

CHURCH TODAY

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ON THE INSIDE

Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center to open in 2017

A group of Catholic members of the Diocese of Alexandria, brought together through their involvement in the Central Louisiana ACTS community, have teamed to open a pregnancy center set to open later in 2017 in Alexandria. Read more about this exciting project on page 3 and how you can help.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week -- the holiest of weeks in the Liturgical Year -- is upon us. A schedule of Holy Week events and services are listed on page 5. For a more up-to-date listing of services and Mass times for Holy Week, please go to www.diocesealex.org.

Divine Mercy Sunday Novena starts Friday

In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, a special Divine Mercy Novena starts this Friday, (Good Friday) April 14. The entire novena is printed on pages 6-7. In addition, Fr. Michael Gaitley, author of "33 Days of Morning Glory" will be in Shreveport and Lafayette on Divine Mercy Weekend. Details on page 7.

What's in YOUR Easter Basket?

CHRISTIAN-THEMED EASTER BASKETS is a growing trend among the younger faith-filled parents. Putting just a few religious items in the basket can open the door to conversations with your child about the true meaning of Easter.

For more ideas on Christian-themed Easter baskets, see pg. 20.



Jane Roe of infamous Roe v Wade was born in Simmesport

By Catholic News Service

By now, most people have learned of the Feb. 18 death of Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff "Jane Roe" in the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion virtually on demand.

But what most people from this area may not know was that she was born in Simmesport, La.

Records show Norma Leah Nelson was born in Simmesport, Louisiana, Sept. 22, 1947, and was raised briefly at her family's home in Lettsworth, Louisiana. Her mother was Catholic and her father was a Jehovah's Witness.

The family later moved to Houston. McCorvey was 13 when her father left. Her parents divorced, and she and her older brother were raised by their mother, Mildred, an alcoholic who was known to be violent toward her children.

Norma married Woody McCorvey when she was 16. When she was pregnant with the couple's first child, she moved in with her mother, alleging Woody had assaulted her. She gave birth to daughter Melissa in 1965. She struggled with alcoholism and came out as a lesbian. The following year, McCorvey became pregnant with her second child, who was put up for adoption.

In 1969, when she was 21 and became pregnant a third time, she tried to obtain an illegal

Norma Leah Nelson
(1947 - 2017)

later known as
Norma McCorvey or
Jane Roe of Roe v Wade

was born in
Simmesport, La.



abortion but had no luck as state authorities had shut down such operations. She was referred to lawyers seeking a plaintiff for an abortion suit against the state of Texas. The case took three years to reach the Supreme Court. McCorvey gave her baby up for adoption.

She never had an abortion.

"I did sign the affidavit that brought the holocaust of abortion into this nation," McCorvey said later. "(But) I found out about Roe v. Wade like everyone else did -- in the paper."

McCorvey said she was told that legalizing abortion would end back-alley abortions and "probably" put a stop to rape and incest.

"They (the lawyers) had a hidden agenda," she said. "They told me that they only wanted

to legalize abortion in the state of Texas, but what they actually wanted to do was what they did -- legalize abortion across the land."

In 1994, after more than two decades of guilt-induced drug binges and various jobs at abortion clinics, McCorvey said she began to change her mind about the abortion industry, especially when Operation Rescue moved next door to her workplace, an abortion clinic in Texas.

She was particularly enchanted with the friendliness of two little girls, Emily and Chelsea, who were the daughters of Operation Rescue workers. "I was on the pro-abortion side so long, I didn't know how to react to kindness and love that all these people and the children were showing me," McCorvey recalled.

She became disillusioned

with her job admitting women for first- and second-trimester abortions. Each weekend, according to McCorvey, clinic staff had to perform enough abortions to meet a \$40,000 quota.

"What I didn't understand at the time was that I was tiring of the abortion movement," she said, adding she was "fed up with the lies and the mistreatment of the women" coming in for abortions.

When she started counseling women that they were under no obligation to go through with their abortions, reducing the weekend numbers, she was fired, McCorvey said.

In 1995, while attending a church service with Emily and Chelsea's family, McCorvey answered an "altar call" to come forward and publicly accept Christ. In August of that year, she was baptized by the Rev. Flip Benham, then director of Operation Rescue National.

From there, increased contact with Catholic pro-life leaders both inside and outside the Dallas Diocese led to her decision to become a Catholic.

After receiving instruction in the Catholic faith at St. Albert's Priory at the University of Dallas, she became a Catholic Aug. 17, 1998. She received holy Communion and confirmation at a private Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Dallas and attended by more than 60 family mem-

bers and friends from the pro-life movement.

Dominican Father Edward Robinson, who had instructed McCorvey in the faith for nearly two months, concelebrated the Mass with Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, who also had a major role in McCorvey joining the church.

"While pro-abortion advocates used Norma McCorvey to advance their efforts to legalize abortion in the early 1970s, she spent the last half of her life attempting to right the terrible wrong ... visited upon the country" by the court's decision in Roe and its companion case, Doe v. Bolton, said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

"Norma became an outspoken advocate for protecting the lives of mothers and their unborn children. ... (She) was a friend and valued ally in the fight for life and she will be deeply missed," Tobias added in a Feb. 18 statement.

McCorvey "will be greatly missed from this world but is no doubt rejoicing in heaven with the lives she has helped to spare over her lifetime," said Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America.

She became "one of the most widely-known and effective advocates for the pre-born of her generation," Hawkins added. "We cannot thank her enough and pray that she rests in peace."

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Senate passes bill to let states cut off funds for Planned Parenthood

(CNS) -- The Senate voted late March 30 to override a rule change made by in the last days of the Obama administration that prevented states from redirecting Title X family planning funding away from clinics that performed abortions and to community clinics that provide comprehensive health care.

"The clear purpose of this Title X rule change was to benefit abortion providers like Planned Parenthood," said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Congress has done well to reverse this very bad public policy, and to restore the ability of states to stop one stream of our tax dollars going to Planned Parenthood and redirect it to community health centers that provide comprehensive primary and preventive health care," he said in a March 31 statement.

Midday March 30, Vice Presi-



SENATE PASSES BILL TO LET STATES DECIDE FUNDING FOR PP. People pass a Planned Parenthood clinic in New York City. The Senate voted March 30 to let states cut off funds for Planned Parenthood. (CNS photo/Justin Lane, EPA)

dent Mike Pence, as president of the Senate, cast a tiebreaking vote that allowed Senate action to proceed on a joint resolution to block the Obama-era regulation that went into Jan. 18, two days before President Barack Obama left office.

Pence also had to cast a second tiebreaking vote so the Senate could pass the measure.

The joint resolution, H.J. Res. 43, was introduced in the House by Rep. Diane Black, R-Tennessee. It passed 230 to 188 on Feb. 16, a vote that was largely along

party lines.

