

# CHURCH TODAY

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

December 11, 2017

## ON THE INSIDE

### **Mass obligation for Christmas, and Feast of Mary, Mother of God, explained**

To clarify any misunderstanding about attending Mass this Christmas season, an explanation is provided on page 5. A Mass schedule and a listing of Penance services is also listed on page 5.

### **Original SFXC Tabernacle refinished and returned to center high altar**

At the request of Bishop David Talley, the original main tabernacle of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral has been restored and returned to its prominent position on the center high altar. Father Jim Ferguson, rector of the Cathedral, blessed the refinished tabernacle during the 4 p.m. Mass Dec. 2. See page 9 for details..

### **Cenla Pregnancy Center is now open!**

A few drops of rain began to fall on a crowd of at least 100 people who had gathered outside the Cenla Pregnancy Center to witness its grand opening Dec. 4. Find out who was part of this historical pro-life celebration and more on pages 18-19.



# Pope says: Stop taking smartphone snapshots during Mass!

## Pope Francis continues series of audience talks on the beauty of the Mass

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- The Mass is not a show, but a beautiful, transformative encounter with the true loving presence of Christ, Pope Francis said.

That is why people need to focus their hearts on God, not focus their smartphones for pictures during Mass, he said.

When the priest celebrating Mass says, "Let us lift up our hearts," he is not saying, "lift up our cellphones and take a picture. No. It's an awful thing" to do, the pope said Nov. 8 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"It makes me so sad when I celebrate (Mass) in the square or in the basilica and I see so many cellphones in the air. And not just by the lay faithful, some priests and bishops, too," he said.

"Please, Mass is not a show. It is going to encounter the Passion, the resurrection of the Lord," he said to applause.

The pope's remarks were part of a new series of audience talks on the Mass. The series, he said, should help people understand the true value and significance of the liturgy as an essential part of growing closer to God.

In another talk, he discussed how Catholics should spend their time in silence before Mass, preparing "to meet with Jesus" instead of engaging in "chitchat."

"Silence is so important," he said. "Remember what I told you last time: we are not going to a show. Silence prepares us and ac-



**TAKING PICTURES DURING MASS.** A priest take pictures with a tablet as Pope Francis celebrates Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this July 7, 2013, file photo. The pope, at his Nov. 8 general audience, said it's "an awful thing" for people to take cellphone photos at Mass. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters)

companies us."

A major theme highlighted by the Second Vatican Council was that the liturgical formation of the lay faithful is "indispensable for a true renewal," Pope Francis said. "And this is precisely the aim of this catechetical series that we begin today -- to grow in understanding the great gift God gave us in the Eucharist."

"Vatican II was strongly driven by the desire to lead Christians to an understanding of the grandeur of the faith and the beauty of the encounter with Christ," he

said. "That is why, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an appropriate renewal of the liturgy was necessary."

"The Eucharist is a wonderful way Jesus Christ makes himself truly present in people's lives."

"To take part in the Mass is to relive the Lord's passion and redemptive death, where, on the altar, he is present and offers himself for the salvation of the world," Pope Francis said.

"The Lord is there with us and present," he said. "But so many times we go, we look

around, we chitchat with each other while the priest celebrates the Eucharist."

If the president or any other famous or important person were to show up, he said, it would be a given "that we all would be near him, we would want to greet him. But think about it, when you go to Mass, the Lord is there and you, you are distracted, (your mind) wanders. Yet, it is the Lord!"

People should reflect on this, he said, and if they complain, "Oh father, Mass is boring." What are you saying? The Lord is

*"The Lord is there with us and present (at Mass). But so many times we go, we look around, we chitchat with each other while the priest celebrates the Eucharist." -- Pope Francis*

boring? "No, not the Mass, but the priest." Ah, well, may the priest be converted," but just never forget that the Lord is always there.

Catholics need to learn or rediscover many of the basics about the Mass and how the sacraments allow people to "see and touch" Christ's body and wounds so as to be able to recognize him, just as the apostle St. Thomas did.

He said the series would include answering the following questions:

- Why make the sign of the cross at the beginning of Mass? Why is it important to teach children how to make the sign of the cross properly and what does it mean?

- What are the Mass readings for and why are they included in the Mass?

- What does it mean for people to participate in the Lord's sacrifice and come to his table?

- What are people seeking? Is it the overflowing fount of living water for eternal life?

- Do people understand the importance of praise and thanksgiving with the Eucharist and that receiving it "makes us one body in Christ"?

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# USCCB celebrates 100th anniversary

## U.S. bishops discuss pressing issues of the day during fall assembly in Baltimore

CNS -- During their annual fall assembly Nov. 13-14 in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops dealt with pressing issues of the day, such as racism and immigration reform, but also paid close attention to the words used during children's baptism.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., opened the general assembly encouraging the 232 bishops gathered there to prioritize youth, the mission of evangelization, and Christ himself.

"I offer you the example of the patroness of your country, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as someone who went forth with a sense of urgency" to share the joy of Christ with her cousin, Elizabeth," he said.

The archbishop noted that the US Conference of Catholic Bishops is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and urged that in addition to remembering the past, they must look to the forward, avoiding "small-mindedness" and recommending three things about which to be passionate: the youth, the mission of evangelization, and the Lord himself.

**Young People.** Archbishop Pierre mentioned the importance of the upcoming Synod of Bishops which will focus on young people, "to learn from them and to help them to discover the path the Lord has chosen for them."

He addressed "the difficulties of transmitting the faith in our day," especially in the face of the rise of the number of people not identifying with any religious tradition.

The youth, he said, are faced "not only with existential questions" such as finding work, but above all with spiritual problems.

**Evangelization.** Turning to the importance of evangelization,



**BISHOP'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BALTIMORE.** Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa Mendieta of Panama gives a presentation Nov. 13 about World Youth Day 2019 during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Archbishop Pierre recommended four characteristics of a "new evangelist": boldness, connectedness, urgency, and joy.

"The statistics alone should give us a sense of urgency; but is it an urgency motivated by fear of loss, or is it the joy of sharing the gospel?" he asked, offering the example of the Virgin Mary's Visitation: "having conceived of the Holy Spirit, she could not keep her joy to herself. Similarly, we cannot keep our joy to ourselves."

Amid declining numbers, Archbishop Pierre told the bishops to "take courage," for "there are signs of growth in the Church in the south and the west."

**Reason to be Hopeful.** Archbishop Pierre concluded saying that despite demographic

changes and the dictatorship of relativism, their ministry can bear fruit, recalling the missionary and apostolic zeal of the Spanish missionaries, the French Jesuits, and the early bishops of the United States, "who labored for the flock in the wilderness."

"This is a time of "opportunity for adventure, the adventure of faith," a time "to be bold, trusting that the Lord will never abandon us," he said. "For this reason, rather than to give into discouragement, we have every reason to be filled with hope and joy, because Jesus is in our midst ... once more I repeat this can be a great moment for the Church in America."

Among some of the business discussed and approved:

**Immigration Reform.** The

longest and most passionate discussion on the first day of the fall assembly focused on immigrants, on how to help them but also how to drive home the point that they, too, are our brothers and sisters and should not be demonized.

"We also know our country has the right and responsibility to regulate our borders and enforce our laws. We're ready to work with all," he said.

But seeking the deportation of those who have been in the country for many years, "whose children are our children, who work alongside us and pay taxes, and respect the same laws we respect," does not serve the common good, Bishop Vasquez said.

**Baptismal Rite.** By a vote of 200-23-3, the bishops approved the use of a new translation in the

baptismal rite for the first time in 40 years. Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, chair of the Committee on Divine Worship, who brought the topic up for discussion and vote, said the changes were minor; but he said they were a response to the Vatican's call that they were part of something bigger and addressed the Vatican's request to translate liturgical texts into modern languages.

**Pro-Life Activities.** Assisted suicide and abortion remain the focus of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, according to Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, the committee chairman.

The national committee's Human Life Action arm was busy over the past year, issuing alerts urging Congress to pass the Conscience Protection Act, and urging the House Appropriations Committee to nullify a District of Columbia law permitting assisted suicide.

"The young and healthy get suicide prevention ... while the sick and disabled get suicide assistance," said Dolan.

**Marriage and Family Life.** With 232 votes in favor, the U.S. bishops acknowledged that Catholic families and married couples need more support from the church at large and hope to offer it by giving parishes plenty of resources through a pastoral plan for marriage and family life.

**Sainthood Cause.** The U.S. bishops "approved by voice vote" to move forward the sainthood cause of Nicholas W. Black Elk, a 19th-century Lakota catechist who is said to have introduced hundreds of Lakota people to the Catholic faith. Black Elk, born into the Oglala Lakota Tribe in 1863 in Wyoming, was widely known among his people as a holy man and mystic.

  
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## Does Christmas = the Nativity of the Lord?

