

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVIII, No. 11

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November 13, 2017

ON THE INSIDE

Pope Francis designates Nov. 19 as first World Day of the Poor

In his apostolic letter to close the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis suggested the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can “reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel.” He designated Nov. 19 as the World Day of the Poor. Read more about it on pg. 3.

Advent welcomes in New (Liturgical) Year

It's true – Advent, which starts Sunday, Dec. 3, is the season of waiting -- the season of preparing for the birth of Christ. But Advent is also the beginning of the new liturgical year. Have you thought about making spiritual resolutions for the new liturgical year? See page 5 for details.

Who is your favorite saint?

Schools and CCD classes around the diocese celebrated All Saints Day Nov. 1 learning and dressing up like their favorite saint. Check out the color pictures on pages 12-13 and see if you recognize any of the pint-sized saints.



Welcome to the Holidays!

from Manna House

PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT MANNA HOUSE. Jessica Viator, executive director of Manna House, said the staff of volunteers is gearing up for serving meals at Manna House throughout the holidays. From Thanksgiving, to Christmas, and through the New Year, the Manna House continues to operate serving meals to those less fortunate in the community. See story on page 16.

Knights CEO praises plan for getting U.S. aid to persecuted Christians

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, praised the decision by the Trump administration to provide direct U.S. aid to persecuted Christians in the Middle East and route it through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The aid will go to "faith-based and private organizations" to help those who are persecuted in the region, according to Vice President Mike Pence, who announced the move in a keynote address at the Oct. 25 Solidarity Dinner for the Washington-based group In Defense of Christians.

U.S. aid to the region had previously been given to the United Nations for distribution in the troubled region, but Pence criticized the U.N. efforts saying they had been ineffective in helping Christians who have suffered at the hands of Islamic State militants and other terrorist groups.

"A year ago, the United States used the right word to describe what was happening to Christians and other religious minorities in

the Middle East. That word was genocide. Tonight, those words were put into action," Anderson said in a statement.

He introduced Pence at the dinner, saying that now was the time to "rededicate ourselves to the defense of our brothers and sisters in faith -- and to defending them in a Christian way with the ethics of love."

"Despite the efforts of so many, the world witnesses again and again the crimes against humanity that we now describe as genocide," Anderson told an audience that included elected officials, bishops, priests and prelates from the U.S. and throughout the Middle East.

Pence singled out the Knights of Columbus for "extraordinary work caring for the persecuted around the world."

"While faith-based groups with proven track records and deep roots in these communities are more than willing to assist, the United Nations too often denies their funding requests," Pence said. "My friends, those



SUPREME KNIGHT CARL ANDERSON, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, is seen in Washington Oct. 2. Since 2014, the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund has donated more than \$17 million for humanitarian assistance in Iraq, Syria and the surrounding region. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

days are over."

Since 2014, the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund has donated more than \$17 million for humanitarian assistance in Iraq, Syria and the sur-

rounding region.

In August of this year, the Knights launched a drive to raise \$2 million to rebuild Karamles, a predominantly Christian town in Iraq that was destroyed by IS. A

spokesman for the Knights told CNS Oct. 27 that all the money has been raised and it is committed to the project as announced.

A timeline for rebuilding the town is still to be determined, but the Knights said the project "will result in hundreds of families from Christian and other minority communities to move back to the homes they were evicted from by IS in 2014."

The Knights documentation of IS atrocities and its advocacy efforts were decisive in the 2016 decision by then-Secretary of State John Kerry to declare the treatment of Christians and other religious minorities in the region as genocide. Current Secretary of State Rex Tillerson reaffirmed that designation earlier this past July.

The Knights of Columbus also will join the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for a "Week of Awareness" for persecuted Christians, which will begin Nov. 26, the feast of Christ the King, with a day of prayer for persecuted Christians.

Deaths of Father Robert Young, O.F.M., Father Walter Ebarb announced

News of the deaths of two priests widely known in the Diocese of Alexandria, but not part of the diocese, was received right at press time. Complete funeral arrangements/obituary information was not available at press time; however, here is a brief notice:

Father Robert Young, O.F.M.

Father Robert Young, O.F.M., former national priest director for Radio Maria, died of an apparent heart attack on Sunday, Nov. 5.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time, but will be held Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Church (912 W. Cherry



Father Robert Young, O.F.M.

(Ave) in Orange, Texas, where he was confirmed and ordained.

Father Robert was national priest director of Radio Maria from 2012-2015. He was such a blessing to everyone. He embodied a great love for the Word of God and specifically his great sharing of the Gift of the Divine Will as written by Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta. He worked tirelessly for the Kingdom.

Please join us in praying for the repose of his soul. Rest in peace, Fr. Young - May our Lord keep you now in His Kingdom.

Father Walter Ebarb

The Diocese of Shreveport announces the death of Father Walter Ebarb who passed from



Father Walter Ebarb

this life on All Saints' Day. He was a native of Zwolle.

Visitation was held Nov. 9 in San Antonio, Texas at Angelus Funeral Home. The Funeral Mass was held Nov. 10 at 11:30 a.m. at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, 6680 Crestway Drive, San Antonio.

Father Ebarb is very kindly remembered in the Diocese of Shreveport.

Please join us in praying for the repose of his soul. Heavenly Father, we implore your kindness for Walter, your servant and Priest, that as you made him a steward of your mysteries on earth, so you may bring him to their truth and reality as unveiled in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Pope Francis designates Nov. 19 as first World Day of the Poor

The first World Day of the Poor will be observed on Sunday, November 19, 2017.

In his apostolic letter to close the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis suggested that the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can “reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel.” He designated this day as the World Day of the Poor and it will be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year.

The World Day of the Poor, which was announced in Pope Francis’ closing letter for the Jubilee of Mercy, is founded on “this whole notion of reciprocity, of sharing with each other of what each other has,” said Msgr. Geno Sylva, an English-language official of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evan-



gelization. It’s also based on “our understanding that each of us is poor in some way, and that we need to empty ourselves of certain things so that God’s grace can fill us, God’s mercy can fill us,” he said, adding that “there’s so much we can learn from those who are poor as we try to provide.”

The first-ever World Day of the Poor, which is titled “Love not in word, but in deed,” is set to take place exactly one year after the close of the Jubilee of Mercy.

The event, Sylva said, is “so beautiful and so powerful as a perpetual fruit of the jubilee of mercy.” World Day for the Poor “ties perfectly in with the New Evangelization,” he said, “because the New Evangelization is able to engage people by presenting the mercy of God and seeing people in that mercy.”

Five ways to observe World Day of the Poor

1. Pray for the Poor

There are so many people who need our prayers. If you’re overwhelmed and not sure where to start, try praying with your newsfeed. As you see headlines about what’s happening around the world, pause and pray for the people affected by those stories.

2. Practice the Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are drawn from Jesus’ life and teachings. They call us to: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, bury the dead and give alms to the poor. Pope Francis added a new work of mercy: to care for God’s creation. The Corporal Works of Mercy offer a clear model and

starting point for how to care for our neighbors in need.

3. Make caring for the poor part of your routine

Do you buy coffee, chocolate or Christmas gifts? One way to support low-income workers around the world is by buying things you use on a regular basis from organizations that pay a fair wage. If you drink coffee or tea, look for a fair trade label, which means that the farmers who harvest the coffee or tea are paid fairly and work in safe conditions. As you begin your Christmas shopping, consider buying gifts from around the world that are produced and traded ethically.

4. Learn about causes of poverty and work to change them



There are many reasons why people around the world are trapped in poverty: lack of jobs, war and climate change that affects what farmers can grow are only a few examples. We can raise our voices together to ask our government to support policies that help address these causes of poverty.

5. Support the Church’s outreach to the poor

One way to care for the poor around the world is to support the work of Catholic Relief Services, the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. CRS is motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than 100 countries. Learn more and get involved at crs.org/world-day-poor.

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The Presence of the Lord

Most days, I arrive at the Chancery office while it's still dark outside. I will come into my office, turn on the lights and the computer, and prepare to begin the work of the day. If I hadn't prayed the Liturgy of the Hours at home before coming to the office, I'll pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer...and then get to work.

Weeks ago, in late September, I came in on a Wednesday as usual...about 5:15 AM. I had already prayed...and was beginning to read my correspondence and catch up with e-mails.... when a thought came to me... to remember the Presence of the Lord.

When that internal thought came to my mind and heart.... to remember the Presence of the Lord, I immediately looked out my window....to see if I could see the Tabernacle lamp of the Cha-



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

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

pel shining in the darkness of the early morning....were the Presence of the Living Bread is kept. You see, the window in my office looks out over a small courtyard garden; and, just on the other side of the small courtyard is the Chapel of the Chancery, with walls of glass. During the day, I am able to see the seats and the Altar and the Tabernacle of the Chapel. With the darkness of the early morning, I thought I would be able to see the flicker of the candle...an-

nouncing His Presence.

But I didn't see that flickering red light. The problem was....with my office lights on, I could see nothing through my window...except the reflection of my office in the glass of the window. So, I turned off my computer and turned off the office lights. Then....with my office darkened...to match the darkness of early morning.... Saw the lamp...and the silent flickering of the candle....and the red glow...

announcing the Presence of the Lord.