Republicans control the Senate by only a 52-48 margin, so Pence was called on twice to break a 50-50 tie. Now the measure goes to President Donald Trump, who is expected to sign it into law.

Title X of the Public Health Services Act was passed by Congress in 1970 to control population growth by distributing contraceptives to low-income families. Planned Parenthood is the largest recipient of Title X funding. Planned Parenthood also is the nation's largest abortion network -- performing over a third of all abortions in the U.S. It receives more than half a billion dollars in federal funding each year.

Under the Hyde Amendment, federal funding for abortion already is prohibited, but federal family planning funds were allowed to go to clinics and facilities for other health services.

States have been acting on

their own to prohibit Title X funding to agencies performing abortions.

The joint resolution is one of a series of bills Congress has passed under the Congressional Review Act, which allows federal regulations put in place during the final days of the previous administration to be rescinded by simple majority passage.

In a letter to House members urging them to vote for H.J. Res. 43, National Right to Life wrote: "Long-standing objections to the massive governmental funding of PPFA (Planned Parenthood Federation of America) have been reinforced by widely publicized undercover videos, which illuminate the callous brutality that occurs daily in these abortion mills."

After the House vote, Ernst said in a statement she was "committed to restoring our states' ability to make their own decisions about the best eligible Title X providers for folks."

Cenla Louisiana Pregnancy Center to open in late 2017

Community faith leaders working together to get pregnancy help center started

A group of Catholic members of the Diocese of Alexandria, brought together through their involvement in the Central Louisiana ACTS community, have teamed to open a pregnancy center set to open later in 2017 in Alexandria.

On March 31, the group joined community leaders representing many Christian faiths across our area to sign the articles of incorporation for The Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center. This pro-life crisis pregnancy center will help expectant mothers by providing medical care, counseling, and a closer connection to their faith.

According to Peter Lemoine, an attorney from Cottonport, the Catholic group's commitment to the pregnancy center started with the release of a series of pro-life documentaries produced by a team of Catholic contributors, including Lemoine, Wilbur Gutierrez, and Dr. David Spence.

"God calls us to a pursue causes far greater than ourselves," said Lemoine. "Abortion is the greatest humanitarian



FUTURE PREGNANCY CENTER. A group of community leaders representing many Christian faiths gathered March 31 to sign the articles of incorporation for the Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center expected to open in late 2017.

crisis of our generation, and only through education, advocacy, and compassion can we bring an end to this crisis."

Since its release in August of 2016, the group's pro-life documentary series, titled *Project Abortion: The Untold Story*, has been seen by tens of thousands across the U.S. and elsewhere and

is being disseminated by pro-life organizations across the nation.

Soon after the documentary's release, the group was presented with the opportunity to join Rev. Brian Gunter, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pollock, who has been instrumental in organizing the efforts to open a pregnancy center.

"We are excited to join Rev. Gunter and his team," said local Catholic contributor George Hardy. "This allows us to combine our resources to open the center as quickly as possible. It will begin as a crisis pregnancy center and future goals include opening a maternity home and a baby boutique that will provide items free

of charge to mothers while offering merchandise at affordable prices to the public."

There is currently a location and building in mind for the center, but that information will not be officially released until contractual agreements have been reached."

"This effort focuses on the strengths of Christianity with the goal of uniting as one pro-life community to provide medical care and compassion to expectant mothers in our area and beyond," said Rev. Gunter.

The center's medical team will include Dr. David Spence and Dr. Barry Bieber, both of whom are local obstetricians who will offer their services to the center.

"This pregnancy center has brought together so many people across our area with many different backgrounds and resources," said Dr. Spence. "With the way things have fallen into place, it is clear this was not a coincidence but a calling to a greater movement."

See PREGNANCY CENTER, pg. 8

The Crucified One is lauded as Christ . . . the Risen Lord

With this week's prayer, the parishes and missions of our four regions ... the deaneries of Natchitoches, the eastern region, the central region and the Avoyelles ... have entered into the very heart of our faith-life during this "holiest of weeks."

After Jesus was celebrated by the crowds as He entered holy Jerusalem for Passover (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord), He prayed at the Temple, proclaimed the Kingdom of His Father throughout the city, and as the great remembrance of EXODUS approached ... as He desired to celebrate this ritual of the Passover with his closest disciples ... He brought them into His passion of obedience and humility (Holy Thursday's washing of the feet and Eucharist).

He became for us the Lamb of sacrifice...liberating us from the grasp of the enemy of our human nature (Good Friday). He



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

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

slept the death that we will each sleep (Holy Saturday).

Then, in what no one could have imagined, the Crucified One ... who died by the hand of the State (the torture of Crucifixion) ... is now recognized and lauded as the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the Risen Lord, who is our doorway to new birth ... new life ... joy with God.

God who is Love.

I urge each of you to try and

take part in the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. My brother priests will offer this Liturgy of three days throughout the four deaneries of our diocese. Look to join them. Look to pray as a Catholic family....to accompany the Lord in a liturgical remembrance that will allow us to taste and see the reality of the Presence of the Lord ... here and now ... in the Sacraments of Emmanuel (God with us) here in central Louisiana (Isa-

iah 7.14, Matthew 1.23).

* * *

As you and I hope to enter into the prayer of these three days ... the Sacred Triduum ... allow me to suggest this short reflection of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as a catalyst for our prayer:

"When Jesus talks about fire, he means in the first place his own Passion, which was a Passion of love and was therefore a fire; the new burning bush, which

burns and is not consumed; a fire that is to be handed on. Jesus does not come to make us comfortable; rather he sets fire to the earth; he brings the great living fire of divine love...which is what the Holy Spirit is, a fire that burns. Truth does not come cheap. It makes demands, and it also burns." (from *Benedictus Magnificat*, 2006).

Christ the Lord is the gift of the Father ... the burning fire of God. As Moses approached the burning bush (drawn by God's Presence), so we, -- who follow the Lord as His missionary disciples -- we are drawn to the light and love of Christ the Lord -- a burning fire; and as we are burnt with love, we long to pass on the warmth -- as He did -- as He does, through us.

AMDG

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

Child Abuse Awareness Month: Can we do more to protect our children?

According to research from the Family Online Safety Institute located in Washington D.C., parents are more concerned about their children's use of social media services, such as Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram, than any other online activity.

Research shows that "While many parents monitor their children's online activity and are confident in their ability to do so, the degree to which parents actively oversee their children's online activities and their confidence in their ability to do so decreases the older their child is."

Law enforcement has frequently seen examples where a young person has been placed at risk because children and teenagers make online mistakes. Sometimes they have been lured by a child molester or they have innocently pushed boundaries too far, thereby risking their own personal safety.

For example, Pokémon Go is a free, wildly popular, location-based, social-reality game App that was released to the public in July 2016. The players use their smart phone device's GPS technology capability and clock to locate, fight, and capture animated virtual creatures, called Pokémon.