I can imagine a response to this column as I am writing it. Someone reading the title is saying,

*"This new Bishop is off his rocker! Lord help us!"*

*"Of course, Christmas is the same as the Nativity of the Lord... the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth. Didn't you go to seminary?"*

Well, yes...OK....they seem to refer to the same event...in a way. But let's see how they are very different holy – days.

In the good ole' US of A, when does the Christmas season begin? For my generation, the Christmas season began just after you washed the dishes of Thanksgiving. The stores had all the Christmas lights blinking and all the shelves were packed for all of us shoppers. The Salvation Army had their kettles out early on, in their great service to the



### I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

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

poor. Many looked to purchase their Christmas tree at the beginning of December, just in time for the Bowl Games and the get-togethers.

And....when does the Christmas season end? In my neighborhoods, growing up as a boy in North Augusta, South Carolina and as a teen in Columbus, Georgia, the Christmas season ended on Christmas Day, the 25th of

December., or thereabouts. Folks began to take down the tree, decorations were packed away, diets started (again) and....most importantly...stores began their after Christmas specials on the 26th.

OK...that's the secular holiday of Christmas. But what about the Holy Days of the Nativity of the Lord?

For Roman Catholics, the

season begins with the Masses of the Nativity...the Vigils on the 24th, and all the Masses on the 25th. And, we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord for an Octave... eight days!

It begins at holy Mass. What does that say about the difference between the secular holiday season of Christmas and the religious season of the Nativity of the Lord?

As we pray throughout the season of Advent and look towards the joyful season of Christmas....His Nativity, let us share the joy of all our neighbors as the nation celebrates "the holidays"...but let us remember why the "holidays" exist for us in this nation:

*"The Angel said to the shepherds working in the fields just outside Bethlehem: Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."*

(Luke 2.9-11).

AMDG

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

## Join the revolution of tenderness this Christmas

**By Sister Constance Veit**  
**Little Sisters of the Poor**

TED is a media organization that posts online talks under the slogan "ideas worth spreading." Earlier this year Pope Francis surprised the world by digitally giving his own TED Talk at the organization's annual conference in Vancouver. In his nearly 20 minute talk, our Holy Father challenged his listeners to ignite a much-needed revolution of tenderness in our world.

"Tenderness," the Holy Father suggested, "is the love that comes close and becomes real. It is a movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands.

"Tenderness means to use our eyes to see the other, our ears to hear the other, to listen to the children, the poor, those who are afraid of the future. To listen also to the silent cry of our common home, of our sick and polluted earth.

"Tenderness means to use our hands and our heart to comfort the other, to take care of those in need."

What better time could there be to launch a revolution of tenderness than during the Advent and Christmas season? After all, the heart of Christmas is the story of God's coming among us as a

helpless baby – this is the epitome of tenderness.

As Pope Francis shared, "God himself descended into Jesus to be on our level. This is the path that Jesus himself took. He lowered himself, he lived his entire human existence practicing the real, concrete language of love. Tenderness is the path of solidarity, the path of humility."

Imagine what Christmas would be like if we opted out of the commercialism of the season in favor of tenderness!

If we didn't have to be on the lookout for the next sale or the latest decorating ideas, we could better use our eyes to see the lonely and the misfit.

If we chose silence over the 24-hour Christmas carol station once in a while, we would grow more attuned to the cry of the poor and the deepest hopes and fears of our children.

And if our arms weren't so full of packages, we could more easily reach out to others with the caress of God himself.

But we can choose tenderness over materialism and consumerism this Christmas! It's a matter of slowing down, putting Christ at the center and prioritizing people over things.

Reaching out to serve those on the peripheries and cherishing those who are close to us will

bring us deeper fulfillment and more precious memories than all those material gifts we don't really need. Tenderness is its own reward!

Meeting with a group of young people last Advent, Pope Francis invited them to welcome the joy of the season as a gift and to witness to it in their families, schools and parishes. He specifically encouraged them to share it with their grandparents by talking to them, asking them questions and learning from their memories and experiences. He also told grandparents that they should make an effort to understand their grandchildren, and to listen to their aspirations and hopes.

As a Little Sister of the Poor, I can think of no better way to launch the revolution of tenderness than for families to strengthen intergenerational bonds this Christmas.

If you are young, reach out to your grandparents or elder aunts and uncles.

And if you are older, shower the kids in your extended family with the unconditional love and attention that only elders know how to give.

I have one last suggestion this Christmas – and it springs directly from our Holy Father's TED Talk.

"Quite a few years of life

have strengthened my conviction that each and everyone's existence is deeply tied to that of others," Francis told his audience. And then, incredibly, he asked for a little tenderness for himself:

"We all need each other. And so, please, think of me as well with tenderness, so that I can fulfill

the task I have been given for the good of the other, of each and every one, of all of you, of all of us."

So, as you help ignite the revolution of tenderness this Christmas, don't forget to say a little prayer for the man who inspired it!

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# Mass obligation for Christmas/Mary, Mother of God explained

To clarify any misunderstanding about attending Mass this Christmas season, the following will apply:

## Dec. 25: Christmas Day

- Faithful Catholics are obliged to attend Mass for both the 4th Sunday of Advent (Sunday, Dec. 24) and Christmas Day (Monday, Dec. 25).
- You must attend a separate Mass for each obligation.
- Going to Mass on Christmas Eve only, will not fulfil the requirement for both obligations.

## Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

In 1993, the bishops of the United States made a decision to abrogate (suspend) the obligation to attend Mass for Jan. 1, if it fell on a Saturday or Monday. Jan. 1, 2018, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother God, falls on a Monday.

- Therefore, the obligation to attend Mass on Jan. 1 is lifted.
- However, Catholics are urged to attend Mass on that day and offer appropriate devotions.

## Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017

4:00 p.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria  
4:00 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria  
4:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville  
4:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin  
4:00 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth  
4:00 p.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga  
4:00 p.m. -- St. Margaret, Boyce  
4:00 p.m. -- St. Anthony, Bunkie  
4:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart, Moreauville  
5:00 p.m. St. Peter, Bordelonville  
5:00 p.m. -- St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle (Children's Mass)



5:00 p.m. -- Our Lady of Lourdes, Winnfield  
5:30 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria (Children's Mass)  
5:30 p.m. -- Sacred Heart, Pineville  
5:30 p.m. -- St. Joseph, Colfax  
5:30 p.m. -- St. Francis of Assisi Mission, Waterproof  
5:30 p.m. -- St. Edward, Tallulah  
6:00 p.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria  
6:00 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria  
6:00 p.m. -- MB of Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches  
6:00 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth (Children's Mass)  
6:00 p.m. -- St. Anthony, Bunkie  
6:00 p.m. -- Our Lady of Sorrows, Moreauville  
6:00 p.m. -- St. John's Mission, Columbia  
6:30 p.m. -- Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine  
9:00 p.m. -- Spanish Mass, St. Anthony, Natchitoches  
9:00 p.m. -- St. Anne, Old River  
10:00 p.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga  
11:00 p.m. -- St. Peter, Elmer

## Christmas Midnight Masses

Midnight, Dec. 24 -- OLPS, Alexandria  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- Caroling begins at 11:15 p.m., MB of Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- St. Mary Church, Winnsboro  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- St. William Chapel, Olla  
Midnight, Dec. 24 -- Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville

## Christmas Day, Monday Dec. 25, 2017

7:00 a.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria  
7:00 a.m. -- Latin Mass, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria

7:00 a.m. -- Latin Mass, St. Edward, Tallulah  
7:30 a.m. -- Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine  
8:00 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria  
8:00 a.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth  
8:00 a.m. -- St. Margaret, Boyce  
8:00 a.m. -- Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Moreauville  
8:00 a.m. -- St. Michael, Rexmere  
8:30 a.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin  
8:30 a.m. -- St. Louis, Glenmora  
9:00 a.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria  
9:00 a.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria  
9:00 a.m. -- Sacred Heart, Pineville  
9:00 a.m. -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle  
9:00 a.m. -- St. Mary, Winnsboro  
9:00 a.m. -- St. Edward, Tallulah  
9:30 a.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga  
9:30 a.m. -- St. Joseph, Colfax  
9:30 a.m. -- Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville  
9:30 a.m. -- Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine

10:00 a.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth  
10:00 a.m. -- MB of Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches  
10:00 a.m. -- Our Lady of Lourdes, Winnfield  
10:30 a.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin  
10:30 a.m. -- St. Anthony, Bunkie  
10:30 a.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph  
11:00 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria  
11:00 a.m. -- St. Jude, Sieper  
11:00 a.m. -- St. Patrick Mission, Montgomery  
5:30 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria

## Penance Services

### Tuesday, Dec. 12

5:30 p.m. -- St. Patrick Mission, Montgomery

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

6:00 p.m. -- St. Peter, Bordelonville  
6:00 p.m. -- St. Peter, Elmer  
6:00 p.m. -- St. Joseph, Colfax  
6:10 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville

### Thursday, Dec. 14

6:30 p.m. -- St. Martin, Lecompte

### Friday, Dec. 15

3:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin  
6:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin

### Sunday, Dec. 17

5:30 p.m. -- St. Margaret, Boyce

### Monday, Dec. 18

6:00 p.m. -- St. Mary's, Winnsboro  
6:30 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria

### Wednesday, Dec. 20

5:30 p.m. -- St. Joseph, St. Joseph  
6:00 p.m. -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle  
6:00 p.m. -- St. Anthony, Bunkie  
6:30 p.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria

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**OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Winnfield) PASTOR APPRECIATION SUPPER.** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield sponsored a Clergy Appreciation Supper on Thursday, Oct. 26 to honor the ministers of all faiths who serve the people of Winn Parish. Father Brian Seiler, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, opened the evening with a brief introduction and a little bit about himself as a Catholic priest. Thirteen other local ministers of other faiths in attendance introduced themselves. Father Peter Faulk was also in attendance. The ministers enjoyed a meal served by the Evangelism Committee, played games, and received goodie bags at the end. Pictured is Father Brian Seiler (front and center) and the ministers from other faiths.



