

# CHURCH TODAY

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

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

June 23, 2014

## ON THE INSIDE

### **Bishop Herzog returns to work part time**

After almost four months of intense therapy, Bishop Ronald Herzog is back at work now and is resuming the duties as bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria. Read more about it on page 9.

### **Sacred Heart School begins construction on new Media Center, Jr. Hi**

The architectural firm of James Guillory Architects has designed an inspiring space for the new \$600,000 Media Center/ Junior High building at Sacred Heart School -- within a challenging site. Find out more about the project and view the architect plans on pages 16-17.

### **Congratulations seniors!**

Congratulations to all the seniors who graduated from our Catholic high schools, as well as the Catholic seniors who celebrated graduation in their parish with a special Senior Mass. View all the graduating seniors on pages 12-13.

## July 4, 2014: Does Religious Freedom exist today?



In 2012, Pope Benedict voiced his concern for the limits on religious freedom in the U.S. What can we as Catholics do about making sure we don't lose these freedoms? Read the story on pg. 3 and an editorial on pg. 4.

## Jindal vetoes bill that would have legalized surrogacy in Louisiana

In a last minute surprise decision, Gov. Bobby Jindal vetoed HB 187 May 30 which would have made surrogacy legal in Louisiana.

HB187 breezed through the Legislature, clearing the House on an 80-14 vote and the Senate on a 22-11 vote. The House voted 73-7 in favor of concurring with the Senate's changes to the bill, sending the legislation to the governor's desk.

Everyone expected the Gov. to sign the bill into law, since he had publicly stated that "this time" he would not veto a surrogacy bill. A similar bill on legalizing surrogacy in Louisiana was introduced in the Legislature two years ago, but Gov. Jindal vetoed it then.

The governor, in his veto message, wrote that "despite the good intentions and hard efforts

of the author, this legislation still raises concerns for many in the pro-life community." He said he couldn't "in good conscience, sign this bill."

Jindal received heavy opposition from the LACCB (Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops) and from Tony Perkins, chairman of the Family Research Council, based in Washington, D.C.

Perkins — describing himself as the leader of an organization promoting public policy from a Christian worldview — wrote that the bill raises ethical and social concerns. He said some of the embryos created through the surrogacy process could be discarded as medical waste. A government report found that 1.7 million embryos had been destroyed over 21-year period in Britain.

The Most Rev. Michael Jarrell, bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, sent a letter to all the bishops and clergy in the state, alerting them to the bill as it was first being introduced.

In another surprise decision, the legislators decided not to override the veto, although they had to votes to do it.

State Rep. Joe Lopinto (primary author of the bill) said that he had the necessary votes in the Louisiana House chamber but didn't want to pit his colleagues against the governor. Across the hall in the state Senate, state Sen. Gary Smith said he also did not want to put legislators in the awkward position of defying Jindal.

The Legislature has never overridden one of Jindal's vetoes. Any attempt to reverse his veto of HB187 would likely have stalled in the Senate.

## Vitter encourages Louisianians to prepare now for hurricane season

June 1 marked the start of hurricane season, and we are all acutely aware of how dangerous and damaging these storms can be.

"It's very important that we're all informed and prepared, and that you and your family have a game plan. It's impossible to predict when disaster will strike, so making preparations early is the best way to keep your family safe," said Sen. David Vitter.

For those living in coastal and other vulnerable areas, the first step you should take is an evacuation plan. It's a good idea to have an out-of-state friend or family member serve as a contact for your entire family.

In the event that you and your family become separated, you'll have a common point of reference and a means to communicate with each other. Since cell phone communication can be spotty during a storm, this contact is essential to giving you the peace of mind that everyone is safe.

If you do not live in the coastal regions, you may have family or friends there. Consider

inviting friends and family from the southern part of the state into your homes, since vacant hotel rooms are scarce during evacuations. Such generosity and a little southern hospitality is crucial to those who must evacuate on short notice.

Even homes in northern parts of Louisiana can be vulnerable to damage. Tornadoes, widespread rains and flooding can occur anywhere. So if you live away from the coast, you should still be mindful of these threats and can benefit from taking the necessary precautions to protect your home.

The National Hurricane Cen-

ter recommends that you take steps such as: creating a plan for your family, locating a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard, making a plan for your pets, and taking first aid, CPR or disaster preparedness classes.

"Hurricanes are part of life every year in Louisiana, but advance preparations can help reduce their impact on your family," said Vitter. "I urge you to take hurricane watches and warnings seriously and please plan ahead for your family's safety, and encourage your neighbors to do the same."



### Prayer for Hurricane Season

By Father Al Volpe, Cameron Parish, LA

O God, Master of this passing world,  
hear the humble voices of your children.  
The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order  
and returned to its former quietude;  
you are still the Master of land and sea.

We live in the shadow of a danger  
over which we have no control.  
The Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant,  
can awake from its seeming lethargy,  
overstep its conventional boundaries,  
invade our land and  
spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season,  
we turn to You, O loving Father.  
Spare us from past tragedies  
whose memories are still so vivid  
and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal  
with the passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother,  
we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf,  
so that spared from the calamities common to this area  
and animated with a true spirit of gratitude,  
we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son  
to reach the heavenly Jerusalem  
where a storm-less eternity awaits us. Amen.

*Originally dedicated to the victims of Hurricane Audrey in 1957.*



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# Ursuline nun wins singing competition on The Voice-Italy

But more surprising was that she lead the audience in the 'Our Father' after winning!

ROME — Ursuline Sister Cristina Scuccia's landslide victory on The Voice of Italy June 6 wasn't as big a surprise as much as what she did with her winner's platform.

The 25-year-old member of the Ursuline Sisters of the Holy Family thanked everyone on the talent show for their help and support, but left her highest praise for God.

"My final and most important thanks go to the one who is up there," she said to applause.

She said her presence on The Voice wasn't to walk away a winner or a music star, but to show people a different kind of victory:

"My dream is to recite the Our Father together, maybe we can all hold each other's hands and pray. I want Jesus to come right here inside!"

It left most people perplexed and unsure, but Sister Cristina was in charge, telling the band to strike up a soft melody to set the



SISTER CRISTINA SCUCCIA wins 'The Voice of Italy' June 6.

mood.

Half-joking, the MC said, "She's taking over!" So he let her lead the prayer, but without the band.

Her rapper, atheist coach, J-Ax, warned her that he and the other bad-boy coach on stage, Pie-

ro Pelu, "will burst into flames."

"Oh, come on!" she replied. Once a lapsed Catholic herself, Sister Cristina wasn't intimidated and off she went, leading people in prayer on the finale of the highly popular TV show.

The sister won 62% of the

popular vote, crushing her closest competitor — a very talented hard rock singer, who did a pretty decent "Stairway to Heaven."

Here are the four songs she sang on the last night of the competition:

The first, "Beautiful That Way," is from the movie "Life is Beautiful." J-Ax chose the tune, she said, because "I came in smiling and he wants me to end (the TV series) smiling."

She did a duet with her coach called "Gli Anni — The Years" as a retrospective tribute to the past season together:

The third part was to sing a never-before-performed song. J-Ax gave Sister Cristina a rousing Italian tune called "Lungo la Riva — Along the Shore," which was about going on a journey and following a light that will "lead me to you," to which Sister Cristina always pointed to heaven:

The finale was a reprisal of the song each competitor per-

formed for their first blind audition.

That first video of Sister Cristina doing Alicia Keys' "No one," garnered worldwide attention, including from Keys, who praised the sister's performance.

J-Ax said that video, which has more than 51 million views, should be proof of the sister's talent because "to paraphrase Elvis, 50 million people can't be wrong!"

And what does the Vatican have to say?

On the night of the competition, the head of the Pontifical Council for Culture tweeted a quote from an ancient Roman statesman, who was a Christian writer and great supporter of monastic communities:

"If we continue to commit injustice, God will leave us without music," tweeted Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

## Christians continue fight for religious freedom even in 2014

In 2012 Pope Benedict XVI spoke about his worry that religious liberty in the United States is being weakened. He called religious liberty the "most cherished of American freedoms." However, unfortunately, our most cherished freedom is under threat. Consider the following:

**HHS mandate for contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs.** The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are



"religious enough" to merit protection of their religious liberty.

**Catholic foster care and adoption services.** Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and the State of Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities

out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services—by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both—because those Charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.

**State immigration laws.** Several states recently passed laws that forbid what they deem as "harboring" undocumented immigrants—and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to these immigrants.

**Discrimination against small church congregations.** New York City adopted a policy

that barred the Bronx Household of Faith and other churches from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, even though non-religious groups could rent the same schools for many other uses. Litigation in this case continues.

**Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services.** After years of excellent performance by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.

