

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLIX, No. 1

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

January 22, 2018

ON THE INSIDE

**Support Pro-Life!
Participate in local, state, or
national Life Marches!**

Make plans now to participate in the local Life March to start Feb. 3 on the campus of Louisiana College and end at the Alexandria Riverfront Amphitheater. Youth groups, Catholic organizations, and numerous churches will be there to show their support for life! Don't miss it! See page 3 for details

**1st 'Beyond the Limits'
junior high mini conference
to be held Feb. 24-25**

Students in grades 5-8 are invited to attend the first annual junior high mini conference Feb. 24-25 at the Holiday Inn Downtown. For more information, go to page 14.

Christmas Photo Gallery

Church parishes around the Diocese of Alexandria certainly put Christ in the center of their Christmas celebrations this year. Check out all of the pictures of Christmas plays, Nativities, and good works of charity performed throughout the diocese, all in the spirit of Christmas, -- page 8 and pages 10-11.

Mardi Gras Season in full swing



LAST YEAR'S MARDI GRAS Pre-K PARADE at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School. The Mardi Gras season is full of parades, krewe balls, king cakes, and fun . . .until Lent arrives on Ash Wednesday, this year on Feb. 14.

Pope puts founder of Rosary Crusade one step closer to sainthood

'The family that prays together, stays together,' -- Rev. Patrick Peyton

(CNS) -- Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton and St. John Paul II's mentor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński.

The pope approved the decrees recognizing their heroic virtues during an audience Dec. 18 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The pope also recognized the miracles needed for the beatification of: Jesuit Father Tiburcio Arnaiz Munoz of Spain; Father Jean-Baptiste Fouque of France; and Sister Maria Carmen Rendiles Martinez of Venezuela. He also recognized the martyrdom of Father Teodoro Illera del Olmo, a member of the Congregation of St. Peter in Chains, and 15 companions, who were killed during the Spanish Civil War in 1936 and 1937.

Father Peyton, known worldwide as "The Rosary Priest," was a Catholic media pioneer in the 1940s, using radio and later television to produce popular programs featuring Hollywood stars and other celebrities to promote family prayer.

His ministry produced more than 600 radio and television programs and 10,000 broadcasts. The priest also conducted rosary crusades for millions of people in dozens of countries. He had two especially famous mottos: "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."



ADVANCED SAINTHOOD CAUSES. Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton and St. John Paul II's mentor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. (CNS/composite photo from Family Theater Productions and Arturo Mari, L'Osservatore Romano)

Father Peyton emigrated from Ireland to the United States in 1928 when he was 19, with his heart set on becoming a millionaire after his dream of becoming a priest was thwarted when a seminary turned down his scholarship request.

He found a job as a sexton in the cathedral of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and he and his brother

joined the seminary and were ordained in the Congregation of the Holy Cross in 1941.

Father Peyton's first assignment was as chaplain in Albany, New York, where he launched a project to promote praying the rosary and family life. He had a special devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary after attributing his recovery from tuberculosis to her

intercession.

He founded Holy Cross Family Ministries, which includes Family Rosary, Family Theater Productions, Father Peyton Family Institute and Family Rosary International.

Father Peyton died in 1992. After the pope's decree recognizing his heroic virtues, in general, a miracle is needed for his beati-

fication and a second one for his canonization.

Cardinal Wyszyński was primate of Poland from 1949 until his death from cancer in 1981. He was Poland's youngest bishop when he was installed as archbishop of Warsaw and Gniezno during the imposition of communist rule.

Despite Vatican misgivings, Cardinal Wyszyński signed the first church accord in 1950 with a communist government, which promised the church protection in return for encouraging "respect for state authorities."

Although the accord was quickly violated, he defended the intentions behind it in posthumously published diaries, compiled while he was imprisoned without formal charges from 1953 to 1956 by Poland's ruling communists.

"I was of the opinion the modern world needed the martyrdom of work, not of blood," the cardinal wrote.

"It seemed possible, as well as indispensable, to establish several points in a 'modus vivendi' if the church was to avoid a new -- perhaps accelerated and drastic -- annihilation," he wrote.

In later years, Cardinal Wyszyński vigorously defended human rights and reminded Vatican diplomats they should secure local religious freedoms before signing top-level international agreements.



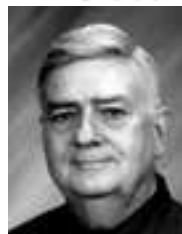
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Activities abound in January during Pro Life Month

USCCB observes Jan. 22 as Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The over 56 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.”

However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

The USCCB designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”:

“In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.” (GIRM #373)

As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

Another way to take part is through participating in special events to observe the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

In the Diocese of Alexandria, there are many ways to participate in pro-life activities this month:

Pray the 9 Days for Life Novena Jan. 18 - Jan. 26

The 9 Days for Life Novena is a “digital pilgrimage” of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life. A multi-faceted novena highlighting a different intention each day provides reflections, bonus information, and suggested actions.

The novena is available in



FEB. 3: CENLA MARCH FOR LIFE. The 3rd annual Cenla March for Life will be held Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. beginning on the campus of Louisiana College in Pineville and ending in downtown Alexandria. Start now by organizing your church, youth ministry, Catholic organization, or just a group of family members or friends to participate. Participants need not register, but

are asked to gather at Louisiana College no later than 9:45 a.m. Sponsors of the event include the Louisiana Right to Life, Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, Knights of Columbus, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, Louisiana College, Louisiana Baptist Convention United Pentecostal Church of Louisiana, Louisiana Family Forum, and Concerned Women for America.



several formats at usccb.org/pro-lifeactivities through the 9 Days for Life app, daily emails, or daily texts. Access the novena in one of several ways:

- Free Mobile App: Available for both iOS and Android; loads in either English or Spanish to match phone’s language settings.

- Daily emails. Sign up at usccb.org/prolifeactivities to receive the day’s intention through an email sent directly to your mailbox. Available in English / en español

- Text message. Subscribe to receive daily messages with a new intention and link to one-

page prayer & action guide each day. Simply text “9DAYS” to 55000.

- USCCB Website. The entire novena is listed on the USCCB website. Go to it each day and read it on your computer.

- Print a pdf document of the entire novena. Go to the USCCB website -- www.usccb.org -- to download.

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children Jan. 22, 2018

Organize a Day of Prayer on Jan. 22. Talk to your pastor about hosting a Day of Prayer in your parish. Go to the USCCB website for prayer resources under Life Issues and Pro-Life Activities.

Participate in Cenla Life March Feb. 3, 2018

Participate in any of the Life Marches in Louisiana or the National Life March in Washington,

D.C. on Friday, Jan. 20, 2018.