**KC COUNCIL 1357 (Natchitoches) WINTER COAT DRIVE.** The Knights of Columbus Council #1357 of Natchitoches donated 72 brand new winter coats to L.P. Vaughn Elementary School. The coats will be distributed to students in need. Pictured are Henry Maggio, Principal Kristie Irchirl, Ray Ponthieux, Grand Knight Michael Yankowski, Counselor Patti Breland, Knight Joseph Roque and Coordinator Armetrice Williams. The council also donated \$500 to the school for their Literacy Program. Pictured are Michael Yankowski, Kristie Irchirl, PreK teacher Janna Maggio and Joseph Roque.



**SOUTHWEST BEVERAGE GIVES IPADS TO ST. MARY'S CHILDREN.** Children at St. Mary's Residential Training School will have greater access to internet based training opportunities thanks to a local business. Southwest Beverage Co. presented students with a \$3,000 check to purchase 10 new Apple iPads. The company decided to make the gift after the sales director for Central Louisiana saw the request for iPads in the manager's wish list for residents. The iPads will be used in the Day Habilitation Program and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program. Pictured are Dwain Dubroc, sales director for Southwest Beverage Company; several SBC local associates; Bo Vets, St. Mary's programs director; Bonita Walker, St. Mary's Health Services director; and Ramez, Aiden & Tyler (residents of St. Mary's).

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2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal Totals

\*As of November 30, 2017

Arcyossiles Deanery	Goal	Pledged	Received	Families	Donors	Avg. Gift
St. Joseph Church - Markoville	\$26,225.00	\$34,453.90	\$34,223.25	626	130	\$263.26
St. Anthony of Padua Church - Bunkie	\$23,600.00	\$27,917.90	\$26,237.82	451	119	\$220.49
St. Mary's Assumption Church	\$18,125.00	\$12,485.00	\$11,485.00	444	75	\$153.13
Sacred Heart Church - Monroeville	\$16,575.00	\$9,971.00	\$9,445.50	292	75	\$125.94
St. Alphonsus Church	\$14,875.00	\$7,891.00	\$7,831.25	227	64	\$122.36
Mater Dolorosa Church	\$12,025.00	\$7,761.00	\$7,369.22	240	56	\$130.52
St. Paul the Apostle Church	\$11,150.00	\$8,958.00	\$8,920.50	225	57	\$156.50
Holy Ghost Church - Markoville	\$9,050.00	\$7,399.00	\$6,124.00	145	34	\$180.12
Our Lady of Lourdes - Fifth Ward	\$8,950.00	\$6,518.00	\$6,518.00	177	55	\$118.51
Christ the King Church	\$7,900.00	\$7,731.00	\$7,601.00	307	54	\$140.75
St. Joseph Church - Cheneyville	\$7,425.00	\$6,114.00	\$6,039.00	38	13	\$618.38
St. Francis de Sales Church	\$6,775.00	\$3,105.00	\$2,910.75	95	26	\$111.95
Immaculate Conception Church - Dupont	\$5,575.00	\$3,140.00	\$3,140.00	115	26	\$120.77
St. Genevieve-Brouillette	\$4,950.00	\$3,510.00	\$3,395.00	78	23	\$147.61
Church of the Little Flower	\$4,875.00	\$5,054.00	\$5,054.00	90	31	\$163.03
Our Lady of Prompt Sorrow Church - Manisua	\$4,275.00	\$1,680.00	\$1,680.00	116	17	\$98.82
St. Peter Church	\$4,250.00	\$3,921.00	\$3,921.00	130	37	\$105.97
St. Richard Chapel - Hickory Hill	\$3,775.00	\$1,679.00	\$1,529.00	53	9	\$169.89
St. Martin of Tours-Belledeau	\$3,225.00	\$4,423.00	\$4,313.00	113	25	\$172.52
Our Lady of Sorrows Church	\$2,675.00	\$2,861.00	\$2,861.00	72	11	\$260.09
St. Charles - Goudreau	\$2,525.00	\$2,799.00	\$2,709.00	27	10	\$270.90
St. Michael Church	\$1,475.00	\$209.00	\$209.00	57	5	\$41.80
Deanery Total	\$200,275.00	\$171,580.80	\$165,456.29	4318	952	\$173.80

Central Deanery	Goal	Pledged	Received	Families	Donors	Avg. Gift
St. Rita Catholic Church	\$88,475.00	\$97,546.00	\$95,312.55	1,332	331	\$287.95
Our Lady of Prompt Sorrow Church - Alexandria	\$83,300.00	\$117,830.45	\$113,152.02	925	258	\$438.57
Sacred Heart Of Jesus	\$38,275.00	\$40,865.14	\$40,260.64	742	158	\$254.81
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral	\$34,800.00	\$50,470.50	\$47,451.84	366	131	\$362.23
St. Frances Cabrini Church	\$31,675.00	\$33,216.00	\$31,268.36	464	120	\$260.57
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	\$17,525.00	\$20,801.00	\$19,676.00	306	98	\$200.78
Mary, Mother of Jesus Church	\$11,050.00	\$16,380.00	\$16,131.40	153	54	\$298.73
St. Martin Church	\$10,500.00	\$11,048.00	\$11,003.00	134	49	\$224.56
St. Juliana Church	\$10,375.00	\$5,687.00	\$5,581.12	128	51	\$109.43
St. James Church	\$10,000.00	\$6,037.00	\$5,182.09	182	35	\$148.06
St. Michael the Archangel - Leesville	\$9,450.00	\$14,474.00	\$14,299.00	211	67	\$213.42
Sts. Francis and Anne Church	\$9,050.00	\$10,027.00	\$9,302.00	155	41	\$226.88
St. John the Baptist - Deville	\$6,675.00	\$7,456.00	\$6,991.60	135	35	\$199.79
St. Margaret Church	\$5,750.00	\$6,058.00	\$5,864.80	71	31	\$189.19
St. Joseph Church - Colfax	\$5,700.00	\$4,661.00	\$4,541.75	80	26	\$174.68
Our Lady of Lourdes - Winnfield	\$5,400.00	\$5,458.00	\$5,258.00	69	18	\$292.11
St. Edward Church - Fishville	\$3,600.00	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	55	8	\$353.13
St. Louis Church	\$3,400.00	\$5,865.00	\$5,865.00	25	16	\$366.56
Our Lady of Guadalupe	\$3,375.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	23	1	\$29.00
St. Mary Church - Jena	\$3,300.00	\$194.00	\$194.00	40	4	\$48.50
St. Peter Mission - Elmer	\$3,075.00	\$3,509.00	\$3,509.00	36	13	\$269.92
St. John The Baptist - Moncla	\$3,000.00	\$817.00	\$817.00	60	11	\$74.27
St. Patrick Church-Montgomery	\$2,900.00	\$1,880.00	\$1,657.00	41	13	\$127.46
St. Winifred Chapel- Effie	\$2,000.00	\$1,773.00	\$1,773.00	34	17	\$104.29
St. Jude Mission - Seiper	\$925.00	\$1,325.00	\$1,325.00	12	6	\$220.83
St. Cyril Chapel-Flatwoods	\$775.00	\$161.00	\$161.00	14	4	\$40.25
St. Margaret Mary Chapel - Gorum	\$400.00	\$456.00	\$456.00	14	7	\$65.14
St. William Chapel - Olla	\$300.00	\$189.00	\$189.00	12	3	\$63.00
Deanery Total	\$405,850.00	\$467,047.09	\$450,076.17	5819	1606	\$280.25

