as a supplement to the Catechism of the Catholic Church; iFACTS is a

## Campus Ministry

Check it out:  
[newmanconnection.com](http://newmanconnection.com)

project of the Vanderbilt Catholic community and endorsed by Nashville Bishop David R. Choby, who online welcomes students to the institute.

"A lot of this is the fruit of Blessed Pope John Paul II and his love for youth," the bishop said in an interview for Catholic News Service. "He encouraged and supported them. World Youth Day 2011 is a prime example. I'm happy to see that this younger generation is discovering the richness of this life of faith and the hope and joy it brings. It's a real grace."

Cunningham started teaching catechism classes to Vanderbilt freshmen in September 2010, but it was meeting with the Newman Connection in February 2011 that catapulted the iFACTS program from a university classroom to the world and that classroom is available free, live-stream, online, 24/7 to all who click.

"Newman Connection gave us the opportunity to say what we were saying, but into a very big microphone," Cunningham said. "I now get to speak with a countless number of people as to why their faith is important and especially how you live it -- the practical side of our faith."

  
 Wishing  
 Peace and Joy  
 for Christmas to all our friends

Harley Gremillion  
 Millworks & Supply, Inc.  
 3310 Broadway, Alexandria, LA  
 (318) 443-1202



## Helping Alexandria stay at home.™

We provide the highest quality, non-medical, at-home care for you or your family. Amian Health Services of Alexandria will help you find the right solutions for services in the comfort of your own home.

Give us a call today to schedule a **FREE** initial consultation. Our friendly, professional staff will explain everything you need to know in order to select the best services for your situation. Give us a call today at **(318) 484.2550**.

**Geriatric Care Management**  
**Alzheimer's Care**  
**Certified Nursing Assistants**  
**Sitter / Companions**  
**Fully Licensed & Insured**  
**Shopping & Errands**

**Light Housekeeping**  
**Meal Preparation**  
**Bathing & Toileting**  
**Medication Reminders**  
**Much More...**



  
**AMIAN**  
 HEALTH SERVICES

*of Alexandria*  
[www.amianhealth.com](http://www.amianhealth.com)

Dunbar Plaza 3600 Jackson Street, Suite 117, Alexandria, LA 71303

Let Amian Health Services help you.

# We could all learn an Advent lesson from Tim Tebow

**Guest Commentary**  
**Joe Towalski, editor.**  
**The Catholic Spirit**

A lot of ink is being spilled on Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow. Sports pundits are incredulous that this less-than-stellar passer has helped to turn his team into a contender for the NFL playoffs. Unlike most other football players, however, Tebow has also come under scrutiny for the way he publicly witnesses to his Christian faith -- something he references in nearly every interview and public appearance.

This open embrace of faith, by all accounts, has been ingrained in Tebow for a long time, although it received a great deal of national attention for the first time when the former star quarterback for the University of Florida and Heisman Trophy winner appeared in TV ads with a pro-life message during the 2010 Super Bowl.

As a member of the Denver Broncos, he occasionally takes a knee in prayer -- a phenomenon now known, and sometimes spoofed, as "Tebowing." He started a recent postgame news

conference by thanking "my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." The son of former missionaries, he works with a foundation that bears his name to help sick and orphaned children around the world. That foundation is now teaming up with another organization to build a children's hospital in the Philippines.

Like him or hate him, Tebow seems nothing but sincere about his beliefs -- a fact his coach, John Fox, acknowledged in a recent online story about the quarterback. "He's real," Fox said. "He walks the walk. A guy like that in today's society, in my mind, ought to be celebrated, not scrutinized to the level that he is."

But Tebow is scrutinized because, to some, his public displays of faith are irksome, bothersome, too "in your face." These critics often have no problem with his beliefs, they just wish he would keep them private and not wear them on his sleeve to the extent he does.