Several groups from the Diocese of Alexandria participated in the National Life March in Washington this past weekend and are returning home. Some of the groups who went to Washington are students from Holy Savior Menard High School, St. Mary’s School in Natchitoches, and the LSU-Alexandria Catholic Student Center.

Louisiana Life Marches are:

- Jan. 20, 2018: Louisiana Life March South, Baton Rouge
- Jan. 27, 2018: Louisiana Life March North, Shreveport-Bossier
- Feb. 3, 2018: Louisiana Life March Central, Pineville-Alexandria. The 3rd annual Cenla March for Life will be held Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. beginning on the campus of Louisiana College in Pineville and ending in downtown Alexandria.

For more information about any of these state marches, go to prolifelouisiana.org

Participate in 40 Days for Life Feb. 14 - March 25

40 Days for Life is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion. It draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a three-point program: Prayer and fasting, Constant vigil, Community outreach. If you are interested in leading a 40 Days for Life Campaign in your area, please go to www.40daysforlife.com.

Pray the Rosary

Even if you are unable to attend any of the Life events in your area, pray the Rosary at home for the intentions of all pro-life issues.

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Defining the depths of our lives

From the first Vigil Mass on the 24th of December 2017 through the 8th of January 2018, the Baptism of the Lord, you and I...as missionary disciples of Christ the Lord and members of the world-wide Roman Catholic Church...we have celebrated the Christmas season. Why so? Christmas, the Nativity of the Lord, defines the depth of our lives, today and each day we live and move and have our being.

Every event that will be celebrated or remembered in prayer this month by the members of Christ's Church will be remembered or celebrated through the mystery of the Nativity. For, in the humble surroundings of the stable in Bethlehem, the living God communicated His life and love to us through one Word...a Word spoken in the birth of Je-

sus...the son of Mary... the son of David... the Son of God.

Our lives of faith, lived through the grace of God and following in obedience this revelation of the Word, our lives of faith are centered on this mind-bending, mind and heart-liberating truth: In the Lord Jesus, we are able to see the face of God in His human face -- for He was

born and lived among us, experiencing the joys and hardships of human life -- just as we do. He was born into our humanness and dealt with all we deal with, save the shadow world, sin.

Remembering this mystery each day we live, will help us to see the world and act in the world according to God's plan, as we define our lives and actions

through His life and action. For during this month of January, in celebrating all that we share with other Christians and praying that all that separates us might be overcome in God (the week of prayer for Christian unity)...we remember His birth...and know that our humanity is redeemed through that birth and His obedience to the Father...even unto

death.

As we remember with sorrow and prayer *Roe v. Wade* on the 22nd, we pray in faith that the Lord of Life, who has given us His heart...His Son...that the Lord will open the eyes of all...to see that life...all life is a gift of God and is sacred unto God. Life in the womb. Life in the nursing homes and memory care units. Life in our communities. Life on the streets. The life of all...is to be protected and nurtured and celebrated.... for the Nativity of the Lord has revealed to us the depth and sacredness of our lives...as we share human life with Him.... the son of Mary...our brother and our Lord.

AMDG

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
(For The Greater Glory of God)



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

Most Rev. David P. Talley
Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

Connecting Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14, 2018 is Ash Wednesday. It also just so happens to be Valentine's Day.

There's a unique contrast between these two holidays. Valentine's Day relates to excess—cheesy love songs, over-the-top romance, and elaborate gifts. On the other hand, Ash Wednesday focuses on moderation. It's officially the start of Lent, when most people give up a vice for 40 days.

There is one point of connection between these two days—love. Valentine's Day revolves around romantic love. And Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of Christ's sacrificial love for us. That may not be the most theological explanation, but we can leave that stuff to the pastor.

So what is the church to do when one of our traditional Christian holidays falls on the same day as a flower-filled, Hallmark-driven, love-fest?

Well, this is actually a great opportunity to connect the two events.

- Host a relationship/marriage sermon series leading up to the big day that focuses on the humility of Ash Wednesday.
- Instead of giving something up for Lent, give couples ideas of things they can start doing to improve their relationship.
- Post quotes about love on so-

cial media to let people know you care; then post a few verses of scripture referring back to Ash Wednesday.

- Give away relationship/marriage books that your church can read during Lent.
- Organize a service project to help those who don't feel as loved in the community—encourage couples to come serve together, or singles to be a part of something that's not all about coupled romance.

- Host a free fancy dinner at your church for everyone in the community who can't afford one—offer childcare so couples are more likely to attend.

- Publish a short Lent devotional with the theme of God's love.

Ash Wednesday is an event some within the church know. For others it's a tradition that's at least vaguely familiar. However, it's not something those outside the church know at all.

The fact that these holidays

fall on the same day gives us the opportunity to explain a church tradition. We have the chance to spread God's love on a wider scale.

Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are about intentional sacrifice, giving something up so you can learn to better appreciate it. Encourage your congregation to give up the extravagance of

Valentine's Day. Instead of romantic dinners, maybe they partake in a service project. Instead of flowers and gifts, maybe they donate to a charity they love.

Ash Wednesday last fell on February 14 in 1945. It will happen again in 2024 and 2029, but then not again for the rest of this century.

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Exodus 25-31 describes the first dwelling places of God

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Most of us, young and old, are familiar with the story of Moses and how he led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and into a 40-year journey to the Promised Land.

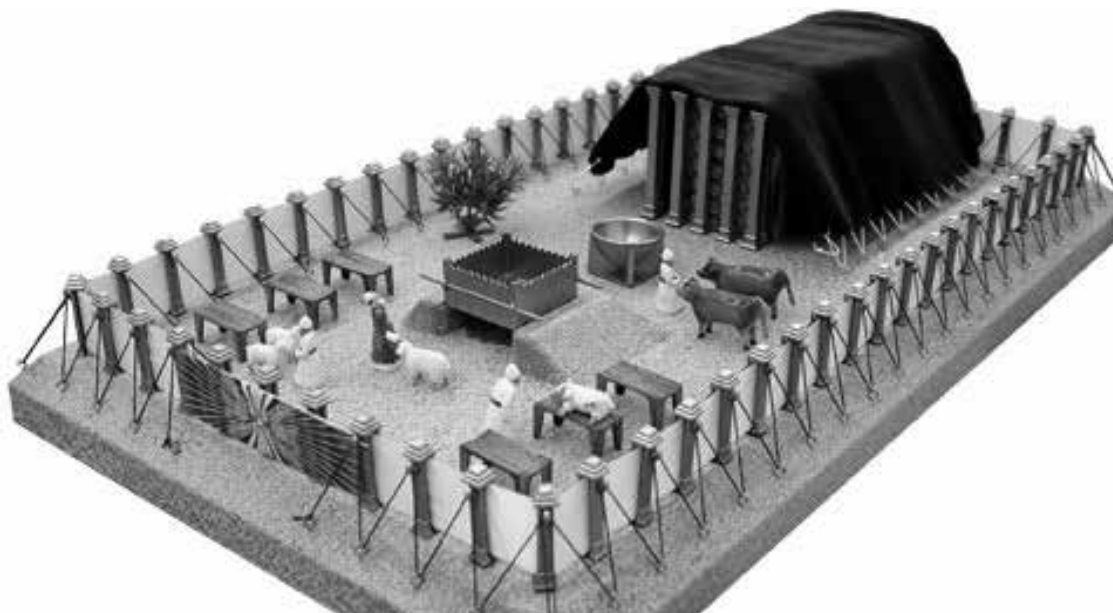
An important part of Scripture is often left out of the Sunday readings -- the story about how God instructed Moses (in detail) how to make the first house of worship.

