

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVIII, No. 10

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October 16, 2017

## ON THE INSIDE

### Office of Life and Justice opens Oct. 16

The new Office of Life and Justice opened its doors Oct. 16 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria. The new office is staffed entirely by volunteers. Find out more about this new resource office on page 6.

### Mass of Thanksgiving to be celebrated Oct. 22 for diocesan religious sisters

Almost 20 religious sisters live and work in the Diocese of Alexandria. You are invited to join Bishop David Talley on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral for a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the religious women in our diocese. See page 7 for details.

### 29 teams compete in 22nd Bishop's Golf Tournament

Twenty-nine teams competed in the 22nd annual Bishop's Golf Tournament Oct. 9 at Oakwing Golf Club. The annual event is the major fund-raiser of the year for seminarian education. Find out more about the teams, the sponsors, and who won on pages 9-11.

## Holy Family Sisters celebrate 175 years!

Mass for ALL diocesan religious sisters to be held Oct. 22



**SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY.** Standing around the new tombstone at Greenwood Cemetery where nine of the Holy Family sisters are buried between 2005 and 2007 are (from left) Sister Alicia Costa (treasurer), Sister Sylvia Thibodeaux, Sister Elizabeth Ann Holmes, Sister Joan Flores, Sister Carmen Marie Bertrand, Sister Leona Bruner (vicar general), Sister Agnes Marie Sampia, Sister Lucia Carl, Sister Elma Olivera, and Sister Gloria Lewis. Not pictured is Sister Laura Mercier and Sister Ann Michelle Mercier.

# Pope calls for prayers after 'unspeakable terror' in Las Vegas

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The nation has experienced "yet another night filled with unspeakable terror," and "we need to pray and to take care of those who are suffering," said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

In Las Vegas, a gunman identified by law enforcement officials as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, was perched in a room on the 32nd floor of a hotel and unleashed a shower of bullets late Oct. 1 on an outdoor country music festival taking place below. The crowd at the event numbered more than 22,000.

He killed at least 59 people and wounded more than 500, making it by all accounts "the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president. "My heart and my prayers, and those of my brother bishops and all the members of the church, go out to the victims of this tragedy and to the city of Las Vegas," he said.

"Our hearts go out to everyone," Bishop Joseph A. Pepe of Las Vegas said in a statement. "We are praying for those who have been injured, those who have lost their lives, for the medical personnel and first responders who, with bravery and self-sacrifice, have helped so many.

"We are also very heartened by the stories of all who helped each other in this time of crisis. As the Gospel reminds us, we are called to be modern-day good Samaritans," he added. "We continue to pray for all in Las Vegas and around the world whose lives are shattered by the events of daily violence."

An early evening interfaith prayer service was held at the city's Cathedral of the Guardian Angels and Bishop Pepe invited "our sisters and brothers around the world to join us in prayer for healing and for an end to violence."

In a telegram to Bishop Pepe, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said Pope Francis was "deeply saddened to learn of the shooting in Las Vegas" and "sends the assurance of his spiritual closeness to all those affected by this senseless tragedy."

"He commends the efforts of



**VIGIL.** People gather at a makeshift vigil on the Las Vegas Strip Oct. 2 following a mass shooting at an outdoor country music festival late Oct. 1. A gunman perched in a room on the 32nd floor of a casino hotel unleashed a shower of bullets on the festival below, killing at least 59 people and wounding another 527. (CNS photo/Chris Waite, Reuters)

the police and emergency service personnel, and offers the promise of his prayers for the injured and for all who have died, entrusting them to the merciful love of Almighty God," the cardinal said.

The barrage of shots came from a room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino complex on the Las Vegas Strip. Once police officers determined where the gunshots were coming from, they stormed the room to find the suspect dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo told reporters.

The suspect later identified as Paddock was from Mesquite, Nevada, about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, and was described in later reports as a retired account-

ant. News reports also said law enforcement believed the suspect was a "lone wolf" in planning and carrying out the attack.

In his statement, Cardinal DiNardo said: "At this time, we need to pray and to take care of those who are suffering. In the end, the only response is to do good -- for no matter what the darkness, it will never overcome the light. May the Lord of all gentleness surround all those who are suffering from this evil, and for those who have been killed we pray, eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."

Catholic bishops and other Catholic leaders around the country issued statements expressing sadness at the horrific develop-

ments in Las Vegas, offering prayers for the victims and praising first responders, volunteers and bystanders for their efforts at the scene.

"Once again we must reach

out in shock and horror to comfort the victims of a mass shooting in our country," said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago.

"We reaffirm our commitment to nonviolence and to addressing the causes of such tragedies. At this time we come together in prayer and also in resolve to change a culture that has allowed such events to become commonplace," he said. "We must not become numb to these mass shootings or to the deadly violence that occurs on our streets month in and month out."

He called for better access to mental health care and "stronger, sensible gun control laws."

"We pray that there comes a day when the senseless violence that has plagued the nation for so long ends for good," said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame.

"Violence has once again horrified us as a nation and drawn us together in sorrow. All of us -- people of faith as well as those with no particular religious affiliation -- are stunned by the tragic, senseless, and incomprehensible loss of life in Las Vegas," said Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory.



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# USCCB applauds the expansion of exemptions to contraceptive mandate for religious employers

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Trump administration Oct. 6 issued interim rules expanding the exemption to the contraceptive mandate for religious employers, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, who object on moral grounds to covering contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices in their employee health insurance.

Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops praised the action as "a return to common sense, long-standing federal practice and peaceful coexistence between church and state."

The contraceptive mandate was put in place by the Department of Health & Human Services under the Affordable Care Act.

While providing an exemption for religious employers, the new rules maintain the existing federal contraceptive mandate for most employers.

President Donald Trump had pledged to lift the mandate burden placed on religious employers during a White House signing ceremony May 4 for an executive order promoting free speech and religious liberty, but Catholic leaders and the heads of a number of Catholic entities had criticized the administration for a lack of action on that pledge in the months that followed.

From the outset, churches



**CONTRACEPTIVE MANDATE.** The Trump administration Oct. 6 issued interim rules expanding the exemption to the contraceptive mandate for religious employers, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, who object on moral grounds to covering contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices in their employee health insurance. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

were exempt from the mandate, but not religious employers. The Obama administration had put in place a religious accommodation for nonprofit religious entities such as church-run colleges and social service agencies morally opposed to contraceptive coverage that required them to file a form or notify HHS that they will not provide it. Many Catholic employers still objected to having to fill out the form.

The HHS mandate has un-

dergone numerous legal challenges from religious organizations, including the Little Sisters of the Poor and Priests for Life.

A combined lawsuit, *Zubik v. Burwell*, made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the justices in May 2016 unanimously returned the case to the lower courts with instructions to determine if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to paying for such coverage.

Senior Health and Human Services officials who spoke to reporters Oct. 5 on the HHS rule on the condition of anonymity said that the exemption to the contraceptive mandate would apply to all the groups that had sued against it. Groups suing the mandate all the way to the Supreme Court include the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Eternal Word Television Network and some Catholic and other Christian universities.

In reaction immediately after the 150-page interim ruling was issued, religious groups that had opposed the mandate were pleased with the administration's action.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the new rule "corrects an anomalous failure by federal regulators that should never have occurred and should never be repeated."

The church leaders also said the decision to provide the religious and moral exemption to the HHS mandate recognizes that faith-based and mission-driven organizations and those who run them "have deeply held religious and moral beliefs that the law must respect."



Cardinal Burke

## Pope names Cardinal Burke as judge on Vatican Supreme Court

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has named U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke a member of the Apostolic Signature, the church's supreme court, which the cardinal headed as prefect from 2008 to 2014.

Members of the Apostolic Signature serve as judges in the cases, which mainly involve appeals of lower-court decisions or of administrative decisions by other offices of the Holy See.

The appeals involve everything from challenges to the decisions of marriage tribunals to recourse against the dismissal of a religious, the transfer of a parish priest, the restriction of a priest's ministry, removal of ministerial faculties, renovation of a parish church and dismissal from a teaching position.

Cardinal Burke's nomination was met with surprise in some quarters because he continues to speak publicly about issuing a formal "fraternal correction" of Pope Francis over the pope's teaching in "Amoris Laetitia," his exhortation on the family.

But the public criticism of the pope did not prevent Pope Francis in late 2016 from naming Cardinal Burke the presiding judge in a church trial investigating allegations of sexual abuse leveled against Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron of Agaña, Guam.

The results of the investigation and trial have not been announced.

The pope's nomination of Cardinal Burke, 69, was announced at the Vatican Sept. 30.



