



THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

# THE Church TODAY

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## On the Inside

### 'Jay Report' finds no single cause of sexual abuse crisis

A landmark study at John Jay College in New York examined the causes and context of the clergy sexual abuse crisis. Find out more about the results of the study on page 3.

### Eucharistic prayer to mark 60th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI

Catholics worldwide are asked to mark the 60th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's ordination to the priesthood with 60 hours of Eucharistic prayer for vocations. Read about what the USCCB has planned on page 5.

### 16 deacon candidates become acolytes

Sixteen men studying for the past four years for the permanent diaconate program were installed as acolytes during a special Mass held June 11. Find out more about who these men are on page 6.



# Water fight: a new Catholic issue emerges in Italy

## Italians clash over whether or not to privatize water resources

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A referendum in Italy has spotlighted an emerging social justice issue for the Catholic Church: access to safe water as a basic human right.

Italians went to the polls June 12-13 and voted overwhelmingly to revoke a decree that imposed the privatization of water resources. The issue stirred an unusually intense debate, with church leaders arguing that water is the archetypal "gift from God" that should not be polluted by the profit motive.

On June 9, a group of more than 100 missionary priests and nuns fasted and prayed in St. Peter's Square to underline their support for the referendum and their opposition to the privatization of water. Beneath Pope Benedict XVI's windows, they unfurled a giant banner reading: "Lord, help us save the water!"

The next day, the Vatican's Cardinal Peter Turkson weighed in. Cardinal Turkson, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said water distribution should be a service provided by governments to their citizens as part of their role in protecting the common good.

Some 25 Italian dioceses signed an appeal asking for a "yes" vote to preserve water as a universally shared resource. Franciscans in Assisi asked prayers and action in defense of "sister water."

Bishop Mariano Crociata, secretary-general of the Italian bishops' conference, said recently that access to clean water supplies was a "fundamental human right, connected to the very right to life." He warned that privatization efforts have seen multinational companies "turn water into business" to the detriment of the wider population.

Catholic lay groups moved into action to promote a high turnout for the referendum, which needed 50 percent of eligible

Italians to vote. In the end, that threshold was easily surpassed.

The compulsory privatization of water resources has support in the business community and from the coalition government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The question is not as simple as "selling water." Water supply inevitably involves fees for delivery, but until now prices in Italy have been set by municipalities and publicly owned companies, operating as a public service. Privatization would give companies more freedom to make more profits and, opponents argue, would leave the public at their mercy.

The counterargument is that private businesses would do a much more efficient job of managing water resources, especially in Italy, where corruption and incompetence have left many local systems in disarray. As a newspaper aligned with the Italian Catholic movement *Communion and Liberation* said, the real enemy



**WOMAN FILLS BOTTLE WITH WATER IN ROME.** Onerina Camery fills a soda bottle with water from a public fountain in Rome June 9. Church leaders have argued that water is the archetypal "gift from God" that should not be polluted by the profit motive. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

in water distribution is waste and inadequate public services, not profits.

At the Vatican, the clean water issue has been on the radar for several years. In 2007, Pope Benedict said he was concerned about the equitable sharing of global water supplies and warned

that water shortages could easily become a cause of conflicts.

The international community has moved toward recognizing the protection of water supplies. Last July, the U.N. passed a resolution calling on states and international organizations to provide funding and technology, especially

to developing countries, to guarantee safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water for all.

Last October, Pope Benedict called the U.N. resolution an important step forward. Clean water, he said, was "essential to human nutrition, to rural activities and to the conservation of nature."

He cited his predecessor, Blessed Pope John Paul II, who said in 2002 that protecting the world's water supply may require behavioral changes around the world. In other words, water conservation.

The Vatican is sensitive to the water issue for another reason: the 109-acre Vatican City State has no water resources to speak of, and its water is furnished by Italy through a treaty signed more than 90 years ago.

Over the last decade, however, the Italian water company ACEA has tried to collect fees from the Vatican amounting to more than 50 million euros (\$73 million). Citing the treaty with Italy, the Vatican has refused to pay, and the Italian state has covered the bill.

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# Landmark Study: the John Jay College Report

## Study concludes: No single cause or predictor of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy

A landmark study by researchers at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York, which examined the causes and context of the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the U.S. Catholic Church, concluded that there was no single cause or predictor of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy.

According to the report, situational factors and opportunity to abuse played a significant role in the onset and continuation of abusive acts.

“The bulk of cases occurred decades ago,” said Karen Terry, PhD., John Jay’s principal investigator for the report. “The increased frequency of abuse in the 1960s and 1970s was consistent with the patterns of increased deviance of society during that time.”

She also said that “social influences intersected with vulnerabilities of individual



**RELEASE OF JAY REPORT.** Karen Terry, principal investigator for the John Jay College report on the causes and context of clergy sexual abuse, speaks during a press conference at the headquarters of the USCCB in Washington May 18. The report said there is “no single identifiable ‘cause’ of sexually abusive behavior toward minors and encouraged steps to deny abusers “the opportunity to abuse.” (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

priests whose preparation for a life of celibacy was inadequate at that time.”

According to the report, neither celibacy nor homosexuality were causes

**FOR FULL REPORT:** <http://www.usccb.org/mr/causes-and-context-of-sexual-abuse-of-minors-by-catholic-priests-in-the-united-states-1950-2010.pdf>

of the abuse, and that priest candidates who would later abuse could not be distinguished by psychological test data, developmental and sexual history data, intelligence data, or experience in priesthood. The development of human formation components of seminary preparation for priesthood is associated with the continued low levels of child sexual abuse by Catholic priests in the United States, Terry said.

The study also found that the initial, mid-1980s response of bishops to allegations of abuse was to concentrate on getting help for the priest-abusers. Despite the development of a comprehensive plan for response to victims and the harms of

sexual abuse by the mid-1990s, diocesan implementation was not consistent or thorough at that time. Yet, the decrease in incidence of sexual abuse cases by clergy was more rapid than the overall societal patterns.

The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the U.S., 1950-2010 report by a John Jay College research team was made public May 18 in Washington. Terry presented the report to Diane Knight, CMSW, chair of the National Review Board, a group of lay Catholics who oversaw the project and to Bishop Blase Cupich of Spokane, Washington, who chairs the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

# Any volunteer who works with youth, must be Virtus trained

The Office of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Alexandria reminds all adult volunteers and employees who work with children, to attend a Virtus Protecting God’s Children™ sexual abuse awareness training session before beginning any employment or volunteer service.

All employees and volunteers (including those helping with Vacation Bible School, field trips, etc) must also undergo a background check.

Background Screening Release Forms may be obtained from the parish, or downloaded from the diocesan website; and, must be approved for submission

by the pastor or principal.

After attending a Virtus session, volunteers and employees are also required to maintain ongoing training compliance by reading monthly bulletins - via VIRTUS online, or by reading printed copies that are provided by their parish.

The Virtus training program educates and trains clergy, religious, employees and volunteers about the dangers of sexual abuse, the warning signs, ways to prevent the abuse, methods of properly reporting suspicions of abuse, and responding to allegations of abuse.

Upcoming sessions are:

- July 11 -- St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria, 6:00 p.m.
- July 11 – St. Joseph Church, Marksville, 6:00 pm
- August 9 – St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria, 1:00 p.m.

VIRTUS attendees are given several resources, some of which are also available at the diocesan website, ([www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)) under Safe Environment. Some of the resources available are:

- *Diocesan Policy for the Protection of Minors:* deals specifically with the sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, lay person, employee or volunteer, as well as the diocese’s obligation to protect children and young people by providing a safe environment

in order to prevent sexual abuse.

- *Code of Pastoral Conduct:* defines pastoral conduct for priests, deacons, pastoral ministers, administrators, staff, and volunteers.

- *Protecting Our Children:* This pamphlet gives an overview of the Safe Environment program, answers frequently asked questions, and lists resources and contact numbers for reporting sexual abuse.

- *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People:* a comprehensive set of procedures established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in June 2002 to address allegations

of sexual abuse of minors. The Charter also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, effective response to allegations, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.

For more information about the Safe Environment program, contact Pam Delrie, coordinator for Safe Environment at 318-445-6424 x 213.

The Louisiana Child Abuse Hotline number is: 1-800-244-5373. To report an allegation of sexual abuse, call Mary Girard, diocesan victims assistance coordinator, at 318-449-8571, or through the Diocese Hotline at 318-445-1427.

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As you read this, the 2011 Easter Season has passed in the archives of church history with the final major celebrations of the Ascension and Pentecost completed. Before our return to the Sundays of Ordinary Time, we will celebrate two very solemn feasts: The Most Holy Trinity and The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on June 19 and 26 respectively. These two feasts are especially interesting because they do not commemorate something from the life of Jesus or of one of the saints. They draw our attention to doctrines of our faith. Their roots are theological rather than historical.

We are also at the conclusion of this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal. Even though the final figures are not yet available, I know it has been a great success and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you for your generosity. I also publically thank our priests, especially pastors, who have so faithfully supported this annual effort, both in their own personal gifts as well as the



*One in the Lord.*

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

encouragement they have given to their parishioners.