Those critics should be more concerned, however, about the antics of others that are as public but certainly not worthy of emulation: athletes guilty of



unsportsmanlike conduct on and off the field, coaches and politicians caught in scandals, celebrities whose commitment to marriage lasts a whopping 72 days.

With Tebow you get something genuine -- a role model. What you see on the outside is what's on the inside,

particularly when it comes to his spiritual life.

In the same story in which his coach was quoted, Tebow had this to say: "That's the thing about my faith: It's not just something that happens when you're at church or happens when you're praying or reading the Scripture. It's a part of who you are, as a person, as a player, in your life and everything. And it should be who

you are because you're not just a Christian or a believer at church. That's who you are everywhere, and it shouldn't matter what situation or what setting you are in. Hopefully, you're the same guy everywhere."

And, therein, is a lesson for all of us this Advent season: to spend this season of waiting to

welcome Christ once again by synching our everyday lives with our beliefs, to translate our words and prayers into action, to live out what we profess on Sunday during the other days of the week -- at home, at work, at school and in our communities.

Advent isn't about Black Friday or Cyber Monday or buying ever more stuff that other people don't need or, frankly, often don't want. It isn't about office parties. It's about making room for Jesus in our lives and bringing the hope and peace of Christ into the lives of others.

We celebrate Advent when we make a deeper commitment to prayer in our lives. To spending more time with loved ones who need our presence more than our presents. To bringing hope to the poor and lonely through service and financial contributions that will improve their lives by helping them meet basic needs.

Advent is about living out what we believe and not being afraid to share and show our faith to the rest of the world, even if someone gives us grief about it.

That's an Advent lesson for us, courtesy of Tim Tebow.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*  
*Thank you for your patronage throughout the year.*

**Brigitte Paul Kelso**  
**Insurance**  
**318-448-2226**

2816 S. MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301  
 Email: kelsolns@yahoo.com

**St. Romain Oil**

Convenient, High-Quality Fuels, Food & More  
 (318) 240-9494

**CHRISTMAS CONCERTS**

- Dec. 13  
**Red River Chorale Concert**

Red River Chorale will present A Festive Christmas on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 484-4463 or 484-4499 to purchase tickets.

*Merry Christmas*

*May all the blessings of Christmas touch you and those you love in a very special way*

**Flynn Building Specialties**

**Special thanks to:**

**Dalrymple and Ledet**

**sponsor of**

**Bishop's Golf Tournament**

- Dec. 22  
**St. Augustine Christmas Concert**

St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle will present a Christmas Concert on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Church. Drs. Vallerie Francis, from Nicholls State University and Wilfred Delphin, from Xavier University, will lead a combined choir of youth from New Orleans, Baton Rouge and the Cane River area. The concert is free and open to the public.

# Is *The Twilight Saga* a valid example of true love?

By David Outten  
The Movie Guide

*The Twilight Saga* is a wildly successful series of books and movies built on a tale of forbidden "love." Talk with the typical Twilight fan, and you quickly learn that the main appeal of the movie is a story of love that reflects and even goes beyond the usual Hollywood infatuation. Fans enjoy seeing Edward and Jacob being prepared to sacrifice their life for the benefit of Bella. Add in the danger presented by vampires and werewolves, and you have a modern Romeo and Juliet tale of forbidden, sacrificial love.

Contrast *The Twilight Saga* with *The Bachelor*. The bachelor has twelve girls telling him "I think I'm falling in love with you," in order to stay on the program week to week. *The Bachelor* presents love as being a matter of finding someone with the right "chemistry." Hollywood loves "chemistry."

If you watch *Entertainment Tonight* you'll seldom see a story about a Hollywood couple that's been happily married for 30 years. It's all about who is "falling in love" with whom.

God has much higher standards. Its standard for love is far above *The Bachelor* and *Entertainment Tonight* and even goes beyond *The Twilight Saga*. To grasp God's concept of love,



**IS IT TRUE LOVE?** Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart star in a scene from the movie *The Twilight Saga*. But is the forbidden, sacrificial love in *Twilight* really true love? God has much higher standards for love that is not based on feelings. (CNS photo/Summit)

you must understand it's not based on feelings. It's based on commitment followed by action.