Eastern Deanery	Goal	Pledged	Received	Families	Donors	Avg. Gift
St. Mary Church - Winnsboro	\$11,475.00	\$18,387.00	\$18,347.00	67	18	\$1,019.28
Our Lady of Lourdes - Vidalia	\$9,475.00	\$6,763.00	\$6,763.00	118	33	\$204.94
St. Patrick Church - Ferriday	\$8,300.00	\$7,118.00	\$6,968.00	76	33	\$211.15
St. Edward Church - Tallulah	\$7,800.00	\$2,929.00	\$2,929.00	60	24	\$122.04
St. Joseph Church - St. Joseph	\$4,525.00	\$5,926.00	\$5,926.00	54	24	\$246.92
St. John Chapel - Columbia	\$2,450.00	\$1,810.00	\$1,787.50	25	11	\$162.50
St. Gerard Church - Jonesville	\$1,975.00	\$1,340.00	\$1,340.00	22	10	\$134.00
St. Francis of Assisi Church - Waterproof	\$1,225.00	\$2,080.00	\$2,080.00	19	11	\$189.09
Deanery Total	\$47,225.00	\$46,353.00	\$46,149.50	441	164	\$281.34

Natchitoches Deanery	Goal	Pledged	Received	Families	Donors	Avg. Gift
Minor Basilica Of The Immaculate Conception Cl	\$39,250.00	\$42,484.00	\$41,688.00	406	142	\$293.58
Holy Cross Church	\$18,600.00	\$9,296.00	\$8,601.00	144	44	\$195.48
St. Augustine Church	\$9,675.00	\$13,948.00	\$12,246.88	154	45	\$272.15
St. Anthony Church of Padua - Natchitoches	\$8,575.00	\$23,432.38	\$23,026.38	148	71	\$324.32
St. John the Baptist - Clouterville	\$5,925.00	\$4,066.00	\$3,826.50	109	37	\$103.47
St. Anne Church - Spanish Lake	\$3,550.00	\$1,888.00	\$1,772.50	40	8	\$221.56
Nativity Of The Blessed Virgin Mary	\$3,225.00	\$2,712.00	\$2,712.00	42	17	\$159.53
St. Anne Chapel - Old River	\$2,225.00	\$2,290.00	\$2,040.00	30	12	\$170.00
St. Joseph Chapel-Trichel	\$2,100.00	\$1,235.00	\$1,235.00	14	5	\$247.00
Our Lady of the Rosary Black Lake	\$1,525.00	\$6,200.00	\$5,998.90	19	10	\$599.89
Holy Family Church-Monet Ferry	\$1,075.00	\$500.00	\$350.00	16	5	\$70.00
St. Francis of Assisi Church - Powhatan	\$825.00	\$1,098.00	\$998.00	20	8	\$124.75
Holy Rosary Mission- Emanuel	\$900.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	13	2	\$52.50
Deanery Total	\$97,450.00	\$109,252.38	\$104,602.16	1155	406	\$257.64

No Church Given	\$0.00	\$5,082.00	\$4,640.25	354	30	\$154.68
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	Goal	Pledged	Received	Families	Donors	Avg. Gift
Total 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal	\$750,000.00	\$799,315.27	\$770,915.37	12087	3158	\$244.12

2017 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

I will give you a New Heart

“... and a new spirit I will place within you.” ~ Ezekiel 36:26

2017 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

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Dear Friends

As we reach the one-year mark of my being your bishop, one of the greatest joys in my service as shepherd of the Church of Alexandria is to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and willingness to support the 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA). Your support in this uncertain financial climate significantly helps the Church in Central Louisiana to continue offering its broad range of spiritual and practical assistance to God’s people.

The ADA funds vital ministries that are essential to our faith: Campus Ministry -- for students on our colleges campuses; Tribunal Office -- for those seeking annulments and other services; Vocations -- for the continuing formation of priests, the formation and education of seminarians and the formation and training of those preparing for the permanent diaconate. These areas of ministry and formation serve each one of us.

I am sincerely grateful to you for all that you have done to make Christ present in so many ways throughout our diocese. For those who have not donated to the 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal, it is not too late. Donations can be made until December 31, 2017. Please be assured that you and your intentions will be in my prayers.

In the light and love of the Lord,

+ David P. Talley

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



Thank You!





# Seminarian Burses

## November Donations

Knights of Columbus Council 9217.....	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Father Peter Kuligowski .....	\$30.00
Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard.....	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby .....	\$50.00
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach .....	\$100.00
Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard.....	\$100.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center .....	\$200.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Dwight E. Beridon .....	\$250.00
Monsignor John Timmermans Burse	
Dwight E. Beridon .....	\$250.00
Harold and Lillie Beridon Burse	
Total .....	\$1,055.00

**FIRST ANNUAL CONVOCATION WITH BISHOP TALLEY.** The first annual Convocation with Bishop Talley was held Dec. 4 - 7 at Maryhill Renewal Center. Most of the active priests in the diocese attended the convocation for the purpose of continuing formation and fellowship. The diocese is blessed to have so many good priests serving in our parishes. Please remember to pray for all of our priests.



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## St. Francis Xavier Cathedral's original Tabernacle refinished and returned to prominent position on center high altar

At the request of Bishop David Talley, the original main tabernacle of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral has been restored and returned to its prominent position on the center high altar.

Father Jim Ferguson, rector of the Cathedral, blessed the refinished tabernacle during the 4 p.m. Mass Dec. 2.

The Cathedral was originally designed with three tabernacles – one at the center high altar and one at each of the side altars. During a renovation project in the 1990s, the front tabernacle was covered with a decorative board and the Holy Eucharist was reserved in the tabernacle on the side altar.

The brilliance of the new brass finish of the tabernacle (work completed by F. C. Zeigler Company, out of Tulsa, Okla.) is now one of the first things that catches your eye when entering the Cathedral.

“The restored tabernacle – in

both brilliance and its prominent position on the high altar – fills an emptiness that has existed in the

Cathedral for many years,” said Father Ferguson. “It is a beautiful part of our Cathedral.”



**REFINISHED ORIGINAL TABERNACLE.** At the request of Bishop David Talley, the original main tabernacle of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral has been restored and returned to its prominent position on the center high altar. Father Jim Ferguson, rector of the Cathedral, blessed the refinished tabernacle during the 4 p.m. Mass Dec. 2.



**MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE.** Ten deacon candidates were instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte Dec. 2 during a special Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Deacon candidates receive the ministries of Lector and Acolyte before being ordained as permanent deacons. As acolytes, the candidates can now assist the priest and deacon at the altar during the Eucharistic Liturgy, principally in preparing the altar and the sacred vessels and, if necessary, distributing the Eucharist as an extraordinary minister. All 10 deacon candidates are expected to be ordained in June. Pictured are (front row) Darrel Dubroc, Stephen Gramigna, Father Dan O'Connor, director of the Office of Permanent Diaconate; Bishop David Talley, Lawrence Feldkamp, and Bill Endris. Back row: Luke White, Thomas Robichaux, Steven Newbury, Mark Adkins, Paul Sunderhaus, and Bill Aldridge. The next class of permanent deacons will begin in the Fall of 2018. The deadline to apply for the Fall diaconate class is Dec. 15. If interested call Deacon Richard Mitchell, assistant director of the Office of Permanent Diaconate at 318-445-6424, ext 206.



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# Flying Father Dutch takes to the skies over Louisiana

By Donna Culotta  
Contributing writer

When I went to summer camp, we sang a silly song with the words:

*Up in the air, junior bird-men,  
Up in the air, upside down!*

I have no idea what it meant but I figured it was about flying.

The other day I spoke to someone who is way more than a *junior bird-man*. He's a licensed pilot and an ordained Catholic priest -- Father Gus "Dutch" Voltz, parochial vicar at St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

As a member of the National Association of Priest Pilots, Father said there are a lot of licensed priest pilots in the United States.

"They (priest pilots) often fly medical flights for charity," he said. "There are a lot in Africa and at one time every priest in Alaska had a pilot's license. States with wide open spaces like Iowa and South Dakota are other places where there are flying priests."

Father earned his pilot's license in 1975, but as he says, "I was interested in aviation since I was a child."

He grew up in Alexandria, where he attended Our Lady of Prompt Succor School and Church. His father, Gus Voltz Jr., before he was married, flew commercial planes and was an instructor at then Northeast Louisiana College in Monroe.

When World War II came along, Gus Jr. was called into the Army Air Corps because they needed experienced pilots. He flew dangerous missions in DC-3s and C-47s. He also helped fly



**THE FLYING PRIEST.** Father Dutch Voltz stands on the wings of his Beechcraft Bonanza, a single-engine high performance airplane, before taking some of his priest friends on a short day trip. Father Dutch, the parochial vicar at St. Joseph Church in Marksville, is an experienced pilot with thousands of hours of flying time. He has been flying since he was 12 years old, when he would fly with his father, Gus Voltz Jr., a WWII Army Air Corps pilot. Fr. Dutch is also a member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. (Photo by Jeannie Petrus)

planes and equipment back to the US after the war. He then worked his way through law school by flying and doing anything he could in aviation.