On June 11, the Diocese of Shreveport celebrated the silver anniversary of establishment as a local Church, a diocese. Most of you know that prior to 1986 all of the parishes, of what is now the Diocese of Shreveport, were part of our diocese. I know I speak for all of our people, clergy and laity, in offering our prayers and congratulations to Bishop Duca and the people of our neighboring diocese on the occasion of this major milestone. I was able to convey this personally on this anniversary.

June tends to be a busy

month both here and around the country. We will soon serve as hosts to the many young people and adults who will be with us for the weekend of the annual Steubenville Youth Conference. The coordination required to host thousands of people is enormous but our diocesan staff and many volunteers make it run smoothly each year. I have the great blessing of welcoming and celebrating the closing Liturgy. I can assure you that the future of the Church is very optimistic! One feature of the closing Mass is the invitation to any teenager, who is at least thinking about the possibility of a religious vocation, to come forward for a special blessing. It is one of the most moving experi-

ences of these weekends. There are usually more than 200 who come forward! Because many are not from central Louisiana, we invite them to give us their names and addresses and we forward this information to their home dioceses.

This month, the men who are in formation for ordination to the diaconate take the final preparatory step on this journey, the formal installation to the Ministry of Acolyte. They were installed as Lectors (Readers) last year. While no date has been chosen for their Ordination, we are hoping that it will be in early 2012. They have put in much time and work during the last four years and the Church of Alexandria will soon be blessed with their ministry as members of the clergy, deacons of the Church.

I will be out of the diocese for a number of meetings and other activities during June, including our annual spring meeting of the Bishops' Conference, this year in Seattle.

With the Season of Advent only a few months away and with it the first use of the new English translation of the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal, we have scheduled several training sessions for our priests and others for music directors to help them prepare themselves and their parish communities for this momentous event. We will also be providing information in our diocesan newspaper and on our website to assist all of you in both understanding and comfortableness in the changes to some of the familiar texts. As you will see, there really are not that many but we hope to use this time of preparation to deepen our appreciation of what we do each time we gather to celebrate the Lord's presence in the Eucharist.

Our annual celebration of our nation's independence is also just a few weeks away. May you have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend however you choose to observe it!

*Ronald P. Herzog*

## Faith is like tornadoes: a remote possibility becomes a certainty

In the spring of 2010, a tornado siren was simply a time to go downstairs – just in case. My grown daughter hadn't witnessed the Good Friday tornado from the back steps of our home while we were venerating the Cross. And Joplin, Missouri hadn't suffered unspeakable loss from the deadliest tornado since 1947.

No. In the spring of 2010, a tornado siren just signaled a time for gathering downstairs. On one of those stormy nights in 2010, we all ended up in the basement. While we waited, we somehow, got on the subject of doubt.

My husband has faith. He believes in God, but he understands how some people just cannot believe in things they cannot see or touch.

On one level, I understand it as well. The three cherry trees that died shortly after my husband planted them in the back yard are probably not experiencing any eternal existence.

But humans are different. We have the ability to love another, die for another, forgive another, work with another. We have the capacity to scam each other, destroy each other, hold bitterness against one

### Catholic By Grace

— Denise Bossert



other, and tear each other apart.

We can bless. And we can curse. We can rule over one another. And we can serve one another.

We live in a society that does not feel compelled to believe in mysteries like faith, hope and love. We study everything, except what lies beyond. We throw our efforts into our careers and our brains and our bank accounts. We complete degrees. We build houses. And we invest.

Many blindly accept that we cannot know what comes next. Or worse, that there is nothing to know about next things. But then a brilliant mathematician, scientist, and philosopher like Pascal throws out the challenge.

Okay, so it's a gamble. On a purely rational level, we cannot know, Pascal says. For the ones

who do not have faith, it is a toss of the coin.

Either way, we'll find out. My husband tells me to have compassion for the one who cannot believe and to encourage him to try. Just try. Faith, no matter how small, leads to faith.

For we know that eternity is possible before we know that it is certain.

Like tornados. A remote possibility becomes a certainty. And everything changes.

I suppose there are many who think everything is a roll of the dice. God's existence. Tornados that touch down. Lottery tickets. Blind dates. There are some things that are too important to get wrong. Like whether or not God exists. Like whether or not you should go to the basement even though a tornado has never touched down

in your yard before.

So, you bet on the tornado being real. You're wrong? You have a little time with the family in a safe place. You're right? You live to see another day.

And you bet on God being real. You're wrong, you won't ever know it.

You're right, and you gain eternal life with the one who made you.

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# June 29: Pope celebrates 60th anniversary as priest

## Catholics asked to mark the date with 60 hours of Eucharistic prayer for vocations


WASHINGTON--Catholics worldwide are asked to mark the 60th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's ordination to the priesthood with 60 hours of Eucharistic prayer for vocations.

The pope will celebrate his anniversary June 29, the Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul. In honor of his anniversary, the Vatican Congregation for Clergy suggested Catholic clergy and faithful be invited to participate in Eucharistic Adoration with the intention of praying for the sanctification of the clergy and for the gift of new and holy priestly vocations.

Dioceses nationwide are planning special prayers before the Blessed Sacrament in June, offered continuously or across various days in the month. Celebrations might conclude July 1, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the World Day of Prayer for Priests.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, highlighted the importance of this celebration.

"An increase in number and sanctity of the priests in service to our dioceses is a sign of health and vitality in the Church," he said. Prayer for vocations is "a worthy



### Prayer for Priests

Lord Jesus, we come into your Eucharistic presence to thank you for the life and priestly vocation of Pope Benedict XVI. Bless him and his ministry as your Vicar and the Successor of St. Peter. Sanctify all your priests and configure them to your Sacred and Priestly Heart. Give to your Church new and holy priests, who will imitate your divine love and shepherd your people with care. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

intention" and an appropriate spiritual sacrifice "in gratitude for the example and service of Pope Benedict XVI," he wrote in a May 17 letter to bishops.

For this occasion, the USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has designed a prayer card that can be downloaded from [www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org). The prayer card can be printed in parish bulletins or used for dioceses

es or parishes.

"This is an exceptional opportunity to give thanks for our Holy Father, to pray for all of our priests, and to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood," said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis, chairman for the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "The Holy Father has been an outstanding model of priestly ministry and ser-

vice to the Church. In his Message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Proposing Vocations in the Local Church, he reminded the faithful that we all have a responsibility to pray for vocations. This is a great opportunity to do just that."

Dioceses and parishes are asked to share information on how they are celebrating the anniversary in prayer by sending their information to [clergy@usccb.org](mailto:clergy@usccb.org).

In honor of Pope Benedict XVI's 60th Anniversary to Priesthood

**World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests (Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)**

**Friday, July 1**

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral  
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## Charles Ray is ordained as a transitional deacon

Charles Ray, son of Rod and Anita Ray of Kolin, was ordained a transitional deacon on Saturday, May 21 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral by the Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog, bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria. Deacon Charles is assigned to the Cathedral over the summer, where he will exercise his ministry as a deacon. He will then have a final year of formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum, in Columbus, Ohio, and could be ordained a priest in May of 2012.

## Deacon candidates become acolytes

Sixteen men studying for the past four years for the permanent diaconate program were installed as acolytes during a special Mass celebrated June 11 by Rev. Dan O'Connor at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. An acolyte is the official term for one who is

designated to serve the priest at the altar. The 16 men who became acolytes are in the final stages of their study for the diaconate and are expected to be ordained as permanent deacons next June.

Those who were installed as acolytes are E.J. Barre, Benny

Broussard, Don Collins, L.G. DeLoach, Ray Gibson, Greg LeBlanc, Todd Marye, Pat McCusker, Richard Mitchell, Ted Moulard, Clifford Pelto, Bill Shaidnagle, Gary Schupbach, William Travis, John Whitehead, and Mike Young.



**DEACON CANDIDATES INSTALLED AS ACOLYTES.** The 16 deacon candidates who were installed as acolytes June 11 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral are E.J. Barre, Benny Broussard, L.G. DeLoach, Ray Gibson, Greg LeBlanc, Todd Marye, Pat McCusker, Richard Mitchell, Ted Moulard, Clifford Pelto, Bill Shaidnagle, Gary Schupbach, William Travis, John Whitehead, and Mike Young. Not pictured is Don Collins.

## Burses

### Donations in May

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| Msgr. Henry Beckers Burse            |                 |
| Mrs. Kathleen Voltz .....            | \$100.00        |
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| Belgian-American Club .....          | \$125.00        |
| Msgr. Henry Beckers Burse            |                 |
| Belgian-American Club .....          | \$125.00        |
| Father Claes Burse                   |                 |
| Dwight Beridon Family .....          | \$250.00        |
| Msgr. Timmermans Burse               |                 |
| Dwight Beridon Family .....          | \$250.00        |
| Harold & Lillie Beridon Family Burse |                 |
| <b>Total this month.....</b>         | <b>\$960.00</b> |



**5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

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Everyone in the diocese is invited to test their faith at the annual Taste of Faith Seminarian benefit dinner prepared by Bishop Ronald Herzog. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a variety of tasty dishes cooked by "Chef" Herzog and served to you by our diocesan Seminararians. Don't miss this casual night of food, family, friends and fun!