**Christian students on campus.** In its over-100-year history, the University of California Hastings College of Law has denied student organization status to only one group, the Christian Legal Society, because it required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage.

**Forcing religious groups to host same-sex "marriage" or civil union ceremonies.** A New Jersey judge recently found that a Methodist ministry violated state law when the ministry declined to allow two women to hold a "civil union" ceremony on its private property. Further, a civil rights complaint has been filed against the Catholic Church in Hawaii by a person requesting to use a chapel to hold a same-sex "marriage" ceremony.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat? Yes, Pope Benedict XVI recognized in 2012 that various attempts to limit the freedom of religion in the U.S. are particularly concerning.

The threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue and has its roots in secularism in our culture.

The Holy Father has asked for the laity to have courage to counter secularism that would "delegitimize the Church's participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society."



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To say the past three and a half months have not been typical would certainly be a gross understatement! It has been a long road to recovery, but I am thrilled to back at work (part-time) now and adjusting to my daily routine again. As a result of the work with my therapists, I am getting around quite well with the aid of a wheelchair and a quad cane. It's great to be back!

I want to take this time again to thank you so much for your prayers and encouragement during my time in rehab! Your prayers were a great source of comfort to me.

I am especially grateful to Fathers Scott Chemino and Bruce Miller for covering my confirmations and graduations. It is great to have such a dedicated staff. Thanks also to my brother bishops for their help with other epis-



## ONE IN THE LORD

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

copal ceremonies.

The 2014 Annual Diocesan Appeal is well under way. As of today we are approaching the \$700,000 mark! Once again, I thank you for your on-going generosity.

Two of the most significant programs that depend on this source of funding are seminary formation and diaconate formation. We are fortunate to have 15 men (and their wives) from our

diocese committed to a four and a half year journey of formation in preparation for ordination to the diaconate. In this class there are men from other areas of the diocese who were not representative in the previous class. Please keep these men and their wives and families in your prayers as they begin. Those I have met with are excited about their potential to serve the Church in this new way. As with the previous class,

we will be partnering with St. Meinrad Seminary in theology instruction. What a blessing to the diocese!

I am also happy to report that we are in the early stages of some major work at Maryhill Renewal Center. Although I can't spill the beans yet about all the improvements and expansions that are in the works, I can tell you that the changes to be made are exciting and will offer a whole new spectrum of opportunities for anyone or any group who uses Maryhill or will use Maryhill in the future. As soon as the details are finalized in the funding stage, we will present the details of our plans to you through the Church Today.

As we enter the summer months, we have much to be thankful for and much to pray for. Please pray for all our priests and deacons, especially those

newly ordained -- Deacon Brian Seiler, Deacon Dale Meade, and Deacon Joseph Desimone and our soon-to-be-ordained Deacon Taylor Reynolds (June 28). We also thank God for the newly arrived priests who are joining in ministering to our people-- Father Agnel, Father Abraham, and Father Emil.

Also remember to pray for protection from hurricanes and storms as we enter the hurricane season (June 1). So many of you know first-hand the destruction of hurricanes. There is a prayer on page 2 for this. It was originally written in 1957 after Hurricane Audrey, but its words are just as meaningful today.

May the Lord bless you and your families during these summer months.

*Ronald P. Herzog*

# Challenging the culture, as we celebrate Independence Day

When we observed the Fortnight for Freedom in 2012, I naively thought it would be a one-time event. I assumed that the HHS Contraceptive Mandate would soon be overturned and our congregation of Little Sisters of the Poor would quickly fall out of the public eye. But this month marks our third Fortnight, and our lawsuit against the federal government over the HHS Mandate is still pending as I write this.

In May, a group of Little Sisters attended the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty's annual Gala in New York (the Becket Fund represents us in our lawsuit). It was an inspiring evening as we mingled with such an accomplished and diverse group of people gathered in the name of religious liberty. It was also quite sobering to realize the extent of the threats to freedom in America today.

Many people at the Becket Fund Gala commended us for our courage in taking a public stand against the HHS Contraceptive Mandate. I felt a bit embarrassed by all the attention, since we are mere newcomers to the cause of religious liberty. Interestingly, hearing so many edifying stories led me to a new appreciation of our own history. As a 175 year-old, international community, our congregation has seen its share of ups and downs related to reli-



## GUEST COMMENTARY

Sister Constance Veit  
Little Sisters of the Poor

gious intolerance. Our history has helped us to take the long view on our current situation.

Our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, was born during the French Revolution and began her work among the needy elderly in its aftermath. When the first Little Sisters arrived in England in 1851 they faced jeers from a suspicious, "anti-Papist" Protestant majority. These pioneers persevered, allowing their selfless charity and radical poverty to convert the hearts of those who were hostile toward Catholicism.

In the 1930s, anti-Catholic factions threatened the Little Sisters in Spain during that nation's civil war, but they remained unwavering in their devotion to the elderly in their care. Two decades later communist forces took over our homes in China, expelling the foreign Little Sisters and imprisoning the native Chinese, some of whom eventually died in captivity.

In the early 1990s our supe-

rior general responded vigorously to a proposal before the European Parliament to legalize euthanasia. Although the measure failed, our Little Sisters in Europe remain vigilant in protecting the frail elderly from insidious advances of the culture of death. The experience of these Little Sisters helped us to realize the importance of taking action against the HHS Mandate, because if the government succeeds today in forcing us to provide our staff with contraceptives and abortive services, we fear that they could someday compel us to participate in assisted suicide and euthanasia.

As Little Sisters of the Poor living and ministering in the U.S. since 1868, we thank God that we have never been confronted by war or religious oppression. Nevertheless, we celebrate this Independence Day under the cloud of evident religious intolerance. As I write this, I am reminded of Saint John Paul II's homily on religious freedom during his visit to Balti-

more, our nation's first Catholic diocese, in 1995. "Sometimes, witnessing to Christ will mean drawing out of a culture the full meaning of its noblest intentions, a fullness that is revealed in Christ," he said. "At other times, witnessing to Christ means challenging that culture, especially when the truth about the human

person is under assault."

As we celebrate our independence this Fourth of July, let us vow to do all we can to uphold the dignity of every human person, especially those most under assault. Let us vow to keep God, who is at the heart of our Nation's founding documents, at the center of our lives."

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# June 27 is Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Special blessings promised to those who follow devotion of Sacred Heart of Jesus

The devotion to the Sacred Heart (also known as the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus) is one of the most widely practiced and well-known Roman Catholic devotions. The devotion focuses on Jesus Christ's physical heart as the representation of his divine love for humanity.

The feast is celebrated 19 days after Pentecost Sunday, which makes it always fall on a Friday. This year, the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated on Friday, June 27.

It is not known for sure exactly when or where the devotion was first started. The first indications of a devotion to the Sacred Heart are found in the 11th and 12th centuries, developed out of a devotion to the Holy Wounds, and in particular to the Sacred Wound in the side of Jesus.

In 1153, St. Bernard explained that the piercing of Christ's side reveals his goodness and the charity of his heart for us.

From the 13th - 16th centuries, some type of devotion to the Sacred Heart was propagated, but not really practiced, except among a few individuals and some religious orders such as the Franciscans, Dominicans, and Carthusians.

But it was St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a nun from the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary in France, who is the one credited with popularizing the devotion in the mid 1600s.

St. Margaret Mary claimed to have received apparitions of Jesus Christ three times between Dec. 27, 1673 and on June 16, 1675.

• Dec. 27, 1673 -- St. Margaret Mary reported that Jesus permitted her to rest her head upon



his heart and then disclosed to her the wonders of his love. He desired all of mankind to know the treasure of his love.

• June or July, 1674 -- Margaret Mary reported that Jesus requested a devotion of love that would require frequent reception of Communion, especially on the First Friday of the month, and the observance of a Holy Hour.

• June 16, 1675 -- Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary to ask her confessor, Father Claude de la Colombiere (superior of a small Jesuit house at Paray) for a feast of reparation on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi.

Father Claude did as Jesus had requested through Margaret

Mary and consecrated himself to the Sacred Heart. He also directed her to write an account of the apparition.

According to her account, Jesus promised 12 special blessings to those who practiced the devotion. The 12th promise refers to the practice of making an effort to attend Mass and receive communion on nine consecutive First Fridays of each month.

To those who do this, Jesus says "I will grant the grace of final repentance: They will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacrament; and my Heart will be their safe refuge in that last hour."