After pondering the sight of the flickering light in the darkness and thanking the Holy Spirit for the prompting given....I realized the lesson that was given in this small Epiphany. The Presence of the Lord in all the Tabernacles of the world is there to feed those unable to attend holy Mass, there for our adoration. But the Presence of the Lord is not limited to these Tabernacles. We are tabernacles

of the Lord's Presence. In his letter to the Christian community in Corinth (1 Corinthians 3.16), St. Paul writes to them...and us.... do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The lesson that I share with you? YES, the Spirit of God lives within each of us through the grace of Baptism. But please remember that often times, in order to be present to the Presence, you need to turn off the distractions and anxieties of the day (as I turned off the office lights that morning in September)...and ponder anew the silent flickering of Love....that lives within each soul.

AMDG

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

Ready to be a child again?

By Sister Constance Veit
Little Sisters of the Poor

This time of year always brings me back to my childhood. With fond nostalgia, I remember the pinecone turkeys we made in Girl Scouts, the pilgrim costumes my mother painstakingly sewed and the necklaces made of painted pasta that my sisters and I managed to pull apart, scattering raw macaroni all over the back seat of the car, on our way to grandmother's house for Thanksgiving.

Once the holiday arrived, we would spend all morning watching the Thanksgiving Day parades; after dinner, we'd gather around the television again to enjoy one of our favorite Christmas specials. With Black Friday just hours away, we knew that Thanksgiving meant that even better things were to come!

Oh to be a child again, especially as we journey toward Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas! But, we can return to the simplicity of childhood – at least spiritually.

Caryll Houselander, a popular 20th century spiritual author and poet, wrote, "To become a child is a challenge to our courage. It demands, first of all, that

we dare to grow up, to give ourselves to life, to accept life as it is – and above all, to accept ourselves as we are."

Houselander suggested that going back to childhood means rediscovering "true values, instead of those that are based on materialism, public opinion and snobbery; that we must regain simplicity and humility . . . and, above all, we must regain the courage that is partly a boundless zest for living and partly an unquestioning trust in an all-powerful love."

Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multitasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engaged at any give moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75% of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in ten believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for

others than exchanging gifts.

Recent studies in social neuroscience have found that loneliness causes serious health risks. Yet more than a third of U.S. senior citizens experience frequent or intense loneliness and 94% of people with disabilities feel that they lack meaningful community participation.

New Dream suggests that we create holiday traditions "that instill more meaning into the season and encourage more sharing, laughter, creativity, and personal renewal," rather than the accumulation of material goods and credit card debt.

For adults like you and me, our childhood holidays are often our most precious memories. Yet many of us get caught up in the frenzy of materialism, rushing around so much that we are never really able to appreciate the heart and soul of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

While we still have time let's resolve to become children again. Let's rediscover true values of faith and family, the love of humble things and simple pleasures, gratitude and a commitment to nurturing relationships – especially with those who are at risk of being marginalized or who are in need of special attention.

Let's ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquestioning trust in the power of our loving God to provide for all our needs.

Finally, in our journey back

to childhood we are always accompanied by Mary, whose littleness drew down the gift of God, and who constantly sang of her gratitude and her sense of wonder at the marvels God was accomplishing in her. She is eager to help us to become, anew, children of a loving God.

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVIII, No. 11 • November 13, 2017

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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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10 spiritual resolutions for an awesome New (Liturgical) Year

Happy New Year! -- liturgically speaking.

It's true -- Advent is the season of *waiting*; the season of *preparing* for the birth of Christ. But Advent is also the beginning of the new liturgical year.

The last Sunday in November this year (Nov. 26) is the last weekend of the old liturgical year and the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

The next Sunday (Dec. 3) is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year. The liturgical year includes six seasons -- Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

The New Liturgical Year brings to mind *new liturgical year resolutions*. During this season of Advent -- while you are waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ, use the time to contemplate some resolutions that will help deepen your spiritual life or that will draw you closer in a relationship with Jesus.

Depending on where you are in your spiritual life, there are many avenues to take and so many more resources to help guide you.

Let's take a look at a few possible resolutions:

1. Attend Mass every Sunday.
2. Pray the Rosary every day/week/month.



3. Spend ___ minutes in prayer every day.
4. Spend ___ minutes in Adoration a day/week/month.
5. Participate and be more attentive during Mass.
6. Read the Bible ___ minutes each day/week/month.
7. Read about the lives of saints every day/week/month.
8. Go to Confession at least ___ times this year.
9. Volunteer to help or join an organization in your parish.
10. Consecrate yourself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and/or the Sacred Heart of Mary and to participate in nine consecutive First Fridays or five consecutive First Saturdays.

After choosing at least one resolution, pray and ask God to help guide you in finding the right resources that will help you meet your resolutions. Resources may come in the form of people, places, and/or things.

People

Surround yourself with good, positive people. You know who those people are in your life. It might be your next door neighbor who goes to church every Sunday. It might be a parent or grandparent who volunteers at church. It might also be someone you work with, or someone you see at Mass every week. Take that initial step to talk to that person about your

faith and see where that leads the conversation toward your resolution.

Places

Find the right place to achieve your resolution. Do you pledge to pray more often, -- Rosary, Adoration, meditation -- but you don't have a special quiet place to do so? Find a place in your home, your office, outside somewhere, -- where you can pray, without distractions and set a time every day to go there.

If you haven't been to confession in a while because you don't want to go to your parish priest who knows you, find another priest who doesn't know you, at another church, -- maybe even in another town!

Things

Choosing the resources most suitable or most comfortable to you, can mean the difference between sticking with your resolution all year or failing after the first day.

The list of spiritual resources is almost limitless and can leave you overwhelmed sometimes. So narrow down your options by thinking about what works best for you.

If you like to read, check out the huge selection of spiritual books available online or at your local Catholic bookstore. (See list of publishers at right)

My Catholic FAITH

If you don't like to read, but enjoy listening to CDs, watching DVDs, or using apps on your phone or tablet, check out the wide selection of religious topics and educational programs available online like Lighthouse Catholic Media, Augustine Institute, and Ignatius Press.

There is also Catholic Radio (Radio Maria, Ave Maria, satellite radio) and Catholic TV (EWTN). Just make sure the resources you search on the Internet are "Catholic." Check out these excellent Catholic publishers of books, CDs, and DVDs:

- Ligouri Publications
- Tan Books
- Dynamic Catholic
- Twenty-Third Publications
- The Pastoral Center
- Sophia Institute Press
- MassExplained.com
- Lighthouse Catholic Media
- Augustine Institute
- Ignatius Press
- Ascension Press
- Loyola Press



Dec. 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

A holy day of obligation

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Bishop David Talley is exemplified as 4th Degree Knight of St. Peter Claver

4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF ST. PETER CLAVER. Surrounded by fellow Knights and Sir Knights of St. Peter Claver at St. Juliana Church in Alexandria, Bishop David Talley was initiated Nov. 4 into the Knights of St. Peter Claver Third Degree, joining St. Juliana Council #268. He was also exemplified as a Meritorious Fourth Degree, making him a member of Msgr. Henry A Thompson Assembly #27. Bishop Talley was exemplified as a Fourth Degree Knight by supreme officers from the national office, the Louisiana state office and Assembly #27 Faithful Navigator. Father August Thompson, a Fourth Degree Knight of St. Peter Claver and the first black priest ordained in the Diocese of Alexandria, was present for the induction. Bishop Talley has been a member of the

Knights of Columbus for many years, but has desired to be a Knight of St. Peter Claver since the first years of his priestly service. After the Fourth Degree exemplification at St. Juliana, a reception was held at the activity building in honor of all of Knights and Sir Knights of St. Peter Claver. Pictured are (far left photo) Bishop David Talley and Third Degree Knights of St. Peter Claver. (Above) Bishop David Talley with (from left) Aaron Noel, Supreme Outer Sentinel; Lawrence Sylvester, Supreme Navigator; Stephen Randall, Supreme Comptroller; Sir Knight Bishop David Talley; Alvin Wiltz, State Deputy; Tommy Milo, Faithful Navigator; Ricky Sassau, National Treasurer; Father August Thompson, Sir Knight; and George Williams, Supreme Steward.

FATHER DANIEL CORKERY CELEBRATES 88th BIRTHDAY! The parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Church in Hessmer gathered recently to celebrate the 88th birthday of Father Dan Corkery. Father Dan is retired, however he continues to offer daily Mass for parishioners and offers assistance to any in need. Pictured are Deacon Ted Moulard, Father Kurian Zachariah and Father Dan. Happy 88th birthday, Father Corkery!!



Seminarian Burses

October Donations

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lane	\$20.00
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Knights of Columbus Council 9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Father Peter Kuligowski	\$30.00
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Our Lady of Lourdes Church	\$50.00
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Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
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Total	\$775.00



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EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE NEW MEMBERS. Six new members from the Diocese of Alexandria -- Father Scott Chemino, Father Rusty Rabalais, Patti Williams, Dennie Williams, Mary White, and Richard White -- were invested as Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Oct. 8 at the Southeastern Lieutenancy Annual Meeting in Mobile. Archbishop Thomas John Rodi of Mobile was the main celebrant at the Investiture. Pictured are (from left) Sir Pierre Allemond, KGCHS; Lady Roz Allemond, LGCHS; Rev. Scott Chemino, KHS; Rev. Rusty Rabalais, KHS; Lady Patti Williams, LHS; Sir Dennie Williams, KHS; Lady Mary White, LHS; and Sir Richard White, KHS. The primary mission of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre is to "support the Christian presence in the Holy Land".