**All you can eat dishes are free, but donations are welcome.**

Donations will be used to assist in funding our Seminararians' education. Please make your reservations by August 1, by calling Sandi at (318) 445-6424, ext. 209

# Clergy Assignments

By order of the Most Rev. Ronald Herzog, Bishop of Alexandria • Signed: Rev. Chad Partain, Chancellor

## PASTORS



**Rev. Ferreolus D'Cruz, V.F.,**  
Reappointed Pastor  
St. Edward Church  
Tallulah



**Rev. Geroge Pookkattu, CMI**  
Reappointed Pastor  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Vidalia



**Rev. Rusty Rabalais**  
Reappointed Pastor  
St. Joseph Church  
Marksville



**Rev. Louis Sklar**  
Reappointed Pastor  
St. Patrick Church, Ferriday  
& its mission of St. Gerard, Jonesville



**Msgr. Steve Testa**  
Reappointed Pastor  
St. Peter Church, Bordelonville  
& St. Michael Church, REXMERE

## PASTORS



**Rev. Dwight de Jesus**  
Appointed Pastor  
Christ the King Church  
Simmesport



**Rev. Jamie Medina Cruz, STL**  
Appointed Pastor  
St. Mary's Assumption Church  
Cottonport



**Rev. James Nellikunnel**  
Appointed Pastor  
St. Mary Church, Winnsboro  
& its mission of St. John, Columbia



**Rev. Ryan Humphries**  
Appointed Pastor  
Nativity of BVM, Campti  
& its missions of OL Rosary  
& St. Joseph Chapel, Trichel



**Rev. Blake Deshautelle**  
Appointed Chaplain of LSU-A & LC  
Coordinating Chaplain of Menard  
Remains associate director of  
Vocations, in-residence at MMJ

## CHAPLAINS

## DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS



**Rev. Jason Gootee**  
Appointed Diocesan Liaison for  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal &  
Pastor of Holy Cross, Natchitoches



**Rev. Bruce Miller, JCL**  
Reappointed Judicial Vicar  
& remains in present assignments



**Rev. Anthony Catella**  
Appointed Parochial Vicar  
St. Michael Church, Leesville



**Rev. Martin Laird**  
Appointed Parochial Vicar  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura



**Rev. Thomas Paul**  
Appointed Parochial Vicar  
St. Anthony of Padua Church,  
Natchitoches

## PAROCHIAL VICARS

Not Pictured:

- **Rev. Ron Mathews** is granted permission to continue as Chaplain at the Convent of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in Channing, Texas.
- **Rev. Antonio Velez** is appointed Catholic Chaplain at the U.S. Penitentiary in Pollock. He remains as Parochial Vicar of St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria

# Battle of the Rings

## N.O. Saints owner Tom Benson meets Pope Benedict; admires each other's rings

By Peter Finney Jr.  
Clarion Herald

NEW ORLEANS - It's not often that Pope Benedict XVI finishes second in a "battle" of rings, but he just may have met his match in New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson.

With an assist from New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond, who put in a request with the Vatican that Benson and his wife Gayle be allowed briefly to meet the pope following his Holy Week general audience in St. Peter's Square April 20, Benson was able to kiss Pope Benedict's ring.

And then Benson showed the pope his own - an oversized, diamond-studded Super Bowl XLIV ring representing the Saints' 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in February 2010.

As Vatican photographers snapped away, it almost looked as if the pope were getting ready to kiss Benson's ring.

Not quite, a beaming Benson said May 11 after returning from a three-week visit of Ireland, Germany and Italy.

"He was so friendly, you couldn't believe it," Benson said. "When he looked at that ring, I'm going to tell you, he just couldn't get over it. He didn't want to turn us loose."

While Archbishop Aymond told Benson he couldn't promise a papal audience, he agreed to put in the request. Benson has been a generous contributor to Catholic causes in the Archdioceses of New Orleans and San Antonio.

"I told him that if he went to Rome, he ought to show the pope his ring," Archbishop Aymond said. "I couldn't promise that it would happen. But I did tell him, 'The Holy Father would never refuse to see a Saint.'"

When the Bensons showed up in the square on April 20, an usher took them by the hand.

"We were walking up and I told Gayle, 'Great, at least we're going to the front. We're not going to be in the last row,'" Benson said. "Before I knew it, we were on the altar! And there we were, looking at the pope."

Since Benson wasn't even sure he would meet the pope, he came a little unprepared. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a coin commemorating his 25 years as owner of the Saints. The coin had Benson's image on one side.

"That's all I had in my pocket," Benson said, smiling. "Man, I didn't know we were going to do this. It was a great experience. It was the highlight of us being there."

Benson is preparing to mail the pope an official Saints' jersey, No. 1, with the name "HOLY FATHER" stitched on the back.

"We ought to send him a

DVD of the Super Bowl," he said. "He was genuinely interested."

Given the stalled negotiations between NFL owners and players, did Benson ask Pope

Benedict if there was a patron saint of collective bargaining?

"Yeah, we need that right about now, don't we?" he said.



**ADMIRING RINGS** Pope Benedict XVI admires the Super Bowl championship ring of New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson. Benson and his wife Gayle were visiting Rome in April and were able to have a brief chat with the Pope after his general audience, thanks to help from Archbishop Greg Aymond. Benson said the pontiff seemed genuinely interested in the championship ring and how the Saints won. (Photo courtesy of the New Orleans Saints)

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# Cloutierville mom loses 150 lbs on Catholic diet

## After trying every diet program, Alfreda Sampson turns to God thru Light Weigh

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT Editor

Alfreda Sampson knew she was "overweight." After all, she gave birth to 10 children in 12 years and worked full-time as an analyst at Cleco for the past 27 years.

She and her husband, Mark, attended Mass every Sunday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Cloutierville, where she sang in the choir and sent almost all of her children to Catholic schools. Who has time to diet and exercise with all that going on?

Of course, Alfreda tried to regain the shapely pre-marriage figure that attracted her husband of 25 years.

"I tried every diet plan, every diet program, every thing I saw on TV and magazines, but nothing worked for me," she said. "I was desperate, hopeless, and did not know where else to turn. So I turned to God."

In 2008, a friend suggested that she attend a Women's Conference at Maryhill where she heard two ladies from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church give a presentation on Light Weigh, a Catholic Scripture-based diet program, that changed Alfreda's life.

So far, Alfreda Sampson has lost 150 lbs. on the Light Weigh program.

Light Weigh is a 12-week Bible Study and instructional DVD Series, authored and founded by Suzanne Fowler in 1998. Light



**BEFORE:** Sampson holds one of her 10 children on her lap when she weighed more than 300 lbs.



**AFTER:** After losing 150 lbs, Alfreda and her husband Mark attended the wedding of one of their daughters after losing 150 lbs on Light Weigh.

Weigh teaches a new approach to eating that leads to peace with God, peace with yourself and peace with food.

"Light Weigh worked for me because this plan is God-driven," said Alfreda.

By following Light Weigh, participants learn to attain peace with food by imitating the example of Jesus and the spirituality of two of His devoted followers; St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Therese, The Little Flower.

"I thought I knew a lot about my faith," she said, "but I found out that I did not know very

much. This program brought me to the cross of Jesus and helped me to learn more about myself, about my faith, and at the same time lose weight."

The program is Catholic and draws upon the Faith Jesus Christ founded personally and designed. (You do not have to be Catholic to participate in the program.) Light Weigh meetings are an hour and a half, once a week for 12 weeks. There are no weigh-ins at the Light Weigh meetings. Light Weigh members learn to eat real food in moderation.

The first 30 minutes of the

meeting is spent discussing the Bible Study, written around the topic of the week; the rest of the Light Weigh meeting is spent watching the weekly Light Weigh DVD. The DVD for each week varies in length, but are not longer than an hour.

Light Weigh is designed to be done in small groups in your church or in your home. Being part of a group is a sign of commitment to the program. The Light Weigh group meetings help members fit the program into busy schedules and provide a weekly check-in and accountabil-

ity. Jesus has said, "Where two or more of you gather in my name there I will be also." Matt. 18:20 Groups also provide encouragement, friendship, example and the opportunity to help one another.

"I've been leading a group for more than a year now," said Alfreda. "We meet every Monday at 4:30 p.m. at the Westside Library in Alexandria. We've quit meeting for the summer, but will start up again in August."

But anyone can start their own group. For more information on how to start a group or become a member, go to [www.lightweigh.com](http://www.lightweigh.com).

Once you become a member of Light Weigh and receive your materials, you are ready to begin! The cost of Light Weigh materials is \$135 plus S&H, per person. This covers the workbook, audio series, spiritual growth kit and attending the Light Weigh DVD program. As long as your group is continuing to meet, you may repeat the program as many times as you like during the first year without paying the full cost again. When you repeat Light Weigh you purchase the next audio series for \$30 plus S&H.