### How much do you know about the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

- The person who most popularized the devotion to the Sacred Heart:
  - ☐ a. St. Bernard
  - ☐ b. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
  - ☐ c. Father Claude de la Colombiere
- In what year did Jesus first reveal Himself to this person?
  - ☐ a. 1153
  - ☐ b. 1673
  - ☐ c. 1749
- Jesus promised special blessings to those who foster a devotion to the Sacred Heart. How many promises did he make?
  - ☐ a. three
  - ☐ b. nine
  - ☐ c. twelve
- A devotion to the Sacred Heart is sometimes called:
  - ☐ a. Devotion of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
  - ☐ b. First Friday devotion
  - ☐ c. First Saturday devotion
- The 12th blessing, promises special graces who:
  - ☐ a. go to Mass and receive Communion every day
  - ☐ b. go to Mass and receive Communion every Friday
  - ☐ c. go to Mass and receive Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays
- The Sacred Heart of Jesus, depicted in many pictures, represents:
  - ☐ a. Jesus' deep and divine love for all of humanity
  - ☐ b. Jesus' heart that was crucified
  - ☐ c. Jesus' pain he feels in heart in when we sin
  - ☐ d. all of the above
- When is the Feast of the Sacred Heart celebrated?
  - ☐ a. 19 days after Pentecost Sunday
  - ☐ b. every year on June 30
  - ☐ c. Every year on the third Sunday of June
- What day is it celebrated on this year?
  - ☐ a. June 23
  - ☐ b. June 27
  - ☐ c. June 30
- How many churches in the diocese are dedicated to the Sacred Heart?
  - ☐ a. one
  - ☐ b. two
  - ☐ c. three

ANSWERS: 1-b, 2-b, 3-c, 4-b, 5-c, 6-d, 7-a, 8-b, 9-b.

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**GRADUATES OF PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM, (Columbus, Ohio).** Two seminarians from Alexandria -- Austin Burns and Luke LeFleur -- take a picture with Msgr. Christopher J. Schreck, SSL, PhD, STD, Rector/President of the Pontifical College Josephinum May 10 after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. The Class of 2014, numbering 40 students from 14 different dioceses, was awarded degrees and certificates from the College of Liberal Arts, Pre-Theology Program or School of Theology, thereby becoming alumni of the only pontifical seminary outside of Italy.



## Summer assignments for seminarians

Every summer, seminarians who are not taking classes, are assigned to work in a parish or diocesan office. Listed below are summer seminarian assignments, according to Father Kenneth Michiels, vocations director. They will assist the pastor in that parish in whatever areas of need exists.



Deacon Joseph Desimone  
St. Mary Assumption, Cottonport



Deacon Dale Meade  
OLPS, Mansura



Deacon Brian Seiler  
Holy Ghost, Marksville



Daniel Hart  
OL of Lourdes, 5th Ward



Austin Burns  
St. Rita, Alexandria



Luke LaFleur  
St. Joseph, Marksville



Derek Ducote  
St. Edward, Tallulah



Dutch Voltz  
St. Anthony, Natchitoches



Justin Ward  
Basilica of IC, Natchitoches

## Seminarian Burses

### May Donations

<b>Mrs. Jane Armand &amp; Ms. Lilla Armand</b> .....	<b>\$5.00</b>
Deacon Frederick Taylor Reynolds Burse	
<b>Knights of Columbus Council 9217</b> .....	<b>\$10.00</b>
Father Adrian L. Molenschot Burse	
<b>Dr. Joseph Landreneau</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Mrs. Edna Rabalais Burse	
<b>Deacon and Mrs. Rodrick B. Broussard</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
<b>Dr. Joseph Landreneau</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Monsignor Henry Beckers Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Msgr. Steve J. Testa Burse	
<b>Mr. Dwight E. Beridon</b> .....	<b>\$250.00</b>
Msgr. John M. Timmermans Burse	
<b>Mr. Dwight E. Beridon</b> .....	<b>\$250.00</b>
Harold and Lillie Beridon Burse	
<b>Total this month</b> .....	<b>\$790.00</b>

Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the  
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## Bishop Jarrell ordains Deacons Seiler, Meade and Desimone

Three seminarians from the Diocese of Alexandria were ordained as transitional deacons May 24 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral -- Joseph Desimone, Dale Meade, and Brian Seiler.

Bishop Michael Jarrell from the Diocese of Lafayette was the main celebrant with the priests of the Diocese of Alexandria as concelebrants.

Also participating in the Mass were Msgr. Becket Soule, rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum; seminarians Derek Ducote and Dutch Voltz as Readers; and Deacon Clifford Pelto as Deacon of the Gospel.



**DIACONAL ORDINATIONS.** Newly ordained deacons Dale Meade, Joseph Desimone and Brian Seiler stand behind the main celebrants of the Mass dur-



ing the Eucharistic Prayer. The Ordination Mass was held May 24 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

## Three new priests assigned to serve in Diocese of Alexandria

Three new priests from India have arrived in Alexandria and have been assigned to serve in the Diocese.

According to Father Craig Scott, all three priests will first go through a brief orientation period to help with the transition from being a priest in India to a priest in the United States.

Father Agnel Anthony Figredo is from India and has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

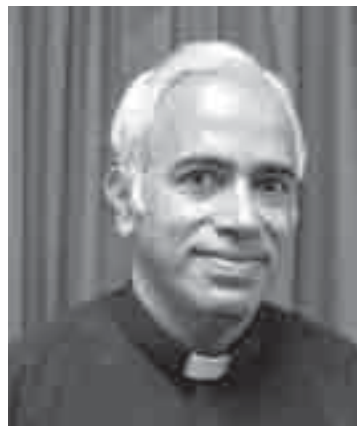
Father Abraham Palak-

katuchira, is from Kerala, India and is a member of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI) religious order. He has been appointed parochial vicar of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Pineville, effective June 25 - July 31.

Father Emil Tirkey, MSFS, is from the new state of India (Telangana) and is a member of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) religious order. He has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria.



Fr. Agnel Figredo



Fr. Abraham Palakkattuchira, CMI



Fr. Emil Tirkey, MSFS

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# 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit meant to be active in our lives today

(CNS) -- The church's celebration of Pentecost highlights the "life-changing power of God's presence" believers receive through the Holy Spirit, said Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl.

Although the feast, celebrated June 8, doesn't look as it did in the apostles' time -- with the roar of wind and tongues of fire -- the cardinal said it serves as a reminder of the outpouring of God's spirit long ago and continuously.

"The Holy Spirit comes regularly" and is "active in the church today," he said.

In a May 27 interview with Catholic News Service, the cardinal discussed the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit -- wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord -- which have been the focus of recent audience talks by Pope Francis.

The cardinal said these gifts, outlined by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, are "manifestations of the presence of God's spirit in our lives."

Simply put, he said they are meant to "help us through each day ... to draw closer to the Lord."

"As the church prepares to celebrate Pentecost, we recognize that we have these gifts," he added.

He described the gift of wisdom as "seeing things through the eyes of God."

"Wisdom is usually associated with the elderly -- with the seniors -- people who have lived through life and experienced not only facts but how they come to-



gether and relate us to God."

Knowledge, he said, is "being able with our mind to grasp and hold what God says to us through revelation in the word of God."

He noted that believers hear the word of God not just with their ears but their hearts.

"That's why prayer is such an important part of the Christian experience of the Holy Spirit," he said, noting the significance of spending quiet time prayerfully reading Scripture and "letting God's spirit fill us with the meaning of those words."

He said counsel, another gift, helps believers "find our way through situations."

"It is the quiet voice of the spirit speaking to us to say: 'This is what you should be doing; this is the better way to act; this is the right way.'"

In his May 7 audience talk, Pope Francis similarly noted that counsel comes through prayer.

can take place anywhere because "nobody can tell when we are praying on the bus, on the road, we pray in silence, with the heart."

He also urged the crowd not to just recite prayers they know from childhood but to use their own words to ask for specific direction and guidance.

Cardinal Wuerl said he tells young people at confirmation: "The church is going to give you everything you'll ever need to make your way through life staying close to God. You have to use the gifts."

And this message is not just for youths.

The cardinal pointed out that the church today is in a "moment of a new Pentecost."

"We need to present our faith in a way that's fresh and new; that's what new Pentecost is all about."

He said the local and universal church is tapping into gifts

of the Holy Spirit through special gatherings or synods. For the past two years, the Archdiocese of Washington has been preparing for a synod which is concluding this Pentecost. The synod has been evaluating where various ministries have been successful and where more work is needed as the archdiocese celebrates its 75th anniversary.

He said the local synod, much like the Oct. 5-19 extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican, has involved a process of prayer, reflection and listening.

He said the impetus behind the archdiocesan synod process has been to determine "if we really are being the best church we are supposed to be."

The synod on the family, similarly, is a way for the church to understand how people are living the faith which in turn, he said, should "bring about a new commitment to live it."



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## Bishop Herzog returns to work part-time

After almost four months of intense therapy, Bishop Ronald Herzog is back at work now and is resuming the duties as bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria.