On the night of the Passover, God told Moses and Aaron not only how to prepare for the Passover, but also some very specific instructions on articles to ask for from their masters.

In Exodus 3:21-22, God told Moses,

"I will even make the Egyptians so well-disposed toward this people that, when you leave, you will not go empty handed. Every woman shall ask her neighbor and her house guest for silver and gold articles and for clothing to put on your sons and daughters. By this, you will despoil the Egyptians."

After the long plight of the 10 plagues, the Egyptians were eager to set the captives free, for fear that they would be the next ones to die. So the masters filled the baskets of the Israelites with articles of gold, silver, and fine cloth, in addition to food and animals for the journey.



EXODUS 25-31. Based on the accounts in Exodus 25-31, Bible scholars have put together a replica of what the first church (dwelling place of God) may have looked like.

On the day of the Exodus, after 430 years of living in Egypt, more than 600,000 men on foot -- not counting the women and children -- left Egypt.

Think of the massive amount of gold and silver and fine cloth that left also on the backs of 600,000 men.

Why did God make this request of the Israelites?

After the exciting escape through the parting waters of the Red Sea, the glory of the Lord settled upon Mount Sinai. The clouds covered it for six days, and on the 7th day, he called to Moses from the midst of the cloud.

To the Israelites, the glory of the Lord was seen as a consuming fire on the mountaintop. But Moses passes into the midst of the cloud and there he stayed for forty day and forty nights.

In Exodus chapters 25-31, God gave Moses specific instructions on what articles to collect from the freed Israelites.

"Tell the Israelites to take up a collection for me. From every man you shall accept the contribution that his heart prompts him to give me.

"These are the contributions you shall accept from them: gold, silver and bronze; violet, purple

and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair; rams' skins dyed red; and tahash skins; acacia wood; oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; onyx stones and other gems for mount on the ephod and the breast-piece.

"They shall make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell in their midst. This Dwelling and all its furnishings you shall make exactly according to the pattern that I now show you. Ex 25:1-9.

In the next four chapters of Exodus, God gives specific measurements of specific materials; how, where, and why they are to

My Catholic FAITH

be placed.

The priestly vestments to be made are described in Chapter 28.

"These are the vestments they shall make: a breast-piece, and ephod, a robe, a brocaded tunic, a miter and a sash. In making these sacred vestments which your brother Aaron and his sons are to wear in serving as my priest, they shall use gold, violet, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen."

Sound familiar?

These chapters in Exodus have given us the blueprint for our modern day Catholic churches -- a place to wash your hands before entering the sacred space, a place to leave a sacrifice at the door before entering, and explicit rules about how only consecrated priests can enter the sacred space where God dwells.

I encourage you to read chapters 25-31. Keep in mind that Exodus part of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, that are accepted by every faith, -- including Jewish, Catholic, Islam and Protestant.

These books are the Jewish roots of the Eucharist and understanding them, can help us appreciate why our churches look like they do and why our priests wear such vestments.

Exodus Chapters 25-31 will be explored deeper in a future article of "My Catholic Faith."

Upcoming ACTS Retreats

The following ACTS retreats will be offered soon:

- Feb. 15-18, 2018: Cenla ACTS for Men (OLPS). Call Les Glankler at 31-664-5269.

- Feb. 22-25, 2018: Sacred Heart ACTS for Men (Sacred Heart). Call John Kling at 504-908-7816; or Wade Trahan at 318-308-0406; or Joe Thompson at 318-451-3548.

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Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
Father Silvan A. Waterkotte, OFM	160.00
Father Kenneth Williams	880.00
Father Joseph Xavier	100.00
Father Bernard L. Zagst	1,275.00
Reverend H. Biggers	158.50
Deacon Emile "E.J." Barre, III	100.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard	1,400.00
Deacon L. G. DeLoach	450.00
Deacon Raymond J. Dunn	300.00
Deacon Ray D. Gibson	100.00
Deacon Charles A. Jones	1,150.00
Deacon Gregory P. LeBlanc	100.00
Deacon Todd Marye	100.00
Deacon Patrick C. McCusker	100.00

Deacon Richard W. Mitchell	100.00
Deacon Ted A. Moulard	100.00
Deacon Clifton "Kip" J. Pelto	100.00
Deacon William E. Schaidnagle	100.00
Deacon Gary A. Schupbach	100.00
Deacon William "Bill" M. Travis	200.00
Deacon John L. Whitehead	100.00
Deacon Michael L. Young	200.00
Sister Margaret McCaffrey	300.00
Sister Marie Therese McGee, OP	100.00
Ismael and Libby Agosto	250.00
Shirley Alexander	1,125.00
Charles P. and Florence C. Anastasio	880.00
Germaine Armand	550.00
Virgie D. Aymond	225.00
Bobby D. Basco	4,690.00
Delores Basco	50.00
Harold and Lillie Baridon	5,500.00
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Dr. Lamar and Jean Boese	50.00
Will Bollich	100.00
J. V. Bonnette	50.00
Carolyn Brouillette	50.00
Nathan Cannella	225.00
Frank V. Cariere	175.00
Dylan Michael Cashio	400.00
T. W. Clark	50.00
Charles D'Amico	50.00
Leo Dobard	1,700.00
Gerald Flynn	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Flynn	50.00
Anne Barry Gallagher	2,025.00
Anthony and Mary Glorioso	100.00
Toby Guedry	1,000.00
Gail T. Gutierrez	100.00
William J. Hamlin	500.00
Madeline Jeansonne	100.00
Leonard Johnson	850.00
Maria S. Keran	1,000.00
Floyd J. LaCour	7,000.00
Gerry and Connie Leglue	100.00
Huey and Neen Lemoine	150.00
Judge Alfred and Mary Jo Mansour	2,050.00
Huey and Ethel Mathews	1,000.00
Louis "Dump" Henry Mathews, Sr.	100.00
Daryl "Pat" Mauterer	200.00
Ethel Miller	100.00
Odis James Miller	190.00
Gerald Moreau	215.00
Helen Morgan	12,000.00
Marge Murrin	315.00
Alcide A. Nassif	522.29
Kitty Treadway Nassif	100.00
Maurice Noel	295.00
N. J. and Hannah Nolan	10,000.00
Harvey Miller "Buddy" Normand	100.00
W. D. O'Neal	8,159.00
Danny O'Quinn	100.00
Albert and Elsie Poche	900.00
Kathleen Pool	375.00
Edna Rabalais	1,375.00
Dr. Sidney Rud	50.00
Luis R. Robles-Cortez	125.00
Dr. Brenda V. Seiler	100.00
Josephine G. Serio	275.00
John Gregory Simms	4,275.00
Joseph T. Simms, Jr.	11,475.00
Sadie Stroud	8,000.00
Robert Upton	100.00
Gus Voltz, Jr.	4,020.00
Larry Lee Wiltse	1,925.00
Tracy P. Wiltse	1,825.00
Mary Virginia Young	100.00
Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Regina Pacis #1372, Natchitoches	775.00
In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
St. Mary's Assumption Parish. Cottonport	100.00
General Fund	2,000.00
TOTAL	554,567.17