As you can probably see, a pattern was developing for Father Dutch to also become equally interested in all things aviation.

"I grew up building model airplanes, working with my father restoring airplanes and even building an airplane," he said. "I also flew control-line and radio-controlled model airplanes and

entered competitions with them in aerobatics, pylon races, balloon bust and combat."

In combat competition, according to Father Dutch, it took lots of skill.

"Each model plane had streamers and the idea was to cut the other plane's streamers with the propeller," he said. "I flew model planes that could go 125 miles per hour."

As much as he wanted to go up in an airplane with his father, it wasn't until he was 12-years-old

before his mother allowed him to fly.

"If it had been up to my father, I would have been in an airplane years before," he said.

Father Dutch studied law like his father and grandfather; so when he was out of college, he started taking flying lessons.

"My first airplane was a Cessna-152 trainer," he recalled. Father compared it to a Volkswagen. His second plane, a step up, which he compared to a Ford sedan, was a Beechcraft Musketeer.

But the Cadillac of planes for Father Dutch was the high performance, complex airplane, the *Bel-lanco*. It had a retractable landing gear and a 200 horse-power engine, he said, then added with a smile, "It was a speed demon."

In addition to earning a private pilot license, he has attained an instrument rating, a commercial pilot rating, and endorsements to fly a complex airplane, tail wheel airplanes, and high performance airplanes.

Before becoming a priest, Father Dutch practiced law in Alexandria which gave him chunks of time to take off and fly to places like Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado or Disney World in Florida. He would generously fly other priests to cities around the state or just take them on a joy ride. He has also helped introduce young people to flying through the Young Eagles program.

There is so much Father Dutch loves about flying.

"It's peaceful up there -- no horns, no hustle and bustle of traffic. I see God's beauty," he said. Every flight is different with the beauty of the landscape . . . white snowy fields in winter. It's just relaxing and peaceful."

As much as he is a true pilot, and one for a long time, Father Dutch is also a true priest and uses his love of flying and airplanes to bring people to God.

"It's about connecting," he said.

And if anyone can connect another to the excitement of flying, it's Father Dutch.

## Save the Date!

**Feb. 24-25, 2018**

For the first time, the Office of Steubenville South will offer a junior high conference, Feb. 24-25, titled "Beyond the Limits" featuring Chris Padgett as host. More details will be provided later, but for now -- save the date!



*Merry Christmas*

*May all the blessings of Christmas touch you and  
those you love in a very special way*

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# Fr. Taylor reaches out to kids in Rome for World Day of Poor

By Father Taylor Reynolds  
Studying in Rome

Canon Law certainly can be complicated. After only one week of class, my old cranium was pretty sore, to say the least. Oh, and doing it in Italian doesn't really make it that much easier -- just in case you were going to ask!

My predicament led me to the near-by church called *Dodici Apostoli*, which means the "12 apostles," that contains the bodies of Sts. James and Philip.

A few months ago, the outer narthex (entrance area) became filled with several tents, sleeping bags, banners and most saddening of all, homeless people. After several days of watching and observing, I decided to go in and talk to some of them. It turns out they are refugees from all over.

On the feast of St. Francis, I decided to get some fellow priests and bring food to them. The people were very thankful. In the midst, I met with a married couple, pregnant with twins, several children playing around the church and several people with whom we shared no common language except a very grateful handshake.

It was around this time that Pope Francis announced the World Day for the Poor on November 19, 2017.

Taking the name 'Francis', our Holy Father has always held



**CELEBRATING THE FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR.** Father Taylor Reynolds is currently studying Canon Law in Rome. Recently, he and some fellow priests friends decided to take a break from studying and do something to celebrate Pope Francis' first World Day of the Poor on Nov. 19. They orga-

nized a Game Day for the local poor children. Pizza, chips, and outdoor games drew the children out into the streets where Father Taylor engaged them in playing games and shared pizza with them.

close to his heart the poorest of the poor reminding us of what the church calls the 'preferential option for the poor.' He himself, as the Good Shepherd, was going to have a Mass with and for the poor on Nov. 19 and then have a meal for them.

When Mother Teresa was asked once how she helped and fed so many thousands of poor people, she responded, 'I just loved the one person in front of me!'

I remembered how many poor people lived right in front of

our house and so decided to organize *something*. After talking with the Franciscans, we decided to organize a game day for everyone there. We planned to have snacks, drinks, games for the kids and to initiate conversations with the people.

After putting up a sign-up sheet and taking a small collection from the fellow priests here, we had everything to make a successful day. It was about six of us priests who facilitated it all. We set up a table with pizza, drinks and snacks and then we set up a

corn hole game.

It didn't take long before the place was buzzing with activity -- children running and jumping with excitement over the games, people coming out to grab a slice of pizza and watching and laughing as the kids played, and priests sitting and sharing their stories with the poor people.

Over time, more people came. Some left, but there was always a welcoming atmosphere. Many of the parents thanked us for feeding and entertaining their kids. We made no distinction of

religion or race -- all were people deserving of some love.

After the two hours were over, we left the people with some snacks and the kids with a few balls to play with, but we walked away with some new friends and a renewed heart.

It doesn't take much to love, it just takes a yes. Sometimes it means going a little out of your way when you don't have to; sometimes it is being patient in a moment you can't escape. Above all, it is finding Jesus in the midst of our lives, in His hidden forms.

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PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Work-Out Worker Rule Revisited," "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C," "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings."

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**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VISIT ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL.** On Nov. 8, St. Anthony School students had the privilege of participating in the Saints Play Football Experience! Students gathered in the school gym for a special presentation from the New Orleans Saints organization. They discussed the importance of eating a healthy breakfast, staying active, goal setting techniques, as well as being a team player. Students were able to participate in various football drills. Each station taught students real life practice drills that the Saints players use daily. Players from Bunkie High School football team were in charge of each station. This fun day event was made possible thanks to the SAS Wellness Committee and the Eat, Move, Grow Program.



**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL'S EAT, MOVE, GROW PROGRAM.** Students at St. Anthony School in Bunkie answer some trivia questions about the New Orleans Saints and the Eat, Move, Grow program and walked away with some pretty awesome prizes!

Chris Peyton (Saints youth coordinator) and Jennifer Duhon, Fuel Up To Play 60 NFL coordinator. A big thank you to the Bunkie High School senior football players, Eat Move Grow coordinators, Saints youth coordinators, and St. Anthony School principal for helping to make this day so much fun for the students.

**ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL THANKSGIVING POW WOW AND FEAST** is an annual event for the Pre-K 3 and 4 students. At right, eating biscuits on the Mayflower,



**CABRINI FEST NUNS.**

\_\_\_\_\_ dressed as nuns for their talent performance at "Cabrini's Got Talent" during Cabrini Fest, held Oct. 27-28. This annual fall festival is one of the biggest fundraisers for St. Frances Cabrini School. It was a fun weekend with carnival games, zip line, rock wall, bingo, haunted obstacle course, live entertainment and more!



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (Natchitoches) COLORS FOR TROOPS.** Kindergarten students colored Christmas pictures to send to the troops overseas.





**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL (Bunkie) 4H FOOD DRIVE.** The St. Anthony School 4H Club held their annual food drive recently. They collected more than 1,800 food items that will be given to the food pantry to help those in our community.



**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL (Bunkie) GIRLS ON THE RUN 5K.** This is the third year the St. Anthony School (Bunkie) Girls on the Run group have participated in the annual 5K run held Nov. 11 in Alexandria. Girls on the Run is a running program for girls, empowering them to believe in themselves and to be their very best.



**ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION AT ST. RITA.** St. Nicholas (David Melancon) reads the story of St. Nicholas to the children at St. Rita Church during the St. Nicholas celebration held Dec. 4. After the story, the children enjoyed crafts, snacks, games and songs.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
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**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION (Cottonport) BETA CLUB** organized a Baby Bottle Drive for the Cenla Pregnancy Center. The drive resulted in \$872.15 in cash, as well as 145 packs of wipes, 40 packs of diapers, eight bottles of baby wash, 127 blankets, 31 bottles, eight girl outfits, seven onesies, 32 bibs, 10 washcloths, two hats, three packs of headbands, and seven pacifiers.

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# St. Mary's 2015 State Championship trophy home at last!

It took two years, but the 2015 Championship trophy finally made its way home to the rightful winners, the St. Mary's Tigers!

The trophy and title were stripped from Southern Lab in August of this year when the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) announced that the Class 1A Kittens must forfeit Division IV select titles for 2015 and 2016, as well as a runner-up finish in 2014, — severe punishment after an independent investigation uncovered recruiting violations.

Surrounded by cheering family, friends, and students on the field of Turpin Stadium Oct. 19, members of the 2015 team gathered around the 2015 Head Coach Lee Doty, as he hoisted the championship trophy high above his head. It was a long awaited victory celebration.

The 2015 football season was a magical year for St. Mary's School in Natchitoches.