By God's standards, love is not what you feel. It's what you do. Feelings follow the behavior of love. They don't lead the

behavior. Imagine how you'd feel if someone showed you this kind of love:

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.

It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

It does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

-- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Yes, it's wonderful to feel loved. Feelings are an important part of life, but if feelings are all that bring a couple together, then they may not remain a couple when the feelings fade.

Godly love stays strong through difficult circumstances because it does not need feelings to survive. However, when you make a commitment to love someone by God's rules, the feelings of love can rise to heights you will never experience in simple infatuation. The love shared by a couple who've practiced God's love on each other for 50 years is amazing.

When you're in your golden years, would you feel more love if you'd been through 50 years of ups and downs with a person who's shown you God's love, or if you'd been through a series of marriages built on the ebb and flow of your feelings?

Read the gossip magazine available at your local grocery store, and you'll see what Hollywood considers love. It's a sham compared to the real

thing, but more and more couples around the world are settling for the sham.

If you're dating someone and you want to know if they really love you, put them to the test:

- Are they patient and kind?
- Do they avoid being jealous, boastful, proud or rude?
- Do they demand their own way?
- Do they easily become irritable?
- Do they keep a record of your mistakes?
- Do they rejoice about good wholesome things and avoid bad things?
- Are they faithful and optimistic even in difficult situations?
- Are they the kind of person who'd show you this kind of love through thick of thin?
- Are you the kind of person who will show them this kind of love?

If you're looking for someone who will show you the sacrificial love you see in Edward from *The Twilight Saga* look first to Jesus Christ. He was brutally beaten and crucified showing sacrificial love for you. He taught and demonstrated true love. He has called all who follow Him to show that kind of love to others.

Imagine how much different the world would be if everyone sought to share God's love with one another.

**Budget Blinds**  
a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings  
Blinds • Draperies • Shades

Huge selection of the best brands!

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

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise  
Best Business Award by Entrepreneur Magazine

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

---

**NO FEE CHARGED**  
Unless Benefits Received

**FREE Initial Consultation**

**1-888-468-3741 (Toll Free)**  
**(318) 876-3174**

www.lemoinelawfirm.com  
Offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge & Cottonport

**LET US FILL YOUR TANK**  
**Jim's South Propane**

Complete Installation & Service  
Available for Commercial & Residential

**318-473-4124**  
3011 N. MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA 71301

# 23,000 youths send 'holy shoutout' at end of NCYC Mass

## Bishop Herzog, Leesville youth group, diocesan youth director participate in conference

By Mary Ann Garber  
Catholic News Service and  
Jeannie Petrus, CT editor

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and host of the conference, asked the teenagers, collegians and all attending the closing Mass to text, email or tweet the words "Called to Glory," the conference theme, to family members and friends throughout the U.S. at the conclusion of the vibrant liturgy.

Murmurs began to spread through the quiet football stadium when Bishop Coyne surprised the conference participants by asking them to turn on their cellphones at the end of Mass.

"For over two hours now, we have turned this space into a holy place where holy people have listened to holy words and done

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) -- More than 2,000 years after his birth, Christ the King was honored in a historic way with a massive electronic "holy shoutout" via texts, emails and tweets sent simultaneously from cellphones Nov. 19 by 23,000 participants at the National Catholic Youth Conference and National Catholic Collegiate Conference.

It was a fun and faith-filled way for the Catholic youths and young adults to honor God and conclude the 31st biennial national conference, held Nov. 17-19 in Indianapolis.



**BASEBALL TRADING CARD DEPICTS BISHOP HERZOG** at the National Catholic Youth Conference held Nov. 19 in Indianapolis. Bishops attending signed the cards for participants, who traded with each other to make sure they had the coveted card of their own hometown bishop.