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## The Catechism of the Catholic Church

In most every parish that I served in as a priest, I started a “book club”. With a book club, a group of interested parishioners would commit to reading a book and then coming together every two weeks or so, to discuss what each learned and any insight given. If you have not had this kind of experience, I recommend it. The books could be fiction or non-fiction.

When folks from these groups asked me for recommendations for books, I would recommend a wide selection of books on spirituality, books on the lives of the saints, on discipleship, on service, on theology, on the study of sacred scripture...and so on. But in each of these groups that I led, I would always recommend three books as foundational...



I am the VINE;  
YOU are the BRANCHES  
(John 15:5)

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

books that each Catholic missionary disciple and every family should have for prayer and study:

1. The first book on that list, the sacred scriptures, **the Bible**, preferably a Catholic Study Bible. It is foundational.

2. The second book I would recommend, the **Documents of Vatican II**.

3. The third book that every Cath-

olic should have, **The Catechism of the Catholic Church**.

This month, on the 11th of October, we will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Why did Pope John Paul II (now St. John Paul the Great) decide to use the 11th of October 1992 as the official date of publication?

The Holy Father intentionally linked the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to the date of the opening of the second Ecumenical Council held at the Vatican...or Vatican II... which began on the 11th of October 1962, under the guidance of Pope John XXIII (now St. John XXIII). Like the revised Code of Canon Law in 1983, St. John Paul

the Great understood both the revised Code of Canon Law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church as fruits of this great Council of the twentieth century...given by the Lord...as blessing.

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. I hope that you will look to purchase a copy (the 2nd edition)...if you don't have one already. I'm presuming that all of you reading this column have a Catholic Bible! And, why not look for a book club... or...start a book club? Reading opens up our minds and hearts to the great mystery of life and the Lord!

AMDG

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

## Be not afraid, but of what?

By Sister Constance Veit  
Little Sisters of the Poor

Each October we observe Respect Life Month in dioceses around the United States. This year's theme is “Be Not Afraid,” but of what, or whom, are we supposed to not be afraid?

Pondering this question, I recalled an experience I had while attending the Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando last summer.

I met a young woman and her mother from my diocese. The daughter, who had an obvious disability and was using a power wheelchair, had been chosen as a delegate to the Convocation.

As we got acquainted, we chatted about accessibility issues in the church. The young woman told me that while most parishes have remedied architectural barriers such as curbs and restrooms, she believes, that handicapped

individuals are still not fully embraced as an integral part of parish life.

What she said next cut right to the heart: “It's fine to be able to get in and out of church, but it would be nice if someone smiled at me once in a while, or spoke to me as if I actually knew what was going on.”

I was stunned.

When I got home I did a bit of research on attitudes toward the disabled and was shocked by a recent study in the U.K. that found that two thirds of adults are afraid of people with disabilities and feel so awkward around them that they go out of their way to avoid them.

Another study indicated that 1.4 million senior citizens in the U.K. feel lonely and cut off from society, many going for over a month at a time without talking to another human being.

Since these are not American

studies, it would be easy to dismiss this data, but I suspect that we have a lot in common with our British brothers and sisters.

Scholars in the field of disability studies suggest that disabled people mirror a certain kind of personal loss or death. They remind us of our own limitations and mortality – and that is what frightens us.

As long as we can avoid those who are handicapped or elderly, we can keep our fears about our own fragility and eventual death at bay.

But we are all broken in some way – if we were honest, we would admit that we each experience areas of weakness or disability every day, and none of us is really more than one accident or illness away from losing our cherished independence.

The church proposes a different approach. In the face of suffering and death she tells us, “Be

not afraid.”

With words that echo through salvation history into the depths of our hearts, the Lord says to us, “Do not fear: I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10). He speaks these words not as One who merely observes our pain, but as One who experienced intense suffering and death in his own flesh before triumphing over death itself.

Reflecting on the wounds of

the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He is always with us.

So if we run toward our most vulnerable brothers and sisters rather than running away from them, marginalizing them or excluding them from our lives, we will experience the love of God in a powerful new way!

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CHURCH  TODAY

Volume XLVIII, No. 10 • October 16, 2017

P. O. Box 7417 • Alexandria, LA 71303  
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Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209; starver@diocesealex.org

The CHURCH TODAY (USPS 393-240) is published by the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, once a month, free of charge to members of the parishes in the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. Out of diocese subscriptions are \$20 a year.

The office is located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303.  
Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, LA.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to  
The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306

Website: www.diocesealex.org  
To receive a free subscription, call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or e-mail  
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## Five prayers revealed at Fatima that every Catholic should know

The apparition of an angel and Our Lady to three poor children in Fatima, Portugal in the early 20th century is one of the most famous miracles in the Catholic world. The children received many messages, mostly calling for personal conversion and prayer, as well as the words of five new prayers. The first prayer is one many Catholics are likely already familiar with, but the other four are not as well-known.

Here are the five prayers given to the children at Fatima:

### 1. The Fatima Prayer/Decade Prayer

*“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy. Amen.”*

Mary told the children that people should add this prayer to the end of each decade of the Rosary.

### 2. The Pardon Prayer

*“My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for all those that do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.”*

This prayer was given to the children by the angel that visited them in 1916, the year before Mary appeared to them.

### 3. The Angel’s Prayer

*“O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary I beg the conversion of poor sinners.”*

This is another prayer given to them by the angel. There was a Eucharistic host and chalice suspended in the air, and the angel led them in kneeling before it and praying this prayer.

### 4. The Eucharistic Prayer

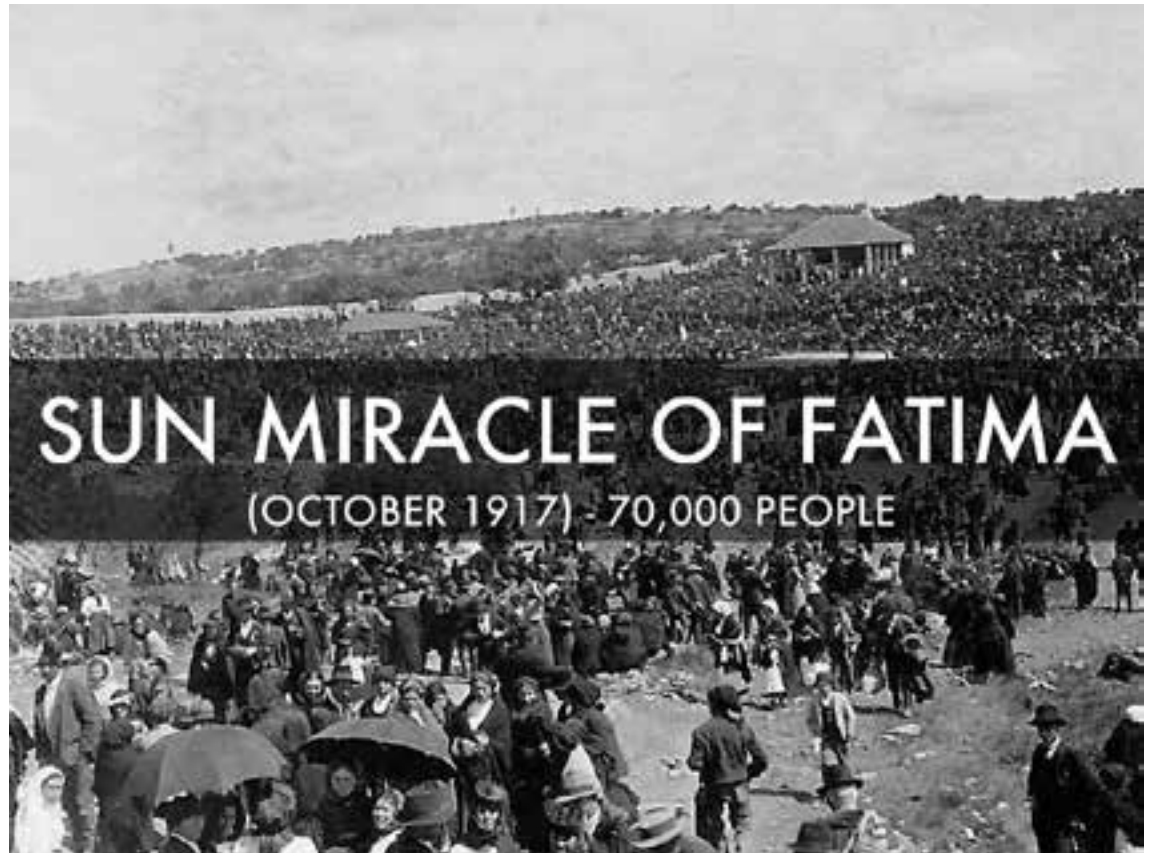
*“Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament.”*

When Mary appeared to the children for the first time on May 13, 1917, she said, “You will have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort.” According to Lucia, one of the children, a bright light shone all around them, and without thinking about it, they all started reciting this prayer.