Informational meeting to be held for men interested in permanent diaconate program

An informational meeting for men interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate program will be hosted this month by Deacon Richard Mitchell, vice chancellor and assistant director of the permanent diaconate program.

The meeting will be offered on two different days for your convenience. Both meetings will be held at the St. Joseph Catholic Center located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd. in Alexandria:

- Saturday, Nov. 25 at 1 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m.

At the meeting, Deacon Mitchell will provide a summary

of the program that will begin in the Fall of 2018, explain the life of a deacon, and answer any questions those in attendance may have. The application deadline to apply for the 2018 program is Dec. 15, 2017.

The wives of married applicants are encouraged to attend. If you have already applied for the program and had an interview with Deacon Mitchell, it is not necessary to attend, but you are still welcome.

If you plan to attend, please send an email to: dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org or call (318)445-6424, ext. 206.



BLUE MASS. Bishop David Talley celebrated a Blue Mass Nov. 3 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in remembrance of all deceased members of local law enforcement and firefighters. During the Memorial Blue Mass, Louisiana State Police Investigator Ronnie Beeson read the names of 21 officers who lost their lives in 2017. They are Wardell Balentine (2016), Freddie Vinson, Melvin Perkins, Harvey Normand, Ray Fomby, George Williams, Joseph Bartlett, Jr., and Reggie Peart, from the Rapides Parish Sheriff Department; John Michael Neal and James "Jimmy" Turnage, from the Alexandria Fire Department; Kenneth Larry Robertson, Ronald Gene Ray, and Bobby Smith, from the Louisiana State Police Troop E; George Fuller, Betty Ambrose, Bobby Hawthorne, and Kearnie Johnson, from the Alexandria Police Department; Robert Boudreaux, Mike Gates, and Roy Burr, Sr. (2015) from the Pineville Police Department; and Willard Tassin from the Lecompte Fire Department.

Martha Neil Anthony



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Heather Guillot, MD
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Tracie Givens, NP
Primary Care - Versailles



Sharhonda Biley, MD
Women's Center - Alexandria



Amanda Ingalls, MD
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Serving Your Health Care Needs

CHRISTUS Physician Group is a multi-specialty group of board-certified doctors, caring staff and excellent nurses sharing resources and expertise to provide high-quality care to patients in Central Louisiana.

Each practice works with CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Health System to provide the personalized care you and your family deserve.

CHRISTUS Physician Group complies with applicable Federal civil rights law and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
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Community comes out to support Cenla Pregnancy Center fundraiser

The Cenla Pregnancy Center (located at 1254 MacArthur Drive) will officially open for business on Monday, Dec. 4 at 9 a.m. after a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

"We are looking forward to Opening Day at the center," said Claire Lemoine, executive director. "Although there is still a lot of work to be done, we will be ready on Dec. 4 to welcome all women to the center who may be in need of our free services."

All of the board members of the center, including Lemoine and Bryan Gunter, president and founder of the pregnancy center, will be participating in the ribbon cutting event.

A chicken dinner fund-raiser, held Oct. 17, sold more than 2,000 plates at \$8 each.

"The response of the community from the chicken dinner fund-raiser was amazing," said Lemoine. "The funds generated from the event will help us get what we need to begin operation in December."



HELPING HANDS. Volunteers came from the Catholic Daughters, the Knights of Columbus, Altar Societies and several local churches to help out with the chicken dinner fundraiser for the Cenla Pregnancy Center. There was plenty of work for all of the volunteers to assist with! (All photos by Dwayne Simpson)

What started out as a "typical" chicken dinner fund-raiser by Knights of Columbus Council 1134 (St. Rita) members Donald

Bolton, Allen Danaen, and Al Mathews, soon ballooned into a huge community-wide event.

The KC Council and Catho-

lic Daughters group from St. Rita parish soon enlisted help from almost every KC and CDA group in Central Louisiana, as well as oth-

er groups like A.C.T.S. and volunteers from many local churches, according to George Hardy, who helped find volunteers and is also a board member.

"I would guess we had 80-100 volunteers who worked the day of the dinner," he said.

One group of volunteers cooked and assembled the food at the St. Rita Holy Family Center, and another group at St. Rita coordinated the delivery of 1,000 plates to area businesses, churches, and schools, that purchased at least 10 or more plates. The third group of volunteers were located at the Pregnancy Center where they sold another 1,000+ plates to individuals who purchased less than 10 dinners.

"It was a wild, but exciting day," said Lemoine. "But at the end of the day, we raised some funds for the pregnancy center and brought the community together for a great cause. Thank you to everyone who cooked, volunteered, and purchased tickets!"

For more information, go to www.cenlapc.com.



Have you made an ACTS retreat? What are you waiting for?

A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Community, Theology, Service) is one of the fastest growing evangelization ministries in the U.S.

In the Diocese of Alexandria, ACTS retreats are offered by four parishes -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria, Sacred Heart in Pineville, St. Joseph in Marksville, and St. Mary Assumption in Cottonport. All ACTS retreats in the diocese are held at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville.

So what is an ACTS Retreat?

An ACTS retreat is a three day and three night Catholic lay retreat presented by fellow parishioners. The retreat begins on Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday at a Mass celebrated with the parish community. Retreats for men, women and teens are given separately. The focus of the retreat is Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service, from which the ACTS acronym is derived. Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are the guides for the retreats.

What is the purpose of an ACTS retreat?

An ACTS weekend is designed to help the retreatants enter into a new or deeper relationship with our Lord and fellow parishioners. This is accomplished through Adoration and daily prayer, the call to Community in one's parish as a member of the Body of Christ, and Theology in encouraging the study of scripture and our Catholic Faith. All of

which emphasize and encourage the virtue of Service to our Lord, our parish, and one another.

What is the goal of an ACTS retreat?

A parish ACTS retreat strives to achieve the directives of Vatican II and goals of the Revised Code of Canon Law of 1983 which emphasize "community and pastoral care" within a parish. The weekend allows the retreatants to experience God's love and joy. They return to their parish with a deeper love for each other and a desire to become more involved in their parish community.


The retreat emphasizes our call to service to the parish community and to our world community. There results a new or renewed dedication to the life of the parish community and a new recognition of the needs of those around us and of our obligation, as followers of Christ, to help meet those needs.

I've heard that part of the retreat is "a secret." Why?

No part of an ACTS retreat is a secret. The highlight of the retreat does involve a "surprise" for the participants. It wouldn't be a surprise for the next group, if everyone revealed the surprise.

Who can attend an ACTS Retreat?

ACTS retreats are open to all people of all faiths. Retreats for men, women and teens are given separately.



Adoration: the call by, acceptance of, and response to God

Community: the love and caring of each other

Theology: the study of God through scripture and the Catholic Faith

Service: to God and his people

How do I sign up to attend an ACTS Retreat?

There are four parishes in the diocese that offer ACTS retreats. -- Cenla ACTS in Alexandria, Sacred Heart ACTS in Pineville, St. Joseph ACTS in Marksville, and St. Mary's ACTS of Avoyelles in Cottonport.

Find the retreat you want to attend. The upcoming retreats are listed on this page, but can also be found on each of the websites

listed, or on the diocesan website at www.diocesealex.org/ACTS retreats.

Follow the information on each of the website to register, or call the number provided to obtain a registration form.

How much does it cost?

The total cost of an ACTS retreat is \$175, which includes meals, lodging, and materials. Financial assistance is available.

Who leads an ACTS retreat?

An ACTS retreat is limited to 40 participants. A group of 40 trained former ACTS retreat participants make up a Core Team, who is also in attendance at each retreat. One member of the Core Team is the facilitator who leads the retreat. A deacon or a priest, usually the pastor of the parish sponsoring the retreat, is always in attendance throughout the retreat.

How do I start an ACTS group (apostolate) at my parish?

Right now, interested parishes should contact the leader of one of the four parishes (see below) that already have an ACTS group. The leader can help you get organized.

However, in the very near future, IF the Diocese of Alexandria is granted an ACTS Chapter, interested parishes would contact the ACTS Chapter in our diocese.

What is an ACTS Chapter?

The ACTS Chapter is a support branch of ACTS Missions dedicated to the missioning process of Catholic communities seeking to bring the ACTS retreat to their parish. Its members represent the various areas of the Diocese.

