

# CHURCH TODAY

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January 18, 2016

## ON THE INSIDE

### **Thousands expected to participate in first Cenla Life March Jan. 30**

Gather your friends and family now and make plans to participate in the first Louisiana Life March in Central Louisiana on Saturday, Jan. 30. Read more about it on page 5.

### **DOA Supt. of Catholic Schools Thomas Roque appointed to BESE**

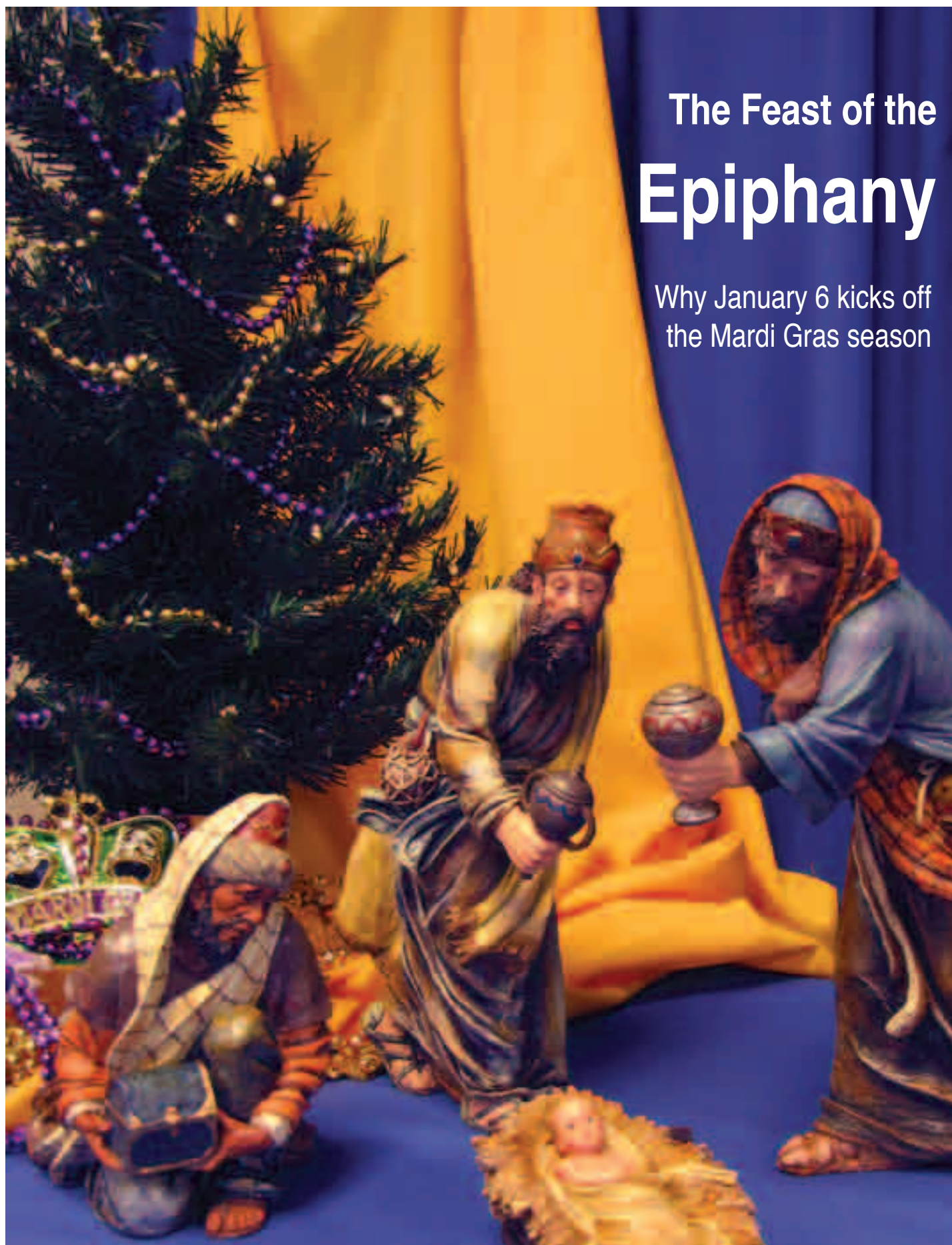
Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Alexandria Thomas E. Roque has been appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Find out all of the details and more on page 13.

### **Christmas around the diocese**

Christmas was a joyful and spiritual celebration around the diocese as schools and churches re-enacted the Christmas story and sang sacred Christmas songs. Go to pages 16-17 for a gallery of Christmas photos.

## The Feast of the Epiphany

Why January 6 kicks off  
the Mardi Gras season



## Canada on track to welcome 25,000 Syrian refugees, says ambassador

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) -- As a cautious world rang in the New Year with concerns over terrorism and security, Catholics in Canada were continuing to welcome Syrian refugees to their newly adopted homeland.

The Canadian target of accepting 25,000 Syrian refugees by late February "is well in hand, and we should meet it with no problem," Bruno Saccomani, Canadian ambassador to Jordan, told Catholic News Service Dec. 30. "That includes privately sponsored and government-sponsored Syrian refugees."

Martin Mark, who directs the Office for Refugees in the Archdiocese of Toronto, told Catholic News Service in early January, "Even in the night, we received

new people and also new notices from Amman, the Jordanian capital, that we will be getting around 300 people."

Canada has one of the biggest resettlement programs in the world for Syrian refugees, and the Toronto archdiocesan office, known as ORAT, provides advice, support and assistance to civic sponsors in Canada, including parishes, communities and universities wishing to aid refugees.

"I consider it as an emergency evacuation because of the large number of people coming and the last-minute arrangements," Mark told CNS. "The refugees were en route for one or two days and with the excitement; everyone was really tired when they arrived."

Mark was a refugee from Hungary 15 years ago and said he personally understands the difficulties faced by those escaping conflict and discrimination. The former veterinarian was forced to flee factions in his native Hungary who resented his work on behalf of victims of racism.

Mark said ORAT focuses mainly on privately sponsored refugees. "Only if there is a special need, the government asks us to help with government-sponsored refugees under the joint-assistance sponsorship program," he said. This is mainly for refugees who face severe medical needs.

"We identify our refugees, select and screen them, do all the preparations and pay the bill,"

Mark said of ORAT's private sponsorship. "So we are financially responsible for each and every refugee that we bring into the country."

Mark said that in 2015, ORAT initiated sponsorship and resettlement for 2,300 refugees worldwide. Ninety percent, mainly Iraqis and Syrians, came from the Middle East.

Saccomani said increased numbers of Canadian govern-

ment personnel on the ground in the Middle East have permitted the processing of refugees to go faster to reach the February goal, without sacrificing stringent security measures.

He said immigration, security, medical and military services have been mobilized for the effort in which "normal vetting processes involved with any immigrating to Canada have been maintained."

## Lebanon strains under weight of refugees

BEIRUT (CNS) -- While the flow of migrants into Europe and the West has sparked controversy, Lebanon continues to bear the brunt of absorbing massive numbers of refugees. A commonly cited figure is that one in four people in Lebanon is displaced from Syria.

"They are everywhere ... in all of Lebanon," Father Paul Karam, president of Caritas Lebanon, told Catholic News Service of the presence of Syrian refugees in the country, which is roughly two-thirds the size of the state of Connecticut.

There are no formal refugee camps in Lebanon. Rather, some Syrians establish -- with the permission of the local municipality -- informal tent settlements. Others find ways to rent space in apartments or squat in abandoned buildings.

As of November, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

calculated there were nearly 1.1 million registered refugees living in Lebanon -- but not all refugees are registered with the U.N. agency.

The true scale of the influx is that there are more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, equal to almost one-third of the country's existing Lebanese population of nearly 4 million, Father Karam said. In addition, there are 20,000 Iraqi refugees.

Although Jordan and Turkey are also hosting Syrian refugees, Father Karam noted Jordan is almost eight times the size of Lebanon, and Turkey about 24 times larger. According to a UNHCR report released Dec. 18, Lebanon hosts more refugees compared to its population size than any other country.

"The Lebanese have shown a real spirit of welcoming the refugees. They help them, they are assisting them, but of course

this cannot continue for too many years," he told CNS.

Most of the Iraqi refugees are Christian, and about 97 percent of the Syrian refugees are Muslim, Father Karam said. Consequently, the overwhelming presence of Syrian refugees upsets the demographic balance of Lebanon, which is about 40 percent Christian.

"It will destabilize the system," Father Karam warned.

Lebanon's demography is based on 18 religious confessions, 12 of which are Christian.

At least 65,000 Syrian babies born in Lebanon since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict are stateless, with no identification documents. Their births are not registered in Lebanon or in Syria.



**CANADA SYRIA REFUGEES.** Syrian refugees wait to register at the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Amman, Jordan, Dec. 11. More than 1,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan were interviewed for a potential chance to go to Canada. (CNS photo/Muhammad Hamed, Reuters)

"So, shall Lebanon have another story with the new, let me say, scenario, with Syria?" Father Karam asked. He cited the presence of Palestinians in Lebanon for more than 60 years "and nobody has resolved their problem." Currently, there are about 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, most in areas agreed upon between Palestinians and the Lebanese state;

these areas are commonly referred to as camps.