### 5. The Sacrifice Prayer

*“O Jesus, it is for the love of Thee, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and for the conversion of poor sinners [that I do this].”*

Mary gave the children this prayer, as well as the Fatima Prayer/Decade Prayer, on June 13th, 1917. The prayer is meant to be recited when you are offering up suffering to God.



**THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN** occurred on October 13, 1917, the last apparition of the Blessed Mother to the three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal. More than 70,000 witnessed the dramatic movement and “dancing” of the sun in the sky.

## Oct. 13, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima

By Elise Harris  
Catholic News Agency

(CNA/EWTN News) -- On “the day the sun danced,” thousands of people bore witness to a miracle that not only proved the validity of the Fatima Marian apparitions, but is also said to have shattered the prevalent belief at the time that God was no longer relevant.

In 1917, Portugal, like the majority of the world at the time, was embroiled in war. As World War I raged throughout Europe, Portugal found itself unable to maintain its initial neutrality and joined forces with the Allies, in order to protect colonies in Africa and to defend their trade with Britain. About 220,000 Portuguese civilians died during the war; thousands due to food shortages, thousands more from the Spanish flu.

Catholic churches and schools were seized by the government, and the wearing of clerics in public, the ringing of church bells, and the celebrating of popular religious festivals

were banned. Between 1911-1916, nearly 2,000 priests, monks and nuns were killed by anti-Christian groups.

This was the backdrop against which Mary, in 1917, appeared to three shepherd children – Lucia dos Santos, 10, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, 9 and 7 – in a field in Fatima, Portugal, bringing with her requests for the recitation of the rosary, for sacrifices on behalf of sinners, and a secret regarding the fate of the world.

To prove that the apparitions were true, Mary promised the children that during the last of her six appearances she would provide a “sign” so people would believe in the apparitions and in her message.

What happened on that day – Oct. 13, 1917 – has come to be known as the “Miracle of the Sun,” or “the day the sun danced.”

According to various accounts, a crowd of some 70,000 people – believers and skeptics alike – gathered to see the miracle that Mary had promised. After appearing and speaking to

the children for some time, Mary then “cast her own light upon the sun.”

The previously rainy sky cleared up, the clouds dispersed and the ground, which had been wet and muddy from the rain, was dried. A transparent veil came over the sun, making it easy to look at, and multi-colored lights were strewn across the landscape.

The sun then began to spin, twirling in the sky, and at one point appeared to veer toward earth before jumping back to its place in the sky.

Dr. Marco Daniel Duarte, a theologian and director of the Fatima shrine museums, said the miracle was a direct, and very convincing contradiction to the atheistic regimes at the time, which is evidenced by the fact that the first newspaper to report on the miracle was an anti-Catholic, Masonic newspaper in Lisbon called *O Seculo*.

The Miracle of the Sun, he said, was understood by the people to be “the seal, the guarantee that in fact those three children were telling the truth.”



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## Office of Life and Justice opens Oct. 16 with volunteer staff

The new Office of Life and Justice opened its doors Oct. 16 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria. The new office is staffed entirely by volunteers.

Dr. Gabriel Rodriguez, a retired clinical psychologist, is the chair of the Diocesan Committee on Life and Justice; and Florence Sanders, a retired registered nurse is the co-chair.

Prior to retirement, Dr. Gabriel served as administrator of Pinecrest Developmental Center in Pineville and Florence served as a nurse at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Pineville.

"Each have extensive experience, both professionally and personally, in mental and physical health care, and know well the plight of the poor and marginalized," said Father Craig Scott, who will oversee the office. "Both have a true heart for the protection of life and the social justice teachings of the Church. I am thrilled to have them working



**Dr. Gabriel Rodriguez, Chair**



**Florence Sanders, Co-Chair**

with me in this new endeavor."

The office is located at the chancery in the former Special Ministries Office, across the hall from the Business Office. For now, the office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

The direct phone line to the Office of Life and Justice is 318-445-6424 ext 225 and the email is [lifeandjustice@diocesealex.org](mailto:lifeandjustice@diocesealex.org).

The office will serve primar-

ily as a referral agency supporting the areas of Sanctity of Life; Ministry to the Poor and Marginalized; and Environmental, Cultural and Civic Issues.

The office will not be doing direct aid; only referrals. The office will not be involved in traditional family life issues (Marriage Preparation, Natural Family Planning, etc.) and will have no oversight of Prison Ministry; although there are resources available and

### Office of Life and Justice

Location: 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA  
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referrals available for both of these areas.

"Please be patient with us as we strive to learn, prioritize and strategize! We don't have all the answers (in fact, we don't even know all the questions!) but we are dedicated to assisting parishes and pastors in this work of the Church," said Father Scott.

Others who will be serving on the Diocesan Committee on Life and Justice are Father John Wiltse, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in

Alexandria and chaplain at Holy Savior Menard; Tara Whitehead, religion coordinator at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches; Fr. John O'Brien, pastor at St. Anthony Church in Natchitoches; Jessica Viator, executive director of Manna House; Father Remi Owuamnam, pastor at St. Juliana in Alexandria and David Melancon.

Pastors from each deanery have made suggestions for other volunteers, and a follow up on this will begin soon, according to Father Scott.

## Pope Francis to call astronauts aboard the Space Station

(CNA/EWTN News).- From the start of his pontificate, Pope Francis has gained a reputation for his phone calls to people around the world – including a priest with cancer, a Jesuit doorman, and a mother who had just lost her son.

But the Vatican announced on Monday that the next call on Pope Francis' list is going to be out of this world... literally.

Pope Francis will contact NASA's International Space Station via a satellite call on Oct. 26

at 5 P.M., according to the Vatican.

Aboard the International Space Station are a total of six astronauts, including three Americans, two Russians and one Italian who have been orbiting the earth, about 220 miles away.

Pope Francis' call will mark the second time a Pope has contacted astronauts in space. Pope Benedict XVI called the International Space Station in 2011 via satellite link and spoke with 12 astronauts for about 20 minutes.



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**SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY.** Standing around the new tombstone at Greenwood Cemetery where nine of the Holy Family sisters are buried between 2005 and 2007 are (from left) Sister Alicia Costa (treasurer), Sister Sylvia Thibodeaux, Sister Elizabeth Ann Holmes, Sister Joan Flores, Sister Carmen Marie Bertrand, Sister Agnes Marie Sampia, Sister Lucia Carl, Sister Gloria Lewis, Sister Leona Bruner (vicar general), and Sister Elma Olivera. Not pictured is Sister Laura Mercier and Sister Ann Michelle Mercier.

## Bishop Talley to celebrate Mass for Religious Women Oct. 22

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 11 a.m.

### Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows - O.L.S.



Sr. Mavis Champagne



Sr. Nina Vincent



Sr. Sandra Norsworthy



Sr. Anita Bianchini



Sr. Linda Norsworthy



Sr. Porimolla Murmu



Sr. Lizbeth Gutierrez



Sr. Kalen Sarmiento

## Holy Family Sisters celebrate 175 years

In celebration of their 175th anniversary, the Sisters of the Holy Family have spent the past year visiting every Holy Family mission in the U.S.

On Oct. 1, a large representation of the Sisters travelled to St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle to witness the blessing of a new stained glass window in the church dedicated to their founder Blessed Henriette Delille.

Bishop David Talley blessed the new stained glass window of the Holy Family foundress during the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass Oct. 1, as well as 12 other new stained glass windows recently installed.

After the special Mass with Bishop David, a reception was held in the church hall.

Following the reception, the sisters visited Greenwood Cemetery in Pineville to view the new headstone recently erected to mark the graves of nine Holy Family Sisters buried there since 2005.

In 2005, two years after a group of Holy Family Sisters relocated to Alexandria after the order lost everything in Hurricane Katrina, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word donated the burial plots at Greenwood to the Holy Family Sisters.

Just recently, a large granite tombstone was erected to mark the burial site.

"We are very grateful to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word for donating these burial plots to us," said Sister Gloria Lewis, a retired Holy Family Sister.

Those Sisters laid to rest at Greenwood include Sister Jean Carter, Sister Winifred Mary Hayes, Sister Miriam Chastang, Sister Theodora Jolivet, Sister John Berchmans Taylor, Sister Dorothy Marie Stuart, Sister Edith Brinkley, Sister Mary Angela McKnight, and Sister Mary Paulette Fontenette.