Following three successive years of preparation and tough scheduling, the 2015 team was prepared to dominate its opponents from the very first game and challenge all schools in its divi-



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (Natchitoches) 2015 1A STATE CHAMPIONS.** Coach Lee Doty, 2015 head football coach for St. Mary's School in Natchitoches, proudly holds up the 2015 1A State Champion trophy that was recently awarded to the 2015 team. Many of the 2015 football team members attended a special presentation Oct. 19 during halftime at NSU's Turpin Stadium, when the Louisiana High School Athletic Association presented the delayed trophy and title to the St. Mary's Tigers. (Photo by Casie Deville)

sion for the state title.

Anchored by a phenomenal defense, the Tigers virtually kept

its opponents out of the endzone nearly all season. The high-powered offense, meanwhile blew by

its competition and averaged 43 points per game heading to the dome.

The semi-final game against Ascension Episcopal ended with a thrilling 49-42 victory for the Tigers and is perhaps one of the greatest football games in St. Mary's history.

The Tigers entered the championship game in the Superdome as an undefeated team but were defeated by the Southern Lab Kittens in a heart-breaking loss.

In 2016, Ascension Episcopal also lost to Southern Lab in the Division IV State Championship game in the Dome.

After a self-imposed investigation by Southern Lab revealed recruiting improprieties, the LHSAA stripped the school of its state championship titles in 2016, 2015 and runner-up title in 2014, imposed a \$5,000 fine, restricted participation in football through the 2018-2019 season, revoked coaching privileges for the head coach and assistant coaches through the 2018-2019 season, and will investigate the eligibility of some of the players, according to the LHSSA.

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# Menard Lady Eagles win Cross Country State Championship

## Vaughn sisters capture top two spots; Eagle boys finish in third place

By Lamar Gifford  
The Town Talk

Reprinted with permission

For the 5th time in seven years, and the 11th time overall, the Holy Savior Menard Lady Eagles Cross Country team captured the Class 2A State Cross Country Championship title!

While last year's title chase was close, the Lady Eagles left no doubt en route to repeating as Class 2A champions at the LHSAA State Cross Country Championships at Northwestern State's Walter P. Ledet Track and Field Complex Nov. 13.

"This wonderful set of girls not only have talent, they are the hardest workers around," Menard coach Wally Smith said. "Between the seven of them, they've probably ran 4,000 miles this season. Yes, they're good, but they worked their hearts out to be where they are right now."

Sophomore sisters Claire and Katharine [redacted] finished Nos. 1 and 2 in the race as the Lady Eagles had five of the top seven runners in the race. Menard scored 21 points in the meet — six points shy of a perfect score of 15 — as Claire posted a time of 18 minutes and 49 seconds and Katharine finished the three-mile course in 19:13.

Rounding out the girls team



**2016 CLASS 2A CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONS!** For the 5th time in seven years, the Menard Lady Eagles Cross Country team captured the Class 2A Cross Country State Championship title, under the direction of the legendary Coach Wally Smith.

were [redacted] son [redacted], 5th; [redacted] nah [redacted], 7th; A [redacted], 11th; and Faith [redacted], 20th.

"I'm so proud of our team," Claire said. "We deserve it and it's just been a great season. I'm really proud of us."

Katharine added, "(Claire's) always been a role model for me and an inspiration. She's always been someone to look up to. She's been my sister and my best friend for all of these years. Just coming together and getting first and second really brought us closer and showed me how much of an impact that she really has on me."

The Eagle boys notched another third place finish this season, but lowered that point total from 95 last year to 76. Menard runners Ben [redacted] Cyrus [redacted] and Bradon [redacted] narrowly missed the top 10 individually, but they ranked Nos. 11-13 with [redacted] leading the way with 17:14.

Rounding out the boys team [redacted] Jacob [redacted], 21st; Qu [redacted], 27th; and Ascher [redacted], 62nd.

"The boys moved way up from last year," Smith said. "They wanted second place this year and they got way closer this time around. All but one of them is back (next year). They are already talking about next year."



**MENARD BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE TEAM.** Members of the Menard Boys Cross Country State Team, who placed third in state, [redacted]



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**SACRED HEART (Moreauville) DISTRICT JUNIOR BETA DAY.** Sacred Heart School participated at District Junior Beta Day Nov. 10 at Brame Middle School in Alexandria. The club was very well represented under the direction of Mrs. Erica Coco, and co-sponsor Miss Nicole Cancel. Winners are:


- Special Talent - Jordan [redacted] and Madelyn [redacted], 2nd place.
- Robotics - Rosylne [redacted], Will [redacted], Abigail [redacted], Blake [redacted], Julia [redacted], and Carson [redacted], 2nd place.
- Living Literature - Zoe [redacted], Sarah [redacted], Cole [redacted], Corbett [redacted], Wesley [redacted], Andie [redacted], Ella [redacted], Isabella [redacted], & Katee [redacted], 5th place.



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) DISTRICT JUNIOR BETA DAY.** St. Joseph School participated at District Junior Beta Day Nov. 10 at Brame Middle School in Alexandria. Marley Scallan designed the club's t-shirts.

Winners are:

- Division 1: Quiz Bowl -- Bo [redacted], Ava [redacted], Emilee [redacted] and Claire [redacted]
- Division 2: Speech -- Stella [redacted]
- Quiz Bowl -- Marley [redacted], Madelyn [redacted], Ethar [redacted] and Peyton [redacted]
- Tower of Power -- Anne Marie [redacted], Madelyn [redacted], Brooke [redacted], Layni [redacted] & Jonathan [redacted]



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## Local women attend 36th Magnificat International Leadership Conference in California

By Mary Wilson  
Cenla Magnificat

When folks travel to sunny Southern California, it is usually to visit the Magic Kingdom and enjoy the beach.

Diane Ardoin, from Pineville; Donna Reason, from Hesser; and Mary Wilson, from Avoyelles and a member of the Magnificat Central Service Team (the governing body for the entire ministry), attended the 36th Annual Magnificat International Leaders' Conference Oct. 5-8 in Orange, Calif.

CENLA Magnificat was represented at the gathering that included women, priests, and bishops from all over the world who prayed for peace and healing for individuals, communities, our leaders, and the world.

"It was wonderful to be with women, all focused on praising God and His Mother," said Ardoin, assistant coordinator for CENLA Magnificat.

Speakers for the conference included EWTN "Women of Grace" hostess Johnnette Benkovic; Major League Baseball World Series Champion pitcher Jeff Suppan; Father Donald Calloway, M.I.C., and his mother, LaChita Calloway; singer and quadriplegic Renee Bondi; and Monsignor Toups, president of St. Vincent de Paul Regional



**CENLA MAGNIFICAT** members Diane Ardoin, Donna Reason, and Mary Wilson (not pictured) attended the 36th Annual Magnificat International Leaders' Conference Oct. 5-8 in Orange, California.

Seminary.

Conference attendees also participated in short pilgrimages to the San Juan Capistrano Mission and Christ Cathedral, formerly Crystal Cathedral.

"The gathering was joy-filled and Spirit-filled as we prayed, praised, and participated in the events of the Magnificat International Leaders' Conference," said Msgr. Toups, the new spiritual adviser to the international ministry. "I feel very much a part of the

Magnificat family now as I got to know so many of the leaders of our various chapters. It was such a blessing for me, personally, to be present in California for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Charismatic Renewal and the 36th Anniversary of the Magnificat Ministry."

The International Magnificat Leaders' Conference is held every two years with members attending from the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Magnificat, a ministry for Catholic women, was established in New Orleans in 1981. Quarterly meals are hosted by local Chapters worldwide.

The next Magnificat breakfast is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2018 and Bishop David Talley will be the speaker.

For more information, contact Mary Wilson (318-359-7735) or visit the chapter website at [www.magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-l-m/la-alexandria/](http://www.magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-l-m/la-alexandria/)

## Upcoming A.C.T.S. Retreats

The following ACTS retreats will be offered soon at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville.

If you are interested in going to an A.C.T.S. retreat, choose the one you wish to attend and contact the person listed. Now is the time to begin registering:

### • Feb. 15-18, 2018:

Cenla ACTS for Men (OLPS). Call Les Glankler at 318-664-5269.

### • Feb. 22-25, 2018:

Sacred Heart ACTS for Men (Sacred Heart --Pineville). Call John Kling at 504-908-7816; or Wade Trahan at 318-308-0406; or Joe Thompson at 318-451-3548.



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**DR. B's NURSERY.** Dr. B's Nursery is named in memory of Dr. Brenda Seiler, a local OB/GYN physician who made medical missions to Haiti every summer to care for young pregnant mothers. She was also very active in pro-life activities such as praying the Rosary outside an abortion center in Bossier City.

**FAMILY CONFERENCE ROOM.** The Family Conference Room provides a larger space for family members to get together to discuss options.