On a practical level, Lebanon's infrastructure cannot cope with such a huge number of refugees. Even before waves of Syrian refugees began descending upon the country more than four years ago, Lebanon had grappled with shortages in water and electricity.

Martha Neil Anthony



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# Obama vetoes Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act

Bill would have defunded Planned Parenthood, repealed key parts of ObamaCare

LIFENEWS.COM -- President Obama vetoed the reconciliation bill Jan. 7 that would have defunded Planned Parenthood and repealed key part of ObamaCare.

The House voted 240-181 to defund Planned Parenthood with republicans voting 239-3 for the bill and Democrats voting 1-178 against it.

Leading pro-life groups applauded passage of the bill, which is the first time a measure defunding the nation's abortion corporation has gone to the desk of any president.

"For the first time in nearly 50 years, the president had the option to decide up or down on a bill that defunds Planned Parenthood, America's largest abortion provider," Susan B. Anthony List president Marjorie Dannenfelser told LifeNews.

"It is the first bill ever to get to the president's desk that would have achieved this longtime pro-life goal. We applaud the House and Senate's passage of this reconciliation legislation as the most important vehicle for actually achieving the goal of defunding Planned Parenthood."

Although Obama vetoed the bill, Dannenfelser said the vote is important because it shows a similar de-funding bill can get to a pro-life president in 2017.

"The reconciliation process which brought this bill to the president's desk is the most important process because it is the one way to avoid a Senate filibuster, ensuring a similar bill could go to pro-life president in 2017," she said.

Following Obama's veto, House Republican leaders will push for a veto override vote on Jan. 26. That vote would come



**PLANNED PARENTHOOD PROTESTERS** carry signs and an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe outside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Vista, Calif., Aug. 3. Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, urged U.S. senators to take the federal money that goes to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and instead fund women's health care providers that do not promote abortion. (CNS photo/Mike Blake, Reuters)

just days after more than half a million Americans are expected to march for life in the nation's capital and solemnly mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which has resulted in the deaths of 57 million unborn babies since 1973.

Both the House and Senate needed a two-third vote (67%) to override Obama's expected veto. The House passed the bill in October on a 55% vote margin with virtually every Democrat voting against it.

Leading pro-life groups say the passage of the Planned Parenthood de-funding bill and the subsequent veto and override votes sets up the pro-life movement for the 2016 elections — where

pro-life voters will need to defeat pro-abortion Hillary Clinton and elect a pro-life president if they want the nation's biggest abortion business de-funded in 2017.

"As we learned from the reconciliation fight to defund Planned Parenthood, we CAN advance pro-life legislation through the Senate... but the veto pen of a pro-abortion president remains our biggest road block," Susan B. Anthony List spokeswoman Jill Stanek says.

"Only when we elect a pro-life president (and retain our pro-life majorities in Congress), can we get a bill defunding Planned Parenthood signed into law."

The bill would block, for one

year, most federal payments to Planned Parenthood. At least 89% of federal funding of Planned Parenthood would be blocked by this bill. The bill would repeal a number of major components of the Obamacare health law, including two of the major provisions that will lead to rationing of lifesaving care — the "Independent Payment Advisory Board" and the "excess benefits tax."

In August, Senate Democrats defeated an effort to revoke taxpayer funding for the Planned Parenthood abortion business by filibustering the bill and preventing a vote on it. Republicans were unable to secure the 60 votes needed to invoke cloture and stop

*For the first time in 50 years, Congress passed a bill to defund Planned Parenthood; and for the first time in 50 years, a president had the option to decide whether or not to defund Planned Parenthood.*

debate on the bill, allowing an up or down vote. Republicans could only get 53 votes to shut off debate.

Then, in September, Senate Democrats voted to defeat a government funding bill that would defund the Planned Parenthood abortion business after it was caught in a series of 10 videos selling aborted babies and their body parts. The Senate voted 52 to 47 against ending debate.

Dozens of leading pro-life groups have already indicated their support for the bill, including the National Right to Life Committee. In a letter to members of Congress that NRLC provided to LifeNews.com, the group indicated it strongly supports the bill to de-fund Planned Parenthood.

"NRLC strongly supports the language in the bill that would block, for one year, most federal payments to affiliates of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA).

It would close the largest pipeline for federal funding of Planned Parenthood, Medicaid, and apply as well to the CHIP and the Title V and Title XX block grant programs, thus covering roughly 89% of all federal funds to Planned Parenthood. The amounts denied to Planned Parenthood in effect are reallocated to community health centers," the pro-life group explained.

A new Congressional report finds that de-funding Planned Parenthood would save the federal government \$235 million.

The reconciliation bill also repeals portions of Obamacare, including its rationing components. With regard to the rationing aspects of Obamacare, NRLC strongly supports a repeal.

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# DAY ONE

January 18, 2014

**Intercession:**

For the mother who awakens each morning with the memory of abortion fresh in her mind, that the Lord may still the terror in her heart and lead her gently to the well-spring of his love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May she, and all who've been involved in an abortion decision, find healing and hope through Project Rachel Ministry.

**Prayer:**

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

**Reflection:**

Today's Gospel reading from Mark recounts Jesus dining with tax collectors and sinners. When the Pharisees question Jesus about this, he responds: "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." In a society where millions of people have fallen prey to the false promises of the culture of death, let us witness to the mercy of Jesus and invite all who've been harmed to experience his abundant love and healing.





Image: A view of Our Lady of Guadalupe's womb with in the Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria in the Basilica of the Holy Mother of the Most Holy (Vatican City, Italy, Dec. 15, 1531) (Universal History)

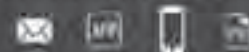
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Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

9daysforlife.com

4 WAYS TO JOIN



# 9 DAYS FOR LIFE

PRAYER • PENANCE • PILGRIMAGE

On Jan. 22 our nation will mark the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the U.S.

Since that tragic decision, more than 56 million children's lives have been lost to abortion, and many suffer that loss -- often in silence.

Join thousands of Catholics across the country in prayer for a 9-Day Novena for Life from Monday, Jan. 18, 2016 - Tuesday, Jan. 26.

There are many ways to participate in the Pro-Life effort:

**1. Pray the 9 Days for Life Novena** -- Jan. 18 - Jan. 26. (The first day of the novena is printed at left.) Go to the USCCB website -- [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) -- to download and print the full 9-day novena. You can also sign up to receive the novena sent to your phone each day either as a text or as an email. Visit the USCCB website for full details.

**2. Organize a Day of Prayer** on Jan. 22. Go to the USCCB website for prayer resources under Life Issues, Pro-Life Activities, January Roe Events.

**3. Participate in any of the Life Marches** in Louisiana or the National Life March in Washington, D.C. See the list of Louisiana Marches on the next page.

**4. 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.

EXTRAORDINARY  
JUBILEE YEAR  
OF Mercy



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found my peace, my life, my  
hope -- St. Mary Magdalene

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# January 30, 2016: Join us for Louisiana Life March

## Thousands expected to participate in 1st Life March in Central Louisiana

Gather your friends and family and make plans now to participate in the first Louisiana Life March in Central Louisiana on Saturday, Jan. 30.

That's right -- no need to travel to the North event in Shreveport/Bossier or the South event in Baton Rouge. It's all happening right here in Central Louisiana and is expected to attract a huge crowd.

The march will be held 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.

According to a press release from Ben Clapper, executive director of Louisiana Right to Life, the 2016 theme of the march is "Life is Priceless!"



**LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH.** Thousands of people are expected to participate in the first annual Louisiana Life March to be held Saturday, Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. Participants are asked to gather on the campus of Louisiana College no later than 9:45 a.m. The marchers will walk from the LC campus, across the Jackson Street Bridge, and end in downtown Alexandria. For more information, go to [prolifelouisiana.org](http://prolifelouisiana.org).

"Our vision for every event is to unite the pro-life people of Louisiana from across denominational lines and mobilize them to

make a difference in their communities," said Clapper.

The events are family-friendly and open to all.

With horrendous videos highlighting Planned Parent-

hood's sale of baby body parts, we must remind the world that human lives are valuable and priceless. In Luke 12:6-7, Jesus reminds us the value of each human life: "Are not five sparrows

sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Plan to march with others in 2016 and take a stand for the priceless value of every human life.

In addition to the first Life March in Central Louisiana, the other two Louisiana Life Marches (North in Shreveport-Bossier and the Life March South in Baton Rouge) will (for the first time) both be held simultaneously on the same day, Saturday, Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. - noon.

Sponsors of the event include 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.

If you would like to request promotional materials for your church or organization, please contact the Louisiana Right to Life office at 1.866.463.5433 or [info@prolifelouisiana.org](mailto:info@prolifelouisiana.org). We have posters and flyers available free!

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Once again we have celebrated the Christmas Season and begun a new calendar year.

In addition to Christmas Day, we celebrated the feast of the Holy Family, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

During this month we celebrated the death of Bishop Greco three decades ago with a Mass in the main chapel at Maryhill on Jan. 17.

People often make resolutions at the beginning of each new year. At times these provide more humor than real resolve. However, beginning something new is actually a very good idea,



## ONE IN THE LORD

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

especially as we continue to focus on this Year of Mercy. Perhaps a resolution might mean taking time to once again experience the gift of God's mercy.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one of the four receptions in thanksgiving for your

generosity in gifts to last year's annual Diocesan Appeal.

May 2016 be rich in blessings, especially the gift of mercy.

## EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



## Keeping elders connected: a simple, do-able Work of Mercy

During a recent family reunion my elderly mother and I were the only ones at the table without smart phones. We felt left out. A few days later I read that Pope Francis advised parents to ban mobile devices from the dinner table to help restore the quality of family relationships.

These two occurrences reminded me of the life of our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. In her time the poor were essentially swept aside in the wake of the French Revolution and rapid industrialization. Today we are experiencing a different type of revolution as digital technologies evolve nearly every day.

New modes of social communication, it is claimed, foster unimagined levels of human connectedness. But just as the poor and elderly were marginalized in Saint Jeanne Jugan's day, they are often left behind in the communications revolution of today when they lack the means or the know-how to keep up with the latest technology. Consider these statistics from the Pew Internet and American Life Project:

- While 95 percent of millennials own cell phones, less than half of those over 75 own one. Only 18 percent of seniors own a smart phone.
- Only 10 percent of those belonging to the G.I. Generation own a laptop, compared with 70 percent of Millennials and 65 percent of Baby Boomers.
- Only 27 percent of older adults engage in online social networking.



## GUEST EDITORIAL

Sister Constance Veit, LSP  
Little Sisters of the Poor

• Younger, higher-income and more highly educated seniors use the internet more than those who are older or of more modest means. For both groups, usage drops off dramatically after age 75.

Regardless of age, users of social networking say they interact more with other digitally connected people than with those who do not use digital communication. These new forms of technology, with their rapid changes, have created a new generation gap.

Recently I was shocked to read that more than one million older people in the United Kingdom go a month without talking to another human being. This figure would surely be comparable in our own country. Such loneliness is deadly! Studies show that inadequate social interaction is linked to premature death. The increased mortality risk associated with loneliness is comparable to smoking, and twice as great as the risk associated with obesity!

I hope you find this data as startling as I do. Through Pope Francis' repeated calls for a cul-

ture of encounter I believe God is asking us to do something to relieve the social isolation of the elderly and poor. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy he is inviting us to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; among these are visiting the sick and imprisoned and comforting the afflicted.

So what can we do? If you know an older person, who has the means but not the know-how to access digital media, then practice mercy by teaching them how to use the technology they already own.

For those unable to afford computers and smart phones, as well as those whose physical or cognitive limitations prevent them from being able to use them, visit them with your laptop on a regular basis and facilitate their connection to long-distance loved ones via Skype or a similar platform.

Finally, enrich the lives of the elderly through real, in-person face time. What better way could there be to celebrate the Jubilee of Mercy than to commit to spending time with our elderly loved

ones or homebound neighbors and sharing a meal or a memory with them?

Pope Francis inspires us to practice this form of mercy: "Sharing and knowing how to share is a precious virtue!" he said. "Its symbol, its 'icon,' is the family gathered around the dinner table. The sharing of meals – and in addition to food also of affection, of stories, of events – is a common experience."

The pope added, "A family that hardly ever eats together, or that does not talk at the table but

watches television, or looks at a smartphone is a 'barely familial' family ... It is like a boarding house!"

Let's apply the pope's thinking to our relationships with elders. Let's do all we can to make sure that family togetherness and intergenerational bonds grow stronger during this Jubilee Year of Mercy!

*Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States.*

## CHURCH TODAY

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# Solemnity of the Epiphany kicks off the season of Mardi Gras

By Dan Gonzalez  
MassExplained.com

Many children in Miami did not receive the bulk of their presents from Santa on December 25. Throughout Latin America, Spain and in U.S. cities with dense hispanic populations, January 6th is the day when Los Reyes Magos (The Magi) bring gifts to good little boys and girls.

In addition to presents, Reyes traditions include Rosca de Reyes—an oval sweetbread containing a figurine of the infant Jesus. The hidden baby symbolizes the desire to find for the Christ child a safe haven protected from King Herod's persecution. Colorful parades and lively music round out the festivities.

The holiday marks the adoration of the baby Jesus by the Wise Men. On the Church calendar, this day is called the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord and in 2016, will be celebrated on Sunday, January 3rd. The biblical narrative can be found in the Gospel according to Matthew.

### Exclusive to Matthew

Each of the four Gospel accounts tells of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. All four



**BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY.** Father Chad Partain, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria, blesses the Nativity during a special Mass celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany or sometimes called the Feast of the Three Kings. Immediately following the Mass, the parishioners gathered for a "burning of the greens" -- officially kicking off the Mardi Gras season -- and then celebrated in the parish hall with Mardi Gras cake and music.

record the miraculous feeding of 5,000 from five loaves and two fish. All four Gospels document Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his agony in the garden, his passion

and death on a cross. All four also tell of the resurrection—the heart of the Christian faith and common ground among all Christian denominations.

But despite their similarities, each Gospel contains particular details and complete stories not found in the other three. And it is these distinctions that help paint a clearer and more complete portrait of Jesus, his message and his mission.

The narrative of the Wise Men is one of them. Very few details are provided concerning these mysterious magi.

The only mention is recorded in the second chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, where they are described as coming from the East. The Bible gives no indication as to their country of origin, but scholars have suggested Media, Persia, Assyria or Babylonia.

The Scriptures also do not reveal how many there were, or their names. Since three gifts are mentioned, tradition has placed their number at three. Some time before 600, tradition had given the names Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Today, these gifts carry little significance, but to those who heard and read this account at that time, the gifts spoke volumes. present

### These three gifts

The three gifts were prophetic of Christ's offices of King, Priest, and Savior:

Gold is a precious metal symbolic of royalty and wealth. In ancient times it was common to give gold as a sign of tribute to a new king.

Frankincense is an aromatic tree resin. Its name comes from incense of Franks since it was re-introduced to Europe by Frankish Crusaders. It was used by Jewish priests in temple rituals. The gift is symbolic of Jesus' role as eternal High Priest and of his sacrificial offering.

Myrrh is a gum resin used in making ointments and perfumes. It was also used in the embalming of the dead—a symbol of Jesus' future suffering and death.

Matthew narrates that the first people to recognize Jesus as king of the Jews and adore him are the magi who are from the east—not Jewish. This shows that Jesus' kingship is not only for Israel, but is universal. Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the long-awaited Messiah of Jewish prophecy and expectation—the anointed one and heir to King David's throne. But more than that, he is savior of the entire world.

What is documented, however, is that they followed a star and travelled a great distance to Bethlehem in search of the newborn king of the Jews. The ancients believed that, at the time of a king's birth, a new star would appear in the night sky.

Upon finding Jesus, they prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him



**BURNING OF THE GREENS.** Father Chad Partain and parishioners from St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria watch the "burning of the greens" -- which was a large pile of green Christmas trees -- to welcome in the season of Mardi Gras.

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## CASA offers training for those considering being a child advocate

Every day in this country, 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect, and four of them will die.

Every day.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of nearly 1,000 community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.

As children enter the foster care system, a volunteer advocate is assigned to monitor their case, as it precedes through the welfare and judicial system.

Volunteer advocates—empowered directly by the courts—offer judges the critical information they need to ensure that each child's rights and needs are being attended to while in foster care.

This includes monthly visits to your CASA child in his/her foster home and attending family meetings and court hearings about twice a year. The average time spent volunteering is about 5



hours per month.

Some volunteers work full-time, while others are retired. Regardless of how much spare time you have, becoming an advocate is for people who are willing to make time for a child.

Volunteers stay with children until they are placed in loving permanent homes. For many abused children, a CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives.

If you are interested and would like to be considered for training, the first step is to complete an online application, which can be found on our website at [www.rapidescac.org](http://www.rapidescac.org).

After you apply, you will be notified to tell you more about volunteering with CASA.

If we think you would make a great advocate for foster children, you will be invited to join us for training.

In the training process, you learn about court procedures, social services, juvenile court systems and the unique needs of abused and neglected children. The six-week training course to become a CASA Advocate consists of 18 hours of in class training and 15 hours of independent online training.

For more information, contact Natalie North at [nnorth@rapidescac.org](mailto:nnorth@rapidescac.org) or phone 318-445-5678 ext. 3012, or come by one of our offices (1751 Jackson St. or 1506 Albert St.) to learn more about CASA.

### Avoyelles Parish Training Schedule:

Tuesday, January 5	Orientation	5pm-7pm
Tuesday, January 12	Session 1 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Tuesday, January 19	Session 2 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Tuesday, January 26	Session 3 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Tuesday, February 2	Session 4 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Monday, February 8	Session 5 discussion	5pm-8:30pm

### Rapides Parish Training Schedule:

Thursday, January 7	Orientation	5pm-7pm
Thursday, January 14	Session 1 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Thursday, January 21	Session 2 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Thursday, January 28	Session 3 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Thursday, February 4	Session 4 discussion	5pm-8:30pm
Thursday, February 11	Session 5 discussion	5pm-8:30pm



**ST. PETER (Bordelonville) ALTAR SOCIETY'S NEW BANNER.** Members of the St. Peter Altar Society of Bordelonville along with Father Ramji Shoury met on Dec. 7 to unveil the new Altar Society banner. The banner represents the faith and aspirations of the work and dedication of its members. The original and old banner, which is approximately 60 years old, has been adorned and currently hanging in the vestibule of St. Peter Church.