"I love what Light Weigh has done for me and for my family," said Alfreda. "I am now a healthier, more spiritual me and I thank God for the opportunity to get my life back."

For more information, go to [www.lightweigh.com](http://www.lightweigh.com) 1-877-589-3444.

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## KC Squires renames award in memory of Jarrod Kimble

The Knights of Columbus State Squire of the Year Award was recently renamed the Jarrod Kimble Memorial Award of State Senior Squire of the Year, in honor of Jarrod Kimble, of Simmesport.



Jarrod Kimble

Jarrod Kimble was an active member of the Columbian Squires in his hometown of Simmesport, made many acts of faith, and taught many altar boys during his short young life. He was hospitalized in January 2011 and passed away in March 2011.

renamed the State Squire of the Year Award, the Jarrod Kimble Memorial Award of State Senior Squire of the Year.”

As a student at LSU, Jarrod was active at the Cathedral in Baton Rouge and continued teaching altar servers. After graduation, he moved to Houston, where he offered service to the Church at the Co-Cathedral.

In a letter sent to his father (Levi Kimble), the Louisiana State Squires Chairman George Martin wrote: “ I feel there will always be reminders of what your son has done in his life that we will never forget, especially the young Squires and altar servers helped along the way. As we move forward in our lives, we want to memorialize what Jarrod did for his Church, community, Squires, family, and above all, God. I have officially

During his wedding ceremony in December 2010, he and his new wife, Danielle, received a Papal Blessing, which was read aloud by one of the six priests and deacons performing the service. Half of these priests were from his current parish, the Co-Cathedral in Houston.



**CENLA ACTS HELPS OUT AT MARYHILL.** Members of Cenla ACTS and their families worked on the grounds at Maryhill Renewal Center recently.

Pictured are:

**TOP LEFT:** Mat, Nick, & Maggie Scalfano, and Sarah Gauthier

**TOP RIGHT:** Kevin & Chris Simpson, Mike McNeal

**LEFT:** Brad Gadel, John McDaniel, Becky Smith, Robin, & Sarah Gauthier

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**ROOF ADDED TO THE ILLUMINATED ROSARY IN MARKSVILLE.** Father Rusty Rabalais, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Marksville, stands with members of KC Council #1217 who recently added a roof over the Illuminated Rosary in Marksville. The rosary will be prayed around the illuminated outdoor rosary every Thursday night from May through October.

## Weekly public rosary to be held again in Marksville May-October

**By Father Rusty Rabalais  
Pastor, St. Joseph Church**

What started as a major religious observance of the town's year-long Bicentennial Celebration in 2009, has turned into an annual tradition.

The Knights of Columbus Illuminated Rosary in Marksville is continuing its second year of public prayer from May through October.

"The Lighted Celebration of the Rosary was held that first May 2009," said Fr. Rusty Rabalais, pastor of St. Joseph Church. "I knew how much effort had gone into it, so I asked the Knights of Columbus Council 1217 if we could extend it into the Summer and Fall, and then after that time, into 2010, as part of prayer for the Diocese's 100th Jubilee Celebration. They agreed both times.

"By the Fall 2010, the people

were asking that we continue the Illuminated Rosary into coming years! I again asked the K.C.'s, and they were happy for it to continue."

Through the gifts of two donors who are KC members, a roof was constructed in November, 2010 above the large 16' X 16' outdoor Rosary display. The roof fortifies and protects the display through the weather. Metal braces were also added to the back side.

KC members assist with maintenance of the display and changing of bulbs.

Plans are each year to begin the Rosary in May, the month of Mary, and to conclude in October, the month of the Holy Rosary.

Held on each Thursday of these months, the Rosary begins at 8:15 p.m. (May-August) or 7:15 p.m. (September-October). As each prayer is recited, a corresponding bead on the

display is lighted. Approximately 50 people attend each week.

"Participants include parishioners and visitors from throughout Avoyelles Parish and Central and South La.," said Father Rabalais. Participants bring their own chairs, and in case of inclement weather, the Rosary is held in church.

"The weekly prayer at the Lighted Rosary has a focus," said Father Rabalais. "At the beginning we ask God's blessing upon our families, nation, and Church, along with personal intentions. Then, with each decade, the Luminous Mysteries (or 'Mysteries of Light,' which Blessed John Paul II gave to the church in 2003) are prayed. Recently, we lifted up in prayer the victims of tornados and floods."

All are welcome to join in the Lighted Rosary each Thursday evening at St. Joseph Church.

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*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.*

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## Sts. Francis & Anne parish seeking old memories of new church

For a new parish about to celebrate its one year anniversary on June 30, it might seem odd for the parishioners to be seeking memories of the church.

Parishioners at Sts. Francis and Anne Church, in Kolin, however, are working on a book that may be called "The Gospel of Sts. Francis and Anne."

The book will include short stories about memories at the small mission-turned-parish.

"Stories about parish cookouts, First Communion, or when the church almost burned down...these are the kinds of things we are looking for," said Rose Walker.

The idea came from the pastor, Fr. Joy Retnazihmoni, who thought it would be interesting. Sts. Francis & Anne's roots go back as far as the early 1900s when a large group of Catholic farmers settled in the Kolin area. It became a mission of St. John the Baptist Church in Deville in 1949 and an independent parish in 2010. For more information, call 445-4965.



*Congratulations Seniors!*

# CLASS OF 2011

**ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, PLAUCHEVILLE.** Fifteen seniors from St. Joseph High School in Plaquemine graduated May 18 at St. Joseph School. Pictured are (front row) Rev. Charles J. Morgan, pastor of Mater Dolorosa Church, Lindsey Clark (historian); Katie Dupont, Jessica Bean (salutatorian); Rhonda Kimble, Amberley Cormier, and Brother Anthony Dugas, F.S.E., principal of St. Joseph School. Row 2: Zaccaeus Murray, Leon Chou, Mason Simon, Garrett Meche, and Kallie Reynaud. Row 3: Joseph Ducote, Decorian Daniels, Reece Bordelon, Rhett Bordelon, and Mallorie Bertholl (valedictorian).



**ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, NATCHITOCHE.** Thirty students from St. Mary's Catholic High School in Natchitoches graduated May 16. Pictured are (front row) Kayla Ebert, Hailiey Huggins, Raney Chambers, Mary Catherine Harrington, Kathryn Pickett, Anne Townsend, and Justin Fredieu. R2: Lane Gordon, Chelsea Humphries (Salutatorian), Hannah Deen, Justin Wyatt, and Roger Bales. R3: Will Strahan, William Breland, Logan Kyzar, Aaron Averett, Henry Grant, and Marshall Sutton. R4: Leighton Kniffen, Taylor Whitehead, and John Gallien. R5: Chris Cryer, William Townsend, Lauren Davis, Mallory McCain (Valedictorian), and Marc Paz. Back row: John William Methvin, Logan Ohnoutka, Clifford Walker, and Victor Bayonne. Congratulations, Class of 2011!



**OL of LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD.** Graduating seniors around the Winnfield area were honored May 22 with a special Senior Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Pictured are (l to r) Gabrielle Process (NSU), Ridge Sluss and Cindy Rodriguez (Winnfield Senior High). Not pictured are Emanuela Guerrero (WSHS) and Chuck Weeks (Law School).

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**HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, ALEXANDRIA.** Seventy-seven seniors from Holy Savior Menard High School graduated May 17 at Guinn Auditorium on the La College campus. Those who graduated are Brooke Elizabeth Abrusley, Haley Nicole Acuna, Grant Steven Alexander, Colby Tyler Basco, William Heath Belgard, Aaron Christopher Bollich, John Michael Bollich, Ashlyn Nicole Bolton, Briana Lanae Bordelon, Erin Elizabeth Bordelon, Katelyn Alexis Brister, Alexis Amy Caletka, James Ellis Clement, Jr., Katherine Frances Davis, Celicia Nicole Ducote, James Robert Duncan, Haylea Delane Ewing, Paige Justina Ferrant, Marie Elise Fontenot, Christian Chester Gibbs, Christopher Battle Gist, Jason Lee Goen, Weslee Cole Gralapp, Courtney Leigh Green, Galen Paul Guillory, Sheree' Danielle Guillory, Emilie Danielle Harmeyer, Bryan Anthony Hassell, Christian Paul Henry, Jr., Emily Marie Hillman, Jacob Gregory Horn, Derek James Jeter, Trevor Alan Johnson, Andrea Denise Juneau, Edward Moreland Kelly,

Ernest Gilbert Kelly, Sarah Elizabeth Kelly, Coley Lee Lazarone, Sean Sutton Lazarone, Charles Joseph Lemoine, Samantha Veronica Lessen, Lee William Mathews, Jennifer Lynn Mayon, Rebecca Ann McBride, Colby Hunter Meadows, Jose Rodrigo Medina, MacKenzie Kyle Moreau, Meredith Ann Morrison, William Beniloyd Murdock, Amy Leigh Odom, Garrick Lee Oestriecher, Jacob Michael O'Quin, Jonathan Chance Ortego, Cullen David Pearce, Sarah Catherine Peterman, Ashley Virginia Phillips, Levi William Phillips, Emily Howell Ponthie, Mary Katherine Price, Lawrence Ashley Purifoy, Daniel Christopher Rachal, Jacob Jude Rino, Christopher Jude Roy III, Kathryn Marie Sayes, Catherine Elizabeth Shackelford, John Edward Singletary III, Alexander Michael Smith, Jennifer Paige St. John, Reeves Bienvenu Texada, Cullen Joshua Tolliver, Cody Randal Vanderlick, Leon Kevin Vaughn II, William Peterman Voelker, Ronald Deason Wagner, Joel Patrick Wiley, Austin Trevor Williams, Emily Anne Wilmore, Mary Katherine Wyatt, and Alexandra Lea Yu.