Venerable Henriette Delille founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1842 in New Orleans.

### Sisters of the Living Word -- S.L.W.



Sr. Jeannette Daniel



Sr. Judiann Derhake



Sr. Elizabeth Ann Holmes



Sr. Gloria Lewis

### Marianites of Holy Cross -- M.S.C.



Sr. Nell Murray

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Sr. Kateri Mitchell

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**SUPPER WITH THE SEMINARIANS - AVOYELLES.** More than 250 people attended the Supper with the Seminar-ians Sept. 24 at Christ the King Church in Simmesport. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus Council #10564 of Christ the King, who cooked a delicious meal of jambalaya, beans, cole slaw, and cornbread muffins; to the ladies who made desserts; to the seminarians who served; to Father Louis Sklar, who made homemade rolls; and to Bishop David Talley who enjoyed meeting and visiting the wonderful people of the Avoyelles. The fundraising event for seminarian educa-tion, raised more than \$4,000.



## Seminarian Burses

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Bishop David P. Talley Burse	
<b>Ms. Sharon K. Bradford</b> .....	\$20.00
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<b>Ms. Janie Pias</b> .....	\$25.00
Tracy P. Wiltse Burse	
<b>Father Peter Kuligowski</b> .....	\$30.00
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<b>Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Passbach, Jr.</b> .....	\$50.00
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Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
<b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....	\$50.00
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<b>Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd J. Songe, Jr.</b> .....	\$100.00
Bishop David P. Talley Burse	
<b>Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard</b> .....	\$100.00
Deacon Benny Broussard Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Dan F. Vanderlick</b> .....	\$100.00
Mary Virginia Young 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>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....	\$200.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	\$1,185.00



**GRANT RABALAIS**, a diocesan seminarian from Mater Dolorosa in Plaquemine served as the assistant director for the Annual Notre Dame Seminary Gala, one of the biggest fundraising events of the year. "We welcomed nearly 700 guests making it the biggest one in the history of this event," said Grant. "I was happy to serve as the assistant director this year as it was an honor to represent the great Diocese of Alexandria and be able to serve the seminary in this capacity". Father Louis Sklar, director of Vocations, attended the event.



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**RED MASS IN NEW ORLEANS.** Bishop David Talley delivered the homily Oct. 2 at the annual Red Mass at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans for members of the legal profession and members of the State Supreme Court. He called slavery “America’s original sin.” Even Catholic religious institutions owned slaves, he said, and slavery has led to institutional racism. “It is there for everyone to see, if you have eyes to see and hearts to understand it,” he said. Bishop Talley called on Catholics to elect the “best and brightest” political leaders with “a moral compass to see the right and do the right.”

## Commitment is key to the success of Bishop’s Annual Golf Tournament

This year’s 22nd Annual Bishop’s Golf Tournament on Oct. 9 was more than just a day of fun on the golf course for the 29 teams that participated and the generous sponsors who supported the event.

It was about commitment.

“There are so many people who are committed to the success of this annual event to raise money for seminarian education,” said Father Louis Sklar. “Without the support and commitment of so many people, it would be difficult to raise the thousands of dollars generated from this one event.”

Father Sklar pointed out, for example, that Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital has been the top

sponsor (Bishop’s Sponsor) of the golf tournament since its inception in 1996.

“As the only Catholic hospital in this community, Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital is committed to the education and formation of our seminarians,” said Nancy R. Hellyer, president of Cabrini Hospital and CEO of Christus Health Central Louisiana. “We recognize the value of the priests in our hospital who help carry out our mission. We are proud to support this effort.”

Hellyer and Bishop David Talley, both relatively new to the area, recently met and discussed other ways the hospital and diocese could work together.

Mark Vilar, a local attorney, has been involved with the Bishop’s Golf Tournament since 2003, and has chaired it since 2006. He has seen the commitment to the success of the golf tournament grow over the years in both sponsorship and in participants.

The number of teams participating grew from 26 teams last year, to 29 teams this year.

Vilar, a cradle Catholic and inspired by his parish priests as a child, said he feels fortunate to attend a parish that has a full-time priest; but knows of other smaller parishes that do not have a full-time priest.

“I see the tremendous value of the priests who serve in our par-

ishes,” he said. “I feel this is one way I can do something to support the formation of good priests from within our own area.”

Father Sklar said the participants also enjoy the interaction with the bishop, and the seminarians and priests in attendance.

“It is a great social time for the sponsors and the participants to get to know the bishop and the priests and seminarians in a relaxed environment,” said Father Sklar. “They get to know them as people.”

There is also a team of four in Natchitoches -- Team DeBlieux -- who have participated in all 22 golf tournaments.

“We can always count on

Team DeBlieux to be there for the tournament,” said Father Sklar.

Sandi Tarver, in the Office of Development at the diocese, has also been involved in the golf tournament since 2003 when Vilar came on board.

“I’ve had the privilege of getting to know so many of the sponsors and players over the years,” she said. “It’s fun to see some of the same people return year after year, so enthusiastic and so committed to seminarian education.”

Mark your calendar now for the 23rd annual Bishop’s Golf Tournament scheduled next year again on Columbus Day, Oct. 8.

**Continued on pages 10-11**

**Special thanks to:**



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**SABINE BANK TEAM -- FIRST PLACE GROSS.** Members of the team are Jim Cole, John Migliore, Jamey Johnson, and Bruce Gandy.



**ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH (Bunkie) TEAM -- FIRST PLACE NET.** Members of the team are Tom Roy, Jon Roy, A.J. Juneau, and Mark Coulon.



**KRAMER FUNERAL HOME -- 2ND PLACE GROSS.** Members of the team are Les Glankler, Cory Bergeron, Corky Yates, and Frank Brame



**KINETIX BROADBAND TEAM -- 2ND PLACE NET.** Members of the team are Glen Ducote, Dwayne Lemoine, Perry Welch, and Luke Welch.



**CATHOLIC FAITH JOURNEYS, LLC TEAM -- 3RD PLACE GROSS.** Members of the team are Jarred Tarver, Rob Tarver, Philip Bossier, and Todd Urbina.



**UDB FINANCIAL/INSURANCE TEAM-- 3RD PLACE NET.** Members of the team are Father Charlie Ray, Asa Beebe, Ryan Brocato, Sal Brocato, and Vincent Brocato.

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All photos by  
**Joan Ferguson**

Pictures can be viewed in a Photo Gallery at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

 **Invitational Bishop's GOLF TOURNAMENT**



**BISHOP'S GOLF TOURNAMENT.** It was a beautiful day for golfers who participated in the annual Bishop's Golf Tournament Oct. 9 at Oakwing. Twenty-nine teams participated to raise money for the eight seminarians who are currently in formation. Pictured above are Father Louis Sklar, director of Vocations, seminarian Grant Rabalais, Bishop David Talley, and seminarians David Keran, Thomas Kennedy, and Jacob Cass. Below is William Ackel taking a swing while his team members from Northwestern Hills Golf Course in Natchitoches watch.



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**MENARD NATIONAL MERIT 'COMMEDED STUDENTS.'** Holy Savior Menard High School principal Dwayne Lemoine congratulates [redacted], both seniors at Menard, for being named Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship competition. Commended students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2018 competition by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. [redacted], daughter of Chris and Maria Armstrong of Alexandria, and [redacted], son of Nason and Timmie Authement of Alexandria, were both chosen for their scholastic talent.



**PANCAKES WITH PAWPAW AT CABRINI SCHOOL.** Pre-K students at St. Frances Cabrini School shared 'pancakes with PawPaw' one week to reinforce the letter "P." Grandfathers came and ate pancakes shaped like pigs, drank pink punch, and finger painted a pink pig. It was a fun day! Pictured is Kolt [redacted] with his PawPaw.



**HOLY GHOST/ST. RICHARD CHURCH FAIR.** Holy Ghost/St. Richard held its 3rd Annual 5k Run/1 Mile Walk on Saturday, Sept. 30. Pictured at right are the participants and winners with their pastor, Father Abraham Varghese.



**ST. FRANCES CABRINI PROCESSION OF ROSES.** Parents and students at St. Frances Cabrini School gathered Sept. 29 at the 8 a.m. Mass to honor St. Therese Liseux (The Little Flower) with hundreds of fresh roses.



**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL** celebrated their annual Fall Festival Sept. 30 with good food, games, and musical entertainment. The festival ended with an outdoor Mass at 4 p.m.