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**MOTHER & BABY BOUTIQUE.** Right now, Mother & Baby Boutique is a little empty, but donations are always welcome. The supplies are given to mothers in need. Some of the items needed are new or gently-used baby clothes, baby shampoo, powder, diaper rash cream, formula, diapers, baby monitors, any baby equipment, blankets, and more.



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# Community rallies behind opening of Cenla Pregnancy Center

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

A few drops of rain began to fall on a crowd of at least 100 people who had gathered outside the Cenla Pregnancy Center to witness its grand opening Dec. 4.

"I don't know if these tiny rain drops are tears of sorrow for the lives lost through abortion or tears of joy for the bright days ahead of us for the miracles that are about to happen at the Cenla Pregnancy Center," said Claire Lemoine, executive director.

Pastor Brian Gunter, president and founder of the Cenla Prenancy Center, told the crowd that today is a proud day for Central Louisiana.

"The idea of a pregnancy center in Central Louisiana started less than one year ago," he said. "And here we are today, through the efforts of so many people in our community, opening our doors."

Gunter pointed out the efforts of the Louisiana Baptist Convention who is leasing the space in the Baptist Building for \$1 a month; the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, who spearheaded a massive chicken dinner fundraiser; more than 200 churches of multiple Christian denominations that have lendted their support and encouragement; Dr. David Spence, the volunteer medical director; staff representing U.S. Congressmen Mike Johnson and Ralph Abraham; city officials, the CPC board members; and so many groups and individuals in the community.

"YOU -- each and every one of you here today, whether you



**IT STARTS NOW!** Executive director Claire Lemoine cuts a red ribbon, signaling the official opening of the new Cenla Pregnancy Center, located by 1254 MacArthur Drive on the first floor of the Baptist Building. Surrounded by board members and Pastor Brian Gunter, president and founder of the center, Lemoine welcomed a crowd of at least 100 people Dec. 4 to the grand opening and asked for their support and prayers for the pro-life ministry that starts now in Central Louisiana. For more information, go to [www.cenlapc.com](http://www.cenlapc.com).

realize it or not -- are now part of the history of the pro-life movement in Central Louisiana," said Lemoine. "We need you. We need your support; but most of all we need your prayers. None of this would have been possible without prayer."

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the crowd was welcomed into the center for refreshments and tours of the facility.

The center includes a waiting area, a reception desk, a conference room and family room for meetings, a prayer room, a mother & baby boutique, a nurs-

ery for kids of pregnant mothers, and an ultrasound room.

The nursery is named the *Dr. B's Nursery* in memory of Dr. Brenda Seiler, a local OB/GYN doctor who made medical missions to Haiti every summer to care for young pregnant mothers. She was also very active in pro-life activities, including monthly visits to an abortion center in Bossier City to pray the Rosary. That abortion center recently closed.

The Ultrasound Room consists of an examination table and an ultrasound machine that were both donated by a pregnancy center that closed in Houma, La.

The Cenla Pregnancy Center is a non-profit pregnancy resource center, a pro-life organization that provides compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions.

For more information, go to [www.cenlapc.com](http://www.cenlapc.com) or call 318-314-3061 to schedule an appointment.



**ULTRASOUND ROOM.** The Ultrasound Room includes an examining table and an ultrasound machine, both donated by a pregnancy center that closed in Houma, La. According to Dr. David Spence, volunteer medical director and a strong pro-life advocate, the most decisive moment of a young pregnant woman comes when, through an ultrasound, she can see her baby in the womb and hear its heartbeat.



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this Christmas season and  
throughout the year*



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# Catholic high school teacher inspired Meghan Markle's outreach

## Prince Harry engaged to marry Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic school girl

By Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Maria Pollia, a theology teacher at Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles, did not have to rack her brain to remember her former student Meghan Markle, the actress recently engaged to Prince Harry.

Pollia, who taught Markle during her junior year in 1997-1998 -- when they examined mystics and writings on the church -- said the student who is now in the media spotlight always took her writings a step further than her peers.

Understanding Trappist Father Thomas Merton is a challenge for high school juniors, the teacher said, but she remembers that Markle "never backed off."

"I'm not telling you this because suddenly I'm forced to remember her. I would have remembered her anyway," Pollia, a 1972 alumna of the all-girls school.

A year ago, Pollia was surprised to hear that Markle, already a known name as a television actress and a U.N. women's advocate, credited a conversation the two of them had for inspiring her to work for others.

She was interviewed about the book she contributed to titled, *"The Game Changers: Success Secrets From 40 Women at the Top: How to Become a Fearless, Fabulous Girl Boss."*

In the book, Markle said she volunteered with a group at a soup kitchen on Skid Row in Los Angeles when she was 13, but on the first day she said she "felt really scared. I was young, and it was rough and raw down there, and though I was with a great volunteer group, I just felt overwhelmed."

When Markle considered volunteering there again, she sought the advice of her theology teacher, Pollia -- who had been a Catholic Worker volunteer in Los



**HARRY AND MEGHAN.** Britain's Prince Harry poses with Meghan Markle Nov. 27 in the Sunken Garden of Kensington Palace in London after announcing their engagement. Markle attended Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles. (CNS photo/Toby Melville, Reuters)

Angeles -- about how to do this type of volunteering without being afraid.

Pollia said she told her "to put the needs of others beyond your own fears," which ended up being advice the student held on to long after her junior year.

In her section of the *"Game Changers"* book published early this year, Markle said: "I remember one of my mentors, Mrs. Maria Pollia, told me that 'life is about putting others' needs above your own fears.' That has always stayed with me."

The fact that Markle remembered this conversation and referred to Pollia as a mentor is

humbling and rewarding to the theology teacher, but she also feels such recognition is just as much a credit to the school as to her own views about serving others.

"You are passing on what you were given -- echoing the legacy we have," she said of the school that was founded in 1906 by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

And this legacy now continues with their famous student, who also is remembered for her role as a Kairos retreat leader during her senior year.

Christine Knudsen, chair of the school's theology department,

remembers picking Markle as one of the retreat leaders. In fact, "she was our first choice," she said of the four-day 1998 fall retreat off campus.

She said when you choose a student as a Kairos leader, "you are choosing from among their peers and they have to have empathy."

She also had Markle as a student in her homeroom class her junior year and remembers her as always being in the middle of things, in a good way. "She always spoke out about what she thought" and came up with positive solutions, Knudsen said.

And now, with the excite-

ment in the school about the former graduate's May wedding at England's Windsor Castle, Knudsen likes to emphasize what Markle has already done -- especially her 2015 address at the United Nations on International Women's Day in 2015.

In that address, highlighted on the school's website and Facebook page, Markle spoke about how women have made strides but still had work to do to achieve gender equity.

She also spoke of her own experience as an 11-year-old who challenged a commercial for a soap company with the tag line: "Women all over America are fighting greasy pots and pans" with its product.

The message that women were the only ones in the kitchen washing dishes didn't sit right with Markle, who wrote letters about it to the soap manufacturer, an attorney, a news anchor and Hillary Clinton, who was then first lady.

A month later, the ad's message said: "People all over America are fighting greasy pots and pans" with the product and Markle realized her voice, even as a young girl, could make an impact.

That message is not lost at Immaculate Heart.

Knudsen said the school gave Markle the tools to take her passion further and it does that for all its students, saying "she is not the exception."

Knudsen tells students now: "That's where you and Meghan are the same. You have the same qualities to do something great with your life," adding that whether a prince notices you or not is secondary.

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# The Star: Animals work their way into biblical story of Jesus' birth

(CNS) -- A holiday treat suitable for all but the tiniest, *The Star* is a delightful animated version of the Christmas story told from the perspective of some of the animals present in the manger.

Director Timothy Reckart and screenwriter Carlos Kotkin skillfully balance religious themes such as the importance of prayer and the value of forgiveness with a more secular message about pursuing your dreams. They also throw in a healthy dose of straightforward entertainment.

They work their way into the biblical narrative of Jesus' birth through the adventures of a gentle donkey from Nazareth named Bo (voice of Steven Yeun). Curious about the world beyond the grain mill where he carries out his monotonous work, Bo yearns to exchange his life of drudgery for the fame and prestige to be gained by joining the storied royal caravan.

Bo's best friend, a lively dove by the name of Dave (voice of Keegan-Michael Key), shares this ambition. And the pals get their chance to fulfill their aspirations when Bo successfully escapes his confinement, though he injures his leg in the process.



**THE STAR.** Delightful animated version of the Christmas story, told from the perspective of some of the animals present in the manger. Chief among them is a gentle donkey (voice of Steven Yeun) from Nazareth who yearns to exchange his life of drudgery working in a grain mill for the fame and prestige to be gained by joining the storied royal caravan. But his quest takes a detour after his leg, wounded in his successful escape from confinement, is tended by the Virgin Mary.