## 4th generation of Rabalais family graduates from St. Anthony School

**By Carson Christine Rabalais  
St. Anthony Catholic School**

On May 26, 2011, I was the fourth generation from my family to graduate from St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Bunkie.

My great grandmother, Mary Virginia Marchive Rabalais Melancon, graduated in the very first graduating class of St Anthony of Padua School in May of 1935. The second generation was my grandfather, Earl Frederick Rabalais Jr., and the third generation was my father and aunt, Adam and Ann-Marie Rabalais.

I feel so honored to be the fourth generation and I feel very privileged to carry on the tradition.

My great- grandmother, Mae Mae, as we call her, is one

of the most religious people that I know and has been the greatest example of leading a truly devoted and religious life. From kindergarten on, I walked to her house up the street from St. Anthony every afternoon and had a snack and talked. Any questions I had about my faith she could answer, and still does.

I feel that my family has made it very comfortable to talk about my religion and about God. I am very grateful to have people in my life that have supported me spiritually. I thank my parents for sacrificing and providing me with a Catholic education.

I am proud to say that I will be continuing my Catholic education at Holy Savior Menard High School where my father graduated, and hopefully we will continue another family tradition.



**4TH GENERATION GRADUATE OF ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, BUNKIE.**

When Carson Christine Rabalais graduated from the 8th grade May 26, 2011, she became the fourth generation from her family to graduate from St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Bunkie. Her great grandmother, Mary Virginia Marchive Rabalais Melancon, graduated in the very first graduating class of St Anthony of Padua School in May of 1935. The second generation was her grandfather, Earl Frederick Rabalais Jr., and the third generation was her father and aunt, Adam and Ann-Marie Rabalais.

**JUNE 6-9 SAINT JOSEPH, CHENEYVILLE** – Saint Joseph Church in Cheneyville will host a Vacation Bible School for children in grades Pre-K – Grade 5 on June 6-9. The program is titled “Saints Alive!” and will be each evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the church hall. A summer supper will be available for all participants. Please register by calling Mary Vanderlick at 279-2214 or Judy Brown at 279-2203.

**JUNE 13-17 STS. FRANCIS & ANNE, KOLIN.** VBS will be held at Sts. Francis & Anne Church in Kolin June 13-17 from 6 pm – 8:30 pm. The cost is \$5 per child or \$10 per family. This year’s theme is, “A Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments.” For more info, call Sheila at 473-8736 or 613-4242

**JUNE 13-17 ST. AUGUSTINE, ISLE BREVELLE.** VBS will be held June 13 -17 at St. Augustine for grades Pre-K-5th. This year’s theme is “PANDA MANIA”. For more information, please call Vickie at 471-2223.

**JUNE 20-24 ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** St. Joseph Church in Marksville will present VBS “Panda Mania” June 20-24 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Open to children ages 5-13 and it’s free!

**JUNE 26-29 ST. PETER MISSION, ELMER.** Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Peter Mission, Elmer, from Sunday, June 26 thru Wednesday, June 29 at 6 p.m. each evening for 3



year olds thru 5th grade. There is no registration fee, but there is a \$5 fee for a T-shirt which the children will be decorating. A meal will be served each evening. For more info, contact Ellen Jennings at 318.793.2925 or Tammi Smith at 337.238.1715.

**JUNE 27-JULY 1 ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLFAX.** St. Joseph’s Church in Colfax will host Vacation Bible School June 27-July 1, from 6:00 pm – 8:30 p.m. Registration is \$3 per child. For more information, call Shannon at 627-5442.

**JULY 11-13 CHURCH OF LITTLE FLOWER - EVERGREEN/GOUDEAU.** Church of the Little Flower parish will host Vacation Bible school for children inn grades 1-8 on July 11-13, from 6:30 to 8: 30 p.m. at the Church Hall. The form is at the entrance of the church or register your child by calling Janet at 318-305-4130 or Kim at 318-876-2804 or Fr. lbe at 318- 346- 2840. There is no cost, but donations are appreciated.

**JULY 18-22 SACRED HEART, PINEVILLE.** Come and find the treasures and riches in Jesus Christ this summer at VBS, July 18-22, 9 a.m. – noon, at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville. For more information or to volunteer, call Ashley at 640-5747.

**JULY 11-15 NATCHITOCHEs CHURCHES:** Immaculate Conception, Holy Cross and St. Anthony of Padua parishes will team up for VBS July 11-15 8:00 am-12 noon for K-5th grade at St. Mary’s School, fee is \$5. For more information call one of the churches: Holy Cross 352-2615; Immaculate Conception 352-3422; or St. Anthony 352-2559.

**JULY 18-22 ST. RITA, ALEXANDRIA.** Vacation Bible School will be held July 18- 22, 8 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. for students in grades Pre - K through 6 at the Holy Family Center. There will be no charge for registered parishioners; cost for all others is \$25 per family. For more information, call 445-7141.

**JULY 25-28 SACRED HEART, MOREAUVILLE.** VBS for youth ages 3 – 12 years old will be held at Sacred Heart in Moreauville on Monday, July 25 from 5 – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, July 26 – Thursday, July 28 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. To register call the Parish Office or pick up and complete a registration form in the church entrance and return to the parish office. The registration fee is \$12. Help from junior high youth (7th grade and up) will be appreciated. This year’s theme is “Panda Mania.”



**Camp Sacred Heart offers art, music and dance**

Camp Sacred Heart, a Fine Arts Summer Camp at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville, will be held June 20-July 1 from 8 a.m. until noon for students in 1st grade through 8th grades.

The curriculum involves hands-on activities and lessons to develop skills in different areas of the Fine Arts, such as art and design, and dance and music.

Registration forms and additional information can be obtained by calling Rick Soileau at 640-8325 or Candace Churchman at 332-9325.

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# St. Mary's baseball wins 1-A State Championship!



**ST. MARY'S, (NATCHITOCHE) WINS 1-A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.** Congratulations to the St. Mary's (Natchitoches) Baseball Team, who won the 1-A State Championship title. Pictured are (front row l-r): Justin Fredieu, William Breland, Mark Gallien, Seth Welch, Jacob Murchicon, Grant Ingram, Logan Kyzar, Tyler McCain, John Gallien, James Carney, Hunter Bedgood, Tyler Roberts, Trevor Metoyer, Jake Lacaze, and Roger Bailes. Back row: Coach Jeramie Hale, Cole Sarpy (manager), Regan Kaufman, William Townsend, Brandon Kelly, Nick Takes, Johnny Ledet, Steele Merritt, Quinten Rutledge, Sloan Dieter, John William Methvin, Ryan Metoyer, Logan Ohnoutka, Coach Brian Ohnoutka, and Coach Dennis Breland. The Tigers defeated Oak Grove.

## Catholic publishers release new series of free mobile apps

Pauline Books & Media and the Daughters of St. Paul are excited to announce the release of a new series of free mobile apps for iPhones, iPads, and Android phones.

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These latest additions to Pauline Books & Media's growing collection of Catholic apps continue to demonstrate the publishing house's passion

for the mission of evangelization through all modern means available.

The following apps are currently available in Catholic Bookmarks for download on Android Market and iTunes: *Surviving Depression*, *Making Peace with Yourself*, and *See Yourself through God's Eyes*.

"We hope that these free app downloads will be helpful aids to guide users to deepen their faith and discover the love God has for them," wrote the publishers in a news release. "If you enjoy these downloads, please consider posting reviews/ratings on the iTunes app store and Android Market."

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# Thank God Little Boo is back with us!

## Little Boo returns to OLPS to thank classmates for prayers during 500-day illness

It was a day of celebration and happy tears May 17 for everyone at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School when Little Boo Maddox returned to school to thank his family, classmates, and teachers for their prayers that made him well again.

Robert "Little Boo" Maddox, Jr. was a kindergartener at OLPS in the Fall of 2009 when he was suddenly diagnosed with the H1N1 virus. After a grueling, 500-day roller-coaster battle for his life in Children's Hospital in New Orleans, Little Boo finally made it home. He wanted to return to school to see his friends and thank everyone for their prayers.

"God bless you!" he told everyone as he walked the halls of

his school where his classmates and teachers prayed for him every morning over the intercom.