Michael Church in Leesville, chaperone a group of four students.

In addition to the 'holy shoutouts' another memorable event was 'Victory Park,' one of the many thematic parks throughout the conference. The 'Victory Park' exhibit was shaped like a baseball diamond and had a special seating section for all of the bishops attending the conference.

Baseball trading cards were printed of each bishop and distributed randomly to each participant. Receiving five cards each, the students were encouraged to have each bishop sign the trading cards in their possession and even trading with others to make sure they had the coveted card of their own hometown bishop.

"It was a fun, informal way for a student to approach the bishops, who were also wearing baseball caps, and briefly meet each one," said Theriot.

"Christina (Theriot) had it right when she said it was going to be a totally new experience for all of us," said Veillon. "I have been to Steubenville South several times (which is awesome!), so I expected it to be similar, but it was very unique. I was held captive during the Lectio Divina like never before and felt like I was a silent companion to Mary watching the events unfold before me. Truly amazing, the single most powerful religious experience of my life."

holy things and received holy gifts," Bishop Coyne said.

"I want you all to dig out your cellphones, ... and turn them on because we're going to do a holy shoutout. I don't think this has ever been done ... with a crowd like this, and maybe the first time at a big Catholic gathering. I want you to type in 'Called to Glory.'"

After he announced the "holy shoutout," the teenagers, collegians and others in attendance quickly typed in the words then awaited his cue to press the "send" button on their cellphones.

"When I say, 'We are ...,' " Bishop Coyne told them, "we are going to shout out 'Called to Glory' and you're going to send it

out to all those people out there on the Internet that are watching us and all the people we love. We are going to spread that greatness to the call to glory. Are you ready? We are ... called to glory!"

Christina Theriot, director of Religious Formation and Training from the Diocese of Alexandria sent her "Called to Glory" message to several of her family members and friends.

"It was a great conference," said Theriot who said this was the 7th National Catholic Youth Conference that she has attended since she was a student in high school. The conference is held every other year.

Theriot assisted Tammy Veillon, youth minister at St.



**LEESVILLE STUDENTS ATTEND NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE.** The group from St. Michael's stand outside Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, where they attended the National Catholic Youth Conference. Pictured are (from left) [redacted] and Tammy Veillon, director of youth at St. Michael's.

**Special thanks to:**

**Vilar and Elliott**

**sponsor of**

**Bishop's Golf Tournament**



# Spiderman sequel not as promising as first video game

By Adam Shaw  
Catholic News Service

timelines unfold in a state known as "quantum causality" where the actions of one affect the world of the other.

Though confusing, the plot is classic comic-book fare, and has many exciting possibilities. Unfortunately, this promising premise fails to translate into thrilling gameplay.

Those who approach the game hoping to feel invincible and cool as they swing between buildings can forget it. At no point does Spiderman, past or present, step into the open air, so any swinging around takes place indoors.

The uninspired action that remains relies heavily on basic fist-fighting. The developers chose not to include a block option, which means that sparring depends on button pounding sprinkled with a few combos.

"Spiderman: Edge of Time" does get a few things right. It taps into the Marvel mythology, and comic book fans will be pleased by references to Captain America, Iron Man and other

(CNS) -- Spiderman: "Edge of Time" was released in 2011 with little fuss and few flights of any particular emotion. My Spidey-sense warned me that something was amiss. I was not wrong.

As played for review on the Xbox 360, the gamer plays both the Amazing Spiderman and his futuristic counterpart Spiderman 2009. Super-villain Walker Sloan has developed a time-traveling machine, and has journeyed into the past to build the megacorporation Alchemax, creating a whole new timeline in the process. Spiderman 2099 -- Miguel O'Hara -- is caught between competing chronologies and witnesses the death of his character's original incarnation, the Amazing Spiderman -- Peter Parker.