Bo is tended to by no one less than Mary (voice of Gina Rodriguez), after which his quest takes a detour. Despite the mild disapproval of Joseph (voice of Zachary Levi), Mary adopts her patient as a pet. Bo, in turn, becomes dedicated to protecting the parents-to-be, as they journey to

Bethlehem, from the murderous scheming of King Herod (voice of Christopher Plummer).

Bo is aided in this endeavor not only by Dave but, eventually, by an affectionate sheep called Ruth (voice of Aidy Bryant) whom the pals encounter along the way. Together, the crit-

ters do what they can to thwart the unspeaking hulk of a soldier Herod has dispatched to slaughter the Holy Family and the pair of ferocious-seeming but not entirely evil dogs, Thaddeus (voice of Ving Rhames) and Rufus (voice of Gabriel Iglesias), accompanying him.

## MOVIE REVIEW

As a range of characters rely on prayer for guidance and strive to do God's will, Mary and Joseph present the image of a well-balanced marriage by being strong for each other in moments of trial or doubt. Though some liberties are taken with the scriptural account -- Catholic viewers will notice the absence of the phrase "Hail, Mary" from the Annunciation scene -- overall, the script is faithful to the Gospels.

The inclusion of lighthearted humor, moreover, does nothing to detract from the appropriately reverent treatment of the movie's sacred subject matter. Though a couple of silly guano-themed lines designed to make little ones giggle might have been dispensed with, overall this is a very solid choice for family viewing. All the more so, as it may serve as the starting point for a discussion of faith in general and of the Incarnation in particular. Rated PG.

# Wonder: how the significance of one ordinary life can impact others

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- "Wonder" (Lionsgate) is a beautiful film about ugliness. Its protagonist is August "Auggie" Pullman (Jacob Tremblay), a 10-year-old boy born with facial deformities whose misshapen visage becomes a moral Rorschach test for the people around him.

This gentle, moving drama centers on Auggie's struggle to win acceptance from his peers as he transitions from being educated at home to attending the fifth grade of his local middle school. But it also explores the lives of his supportive parents, Nate (Owen Wilson) and Isabel (Julia Roberts), and his loving older sister, Via (Izabela Vidovic).

Via gives Auggie unstinting affection despite the fact that his emotional needs have left her feeling overlooked by Mom and Dad.

Though reluctant to subject Auggie -- who usually goes out



**WONDER.** Gentle, moving drama about a 10-year-old boy (Jacob Tremblay) born with facial deformities and his struggle to win acceptance from his peers as he transitions from being educated at home to attending the fifth grade of his local middle school. Rated PG.

in public wearing an astronaut's helmet that conceals his face from view -- to the potential ordeal of school life, Nate and Isa-

bel know it will be the best thing for him in the long run. They find an ally in Auggie's principal, Mr. Tushman (Mandy Patinkin),

a rabbi-like figure who serves as the movie's ethical core.

As for Auggie's fellow students, their attitudes range from the open friendliness displayed by easygoing Summer (Millie Davis) to the cruel hostility embodied by would-be top dog Julian (Bryce Gheisar). Somewhere in the middle is Auggie's on-again, off-again pal, Jack Will (Noah Jupe).

Though fundamentally kind and, eventually, genuinely fond of Auggie, Jack is case study in subtle variability and the negative effects of peer pressure. When circumstances enable Auggie to overhear some heartless remarks about him that Jack makes simply in order to fit in with the crowd, the effect is devastating. A later scene in which Julian comes to recognize the full impact of his bullying also carries a wallop.

Subplots involving Via's best friend, Miranda (Danielle Rose Russell), and newfound love interest Justin (Nadji Jeter) reinforce the idea that all of us

are potential heroes or villains. Though some of the people in Auggie's world are wholly good -- his parents and Justin, for example -- no one is presented as irredeemably wicked.

In adapting R.J. Palacio's 2013 best-seller, director and co-writer (with Steven Conrad and Jack Thorne) Stephen Chbosky has created a winning and memorable film about the significance of ordinary life and the lasting impact of everyday choices. Despite a few mature elements, the movie's valuable lessons make it appropriate fare for most teens.

The film contains a scene vaguely referencing married sexuality, fleeting scatological material, a couple of fistfights, one use of profanity and a single mildly crass term. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## 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](mailto:tcboard6@gmail.com) or to 145 Banff Street, Bear, DE 19701.

## 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 [denrmitchell@diocesealex.org](mailto:denrmitchell@diocesealex.org)

## Free showing of 'The Nativity'

The public is invited to watch a screening of the movie *The Nativity* on Friday, Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the OLPS Divine Providence Center in Alexandria. Admission is free.

## DOA contributes \$8,739 to Dome project

The dedication of the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. will be held on Dec. 8, (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception), at 12 noon. Through a special collection held earlier this year, the Diocese of Alexandria contributed \$8,739.94 toward this historic project of installing a mosaic on the ceiling of the Trinity Dome, the crowning jewel and capstone achievement of our nation's preeminent Marian shrine.

## 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.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

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.

### Dominican vocations retreat

All single, Catholic women, ages 17-30, are invited to attend a vocation retreat Jan. 3-7 with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, Tenn. For more information, contact Sister Peter Marie, O.P., at 615-256-0147 or email at [vocation@op-tn.org](mailto:vocation@op-tn.org) or visit [www.nashvilledominican.org](http://www.nashvilledominican.org)

### Holy Spirit Women's Retreat

Dr. Mary Healy and Father Bill Henry will be featured at the annual Holy Spirit Women's Retreat, Jan 26-28 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lafayette, LA. The theme is "Gather in Upper Room with Mary." There will also be a Life in the Spirit Seminar presented by Deacon Larry Oney, his wife Andi, and the CCRNO Team. Patti Mansfield will also be featured at this retreat. This retreat is sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO) and serves hundreds of women from throughout the Gulf South. Weekend and Saturday commuters are welcome. Register online at [www.ccrno.org](http://www.ccrno.org) or call (504) 828-1368.



**COURT BISHOP DESMOND #1459.** Ona Wilson, Regent for CDA Court Bishop Desmond #1459; Tammie Whittington, financial secretary; and Brenda Daenen, treasurer; present a check to Bishop David Talley for the Seminarian Education Fund.



## Christmas events

• **Dec. 12: Join the Red River Chorale** 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](http://www.redriverchorale.com) to purchase tickets or call 318-484-4463.

• **Dec. 17: The St. Cecilia Chorale** 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.

• **Dec. 20: Sacred Heart School (Moreauville) Christmas Show.** Sacred Heart School in Moreauville will hold its annual Christmas Show titled, O Holy Night on Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. at The Earl Barbry Convention Center in Marksville. This year's production will reflect upbeat sacred and traditional music. Each class will interpret their selection with song and dance. The 8th grade students will bring these elements together for the dramatic conclusion of The Nativity. The upbeat finale, Joy to The World will include the entire student body. Admission of donations are welcome at the door. The public is invited. For more information contact Karen Moreau @ 985-2772.

• **Dec. 21-22: Living Nativity,** St. Anthony of Padua Church in 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 the front steps of St. Anthony Church as we re-enact the first Christmas with live animals and a special baby Jesus!

## Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: Jan. 22

Deadline for news:  
Friday, Jan 12

# FERGUSON'S

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>11</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Red River Chorale Concert 7:30 pm, SFX Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</div>	<div>13</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</div>	<div>14</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Deadline to submit application to permanent diaconate</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Christmas Parade 4:00 pm Fireworks 6:00 pm Bunkie</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</div>	<div>17</div> <div>St. Cecilia Chorale Christmas Concert 3:30 pm St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura</div> <div>THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</div>
<div>18</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m. St. Martin Church, Lecompte</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Sacred Heart School Christmas Show 6:00 p.m. Earl Barbry Convention Center, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Living Nativity -- 6 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</div>	<div>22</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</div>	<div>23</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</div>	<div>24</div> <div></div> <div>FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>
<div>25</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>26</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>28</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>29</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>30</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>31</div> <div></div> <div></div>
Diocesan Offices Closed for Christmas						
<div>THE NATIVITY of the LORD Christmas Day A Holy Day of Obligation</div> <div>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</div>	<div>FEAST of ST. STEPHEN the FIRST MARTYR</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</div>	<div>FEAST of ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE</div>	<div>FEAST of the HOLY INNOCENTS</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</div>	<div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</div>	<div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</div>	<div>FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</div>
<div>JANUARY 1</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY</div>	<div>2</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Diocesan Offices Re-open</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</div>	<div>4</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</div>	<div>5</div> <div></div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</div>	<div>6</div> <div></div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</div>	<div>7</div> <div></div> <div>SOLEMNITY of the EPIPHANY of the LORD PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</div>
<div>8</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>9</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>10</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>11</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>12</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>14</div> <div></div> <div></div>
USCCB's National Migration Week						
<div>FEAST of the BAPTISM of the LORD PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</div>	<div>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</div>	<div>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</div>	<div>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</div>	<div>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</div>	<div>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</div>	<div>2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</div>

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*Dr. Saccaro*

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