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### Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office Principal Opening 2016-17 School Year

#### Ascension Catholic School

Donaldsonville, LA

The Diocese of Baton Rouge has thirty schools in eight civil parishes, with strong Catholic identity the focus in all schools. The district is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and standardized test scores are above state and national averages.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge

*Evangelize Hearts, Educate Minds, Encourage Talent  
and Embrace the Future*

Ascension Catholic was founded in 1842 and currently serves 516 students in Grades PK - 12. With 40 professional staff members, the school has a mission of teaching the Catholic faith and being responsive to the needs of the day. The school recently completed the self-study process for re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (AdvancED).

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Practicing Catholic Required
2. Minimum of 5 years of Experience in Catholic Schools Preferred
3. Demonstrated Leadership Ability, Preferably in Catholic Education
4. Must meet LA State Dept. of Education Requirements as Non-Public Administrator
5. Must be Available on or before July 1, 2016

Mail resume, copies of all college transcript(s) showing degrees, and three letters of recommendation to

Ascension Catholic Principal Search  
Catholic Schools Office  
P.O. Box 2028  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

**Deadline for application: February 29, 2016**

The schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at this school. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.





**ST. RITA CHURCH SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER.** St. Rita Church reached out to others during the Christmas season and offered gifts. (Far left) Father Craig Scott and Sister Nell Murray deliver presents to CLASS -- Central Louisiana Aids Support Service. (Center) Sister Nell delivers gifts to Volunteers of America. (Far right) Father Taylor Reynolds delivers Christmas presents to Hope House. All money and gifts were donated by parishioners and the St. Rita CCD family.



**ST. JULIANA SECURITY MINISTRY.** A new Security Ministry was formed at St. Juliana Church a few months ago. The ministry is in charge of providing a safe environment for all who come to worship at St. Juliana. Additionally, they review and update security measures, survey the property for safety hazards, periodically review and update the implemented Natural Disaster Action Plan which includes shelter and evacuation. The ministry is made up of law enforcement officials and lay people. Pictured are (from left) Chairman Winston Bell (RPSO), Cleveland Oby (RPSO), Doug Washington (PPD), Anthony Guillard (APD) and (in back) Ike Wilson (RPPD) and Athony Deshautelle (APD).

**ST JULIANA/ST. JAMES JUNIOR DAUGHTERS.** The St. Juliana Ladies Auxiliary of Court #268 and St. James Court #91 hosted a clustered Junior Daughters initiation Dec. 12 at St. Juliana Church. Sheila LaCour McDaniel, who is the Jr. Daughter Counselor for #91 and the region, presided over the initiation. She was assisted by Valerie Bayone-Bandy, the Jr. Daughters Counselor of #268.

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A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood.

Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, Post office box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.

Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino  
Chairman

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

Blessed Damien de Vauster	175.00
Bishop William Friend	100.00
Bishop Lawrence P. Graves	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco	1,250.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs	1,100.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock	1,535.00
Monsignor Henry F. Beckers	12,157.50
Monsignor Milburn J. Broussard	6,950.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	550.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	560.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	750.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwitaal	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	865.00
Monsignor Mozart Pelletier	100.00
Monsignor John V. Plauche	400.00
Monsignor F. Joseph Rateau	570.00
Monsignor Russell J. Richie	591.14
Monsignor B. A. Scallan	10,085.90
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	9,406.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	5,605.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	360.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	6,320.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putten	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	2,170.00
Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
Father Lawrence Bonin	70.00
Father H. Gerald Bordelon	13,885.00
Father Vernon Bordelon	445.00
Father Gilles Boyer	85.00
Father Basil Burns	100.00
Father Scott Chemino	100.00
Father Jules L. Claes, C.I.C.M.	4,761.00
Father Wilbur G. Cloutier	3,690.50
Father Daniel Corkery	10,900.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella	1,250.00
Father John H. Cunningham	975.00
Father Dennis A. Curren	550.00

## Seminary Burses

Father Leonard Curtis, O.P.	1,050.00
Father Ferreolus D'Cruz	875.00
Father Edward Deasy	625.00
Father Blake Deshautelle	25.00
Father Rudolph J. Engelen	550.00
Father Richard Fale	5,700.00
Father James A. Ferguson	600.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier	1,475.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin	200.00
Father James A. Foster	280.00
Father John M. Gayer	870.00
Father Serafin Glasnovic	150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion	8,350.00
Father William M. Hopp	10.00
Father Mark W. Horacek	50.00
Father Bartholomew Ibe	200.00
Father Tom M. Jezek	400.45
Father Michael P. Kammer	921.00
Father W. John Kiley	625.00
Father Francis X. Kronemeyer	100.00
Father George Krosfield	50.00
Father Henri Jacquemain	50.00
Father Russell J. Lemoine	425.00
Father Frederick J. Lyons	1,600.00
Father Bernard F. Maguire	105.00
Father Robert M. Maure	10.00
Father Jamie Medina-Cruz	200.00
Father Jack Michalchuk	150.00
Father Bruce Miller	100.00
Father Adrian Molenschot	3,175.00
Father Joseph Montalbano	400.00
Father Govie J. Moraus, Jr.	200.00
Father Peter T. Norek	400.00
Father Dan O'Connor	1,400.00
Father Thomas O'Connors	10.00
Father Martin L. Plauche	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi	1,000.00
Father William B. Provosty	105.00
Father Yves J. Robitaille	1,900.00
Father José Robles-Sanchez	350.00
Father Frederick Taylor Reynolds	875.00
Father Kenneth J. Roy	3,455.00
Father Lloyd M. Samson	50.00
Father Craig Scott	1,000.00
Father Paul B. Smith	250.00
Father August Thompson	1,240.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde	300.00
Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
Father Silvan A. Waterkotte, O.F.M.	160.00
Father Kenneth Williams	880.00
Father Bernard L. Zagst	1,275.00
Reverend H. Biggers	158.50
Deacon Emile "E.J." Barre, III	100.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard	100.00
Deacon L. G. DeLoach	350.00
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 Clifford "Kip" J. Pelto	100.00
Deacon William E. Schaidnagle	100.00
Deacon Gary A. Schupbach	100.00

Deacon William "Bill" M. Travis	100.00
Deacon John L. Whitehead	100.00
Deacon Michael L. Young	100.00
Sister Margaret McCaffrey	100.00
Sister Marie Therese McGee, O. P.	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	4,440.00
Delores Basco	50.00
Harold and Lillie Baridon	4,500.00
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
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Mr. and Mrs. Philip Flynn	50.00
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Odis James Miller	190.00
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Kitty Treadway Nassif	100.00
Mr. Maurice Noel	295.00
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Danny O'Quinn	100.00
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Edna Rabalais	1,000.00
Dr. Sidney Rud	50.00
Luis R. Robles-Cortez	125.00
Josephine G. Serio	275.00
John Gregory Simms	4,275.00
Joseph T. Simms, Jr.	11,475.00
Sadie Stroud	5,000.00
Robert Upton	100.00
Gus Voltz, Jr.	4,020.00
Larry Lee Wiltse	1,825.00
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	1,370.00
General Fund	2,000.00

**TOTAL** .....**\$515,748.83**  
(As of Dec. 31, 2015)

## Seminarian Burses

### December Donations

<b>Mrs. Jane and Ms. Lilla Armand</b> .....	\$10.00
Father Taylor Reynolds Burse	
<b>Mrs. Judy McClaran</b> .....	\$10.00
In the Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959 Burse	
<b>Ms. Kala Meadows</b> .....	\$10.00
In the Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959 Burse	
<b>Knights of Columbus Council 9217</b> .....	\$25.00
Father Adrian L. Molenschot Burse	
<b>Deacon and Mrs. Rodrick Broussard</b> .....	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
<b>Catholic Daughters of America #2072</b> .....	\$50.00
Father Kenneth Roy Burse	
<b>Father Rickey Gremillion</b> .....	\$50.00
Deacon L. G. DeLoach Burse	
<b>Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau</b> .....	\$75.00
Edna Rabalais Burse	
<b>Providence High School Class of 1959</b> .....	\$80.00
In the Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959 Burse	
<b>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....	\$100.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy Burse	
<b>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....	\$100.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi Burse	
<b>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....	\$100.00
Father Wilbur Cloutier Burse	
<b>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....	\$100.00
Father Harvey Fortier Burse	
<b>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....	\$100.00
Father Joseph Montalbano Burse	
<b>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach</b> .....	\$200.00
Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller</b> .....	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Mr. Lud McNeely</b> .....	\$250.00
Father John Cunningham Burse	
<b>Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau</b> .....	\$300.00
Monsignor Henry Beckers Burse	
<b>Ms. Patricia Vandersypen Basco</b> .....	\$500.00
Bobby D. Basco Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. David Walker</b> .....	\$500.00
David Stafford "Brother" O'Shee Burse	
<b>Mrs. Elizabeth S. Arthur</b> .....	\$1,000.00
Sadie Stroud Burse	
<b>Deacon and Mrs. L. G. DeLoach</b> .....	\$2,500.00
Father Rickey Gremillion Burse	
<b>Mr. Albin A. Provosty</b> .....	\$7,500.00
Father William B. Provosty Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$13,910.00</b>

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to:

Diocese of Alexandria Chancery Office  
 P.O. Box 7417  
 Alexandria, LA 71306-0417



**RITE OF ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY FOR HOLY ORDERS.** Alexandria seminarians Austin Burns and Luke LaFleur stand with Bishop Michael F. Olson from Fort Worth after being admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders Jan. 10 in Saint Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders is celebrated when a seminarian, usually in his second year of graduate study, has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination. In the presence of the bishop, he publicly expresses his intention to complete his preparation for Holy Orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end, so that he will serve Christ and the Church faithfully.