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**The International Centennial Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima**

• (above) **St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport -- Sept. 13.** Nathaniel [redacted], Gaven J. [redacted], Zeph [redacted], and Juilen [redacted] carried the Pilgrim Statue during a school Mass Sept. 13.

• (left top) **Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville -- Sept. 11.** The International Centennial Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima Statue was brought to Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville on Sept. 11. The day began with Sacred Heart School's female students lighting the way down the aisle of the church with candles as "Our Lady" was processed into church. Marvin Guillot, Coach Luis Ramirez, Dan Soldani, and John Mohn carried the statue on a "bier" covered in roses. The Imposition of the Scapular, Rosary and re-coronation of Our Lady was celebrated by Fr. Jose Pallipurath and visiting priest Fr. Abraham Pallakattuchira. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Benediction and evening Mass continued through the end of the day.

• (left bottom) **Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine -- Sept. 8.** The International Centennial Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima was welcomed Sept. 8 into Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine. The image is traveling throughout the six continents reiterating Our Blessed Mother's appeal for prayer and reparation to preserve world peace and the sanctity of family life. The events included a Holy Rosary, a St. John Paul II Consecration Prayer, a Holy Mass was celebrated, and family consecration to the two hearts talk was given along with the importance of consecration and the brown scapular. After Mass, a candlelight rosary procession was made on the highway around the church. The procession returned to the church where an all night vigil was held with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.



**BLESSING OF THE PETS.** Father Brian Seiler blesses the pet of a St. Mary's School (Natchitoches) student Oct. 4 in celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.



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CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN and Archbishop Gregory Aymond.



**LOUISIANA BISHOPS.** representing all seven dioceses of Louisiana – gathered at St. Louis Cathedral to celebrate Mass Sept. 20 with the priests of the state. From left to right are Alexandria Bishop David Talley; New Orleans Auxiliary Bishop Fernand Cheri; Houma-Thibodaux Bishop Shelton Fabre; New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond; Lake Charles Bishop Glen John Provost; Baton Rouge Bishop Robert Muench; Shreveport Bishop Michael Duca and Lafayette Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel.



**BISHOP DAVID TALLEY** concelebrates Mass with Archbishop Gregory Aymond and the six other Louisiana bishops at the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans during the convention.

## Diocesan priests attend LA Priests Convention

By Peter Finney

New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan suggested to 435 Louisiana priests that humbly and openly sharing the “wounds” and shortcomings of the church might bring those who are alienated back to the practice of the faith.

Using the image of the church as “our supernatural family, which we, as priests, are called to image,” Cardinal Dolan told the three-day Louisiana Priests’ Convention Sept. 19 that human weakness has been a part of the church from the beginning.

“The church is not just our family – it’s also a dysfunctional family,” he said. “Everybody today talks about dysfunctional families. Have you ever met a

functional one?”

Cardinal Dolan suggested to the priests that they evangelize by developing “a theology and a practice of the church as a family.” He said it’s not a new idea; it’s one that also resonates with the Jewish community, which is experiencing similar challenges of keeping young people within the practice of their faith.

Cardinal Dolan said the late New York newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin once wrote: “We Catholics might not be very good at being members of the church, but we never leave. We’re all just one chest pain away from going back.”

“Not any more, I’m afraid,” Cardinal Dolan said. “I don’t know about you, but every time

the Pew Research Center puts out a new study, every time CARA announces more statistics, I, as a priest, a shepherd, a prophet and a king, hold my breath because the percentage of people who claim to be ex-Catholic or ‘none’ rises a couple of points.”

If people with a cynical or jaded view of the church experience priests who “prize honesty and humility” and are “contrite and eager” to reform the flaws of the church, then they may begin to view the church as “a warm, tender, inviting family.”

“If we’re not afraid as priests to show our wounds – the wounds of the church, the wounds of our family – maybe the other wounded will come back,” Cardinal Dolan said.



Fathers Brian Seiler, Peter Faulk, John Wiltse, and Rickey Gremillion.



Father Martin Laird



Father Scott Chemino, V.G. and Father James Ferguson

## Dr. Chris Maggio installed as 19th president of Northwestern

NATCHITOCHES – Dr. Joseph Christopher Maggio was installed as the 19th president of Northwestern State University Sept. 15 in a formal Investiture ceremony attended by students, faculty, alumni, friends, family, dignitaries and honored guests from throughout the state.

The installation of Maggio as president capstones a life and career dedicated to service and student success at the university where he has served on faculty and/or staff in numerous leadership and instructional capacities since 1988.

“I am honored to be surrounded and supported today by so many members of my families. The word families is plural because I am referring to my parents, wife, children, siblings and other relatives and to our Northwestern State family of students,” Maggio said. Dr. Maggio and his wife, the former Jennifer Zeagler, were joined by their children, Melanie, Scott and Emily.

A procession of faculty and staff in full academic regalia began the ceremony that incorporated many Northwestern State traditions and acknowledgements of the school’s 133-year history.

“I can think of no one at this university more firmly rooted in Natchitoches and NSU than Dr. Maggio,” said Dr. Thomas Reynolds, associate professor of English and president of the Fac-



**DR. CHRIS MAGGIO** was formally invested as the 19th president of Northwestern State University Sept. 15 during a ceremony steeped in academic and university traditions. Prior to the installation, the Maggio family gathered for Mass at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where he and his family are parishioners.

ulty Senate. “His years of service have helped NSU survive through tough times and thrive in better times. We as a faculty look forward to working with Dr. Maggio for many years to come.”

Earlier in the day, the Maggio family was joined by the university and Natchitoches community at a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception with hymns performed by the NSU Chamber Choir.

Principal celebrant was Rev.

Blake Deshautelle, pastor of Immaculate Conception, and homilist was Rev. Scott Chemino, vicar general for the diocese.

“Our prayerful blessing for NSU and Dr. Maggio is that he may not only be the “Man of the Hour” today, but that in years to come, for his service to the university and the city, he may be remembered as the “Man of the Decade,” said Father Chemino.

Other concelebrants included the Rev. John Cunningham, the Rev. Monsignor Carson LaCaze,

the Rev. Marc Noel, the Very Rev. John O’Brien, the Rev. Craig Scott (Class of 1986), the Rev. Louis Sklar (Class of 1990) and the Rev. Brian Seiler.

Readings and hymns from the Mass reflected Dr. and Mrs. Maggio’s expressed values of service, faith and diligence.

Following the Investiture, the Maggio family received visitors at the Arnold R. Kilpatrick President’s Residence. The community event featured the talents of students from NSU’s School

of Creative and Performing Arts. Artwork by students, faculty and alumni selected especially for the occasion was on display in the home and refreshments included Italian delicacies made from recipes passed down through the Maggio family.

The Mass, Investiture and community reception were pinnacle events of a week of festivities that included a Patriot Day observance on Sept. 11, the annual Demons Come Out at Night Pep Rally and concert, the First Lady’s Service Project and activities surrounding NSU’s first home football game.

Maggio said that his interaction with prospective students from many diverse backgrounds and the relationships that continued as those students became productive alumni relate back to the values of his immigrant family who came to America seeking opportunity.

“I have been blessed for three decades to be involved in some of the many different dimensions of our history school. I have taught in its classrooms and those academic experiences are the very core and keystone of any university,” Maggio said. “At the soul of the university is the spirit of innovation, exploration and synergy that keep it vibrant and consequential. Those qualities tie the schools’ past to its future.”

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"Families are busy, very busy! We hope this app will make it super easy to weave family prayer of the Rosary into their day," said Father Willy Raymond, President of Holy Cross Family Ministries. "We all want to pray the Rosary. We want to enrich our family's spirituality. This free mobile app helps families in a very simple, yet meaningful way. As our founder said, 'The family that prays together stays together.'"

The free app has been downloaded more than 1 million times. It is available for download on iTunes and Google Play. For de-



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tails on the free Mobile Rosary App, go to <http://www.FamilyRosary.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>.

In the spirit of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, Holy Cross Family Ministries and Family Rosary encourage family prayer, especially the Rosary, to support the spiritual well-being of the family through events and media. Family Rosary is a member ministry of Holy Cross Family Ministries.

For more information: 844-693-4201 or [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org), as well as on Facebook. To learn more about the free Mobile Rosary App, go to: <http://www.FamilyRosary.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 13296** in Deville/Kolin elected officers recently. New officers are Donald Burgess, grand knight; Fred Cole, deputy grand knight; Craig Smith, chancellor (not pictured); Brett Crooks, treasurer; and Dallas Lemoine, financial secretary.