The Chapter also was created to facilitate the missioning process for parishes interested in having ACTS in their communities and to ensure fidelity to the integrity and spirit of the retreat. In addition to working with and sup-

Cenla A.C.T.S.		Sacred Heart A.C.T.S.		St. Joseph A.C.T.S.		St. Mary's A.C.T.S.	
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Men's Feb. 15-18, 2018 Aug. 16-19, 2018 Feb. 28-March 3, 2019 Aug. 22-25, 2019 Feb. 27-March 1, 2020 Aug. 20-23, 2020		Women's June 7-10, 2018 Oct. 18-21, 2018 June 6-9, 2019 Oct. 10-13, 2019 June 4-7, 2020 Oct. 8-11, 2020		Men's Feb. 22-25, 2018 Aug. 9-12, 2018		Men's March 8-11, 2018 March 21-24, 2019 March 12-15, 2020	
Teens July 19-22, 2018 Aug. 1-4, 2018 July 9-12, 2020		Women's Nov. 16-19, 2017 April 5-8, 2018 Nov. 15-18, 2018		Women's Sept. 13-16, 2018 Sept. 5-8, 2019 Sept. 3-6, 2020		Women's Nov. 30 - Dec. 3, 2017 April 26-29, 2018 Nov. 1-4, 2018	



Bishop meets with ACTS leaders to discuss forming a chapter

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

In 1987, the ministry of ACTS began in San Antonio, Texas. Today, 30 years later, the ministry has spread across the U.S. and is now in six countries.

There are 650 teams that operate under 18 chapters. If all goes as planned, the Diocese of Alexandria could become the 19th chapter in the U.S.

Bishop David Talley, the first U.S. bishop to attend an ACTS retreat, met Oct. 25 with Deborah Estrada, executive director of ACTS Worldwide Mission and Esther Gomez-Wilkerson, director of Outreach for ACTS Missions in San Antonio to discuss forming a chapter in the diocese.

"I told Mrs. Estrada that I support and pray for the work of establishing a chapter of ACTS in our diocese...hoping that the gift of the retreat would be offered in our four deaneries," said Bishop David.

An ACTS Chapter is a support branch of ACTS Missions dedicated to the missioning process of Catholic communities seeking to bring the ACTS retreat to their parish. Its members represent the various areas of the diocese.

After attending an ACTS retreat at Maryhill in September Bishop David told vocations director, Fr. Louis Sklar, that he wanted our seminarians to have



A.C.T.S. MISSIONS MEETS WITH BISHOP TALLEY. Two executives from A.C.T.S. Missions in San Antonio (which is where A.C.T.S. began and where the worldwide headquarters is located) met with Bishop David Talley Oct. 25 to discuss his endorsement of forming a "Chapter" of A.C.T.S. in the Diocese of Alexandria. An A.C.T.S. Chapter in the diocese would be the governing board for the four Core Teams already active in the diocese and for any new teams that may form in the future. Bishop David enthusiastically endorses A.C.T.S. and looks forward to strengthening its mission in the Diocese of Alexandria. Pictured are (from left) Deacon Richard Mitchell, Deborah Estrada, executive director of A.C.T.S. Worldwide Missions; Bishop David Talley, Esther Gomez-Wilkerson, director of Outreach for A.C.T.S. Missions; and Les Glankler, A.C.T.S. point of contact person for the diocese and Core Team head of Cenla A.C.T.S.

that same experience.

"Why so?" he said. "It's ordinary men ... young men and senior men, married and single, committed disciples and those who were searching. It's an experience that our young seminarians need to be given...while they are seminarians.

So what can you expect from an ACTS retreat? "It depends," said Les Glankler, from Cenla

ACTS at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria.

"Every ACTS retreat is different. Different facilitators, different team members, and different retreatants. But," said Glankler, "one thing is certain -- the Holy Spirit is real and present at every retreat and moves people in a big way."

Glankler said he had pretty much been a lukewarm Catholic

for most of his life and had, for a while, quit going to Mass on Sunday. He attended a retreat three years ago and experienced a conversion "in a big way."

"I was going through a hard time after the loss of my brother, Trip. A friend invited me to attend the Friday Morning Prayer Group (a group of men, who, after attending an ACTS retreat, meet every Friday at 7:30 a.m.

for prayer). "I saw the humbleness and peace that these men experience when they prayed and I wanted that."

Glankler said the effects of the retreat didn't hit him until a few weeks later. He said he received the peace he was looking for but also began to feel the Holy Spirit working in his life.

"The retreats are designed to meet individuals wherever they are in their spiritual life," he said. "Whether you are a good Catholic, a fallen away Catholic, or not even Catholic, the Holy Spirit meets you at your own level of understanding and spirituality."

Father Rusty Rabalais, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Marksville, said he has seen firsthand the effects of the Holy Spirit working through the people in his parish through ACTS.

"At St. Joseph, we have seen many wonderful blessings come to our church parish as a result of ACTS," said Father Rusty.

"We have experienced inactive persons returning to the sacraments and practice of the Catholic faith, converts to Catholicism, and more parents attending Mass together with their children as a family.

"We have seen an increase in participation and volunteerism, in attendance at Adoration and faith sharing groups, and in stewardship. There is also a shared effort among neighboring church parishes in the evangelization mission of the Church," he said.

ACTS retreats

porting parish priests and members in the development of ACTS ministries, the Chapter also elects directors to lead retreats for parishes in the missioning process. Typically, the Chapter will work with a new parish over a 2-3 year period to prepare the parish to establish its own Core group.

The Chapter also helps the ACTS community by providing quarterly director workshops, maintaining a diocesan website for disseminating information, conducting Core installation ceremonies, offering support to newly established communities, offering specific training & guidance as

requested, and acting as a liaison between the diocese and the ministry.

How did ACTS get started?

The ACTS movement started in 1987 in San Antonio, Texas. Four men who were formerly

involved with Cursillio, met to discuss starting a retreat program that would concentrate more on parish life and community. The proposed retreat program was approved by their pastor and then the archbishop to develop a retreat weekend with a goal of having a men's retreat in July 1987

and a women's retreat in the fall of 1987. Archbishop Flores asked that the committee be sure to allow non-Catholics to attend as part of the community.

Committee members began developing talks, meditations and schedules for the weekends. One of the committee members, had a dream one night in which the Holy Spirit encouraged him to read Chapter 2, verses 42-47 of the Acts of the Apostles. This selection from Acts describes what the committee wanted to achieve on a retreat weekend. He also felt the Holy Spirit wanted the retreats to be called 'ACTS,' and thus the name was born. The acronym of ACTS came to mean Adoration, Community, Theology and Service, the precept of these retreats.



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ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria) CCD'S LIVING ROSARY. Celebrating October: the month of the Holy Rosary, the CCD students at St. Rita Church prayed the Living Rosary on Oct. 24. They released a colorful rosary made of balloons.



CDA COURT PADRE PIO (Cottonport) PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY. The Catholic Daughters of Court Padre Pio #2141 of Cottonport invited the public to join them in praying a public Rosary on Saturday, Oct. 14. Several people gathered at the People's Cross along the bayou of Cottonport that morning to say the Rosary to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Blessed Mother's final apparition to the children of Fatima. We also had the children launch some balloons to help with the celebration.



ST. RICHARD'S CHAPEL (Hickory Hill) PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY. A group of 30 people from Hickory Hill gathered and prayed a Public Square Rosary Oct. 14 on the front porch of St. Richard's Chapel with Deacon Gary Schupbach.



HOLY GHOST CHURCH (Marksville) PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY. A group of 30 people from Marksville gathered and prayed a Public Square Rosary Oct. 14 at the front of Holy Ghost Church with Father Abraham Varghese, pastor. The Public Square Rosary is an event of America Needs Fatima.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES (Echo) BALLOON RELEASE by CCD classes in October.



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH (Mansura) PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY. A group of almost 100 people gathered for the America Needs Fatima Public Rosary that was held on the steps of St. Paul Church.



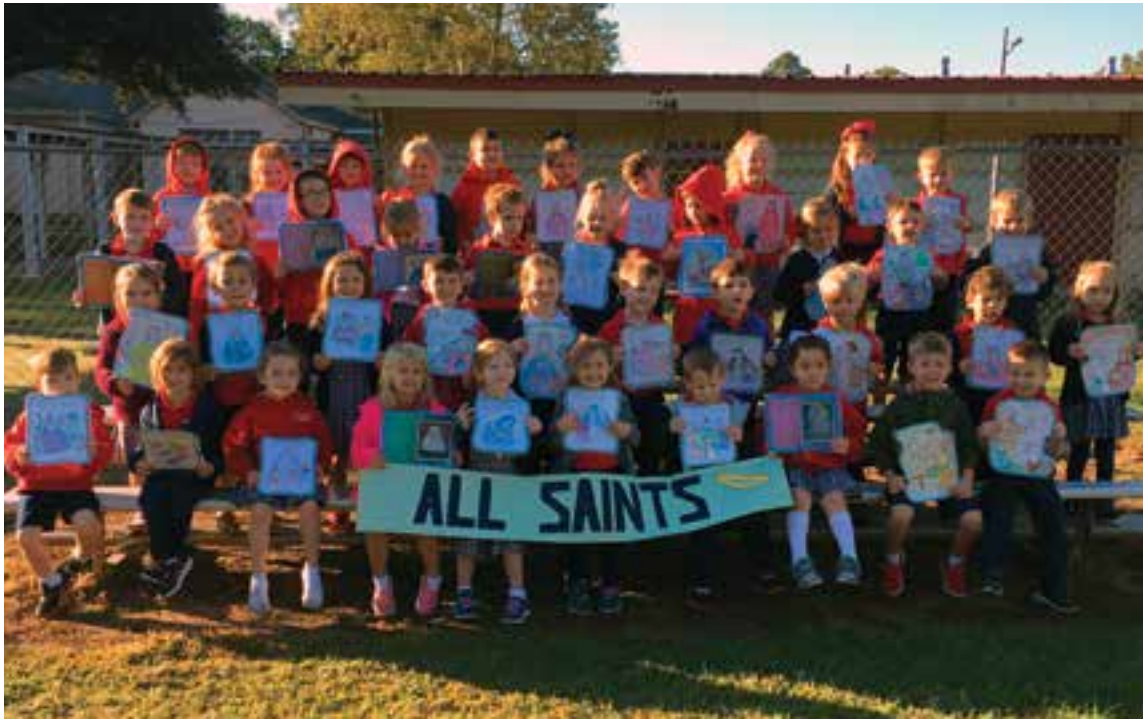
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) SAINTS.