A "PokéStop" is described

as a location in the "real world," such as a building or a park, where players can collect items to help them in the Pokémon Go virtual game world. Unfortunately, one of these PokéStops was recently reported by the media to be located at the entrance to a southern California rehabilitation center that housed, among other clients, 10 sex offenders.

Additionally, this App, which allows users to interact virtually with Pokémon characters nearby in the real world, also has a "Lure Feature" that players can use to attract both Pokémon and other users to their location for 30 minutes. Using the geolocation feature, these users are able to know where, when and how many people are going to be in the particular location.

Not only does this feature offer a new playground for child molesters to potentially have one-on-one contact with young people, but some players have also reported being robbed of their devices and valuables when reach-

ing the appointed "lure" location.

As a result of these and other reports, and to reduce the likelihood of sexual exploitation to the children in New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced with much fanfare on August 1, 2016 that a new Department of Corrections state regulation is in place. The enacted regulation states that as a condition of their sentence, registered sex offenders on parole are no longer be able to sign up for Pokémon Go and other Internet-enabled games.

Unfortunately, this regulation only applies to the approximately 3,000 known New York sex offenders who are currently on parole. One can only imagine how many registered sex offenders across the United States, or those who have never been convicted or even arrested, are now happily utilizing this virtual game App to contact and then lure young people to meet.

Adults cannot be complacent. A frank discussion with children and teenagers on boundaries

and limits when using technology, social media, virtual games and Apps is essential. Parental controls on device Apps that utilize a GPS tracking feature is an absolute requirement. One should never rely solely on government regulations or laws to protect

young people. Parents, teachers and all of us who are charged with protecting children must also continue our efforts to stay abreast of the many dangers connected with the present and future electronic communication devices currently used by young people.

Guest Editorial

Robert Hugh Farley, M.S.
Protecting God's Children for Adults

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Holy Week Schedule

Tuesday, April 11

8:00 a.m. -- Mass, St. Martin Church, Lecompte
 11:00 a.m. -- **Chrism Mass**, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
 6:00 p.m. -- Mass, St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
 8:00 p.m. -- Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Forest Hill

Wednesday, April 12

8:00 a.m. -- Mass, St. Martin Church, Lecompte
 9:00 a.m. -- Living Stations of the Cross, Mater Dolorosa, Plaucheville
 1:00 p.m. -- OLPSuccor School 1st Grade Passion Play
 7:00 p.m. -- Living Stations of the Cross, Sacred Heart, Pineville
 8:00 p.m. -- Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Forest Hill

Holy Thursday, April 13: Mass of the Lord's Supper

6:00 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 6:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
 6:00 p.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga
 6:00 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 6:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Martin Church, Lecompte
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Edward Mission Church, Fishville
 8:00 p.m. -- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Forest Hill
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
 6:00 p.m. -- Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph
 6:30 p.m. -- St. Louis Church, Glenmora
 7:00 p.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 7:00 p.m. -- St. Edward the Confessor Church, Tallulah

Good Friday, April 14

9:00 a.m. -- Living Stations of the Cross, Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville
 10:00 a.m. -- St. Mary Church, Jena
 11:00 a.m. -- Stations of the Cross, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Waterproof
 12:00-3:00 p.m. -- Relic of the True Cross exposed, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 1:30 p.m. -- Passion Walk: Stations of the Cross from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral up Elliott Street to OLPS Church
 2:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross followed by Veneration of the Cross, St. Martin Church, Lecompte
 3:00 p.m. -- Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 3:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria

3:00 p.m. -- Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 3:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross followed by Veneration, Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin
 3:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
 3:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville
 3:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, followed by the Passion, St. Louis Church, Glenmora.
 3:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph
 3:30 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, St. Edward Mission Church, Fishville
 5:00 p.m. -- Living Stations of the Cross followed by Veneration of the Cross, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Forest Hill
 5:30 p.m. -- Veneration of the Cross, St. Edward the Confessor Church, Tallulah
 6:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 6:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 6:00 p.m. -- Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
 6:00 p.m. -- Friday of the Passion of the Lord, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga
 6:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle
 6:00 p.m. -- Way of the Cross, Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 6:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service followed by Veneration of the Cross, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura

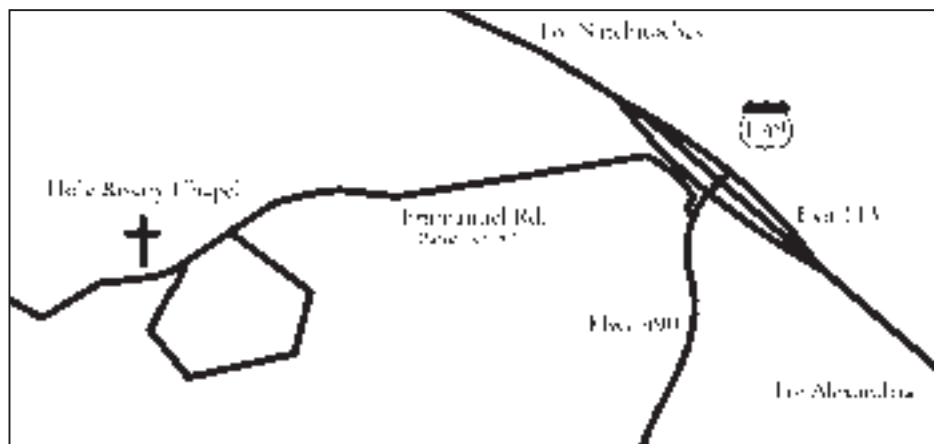
Holy Saturday, April 15: Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 8:00 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 8:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
 8:00 p.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga
 8:00 p.m. -- St. Edward Mission Church, Fishville
 8:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin
 8:00 p.m. -- St. Martin Church, Lecompte
 8:00 p.m. -- St. Peter Mission Church, Elmer
 8:00 p.m. -- Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville
 8:05 p.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
 8:05 p.m. -- St. Francis of Assisi Church, Waterproof
 8:05 p.m. -- St. Edward the Confessor Church, Tallulah
 8:05 p.m. -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
 8:30 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 10:00 p.m. -- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Forest Hill