**THE NATCHITOCHEs KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1357** donated \$5,000 October 5 to hurricane relief efforts. The money will help victims in Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico. Thanks to the many loyal players at their weekly non-profit bingo, the Knights are able to support numerous charities important to our community. Three of the many volunteer bingo workers pictured are Michael Yankowski, Emile Metoyer and Leslie Bayonne.



**JOHN MOROVICH**, diocesan coordinator of the Knights of Columbus, presented a check to Bishop Talley on behalf of the Knights of Columbus Louisiana District, Fourth Degree. The check represents the 2017 ERE donation.

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### October 20 Taste of Creole Night

#### St. Juliana Church, Alexandria

St. Juliana will host the 13th annual Taste of Creole Night on Friday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Church Activity Bldg. (900 Daspit St, Alexandria). Join us for a night of Creole food tasting, entertainment, and fun for the whole family. Tickets are \$15 per person.

### October 21-22

#### Fall Fair

#### Sacred Heart School Fall Fair, Moreauville

Come out and enjoy a weekend full of fun and things to do at the Sacred Heart School Fall Fair. Activities on Oct. 21 include a Fun Run at 7 a.m.; a Motorcycle Poke Run at 1 p.m.; a Blood Drive from noon – 4 p.m.; Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop David Talley at 4 p.m.; fried catfish dinner after Mass, and a night of live music, bingo, and lots of family fun. On Oct. 22, the traditional Cochon de Lait dinner will be served after the 9 a.m. Mass, along with the booth games and silent auction throughout the day. For more information, contact Karen Moreau at 985-2772.

### October 25

#### Trunk or Treat

#### Sacred Heart Church, Pineville

Sacred Heart's Annual Trunk or Treat will be held Wednesday, October 25 at 5:30 p.m. in our Activities Building Parking Lot. We are asking for volunteers to decorate their trunk and donate some candy and time for the evening! Trunks need to be set up by 5:15 in time for our children to be Trunk or Treating by 5:30 p.m. If you would like to participate as a volunteer or make a donation please contact Melanie Dupre' Delahoussaye at 318-613-6959 or cajunladee65@att.net.

### October 26-28

#### Zoo Boo, Alexandria

Join in the fun at Central Louisiana's biggest Halloween extravaganza Oct. 26-28 from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Zoo (3016 Masonic Drive). This family-friendly Halloween

experience is three nights of Spooktacular, scare-free fun! Enjoy Halloween activities for kids at the Festival Plaza, photo ops, and sweets and treats along the trick or treat trail through the Alexandria Zoo. Admission is \$7 per person -- cash only.

### October 27

#### Tales Along the Bayou-Ghost Stories

#### Kent House, Alexandria

This free family event will feature stories for the little kids at 6 p.m. then, after a short intermission, the scary stories for older kids will start at 7 p.m. While we do not require small children to leave for the second part we do encourage it due to the scary nature of some of the stories. Candy, snacks and concessions will be available for sale or you can bring your own picnic dinner. Join us for a great evening of Ghost Story Tales Along the Bayou!

### October 27-28

#### Cabrini Fest

#### St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria will hold its annual Cabrini Fest on Friday, Oct. 27 from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Activities will include Bingo, rock wall, zip line, games, talent show, face painting and more. Come join us for a fun day for the entire family!

### October 27-28

#### Fall Festival

#### St. Rita Church, Alexandria

The St. Rita Fall Festival begins Friday, Oct. 27 with a Street Dance on the church grounds from 7:30 – 11:30 p.m. Enjoy the music of D.J. Foxx Band, while eating a beef sandwich (for sale) outdoors on your lawn chair. No cover charge. On Saturday, Oct. 28, from 4:30 -8:30 p.m., plan to eat some chicken and sausage gumbo, hamburgers, meatpies or other great foods; play some bingo (5:30 – 8:30 p.m.); or purchase a raffle ticket. Costume

contest at 5 p.m.; games and trunk or treat from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Don't miss the fun, food, and games!

### October 28

#### Taste of the Angels

#### St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport

Join St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport to celebrate their 70th anniversary with A Taste of the Angels on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. in the St. Mary's Gym. For the price of one ticket, participants can sample a variety of foods cooked on-site by 25 local chefs. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids (PK – 8th grade). Enjoy the night with family and friends, a silent auction, and music. Chefs interested in participating should contact the school at 318-876-3651 or secretary@stmaryscottonport.com to register.

### November 3-5

#### Louisiana Pecan Festival, Colfax

Join us in Colfax, La. for the 48th annual Louisiana Pecan Festival. The weekend starts Friday morning with the Blessing of the Crops at 7:30 a.m. Vendors open at 8 a.m., followed by a day of entertainment, local performances, and the Queen's Ball at 8 p.m. On Saturday, the vendors open at 8 a.m. followed by the Grand Louisiana Pecan Festival Parade at 10 a.m. Starting at noon, the carnival opens, and the day is full of fun, food, and entertainment. A street dance will be held at 5 p.m. and fireworks at 8:30 p.m. On Sunday, the fun continues until 6:30 p.m. Join us for a weekend of fun. No admission charge.

### November 18-19

#### Cabrini Sanctuary Society Christmas Shoppe

The St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society will host its 40th annual Christmas Shoppe on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the parish Activities Building. Complete your Thanksgiving menu from a great selection of homemade frozen casseroles and desserts, or choose some of your Christmas gifts from the large selection of arts and crafts. On Sunday, lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Buy a chance to be a winner in "Split the Pot." The drawing will be held Nov. 19.

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# The Healing Spirit of Giving: A Hurricane Harvey Experience

By Dr. Mark Guidry  
Guest Contributor

On Sept. 23, for the first time after she was rescued by boat, I pushed my 80-year-old mother in a wheelchair through her gutted out home in Port Arthur, Texas.

Here, she had endured 10 hours in rising floodwaters on the morning of Aug. 30. In our lifetimes, there had never been a flooding event to affect our family home.

As we moved from room to room, I witnessed her fear and anguish as she recounted the traumatic experience that changed her life forever...

## Matter of Life and death

It was an emergency - a matter of life and death. Those 10 hours leading to rescue, were agonizing and felt like eternity. Grateful for continuous phone service, I stayed on the phone with her, calmly offering prayer and guidance, while texting my siblings who engaged in repeated efforts to notify a variety of authorities (all unprepared for this event) about her dire need for rescue. The stress was nearly unbearable were it not for the grace of God.

This was only the beginning. We continued to experience many traumatic cycles of emotions - from shock, to despair, to anger - through the time she was rescued; through initially assessing the damage; through cleaning out ruined belongings; through gutting out walls that held lifetime, sacred memories of family sacraments; and through grieving the loss of antiques, relics, and pho-



**MARILYN GOUDEAU GUIDRY** re-lives the 10 hours spent in her flooded home in Port Arthur, Texas before a boat rescued her.

tos of deceased loved ones.

And the road to recovery is long.... Mama's community and her sense of belonging have been destroyed. Today, there remains much uncertainty . . .

Where will she ultimately live? Should she rebuild in the same location or a new? What will her community become? Where will her beloved neighbors go? Will new City codes prohibit rebuilding? How much help will she get from FEMA and insurances? It's completely overwhelming.

In the midst of it all, our

salvation is the healing spirit of giving - acts of compassion that acknowledge your pain and offer consolation - whether through prayers, supplies, money, or comforting arms.

I remember being touched by mere statements such as "I know what you are going through and I am praying for you." Simple acts of kindness bring the healing love of Christ to wounded hearts.

When my mother asked me to direct efforts to clean out and gut the walls of her home (our family home), I felt the most overwhelmed.

While preparing to travel back to Texas for this task, God sent two unexpected angels - one to comfort me and my family, and another to engage me in helping others.

When Deacon Richard Mitchell acknowledged my struggles and offered both prayers and supplies, I felt an immediate sense of relief. Grateful, I was spiritually prepared for a most difficult task ahead.

Similarly, even though my

family and I were personally impacted by the storm, I welcomed an offer to partner in efforts to raise funds for others.

Kristy Jones, president of the St. Augustine Providence Mission, organized a fund-raising event at St. Augustine Catholic Church on Isle Brevelle. The event featured hamburger and cake sales along with fun activities for kids.

The event was less about what activities occurred or how much money we raised; rather, it was all about providing a way for our Catholic community to experience the grace of God through the healing spirit of giving.

The love of Christ is for all of us. It is here for the poor, the wealthy, and all in between. While many storm victims need funds and supplies to endure, it is about more than that . . . The spirit of giving warms every heart - of the giver and of the receiver.

I thank God for sending me His angels - the Deacon and Kristy - at the very time I needed Him most.