Father Partain leads dedication service of marker honoring Franciscan friars who died at Los Adaes Mission 300 years ago

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

The National Parks Service and the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria together with representatives from the Caddo-Adai Nation marked the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the military post (presidio) and mission at Los Adaes Nov. 11 with a religious service and the dedication of a marker honoring the Franciscan friars who died while serving at the San Miguel Mission.

The service, conducted by Father Chad Partain, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria was held on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 9 a.m. at the Los Adaes State Historic Site located at 6354 Hwy. 485, just outside of Robeline.

"The Spanish Missions of San Miguel de los Adaes, a state historic site, was founded in 1716 to convert the Caddo Adai American Indians living west of Natchitoches to Christianity and to stop French expansion into Spanish Texas." Said Father Partain. "Although the history behind this long ago post is not well known, its purpose and influence is still with us today."

In 1721, a new mission was built slightly to the east of the original, along with a military post to bolster the outpost's

military presence. In 1729, Los Adaes was designated the capital of Texas and served as such until 1770. Los Adaes was built as a response to the French Fort St. Jean Baptiste in Natchitoches, and the two outposts were linked directly throughout their existence.

Though the forts were built as opposing threats, their relative isolation led the communities of the two outposts to forge strong links to each other despite the fact that their countries were competitors in North America. The two communities engaged in extensive, illegal trade across the border. Intermarriage between the two groups was commonplace.

Spain allied itself with France against the British in the French and Indian War, and both Havana and Manila fell to the British. To compensate its ally for its loss, France in 1762 ceded to Spain all of its territory west of the Mississippi River, including New Orleans.

This erased the border that Los Adaes was supposed to protect, rendering the fort obsolete.

The command was given to close the fort in 1772 and Los Adaes was officially abandoned in 1772.

The Spanish and American Indian inhabitants were moved to San Antonio, Texas. Despite the

forced migration, communities linked to the Spanish fort still exist in the Cane River region today.

Many of the residents of Los Adaes either decided to stay in the region when the fort was abandoned, or returned to it later in life.

The American Indians who were converted to Christianity at the fort still continue the legacy of the original mission at the Church of St. Anne, their present church in the Spanish Lake community northwest of Natchitoches.

Today, there is nothing left standing of the mission or military post that comprised Los Adaes. The site of the fort is an extremely important archeological site where much research has been conducted.

The area was established as a state park in 1979, and a small visitor center was erected to help tell the story of the fort. The site is operated by the Cane River Creole National Heritage Area and offers a museum (open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday) and a 1-1/2 mile nature trail. Admission is free.

An area rich in archaeological finds, it thrives today as one of Louisiana's most intriguing State Historic Sites. For more information, go to www.louisianatravel.com.



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318-876-3174

U.S. Army Air Corps Chaplain Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur honored

Fr. Lafleur receives Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross 73 years after death

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur, a Catholic U.S. Army Air Corps Chaplain in World War II, posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart in a ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 17, in Opelousas.

Congressman Ralph Abraham, M.D., (R-LA), presented the two military medals to Father Lafleur's nephew and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lafleur, at St. Landry Catholic Church, where the priest celebrated his first Mass following ordination in 1938.

The Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, bishop of Lafayette and Father James Brady, pastor of St. Landry Parish, participated in the ceremony along with other dignitaries, devout Catholics, and students from Opelousas Catholic Junior High and High Schools.

Father Lafleur died on Sept. 7, 1944, when a U.S. submarine torpedoed the Japanese ship he and more than 700 fellow prisoners of war were aboard in the Indian Ocean.

The ship was not marked as carrying POWs, so the American submariners had no way of knowing they were aboard at the time of



PURPLE HEART AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. Richard Lafleur (and his wife Carol) accepts the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross Oct. 17 from Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-LA) Father James Brady, and Bishop Douglas Deshotel on behalf of his uncle Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur of St. Landry Catholic Church in Opelousas. Father Lafleur died Sept. 7, 1944, when a U.S. submarine torpedoed the Japanese ship that he and more than 700 fellow prisoners of war were aboard in the Indian Ocean. Father Lafleur helped his fellow POWs escape the hull of the ship under Japanese gunfire by pushing them up to the deck at the cost of his own life. Photo courtesy of the office of Rep. Abraham.

the attack.

Survivors recall Father Lafleur's heroic efforts helping his

fellow POWs escape the hull of the ship under Japanese gunfire by pushing them up to the deck at

the cost of his own life.

The Distinguished Service Medal, the U.S. Military's second highest award behind only the Medal of Honor, is presented for exceptionally meritorious performance of duty.

The Purple Heart is awarded to military personnel wounded or killed in action. Father Lafleur had previously received both medals for his acts of bravery during the Japanese attack on Clark Field in the Philippines on Dec. 8, 1941. It is extremely rare for a serviceman or woman to receive either medal twice.

On Sept. 7, 2015, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, archbishop for the Military Services, celebrated a Memorial Mass for Father Lafleur at the same church where the award presentation took place on Tuesday.

In a keynote speech to the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC, on June 6, 2017, Archbishop Broglio



said of Father Lafleur: "He was a man for others right to the end... Father Lafleur responded to his POW situation with creative courage. He drew on his virtue to care for, protect, and fortify the men imprisoned with him. Many survived because he was a man of virtue who gave unstintingly of himself. To speak of the greatness of our Country is to speak of men and women of virtue who gave of themselves for the benefit of all. We build for a new tomorrow when we draw from that wellspring of virtue."



AMERICAN FLAG FOR ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CENTER. Disabled American Veterans Leo J. Aragon and G. Eddie Figueron present a new American flag to Kathy Cole (a 20-year Navy veteran who works in the Tribunal) and Deacon Richard Mitchell, assistant chancellor for the Diocese of Alexandria. The St. Joseph Catholic Center has proudly flown the American flag on the front lawn of the center for many years, but a few years has passed since the last one was replaced. "The Disabled American Veterans were gracious enough to present us with this American flag, which will once again be raised each day on the flagpole,-- just in time for Veteran's Day," said Deacon Mitchell.

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Ask for God's help to come back to stay.

Get on your knees and ask for His Grace,
To come back home at a rapid pace.

The ways of the world can pull you away,
You can lose all you have in just one day.

Store up your treasures for Eternal Life,
Give up those things that cause you strife.

The end will come for you one day;
When you face the Lord, what will you say?

Did you feed the hungry, or send them away?
Did you clothe the naked and ask them to stay?

If you did all these with tender Love,
Your place is with Him in Heaven Above.

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Manna House prepares to feed the hungry throughout the holidays

Manna House is open 365 days a year -- even on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

In an effort to make the holidays extra special for the clients who come to Manna House for a daily hot meal, Jessica Viator, executive director, says she knows she can always look to the community for support.

"Manna House is open 365 days a year and that means we are open on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Year," said Viator. "It is a year-round ministry of feeding the hungry in our community, so we don't stop just because it is a 'holiday.'"

Attendance at the daily meals -- 11:30 a.m. -- 1:15 p.m.) is usually up during the holidays.

"Everyone at Manna House is like family," said Viator. "From the staff, volunteers who



JESSICA VIATOR, executive director of Manna House and Eva Horn, Manna House cook, are making sure food supplies, cleaning supplies, and volunteers are lined up during the holiday season. Manna House is open 365 days a year, which includes Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

help prepare food and serve, to the clients who come here daily to eat a hot cooked meal. We want our Manna House family to feel special during the holidays.

To accomplish this goal, Viator has a few suggestions for anyone interested in helping out at Manna House.

Volunteers

Viator said volunteers to serve at Manna House are already scheduled for Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, there is still a need for volunteers to serve on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Serving hours are between 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

Volunteers for food preparation (chopping, washing veggies, preparing salads) are needed for all three holidays. Food preparation volunteers are needed be-

tween 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Volunteers are asked to call Viator at Manna House to schedule volunteer hours ahead of time. That eliminates having too many people show up at one time to serve, she said.

Food and supplies

During the holidays, schools are generous about giving donations of canned food to Manna House. Turkey's and hams are needed for the holiday. Also, there are some ingredients needed to make a dish, which we don't always have. "A gift card to Sam's Club or cash, gives us the resources to go out and purchase exactly what we need," she said.