Easter Masses, Sunday, April 16

6:30 a.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
 7:00 a.m. -- Outdoor Sunrise Mass, Holy Rosary Chapel, Emmanuel (directions)
 7:00 a.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 7:00 a.m. -- Latin Mass, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 7:00 a.m. -- Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville
 8:00 a.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
 8:00 a.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth. Mass followed by Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt.
 8:00 a.m. -- Latin Mass, St. Martin Church, Lecompte
 8:00 a.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Mansura
 8:30 a.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin
 8:30 a.m. -- St. Louis Church, Glenmora
 8:30 a.m. -- St. Anne's Chapel, Old River
 9:00 a.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 9:00 a.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria. Mass followed by Easter Egg Hunt.
 9:00 a.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga
 9:00 a.m. -- St. Edward Mission Church, Fishville
 9:00 a.m. -- Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville. Mass followed by Easter Egg Hunt.
 9:30 a.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph
 9:30 a.m. -- St. Edward the Confessor Church, Tallulah
 10:00 a.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
 10:00 a.m. -- St. Martin Church, Lecompte
 10:00 a.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
 10:30 a.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 10:30 a.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 10:30 a.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin
 10:30 a.m. -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
 11:00 a.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 11:00 a.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga
 11:00 a.m. -- St. Mary Church, Jena
 11:00 a.m. -- St. Jude Mission, Sieper
 11:30 a.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 11:30 a.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
 12:30 p.m. -- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Forest Hill
 5:30 p.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 5:30 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 5:30 p.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
 6:15 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 7:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville

If your church is not listed, contact your church parish office for Mass times or check the diocesan website at www.diocesealex.org.



Outdoor Easter Sunrise Mass

April 16, Easter Sunday 7 a.m.
 Bring your own lawn chair

Holy Rosary Chapel, Emmanuel, LA
 Weather permitting

To find out the latest on whether or not there will be an Easter Sunrise Mass at Holy Rosary Chapel, go to www.diocesealex.org, where the most up-to-date information will be available.

Novena to the Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday, April 14

Day 1 -- Good Friday, April 14

Today bring to Me **ALL MANKIND, ESPECIALLY ALL SINNERS**, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.

Day 2 -- Saturday, April 15

Today bring to Me **THE SOULS OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS**, and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy. It was they who gave Me strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them as through channels My mercy flows out upon mankind.

Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in men and women consecrated to Your service,* that they may perform worthy works of mercy; and that all who see them may glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company of chosen ones in Your vineyard—upon the souls of priests and religious; and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.

Day 3 -Easter Sunday, April 16

Today bring to Me **ALL DEVOUT AND FAITHFUL SOULS**, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. The souls brought Me consolation on the Way of the Cross. They were that drop of consolation in the midst of an ocean of bitterness.

Most Merciful Jesus, from the treasury of Your mercy, You impart Your graces in great abundance to each and all. Receive us into the



abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and never let us escape from It. We beg this grace of You by that most wondrous love for the heavenly Father with which Your Heart burns so fiercely.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon faithful souls, as upon the inheritance of Your Son. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, grant them Your blessing and surround them with Your constant protection. Thus may they never fail in love or lose the treasure of the holy faith, but rather, with all the hosts of Angels and Saints, may they glorify Your boundless mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 4-Easter Monday, April 17

Today bring to Me **THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD* AND THOSE WHO DO NOT YET KNOW ME**. I was thinking also of them during My bitter Passion, and their future zeal comforted My Heart. Immerse them in the ocean of My mercy.

Most compassionate Jesus, You are the Light of the whole world. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who do not believe in God and of those who as yet do not know You. Let the rays of Your grace enlighten them that they, too, together with us, may extol Your wonderful mercy; and do not let them escape from the abode which is Your Most Compassionate Heart.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who do not believe in You, and of those who as yet do not know You, but who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Draw them to the light of the Gospel. These souls do not know what great happiness it is to love You. Grant that they, too, may extol the generosity of Your

mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 5 -- Tuesday, April 18

Today bring to Me **THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM MY CHURCH,*** and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. During My bitter Passion they tore at My Body and Heart, that is, My Church. As they return to unity with the Church, My wounds heal and in this way they alleviate My Passion.

Most Merciful Jesus, Goodness Itself, You do not refuse light to those who seek it of You. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Church. Draw them by Your light into the unity of the Church, and do not let them escape from the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart; but bring it about that they, too, come to glorify the generosity of Your mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who have separated themselves from



Your Son's Church, who have squandered Your blessings and misused Your graces by obstinately persisting in their errors. Do not look upon their errors, but upon the love of Your own Son and upon His bitter Passion, which He underwent for their sake, since they, too, are enclosed in His Most Compassionate Heart. Bring it about that they also may glorify Your great mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 6 -- Wednesday, April 19

Today bring to Me **THE MEEK AND HUMBLE SOULS AND THE SOULS OF LITTLE CHILDREN**, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly Angels, who will keep vigil at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of grace. Only the humble soul is capable of receiving My grace. I favor humble souls with My confidence.

Most Merciful Jesus, You yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy and they are the heavenly Father's favorites. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God Himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek souls, upon humble souls, and upon little children who are enfolded in the abode which is the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son. Their

fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight You take in them: Bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 7 -- Thursday, April 20

Today bring to Me **THE SOULS WHO ESPECIALLY VENERATE AND GLORIFY MY MERCY**, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls sorrowed most over my Passion and entered most deeply into My spirit. They are living images of My Compassionate Heart. These souls will shine with a special brightness in the next life. Not one of them will go into the fire of hell. I shall particularly defend each one of them at the hour of death.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose Heart is Love Itself, receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who particularly extol and venerate the greatness of Your mercy. These souls are mighty with the very power of God Himself. In the midst of all afflictions and adversities they go forward, confident of Your mercy; and united to You, O Jesus, they carry all mankind on their shoulders. These souls will not be judged severely, but Your mercy will embrace them as they depart from this life.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls who glorify and venerate Your greatest attribute, that of Your fathomless mercy, and who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls are a living Gospel; their hands are full of deeds of mercy, and their hearts, overflowing with joy, sing a canticle of mercy to You, O Most High! I beg You O God:

Show them Your mercy according to the hope and trust they have placed in You. Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, who said to them that during their life, but especially at the hour of death, the souls who will venerate this fathomless mercy of His, He, Himself, will defend as His glory. Amen.

Day 8 -- Friday, April 21

Today bring to Me **THE SOULS WHO ARE DETAINED IN PURGATORY**, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorch-

Continued on next page



ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE. Bishop David Talley celebrated Mass on Saturday, March 18 with the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for their Spring gathering at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is one of the oldest organizations within the Roman Catholic Church under the protection of the Holy See. It is a Roman Catholic chivalric order of Knighthood that traces its beginnings to the First Crusade. It is the chosen organization to guard the Holy Sepulchre, the sacred place in Jerusalem where Christ was crucified and was buried.

Father Blake Deshautelle, (pictured next to Bishop Talley) pastor of the Minor Basilica, concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Talley.

Divine Mercy Novena From page 6

ing flames. All these souls are greatly loved by Me. They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to My justice.

Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said that You desire mercy; so I bring into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls in Purgatory, souls who are very dear to You, and yet, who must make retribution to Your justice. May the streams of Blood and Water which gushed forth from Your Heart put out the flames of Purgatory, that there, too, the power of Your mercy may be celebrated.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls suffering in

Purgatory, who are enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. I beg You, by the sorrowful Passion of Jesus Your Son, and by all the bitterness with which His most sacred Soul was flooded: Manifest Your mercy to the souls who are under Your just scrutiny. Look upon them in no other way but only through the Wounds of Jesus, Your dearly beloved Son; for we firmly believe that there is no limit to Your goodness and compassion. Amen.

Day 9 -- Saturday, April 22

Today bring to Me **SOULS WHO HAVE BECOME LUKEWARM**, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. These souls wound My Heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out: 'Father, take this cup away from Me, if it

be Your will.' For them, the last hope of salvation is to run to My mercy.

Most compassionate Jesus, You are Compassion Itself. I bring lukewarm souls into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart. In this fire of Your pure love, let these tepid souls, who, like corpses, filled You with such deep loathing, be once again set aflame. O Most Compassionate Jesus, exercise the omnipotence of Your mercy and draw them into the very ardor of Your love, and bestow upon them the gift of holy love, for nothing is beyond Your power.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon lukewarm souls who are nonetheless enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Father of Mercy, I beg You by the bitter Passion of Your Son and by His three-hour agony on the Cross: Let them, too, glorify the abyss of Your mercy. Amen.

Father Michael Gaitley to give retreat in Shreveport, Lafayette on Divine Mercy Weekend

Fr. Michael Gaitley and the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy will be in Louisiana April 22-23 (Divine Mercy Weekend) offering one-day retreats.

On Saturday, April 22, Fr. Gaitley will offer a Divine Mercy Retreat from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at St. John Berchmans (939 Jordan St.) in Shreveport. The retreat will end with a celebration of the Divine Mercy Vigil Mass.

On Sunday, April 23, Father Gaitley will offer the same Divine Mercy Retreat from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Cajundome Convention Center B (444 Cajundome Blvd) in Lafayette. The retreat

will include a celebration of the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass.

Fr. Gaitley is director of Formation for the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy. He is also author of several books including "33 Days to Morning Glory" and "Consoling the Heart of Jesus."

The retreat includes conference talks with Fr. Gaitley, prayerful reflection, Adoration and Benediction, book signing with Fr. Gaitley, testimonies of the Marian Missionaries, Chaplet and Novena of Mercy, and much more. Cost is \$90 per person.

To register, go to www.events.marianmissionaries.org



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USCCB releases new Supplement to the Lectionary for Mass

On April 1, the Bishops of the United States officially released the new Supplement to the Lectionary for Mass. Below, please find a list of frequently asked questions and their answers.

Why have the United States Bishops produced a Supplement to the Lectionary for Mass?

As long as the Church has been assigning Biblical texts for use in its liturgical celebrations, she has striven to complement the facet of the Paschal Mystery with the appropriate reading. This was greatly expanded after the Second Vatican Council when the post-conciliar scholars heeded the call to "open up the treasures of Sacred Scripture more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided to the faithful at the table of

God's word" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 51).

As new liturgical celebrations were added over the years, both universally and in the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the USA, more readings were required. The publication of the current four-volume Lectionary (1998-2002) included all the Saints and Blesseds of the time.

In December 2001, after the promulgation of the Latin, third typical edition of the Missale Romanum, the Vatican officially inscribed additional saints, provided Mass formularies, added Lectionary citations, and prescribed new texts for the Liturgy of the Hours. Even more additions quickly followed. In other words, the liturgical calendar continued to evolve and the Church's official liturgical books strove to keep up with the changes.

By 2015, the USCCB's Secretariat for Divine Worship began to compile all the updated additions and corrections. The Bishops' Committee for Divine Worship then formally approved the publication of a Supplement to the Lectionary for Mass.

What's Changed? Why would a parish want to buy a Supplement to the Lectionary for Mass?

1. Those who prepare liturgies in parishes will always want to have the most recent liturgical texts.

2. While in most cases, the readings can be found elsewhere in the four volumes of the Lectionary for Mass, some have been slightly altered (twelve out of 1,026). You will want to be reading the proper (and most com-

plete) pericope.

3. Citations from the supplement will be appropriately incorporated into ordos and participation aids over the course of the next year. Having a ritual edition of the Supplement for the ambo will assure that the reading being proclaimed will be compatible.

4. New readings have been suggested by the Holy See. Those who prepare parish liturgies will want to have the full range of readings which have been assigned or suggested for the day.

5. With the addition of many new saints, one will want to have the proper readings for these obligatory and optional memorials.

6. Likewise, among the new saints (or their new titles), some dates have been transferred. The Supplement will make prepara-

tion more seamless.

7. Readings have been consolidated for ease of use, e.g., for the Extended Vigil Mass of Pentecost and the "Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" (USA, January 22).

Where can I purchase this supplement?

Three publishers have produced the Supplement to the lectionary for Mass -- The Liturgical Press (Collegeville), Catholic Book Publishing (New Jersey), and Liturgy Training Publications (Chicago).

For more information about the contents of the Supplement and the liturgical days which are effected, please see the BCDW Newsletter, Volume 52, September 2016, pages 29-31.

Pregnancy Center Continued from page 3

Additionally, the team benefits from the contributions of local church leaders and communications experts as well as volunteers from all walks of life in the community who will provide counseling to mothers on everything from balancing a checkbook to child care.

Lemoine, Spence, and Gutierrez, in cooperation with videographer and editor Spencer Lemoine (Peter's son) and input from Fr. Dan Cook, have released two segments of *Project Abortion: The Untold Story*. The succinct documentary segments speak to the harsh realities of abortion.

"More segments featuring actress Jennifer O'Neill and nationally recognized pro-life activist Abby Johnson are in production to be released later this year," said Lemoine. "We know their testimony will persuade many more people to join the pro-life movement."

"Norma McCorvey, Jane Roe of Roe v. Wade, was born in Avoyelles Parish," Gutierrez added. "The roots of the national debate have been born right here in Central Louisiana. If it began here, it can end here."

To make a donation to Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center, make checks payable to Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center and

mail to 2201 Melrose St., Pineville, LA 71301 or call (318) 445-5772 for more information.

To learn more about volunteering at The Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center or for more information about *Project Abortion: The Untold Story*, visit www.projectabortion.com or call Jerry Hollis at the Lemoine Law Firm at (318) 876-3174.

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Father James Roy dies April 6, 2017 at age 83

Reverend James Roy, retired priest of the Diocese of Alexandria, passed from this life on April 6, 2017. He was 83.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held April 10 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Most Rev. David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D., bishop of Alexandria, was the principal celebrant and Rev. James Ferguson, J.C.L., rector of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, was the homilist.

Priests of the Diocese of Alexandria, along with those from dioceses in surrounding areas,

were concelebrants of the Mass.