"We are so thankful to God for healing our Little Boo and for letting him come back to us," said an overjoyed Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, president of OLPS.

But no one is more thankful and humbled by his healing than his parents, Robert and Renee, his four sisters and grandparents.

The 500-day battle with his son's life brought Robert and Renee to their knees many, many times, taught them to trust in God and to pray from the heart.

"It was a hard way to learn more about faith, but it has brought us all closer to God," said Robert.

*(By Robert Maddox as told to Jeannie Petrus, CT Editor)*

The first time we saw fear in the eyes of our pediatrician, my wife Renee and I knew that something was seriously wrong with our 5-year-old son, Robert, affectionately called "Little Boo."

Just six days earlier, Boo was at a birthday party, having fun and playing with kids his own age. Now he layed still in the PICU of Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria attached to monitors and tubes that we thought were treating a bad case of pneumonia.

It just so happened that a Dr. Dean Edell, a pulmonologist (lung specialist) from Children's Hospital in New Orleans was

at Rapides that day and took a look at Boo. As he left the PICU, he bumped into Father Kurian Zachariah, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Boyce, who was on his way in to check in on Boo.

"Go and pray for him!" he said, in a urgent, pleading voice.

That was Nov. 12, 2009, the beginning of a 500-day ordeal that my son fought the H1N1 (swine flu) virus. But it was more than a physical battle of his little body fighting off a fatal virus; it was a spiritual battle of faith between me and my God that I had put on the back burner for most of my adult life.

You see, up to this point in my life, I was born and raised a Catholic – graduated from Catholic school, attended Masses every week, and put money in the collection basket like a good boy. But I wasn't really a Catholic. I didn't really know what it meant to be Catholic and certainly did not have an intimate relationship with God.

As the owner of a successful construction company, I put myself and my job ahead of my family and my faith. I had five wonderful, healthy children and a very beautiful, loving wife. I had everything I wanted right at my fingertips because "I worked hard for what I had accumulated in life and it was all because of me."

Man, was I wrong.

We had only a few minutes to decide what hospital Boo would be airlifted to, to receive more intense critical care. While several options were being discussed, my heart heard only the words just spoken by Dr. Edell – "Go and pray for him!" With these words, I knew Dr.

Edell was a man of faith and he was the one I wanted.

"We're going to Children's Hospital in New Orleans," we decided, without much more thought.

Within an hour, Renee and Boo were in the air with the ambulance transport team, while I drove the car to New Orleans. On the three-hour drive, I called my aunt Leta Melder, who prayed the rosary with me from my house in Alexandria to the hospital in New Orleans.

By the time I reached the hospital, I found Boo and Renee in a room sleeping. Exhausted, I left the room, went to the parking lot and slept in my car for a few hours. When I returned to the room the next morning, Boo was sitting up in the bed smiling, watching a ship move down the Mississippi River through his hospital window. God had already answered my prayers, I thought.

The temporary peace didn't last long. Over the next few days, Boo's condition quickly worsened. The medical staff had to vent him (insert a breathing tube) and induce him into a coma. He had no pulse and was cold to the touch. The nurse told us to "pray -- this is serious."

Renee and I raced 20-miles away to St. Louis Cathedral, the oldest cathedral in North America founded in 1720, which serves as the seat of the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans. We saw no one as we entered the historic basilica, so we walked to the front pew, collapsed to our knees and wept out loud.

"My God and My Lord, my baby is very sick," I prayed from my heart, like I've never prayed before. "If it is not your will to



**MADDOX FAMILY.** Robert "Little Boo" Maddox Jr., sits on the lap of his sister, Haley in a family picture taken at the OLPS welcome reception May 17. Other family members are (front row) sisters Hayden sitting on Haven's lap; (back row) grandmothers Judy Pacholik and Bobbie Maddox, parents Robert and Renee, grandfather Frank Pacholik, and sister Heather Maddox.



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**WELCOME BACK HUG.** Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, president of OLPS School, gives Little Boo a big welcome back hug, on the day he returned to OLPS, where the students prayed for him every morning on the intercom.

over. He's much better!"

Sensing God's healing hand, Renee and I decided at that moment that we would promise to trust God with all of our decisions, no matter what road it lead us down.

The next day, we returned to the Cathedral to attend Mass to thank God for what he had done. It was a special Mass and there were media and priests outside. I approached one of the 'priests,' not knowing it was retired Archbishop Alfred Hughes, and asked him for a blessing and prayers for our son. He was so genuinely compassionate to us and promised to pray for us and for Little Boo.

Near the end of Mass, I received a text. "You must come now. He needs blood."

At the PICU, a team of nurses worked on Boo. The intensivist (physician in charge of PICU) told us there was nothing else that could be done and that Boo would not make it. Within an hour, Archbishop Hughes walked into the PICU. He wanted to anoint Little Boo.

Over the next few days, Boo began to struggle and the ventilator was not helping. Finally, one of the nurses called Dr. Timothy Pettitt, a pediatric thoracic surgeon, who immediately ordered that Boo be put on the ECMO machine (a machine that stops heart and lungs inside the body and functions as an artificial heart and lungs outside the body). Renee and I agreed to put Boo on the Ecmo machine even though we were told he had less than 10 percent chance of surviving. It was our only hope.

For the next 53 days that he was on the Ecmo machine, Little Boo did not breathe or move. This was an extremely hard time for Renee and I, but we were blessed and strongly supported by our friends and family.

Although I was not physically

running my construction company, my employees took care of the business in my absence without missing a beat. My two oldest daughters, ages 19 and 16, stayed home and took care of our younger daughters, ages 7 and 2. A friend's father, Willis Coco, drove a motor home up to the hospital parking lot and handed us the keys. He said, "This is yours. When Boo gets out of the hospital, I'll take it back."

There were so many "unexplained events" (I call them miracles), that happened -- too many to mention them all -- but here are a few:

- At one point we were told that Little Boo had "granulomas" (wart-like growths) blocking all of the airways in his lungs. Even though the doctors decided that "nothing else could be done," Dr. Pettitt made a decision to put cocaine on these areas to try to shrink the granulomas. After 3-4 days, his lungs filled with blood, and re-filled as fast as doctors

could drain the blood out. His tears were like mustard.

I begged Dr. Pettitt to operate one more time to make sure nothing else could be done.

In surgery, the doctor found that the warts were breaking off easily, so he removed all of the warts from the lung airways and the drowning (precious) blood disappeared. The doctors could not explain why or what had happened. But I knew.

- It was discovered that Boo had "dead guts," which means that he had lost blood flow to his intestines and his abdomen was so swollen, the pressure was going to blow the vessels in his head. After testing, the doctors affirmed that there was NO fluid in his abdomen, and that is was definitely "dead guts". Dr. Pettitt informed me that dead guts was irreversible and there was "nothing else he could do." The doctors recommended unplugging the life support.

In a room full of doctors and

let him stay with us, I beg you to change it. But he is yours, so if you do take him, I will still love you."

Some time had passed before I looked up and noticed a Middle Eastern lady, wearing a veil across her head, and praying before an image of Mary. Without thinking, I got up and walked toward her. When she asked what was wrong, I told her how sick Boo was. "Jesus will heal your baby," she said, holding my hand firmly.

I returned to my wife, still kneeling in the front pew, and together we began walking down the isle to leave. Out of nowhere, we heard a voice calling to us to "Stop! Wait!" A black lady ran toward us, asking what was wrong. "May I pray for you?"

she asked.

As we bowed our heads, she sang out, "Oh, Father God, cover the sick baby boy of this man and this woman with your Most Precious Blood and heal him for the glory of You and Your Name."

At that time, I had never heard anyone pray for the Most Precious Blood of Jesus to heal anyone, but I am going to tell you how, through my son, I believe Jesus did exactly that.

Back at the hospital, we were met by a lot of crying nurses. Our heart sank. Had our Little Boo died?

"We've never seen anything like this before," they cried. "Boo's pulse is back and beating strong and his body is warm all



**HI EVERYBODY!** Little Boo waves to his classmates at OLPS. Little Boo was in kindergarten in 2009 when he was disagnosed with the Swine Flu.

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nurses, my wife and I prayed. I asked God to take every material thing I owned, but to grant us one wish: If you want him now, take him. Just don't let the knife cut his belly (meaning no surgery).

Recognizing our faith and the prior "unexplainable events" (miracles), Dr. Pettitt informed me that he was not giving up on Boo. He asked us for permission for surgery "just one more time" to see if anything could be done.

When Dr. Pettitt opened up Boo, (precious) blood overflowed from his abdomen and his guts were beautiful -- they weren't dead at all.

• For the 53 days that Boo was on the Ecmo, his head was turned to the left, so that tubes could go into the right side of his neck. When his head was finally turned forward for a procedure, it was discovered that his left ear was black from bed sores and was about to fall off. A culture was taken of similar black tissue on his back. Results showed that Boo contracted mucor fungus, a flesh-eating fungus on his back. The doctors said it was 100 percent fatal and that no one at Children's Hospital had ever survived it.