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**DEACON JOHN WILTSE**, as part of the 4th Year Deacon Class at the Pontifical College Josephinum, went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Dec. 28-Jan. 7. Deacon John takes his turn riding a camel while touring the country of Jordan.

Holy Savior Menard Central High School  
 invites you to an

*Open House*

Thursday, February 4, 2016 • 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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RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

# Catholic Schools Week Jan. 31 - Feb. 7

## Supt. of Catholic Schools Thomas Roque is appointed to State BESE

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

The Diocese of Alexandria's Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Thomas "Tommy" Roque, has been appointed to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

The announcement was made Jan. 7 during a press conference in Baton Rouge when Gov. Edwards introduced most of his appointments to state offices and boards. Roque and his wife, Kathy, attended the inauguration of Gov. Edwards Jan. 12 in Baton Rouge, when he was officially sworn in and then attended his first board meeting.

As the only representative of Catholic schools on the board, Roque brings a strong voice of Catholic education to the state board. Roque says he plans to bring his experience in both public and private education to the table as a member of the state's top education board.

"I am deeply honored and excited about serving on the board," said Roque. "I firmly believe the Lord puts you where he wants you to serve."

Roque grew up as a student in Catholic schools, where he was raised on Cane River. He graduated from Southern Univer-



**THOMAS "TOMMY" ROQUE** (far right) stands with Gov. John Bel Edwards, Doris Voitier and Lurie Thomason Jr., an assistant professor at Grambling State University, who were all recently named to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Roque, who is the superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Alexandria, will represent the Catholic school systems in the state and bring to the board more than 40 years of experience in both public and private school education.

sity in 1971 and spent one year teaching in the New Orleans area.

He returned to Natchitoches Parish to teach a few years at St. Matthew High School, while earning a master's degree in administration from Northwestern State University.

In 1976, at the young age of 25, he became the principal of St. Matthew, a public school in

Natchitoches Parish.

During the next 40 years, he served in an administrative role in different locations in both Natchitoches and Rapides parishes, including a stint as assistant superintendent of administration for Rapides Parish from 1997-2010.

After a brief retirement, he applied for the position of superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Alexandria. He stepped into that role in 2011.

Roque will continue to serve as superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese, while at the same time serving on the state board. As superintendent of Catholic Schools, Roque oversees eight schools in the diocese.

"I'm going into this with an open mind," he said. "There's a lot I don't know, even though I have a lot of experience in education. I intend to research more and listen first before making a decision."

The bottom line, Roque says, is "I love children. I love the profession. Education has always been dear to my heart."

**Catholic Schools Offer Academic Excellence and Faith-Filled Education**

Catholic schools offer students excellence and faith-filled education by providing a well-rounded education, high academic standards, and a strong sense of community. Catholic schools are also known for their commitment to service and social justice.

**Number of Catholic Schools in the U.S.**

Total Schools	47,000
Catholic Schools	1,300
Elementary Schools	1,200

**Staffing Ratios**

Catholic schools have a higher teacher-to-student ratio than public schools, resulting in smaller class sizes and more individualized instruction.

**National Secondary School Graduation Rates**

Catholic Schools	87.5%
Public Schools	81.2%
Private Schools	89.1%

**College Attendance Comparison**

Catholic Schools	62.7%
Public Schools	55.3%
Private Schools	66.5%

**A Gift to the Nation**

Based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$12,000, Catholic schools provide a \$1 billion in savings each year for the nation.

**Schools With Waiting Lists**

Diocese of Alexandria	100%
Diocese of Baton Rouge	95%
Diocese of Lake Charles	90%
Diocese of Monroe	85%
Diocese of New Orleans	80%
Diocese of Shreveport	75%
Diocese of Springfield	70%
Diocese of Tallahassee	65%
Diocese of Tyler	60%
Diocese of Wichita Falls	55%
Diocese of Dallas	50%

**Top Ten States with Highest Catholic School Enrollment**

Illinois	1,200,000
California	1,100,000
Florida	1,000,000
Ohio	900,000
Michigan	800,000
Indiana	700,000
Wisconsin	600,000
Minnesota	500,000
Illinois	400,000
Ohio	300,000



### Sister Jeannette wins Teacher of the Year

**SISTER JEANNETTE -- TEACHER OF THE YEAR.** St. Anthony School would like to congratulate Sister Jeannette Daniel, SLW on being selected as the Early Childhood Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators-the largest education technology organization in Louisiana. This is such a great honor for sister, her students and St. Anthony School. The award ceremony was held in New Orleans on December 8, 2015.

## Satellite built by students at Catholic school heads to space station

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) -- The fourth time proved to be the charm for a Catholic school project to send a satellite to space.

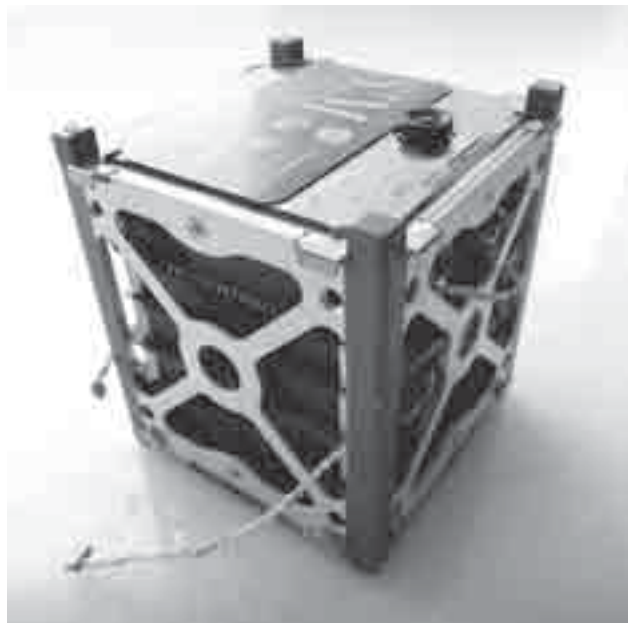
After three scrubbed launches, a CubeSat built by students at St. Thomas More Cathedral School in the Diocese of Arlington was finally launched into space Dec. 6, headed to the International Space Station. Astronauts at the station will deploy the satellite -- a 4-cubic-inch package that weighs less than 3 pounds and is packed with a payload of scientific experiments -- into orbit in late January.

On Dec. 3, hundreds of St. Thomas More students, parents and teachers filled a conference room at the Boeing Building in the Crystal City section of Arlington County to watch the launch on large TV monitors hanging on the walls. The screens showed the United Launch Alliance V 401 rocket ready to go, and students and parents were excited.

"It's good for the school. It's a once in a lifetime thing," said parent Michelle Potter told the Arlington Catholic Herald, the diocesan newspaper.

But there was a problem -- a problem not uncommon for launches.

Liftoff was scheduled for 6:03 p.m. local time. But around 5 p.m., there was an announcement that the launch might not happen. Weather, especially strong winds, gave the launch only a 30 percent



**STUDENTS AT ST. THOMAS MORE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL** in Arlington, Va., designed, built and tested a CubeSat satellite, which includes a crucifix and a medal blessed by Pope Francis. The satellite was launched to the International Space Station Dec. 6 and from there it will be deployed into orbit in late January. (CNS photo/courtesy St. Thomas More)

chance of happening.

There was a 30-minute window for any launch to occur, but at 6:25 p.m. the launch was scrubbed. They would try again the next evening. The Dec. 4 launch also was scrubbed because of weather. Ditto the next day's attempt. Finally, at 4:44 p.m. Dec. 6, the rocket successfully took off from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

After first attempt was scrubbed, the children and their parents took the delay in stride.

Some students said they were not surprised.

"It's kind of what I expected," said fifth-grader James Pohl. "There was a 70 percent chance it wouldn't go."

Science experiment payloads created by students and launched into space are not uncommon. But those experiments usually are built by university graduate students. According to NASA, this is the first time a U.S. grade school built a CubeSat.

The satellite is named St. Thomas More Cathedral School Satellite-1 or STMSat-1.

The project began in April

2012, when Joe Pelligrino, the father of a student and a NASA Goddard engineer, saw the St. Thomas More students form the image of the space shuttle in the parking lot of the school when the Discovery shuttle flew piggyback over Arlington on a modified 747 from Florida to its final home at the Smithsonian's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly.

About 400 students had a hand in designing, building, testing and launching the satellite. Every class from pre-K to eighth-

grade was involved. Every student had a job with a job description.

The main payload component is a small camera that will take a photograph every 30 seconds and transmit the images to earth stations that will be shared by schools around the world. The satellite also will measure temperature in space. NASA provided the school with a special antenna to track the satellite.

There were some objects aboard that are not usually included in rocket launches -- a Pope Francis medal blessed by the pope and donated by Sister Bernadette McManigal, diocesan superintendent of schools; a crucifix blessed by Father Robert J. Rippey, rector of the Cathedral of St. Thomas More; and a small metal container that holds personal items from a family who made a large donation to the satellite project.