Son of Abner Roy and Rose Couvillon, he was born on November 8, 1933 and was baptized at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura on December 2, 1933 by Father M. P. Nothofer. He entered Maryhill Seminary in Pineville for studies from 1950-1954. He completed his studies for the priesthood in 1961 at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Alexandria on June 3, 1961 by Bishop Charles P. Greco, beginning his faithful 56 years of

service.

After ordination he served as associate pastor at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria, St. Joseph Church in Marksville, St. Joseph Church in Shreveport, and St. Rita Church in Alexandria. He was pastor of St. Peter Church in Bordelonville from 1976-1984. During this same period he was also the canonical administrator of St. Michael Church in Kleinwood (Rexmere). He became pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport from 1984-1991, as well as St. Alphonsus

Church in Hessmer from 1991 until his retirement from active ministry on June 26, 2002.

In addition to his pastoral assignments in the Diocese of Alexandria, Father Roy entered the chaplaincy service of the United States Naval Reserve from 1967-1974. He also served as a chaplain at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola in 1975. was assigned in 1983 as a Rural Life coordinator in the Eastern District.

Father Roy was preceded in death by his parents, Abner Roy

and Rose Couvillon Roy, who were of Mansura; and siblings, Adrienne Roy, Roberta Guarnieri, Louis Abner Roy, Raymond Roy, Juanita Nettleton, Shephard Roy, Sr., Kyrle Roy, Sr., Barbara Barnett, Fr. Kenneth J. Roy and Perrie Blackledge. Father Roy is survived by his brother Harold P. Roy of Baton Rouge. In addition, Father Roy is survived by numerous loving nieces, nephews and many close, lifelong friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Heart Association.

German student volunteers at Radio Maria during her semester break

A very special person volunteered in the studio at Radio Maria in Alexandria during the month of March.

Verena Kokott, a student from the Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt in the Free State of Bavaria, spent her semester break volunteering at Radio Maria.

"My aunt is on the staff at Radio Horeb (Maria) in Munich, Germany," she said. "I wanted to visit the United States during semester break to work on my English, so I asked my aunt if she thought there were any opportunities for me to volunteer at Radio Maria in the U.S."

Father Tino was priest director at the time and, through the efforts of Father Tino and a friend



Verena Kokott

at the New York office, Verena's trip to the U. S. was approved.

"I was so excited when I learned that I would be coming to the States," she said. "I wanted to combine travelling, working on my English skills and assist this wonderful team of Radio Maria here."

During her time at Radio Maria, Verena said she mostly worked on the data base of names and addresses of Radio Maria volunteers and donors. But she also enjoyed just watching the daily activities in the studio. She learned audio editing and cutting from production techs Evan O'Neal and Renee Johnson and prayed the Rosary on the air. She was especially impressed by the strong faith of the people here.

"It was a wonderful experience and I learned so much," she said.

"I am also thankful to James and Charlene Flynn, also Radio Maria supporters, for the hospitality in their home during my stay," she said. "I enjoyed my stay with them where I could live and experience the southern food, traditions and beautiful places in Louisiana."

Verena said she especially loved the warm weather, good food, and the friendly people in Louisiana.

By April 3, Verena will back in Germany where she will return to her studies in Marketing and Human Resources Management. She'll be happy to return to her parents and two brothers.

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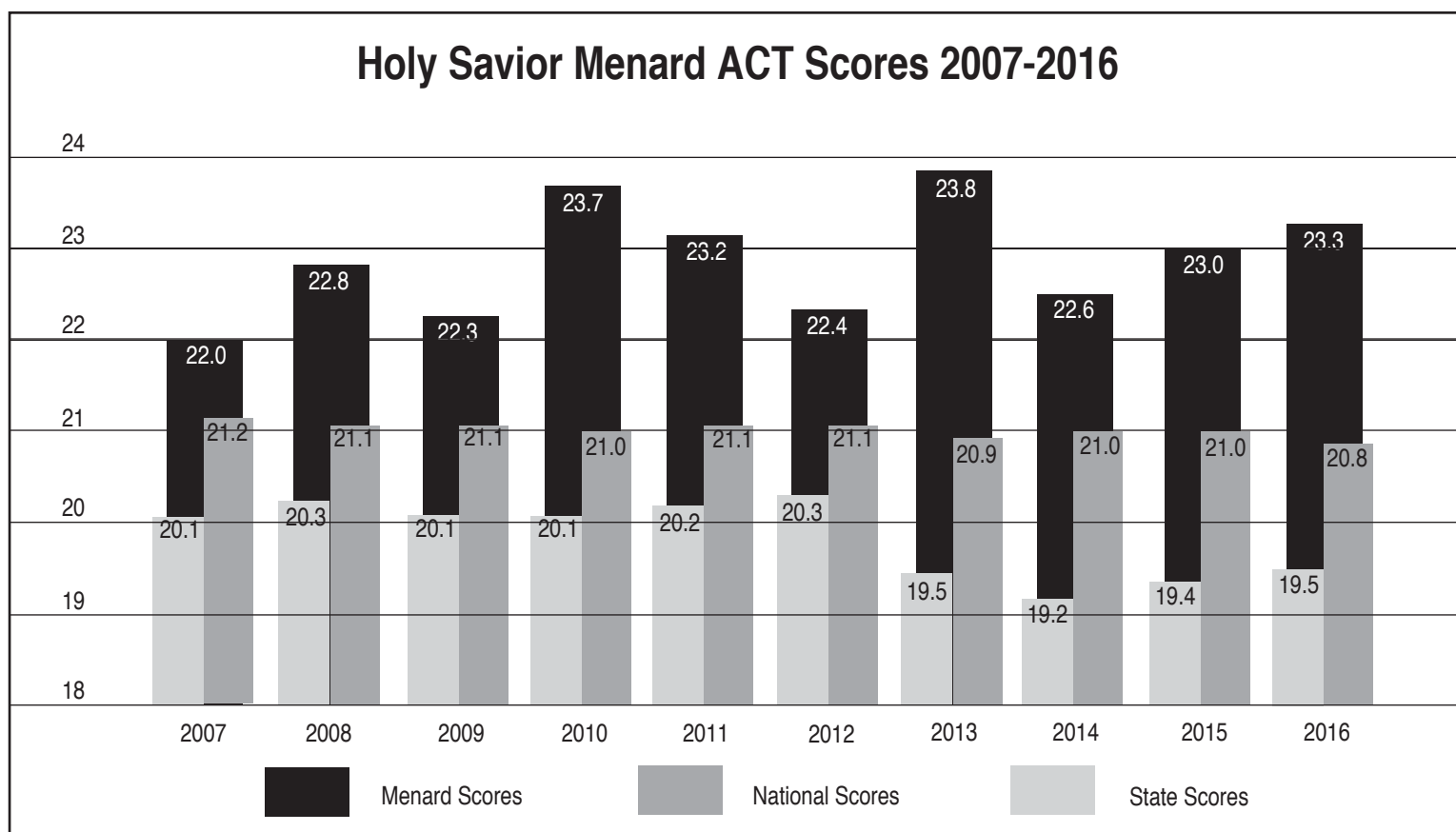
Menard ACT scores consistently higher than state, national scores

It's a fact: Holy Savior Menard High School has consistently scored higher on the ACT than the state and national scores.