O'Hara must communicate and work with Parker to stop this fatal vision from coming to pass. Their respective alternate



**SPIDERMAN: EDGE OF TIME** is rated A-II (Adults and Adolescents) by the Catholic News Service and T (Teens) by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (CNS photo/Activision)

classic characters. Additionally, the dialogue throughout is both authentic and genuinely funny.

Parents, however, will want to be aware of one of Spiderman's main antagonists. Her character exudes overt sexuality, dabbling in innuendo and favoring skin-tight costumes complete with diving cleavage -- obviously inappropriate for kids.

Thematically, on the other hand, "Edge of Time" raises no issues for gamers of faith. The message -- that human beings should be wary of trying to play God -- is both clear and thoroughly Catholic.

**VERCHER**  
Tag & Titles  
GOALSU 1992

*Merry Christmas*  
...and a blessed New Year!

**448-0099**

**TIRE SERVICE**  
**DESPINO'S**

*Merry Christmas!*

3011 MacArthur Dr. Alexandria 445-4561  
MON-FRI 7:30-5:00  
SAT 7:30-12:00

1721 Hwy 3175 Natchitoches 356-8811

The **CrossWord** December 18 and 25, 2011

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15										
18										
22	23	24								
26										
29										
32										
36										
40	41	42								
45										
49										
54										
57										

©2011 Activision Inc. All rights reserved.

**Based on these Scripture Readings:** 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 18; Lk 1:28-38 and Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:18 (Christmas Day)

**ACROSS**

- 1 Gives up food
- 6 American Sign Language
- 9 Ten Commandments
- 12 100 make a shekel in Israel
- 13 Downwind
- 14 Past
- 15 Heavy cloth
- 16 Tasmania (Abbr.)
- 17 Title of respect
- 18 Cab
- 20 Inhale the odor
- 22 David was of Israel's army
- 25 Got closer
- 26 Sin
- 27 Prayer of praises
- 29 "\_\_\_ this and eat"
- 31 Bacon-lettuce-tomato sandwich
- 32 Double-reed instrument
- 36 Nativity scene
- 39 Assumption month
- 40 Repeated sounds
- 43 Musical term
- 45 Call
- 46 Made me in my mother's womb
- 47 Note of debt
- 48 National police

**DOWN**

- 1 Passing pop item
- 2 Maturity
- 3 Mary's boy child
- 4 Threesome
- 5 Israel's first prophet
- 6 Second highest singer
- 7 Galilee's lake
- 8 Abate
- 9 Cutting beam
- 10 Quick
- 11 Light came into
- 19 12 groups of Israel
- 21 Bread spread
- 22 Allow
- 23 Epoch
- 24 Covenant vessel
- 25 David's prophet
- 28 What a nurse gives
- 30 Economics abrv.
- 33 Pouch
- 34 French "yes"
- 35 Freudian term
- 37 Thick naval coat
- 38 Oversees writers
- 40 Tales
- 41 Pork cuts
- 42 Temple
- 44 Dickens' "\_\_\_ of Two Cities" (2 wds)
- 46 David's title
- 49 Constrictor snake
- 51 Cousin
- 52 Adam's wife
- 53 Not Old Testament

# Arthur Christmas reminds viewers of values, loyalty

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Cartoonist Thomas Nast, who popularized Santa Claus in the 1880s, could not have envisioned the high-tech world of "Arthur Christmas" (Columbia), a mostly delightful 3-D animated comedy which equips Kris Kringle with a stealth ship, GPS navigation, battalions of ninjalike elves, and scanners that measure children for "naughty" or "nice."

Directed and co-written (with Peter Baynham) by first-time helmer Sarah Smith, and co-produced by Aardman Animations -- the company behind the beloved "Wallace & Gromit" series -- "Arthur Christmas" has a first-rate and very funny script and showcases some of the best voice work in a long time.

Although it has absolutely nothing to do with the true meaning of the Nativity, the film does offer a good commentary on the commercialization of the holiday and reminds viewers of the importance of family, loyalty, and being faithful to one's promise.