Seminarian Burses

December Donations

Mrs. Lilla Armand	\$5.00
Father Taylor Reynolds Burse	
Father Peter Kuligowski	\$30.00
Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Knights of Columbus Council 9217	\$50.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Father Rickey Gremillion	\$50.00
Deacon L. G. Deloach Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach	\$100.00
Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$100.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Father Derek Ducote	\$100.00
St. Mary's Assumption Church Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Mr. Lud McNeely	\$250.00
Father John H. Cunningham Burse	
Immaculate Heart of Mary Altar Society	\$415.00
Father Rickey Gremillion Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. James Philen	\$1,000.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde Burse	
Joshua's Ranch	\$1,000.00
Father Rickey Gremillion Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. David Walker	\$5,205.34
David Stafford "Brother" O'Shee Burse	
Total	\$8,655.34



UNITED METHODIST - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIALOGUE MEETING. Bishop David Talley participated in the annual meeting of the United Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue Dec. 12-15 at Georgetown University in Washington DC. Bishop Talley is a member of the national United Methodist Church – Roman Catholic Dialogue, a dialogue seeking the unity of faith spoken of by the Lord Jesus. This dialogue began 50 years ago and continues today. The participants included Bishop David, a bishop in the Methodist fellowship and Catholic and Methodists scholars.

Bishop Talley gathers with priests of diocese at Maryhill for 1st annual Priest Convocation

Bishop David Talley gathered together with the priests of his diocese Dec. 4-7 at Maryhill Renewal Center for the first annual Priest Convocation. The theme of the gathering was "A new heart for a missionary diocese."

The purpose of the convocation was two-fold: to provide ongoing formation for the priests on the four dimensions of formation – human, intellectual, pastoral and spiritual; and to bring the priests together for friendship and fellowship.

With Bishop David as the convocation leader, the priests engaged in open discussions about where we are as a diocese today and where we need to go.

"We have to look at who we are, right here, right now," said Bishop Talley. "We are a mission

diocese and a community of communities. We need to focus on the work of building up the front lines of our churches – the people of God also known as the laity -- and give them the tools to help in our mission of evangelization."

As mission diocese, -- defined as a diocese that is often isolated and/or financially under-resourced -- the Diocese of Alexandria is plagued with poverty -- both physical and spiritual. The bishop reported that Madison Parish is the poorest civil parish in the United States, and it is part of our diocese!

"We don't have to look very far to see the evidence of spiritual poverty. It is on the screen of every TV and mobile device of our people," he said. "The antidote is the people of God gathered

together in prayer and Christ-centered witness. It is up to each one of us gathered here today, to respond to the physical and spiritual needs of the people of our diocese."

In between theology talks, parish reports, and open discussions, the clergy enjoyed the opportunity of just being together in fellowship. The bishop and priests prayed the Liturgy of the Hours and celebrated Mass daily in the main chapel.

"It is safe to say that most of the priests left the first annual convocation with a renewed heart," said Father Ryan Humphries, pastor of St. Edward the Confessor in Tallulah. "Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will make good use of the spiritual momentum set in motion by this first convocation."

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ST. ANTHONY CHURCH (Natchitoches) FEEDS 400 AT THANKSGIVING. Father John O'Brien and some of the parishioners at St. Anthony Church in Natchitoches prepared a Thanksgiving meal and served more than 400 poor people from the community on Wednesday, Nov. 22.



(far left) **ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria) DONATES BLANKETS TO HOMELESS.** Father Craig Scott and Sr. Nell Murray from St Rita Church delivered blankets to the Volunteers of America for the homeless. The blankets were provided by monies donated from the KC Council #1134.

(at left) **ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria) DELIVERS GIFTS AND TOYS.** Father Craig Scott and Sr. Nell Murray from St. Rita Church delivered gifts and toys to five families with 13 children to CLASS. The church also adopted two parish families with three children. All assistance to the families was made possible through the generosity of the parishioners.

HOLY GHOST CATHOLIC CHURCH held its annual CCD Teachers/Staff Christmas party on Dec. 21. Rose J. Noel was honored at the event for 38 years of service as the DRE for Holy Ghost/St. Richards Chapel. She was presented with a beautiful crystal plaque presented to her upon retiring by Father Abraham Varghese, pastor of Holy Ghost/St. Richard's Chapel. She was also presented with gifts from the CCD teachers



ST. PATRICK CHURCH/ ST. JOSEPH CHURCH. Fr. Silverino Kwebuza and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Watson from St. Patrick Church in Montgomery presented St. Mary's Residential Training School a donation of \$1,300 to support the care of children with developmental disabilities. Each year, parishioners from St. Patrick and St. Joseph Church in Colfax adopt the residents of St. Mary's as part of their loving outreach ministry to share the love of Christmas with those who are most in need. Accepting the gift on behalf of St. Mary's residents were St. Mary's administrator, Christi Guillot and Programs Director, Bo Vets.



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Adopt Manna House program involves local businesses

Big smiles widened on the excited faces of the young kids who ate at Manna House on Christmas Day when they realized they were not only receiving a hot, full course Christmas dinner, but a brand-new, Christmas-wrapped present on Christmas Day.