Other things that people don't think about are the paper products and cleaning supplies that are used every day. Again -- a gift card to Sam's Club or cash is an excellent gift.

Manna House recently received the Lowe's Hero Award. As the recipient of the award, Manna House received a new microwave, a new freezer, mats behind the serving line and an organizational stand for mops and brooms. Lowe's also supplied paint and labor to paint all of the interior walls in the building.

For more info, or to schedule volunteer hours, please call 318-445-9053 or email Jessica at cenlamannahouse@gmail.com



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) FALL FAIR. Students are geared up for a fun fair weekend at St. Joseph School in Plaucheville. This year's theme for the fair was "Hooked on Jesus."

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Correction

In the October issue of the Church Today, incorrect information was submitted in the story about the opening of the new Office of Life and Justice. Dr. Gabriel Rodriguez is a retired counseling psychologist and worked as the former director of Active Treatment at Pinecrest. He was not the administrator.

Local Christmas Events

Nov. 18 - Jan. 6, 2018

City of Natchitoches 91st Christmas Festival of Lights

More than 300,000 Christmas lights and 100 plus riverbank set pieces are on every night at dusk through January 6, 2018. All events take place in the Landmark Historic District along the Cane River Lake and along the Cane River Lake south of Natchitoches. For a complete schedule of dates, times, and events, go to: www.NatchitochesChristmas.com



Nov. 30 - Dec. 2: Alex Winter Fete Downtown Alexandria

Snow and ice is everywhere at the annual Alex Winter Fete Nov. 30-Dec. 2. On Saturday, Dec. 2, the Ugly Sweater 5K will return as part of the Winter Fête festivities. The race start time is 8 a.m. Register for this race today. Proceeds will benefit United Way to help the Cenla community.

Other Winter Fête festivities include fire-breathers and magicians, the Polar Express Train, food vendors, live music, and of course Santa Claus!

For more information, go to cityofalexandria.com

Dec. 8-9 and Dec. 15-23 Holiday Light Safari Alexandria Zoo

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Hundreds of thousands of lights adorn the zoo. Musical entertainment, Santa, train rides and more. Dates: Dec. 8-9 and Dec. 15-23. Go to www.thealexandriazoo.com. \$4.50-\$7.50 entrance fee.

Dec. 6: Old-Fashioned Christmas Kent House Plantation

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sing carols and help play the bell choir. Enjoy refreshments and entertainment as you and your family complete Christmas crafts

to take home as well as some to help decorate the Kent House. Stop and visit with Papa Noel and get your face painted. Call: 487-5998. FREE

Dec. 9: Christmas Spectacular Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts 7 p.m. As the flagship for Lagniappe Theatre, it's the only event of its kind in central Louisiana. This Christmas Variety show is in the vein of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular in New York City. Featuring performances from dance troupes, choirs, theatre groups, and of course everyone's favorite Cajun radio hosts Jean "The Clod" Claud and Dirty Coutille. It will be a night that will get the jingle bells in your heart ringing all the way through the Christmas season!

Dec. 21-22: Living Nativity St. Anthony of Padua Church Bunkie

Join the adults and students of St. Anthony of Padua Church Dec. 21-22 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. as they present a Living Nativity. Drive by or join us on the front steps of St. Anthony Church as we re-enact the first Christmas with live animals and a special baby Jesus!



• **Dec. 3: The Rapides Symphony Orchestra** will perform Holiday Cheer at the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria at 2:30 p.m. Admission: \$25 for adults; \$15 for seniors; and \$10 for students. Go to www.rapidesymphony.org to purchase tickets.

• **Dec. 12: Join the Red River Choral** for their annual holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Downtown Alexandria. "Christmas Through the Ages" will utilize the traditional Lessons and Carols format and cover holiday music across the past five centuries. If not a season ticket holder, admission is \$15 for adults; \$5 for students. Go to www.redriverchorale.com to purchase tickets or call 318-484-4463.

• **Dec. 12: Lessons and Carols** featuring NSU Chamber Choir, Trinity Episcopal Church, 533 Second Street. 6 p.m. FREE

• **Dec. 12: Lessons and Carols** will be performed by the NSU Chamber Choir at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (145 Church St) in Natchitoches at 7-9 p.m. Admission: FREE

• **Dec. 17: The St. Cecilia Choral** will perform a Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura. Following the concert will be the celebration of Mass at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for admission to the concert, but donations are accepted. The public is invited.

• **Dec. 19: The St. Martin Catholic Church Choir** in Lecompte will present A Festival of Carols at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. The concert will feature traditional sacred music of the Advent and Christmas seasons. The choir, under the direction of John de Chiaro, will be accompanied by the Alexandria String Chamber Orchestra. The concert is free and open to the public.

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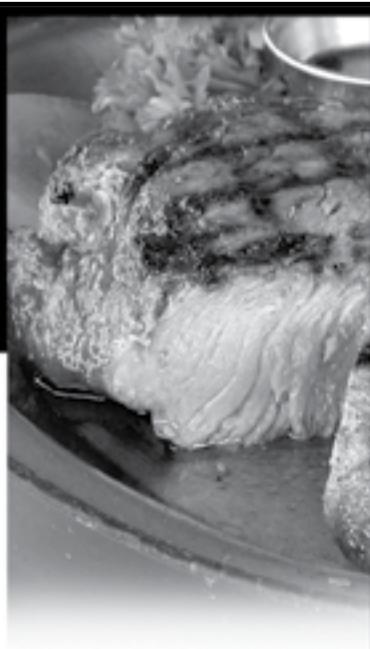
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Dec. 2: Natchitoches, 1 p.m.
Dec. 8: Pineville, 7 p.m.
Dec. 9: Leesville, 5:50 p.m.
Dec. 10: Alexandria, 2 p.m.
Dec. 16: Bunkie, 4 p.m.,
Fireworks, 6 p.m.

Actor Mark Wahlberg's faith journey leaves impression on young adults

By Joyce Duriga
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Hearing the faith journey of Hollywood actor and businessman Mark Wahlberg left an impression on the hearts of many young adults at the Archdiocese of Chicago's first (re)Encounter event Oct. 20 at the UIC Pavilion.

"It's powerful for a celebrity to feel that way about religion," said Omar Lopez, 21, from St. Gall Parish. "For me, when I think about a celebrity, I think cockiness, selfishness, but to hear an artist say that he takes time to just pray, that's an incredible feeling."

Lopez rushed to the stage at the end of Wahlberg's segment and got to shake the actor's hand.

"I came to hear him because personally I feel lost myself," Lopez told the Chicago Catholic, the archdiocesan newspaper. "At first I was really skeptical about it. I came here to just to hear different stories and to hear different aspects of life."

About 2,000 young adults attended (re)Encounter -- an evening of music, speakers, faith sharing and eucharistic adoration aimed at energizing the faith of young adult Catholics.

The highlight was a question-and-answer session with Wahlberg and Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich.

Star of movies such as "Transformers: Age of Extinction," "Ted" and "Deepwater Horizon" and producer of the popular HBO series "Entourage," Wahlberg takes his faith seriously, often attending daily Mass and making time for quiet prayer



ACTOR MARK WAHLBERG and Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago discuss faith and the life of young adults during a (re)ENCOUNTER event at the UIC Pavilion Oct. 20. (CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Chicago Catholic)

each morning. He emceed the Festival of Families with Pope Francis during the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in 2015.

His faith wasn't always important to him. Youngest in a family of nine children, he dropped out of school at 13, and served prison time. At 16, he was charged with attempted murder but he pleaded guilty to assault.

Today, he said, he's committed to being a good father and husband and giving his children the Catholic education he didn't have.

"I'm a street kid from Dorchester, Massachusetts. Grew up in St. Greg's and St. William's parishes," he told the crowd.

Because his parents worked a lot, he was often unsupervised and took to running the streets.

"Ended up getting into a lot of trouble, incarcerated, tried as an adult at 16, 17. That was a big wake-up call for me," he told Cardinal Cupich. "A lot of people go to God, especially when they get in trouble. When I heard the jail doors close behind me, I started praying right away."

It was then that he turned his life around.

"Still, every day it's a process. That's why I start my day, every day, by getting on my hands and my knees and starting a time of prayer and reading, reading Scripture. Then I feel like I can go out there and conquer the world or at least do my

job and give back because I've been blessed so much," he said.

He keeps in daily touch with his parish priest from when he was growing up, Father Ed Flavin, who married him and his wife and all of his siblings and baptized his four children. When Wahlberg decided to turn his life around, the priest was one of the people he looked up to.

Wahlberg, 46, said his biggest mistake was quitting school. Despite having a successful career as an entertainer and businessman, that haunted him, so he got his GED at age 42.

Responding to a young adult's question about mak-

ing time for prayer and Mass in a busy life, the actor said it's a "must." He goes to bed early every night and wakes up before his family to pray in the chapel he built in his home.


Addressing another audience question about knowing when one has made the right decision in life according to God's will, Wahlberg shared how he felt God was calling him to more involvement with his faith leading up to the World Meeting of Families and his role as emcee at an event featuring the pope.