It's Christmas Eve, and North Pole Mission Control, hidden deep below the Arctic Circle, is buzzing. Santa Claus (voice of Jim Broadbent) is getting ready for his 70th mission. He's the 20th man to wear the red suit since the first -- St. Nicholas (of course).



**ARTHUR CHRISTMAS** (Columbia) This mostly delightful 3-D animated comedy equips Santa Claus (voice of Jim Broadbent) with a stealth ship, GPS navigation and battalions of ninja-like elves to fulfill the mission of delivering 2 billion gifts each Christmas Eve. Although it has absolutely nothing to do with the true meaning of the Nativity, the film does offer a good commentary on the commercialization of the holiday and the importance of family, loyalty and being faithful to one's promise. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.

But our Santa's getting long in the tooth, and his ambitious, narcissistic son Steve (voice of Hugh Laurie) is anxious to inherit "the greatest job in the world." Steve runs the sophisticated global network of gift distribution, relying on technology to eliminate any possibility of human (or elfin) error.

Decidedly more low-tech is Steve's younger brother, the

humble Arthur (voice of James McAvoy). His job is to answer, by hand, all the letters Santa receives from children. "Santa is real," he writes with wide-eyed wonder. "He's the greatest man ever."

Disaster strikes in the form of a single undelivered present. Steve convinces Santa that this glitch is well within the margin of error, and both turn in for the night. But Arthur is aghast, as

a little girl from England who wrote to Santa asking for a pink bicycle will be left disappointed. Something must be done!

To the rescue comes Santa's dad, Grandsanta (voice of Bill Nighy). Now 136 years old, he misses the excitement of having the top job. He's upset, too, at how Santa has taken a back seat to all the gadgets and gizmos.

Grandsanta uncovers the old

## MOVIE REVIEW

sleigh, rounds up the rather aged reindeer, procures a supply of magic dust (to enable flight), and persuades Arthur to join him on one last mission.

Grandsanta, whose false teeth keep popping out, provides the film's most questionable humor as well as some of its funniest lines. He cannot, for instance, remember the reindeers' names. "Prancer, Dancer," he begins. "Vixen ... Bambi? Joe?"

Accompanied by Bryony (voice of Ashley Jensen) -- a stowaway elf from the Giftwrap Battalion -- Arthur and Grandsanta rocket off to deliver the overlooked package before sunrise.

"Arthur Christmas" features at least few benign references to the real holiday. Crash-landing in Africa, for example, the trio of travelers is surrounded by ferocious lions. Arthur sings "Silent Night" to persuade the beasts to "sleep in heavenly peace."

The film contains some rude humor and cartoonish thrills. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

**Oestriecher Financial Management Services**



**Retirement Planning and Rollovers\***  
**\*College Savings**  
**\*Annuities**  
**Long Term Care Insurance**  
**Life Insurance**  
**Disability Insurance**

*I would like to answer your questions...*

\*Securities offered through E.F. Huth & Company, Member SIPC  
 Software services provided through E.F. Huth & Company. Services provided through E.F. Huth & Company.  
 ©2011 by Oestriecher Financial Management Services, LLC. All rights reserved. Oestriecher Financial Management Services, LLC is not a bank.

4641 Windermere Place  
 Alexandria, LA 71303  
 (318) 448-3143, ext. 407

**BU'S PIZZA HOUSE**

CALL IN YOUR ORDER - WE WILL HAVE IT READY IN 20 MINUTES  
**COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY & PRICE**

**WE DELIVER** EVERYTHING FROM CHEESE TO "FULL HOUSE"  
 WITHIN LIMITED AREA CHECK ACCEPTABLE SUN-THUR 11 AM-10:30 PM  
 FRI & SAT 11 AM-11 PM

#1 ALEXANDRIA 902 VERSAILLES BLVD. 448-4104	#2 BALL 6301 MONROE HWY. 540-2983	#3 PINEVILLE CORNER HWY. 28 EAST & STILLEY RD 445-9249
---	---	---