"I'm just so excited for all the students, teachers and parents (who) supported this mission," said Nelda D. Thomas, assistant principal. "This wouldn't have happened without the support of our community."

Thomas said that the photographs and measurements taken by the St. Thomas More CubeSat will benefit scientists and students around the world.

There was another reason for her enthusiasm about the launch.

"I'm excited that we had a religious payload."

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"Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of  
Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at  
Social Security Disability Hearings."

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# St. Mary's Assumption reaps benefits of school garden project

Christmas dinner for the faculty, staff and students at St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport was extra special this year -- the cabbage and other vegetables for the meal were grown in their very own school garden.

According to Betsy Jeansonne, 8th grade teacher and sponsor of the Garden Club, the school garden was a project her students began working on in early fall.

With support from Ag in the Classroom (an agency associated with Farm Bureau of Marksville), the students cultivated the garden plot, planted the seeds, watered and fertilized the plants, and harvested the vegetables. Among the vegetables planted were cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, mustard greens, turnips, and carrots.

The garden is also used for learning purposes in the science classes. The students observe daily plant growth, maintain pest control in the garden, and identify parts of the plants. The plants are also useful for several on-going science fair projects for this year.

In addition to using the vegetables in the cafeteria, the bountiful harvest is also shared with community members.

"It's been a great learning project for the students in various areas of content by incorporating agriculture into daily lessons," said Mrs. Jeansonne. "The students have enjoyed working in



the garden, but the real benefit was watching their pride and excitement when the vegetables were harvested and used to feed ourselves and others."

**ST. MARY'S 8TH GRADE GARDEN PROJECT.** Members of the 8th grade Garden Club and staff members at St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport who worked on the Garden Project



**CABBAGE FOR CHRISTMAS.** Mrs. Betsy D. Jeansonne, Garden Club sponsor; and Phyllis Deville and Peggy Clark, Food Services; harvest some fresh cabbage from the school garden for Christmas dinner.



**HARVESTING FRESH CABBAGE.**

Members of the 8th grade Garden Club learned the benefits of growing a garden through the Ag in the Classroom program.



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**OLPS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** was held Dec. 17 during a special school Mass. Pictured are (left) all Pre-K boys as Shepherds; and (right) all Pre-K girls as Angels.



**OLPS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.** Wisemen

Mary and

Joseph.

**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** was held Dec. 11. This years program was Reason for the Season. Family and friends joined together to witness this beautiful performance.



**OUR LADY OF SORROWS (Moreauville) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.** Members of the CCD class at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Moreauville



**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER WINNERS**





**ST. JAMES CHURCH (Alexandria) CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.** The entire cast of the St. James Church Christmas pageant post with Father Gabriel Uzundu, pastor. The pageant was held Dec. 18.



**THREE KINGS** at St. Frances Cabrini Church



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Dupont) NATIVITY PLAY** was presented by the parish youth to family and friends on Christmas Eve. Father George Krosfield, pastor, praised the children for their efforts.



**ST PETERS MISSION (Elmer) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.** Those who participated in the Christmas program at St. Peter Mission



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Fifth Ward) CHRISTMAS PLAY.** Those who participated in the Christmas play at OLL-Fifth Ward on Dec. 24



**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS (Belledeau) CHRISTMAS PLAY.** Those who participated in the play

# Pew Research Survey: Parenting in America

## Outlook, worries, aspirations are strongly linked to financial situation

WASHINGTON, DC - There are deep divisions among U.S. parents today rooted in economic well-being, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. Parents' outlooks, worries and aspirations for their children are strongly linked to financial circumstances.

For lower-income parents, limited resources can restrict their children's access to a safe environment and to the kinds of enrichment activities that affluent parents may take for granted.

For example, higher-income parents are nearly twice as likely as lower-income parents to rate their neighborhood as an "excellent" or "very good" place to raise kids (78% vs. 42%).

About half of lower-income parents with school-age children (52%) say affordable, high-quality after-school activities are hard to find in their community, and far more higher-income parents than lower-income parents say their children are engaged in sports or organizations such as the scouts or take lessons in music, dance or art.

Economic well-being also shapes the worries and concerns of American parents:

- Lower-income parents are more likely than those with higher incomes to express concerns about their children being victims



of violence.

- At least half of parents with family incomes less than \$30,000 say they worry that their child or children might be kidnapped (59%) or get beat up or attacked (55%), shares that are at least 15 percentage points higher than among parents with incomes above \$75,000.

- About half (47%) of these lower-income parents worry that their children might be shot at some point, more than double the share among higher-income parents.

- At least half of all parents,

regardless of income, worry that their children might be bullied or struggle with anxiety or depression at some point, but for parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher, these concerns trump all others tested in the survey.

The survey, conducted Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015, among 1,807 U.S. parents with children younger than 18, examines parents' assessments of the job they are doing raising their children, their parenting values and philosophies, involvement in their children's education, child care

arrangements and children's extracurricular activities.

The report looks at differences across racial and ethnic groups, socioeconomic groups and generations, as well as between mothers and fathers.

Among the findings:

- A declining share of children live in two-parent households. Today, 69% of children younger than 18 are living with two parents, down from 87% in 1960. A record-low 62% of children live with two married parents, while 7% live with two cohabiting parents. Meanwhile, the share of single-parent households has increased threefold from 9% in 1960 to 26% in 2014. The economic outcomes for these different types of families vary dramatically.

- Most parents say they're doing a good job raising their kids. Among all parents, more mothers than fathers say they are doing a very good job raising their children (51% vs. 39%), and Millennial mothers are particularly inclined to rate themselves positively. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) moms ages 18 to 34 say they are doing a very good job as a parent, a higher share than Millennial dads (43%) or any other generational group.

- In several key ways, moth-

ers and fathers approach parenting differently. Mothers are more likely than fathers to say that they sometimes are overprotective of their children (68%, compared with 54% of dads), give in too quickly (50% vs. 35%) and praise their children too much (36% vs. 29%). Mothers also have more extensive support networks that they rely on for advice about parenting.

- Many parents struggle to find high quality, affordable child care. About six-in-ten (62%) parents with infants or preschool-age children say that it's hard to find child care in their community that is both affordable and high quality, and this is true across income groups.

- About half of American parents (54%) say that parents could never be too involved in a child's education, but about four-in-ten (43%) say too much involvement could be a bad thing. White parents are far more likely than black or Hispanic parents to say too much parental involvement in a child's education could be a bad thing: 51% of white parents say this, compared with only 23% of black parents and 28% of Hispanic parents.

Read the report: [www.pew-socialtrends.org/2015/12/17/parenting-in-america](http://www.pew-socialtrends.org/2015/12/17/parenting-in-america).

### JOB OPENING:

The Diocese of Alexandria, Child Nutrition Program has the following job opportunity:

### Substitute Child Nutrition Technician

is needed for diocesan Catholic school cafeterias in Avoyelles, Natchitoches, and Rapides Parish. Position is on an as needed basis, with possibility of it leading to a permanent full-time position. Person must be available to report to work upon short notification. Must be available between the hours of 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday - Friday. If interested, contact the Diocese of Alexandria Child Nutrition Office at (318) 445-6424 ext. 232.

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# Married Couples Retreat: Jan. 23-24 at Maryhill

Where couples can take time to reconnect with themselves and with God

The Diocese of Alexandria will offer a Married Couples Retreat Jan. 23-24, 2016 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville. The retreat begins Saturday at 9 a.m. and ends Sunday at noon.

Mario Sacasa, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and the director of Counseling Services at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will present Living the Gift of Marriage:

“The retreat is designed to help couples see and apply the beauty of God’s vision for marriage into the experience of their day-to-day lives. It is an integra-



tion of the Theology of the Body with marriage counseling skills. My hope is that couples can reconnect with themselves and with God as part of their marriage,” said Sacasa.

The cost is \$120 per couple and includes all meals and one night in a private suite (bedroom and bath) in one of the newly constructed housing units at Maryhill. Space is limited; register early.

“Whether you’ve been married one year or 49 years, maybe the time has come for you to get away from the kids, the job, the financial worries, or just the

busy-ness of life,” said Sacasa. “Participants will have ample time to enjoy the quiet, prayerful landscape of Maryhill Renewal Center, where you can walk to the Rosary Garden or outdoor Stations of the Cross, visit the chapel, or sit by the lake watching the sun set. The retreat is a perfect opportunity for couples to think, pray, be alone together, and have time to regroup and re-adjust their priorities.”

To register or for more information, go to [www.diocesealex.org/marriedcouplesretreat](http://www.diocesealex.org/marriedcouplesretreat) or call 318-445-6424, ext 221.

# New Year’s Resolution: Grow in understanding your faith

OLPS offers year-long Adult Faith Formation series to help you grow in faith

If you are looking for a New Year’s Resolution that will help you grow in your understanding of the Catholic faith, consider a year-long faith formation series being offered by Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria.

Once a month, throughout 2016, the Spirituality and Education Commission at Our Lady of Prompt Succor will offer an Adult Faith Formation program.

The one-hour program will be held from 6: 30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of

each month in the Divine Providence Center. The programs are free and open to the public.

According to Jessica Viator, a member of the commission, each month a different topic is presented by a different speaker to help the community grow in their understanding of the faith and the Church’s traditions.

Childcare is provided for newborns through age eight in the church nursery.

For more information, contact OLPS at 318-445-3693 or Jessica Viator at 318-794-6840.