**ONE SMALL VIEW** of a long line of ruined belongings which included Guidry's car totaled from complete submersion.

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**UNITED IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING** are (from left) Kristy Jones, president of the St. Augustine Providence Mission; Deacon Richard Mitchell, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Alexandria; and Dr. Mark Guidry, president of the St. Augustine Historical Society who presented a donation for Hurricane relief to the diocese on behalf of his organization.



**LSU-A CATHOLIC STUDENT ORGANIZATION** collected relief supplies for Hurricane Harvey victims and drove to Beaumont, Texas one weekend in September to help families clean up their homes. Lynn Ray, LSUA campus minister said the students were deeply touched by stories of the families they helped. "It was not just a clean-up mission, but a true missionary experience that I think the students will remember for a long time," said Ray.



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL IN PLAUCHEVILLE PARTNERS WITH SCHOOL IN PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS.** Billy Albritton, principal of St. Joseph School in Plaquemine, Louisiana, drove over three hours to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School in Port Arthur to deliver school supplies and backpacks for students affected by Hurricane Harvey. Haidee Todora, principal of St. Catherine School, took Albritton on a tour of the damaged school. Albritton also presented Todora with religious articles blessed by their school's pastor, Father Martin Laird.





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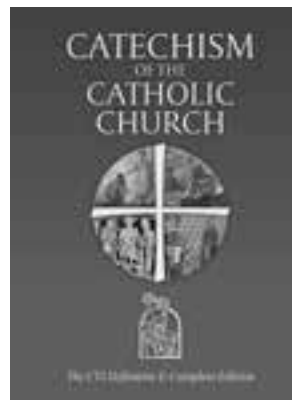
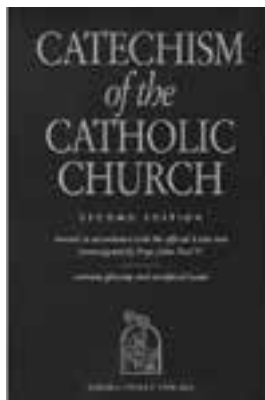
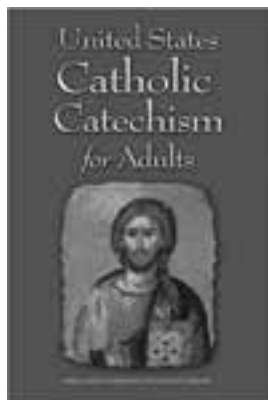
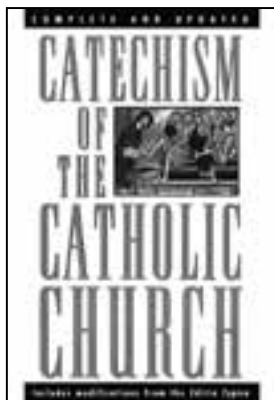
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# Surfing the Catechism of the Catholic Church on its 25th anniversary

By Bill Dodds  
OSV Weekly

## The Catechism of the Catholic Church



The silver anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is a good reminder that its contents remain more valuable than the book's weight in gold (which, at about 3 pounds, would be worth around \$52,000).

Truth be told — and the Catechism is all about truth (all about the Way, the Truth and the Life) — it's more valuable than all the gold on earth.

On June 25, 1992, Pope John Paul II approved the text of this new, lengthy book. Then on Oct. 11 of that same year, the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, he promulgated it with his apostolic constitution, *Fidei Depositum* ("The Deposit of Faith").

Five years later, on the solemnity of the Assumption on Aug. 15, 1997, the pope promulgated his apostolic letter *Laetamur Magnopere*, which begins:

"It is a cause for joy that the Latin Typical Edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is being published. It is approved and promulgated by me in this apostolic letter and thus becomes the definitive text of the aforementioned Catechism."

### New document, new direction

It had been a while since even a national (let alone universal) catechism was depended on

in the United States. The previous source was the Baltimore Catechism, whose publication history stretched from the 1880s up through the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). After Vatican II its use got spotty and completely disappeared in most schools, parishes and dioceses. And in a lot of homes.

Truth hadn't changed. Times had. The Baltimore Catechism used a nuts-and-bolts approach of questions and answers that worked well for many generations. But it just didn't have the depth or breadth of answers that Catholics now wanted — what they needed for their own welfare, for raising their children in the Faith and for explaining the teachings of the Church to others.

Then, too, in what sometimes seemed like an anything-goes cat-

echetrical approach in the decades immediately after Vatican II, there was more than a little confusion. What did the Church really teach about this or about that?

Now, what the Catechism of the Catholic Church offered was another (but unsaid) question — one that was more personal. What do you really want to know about this or about that?

What do you want to know about the profession of Faith you publicly say every Sunday at Mass ("I believe in God ...")?

What do you want to know about the Mass and the sacraments?

What do you want to know about the Saints?

### Start surfing

But a three-pound, 900-page book can seem more than a little

intimidating. Not just its content but its apparent time commitment. Fortunately, there's more good news about this resource that focuses on the Good News.

The language and writing style are highly readable for all of us ordinary "praying stiff" in the pews. And it's not necessary to begin with page 1 and plod your way through to page 900-plus.

You can, to use a contemporary term, surf. Here are some tips on how you can digest this enormous volume of Church teaching:

**1.** Browse the table of contents and index to see what topic interests you, intrigues you. What would you like to know more about? The liturgical seasons? The Holy Spirit?

**2.** Do the same with the glossary

## BOOK REVIEW

to get clear, understandable definition of hundreds of "Catholic" words and terms

**3.** Focus in on a particular sacrament that is playing a major role in your life right now. Baptism? Confirmation? Matrimony? Anointing of the Sick?

**4.** Work on how to better appreciate the Mass and the Eucharist by finding out more about the incredible gift of Our Lord's body and blood.

**5.** Pick a topic for reading and prayer during Advent or Lent for time you spend at the parish's adoration chapel.

**6.** Go through the Nicene Creed, line by line, to make Sunday Mass attendance even more meaningful.

**7.** Take better advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation by examining its theology to give you the nudge you may need to return to confession or to go more often.

**8.** Bookmark or print sections of the online Catechism that you want to read more slowly, carefully and prayerfully.



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face to face.

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# The Mountain Between Us is an emotional thrill ride, well-directed

Movieguide.org

*The Mountain Between Us* is a romantic disaster drama based on a novel written by bestselling Christian author Charles Martin, about a witty middle-aged photojournalist and British doctor trying to survive a plane crash on a snowy mountain. Tremendously made, the movie is an emotional thrill ride, but there are a few disappointing plot elements and scenes that mitigate the movie's positive aspects.

Alex Martin (Kate Winslet) is a witty middle-aged photojournalist trying to get back to Denver in time for her wedding, which is the very next day. However, all the flights are canceled because of a storm. Alex overhears a British doctor in a similar predicament who's trying to get to Baltimore to perform an emergency surgery on a child. Alex introduces herself to the doctor (Idris Elba) and presents the idea of the two of them renting a small charter plane. The doctor agrees.

The charter two-person plane is piloted by an older man. En route over the mountains, the pilot has a heart attack, and the plane crashes. The doctor and Alex survive, along with the pilot's dog, but Alex's leg is badly



**THE MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US**, featuring Kate Winslet as Alex Martin and Idris Elba as Dr. Ben Bass, is a romantic drama about two strangers whose plane crashes in the mountains and who must rely on each other to survive. *The Mountain Between Us* is very well-directed, emotional and exciting. It has a strong moral worldview with Christian elements, but this is mitigated by some strong foul language and a bedroom scene, so extreme caution is advised.

hurt. The doctor, who reveals his name is Ben Bass, mends to their wounds and suggests they stay in the rubble of the plane on the mountain until they're rescued. However, no one knew of their private flight. So, after three days waiting in the cold and nearly out of food, Alex decides to risk trekking into the wilderness with her injured leg, against Ben's stern recommendation. Alex doesn't

want to die waiting, and Ben eventually goes after Alex knowing that she'll die without him.

As the two confront the harsh mountain environment, a bond forged by survival grows between the two, though Ben is clearly hiding some details about his marriage from Alex. When it seems as if the two are certainly going to die, they become romantically entangled. Can Alex rec-

oncile the fact that she's engaged to another man when she's seemingly falling in love with Ben, who manifests great selflessness, care and compassion? Will Alex and Ben make it out of the mountains alive?

*The Mountain Between Us* surprisingly works as both a survivalist-drama, and a romance. The superbly directed plane crash is one of the most intense crash

## MOVIE REVIEW

sequences seen in years, opting for long takes, making the viewer a participant in the terrifying crash. Idris Elba and Kate Winslet have fantastic chemistry, which is aided by a fast-paced script filled with witty dialogue. Thankfully, the movie doesn't wallow in dependency like many survival dramas, but in fact has a hopeful, feel-good ending.