Jessica Viator, executive director of Manna House, said she was overwhelmed at Kevin Simpson's generous offer to be one of the first sponsors of a new donor program, "Adopt Manna House," aimed at adopting Manna House for a day or for special occasions.

"For Christmas Day, Simpson Security provided 12 turkeys, 12 hams, and all of the food and ingredients needed for a full-course Christmas dinner," said Viator. "In addition, they provided all of the cleaning supplies, gifts for the kids, and an offer to match all donations to Manna House during the month of December! We are so grateful to Kevin Simpson and Simpson Security for their generous donation



Menard students assist in sorting donated food supplies.

at such a special time of the year."

Simpson's sponsorship of Manna House on Christmas Day is part of a new donor program recently started by Viator, called "Adopt Manna House." The new program is aimed at targeting local businesses to adopt Manna House for a day, a week, or for a special holiday.

According to Viator, it takes \$800 day to run Manna House.

"In the Adopt Manna House initiative, we are asking local

businesses to donate \$800 to cover the costs of operating Manna House for one day," said Viator.

The first business to participate was Naomi Heights Nursing Home, according to Viator. Employees of Naomi Heights held a fund-raiser – A Classic Car Show – that raised \$1,100 for Manna House. Employees pledged to serve at Manna House once a month, and the administration generously has committed to supplying cups on a monthly basis.



The Hamblin family was one of the many volunteers who served on Christmas.

Viator added that buying paper products, utilities and cleaning supplies are the largest expenses of Manna House each month.

"We can't say thank you enough to Naomi Heights and Simpson Security, who have stepped up to help the poor and hungry in our community," said Viator. "Not only does it help Manna House, but from a business perspective, it can be a great team-building experience for the employees."

Viator said she hopes the Adopt Manna House program will help ease the monthly financial burdens, so that Manna House can move from "just operating" each month to perhaps expanding its services a little.

Businesses interested in the Adopt Manna House program can call Viator at 318-445-9053 or email at cenlamannahouse@gmail.com.

Golf tournament March 12 - 17 to benefit Manna House

The annual ATP Golf Pro Tour and the Hixson Ford Pro Am Golf Tournament hosted at Oakwing Golf Club in Alexandria, will once again benefit Manna House.

The Hixson Ford Pro Am Tournament and Coca-Cola-Dr. Pepper Open will be held March 13. Each team of three will be paired with a professional golfer.

The entry fee of \$1,000 per team includes green fees, golf cart, hole sponsorship, six invitations to the Pro Am Party, the Pro Am Awards Party (food and drinks included) and the opportunity to play with a professional golfer.

The Coca-Cola, Dr. Pepper, ATP Golf Pro Tournament -- will



be held March 12-17 at Oakwing and Links on the Bayou.

Professional golfers like Harrison Frazar, Tag Riding, and Ron

Whittaker, many who, in the past, have graduated to the PGA Tour,

will be competing for a \$30,000 purse.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Oak Wing Golf Course.

"We are so excited to once again be the beneficiary of this world-class golf tournament," said Jessica Viator, executive director of Manna House. Viator said a number of sponsorship packages are available including the Shoot-Out, Pro-Am Party, Pro-Am Awards Party, Leader Group, Cart Sign, Driving Range, Putting Green, Pro-Am Team Sponsorship, and Hole Sponsorship.

For more information contact Theresa Slater, tournament chairperson at 318-664-3603 or Jessica Viator at 318-445-9053.

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Feast of Saint Blaise February 3

Check with your local church parish to see if/when throats will be blessed.



CHRIST THE KING (Simmesport) CHRISTMAS MASS. The youth at Christ the King in Simmesport presented a beautiful Nativity during Mass on Christmas Eve. Youth members who sang (pictured)



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES (Echo) CHRISTMAS MASS. St. Francis de Sales in Echo presented a Live Nativity at the Christmas Eve Mass. Live animals (donkey and sheep) were present for the procession.



SANTA VISITS ST. RITA. After the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass, the children received a gift from Santa.



POLAR EXPRESS NIGHT. More than 160 students participated in Polar Express Night Dec. 1, hosted by St. Frances Cabrini School. From 5 - 9 p.m., the kids were entertained with games, crafts, and a visit from Santa, while mom and dad could take advantage of the time without kids.

ST. ANTHONY (Bunkie) CHRISTMAS PROJECTS. The St. Anthony School 8th grade Christmas art projects were blessed at the school Mass on Dec. 20. The process by which these Icons are produced depict the nativity and is a study of art history in the early church. The class is taught by Christine Rabalais.



ST. JOSEPH (Marksville) CHRISTMAS NATIVITY. A Christmas Nativity Play was held at St. Joseph Church in Marksville at the 3:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass.





ST. JOSEPH CHURCH (Marksville) CARING AT CHRISTMAS. The St. Joseph Church CCD program held its 6th annual “Caring at Christmas” Gift Card Drive. Each year we choose a worthy cause to donate gift cards to purchase Christmas gifts for needy children. This year we chose CASA. Pictured are the elementary CCD children presenting a Christmas stocking filled with gift cards totaling \$1,535.00 to CASA’s Avoyelles Parish Coordinator, B.J. Gallent. These gift cards will be used to purchase toys and clothes for needy children of Avoyelles. St. Joseph’s Church CCD in grades 1-11, along with our parish community supported this worthy cause.



ST. ANTHONY CHURCH (Bunkie) DRIVE BY NATIVITY. St. Anthony Church in Bunkie hosted a Drive By Nativity Dec. 21-22. It was a gorgeous site to see and brought in viewers from all over Avoyelles Parish, making it a true success.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Winnfield) CHRISTMAS PLAY. The catechism classes of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield performed “The First Christmas” on Dec. 6.

St. Augustine (Isle Brevelle) Mother's Club completes 33 Days of Morning Glory Retreat

The ladies of St. Augustine Catholic Church began a spiritual journey with "33 Days to Morning Glory" retreat based on the "33 Days..." book by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley. In preparation for Marian consecration the retreat started on November 9th and would conclude on the Marian Feast for Our Lady of Guadalupe. As this was a self-retreat, the ladies were able to read and ponder on the daily readings with the Marian teachings of St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, and St. John Paul II. The ladies met weekly to view a video presentation and share group discussions about the previous week's readings. Morning Glory Consecration was celebrated with mass on December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our pastor, Fr. Charles B. Ray celebrated the mass, and guest soloist Janet Cargle from St. Rita's provided the inspirational music. The ladies signed their consecration pledge and were presented with the sacramental Miraculous Medal. A reception was held in the parish hall for the newly consecrated group and their families. The facilitator for the Retreat was Dianne Moran, with Gail Jones, President of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers assisting. "Come Holy Spirit, living in Mary. Thank you for the gift of my loving Mother, Mary."