## Topics for January - June, 2016

- Jan. 14: Addressing the Year of Mercy, Living Pope Francis’ Message By Father Taylor Reynolds
- Feb. 11: The Real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist By Robbie LaBorde
- Mar. 8-10: Night 1 - The Mass Comes Alive, By Jimmy Seghers  
Night 2 - Living the Passion of Christ, By Jimmy Seghers
- April 14: The Real Dangers of the Internet - Keeping Our Kids Safe By Officer Chad Gremillion
- May 12: Tradition of the Church By Father Chad Partain
- June 9: Summary of Laudato Si, Pope Francis’ Encyclical Video



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# The Personal and Spiritual Life of Blessed Mother Teresa

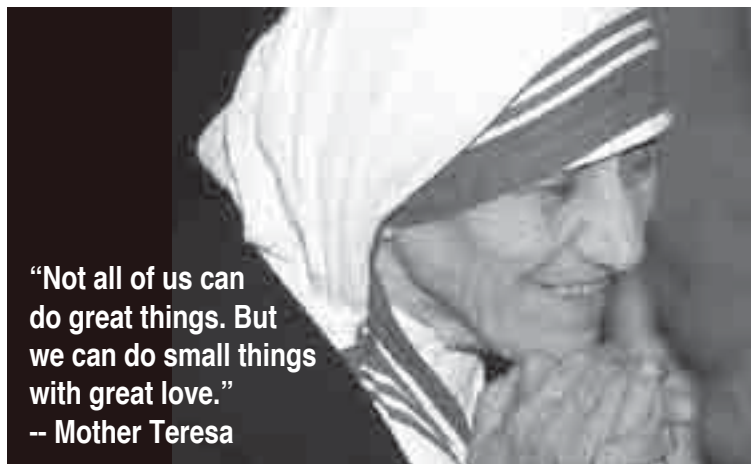
*The Love That Made Mother Teresa* brings to light little-known stories about the soon to be saint

The countless sweet photos of her smiling at babies showed Mother Teresa to be a single-minded advocate for the poor.

But she was a woman with a will whose strength has been matched by few souls in history. Mother Teresa broke death's stranglehold on the poor of Calcutta, and she showed us how to conquer the sin and darkness in what she called the "slums of the hearts of modern man."

Part biography and part spiritual reading, these pages bring to light little-known stories from Mother Teresa's life that will help you to grow in your love of God. You will learn her approach to reading Scripture, what enabled her to persevere through agonizing nights, and the remarkable - some would say mystical - events that led her to start the Missionaries of Charity.

In considering Mother Teresa, her private visions, and her secret sufferings, David Scott has discovered scores of early episodes and chance encounters that point to later, larger mean-



ings. These remarkable patterns, he suggests, show that Mother Teresa's life was choreographed from above, as if a divine script had been written for her from before her birth.

In these pages, you will meet for the first time the Mother Teresa who challenged the ancient Goddess of Death and became the first saint of our global village. You will read as she describes, in long-secret letters, the dark night of her soul. The woman you will meet is one that God himself sent

to you as a clear sign that despite pain and suffering in our lives and in our world, God's good love will prevail . . . beginning in the slums of our hearts.

We are all called to holiness, and the saints are sent to us as "real life" examples of God's love. With Mother Teresa as your guide, you'll learn how to follow God's call and find holiness in a world marked by the shadow of death and growing indifference to God. Indeed, you'll learn how to be an everyday missionary of

Christ's love in the ordinary activities of your daily life.

"David Scott's book, more than any other, shows us the saint and her significance . . . It belongs in the hands of everyone who loves this most beloved of modern women."

-- Dr. Scott Hahn

"This book reminds us - as Mother Teresa always did - that God calls all of us to holiness, to be saints."

-- José H. Gomez

Archbishop of Los Angeles

"For the first time we are given significant insight into the inner-struggles that produced the outer-triumph of this icon of modern holiness."

-- Matthew Kelly

Author of *Rediscovering Catholicism*

"This is the first true interpretation of Mother Teresa's life, and it is a vivid and delightfully readable biography for those who wish to imitate her in some way."

-- Mike Aquilina

Author of *A Year with the Church Fathers*



## The Love that Made Mother Teresa

By David Scott

Forward by Archbishop Jose Gomez

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### THE FACE OF GOD

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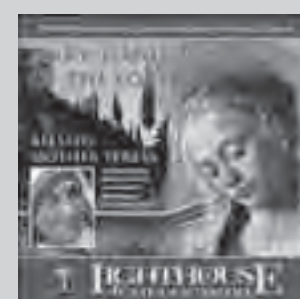
Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta is known throughout the world as a woman totally committed to the Gospel. In the first presentation, she explains the infinite value of God's gift of life; in the second presentation, she emphasizes the Eucharist and our call to imitate Christ by loving each other unconditionally. A bonus segment is provided by Dr. Scott Hahn on Understanding the Eucharist. -- \$4.50



### MARY: HANDMAID OF THE LORD

By Blessed Mother Teresa

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta is known throughout the world as a woman who was totally committed to the Gospel. In this inspiring talk, she shares her insights on the Blessed Virgin Mary as a model of womanhood and perfect discipleship. She shows us that we, too, can do the will of God by saying "Yes" to the Lord in the big and little things in our lives; nothing is too insignificant. -- \$4.50



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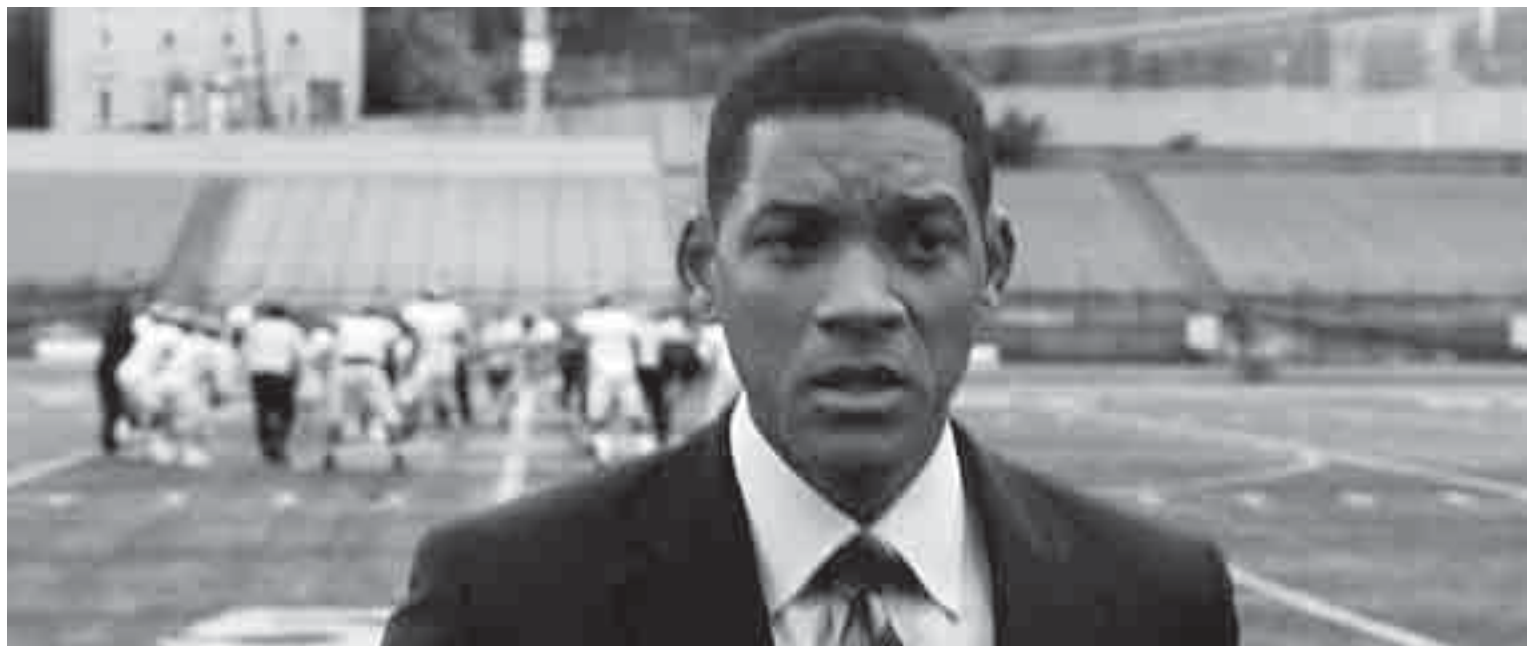
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# Catholic pathologist stirs controversy on the gridiron in *Concussion*

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service



NEW YORK (CNS) -- Neither the National Football League nor the Federal Bureau of Investigation comes off particularly well in the fact-based drama "Concussion" (Columbia).

But the film's central figure, the Nigerian-born coroner Dr. Bennet Omalu (Will Smith), certainly does.

Given that Omalu's generally admirable character is portrayed as being shaped, more than anything else, by his devout Catholic faith, believing moviegoers will find much to enjoy in this uplifting profile.

Omalu gained fame -- and initially stirred controversy -- as a result of his discovery that repeated jolts to the brain, such as those sustained on the gridiron, can cause a degenerative disease called chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE. The then Pittsburgh-based pathologist, an expert in neurological forensics, came to this conclusion after studying the body of Steelers' Hall of Fame center Mike Webster (David Morse).