The movie has some disappointing aspects that weren't in the original book, which was written by a Christian author.

First, Alex's character Alex curses, taking Jesus Christ's name in vain numerous times. In the book, Dr. Ben Bass is a Christian, but in the movie, he only makes a few references to God.

Second, there's a somewhat steamy sex scene halfway into the movie that pushes the PG-13 boundaries and is completely unnecessary to the story. This, of course, presents some moral problems. Because of the strong profanities and the bedroom scene, a strong caution is advised.



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Conception, Natchitoches  
(church hall)
- **Tuesday, Oct. 24** – 6 p.m.  
St. Frances Cabrini School,  
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Every adult who works/volunteers with children/youth in the Diocese of Alexandria's churches/schools is required to attend a VIRTUS™ Protecting God's Children for Adults sexual abuse awareness training.

To register,  
go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

**Oct. 18: White Mass**

Father Marin Laird will celebrate the White Mass for Medical Professionals at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at the 12:05 p.m. Mass. All medical professionals are invited to attend.

**Oct. 20-22: Marriage Encounter Weekend**

On a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend you will have the time you need to focus on your relationship and learn a unique communication technique which will help you to bridge any gaps you may have and bring back that spark that made your marriage so special. The next weekend is Oct. 20-22 at the Bishop Robert Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. To register, go to [LAMS-wwme.org](http://LAMS-wwme.org) or call Jack & Angel LaBate at 470-297-8560 or [jackandangel@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackandangel@bellsouth.net).

**Oct. 22: Mass for Religious Women**

Join Bishop David Talley Oct. 22 at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral for a Mass of Thanksgiving for Religious Women. There are currently 19 religious men and women actively working in the diocese and another six retired in the diocese. Please pray for those currently serving for an increase in religious vocations.

**Oct. 25: Steubenville South registration**

Registration for the 2018 Steubenville South (June 22-24) will open Oct. 25. Go to the website at [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com) to register.

**Oct. 28: Catechist Appreciation Day**

All catechists throughout the diocese, as well as all Catholic school religion teachers, are invited to attend the Diocesan Catechist Appreciation Day on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Holy Savior Menard High School. Bishop David Talley will be the keynote speaker for the day along with other breakout speakers for those teaching in grades K-11, First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, and high school teens. An appreciation banquet and recognition ceremony will be held at lunch. Please register at <https://form.jotform.us/72534512354149> or call Denese Carter at 445-6424 ext. 227.

**Oct. 28: A Taste of the Angels**

Join St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport to celebrate their 70th anniversary with *A Taste of the Angels* on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. in the St. Mary's Gym. For the price of one ticket, participants can sample a variety of foods cooked on-site by 25 local chefs. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids (PK – 8th grade). Enjoy the night with family and friends, a silent auction, and music. Chefs interested in participating should contact the school at 318-876-3651 or [secretary@stmaryscottonport.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryscottonport.com) to register.

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**ST. RITA CHURCH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD.** The 2017 Volunteer Luncheon, sponsored by St. Rita Church, was held Sept. 24. The annual Kathy Holt Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Wayne Yarbrough by Father Craig Scott, pastor.

**Oct. 29: Alexandria Pro-Life Chain**

The Alexandria Pro-Life Chain will be held Sunday, Oct. 29 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the bottom of the Jackson Street bridge. Life Chain is a peaceful, prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans praying in public witness for our nation and to end abortion. Please bring aluminum cans to support the Cenla Pregnancy Center.

**Oct. 30-Nov. 4: Radio Maria Mariathon**

Radio Maria will host its annual Fall Mariathon Oct. 30 – Nov. 4. Radio Maria is a Catholic radio station located in Alexandria that is part of the World Family of Radio Maria. It is 100 percent listener supported and receives no funding from any other source. Please prayerfully consider making a donation or pledge during the Fall Mariathon Oct. 30-Nov. 4 by calling 888-408-0201. Keep Our Lady's mission of evangelization alive on Radio Maria. Listen to us on 580 AM in Alexandria; 89.7 FM in Natchitoches or online at [radiomaria.us](http://radiomaria.us).

**Nov. 25: Christ the King Celebration**

Mark your calendar now for a Christ the King Celebration, November 25, to be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville. The events of the day will begin with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and morning prayers

at 8:30 a.m. Hourly devotions will be held throughout the day and will end with Mass celebrated by Bishop Talley at 5 p.m. followed by a potluck supper.

**Nov. 10-12: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**

The Rachel's Vineyard ministry for healing after abortion is having a retreat the weekend of Nov. 10-12, at the Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie, LA 70006. Cost: \$170; financial assistance available, if necessary. This Catholic healing retreat is open to everyone whose life has been touched by abortion. All faiths welcome. For more information & to register, go to [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) or contact Pam Richard, (504) 460-9360 or (985) 809-0773; email address: [richj504@bellsouth.net](mailto:richj504@bellsouth.net) or Donna Scheuerman, (504) 258-9183. This retreat is strictly confidential.

**Statement of Ownership,  
Management and Circulation**

The Church Today • 393-240 • Sept. 30, 2017  
Monthly, Free of Charge  
4400 Coliseum Blvd.  
Alexandria, LA 71303 • (318) 445-2401

Publisher:  
Most Reverend David P. Talley  
4400 Coliseum Blvd. • Alexandria, LA 71303

Editor: Jeannie Petrus      Advertising: Joan Ferguson  
4400 Coliseum Blvd      4400 Coliseum Blvd  
Alexandria, LA 71303      Alexandria, LA 71303

	Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months:	No. of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date:
Total copies	12,286	12,051
Outside county	6,719	6,847
In-county	5,430	5,104
Other distribution	138	100
Total Distribution	12,286	12,051
Percent Requested	100%	100%

Jeannie Petrus, Editor      Filing Date: Sept. 30, 2017

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Diocesan Office of Life and Justice Opens</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Adult Faith Series 10:00-11:00 am or 7:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>Adult Catechism 5:30-6:30 pm St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>White Mass (for Health Professionals) 12:05 pm St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Outdoor Rosary 7:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>A Taste of Creole 6:00 pm St. Juliana Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Fall Fair -- Sacred Heart School, Moreauville</p> <p>Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend -- Baton Rouge</p> <p>Cenla ACTS Retreat for Women -- Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Mass of Thanksgiving for Religious Women (Nuns) 11:00 am St. Francis Xavier Cathedral</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 pm St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria and MB Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</p> <p>Adult Faith Series 10:00-11:00 am or 7:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Steubenville South Registration Opens</p> <p>Trunk or Treat 5:15 pm Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>LAST NIGHT Outdoor Rosary 7:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Catechist Appreciation Day 9:30 am-2:00 pm Holy Savior Menard, Alexandria</p> <p>A Taste of the Angels 5:30 pm-8:00 pm St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport</p> <p>Fall Festival -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria</p> <p>Cabrini Fest -- St. Francis Cabrini, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Alexandria Pro-Life Chain 2:00-3:30- pm Downtown Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>
<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>NOVEMBER</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Ends</p>
<p>ACTS of Avoyelles for Men -- Maryhill Renewal Center</p>						
<p>Radio Maria's Fall Mariathon 888-408-0201</p>						
<p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>	<p><b>HALLOWEEN</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>	<p><b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b></p> <p>A Holy Day of Obligation</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY</p>	<p><b>ALL SOULS DAY</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU</p>	<p><b>FIRST FRIDAY</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p><b>FIRST SATURDAY</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES SANCHEZ</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Adult Faith Series 10:00-11:00 am or 7:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p><b>ELECTION DAY</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Rachel's Vineyard Retreat -- Metairie, LA</p> <p><b>VETERANS DAY</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA POSADA</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Adult Faith Series 10:00-11:00 am or 7:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>Adult Catechism 5:30-6:30 pm St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Sacred Heart ACTS Retreat for Women -- Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON</p>

# CANCER

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**MICHELLE  
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*Breast Cancer  
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### *Michelle's Story:*

"I wish more people would realize we have these facilities right here in this area instead of going to Shreveport or New Orleans. You can have it done here. I can't say that it was an awful journey because everyone was so good and kind."

*Michelle*

"We had a very good rapport from the very beginning. That really helps, because if you like your doctors—and you like where you're being treated and you're close to home—that's very, very important. We treat the cancer at Cabrini Cancer Center with a holistic approach. Michelle is a patient who has the diagnosis of breast cancer who is undergoing treatment and has family members and loved ones."

*Dr. Menache*

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