Bishop Herzog suffered an ischemic embolic stroke Feb. 18 and was hospitalized at St. Frances Cabrini Hospital for several weeks. Fortunately, his speech and mental capacities were unaffected, but his left arm, hand, leg, and foot were weakened.

After months of intensive therapy, Bishop Herzog has almost fully regained the use of

the left side extremities and can now walk with the assistance of a cane.

"It's great to be back at work now in 'the land of the living,'" he smiled. "Therapy has been long and intense, and there have been a few setbacks along the way, but it is worth it now to be walking on my own two feet again."

Bishop Herzog is working part-time at this time, while he continues therapy at St. Frances Cabrini Rehabilitation Hospital. He can walk with the aid of a cane, but also uses a wheelchair

to sit at his desk and to move around his office. He will continue to live at a local assisted living facility for now, while he continues on his road to recovery.

Despite his absence from the office, Bishop Herzog has continued to stay in touch with his staff, -- opening mail, responding to email, and attending meetings even while he was in the hospital.

"He's made an amazing recovery," said Deborah Deorosan, the bishop's executive secretary. "We are happy to have him back."



**BACK AT WORK.** Bishop Ronald Herzog signs checks and other paperwork with his secretary Deborah Deorosan. The bishop returned to work recently after suffering a stroke in February.

## Memorial Day: St. Anthony honors former student who died in Vietnam

A large crowd of family, friends and the Knights of Columbus gathered May 26 at the gravesite of Denny Johnson, a former student of St. Anthony School in Bunkie, and a young, promising soldier who died in 1969 in Vietnam.

Father Stephen Scott Chemino, V.G., conducted the Memorial Day Service which included reading a letter from Jude Glorioso, a friend of Denny's (and also a former student of St. Anthony School) who had this to say about Denny:

"Denny was a senior when I was a freshman at Bunkie High. The first day of football practice in 1963 was also my first day as an assistant football manager. Go-

ing from St. Anthony's to Bunkie High was a new and strange experience. I knew some of the guys on the team, those who had gone to St. Anthony's but most of the players were complete strangers to me. I knew of Denny because he lived not far from our house, but we were not friends. It didn't take him long to change that. He made me feel welcome, took me around, introduced me to everyone and became my most trusted friend of my freshman year.

A couple of days later a fight broke out between two of the players in the dressing room. Some of the other players started cheering it on. Denny became outraged at the misconduct of his fellow teammates. Like you said,

he wasn't a big person physically but he made up for it in spirit. He forcibly wedged himself between the two fighters, they both stood a head taller than he did...he kept them separated and began shaming them and everyone else in the

room. Not only those that were cheering it on but also the rest of us for doing nothing. His outrage was so intense that in a matter of seconds, I mean seconds, he had everyone's attention and respect. The mood in that room changed.

The fighters apologized to each other and Denny had transformed a rowdy bunch into a team.

Denny was like that in everything he did. It is my opinion, had he lived, he would have achieved greatness."



**MEMORIAL DAY AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH IN BUNKIE.** Fr. Stephen Scott Chemino conducted a Memorial Day Service May 26 in memory of Denny Johnson, a soldier who was a member of St. Anthony Church, a 1969 graduate of West Point Academy, and then was killed that same year in Vietnam. A large crowd of friends and family members gathered for the service to remember Denny and all soldiers who gave their lives for their country.

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**MS. HILDA AND HER BOYS.** Ms. Hilda stands with a group of her boys she cared for many years ago. Some of her original clients are now in their 50s. Many returned to St. Mary's to honor Ms. Hilda on her anniversary day. "I know I'm not suppose to call them my kids -- they are "clients," but I still call them my boys. I love them like they are my own kids.



**BACK IN THE DAY.** Ms. Hilda is pictured in this undated photo (most likely the 80s) when she taught kids the ABCs and how to count. In the early days of St. Mary's, many of the kids were highly functional. Today, the kids at St. Mary's tend to be less functional and with more severe disabilities.



## Thank you!

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*"It's been truly amazing to see so many people in this community pool their resources, and volunteer their time, talent . . . to make this happen," he said. "I can't thank everyone involved in this project enough for all of the hard work and generous giving . . ."*

~Thomas David, Secretary/Treasurer, Manna House Board of Directors



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# Hilda Jones celebrates 40 years of caring for St. Mary's kids

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

If there's one thing you can say about Hilda Jones, it's that she loves children. And it was her love of children that brought her to St. Mary's Residential Training Facility 40 years ago.

In honor of her 40 year anniversary of employment there, St. Mary's celebrated "Hilda Jones Day" June 5 with fun and food. In the morning, she and the staff and children of St. Mary's enjoyed a parade through campus, then a presentation ceremony, followed by a grilled-hamburger lunch provided by the Amicus Club.

At the presentation ceremony, where family, friends and most of the 200 kids from St. Mary's gathered, she received a blessing from Father August Thompson, on the Board of Directors; flowers and homemade gifts from her boys; words of praise from friends and col-

leagues; a framed proclamation from the City of Colfax naming June 5 as Hilda Jones Day; and a check for \$4,000 from Sister Mavis Champagne, on behalf of St. Mary's.

But the best gift of all has been the past 40 years that she has loved and cared for "her boys" at St. Mary's.

"I love my job and I love my kids," said Ms. Hilda.

Hilda started working at St. Mary's at age 18, right after high school graduation. She and her girlfriend were looking for a job and knew it had to be a job that would allow her to work with kids.

"I wanted to work with 'active kids,' she said. "I like their energy; and I wanted to work with boys. Me and little girls don't get along as well as my boys. I love my boys."

Ms. Hilda may have received more than she bargained for. The kids at St. Mary's were plenty



**CITY OF COLFAX PROCLAIMS JUNE 5 AS HILDA JONES DAY.** Bo Vettes presents a proclamation to Hilda Jones from the City of Colfax, proclaiming June 5 as Hilda Jones Day.

'active' and she has loved each and everyone of them.

She fondly remembers:

Tony -- "He loved to sing. I used to take him home with me (it was allowed with parents' permission back then) and he would sing the whole way home. He was also a "hugger." He loved hugs.

Benny -- "He was my helper. He loved to help me do things and loved to help others. Always wanted to do something for someone else."

Michael -- "was a talker. He talked constantly! Sometimes he would go home with me too and visit with my parents. My dad was a talker too, so he and Michael got along great. But Mi-

chael was also an "inappropriate" talker which got him in trouble. Sometimes I had to laugh, but sometimes I had to correct him and tell him that wasn't nice to say and you can't say that to people or in public."

Bubba (one of her current clients) -- likes to eat. He loves-BBQ, Dr. Pepper, and anything spicy. Even if his eyes are watering or his nose is running while eating something spicy, he will say 'No, it's not hot.' All that boy thinks about is food.

Ms. Hilda also remembers the sad times when a child was gravely sick or even died.

I remember Brody and Ryan who died. I remember when some of boys were sick," she

said. "They become like your children, so when they are sick, you feel bad for them too."

Ms. Hilda also remembers the more difficult days when one of the boys would bite or hit her.

"It hasn't ways been easy working with these kids, but at the end of the day, you realize that it's not the person trying to hurt me; it could be their frustration, their inability to communicate, or even the only way they CAN communicate. I pray to God every day for patience and understanding."

Patience and understanding . . . maybe that's the key. But it's also her calm, yet firm demeanor.

A St. Mary staff member describes Hilda as a quiet, gentle person, who rarely has to raise her voice, and yet has the respect and love of all of her boys.

"I know in my heart that God called me to do this with my life," she said.

Ms. Hilda says she doesn't know how much longer she'll stay at St. Mary's, . . . "hopefully until I can no longer get up in the morning and come to work."

After all these years, Ms. Hilda can still say she enjoys getting up and coming to work.

But you have to ask: *How and why could anyone do what she does for 40 years?*

"When I first came to work 40 years ago, I struggled with "why?" -- why did God make little children with these disabilities?

"One day, out of the blue, Jesus spoke to my heart and said, 'I made them for you to love. That's your job.'

... And I have loved my kids and my job ever since."



**HILDA JONES DAY.** Hundreds of family, friends, and St. Mary staff members and clients attended Hilda Jones Day June 5.