But Dr. Pettitt knew I would not accept defeat by this, so he said he would fight it. He



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS.** Robert Maddox and his son, Little Boo, visit Mrs. Philen's class to thank the students for their prayers during Little Boo's 500-day battle with the H1N1 virus (swine flu).

cauterized the tissue, but felt he could not save Boo's ear. Over next few days Boo began to bleed severely-- up to 12 pints of blood a day, which he has only about 6 pints in his whole body. He was bleeding from his back, his mouth, and his abdomen. It flowed out of his body as fast as it was pumped in. Every time Dr. Pettitt attempted to clean the blood from under his body, his heart rate would race above 100, so he left him alone. For three days he layed in the blood.

As I sat in the waiting room, I

received a phone call from an old friend, Timothy Webb, whom I hadn't talked to in years. He said he was blind now and had been praying for my son, whom he heard was sick. Not knowing the particulars of my son's condition, he said he felt God calling him to give me a message: Ezekiel 16:6: "I passed by and saw you flailing

about in your blood. As you lay in your blood, I said to you: Live! and grow like a plant in the field."

When I returned to Boo's room that day, they were preparing to clean him up. He had been lying in 3,000 cc of blood for three days. After cleaning him up, we never saw any signs of mucor fungus again.

• The entire time that Boo was in the induced coma, we talked to him, not really knowing if he could hear us. I always told him to say "Jesus, I love you," if he was ever afraid.

After he had been on life support for so long, the doctors said it was time to take him off. I begged them not too, but they said Little Boo was brain dead, that he would not live, and there was nothing else that could be done. "You are crossing the line," they said.

I asked the doctors if Boo could hear me or talk right now. They said "Absolutely not; he's brain dead."

Then I turned to Boo and asked him to say "Jesus, I love you." Without speaking in an audible voice, he visably mouthed

the words, "Jesus, I love you." The doctors could not believe their eyes!

Needless to say, Boo stayed on a life support a little longer. Through the grace of God, he was finally taken off of life support and slowly began to improve. We left Children's Hospital around March 28, 2011.

Today, Boo is not completely out of the woods. He returns to Children's Hospital three days a week for pediatric dialysis. Throughout this ordeal, Boo never complained. I know Jesus and the angels were with him the whole time. And I know Jesus and the angels were with Renee and I the whole time, too, because without Jesus, none of us could have survived this.

Looking back now, I can't help but remember the prayer that the black lady in St. Louis Cathedral prayed when she asked the Precious Blood of Jesus to heal Little Boo. I believe the Precious Blood of Jesus definitely healed our son, and strengthened our souls and faith in the process -- and for that we are forever thankful. God bless you.

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# Hollywood producers film documentary on Manna House

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT Editor

For a week in late May and early June, a Hollywood film crew of six people were in Alexandria filming a documentary on Manna House.

When completed, it is expected to be entered into the annual Telluride Film Festival in Telluride, Colo.

“Actually, the idea of doing a documentary on Manna House has been on our minds for about 20 years,” said Dr. Cathy Chicola, a radiologist in Oregon and niece of Olla Rae Chicola, one of the original supporters of Manna House.

When Father Gerard Foley started Manna House in May, 1990 as a ministry of the parishioners of St. Frances Cabrini Church, Cathy was living in California and mentioned the new ministry in her hometown to her friends Suzanne Hargrove and Mary Ellen Duggan, who were young film students at the time.

“Wow, that would make a really good documentary one day,” the three agreed at that time.

Over the next 20 years, Suzanne and Mary Ellen worked as producers of TV commercials in California, even winning an Emmy for a Super Bowl commercial a few years ago and working with such Hollywood superweights as Director Ron Howard, Andre Agassi, Ellen DeGeneres, and others.

Last summer, the three (and Cathy’s sister Cindy Chicola Appley) re-united for a trip to Telluride, Colo., for the annual Telluride Film Festival.



**DOCUMENTARY ON MANNA HOUSE IN THE WORKS.** Suzanne Hargrove, an Emmy award-winning producer from Los Angeles, Calif., talks to Ola Rae Chicola while she chops vegetables for a fresh salad at Manna House. A film crew, under the direction of Hargrove, spent two weeks at Manna House recently filming for a documentary on Manna House that she intends to enter into the Mountain Film Festival in Telluride, Colo. next summer.

“The documentaries and short films we watched were depressing,” said Hargrove. “I wanted to see something hopeful, something inspiring and uplifting. And then I remembered Cathy and her inspiring stories about Manna House. We all agreed that it was time now to do the documentary we had talked about doing for the past 20 years.

Getting a film crew together and saving money to fund this

project herself, took some time for Hargrove. Appley, who lives in Lafayette, began working on the logistics of getting permissions and setting up interviews, before the crew arrived.

When Hargrove and Duggan finally arrived at Manna House, they said they had preconceived ideas that they would be filming the typical hungry, homeless person -- a drunk, unemployed male. To their surprise, they saw

mothers with young children coming in, elderly people, and hot, tired men on their lunch break from a labor-intensive job.

“I cried the first day we filmed,” said Mary Ellen. “It was touching to see all the different types of people who came in for a meal, but also touching to see the volunteers who keep Manna House going. There’s a real sense of community here.”

Hargrove and Duggan

were also impressed with the cleanliness of the facility and the excellent quality of the prepared meals.

“We’ve seen other soup kitchens around the country and this is by far, one of the very best facilities we’ve seen,” said Duggan. “The volunteers are friendly and like they say ‘No questions are asked; you just grab a plate and go through the line.’”

Hargrove said she hopes to accomplish several things by completing a documentary on Manna House. Some of her goals are to:

- create an awareness of Manna House on a national level by submitting it to a film festival.
- create an awareness of the the struggles Manna House faces to feed the hungry on a daily basis and how every little donation goes such a long way.
- inspire others to give to Manna House -- whether by time, service, or donations.
- inspire others in communities around the country to do what is being done in Alexandria, entirely by volunteers.

Manna House is a community volunteer effort to feed the hungry in the area. It serves approximately 200 people a day, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., 365 days year. As of January 2011, more than 3.5 million people have been served.

For more information about Manna House or to make a donation, call 318-445-9053.

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## 8 invested in Holy Sepulchre Order

The 2011 annual meeting and investiture of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Southeastern Lieutenancy, U.S.A., was held May 28-29 in New Orleans. There were over 400 Knight and Lady members in attendance from six states.

The principal celebrant for both the Memorial Mass on Saturday afternoon and the Mass of Investiture on Sunday afternoon was the Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, archbishop of New Orleans and Grand Prior of the Southeastern Lieutenancy.

Both Masses were held at the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception on Baronne St.

Among the attendees at this annual meeting was Sherian Cadoria of Mansura, who was promoted to the rank of Lady Commander with Star. Invested into the Order were Evelyn C. James, Marion W. Bienvenu and Lala B. Sylvester, all of Natchitoches; Rebecca Alexander of Boyce; and Dr. Richard Norem, Rev. Craig Scott, Rev. Chad Partain, and Rev. Peter Faulk, all of Alexandria.

**EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM.** Pictured are some of the members from the Alexandria Diocese who were in attendance at the Sunday Mass of Investiture of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The annual meeting and investiture was held May 28-29 in New Orleans.

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**Based on these Scripture Readings:** Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18 and Deut 8:2-3, 14b-16a; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58.

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 37 Three in One  
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 41 Louth  
 42 Change  
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 4 Fatal  
 5 Will inherit the earth  
 6 Messiah  
 7 Alternative (Abbr.)  
 8 Gush out  
 9 Frock  
 10 3D's garden  
 12 Salted bacon  
 18 Gets up  
 19 # of stone tablets  
 20 Tunnel  
 21 Gas burner  
 22 Corinthians' letter author  
 24 Cleanse from sin  
 26 Adjust  
 28 Uproar  
 29 Tykes  
 32 Rubs out mark  
 34 Symbol of the Father  
 36 Choose  
 38 Mythical animal  
 40 \_\_\_ Dei (God's likeness)  
 42 Epochs  
 43 Symbol of Spirit  
 44 Whim  
 46 Bad sign  
 48 Snatch  
 50 Biblical terebinth  
 51 Arabic name meaning "noble"  
 52 Fast plane

# 'Pirates' seek Fountain of Youth in 4th sequel

By John P. McCarthy  
Catholic News Service

love interest played by Penelope Cruz.

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The fourth movie in the series inspired by the Disneyland attraction, "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" (Disney), spins a yarn that leads to the Fountain of Youth. No wonder it makes the popular franchise feel long in the tooth. While not a bust or a bore, "On Stranger Tides" would benefit from more vim and vigor.

After 2007's convoluted, never-ending installment "At World's End," producer Jerry Bruckheimer hired director Rob Marshall to do just that. Known for big-screen adaptations of the musicals "Chicago" and "Nine," Marshall is an odd choice to helm an adventure-comedy set on the high seas. Although his Broadway sensibility isn't alien to the spirit of the often flamboyant material, a trade-off has occurred. In exchange for a leaner, more compact entertainment, this picture lacks awe-inspiring visuals and a grand scale -- notwithstanding copious digital effects and it being the first in the series photographed in 3-D.