Somebody came to speak at the church ... they were saying, 'Are you a participant in the church and the community or are you a spectator?' And I was like, 'Whoa.' I felt like, yeah, I'm a bit of a spectator right now," Wahlberg said. "I'm coming and getting what I need, but I'm not really giving back, you know, reciprocating the kind of love and support I'm getting."

That encounter resulted in him saying "yes" to ushering when asked a few days later, and subsequently saying "yes" to the event with Pope Francis when asked a few days after that.

Wahlberg's commitment to prayer inspired Yunuen Arroyo of St. Odillo Parish in Berwyn.

"I can't even explain the motivation he has," she said. "The whole event is awesome. I love it. I really enjoyed the questions because I've asked those questions, like, 'How do you forgive yourself?'" said Arroyo. "You just have to keep going every day. You just have to keep trying."



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Apply now for spring/summer mission trips for college students

During the 2017 – 2018 academic year, FOCUS Missions (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) will host more than 130 trips in nearly 50 countries.

New locations for FOCUS Missions this year include Albania, Poland, Uganda, Uruguay and Southeast Asia.

Spring break trip applications are due Nov. 30, and summer trips applications are due Jan. 15, 2018.

Since 2004, more than 7,000 college students and FOCUS missionaries have served on more than 400 mission trips around the world, reaching out to some of the most impoverished people on the planet and cultivating a heart for the poor. Some of the projects include the following:

- Patient care services at medical clinics in Argentina and the Philippines
- Corporal works of mercy to the sick and dying in Cambodia, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Kolkata, Mexico and India

- Homeless ministries in Colombia, New York City, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Denver and Chicago

- The building or renovation of 17 homes in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru and the Philippines

- The building or renovation of 13 churches and schools in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Yucatán of Mexico

- Established sports camps for youth in the Dominican Republic, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago.

FOCUS Missions coordinates several FOCUS Greek trips and sports camps for student-athletes in conjunction with Varsity Catholic.

Medical mission trips to Peru, Argentina and Uganda give students in the medical field an opportunity to share their medical skills and the love of Christ.

A full list of trips is at focuscampus.org/missions.



LSU-A ALL SAINTS DAY MASS WITH THE BISHOP. Students at the LSU-A CSO celebrated All Saints Day Mass at the Center with Bishop David Talley. Lynn Ray is the coordinator of Campus Ministry.



AWAKENING RETREAT. A group of about 40 college-age students attended an Awakening Retreat Oct. 27-29 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville, led by Lynn Ray, coordinator of Campus Ministry for the diocese.



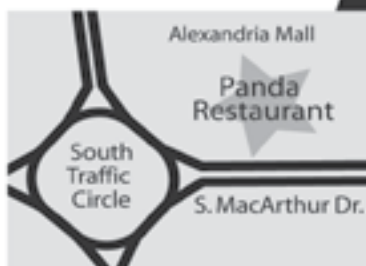
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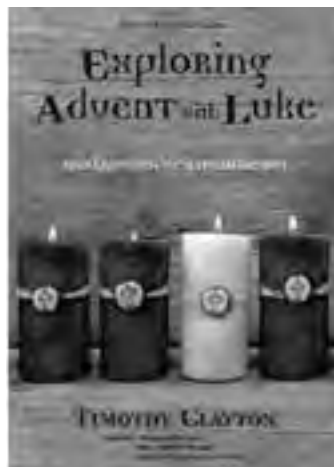
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Around the Advent Circle (eResource)
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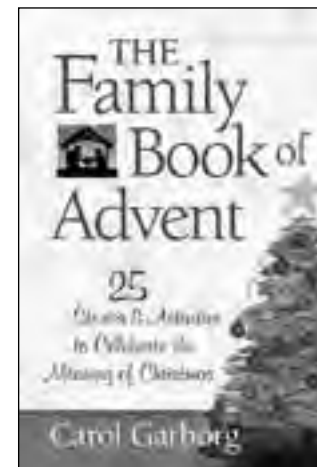
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Jesse Tree Whole Family Event Kit
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pastoral.center.com
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Journey through Advent (eResource)
By Art Zannoni
16 pages
pastoral.center.com
\$11.00



The Family Book of Advent (2010)
By Carol Garborg
134 pages
amazon.com
From \$1.98 - \$5.99

This reproducible eResource provides both content and faith sharing starter questions for small groups during Advent. The Sunday readings come alive in this resource, helping participants integrate them into their daily lives.

Beautifully illustrated and laid out, this resource will find its way into many areas of parish life. Each includes:

- Opening prayer
- Conversation starters for reflecting back on the last week
- Scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments
- Reflections with insights on the readings and how they may speak to us today
- Questions for reflection and conversation
- Closing prayer

All elements of this eResource are reproducible and you get a license for use in your own parish. You may also email the elements of this to people who must miss a meeting, or to leaders as they prepare.

This creative exploration of Advent guides readers to rediscover the power of the events leading up to the birth of Christ. The four questions of Luke 1, as posed by Zechariah, Mary, Elizabeth, and the people in the Temple, spur readers to personal reflection on disappointment, inadequacy, openness, and trust.

In this fresh, new contemplative Advent companion, Timothy Clayton deftly shows how Luke composed this first chapter of his gospel to deepen understanding of the birth of Jesus and how meditation on the questions posed by its main characters can help resolve issues that hinder the joy of Christmas. Designed to be used on a weekly basis through Advent and during the Twelve Days of Christmas, this reflective guide is ideal for individual and small-group use. Clayton's insight is reminiscent of Henri Nouwen or Thomas Merton and brings the story of Christ's birth to life anew.

Gather your families for a fun, prayerful parish event based on the Jesse Tree, Jesus' family tree. With this resource from Sr. Janet, families will:

- Create ornaments for a parish Jesse Tree display
- Reflect on and create a symbol for their own family
- Take home materials to make and pray with their own Jesse Tree

This event kit includes everything you need to host this event, including:

- Event schedule and preparation notes.
- Leader talking points.
- Handouts and artwork for each
- Jesse Tree ornament
- Take-home handouts

The author, Janet Schaeffler, OP, is an Adrian Dominican Sister, and has spent many years in parish and archdiocesan catechetical ministry. She has written hundreds of articles and several publications in catechetical and parish ministry.

Journey through Advent: Weekly Scripture Reflections for Advent 2017 is a downloadable, reproducible product sold with a lifetime parish or school license.

It is an excellent reproducible resource for Advent and offers background and insights into the Sunday lectionary readings for each week, followed by reflection questions. The handouts include opening and closing prayers and are formatted for small group use.

You are allowed to make unlimited copies for use within your own community or you may email them to members of your team or participants in your program. You may not, however, post the eResources to any website without explicit permission to do so.

Use this resource as preparation for preaching, a small group resource, a starting point for prayer, or a reflection tool for the beginning of parish meetings.

Remember the childhood excitement and joy of counting down the days until Christmas?

Now you can create unforgettable memories for your family with The Family Book of Advent. It's the perfect way to spend quality time with your young children while helping them grasp the true meaning of Christmas.

This hands-on devotional draws families together to celebrate the coming of Christmas through Scripture, questions, stories, and simple activities. As the Christmas story unfolds, bonds are created, bonds that will last a lifetime. It is the one present your family will be happy to share!

The author, Carol Garborg, has been publishing a different version of The Family Book of Advent since 2010, each with different stories and activities

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The Lego Ninjago Movie: 'Find the lovin' Ninja within ya'

Movieguide.com

The Lego company's "Nin-jago" franchise, about a group of martial arts superheroes fighting bad guys, has some Eastern mysticism and occult elements in its various television and toy incarnations. However, the new, comical animated movie based on the franchise, *The Lego Ninjago Movie* seems relatively free of that problematic, objectionable content. In fact, its basic plot centers on the strong pro-family, moral premise of reconciling a son with his estranged father and reuniting the boy's mother with the father. So, it's actually a very heartfelt family movie with lots of colorful, fun action and many funny moments.

The movie begins with a real-life shop owner, played by Jackie Chan, telling a young boy about the story of the Green Ninja, to show the boy that true power comes from within. In the island city of Ninjago, the Green Ninja and his team of mechanized ninja warriors periodically must stave off attacks from an evil warlord named Garmadon trying to take over Ninjago. The ninjas are led by a wise old ninja named Master Wu.

What Garmadon and the people of the city don't know is that the Green Ninja is actually a 17-year-old nerdy teenager named Lloyd, who lives with his mother Koko. Lloyd and his team



THE NINJAGO MOVIE is a lighthearted animated comedy about a young martial arts hero who must reconcile with and redeem his evil father in order to save the city of Ninjago from destruction. THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE is nonstop ninja nuttiness, with several funny, creative twists and a strong pro-family outlook that contradicts the usual edgy social messages coming from Hollywood these days.

of ninjas are all students at the local high school. Lloyd is persona-non-grata at the high school because of his father's attacks on Ninjago. Everyone shuns him.