St. Michael the Archangel Church (Leesville) celebrates Christ the King Sunday



The celebration began at 8:30 Saturday morning with a youth procession in the church and The Exposition followed by morning prayer. We then had hourly prayers until 3pm. At 4:30 we started the closing ceremony with the Eucharistic procession with Bishop Talley followed with Mass and reception in the hall. Bishop Talley, Father Michiels, Father Mauricio, Deacon candidates, Bill Endris, Steve Gramigna and Paul Sunderhaus were in attendance.



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Saturday 7 AM to 12 PM

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Catholic Schools Week to be celebrated Jan. 28 - Feb. 3

Sponsored by the National Catholic Educators Association, Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Schools typically observe the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Open Houses

• **Jan. 29 (Monday) – Our Lady of Prompt Succor School**, “Meet and Greet.” 6 – 7 p.m. for parents of prospective students. Interested new parents will meet in the Divine



Providence Center and speak with all faculty, administration, and some parents about the benefits and culture of our school.

• **Jan. 30 (Tuesday) – St. Frances Cabrini School**, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Registering students in Pre-K – 8th grade. Cabrini will be opening an 8th grade for the 2018-19 school year. Registration for all grades begins on Monday, Jan. 29. Cabrini

is also accepting LA Scholarship applications for students entering Grades K-2 for the 2018-2019 school year.

• **Jan. 31 (Wednesday) – Our Lady of Prompt Succor School**, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for parents of prospective students. Interested new parents will be able to tour the school at any point during that time and visit the classrooms of the grades that interest you. To see a live streaming of students participating in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) project, visit OLPS School on Facebook on Tuesday, Jan. 30.

• **Feb. 1 (Thursday) – Holy Savior Menard High School**, 6 – 7:30 p.m. School-wide presentation, tour of the school, refreshments.



2017 LHSAA ALL ACADEMIC FOOTBALL COMPOSITE TEAM has been selected! In order to be selected to the Academic All-State team, the student had to be a senior, played the sport for two years, and achieved a six-semester cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 or better based on a 4.0 scale. St. Mary's High School in Natchitoches is proud to announce that two seniors -- Jay [redacted] and Jeremy [redacted] -- were named to the All Academic Football Composite Team, both with a 4.0 GPA for all four years of high school. Congratulations! [redacted]



OLPS DUKE TIP QUALIFIERS 2017-2018. Qualifying to join Duke TIP's 4th–6th Grade Talent Search is an honor. It means that a student has shown academic talent by scoring in the 95th percentile on the ACT ASPIRE test in Reading, English, Math, and/or Science. Congratulations to the students from Our Lady of Prompt Succor School pictured above, as well as the 11 6th grade students who have moved on to junior high.

Holy Savior Menard Central High School
invites you to an

Open House

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018 • 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a special presentation!

- Meet faculty and staff
 - Tour the campus
 - Learn about extracurricular activities
- Refreshments will be served!

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Fr. Bryce Sibley, Fr. Brad Doyle, Fr. Colm Cahill, The Vigil Project, Austin Ashcraft, Dr. Chris Baglow, Dr. Tom Neal, Joe Bass, Margaret Baglow, Cameron Vidal, Seminarian and co-emcee Luke Kirk

Louisiana PULSE Immersion Weekend to be held Feb. 23-25

Are you a pro-life student (junior high, high school, or college) who wants to learn more about the issues of abortion, stem cell research, and assisted suicide? Do you want to develop leadership skills?

The pro-life Louisiana PULSE Immersion Weekend will be held from Friday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. to Sunday, Feb. 25 at noon at Camp Istrouma near Baton Rouge.

You will have the opportunity to pray at the Delta abortion clinic, visit with the Women's New Life Center, and have lunch at the Governor's Mansion with our Pro-Life Governor!

Throughout the weekend, you will grow in pro-life knowl-

Pro-Life Camp for Teens

edge and persuasion skills, discuss effective activism, hear beautiful testimonies, and hang out with fellow passionate pro-life students from all over the state.

The cost to attend is \$60 per student if you register before Feb. 9; \$75 if you register after Feb. 9.

For more information go to prolifecamps.com or call Sandy Cunningham at 866.463.5433.

The last PULSE Weekend in Louisiana is March 23-25 in Covington. To register, go to prolifecamps.com.

Abbey Youth Festival to be held March 17 at St. Joseph Abbey

The 2018 Abbey Youth Fest will be held March 17, from 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in St. Benedict, La.

The Abbey Youth Festival is an apostolic service of Saint Joseph Abbey designed to provide young people with an opportunity to experience a day of prayer and faith formation with an exposure to the Benedictine tradition. Its focus is evangelization and vo-

Discerning Vocations

cational discernment by means of Liturgy, prayer, worship, music and education appropriate for Catholic young people.

The cost is \$40 (includes a t-shirt and back-sack).

To register, go to abbeyyouthfest.com.

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To really love Christ, we must love **'Beyond the Limits'**. Society does not teach us **Real Love**, only **Jesus Christ**, who died for us, can model **Real Love**. Please join

us on February 24-25, 2018 for the first annual Beyond the Limits Junior High Conference. All students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to attend! Key speakers include host Chris Padgett,

Bishop David Talley, Kelly Lombardi, Father John Wiltsie, the Josh Blakesley Band, Sister Fatima, OLS, and Father Jose Robles. Register today! See you there!



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
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Music is my passion!

Menard student Faith releases first single she co-wrote

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Music is in the blood of Faith . She started playing classical piano at the age of 5.

Faith, now a sophomore at Holy Savior Menard Central High School, has switched gears to a new genre of music in her life -- contemporary worship and liturgical music (music to accompany the Eucharistic celebration at Mass).



Faith released her first Contemporary/Gospel single Dec. 22, 2017, titled *Found in You (Barriers)*.

The single was produced on an independent label with the help of Blake Powell, Josh Blakesley, and James Opdenhoff.

"I LOVE worship and liturgical music!" said Faith. "It gives me an opportunity to express myself in a different way by putting prayer -- my relationship with Jesus -- to music."

Faith said she wanted to write a song about her struggle to bring down the wall (the barrier) between she and a more intimate relationship with Jesus.



FAITH  and JAMES OPDENHOFF collaborate on fine-tuning her first single titled *Found in You (Barriers)*. , a sophomore at Holy Savior Menard, says she loves liturgical music and was introduced to it through her participation in the school's music ministry. She recently released her first single that she and Opdenhoff co-wrote.

"What is coming between me and having a close relationship with Jesus?" she said. "Fear? Trust? I think a lot of people struggle with this; which is what led me to write *Found in You (Barriers)*."