Webster had suffered a mysterious mental and emotional decline before his untimely death of a heart attack at age 50. As "Concussion" shows us, a number of the League's other veterans found themselves caught in a similar downward spiral. For some, the disintegration ended in suicide.

Together with his celebrated and supportive boss, Cyril Wecht (Albert Brooks), Omalu publishes his findings. They win him the backing of the Steelers'

**CONCUSSION.** Will Smith, as Dr. Bennet Omalu, stars in a scene from the movie "Concussion." Given that Omalu's generally admirable character is portrayed as being shaped, more than anything else, by his devout Catholic faith, believing moviegoers will find much to enjoy in this uplifting profile. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (CNS photo/Columbia Pictures)

former team physician, Julian Bailes (Alec Baldwin). But they also draw fierce opposition from the NFL whose in-house medical staff -- led by the team doctor of the New York Jets, Elliot Pellman (Paul Reiser) -- schemes to vilify the outsider and discredit his research.

The perils of taking on an institution that, as Wecht puts it, "owns a day of the week, the same day the church used to own," are amply illustrated. As depicted here, they culminate in Wecht's arrest by the FBI on charges that were ultimately dismissed -- and that the screenplay clearly implies were trumped up in the first place.

Since Wecht's indictment

could compromise Omalu's employment situation, and therefore his immigration status, things begin to look grim for the avidly patriotic would-be American. He finds a source of moral support, however, in the person of fellow immigrant Prema Mutiso (Gugu Mbatha-Raw).

At the urging of his priest, solitary Omalu has given this newcomer -- a Kenyan native -- shelter as a boarder in his apartment. As the clergyman no doubt foresaw, she enlivens Omalu's moribund social life; as he may not have expected, she also wins Omalu's heart.

Earnest and idealistic, but leavened with humor, writer-director Peter Landesman's pic-

ture -- adapted from the 2009 GQ magazine article "Game Brain" by Jeanne Marie Laskas -- has strong appeal for grown viewers.

Recommendation for a younger audience is hindered, however, by the fact that Omalu's Christian morals do not extend to the bedroom. At his unspoken invitation, Prema joins him there well before there's any question of her meeting him at the altar.

Additionally, the script throws up some salty language. Although not excessive, these wayward words serves to reinforce the idea that patrons would do well to approach "Concussion" armed with a sound helmet of maturity.

The film contains gory medi-

## MOVIE REVIEW

cal images, a premarital situation, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, a couple of rough terms and occasional crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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## Jan. 23-24: Married Couples Retreat

The Diocese of Alexandria will host a Retreat for Married Couples beginning Jan. 23 at 9 a.m. and ending Jan. 24 at noon at Maryhill Renewal Center (Ducote Hall). Whether you are looking for something to bolster your marriage or need tangible skills to help you through some troubled times, this is the retreat is for you. Come and discover the mysteries of Marriage and the grace that flows from this great Sacrament! Mario Sacasa, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and director of counseling services at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will speak on "Living the Gift of Marriage." Open to all married couples. Cost is \$120 per couple, which includes one night stay and meals. For more info, call 318-445-6424, ext. 221 or go to [www.diocesealex.org/young\\_adult\\_ministry](http://www.diocesealex.org/young_adult_ministry).

## Jan 23: St. Augustine Creole Heritage Day

Join the St. Augustine Historical Society Jan. 23 for the Creole Heritage Celebration. The event starts will 5 p.m. Mass, followed by an official blessing of Grandpere's Tomb by Father Charlie Ray. An SAHS Appreciation Reception will follow in the church hall, and will conclude with a Zydeco Heritage celebration with Rusty Metoyer. Don't miss this family fun event!

## Jan. 25-28: Sacred Heart Mission

Deacon Glenn & Linda Harmon will be conducting our Parish Mission on January 25th – January 28th, 2016. Time of the mission is 7:00 til 8:30 p.m., also Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. there will be a different and additional morning session. All session will be conducted in Church. The theme of the Mission is "The Road to Emmaus". Deacon Glenn & Linda Harmon have been in full time ministry



MEMBERS OF KC COUNCIL #1217 (Marksville) present a donation of \$810 and a case of Tootsie Pops to the residents of St. Mary's Residential Training School. Pictured are Past Grand Knight Roger Couvillion, Tony L. "Bo" Vets II, St. Mary's programs director; and Knight Jordan Bordelon, chairman of the Tootsie Roll Campaign for Council #1217.

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of 24 years giving over 500 parish missions and retreats, to well over 100,000 people around the United States and Canada. Come prepared to be Blessed!! Babysitting will be provided.

## Jan. 30-31: Dream Retreat

Jim and Christy Gootee and the Two Hearts Team will be offering a retreat on "Healing Through Our Dreams" Jan. 30- 31 at Maryhill Renewall Center, from 9 a.m. Saturday to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. The Retreat will look at dreams in Scripture as well as study God's symbolic language found in our dreams. You will learn a variety of approaches to help you understand your own significant dreams and both heal and grow spiritually through this special gift from God. Bring a Bible and a notebook to write down your dreams. The \$120 cost includes reference book and retreat manual. For more information and to register, call 318- 290-1642 or e-mail [christygootee@outlook.com](mailto:christygootee@outlook.com) (Cost is \$40 extra per night, if you wish a room at Maryhill.)

## Jan. 30: Ignite Confirmation Rally

The Diocese of Alexandria will host IGNITE Confirmation Rally on Saturday, Jan. 30 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at St. Frances Cabrini – Activities Building. Cost is \$20 per person by Jan. 18; then \$25 after Jan. 18. Lunch is included. To register, go to [www.diocesealex.org/youth-ministry](http://www.diocesealex.org/youth-ministry). Parish must provide one chaperone per 8 candidates. For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext 221.

## Feb. 1: National Faith Contest

Family Rosary is sponsoring the 2016 "Try Prayer! It Works!" national faith contest for students in grades K-12. The contest asks entrants to use art, poetry, or prose to depict their faith. Children in grades K-12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, home school or other organization are eligible to participate. For details or to download an application, go to [www.Family-Rosary.org/TryPrayer](http://www.Family-Rosary.org/TryPrayer). All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2016. Questions? Call Holy Cross Family Ministries at 800-299-PRAY (7729).

## Feb. 6-7: S.A.L.T Retreat

The second S.A.L.T. retreat for Spring 2016 will be held Feb. 6-7 at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville. Regis-



KC #3200 DONATION. John Tumminello, Grand Knight of Council 3200 presents a \$500 check to Sister Mavis Champagne for Christmas gifts for the children of St Marys Training Facility.

tration forms are available on-line at [www.sacredheartpineville.com](http://www.sacredheartpineville.com). One more S.A.L.T. retreat will be offered at Sacred Heart March 5-6.

## Feb. 14: Rite of Election

The Rite of Election will be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent, February 14, at 2:30 p.m., with Bishop Ronald Herzog presiding.

## March 12: Charismatic Day of Renewal

A Day of Renewal (titled *Have Mercy On Me*) sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana (CCRC) and CENLA Magnificat will be held March 12 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church Hall in Natchitoches. Denise Beyer will be the speaker. Registration is \$20 made payable to "CENLA Magnificat" and mailed to either: Diane Ardoin, 1415 Creed St, Pineville, La. 71360 or Mary Wilson, 4569 Parhams Road, Jonesville, La. 71343. Open to men and women. Register online at [cenlamagnificat@gmail.com](mailto:cenlamagnificat@gmail.com)



SACRED HEART youth ride in the Pineville Christmas Parade.

February 10  
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# January - February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>18</b> Diocesan Offices CLOSED	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 43rd Anniversary of Roe v Wade	<b>23</b> Life March: • Shreveport • Baton Rouge  Creole Heritage Day 5 p.m. St. Augustine Church Isle Brevelle  Married Couples Retreat -- Maryhill	<b>24</b>
9- Days for Life Novena -- www.usccb.org						
<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON	PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	PRAY FOR FR. A. FIGREDO	PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Ignite Confirmation Rally Maryhill Renewal Center  Life March 9:45 a.m. Louisiana College Pineville	<b>31</b>
9- Days for Life Novena			Sacred Heart Mission -- Pineville			Dream Retreat -- Maryhill
PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE	PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL
<b>FEBRUARY 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Open House 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Holy Savior Menard Alexandria	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Catholic Schools Week						S.A.L.T Retreat -- Sacred Heart, Pineville
PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD	PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	<b>FEAST OF ST. BLAISE</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. MUNOZ	<b>FIRST FRIDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM	<b>FIRST SATURDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA	PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> VIRTUS 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center Alexandria  MARDI GRAS PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	<b>10</b> ASH WEDNESDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	<b>11</b> Adult Faith Formation "The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist" 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria  PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	<b>12</b> PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA	<b>13</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK	<b>14</b> Rite of Election 2:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Alexandria  FIRST SUNDAY of LENT VALENTINE'S DAY PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS
<b>15</b> Diocesan Offices CLOSED  PRESIDENTS' DAY PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER	<b>16</b> PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN	<b>17</b> PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	<b>18</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL	<b>19</b> PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	<b>20</b> PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE	<b>21</b> SECOND SUNDAY of LENT PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN

Make your reservation today!

35<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

# Winter Ball

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