The ACT is the leading US college admissions test measuring what you learn in high school to determine your academic readiness for college. The maximum (perfect) score is a 36; the average is a 21.

The chart at left shows statistics for the past 10 years. Even statistics going back 25-30 years show the same trend, according to Kathleen Adamson, director of Development at Menard.

"The ACT scores of our students reflect the high standards of excellence we expect from our teachers and students," said Joel Desselle, principal.



125th Anniversary: Holy Savior Menard seeks memorabilia from past decades

The planning committee for the 125th anniversary of Holy Savior Menard is looking for help in pulling together memorabilia of any kind -- photos, uniforms, awards, stories -- for the 125th celebration. Anyone interested or having anything to contribute, please call Kathleen Adamson at 318-445-8233.

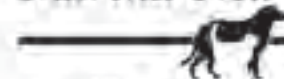
In 1887, the Sisters of Divine Providence opened St. Francis Xavier Academy for girls. Father Leonard Menard, the pastor of St. Francis Xavier, was concerned about the education of the young men in the area. He contacted the Provincial of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans, and in 1892, four Brothers arrived to staff the St. Francis Xavier Commercial College located on Second and Ogden Street. It opened in 1893 with 87 students.

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**TINK'S
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Bookstore opens new addition for used Catholic books, media

Owner requests donations of Catholic books, CDs, pamphlets, that will be free to the public

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

A new Catholic Resource Center has been added to Mary's Heart Catholic Books and Gifts in Alexandria.

The Catholic Resource Center is located in the suite adjacent to the bookstore, on the corner of Gus Kaplan & Prescott (2018-C Prescott).

According to bookstore owner Tinsley Ducote, the Resource Center includes a book room, which houses donated used Catholic books; a prayer room, which is a quiet room for prayer or meditation; and a craft room, which includes space for making rosaries, crosses, or any other parish or individual projects.

Ducote said she has always received questions from store visitors about whether or not she accepts donations of Catholic books or if she had any free booklets to give away.

Over the years, she said she accepted donations and then offered them free to the public, but after a while, she didn't have the space to do that anymore.

"When the suite next door remained empty for six months, I felt that the Lord laid it on my heart to rent it and use it for a used book store," she said. "But I worried about where the money would come from."

After talking to her spiritual



FREE CATHOLIC RESOURCES. The Book Room is filled with donated books, CDs, pamphlets, framed pictures.

director, Father Chad Partain, she gained the courage to go forward with it.

"Father Chad told me to trust in God. He said 'Don't be afraid; God will provide the way . . . and he was right!'"

Immediately after I decided to rent it, I put a request on our Facebook page, for any used furniture, books, statues, pictures, etc. So many people quickly responded with donations. I couldn't believe it!" she said.

The response from the public has been great, according to Ducote. Most people can't believe

they can pick up bibles, popular books, prayer cards, and medals for free. But the selections go fast.

"I give them away as fast as they come in," Ducote said. "I welcome any donations of Catholic books, Bibles, booklets, prayer cards, music CDs, and even statues and pictures. Trust that they are being picked up by people who really want them."

Ducote said the addition has also been a great evangelization tool.

"There is a lot of foot traffic around the store," she said. "Some of the people wander in



PRAYER ROOM. Visitors to the bookstore can spend a few quiet moments in the prayer room.

the store out of curiosity. When I show them the prayer room and book room they are truly touched! Some of these people don't know God and have never owned their own picture of Jesus. Then they begin to ask questions. It has truly been an evangelization experience."

Another time, Ducote said a man named "Gregory" walked into the store. He was making a walking pilgrimage of Catholic shrines across the United States.

"Gregory stayed here for 33 days during Christmas," she said. He slept on the floor in the prayer

room and helped around the store. He had so many stories to tell about his travels and often shared them with people who visited the store. He was a man filled with faith and complete trust in God."

Ducote says she wants the bookstore to be a one-stop place for all spiritual needs.

"Whether it is a need for a First Communion or Baptism gift, or just a need to feel spiritually refreshed, I want everyone to feel welcomed here -- whether you purchase something in the store or find something interesting in the free resource center."



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O Jesus, mingle my sins in the chalice of your blood.
Cleanse my soul, my heart, and my mind so I may
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TINSLEY DUCOTE, owner of Mary's Heart Catholic Books & Gifts, welcomes donations of any Catholic resources.



FOUR RESIDENTS EVACUATED FROM ST. MARY'S GROUP HOME. Bishop David Talley (at left) checks out the water line left at one of the St. Mary's Group Homes in Alexandria. High water forced the evacuation of four residents from the home located on Windemere. At right: A home off of Peasant Drive in Alexandria is flooded by water.

Bishop Talley thankful for little damage after severe storms, tornadoes

As local meteorologists warned Central Louisiana to "stay alert" to the severe weather approaching, many residents were caught shopping and travelling in cars when a large weather system moved in to the area on Sunday, April 2.

At least three tornadoes, high winds, large hail, and heavy rainfall were part of the system that resulted in flooding, power outages, downed trees, and damage to structural property.

According to a blog by KALB meteorologist Trevor Sonnier posted on April 3, a tornado was first spotted and touched down in Forest Hill/Woodworth area at 1:53 p.m. and then headed toward Alexandria where it hit several areas including Cherokee Village and parts of MacArthur Drive.

Sonnier's report says that around 3:30 p.m. another strong storm or tornado formed in Grant parish around Ball and Pollock, followed by a third rotation near Jena around 4:10 p.m.

Heavy rain and wind continued into the late evening.

* * *

Despite the clear sunny forecast for Alexandria on Monday, April 3, many businesses were closed for clean-up and repairs. Following suit of the Rapides Parish School Board, the three Catholic schools in Alexandria --

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, St. Frances Cabrini, and Holy Savior Menard -- were also closed.

According to Superintendent of Catholic Schools Tommy Roque, there was no flooding or structural damage to any of the Catholic schools in Alexandria.

The St. Joseph Catholic Center, where the diocesan offices are

located, was also closed.

Bishop David Talley and Father Louis Sklar spent the day travelling around the diocese visiting parishes to make sure everyone was safe.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral had wind and hail damage to the roof. The Bishop's bedroom ceiling at the Cathedral Rectory

leaked and then fell.

In the diocese, Bishop David discovered a St. Mary's Residential Training Group Home was flooded by almost four feet of water. Four of the residents had to be evacuated.