**VALUABLE COUPON**  
**Two Medium Pizzas \$17.99** Coupon Expires 1/17/12  
 \*Single Topping - Additional Toppings Extra  
 Not valid with any other coupon

All prices subject to change

## Sacred Heart Advent Mission for Youth, Young Adults

Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville and the Office of Religious Formation and Training will host an Advent Mission night on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 5 p.m. (Mass) - 8 p.m. Our Advent Theme is "Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus" presented by Fr. Basil Burns. The night is filled with music, prayer, evangelism, and catechesis. We invite high school students, young adults, and adults to become closer to Christ and His Church. For more information, contact Luc Noel at 1-866-447-7088, extension 221, or e-mail at [youngadults@diocesealex.org](mailto:youngadults@diocesealex.org), or [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

## New Year's Eve Dance

St Rita Church in Alexandria will sponsor a New Year's Eve Dance on Saturday, Dec. 31 from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Music by Lena Technical Productions, with Nic Lena as DJ. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Tickets can be purchased at the church office. Upon request we will reserve tables for parties of 10 or more. Drink setups and party favors will be provided. Plan to join us for an evening of fun!!

## NFP Classes to begin

You are invited to attend a Natural Family Planning class series teaching the Sympto-Thermal Method on the Saturdays of Jan. 21, Feb. 18, and March 17 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. You must attend all 3 classes to complete the course. There is a one-time fee of \$135, which includes Student Guide book, fertility tracking chart, basal body thermometer, one year membership to Couple to Couple League, "Fertility, Cycles, & Nutrition" book, etc. The Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning is 99% effective and 100% safe, natural, and morally acceptable to postpone or achieve pregnancy! To register, visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) or contact Michael and Leah Pelto at (318) 640-8678 or [michaellandleah@suddenlink.net](mailto:michaellandleah@suddenlink.net).

## Mexican Cruise

St. Rita Church is sponsoring a 4-day Mexican cruise on Carnival's Elation. Rates for an inside cabin \$467.50 or outside cabin \$545 double occupancy only. We will depart April 26 and return on April 30. Deposit of \$150 per person is due as soon as possible and final payment is due Feb. 1. This includes cruise, all port taxes, fees and travel protection. For more information call 445-7141 ext 20.

## Registion for Steubenville opens

Group registration for the 2012 Steubenville South Youth Conference will open Dec. 8. To register, go to [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com) or for more information, call 318-473-0539 or email: [centraloffice@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:centraloffice@steubenvillesouth.com)

## NEWS around the Diocese



**THANKSGIVING AT ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL.** Students at Cabrini School dressed as pilgrims and Indians for Thanksgiving.

## Advent Mission for Youth/Young Adults

Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville and the Office of Religious Formation and Training will host an Advent Mission night on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 5 p.m. (Mass) - 8 p.m. Our Advent Theme is "Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus" presented by Fr. Basil Burns.

The night is filled with music, prayer, evangelism, and catechesis. We invite high school students, young adults, and adults to become closer to Christ and His Church. For more information, contact Luc Noel at 1-866-447-7088, extension 221, or e-mail at [youngadults@diocesealex.org](mailto:youngadults@diocesealex.org), or [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

## Holy Spirit Retreat for Teens/Young Adults

Sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans, the annual Holy Spirit Retreat for Teens and Young Adults will be held Jan. 6-8 at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie. To register, go to [www.ccrno.org](http://www.ccrno.org) or email [youth@ccrno.org](mailto:youth@ccrno.org) or call 504-828-1368.

## S.A.L.T. Retreats

The dates for the S.A.L.T. Retreats have been announced. The dates are:

- Jan. 14-15 (register by Dec. 16)
- Feb. 11-12 (register by Jan. 16)
- March 10-11 (register by Feb. 17)

You can download an updated brochure from our website at <http://www.diocesealex.org/>. For more information, call Cathy at 318-445-6424 x 221.