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**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) CLASS OF 2014.** Thirty seniors graduated May 15 from St. Joseph High School in Plaucheville. Members of the class are



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA (Bunkie) 8TH GRADE GRADUATION.** Thirteen 8th grade students from St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie graduated May 12. Pictured are (front row)



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) 8TH GRADE GRADUATION.** Thirteen students from Sacred Heart School in Moreauville graduated from the 8th grade in May. The faculty, staff, and 8th grade students pictured are (front row) Mrs. Michelle Deshotels, Mrs. Maria Burke, Mrs. Marcy Center, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, Mrs. Darcy Bordelon, and Sr. Delnise Silva. 2nd Row: Father Marc Noel, pastor; and Mr. Marvin Guillot. Top row:



### Division Head of the Lower School of the Academy of the Sacred Heart

The Academy of the Sacred Heart, the girls division of the school, is seeking a leader for the lower school (PreK2 - Grade 8) who possesses a strong commitment to Catholic education, knowledge of curriculum and best practices, and insight into single-gender education for girls. Candidates should also be able to guide and to collaborate with a talented faculty, maintain a budget, and communicate well with parents and colleagues. The Division Head is a member of the senior administration staff and reports directly to the Headmistress. Candidates need to be practicing Catholics with a master's degree.

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Schools of the Sacred Heart does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.





**HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2014.** Seventy-six seniors from Holy Savior Menard Central High School graduated May 13 at Guinn Auditorium on the campus of Louisiana College. Members of the 2014 graduating class are **Bishop Greco Scholars:**

**Fa-**  
**ther Menard Scholars:**

**Providence Scholars:**

**Graduates:**



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (Natchitoches) CLASS OF 2014.** Twenty-four students from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches graduated May 12. The seniors who graduated ar



**HOLY GHOST / ST. RICHARDS (Marksville) CHURCH BACCALAURE-  
ATE MASS** was held May 24 at the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass. Pictured are  
Father Abraham Varghese,  
The graduates participated in the Mass by reading and presenting  
the gifts. , salutarian for Marksville High School, delivered her  
speech and sang a solo. Congratulations graduates!



## OLPS students use mind, body, spirit to help others



**OLPS STUDENTS RAISE more than \$9,500 FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.** Our Lady of Prompt Succor students in grades 2-6 participated in the annual St. Jude's Math-a-thon for their Lenten project. Each grade raised at least \$1,000 each, but the second grade classes (60 students total) raised the most -- \$2,875.22! OLPS School has participated in St. Jude's Math-a-thon for the past 12 years, raising more than \$91,500 for the world-reknown children's cancer research hospital. St. Jude Children's Hospital was founded in Memphis, Tennessee in 1962 by Danny Thomas, a devout Catholic, and back in the 1950s, a struggling comedian and actor. When he attended Mass just before his first child was born, he put his last \$7 in the the offeratory and prayed for the inter-

cession of St. Jude to help him become successful in his career so he could support his family. In return, he would build a shrine in his honor. His career skyrocketed, and a few years later, Thomas returned to Memphis to make good on his promise. Built on the premise that "no child should die in the dawn of life," St. Jude was dedicated for finding a cure for childhood cancer. Since St. Jude was established, the survival rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common type of childhood cancer, has increased from 4 percent in 1962 to 94 percent today. During this time, the overall survival rate for childhood cancers has risen from 20 percent to 80 percent. Consistent with the vision of its founder, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.



**TREK FOR TECH RAISES \$21,000 FOR TECHNOLOGY.** More than \$21,000 was raised May 17 for the technology fund during the annual OLPS "Trek for Tech" Run. It was a beautiful day for the event with 204 runners of all ages participating. Over the past 4 years, The "Trek for Tech" Run has generated over \$90,000 that have provided for Promethean boards and projectors, Activotes, Activiews, teacher trainings for all OLPS classrooms, updates to Microsoft software, laptops with a mobile cart computer station and many other technology upgrades at OLPS School. Plans are underway to purchase new laptops and a mobile iPad cart to be shared among the classrooms with the funds raised from this year's "Trek for Tech" event. Thank you Elizabeth Cassano, event chair, and to all who donated, sponsored, volunteered and participated in the event.



**COLLECTING PB & J FOR FOOD BANK.** OLPS students collected 399 lbs. of peanut butter and jelly recently for the Cenla Food Bank during the 3rd annual "PB&J Time" campaign. Over the past 3 years, OLPS students have collected and donated more than 1,800 lbs. of PB&J to the Cenla Food Bank to help feed children in the area over the summer break who would normally receive school lunches. Thank you to all who contributed and to Mrs. Sharon Hebert for collecting and delivering the donations.

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**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.** Twenty-six kindergartners "advanced" to the 1st grade during a special Mass in May celebrated by Fr. Stephen Scott Chemino, pastor. Pictured are (front row)

Row 3: Mrs. Donna Newton, Sr. Judiann Derhake, SLW, Mrs. Martha Coulon, Fr. Scott Chemino, Sr. Jeanette Daniel, SLW, Mrs. Kim Juneau and Ms. Vanessa Redmon.



**SACRED HEART'S CHILDREN OF MARY ORGANIZATION MAKE ACT OF CONSECRATION.** A majority of Sacred Heart School's female students in grades 5-8 were given the first of 12 stars as members of The Children of Mary Organization on May 9. The ceremony was conducted after the school Mass. The Children of Mary organization is a Catholic lay association that has for its main purpose the spiritual formation of its members. It takes for its model the spirituality of St. Louis de Montfort and his ideal of total consecration to Jesus through Mary. The work of the congregation is to foster holiness in the young by giving them solid formation and peer support under the mantle of the Blessed Mother. The sign of membership is the Miraculous Medal worn on a broad blue ribbon - the motto of the congregation is 'Monstra esse te Matrem' 'Show thyself a Mother'. To earn the First Star of the Crown, the individual must first be formally enrolled in the Congregation of the Children of Mary. The members then make the Act of Consecration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament after having first gone to Confession and having received Holy Communion. The members must study and meditate on the Mystery of the Holy Rosary that has been assigned to their charge by the Universal Living Rosary Association of Saint Philomena (a report or presentation on the Mystery can be given at a 'Circle' meeting or submitted in writing). The young women were delighted and proud to accept the challenge to continue this ministry. The chapter will work through the summer, to obtain more stars. Fr. Chad Partain, Chancellor for the Diocese of Alexandria, inspired Sr. Delnise Silva and Mrs. Marcy Center to begin a chapter at Sacred Heart School. For more information please visit the website: [www.thechildrenofmary.net](http://www.thechildrenofmary.net) <<http://www.thechildrenofmary.net>>



**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL 8TH GRADE CLASS AT MAY CROWNING MASS.** The 8th grade class at St. Anthony School in Bunkie had the honor of participating in the annual May Crowning. Fellow classmate Rachel Cooper had the honor of crowning Our Blessed Mother. The entire school participated in a May Crowning procession from the school to the church carrying flowers to present to Our Lady. Pictured at left are (front row)

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

St. Anthony School has several vacancies open for the 2014-15 school year. We are accepting applications for a 2nd grade teacher, a math teacher for grades 5-8, and an English/Language Arts teacher for grades 5-8. Certification and knowledge of basic computer skills is required. Send a resume to Martha Coulon, St. Anthony School, 116 South Knoll, Bunkie, LA 71322

***St. Anthony of Padua School***  
DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA



## Fr. Jonathan's new book reflects on Pope Francis' call to love, lead in mercy

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Admiring Pope Francis' "willingness to be misinterpreted," Father Jonathan Morris told a group of about 250 people, that "it was good thing."

Father Jonathan was the guest speaker June 5 at the *Power Up in Faith* luncheon held at the OLPS Divine Providence Center. Clergy and laity from many faiths were in attendance to hear the nationally-known speaker, who is also an analyst for Fox News, contributor for the Wall Street Journal, and the host of a weekly Fox News internet program. He is also the author of several books.

"When Pope Francis is willing to be misinterpreted, he allows his unconditional love to change another person," he said. "Scripture tells us that that's exactly what Jesus did too."

To explain his point, Fr. Jonathan referred to two stories in Scripture: the story of the adulteress who was about to be stoned and the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector who climbed the tree to see Jesus.

In the story of the adulteress who was about to be stoned, he asked the crowd, "who among you is without sin, cast the first stone." His absence of condemnation, allowed the sinner to feel love and redemption, while it

allowed the accusers to rethink their own actions.

In another story, Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector, known for taking more than his share from his Jewish friends. Jesus called to him by name and invited himself to his house to dine. Again, his absence of condemnation, allowed the sinner (Zacchaeus) to feel love and redemption.

"We all love Pope Francis

today because of his simple message of love and to lead in mercy," he said.

The event was primarily sponsored by Christus Hospice and Palliative Care, as well as several local sponsors.

After the dinner, Fr. Jonathan signed two of his books, *The Promise* and *God Wants You Happy*. His newest book is expected to be out this summer.



**FATHER JONATHAN MORRIS** greets people and signs books after the *Power Up in Faith* luncheon June 11 at the OLPS Divine Providence Center. Fr. Morris, who is an analyst for Fox News, a contributor for the Wall Street Journal, and the host of a weekly Fox News internet program, is a motivational speaker who will help you renew your faith, refresh your energy and recharge your soul. Approximately 250 people attended the luncheon.



### EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

The annual meeting and Investiture of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem was held May 30 – June 1, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and was enjoyed by approximately 380 members and guests of the Order. The Diocese of Alexandria was represented by six members: Pierre and Roz Allemond, Drs. Brian and Marguerite (Sissy) Picou, and Fred and Charlotte Cull. During the course of the weekend, one deceased member, Lady Kathleen Poole, was remembered during the Saturday Memorial Mass. Lady Jean Villemetz will be remembered during next year's Memorial Mass. Additionally, we had four members promoted: Pierre and Roz Allemond to Knight/Lady Grand Cross Holy Sepulchre, and Brian and Sissy Picou to Knight/Lady Commander Holy Sepulchre. The highlight of the weekend was the Investiture Mass on Sunday. The celebrant was His Eminence, Edwin Cardinal O'Brien, Grand Master of our Order. Attendees had the honor and pleasure of meeting and taking photos with him during the reception and formal dinner that evening.

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11 a.m.-9 p.m.





# Construction begins on Sacred Heart Media Center/Junior High

## \$600,000 new facility expected to complement technology already in place

By Karen Moreau  
Sacred Heart School

The architectural firm of James Guillory Architects has designed an inspiring space for the new \$600,000 Media Center/Junior High building at Sacred Heart School -- within a challenging site.

The 6,744 sq. ft. wood framed and metal-clad building will fit snugly between other buildings in a portion of the campus being vacated by an existing library and classroom buildings.

The location is in response to a demand for an additional student drop-off area from an adjacent side street as well as to preserve as much open playground area as possible. A new 1,553 sq. ft. metal canopy will connect the building and campus to the new drop-off.

The building will include two 7th grade and two 8th grade classrooms, a new media center (library) and support spaces.

Each of the four classrooms are approximately 650 sq. ft. and will contain built-in teacher cabinets for storage/work space and seating to accommodate 25 students.

Each classroom will be equipped with a Smart Board with the latest in technology connections. Student lockers will line a wide corridor dividing the



**NEW SACRED HEART MEDIA CENTER/JUNIOR HIGH.** An architect's rendering shows what the new facility will look like.

building and connecting to a new media center. Support facilities in the facility include a teacher work room for copying and preparing teaching materials, a teacher restroom as well as student restrooms.

The new 2,550 sq.ft. media center is designed for multiple functions with an area for traditional classroom learning arrangement for 28 students and another with seating at tables.

Centrally located in the Media Center will be a smart board and a pull down projection screen

with projector. A computer kiosk for eight students is included for one-on-one teacher/student interaction.

The built-in circulation desk is centrally located to allow observation with all three teaching areas as well as the alternate arrangement of one large seating area for the assembly of several classes.

The innovative use of pre-engineered wood trusses exposed in the media center allow for sloped ceilings that soar to a height of 28 feet and provide for a very spa-

cious feel in the media center.

"We are very excited about the addition of the new Media Center and Junior High building to our campus," said Sister Sandra Norsworthy, principal. "I think it will complement and work well with the technology already in place throughout our school."

Sacred Heart School currently operates a computer lab of 6 Dell desktop computers for the Accelerated Reader program, a laptop cart containing 18 Dell laptops, a computer station with

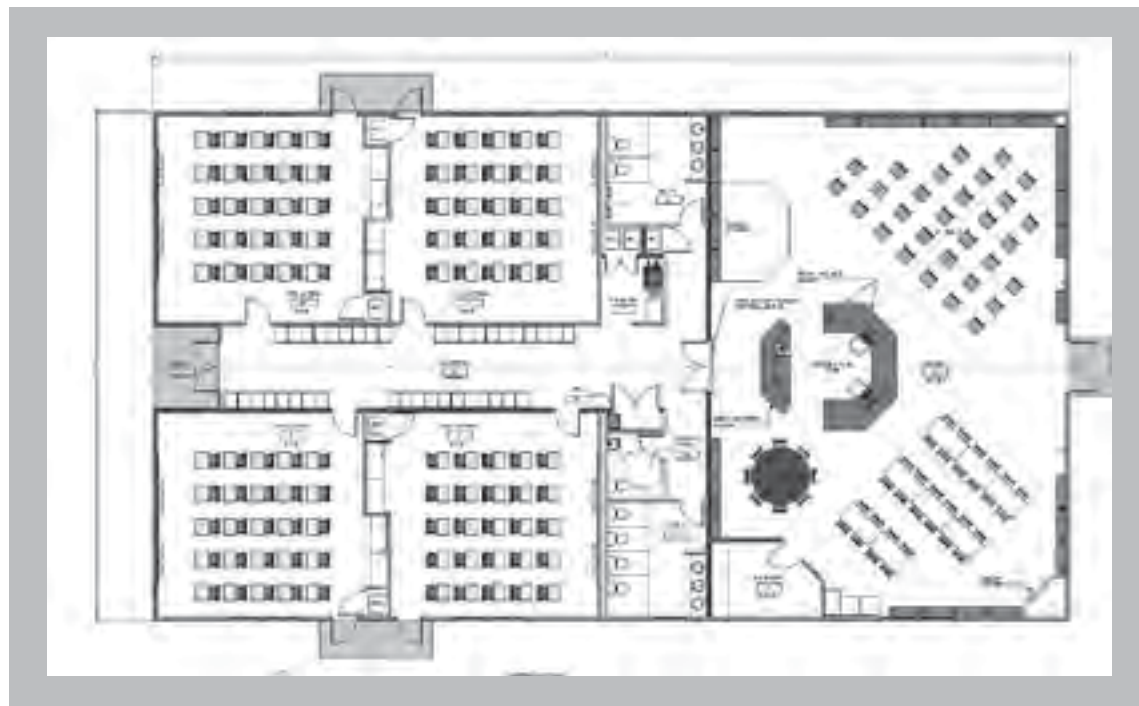
15 Toshiba laptops, an iPad cart with 26 iPad II tablets, and two iPad docking stations with 13 iPad II tablets. All classrooms at Sacred Heart School will also be equipped with Smart Boards.

In addition, Sacred Heart School will be offering for the first time this fall, the Aleks Math Program and Keyboarding On-line.

The contractor for the project has been awarded to Scallan Contractors Inc. of Marksville.



**DEMOLITION.** The former library and the 7th and 8th grade classroom buildings are demolished to make room for the new facility.



# Survey reveals impact of Steubenville on priestly vocations

CARA Report shows that 14 percent of those ordained this year attended at least one conference

STEUBENVILLE, OH — A new report from the Center for Applied Research on the Apostolate (CARA) offers information that highlights Franciscan University of Steubenville's positive influence on priestly vocations in the United States.

The CARA Report, "The Class of 2014: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood," notes that 14 percent of those ordained this year had attended at least one Franciscan University Summer Youth Conference before entering seminary.

That figure has risen steadily with each CARA survey, and is a noticeable increase from the 2010 report, when 8 percent of ordinands reported they once attended a Franciscan University Summer Youth Conference. The figure includes men entering the priesthood within a diocese or a religious order.

"We are grateful that our Youth Conferences motivate so many young men to consider the priesthood," said Father Sean O. Sheridan, TOR, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville. "The conferences powerfully speak the truth of God's love and show forth the beauty of the Church, sparking a generous and courageous response to the Lord's call."

A 2013 study released by CARA in January of this year revealed that 7 percent of women who professed perpetual vows in religious life in the U.S. had also

attended a youth conference in the past.

This summer, Franciscan University will sponsor 20 youth conferences in 11 states and two Canadian provinces and are expected to reach 45,000 youth. Each conference features dynamic Catholic speakers, daily Mass, confession, and eucharistic adoration.

A vocations call at the end of the weekend invites young men and women who are open to discerning priesthood or religious life to come forward for a special blessing. Franciscan University estimates that more than 4,000 teens respond to the vocations call each year.

The survey, prepared for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by CARA, based at Georgetown University, included responses from 365 ordinands.

The survey also asked ordinands about their religious background, education, previous ministry and work experience, encouragement and discouragement to consider the priesthood, and other influences on their vocational decision. The Franciscan University Youth Conferences were cited in the section on participation in Church-sponsored youth ministry programs.



Center for Applied Research on the Apostolate (CARA) Report

## The Class of 2014: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood

Class of 2014	% of ordinants attending at least 1 Steubenville Conference	<b>14 %</b>
Class of 2010	% of ordinants attending at least 1 Steubenville Conference	<b>8 %</b>
Class of 2013	% of women professing perpetual vows who attended at least 1 Steubenville Conference	<b>7 %</b>

### VIRTUS

• **July 15 (Tuesday)** -- 6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

• **Aug. 5 (Tuesday)** -- 12:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

To pre-register, go to [virtus.org](http://virtus.org), and click on Registration (on left side of screen)

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# 73% of young adults want Bible study offered in their parish

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Almost three out of four young adults (73.63 percent), ages 18-39 in the Diocese of Alexandria say they would participate in a Bible Study or in a social gathering (70.33 percent) if it were offered in their parish.