Through her participation in the music ministry program at Menard, where Opdenhoff and his wife work as directors of music, and leading worship at St. Rita on Sundays, they began the writing process together for her first song.


"Faith is an unbelievable writer, singer, and great on keyboard," said Opdenhoff. "For being only 16 years old, she has a great future ahead of her in contemporary worship and liturgical music .. or any music, for that matter."

But for now, Faith says she is focused on her schoolwork at Menard, where she is involved in tennis and theatre. "At this point, I don't know what I will be doing in the future, but I'm sure it will involve music!"

Found in You (Barriers) is available on all music platforms including, iTunes and Spotify.



Found in You (Barriers)

By Faith  James Opdenhoff,
Josh Blakesley, Blake Powell

Verse 1

There's a light inside of me
So afraid to set it free
Fear has made my heart its home
There's a hope that only comes
From knowing you alone
So, Lord, I'm letting go

Prechorus

I'm unsure of your unfailing love
But I choose to trust you more

Chorus

You're breakin down my barriers
You're tearin down these walls
Now I can see my savior through it all
Your cross defeats the darkness
Your mercy's light is new
Faith has shown me
I am found in you

Verse 2

Your heart beats in my soul
Lord come take control
You have made a way in me
Fire come burn within
Burn away my sin
Spirit make your home in me

Bridge

O Lord, come deliver me,
Jesus, won't you rescue me?
O Lord, come and set me free
Spirit make your home in me



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Diocese celebrates MLK Day

The temperatures were frigid Jan. 15, but that didn't stop the crowds of people who turned out to celebrate Martin Luther King Day with a parade in Alexandria. For the first time in almost 10 years, the Diocese of Alexandria participated in the celebration with a float in the parade. Bishop David Talley rode on the float, alongside Father Remi Owuamanam, pastor of St. Juliana Church, and Patricia Thomas, Moderator of the Tribunal for the diocese. Parishioners from St. Juliana and St. Rita churches and students from Holy Savior Menard rode on the float throwing beads and candy. The Knights of Columbus Bishop Greco Council 1134 carried a banner. The bishop said it was an honor to participate in this year's parade.



A Voice from the Heart

Oh Heart of love, Oh Heart divine
What can I do to make you mine?

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

Many times I'm down and
all looks dim, but I know
I can make it when I look at Him.

He gives me strength through His
gentle love, and I will follow it
through until I am with Him above.

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

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Ferdinand brings children's classic story to the big screen

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Generations of children have fallen in love with the peace-loving protagonist of Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson's 1936 classic "The Story of Ferdinand."

Now that amiable bull, who was featured in an Academy Award-winning 1938 short from Walt Disney, gets his first full-length screen outing with "Ferdinand" (Fox), a pleasing piece of animation in which he's voiced by wrestler-turned-actor John Cena.

The book is a brief one, so it's not surprising that the film's plot feels somewhat padded. But good values go a long way in masking this defect and in maintaining a receptive mood among viewers.

Escaping the confines of the stable in which he and other bulls are prepared for their fateful confrontation with a matador, and where his preference for smelling flowers rather than locking horns makes him a bullied misfit, Ferdinand is adopted as a pet by an affectionate little girl named Nina (voiced at different ages by Julia Saldanha and Lily Day).

All goes well until a misunderstanding interrupts Ferdinand's idyllic existence and sets him back on the path to the bullring -- where his commitment to nonviolence will be put to the ul-



FERDINAND. Good values help to redeem a somewhat padded plot in this animated adaptation of Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson's 1936 children's classic "The Story of Ferdinand," directed by Carlos Saldanha. Escaping the confines of the stable in which he and other bulls are prepared for their fateful confrontation with a matador, the peace-loving protagonist of the title (voice of John Cena), who prefers smelling flowers to locking horns, is adopted as a pet by an affectionate and growing girl (voices of Julia Saldanha and Lily Day). But a misunderstanding sets him back on the path to the bullring where his commitment to nonviolence will be put to the ultimate test. Rated PG.

time test.

To turn this easily summarized story into a more than 90-minute movie, screenwriters Robert L. Baird, Tim Federle and Brad Copeland introduce a variety of lively secondary characters. The most prominent of these is Lupe (voiced by Kate McKinnon), the slightly pixilated goat who volunteers to serve as Ferdinand's coach as, once back in captivity, he reluctantly trains to face down famed bullfighter El Primero.

Charming pastoral land-

scapes and such colorful sights as a flower festival also strengthen director Carlos Saldanha's picture. But what moviegoers who base their ethics on the Gospel, and parents in particular, will find most congenial is the central theme, which exalts tranquility over needless conflict.

That solid foundation will make this fable an appealing one to children who may be facing peer pressure or intimidation themselves. It also outweighs some fleeting elements Catholic viewers might find dubious, such

as a comic but not fundamentally disrespectful portrayal of a group of nuns much given to blessing themselves when surprised or alarmed.

Easily frightened tots may not appreciate the dangers Ferdinand faces during his quest to be true to himself. These include a trip on a slaughterhouse conveyor belt. Ferdinand also discovers that humans always prevail in the bullring -- with fatal consequences for the animals placed there.

The potty humor so common in kids' movies, on the other

MOVIE REVIEW

hand, is virtually absent here. And, on the whole "Ferdinand" provides appropriate -- and morally enriching -- entertainment for a broad spectrum of age groups.

The film contains scenes of peril, some mildly irreverent humor, a vague scatological reference and one slightly crass expression. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

VIRTUS

Upcoming Virtus sessions are:

- **Jan 25** -- Thursday, 6 p.m., Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches (Church Hall)
- **Feb. 1** -- Thursday, 6 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua church, Bunkie (Brother Francis Center)
- **Feb. 15** -- Thursday, 6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

To register, go to www.virtus.org

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Holy Spirit Women's Retreat

Dr. Mary Healy and Father Bill Henry will be featured at the annual Holy Spirit Women's Retreat, Jan 26-28 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lafayette, LA. The theme is "Gather in Upper Room with Mary."

There will also be a Life in the Spirit Seminar presented by Deacon Larry Oney, his wife Andi, and the CCRNO Team. Patti Mansfield will also be featured at this retreat. This retreat is sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO) and serves hundreds of women from throughout the Gulf South. Weekend and Saturday commuters are welcome. Register online at www.ccrno.org or call (504) 828-1368.

2-day ASIST Training (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills)

The suicide rate in some Civil Parishes in Central Louisiana exceeds the national average.

St. Rita Catholic Church is sponsoring a 2-day ASIST training on Friday-Saturday, February 2-3, 2018. (Day 1 - 8:00-4:30; Day 2 - 8:30 - 4:30).

ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) is an international, evidenced-based workshop that teaches participants how to interact with a person at risk for suicide. Well over 1 million people have been trained in how to intervene with someone thinking of suicide to be safe-for-now. Additional information on ASIST can be found at www.LivingWorks.net.

Workshop trainers are provided by: SaveCenla (local non-profit organization), the LA National Guard, the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the American Red Cross.

Workshop tuition is \$50 and includes training materials, lunch and snacks for both days. 12.5 CEUs for social workers and psychologists will be provided. Anyone 16 years-old and older may participate. The workshop is limited to 45 participants. Pre-registration is required and closes on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Please join the cause to eliminate suicide. For more information call, Linda Heiman 359-4850.

St. Rita Valentine Dinner & Show Feb. 9

Tickets for the St. Rita Valentine's Dinner and Show -- to be held Friday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Holy Family Center -- will go on sale Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Please join us for The St. Rita Love Boat on a Cruise to St. Somewhere featuring the St. Rita Choir, musicians and guests. Tickets are \$25 per person (no children under the age of 21 allowed) and includes wine, dinner, dessert and a fabulous show! Ticket sales are limited to 150 tickets, so don't delay! You must purchase your tickets at the parish office.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Novena to St. Dymphna

On the first Monday of every month, Father Paul LaPalme, pastor of Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth, has a novena to St. Dymphna at 6:30 p.m. St. Dymphna is the patron saint of those whose lives are impacted by nervous or mental disorders, Alzheimer's or sexual abuse. Join us in the church, every first Monday of the month, until the last one on May 7, 2018.

Bishop to speak at Magnificat Brunch

Bishop David Talley will be sharing his story of conversion at the Magnificat Brunch in Avoyelles on Saturday, Feb. 10 at Rateau Center in Hessmer.

Bishop Talley became the 12th bishop of Alexandria on February 2, 2017. A native of Columbus, Georgia, Bishop Talley was raised as a Southern Baptist but has said he left the church as a teenager over the issue of racial segregation. At Auburn University he met Catholics and read the writings of Thomas Merton, which led him to become Catholic. He was 24 when he joined St. Mary's Catholic Church in Opelika, Ala. He was ordained a priest on June 3, 1989. Join us Feb. 10 as Bishop Talley shares his testimony!

The breakfast will be from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 12:30 pm. Tickets are \$18 each. For more information on how to register, please contact CENLA Magnificat at cenlamagnificat@gmail.com or call Mary Wilson at 318-359-7735. Checks or money orders can be mailed to: CENLA Magnificat, 1462 Bordelon St., Hessmer, LA 71341. Please include a contact number with your check. This breakfast will be open to men and women. Please join us!

March 3: Day of Renewal "New Wine, New Wineskins"

A Day of Renewal called "New Wine, New Wineskins" sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana (CCRC) and CENLA Magnificat will be held on Saturday, Mar. 3 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall in Natchitoches.

Guest speaker Kim Rodriguez-Torres, is the founder of "Bella's Blanket of Blessings" a prayer blanket ministry which helps promote vocations to the priesthood through prayer and spiritual adoption of seminarians and priests.

Kim has worked as a Catholic school teacher and served as a representative of Family Life and MOM's Ministry. She assisted on the Board of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for Orlando and the Archdiocese of Miami. Kim is presently on the Central Service Team for Magnificat, the governing body for this International Ministry to Catholic Women.

The registration fee of \$30 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Checks or money orders made payable to "CCRC" and mailed to: Diane Ardoin, 1415 Creed St, Pinville, La. 71360. The Day of Renewal is open to men and women. Tickets for priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters are complimentary, but registration is required. This may be done online at cenlamagnificat@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to Ireland

Take a spiritual adventure through our Catholic Heritage in the Emerald Isle. October 1-10, 2018 with Fr Kenneth Michiels. Pilgrimage Highlights include: Killarney and Ring of Kerry, Cathedral in Cobh, Blarney Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Kylemore Abbey, Gothic Church and Gardens, Croagh Patrick, St Patrick's Holy Mountain, Shrine of St Kevin, Clonmacnoise, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College and Books of Kells. To receive an information packet with application please contact St Michael the Archangel in Leesville 337-239-2656.



Plaque of Recognition: Lilla Armand

The Altar Society of St. Peter Church in Bordelonville recently awarded a special plaque of recognition to Lilla Armand. Lilla is a young woman who has shown special devotion to our church. She has been a faithful altar server since the age of seven. She is a Eucharistic Minister and has helped with Bible School and recently with Children's Liturgy during Sunday Mass. She, along with her mother, tends to the cleaning and upkeep of the church. Lilla is always an eager and willing servant no matter what the need. Her joyful demeanor is an inspiration to everyone. Lilla truly embodies the spirit of selfless giving. On behalf of the Altar Society, Father Shoury, and the entire Catholic community of St. Peter, we extend congratulations and appreciation to Lilla Armand.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: Feb. 19

Deadline for news:
Friday, Feb 8

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January - February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>22</div> <div>USCCB's Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
Jan. 18-26 9 Days for Life Novena				Holy Spirit Women's Retreat -- Lafayette		
PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE	PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN	PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA	PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM	PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA	PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL
<div>29</div> <div>Meet and Greet 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</div>	<div>30</div> <div>OPEN HOUSE St. Frances Cabrini School 5:30-7:00 p.m. Alexandria</div>	<div>31</div> <div>OPEN HOUSE Our Lady of Prompt Succor School 8:30-11:00 a.m. Alexandria</div>	<div>FEBRUARY 1</div> <div>OPEN HOUSE Holy Savior Menard HS 6:00-7:30 p.m. Alexandria</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Louisiana Life March Central 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. LC Campus to Alexandria Riverfront Ampitheatre</div>	<div>4</div> <div>SPECIAL COLLECTION: The Church Today</div>
NCEA Catholic Schools Week						
PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH	PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	<div>Patriotic Rosary 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</div>	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	<div>ASSIST Training, St. Rita Church -- Alexandria</div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</div>	<div>FIRST SATURDAY FEAST of ST. BLAISE PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU</div>	PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS
<div>5</div> <div>Novena to St. Dymphna 6:30 p.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Valentine's Day Dinner & Show 7:00 p.m. St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Magnificat Brunch with Bishop David Talley 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Rateau Center, Hessmer</div>	<div>11</div>
PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY	PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ	PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN	PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER
<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>
40 Days for Life						
MARDI GRAS		ASH WEDNESDAY	Cenla ACTS for Men Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center			
PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY	PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA	ST. VALENTINE'S DAY PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA
<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>
40 Days for Life						
PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS	PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	PRAY FOR FR. G. UZONDU	PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD



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