Garmadon attacks the city once again and manages to defeat Lloyd and his ninjas for the first time. During the battle, Lloyd reveals to his father that he's the Green Ninja, who's been Garmadon's nemesis. Garmadon annoys his son by deliberately

mispronouncing Lloyd's name as "La-loyd." The father's attitude causes Lloyd to have some harsh words with his father, which later causes him some guilty feelings.

When Lloyd learns Master Wu has an *ultimate weapon*, he demands that Master Wu give him access to the weapon. Master Wu says the weapon is too powerful for him. Lloyd doesn't listen to Wu and uses the weapon to try to defeat his father once and for

all.

However, the weapon unleashes a dangerous creature that starts destroying the city. So, led by Master Wu, Lloyd and his friends must travel to a perilous country to find the one thing that might put things right. Unfortunately, Garmadon is hot on their trail. Eventually, Garmadon and Lloyd must find a way to overcome their differences and defeat the monster attacking the city.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Lego Ninjago Movie is nonstop ninja nuttiness, with several funny, creative twists. The movie is lots of fun throughout and doesn't seem to have much of the Eastern mysticism or occultism that infects the toy and television incarnations of LEGO'S Ninjago franchise. Master Wu talks to the young ninjas about finding the power within them, but the greatest power within turns out to be Lloyd's ability to reconcile with his father and bring his family back together again. He also must learn how to unify his ninja pals into a cohesive group that works together.

So, in the end, the movie promotes family reconciliation. In that light, one of the movie's highlights is when Garmadon teaches his son Lloyd how to throw. Even that heartfelt moment has a funny twist: Garmadon forgets to teach Lloyd how to catch. The movie's story of reconciliation between the father and the son softens the father's heart and leads to his redemption. It also results in a reconciliation between the father and Lloyd's mother.

Ultimately, *The Lego Ninjago Movie* is one of the better family movies of 2017.

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St. Joseph School, Plaquemine.
(location moved from Mater Do-
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• **Wednesday, Nov. 15** – 6 p.m.,
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late Conception (Church Hall),
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Diocesan Policy Workshops

David Brook, CPA, chief financial officer of the Diocese of Alexandria, will be conducting workshops in each of the four deaneries to discuss administrative and business policies of the diocese. The workshops are mandated by diocesan policy for the following people: pastors and pastoral administrators, trustees, pastoral and finance council chairpersons. However, if any of these people have attended previous policy workshops, they are not required to attend any of these workshops for this year. All other priests, council members or parish/school employees such as parish managers or secretaries are welcome as well.

Workshop Schedule:

- Tuesday, Nov. 14 – (Eastern Deanery) – Parish Hall at St. Patrick Church, Ferriday, LA
- Thursday, Nov. 16 – (Central Deanery) – St. Joseph Catholic Center (the Chancery) Alexandria, LA
- Tuesday, Nov. 28 – (Natchitoches Deanery) – Parish Hall at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches, LA

All workshops will start at 6:30 p.m. and should end by 8:00 p.m. If you can't attend the workshop in your deanery, you are welcome to attend any of the others listed. For more details, please call the Diocesan Business Office at 318-445-6424 ext. 215.

Job Opening

Chief Accountant. Applications are now being accepted for the job of chief accountant in the Business Office of the Diocese of Alexandria. Applicants are asked to submit a resume to David V. Brook, CPA, chief financial officer, Diocese of Alexandria at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303, by Thursday, November 30, 2017. Applicants are not required to be Catholic but must have actual accounting experience. The position is expected to be filled by Jan. 1, 2018.

Ministry Opportunity

Executive Director of Tekakwitha Conference. Applications for executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference located in Alexandria are being accepted now. The selected applicant will begin training in April, 2018 and will take over full duties Sept. 1, 2018. Qualified applicants should be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church; skilled in both administration and management; an effective written and oral communicator; and willing to become familiar with the National Tekakwitha Conference and our patroness, St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Possession of a professional degree, a working knowledge of finances and budgeting, and a theological background are preferable. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and references by Jan. 30, 2018 to Gail Rando (chair of the search committee) via email at tcboard6@gmail.com or to 145 Banff Street, Bear, DE 19701.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS



BLESSING OF THE CEMETERY. Father Blake Deshautelle, pastor of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches, blesses the graves in the old Catholic Cemetery on Nov. 2 following the celebration of Solemn Vespers on the Feast of All Souls.

Nov. 15: Mother Cabrini Celebration

The annual celebration honoring Mother Cabrini will be held at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria on Wednesday, Nov. 15. Mass will be offered at 6 p.m. followed by an Italian Feast in the Activities Building. Join us for this celebration as we honor our 2017 Dedicated Parishioners.

Nov. 17: Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

Louisiana Right to Life will host a pro-life prayer breakfast on Nov. 17 from 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. at Granberry Conference Center on the campus of Louisiana College in Pineville. The prayer breakfast is being held to raise awareness and funds for promotion and development of the 3rd annual Louisiana Life March CENLA, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018. Cost to attend the prayer breakfast is \$20 per person; \$10 for students. For more information contact: Ryan Verret, associate director of Louisiana Right to Life, at 337.257.3029 or rverret@prolifelouisiana.

Nov. 25: Christ the King Celebration

A Christ the King celebration will be held Nov. 25 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 pot-luck supper.

Nov. 30: Last day for Vatican Survey

In preparation for the 2018 Synod on Family, a survey has been constructed by the Office of the General Secretariat of the Synod, asking the young people of the world, ages 16-29, to provide some insight into "what it is like to be a young person in the Catholic Church Today." To take the survey, go to <http://www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/synod-of-bishops/synod-2018>. Nov. 30 is the last day to do this.

Dec. 4: Novena to St. Dymphna

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

Dec. 15: Deadline for deacon applications

Deacon Richard Mitchell, assistant director for the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, is still fielding questions and taking applications from men who may be interested in becoming a permanent deacon. The deadline to apply is Friday, Dec. 15. Deacon Richard's contact information is: phone (318) 445-6424, ext. 206 or email him at: dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org

Longest serving Catechists honored

Nine catechists (religion teachers in Catholic schools or CCD programs) were recognized by Bishop David Talley for their dedicated long service to teaching the Catholic faith. Each received a medal from the bishop during a diocesan sponsored Catechists Appreciation Day held Oct. 28. Those honored are Carol Laughlin, St. Michael Church in Leesville, 40 years; Tara Christian and Susan Roy, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Tioga, 38 years; Rose Noel, Holy Ghost in Marksville, 38 years; Deborah Llorens, St. Anthony in Natchitoches, 33 years; Susan McNeal, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, 26 years; Margie Metoyer, St. Anthony in Natchitoches, 26 years; Patricia Lavalais, Holy Ghost in Marksville, 21 years; and Richard Mitchell, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 20 years.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: Dec. 11

Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 30

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November - December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13 PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	14 VIRTUS Training 6:00 pm Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville Diocesan Policy Workshop 6:30 pm. St. Patrick Church (Hall), Ferriday PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	15 VIRTUS Training 6:00 pm Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches Mother Cabrini Celebration following 6:00 pm Mass St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	16 Diocesan Policy Workshop 6:30 pm. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	17 Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast 7:30-9:00 am Louisiana College, Pineville PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA	18 PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	19 Special Collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development WORLD DAY of the POOR PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON
Sacred Heart ACTS Retreat for Women -- Maryhill Renewal Center						
20 PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMAN	21 Adult Faith Series 10:00-11:00 am or 7:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	22 PRAY FOR FR. G. UZONDU	23 Diocesan Offices Closed THANKSGIVING DAY PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	24 Diocesan Offices Closed PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	25 Christ the King Celebration all day at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville Information Meeting for Deacon Applicants 1:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO	26 PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ
27 Information Meeting for Deacon Applicants 1:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE	Diocesan Policy Workshop 6:30 pm St. Anthony of Padua Church (Parish Hall), Natchitoches Adult Faith Series 10:00-11:00 am or 7:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	29 PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	30 Last day for young people to submit Vatican survey PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	DECEMBER 1 PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	2 Festival of Lights Parade 1:00 pm Natchitoches PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	3 Rapides Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert 2:30 pm Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY
Alexandria Winter Fete' -- Downtown Alexandria						
St Mary's ACTS Retreat for Women -- Maryhill Renewal Center						
Week of Awareness of Persecuted Christians						
4 Novena to St. Dymphna 6:30 pm Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	5 Adult Faith Series 10:00-11:00 am or 7:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville Christmas at the Nest 5:30-7:00 pm Holy Savior Menard High School PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	6 PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	7 PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	8 Christmas Parade 7:00 pm Pineville FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION A Holy Day of Obligation PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK	9 Christmas Parade 5:30 pm Leesville PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY	10 Christmas Parade 2:00 pm Alexandria SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM
11 PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	12 OLG Procession 8:00 pm OLG Mission, Forest Hill Lessons and Caroles 7:00 pm MB Immac. Concept. Natchitoches Red River Chorale Concert 7:30 pm SFX Cathedral, Alexandria FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	13 PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	14 PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	15 Deadline to submit application to permanent diaconate PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE	16 Christmas Parade 4:00 pm Fireworks 6:00 pm Bunkie PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	17 St. Cecilia Chorale Christmas Concert 3:30 pm St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON

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