## Christian Dream Therapy

Jim and Christy Gootee and the Two Hearts Team will be offering a retreat on Christian Dream Therapy at Maryhill Renewal Center on Jan. 21-22 from 9 a.m. Saturday to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. The retreat will look at dreams in Scripture as well as study God's symbolic language found in our dreams. You will learn a variety of approaches to help you understand your own dreams. Bring a Bible and Dream Notebook. The \$115 cost includes Reference Book and Retreat Manual. For more information and registration form, see [www.jimandchristygootee.com](http://www.jimandchristygootee.com)



## WOMEN'S CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE HELD AT MARYHILL.

The Women's Catholic Charismatic Conference was held November 19, 2001, at Maryhill Renewal Center. The conference was very well attended by local and out-of-town participants. This conference had not been held since 2008 and was gratefully welcomed back by faithful participants from the past and excited new participants. Guest speakers were Aggie Neck of Marksville, LA and Leslie Bertucci of Madisonville, LA. The day was filled with Praise and Worship Music, talks, testimonies, and ended with a vigil Mass by Fr. Harold Imamshah, Spiritual Director and Founder of this conference.

### Avoyelles Parish

Businesses

Advertise in  
**The Church Today**

Contact Carla Moreau

318-346-7829

*Merry Christmas!*

**Petrus**  
**FEED & SEED**

442-2325

2914 N. Bolton Avenue, Alexandria, LA



**Robbie G's**

5859 Jackson Street • Alexandria, LA  
318-443-8621

# December -- January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE</b> PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Red River Chorale Christmas Concert 7:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Advent Series 6:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle, Mansura</p> <p>6:00 p.m. St. Edward Church, Tallulah</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Penance Service 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Penance Service 6:00 pm St. Charles Mission, Goudeau</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Catholicism Series on EWTN 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Advent Mission for Youth/Young Adults 5:00-8:00 p.m. Sacred Heart, Moreauville</p> <p><b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>
Alexandria Zoo Holiday Light Safari						
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Penance Service 6:00 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes, Winnfield</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MAURICIO</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Penance Service 6:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MEDINA-CRUZ</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Christmas Concert 6:00 p.m. St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>
Diocesan Offices Closed						
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Diocesan Offices CLOSED</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>New Year's Eve Dance 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria</p> <p><b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 1</b></p> <p><b>SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</p>
Diocesan Offices Closed						
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>FEAST of the EPIPHANY</b> <b>FIRST FRIDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. PALATHARA</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>FIRST SATURDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Sr. Carla Bertani Farewell Luncheon 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>
Holy Spirit Retreat for Teens -- Metairie						
						<p>S.A.L.T. Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center</p>
Catholicism DVD Series -- 5:15 p.m. -- St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria						
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKATTU</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. RETNAZHAMONI</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ</p>



**BEST Doctors**  
**BEST Nurses**  
**BEST Heart Care**  
**BEST Cancer Care**

# BEST QUALITY

**#1** *Consumer Choice Award*

*Once again,* we are extremely honored to be chosen by our community as the most preferred hospital.

When it comes to your health, don't settle for less than the best.  
Tell Your Doctor You Choose



**CHRISTUS, ST. FRANCES CABRINI**  
Hospital  
[www.cabrini.org](http://www.cabrini.org)

\*National Research Corporation 2011/2012 Consumer Choice Award

# Winter Ball

CHRISTUS\* CABRINI FOUNDATION

**February 25**  
**Paragon Casino Resort**

Guest Entertainer **NEAL MCCOY** SPONSORED BY:  
Paragon Casino Resort/Tunica Biloxi Tribe,  
The Town Talk and Million Air Alexandria

For more information call 318/448-6580.  
[www.christuscabrinifoundation.org](http://www.christuscabrinifoundation.org)

MARK YOUR 2012 CALENDAR NOW

**25**  
FEBRUARY