The information was revealed June 3 after the results of a survey, conducted by the Diocese of Alexandria Young Adult office, March 5 - April 15 and distributed throughout the diocese, were tabulated.

Although only 120 responded to the survey (67 percent female and 33 percent male), the responses came from all around the diocese including (in alphabetical order):

- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
- Holy Cross
- Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Mater Dolorosa
- OL of Lourdes (Winnfield)
- OLPS (Alexandria)
- Sacred Heart (Pineville)
- Sacred Heart (Moreauville)
- St. Anthony (Bunkie)
- St. Augustine
- St. Frances Cabrini
- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
- St. John the Baptist
- St. John (Columbia)
- St. Joseph (Marksville)
- St. Mary (Jena)

- St. Mary (Winnsboro)
- St. Mary Assumption
- St. Rita
- Sts. Francis and Anne

Other activities that young adults indicated an interest in include service projects (64.84 percent), retreats (61.54 percent) Eucharistic Adoration (54.95 percent) and faith formation and small faith-sharing groups tied at 50.55 percent.

Topping the list at less than 50 percent is parish involvement (48.35 percent), mission trips (43.96 percent), life skills talks

(41.76 percent), Rosary groups (39.56 percent), and family life workshops (37.36 percent). At the bottom of the list were sports leagues at 28.35 percent.

The best time to participate in activities is weeknights (44.83 percent) or Saturday during the day (19.54 percent).

If any of these activities were offered, the young adults said they would more likely attend monthly (57.47 percent) as opposed to weekly (42.53 percent).

Fifty percent of the respondents said they preferred to be contacted about events via e-mail, followed by Facebook (25

percent) or a text (20.45 percent). Only 3.41 percent said they preferred going to the website and 1.14 percent said they preferred snail mail.

When asked how often they attend Mass, 59.32 percent of the 120 respondents said every Sunday, followed by a few times a week (17.80 percent) and occasionally (2-3 times per month) (11.02 percent).

The number one reason why young adults go to Mass is to receive the Eucharist (77.78 percent), followed by deepening their faith (74.07 percent), to feed

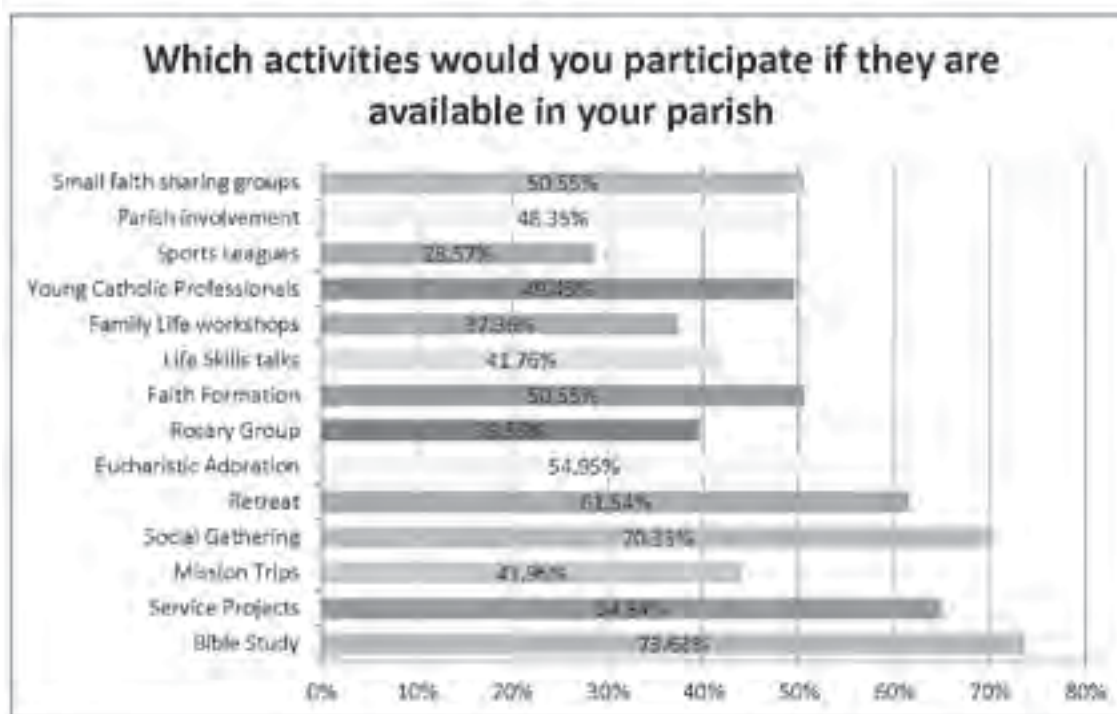
their spiritual hunger (64.81 percent), to pray (56.48 percent), to expose their children to the faith and to experience community (both at 49.07 percent), and because it is a habit (43.52 percent).

The most important element for young adults to attend a church is the ability to learn more about their faith (82.95 percent), that the priest gives good homilies (77.01 percent), and the opportunity to be involved in the parish (76.75 percent).

Other important elements include faith formation for their children (73.33 percent), feeling welcomed (73.03 percent), seeing other young families at church (57.3 percent), having an active Young Adult Ministry (56.47 percent), having convenient Mass times (54.47 percent), seeing other young adults at church (51.72 percent), and having daily Mass (50 percent).

Other elements that are important are having prayer groups (47.68 percent), having a pro-life ministry (45.89 percent) and how the church looks (39.19 percent), and having an adoration chapel (31.4 percent).

When it comes to music 46.43 percent say they prefer traditional music (although an additional 30.95 percent say it is nice to have but not essential); compared to 29.07 percent who say they prefer contemporary music (with 32.56 percent saying it's nice, but not essential).



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# Books, DVDs, and Movies to look for this summer

## BOOKS

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Here's several books about the Sacred Heart that are worth reading:

### The Imitation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

By: Rev. Fr. Peter J. Arnoudt S.J.

Jesus speaks to the reader—through the author, of course—in short, easy-to-understand chapters that are filled with wisdom. Thereafter the student of the spiritual life—representing ourselves—speaks to Jesus. Renders a unique and powerful effect upon the soul!

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### Devotion To The Sacred Heart Of Jesus

By: Rev. Fr. John Croiset

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### Devotion to the Sacred Heart

By: Mary Frances Lester

A powerful little booklet filled with many of the treasures to be found in the veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Explains the symbolism found within the Image of the Sacred Heart, the 9 First Fridays devotion (The Great Promise), the miraculous cure of St. Gemma Galgani and many profound exhortations to offer reparation to the Sacred Heart.

To order, go to [www.tanbooks.com](http://www.tanbooks.com)



## MOVIES

### Son of God

Released on DVD June 3, 2014

In the Holy Land, the Roman occupation has produced a cauldron of oppression, anxiety and excessive taxes levied upon the Jewish people. Fearing the wrath of Roman governor Pontius Pilate (Greg Hicks), Jewish high priest Caiaphas (Adrian Schiller) tries to keep control of his people. That control is threatened when Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, performing miracles and spreading messages of love and hope. Those who fear that Jesus will inspire a revolution decide that he must die.



### A Time for Miracles

Order online at [www.atimeformiracles.org](http://www.atimeformiracles.org)

A true story of a healing in Medjugorje produced and directed by Jack Sacco. When Artie Boyle, the father of thirteen children from Boston, Massachusetts, was diagnosed with deadly lung cancer, he and his family were devastated. As a last resort, he traveled to the tiny village of Medjugorje in Bosnia to seek a miraculous healing.

A Time For Miracles documents Artie's emotional journey into the unknown and the remarkable series of events that forever changed his life.



### Ida

An independent film coming soon to select theatres

Set in Poland, 1960s. Anna, a young novice nun is told by her prioress that before her vows can be taken, she is to visit her family. Anna visits her aunt Wanda, a judge and former prosecutor associated with the stalinist regime, who dispassionately reveals that Anna's actual name is Ida Lebenstein, and that her Jewish parents were murdered during the war. Ida decides she wants to find their resting place. She and Wanda embark on a journey that both sheds light on their past, and decides their futures. Filmed in black/white; Polish dialogue; English subtitles.



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# *The Railway Man* is graphic, but historically accurate

## Former WWII POW struggles with emotional trauma of working on Burma Railway

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Human cruelty takes its toll in "The Railway Man" (Weinstein), a searing account of a former prisoner of war who is unable to overcome the emotional trauma of his past.