"On Stranger Tides" amounts to miniaturized hoey -- the cinematic equivalent of a ship in a bottle. There's not much memorable swashbuckling and the humor isn't particularly jolly. Johnny Depp doesn't appear enthused about reprising the role of foppish Captain Jack Sparrow, despite being given a worthy new

Much of the enervating aura can be attributed to the fact that few scenes take place on the open ocean. Marshall heightens the sense of claustrophobia by favoring medium shots and close-ups, adopting the perspective of a spectator in the front row of the orchestra section rather than that of a viewer in the back of the auditorium positioned to take in the full breadth of the spectacle. On the plus side, the scenario doesn't attempt to incorporate previous story lines or introduce a confusing array of new characters.

In mid-1700s London, we learn of Jack's interest in finding the Fountain of Youth discovered by explorer Ponce de Leon two centuries earlier. Reluctant to join his rival Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) on an expedition backed by England's King George (Richard Griffiths), Sparrow is conscripted by sword-wielding old flame Angelica (Cruz). Angelica's father is the malevolent pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane), a character schooled in the dark arts and the only one wearing more eye mascara than Jack. They set sail aboard his vessel Queen Anne's Revenge, crewed by zombie officers.

Meanwhile, the Spanish crown has dispatched three galleons to the island where the font of eternal life is supposedly located. The ritual necessary to unlock its regenerative



'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES'. Johnny Depp, center, stars in a scene from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides." Captain Jack Sparrow is in search of the Fountain of Youth, but is side-tracked by a new love interest, Penelope Cruz. (CNS photo/Disney)

powers entails obtaining a mermaid's fresh tear. The movie's centerpiece is an aquatic melee involving a host of these enticingly beautiful yet predatory creatures. Philip Swift (Sam Claflin), a missionary clergyman in Blackbeard's custody, falls in

love with one, whom he dubs Syrena (Astrid Berges-Frisbey).

Their romance adds a youthful note to "On Stranger Tides," but Swift's faith also affords screenwriters Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio the chance to fortify the plot by contrasting his

## MOVIE REVIEW

theistic worldview to one rooted in magic, including voodoo, and a pagan belief in Fate. There's considerable banter about the salvation of souls promised by Christianity and the fountain's superficial kind of redemption. This includes some mildly provocative comments regarding religion, and Catholicism in particular. They needn't deter potential viewers, however, especially since the values of compassion and kindness championed by faithful agents are appropriately affirmed.

And yet plotwise, the tension between theology and magic does end in a sort of a stand-off. As regards the handling of almost any substantive topic in a mainstream summer movie, "On Stranger Tides" hedges its bets, taking great care not to offend -- or to say anything of real consequence.

The film contains recurring action-adventure violence and peril, including nongraphic knife play and swordplay; some lightly suggestive humor and innuendo; several scary sequences; one rude expression; and frequent alcohol consumption.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents cautioned.

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NEWS around **the Diocese**

**MASS FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES TO BE HELD JULY 10**

Bishop Ronald Herzog will celebrate a special Mass for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries on Sunday, July 10 at 2:30 pm at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. If you are celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th 60th or more wedding anniversary, please contact your parish rectory before June 3.

**TASTE OF FAITH TO BE HELD AUG. 11**

The Bishop's Annual Taste of Faith dinner will be held on Thursday, August 11 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the St. Rita Church Holy Family Center. The dinner benefits the seminarians from the Diocese of Alexandria.

**SEMINARIAN REYNOLDS TO SPEAK AUG. 12 ABOUT ROME EXPERIENCES**

Seminarian Taylor Reynolds, currently studying at the North American Pontifical College in Rome, will be home for a few weeks in August and would like to share his experiences in Rome and the Beatification with his community. A Praise and Worship for youth will be held Aug. 12 at 3 p.m. in the KC Hall in Bunkie, followed by a presentation (geared to youth) about his experiences in Rome at 4 p.m.; Adoration and Benediction at 4:30 p.m.; free jambalaya dinner at 5:30 p.m., and another presentation (geared to adults) at 6 p.m. More details later.



**4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS GIVE DONATION.** J. T. Chestovich and Huey Campbell, Fourth Degree Knights from the Msgr. Piegay Assembly, present a check to Bishop Ronald Herzog for the Excellence in Religious Education programs in the diocese.



**KC BBQ GRAND CHAMPIONS.** The 1st Bayou Boeuf BBQ Cook-Off was hosted by the Bunkie Knights of Columbus # 2395 Saturday, May 21 as a fundraiser. Pictured are Grand Champions: Coulon Elect- Short Circuit BBQ (left to right Gary Mitchell, Lloyd Glenn, and Mark Coulon )



**CDA BISHOP GRECO COURT 2072.** Willie Mae Mote and Emma Rachal (Regent) present a check for the Seminarian Education Fund to Father Scott Chemino, Vicar General of the Diocese of Alexandria.



**STS. FRANCIS & ANNE MEMORIAL.** Boy Scout Troop #626 raised the American Flag and lead the National Anthem during a special Memorial Day celebration on May 29.



**WINNER OF CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD.** Kelsie Gagnard, (center) was presented with the Catholic Youth Leadership Award March 27 during Mass at St. Martin Church in Belledeau by Father Silverino Kwebuza, chaplain of KC Council 9217 and Joseph Gremillion, Deputy Grand Knight.



**ST. JOSEPH PICNIC.** St. Joseph Church Marksville Parish Family Picnic was held on Saturday April 30 at the Parish Hall. There was musical entertainment, Bingo, food, youth space jumper and slide, sack races, face painting, bean bag toss, duck pond, parachute game and prizes. All were invited to join in this fun and free Parish event.



**ST. JOSEPH FAIR.** "Donna Newton explains the new game of Tube Chute to Joseph Correro and Sidney Turk. Sister Jeanette, SLW, is getting a prize for the winner."

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# June - July

| Monday   | Tuesday                     | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   | Sunday   |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>                   | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>Public Rosary<br>8:15 pm<br>Marksville  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br><b>THE MOST HOLY<br/>BODY &amp; BLOOD<br/>of CHRIST</b>                                     |
| Camp Sacred Heart  |                             |  |  | Steubenville South Youth Conference--Rapides Coliseum  |  |  |
| Vacation Bible School -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon  |                             |  |  |  | Vacation Bible School--St. Peter Mission, Elmer          |  |
| PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA   | PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS      | PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON   | PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS   | PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS   | PRAY FOR FR. O. WILLIAM                                  | PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE   |
| <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>                   | <b>29</b><br>Pope Benedict's<br>60th Anniversary<br>Eucharistic Prayer Day | <b>30</b><br>Public Rosary<br>8:15 pm<br>Marksville  | <b>JULY 1</b><br>Solemnity of<br>Sacred Heart<br>& World Day<br>of Prayer for Priests<br>11:00 am Adoration<br>12:05 pm Mass<br>St. Francis Xavier Cathedral | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   |
| Vacation Bible School--St. Peter Mission, Elmer  |                             |  | Vacation Bible School--St. Joseph, Colfax  |  | Camp Sacred Heart  |  |
| PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD   | PRAY FOR FR. J. VELEZ-LOPEZ | PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO  | PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER   | <b>FIRST FRIDAY</b><br>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG   | <b>FIRST SATURDAY</b><br>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH       | PRAY FOR FR. B. ZAGST  |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>                    | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b><br>Public Rosary<br>8:15 pm<br>Marksville   | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br>Mass for Wedding<br>Anniversaries<br>2:30 pm<br>St. Francis Xavier<br>Cathedral, Alexandria |
| <b>INDEPENDENCE<br/>DAY</b><br>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA  | PRAY FOR FR. T. ALLEN       | PRAY FOR MSGR. R. BORDELON   | PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW  | PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET  | PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO                                  | PRAY FOR FR. A. CATELLA  |
| VIRTUS Training<br>6:00 pm<br>St. Joseph Catholic<br>Center, Alexandria<br>and 6:00 pm<br>St. Joseph Church,<br>Marksville | <b>12</b>                   | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b><br>Public Rosary<br>8:15 pm<br>Marksville  | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b><br>CMN Fish for Kids<br>Red River, Grand Ecore | <b>17</b>  |
| Vacation Bible School--Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen  |                             |  | Vacation Bible School--Natchitoches Parishes: Immaculate Conception/Holy Cross/St. Anthony |  |  |  |
| PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO  | PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY     | PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM   | PRAY FOR FR. F. D'CRUZ   | PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE  | PRAY FOR FR. D. DE JESUS                                 | PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE  |
| <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>                   | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b><br>Public Rosary<br>8:15 pm<br>Marksville  | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>  |
| Vacation Bible School -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria, 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.   |                             |  |  |  |  | Vacation Bible School -- Sacred Heart Church, Pineville, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon                             |
| PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK  | PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON    | PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY  | PRAY FOR FR. J. FOSTER   | PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE   | PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE                                   | PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION   |

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