Directed by Jonathan Teplitzky ("Burning Man"), the movie is based on Eric Lomax's 1995 autobiography of the same title. During World War II, Lomax was one of thousands of British-led Allied troops taken prisoner by Japanese forces following the latter's 1942 capture of Singapore.

The stunning fall of that stronghold -- the "Gibraltar of the East" -- was, in Winston Churchill's words, the "worst disaster" in British military history.

Prisoners of war like Lomax were forced into slave labor to build the notorious Burma Railway, which became known as the "Death Railway" because of the thousands who perished during its construction. This is the same railroad featured in the fictional 1957 film "The Bridge Over the River Kwai."

"The Railway Man" begins three decades after the war. Lomax (Colin Firth) lives an unsettled, absent-minded existence in Scotland. He whiles away the days taking rail journeys around the country. On one such trip, he sits opposite Patti (Nicole Kid-



**'THE RAILWAY MAN.** Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman star in the movie "The Railway Man" as a married couple struggling with the shadow of war that looms over their marriage. After seeking help for his post-traumatic stress disorder, the former POW discovers his tormentor during the war is now a guide at the internment camp (which is now a WWII museum) where he was so severely tortured. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian. (CNS photo/The Weinstein Company)

man), a retired nurse. Sparks fly (shades of 1945's "Brief Encounter"), and they wed.

But the long shadow of war looms over their marriage. Lomax has terrifying nightmares, and his behavior is erratic, at times violent. Patti can see he is shell-shocked, crippled by post-traumatic stress disorder. But he refuses to discuss what happened

in the internment camp.

Desperate to help him, Patti seeks out Lomax's friend and fellow POW Finlay (Stellan Skarsgard) for advice and insight.

"My husband is a mess," she says. "I don't believe in this code of silence you have."

"War leaves a mark," Finlay notes.

As Finlay fills in the details,

the story unfolds in flashback. The younger Lomax (Jeremy Irvine) and Finlay (Sam Reid) are radio engineers when the surrender forces them into servitude. Determined to survive, and possibly escape, they secretly construct a radio. Broadcasts reveal that the Allies have turned the tide, which gives the prisoners hope.

## MOVIE REVIEW

Their joy is short-lived, however; their captors discover the device. To spare his comrades, Lomax steps forward to receive the punishment, overseen by Takeshi Nagase (Tanroh Ishida), a Japanese interpreter. Lomax's repeated beatings and torture are staged in graphic but historically accurate detail -- they are certainly not a sight for the squeamish.

At this point the plot takes a remarkable turn: The elder Lomax discovers that Nagase (now played by Hiroyuki Sanada) is alive, and working as a guide at the internment camp, which has been turned into a museum. Longing for revenge, Lomax decides to travel to the Far East to confront his tormentor.

Despite its negative moral trajectory at this stage, in the end, "The Railway Man" offers an unexpected and powerful lesson fully in line with scriptural values.

The film contains graphic scenes of violence, including torture, and a suicide. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



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## Illuminated Rosary

St. Joseph Church in Marksville has begun its annual 5-month Illuminated Rosary every Thursday from May 15 -Oct. 30. The Illuminated Rosary coincides with May, the Month of Mary, and concludes in October, the Month of the Holy Rosary.

The Rosary is prayed at 8:15 p.m. before an illuminated Rosary located outside on the grounds of the parish hall. As each prayer is recited, a light on the 16' X 16' Rosary board lights up. When the Rosary is completed, the entire Rosary is lit up on the board against the night sky.

In September, the time will change to 7:15 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary is prayed in the church.

Bring the whole family and pray the Rosary with us!

## Seminar on Christian Healing

Christos Encounter: Seminars on Christian Healing prayer, will be offered this summer over three weekends at Maryhill Renewal Center, by Jim and Dr. Christy Goo-tee and the Two Hearts Team. The class brings you much healing and teaches you to pray for others as well. The course is progressive and will be held June 28-29; July 19-20; and Aug. 9-10. The hours are from 9 a.m. Saturday to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Each weekend costs \$100, which includes course manual and teaching material. Overnight stay is available for \$40 extra per night. For more information or to register call 318-641-6745 or email [jcgootee@gmail.com](mailto:jcgootee@gmail.com).

## Teen ACTS Retreat

A Teen ACTS Retreat (sponsored by Mater Dolorosa Church) will be held July 17-20 at Cecil J. Picard Rec/Ed Center for teens entering grades 10-12. Interaction with youth monitored by adults concerning religious, spiritual, moral and social matters through prayer, scripture and personal sharing. The cost of the retreat is \$135 with a required \$50 deposit. For more information, or to register



**CDA COURT BISHOP GRECO #2072.** Nita St. Andria (left) and Edna Smith of Catholic Daughters Court Bishop Greco #2072, Pineville present a check to Fr. Scott Chemino, V.G., for the Seminarian Education Fund.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS



**OLPS STATUE.** The OLS Cookie Jar Baker on Brown's Bend Road recently received a statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor to grace the entrance of the store. Sister Linda Norsworthy, OLS and Janet Perkins supervise the workers who are (kneeling) and

Fresh cakes, rolls and cookies are baked daily for sale to the community. Gene Hymel has made it his personal mission to place statues of Our Lady of Prompt Succor at every parish in the diocese.

contact Karen McCoy at 318-359-0710 or email at [kmc-coy@gmail.com](mailto:kmc-coy@gmail.com) or Stacey Dixon 337-258-9650 or email at [stacdxn@yahoo.com](mailto:stacdxn@yahoo.com).

## Knights of Peter Claver Convention

The 99th annual national convention of the Knights of Peter Claver and the 84th annual national convention of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary will be held July 25-29 in Mobile, Ala.

## Catechist Training

A training workshop in teaching skills for all catechists will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (identical workshops) in the large conference room at the Diocese of Alexandria Office (4400 Coliseum Blvd.-Hwy. 28 West). The cost is \$10, including lunch. Registration is required by July 30. To register, email [emccullough@diocesealex.org](mailto:emccullough@diocesealex.org) or leave a message at (318) 445-6424 ext. 251.



## MENARD STUDENTS PLACE 2nd IN STATE CDA CONTEST.

Top pic: won 2nd place in the Essay Contest at the Louisiana State Court CDA, and Jessica Lemoine, English teacher, received the Golden Egg Award. Bottom pic: also placed 2nd in the State CDA contest for Computer Art and her art teacher, Barbara Clover, received the Gold Egg Award. Ada Bergeron, CDA Education chairman from CDA Court Bishop Desmond #1459 is pictured in both.



**ST. FRANCES CABRINI SANCTUARY SOCIETY.** Members of the St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society celebrated an Installation Mass May 14 with Fr. Chad Partain, pastor, as the celebrant. A luncheon was held following the Mass. Pictured are front row: Cataline White, Marjorie Johnson, Mona Roy, Fr. Chad Partain, Jean Reed, Becky Single, Lenora Fant, and Claris Genius. Row 2: Lois Soileau, Agnes D'Angelo, Agatha Richard, Carmelina De Valle, Sue Cayer, Mary Tate, Judy Al-liston, and Beverly Young. Row 3: Jackie Pousson, Maynette Dobard, Sadie Viellon, Pat Cook, Mary Jeansonne.

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# June - July

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville		Ordination of Taylor Reynolds 10 a.m. SFX Cathedral Alexandria	
					Seminar on Christian Healing - Part I, Maryhill	
PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU	PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY	PRAY FOR FR. J. RETNAZHAMONI	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ	PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROY
30	JULY 1	2	3	4	5	6
			Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville			
				INDEPENDENCE DAY FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	
PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY			PRAY FOR FR. S. SOARES
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville			
Vacation Bible School -- St. Frances Cabrini School (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)						
Vacation Bible School -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville (9 a.m. - 12 noon)						
PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA	PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMAN	PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS
14	VIRTUS 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Ctr. -- Alexandria	15	16	17	18	19
			Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville			
Vacation Bible School -- St. Rita, Alexandria (8 a.m. -12:15 p.m.)						
Vacation Bible School -- St. Frances Cabrini School (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)						
Vacation Bible School -- St. Genevieve, Brouillette, (5:30 -8:30 p.m.)						
Vacation Bible School -- Little Flower, Evergreen/St. Charles, Goudeau						
			Teen ACTS Retreat -- Cecil Picard Rec Center			
PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	PRAY FOR FR. A. VELEZ	PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO	PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	Seminar on Christian Healing - Part II, Maryhill PRAY FOR FR. R. YOUNG	PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville			
Vacation Bible School -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville (9 a.m. - 12 noon)						
				Knights of Peter Claver Convention -- Mobile, Ala.		
PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. A. CATELLA	PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY



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