Most of the churches he visited -- St. Cyril in Flatwoods, St. Margaret's in Boyce, St. Marga-

ret Mary in Gorum, Holy Rosary in Emmanuel, and St. John the Baptist in Cloutierville, and St. Joseph in Colfax -- fared well. St. Edward in Fishville had water under the church building, but no damage to the structure itself.

"All in all, we were fortunate...with as little damage as was experienced," said Bishop David.



A TREE WAS UPROOTED on Hwy 165 South near Woodworth.



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH IN BOYCE was not affected by the severe weather April 3, but visiting Deacon Cody Miller, from the Diocese of Lafayette, who was at the parish at the time giving a retreat, was surprised to see Bishop Talley the next day checking on their safety. Pictured is Deacon Cody Miller, Father Silverino Kwebuza, and Bishop David Talley.



PUPPIES, PUPPIES EVERYWHERE! 101 TO BE EXACT!

Lagniappe Theatre Company of Alexandria and St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie worked together to bring an amazing, musical performance to our small town. Students from SAS showed off their talent in a live performance of Disney's 101 Dalmatians on March 23-25. It was a huge hit! With the school gym packed, everyone was waiting to see what Cruella Deville,

was up to. Pictured (at left) is Anita,

the maid,

Roger and , narrator 2 and , narrator 3 along with some of the puppies.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL JUMP ROPE FOR HEART. As a reward for meeting their goal of \$3,000 for the Jump Rope for Heart drive, Cabrini students got to pour ice water over Meagan Clark (computer teacher) and Clayton Cobb (Dean of Students) and see Principal Sister Nina Vincent O.L.S. and 2nd grade teacher Sister Liz Holmes S.S.F. jump rope.



ST. JOSEPH STUDENTS TOUR NOTRE DAME SEMINARY. Deacon Derek Ducote and seminarian Grant Rabalais lead St. Joseph School (Plaucheville) students on a tour of Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. In addition to touring the seminary, the students prayed the rosary in the Lourdes Grotto, had lunch at Ye' Ole College Inn, and finished the day with a visit to the Shrine of Francis Xavier Seelos. Seminarian Grant Rabalais, a former student of St. Joseph School, said he was honored to welcome the students. "Having attended St. Joseph School, my wish is to see new vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life coming from such a wonderful community and great school. We invite all the schools in the diocese to tour Notre Dame Seminary."

May 13, 2017: 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

On May 13, 1917, three simple shepherd children near the town of Fatima, Portugal, experienced their first apparition of Our Blessed Mother.

On the 13th day of the next six months, siblings Jacinta, age 7, and Francisco Marto, age 9, and their cousin Lucia Dos Santos, age 10 -- witnessed six divine visions of Our Lady.

Appearing to the children, the Blessed Virgin told them that She had been sent by God with a message for every man, woman and child living in our century.

Coming at a time when civilization was torn asunder by war (WWI) and bloody violence, She promised that Heaven would grant peace to all the world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed.

Our Lady of Fatima explained to the children that war is a punishment for sin and warned that God would further castigate the world for its disobedience to His Will by means of war, hunger and the persecution of the Church, the Holy Father and the Catholic Faithful.

God's Mother prophesied that Russia would be God's chosen "instrument of chastisement," spreading the "errors" of atheism and materialism across the earth, fomenting wars, annihilating nations and persecuting the Faithful everywhere.

"If My requests are not granted, Russia will spread its errors throughout the world, raising up wars and persecutions against the Church. The good will be mar-



CHILD SEERS Lucia dos Santos, Francisco Marto, and Jacinta Marto.

ried, the Holy Father will suffer much and various nations will be annihilated."

In all Her appearances at Fatima, the Blessed Mother repeatedly emphasized the necessity of praying the Rosary daily, of wearing the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel and of performing acts of reparation and sacrifice.

To prevent the terrible chastisement at the hands of Russia and to convert "that poor nation", Our Lady requested the solemn public Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the Pope and all the Catholic bishops of the world.

She also asked that the Faithful practice a new devotion of reparation on the first Saturday

of five consecutive months ("The Five First Saturdays")

The heart of Our Lady's message to the world is contained in what has come to be called the "Secret" which She confided to the three child seers in July 1917. The Secret actually consists of three parts, the first two of which have been publicly revealed.

The first part of the Secret was a horrifying Vision of hell "where the souls of poor sinners go" and contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls.

The second part of the Secret specifically prophesied the outbreak of World War II and contained the Mother of God's solemn request for the Consecration

of Russia as a condition for world peace. It also predicted the inevitable triumph of Her Immaculate Heart following Russia's consecration and the conversion "of that poor nation" to the Catholic Faith.

The last part of the Secret (often called the "Third Secret") has not yet been made public, but was written down by Lucy Dos Santos, the last living Fatima seer, in 1944 and has been in the possession of the Holy See since 1957. Most informed sources speculate that this portion of the Secret concerns chaos in the Catholic Church, predicting widespread apostasy and a loss of faith beginning in the seventh decade of the 20th Century.

The final apparition

On Oct. 13, 1917 -- the last of the six apparitions, it was a stormy, rainy day. Our Lady had promised a miracle that day as a public sign of her real presence there. An estimated crowd of 700,000 people showed up in the

rain with their umbrellas.

As the final apparition began, the child seers saw a flash of light and Mary appeared before them. Lucia asked what she wanted today and she responded, "I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes."

As before, Lucia told the Blessed Mother the petitions people had requested of her, to which She responded, "Some, yes; others, no. People must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins." Then she grew sadder and said, "They must not offend Our Lord any more, for He is already too much offended." Lucia then asked, "Do you want anything more?" to which Mary responded, "Nothing more."

Rising into the air and opening her hands towards the sun, she pointed towards the sun with light emanating from Her hands.



An estimated 700,000 people waited in the rain to witness the predicted "miracle" that Our Lady promised.



Newspapers took pictures of the event and reported it on Oct. 13, 1917.

Later, Lucia did not remember shouting, "There she goes! There she goes!" At the same time, the clouds parted and the sun appeared as a dull grey disk, pale as the moon.

To the left of the sun, the children saw Saint Joseph from the chest up, holding the Child Jesus. Together they made the Sign of the Cross three times over the world. To the right of the sun, Our Lady was dressed in the blue and white robes of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Lucia was given the privilege of seeing Our Lord dressed in red as the Divine Redeemer, from the chest up, blessing the world. Beside Him stood Our Lady dressed now in the purple robes of Our Lady of Sorrows. Finally, She appeared clothed in the simple brown robes of Mount Carmel.

The Miracle of the Sun

As the crowd watched, they did not see all the visions to which the children were favored, but they were able to gaze directly at the sun as it faded and glowed in different ways. It gave off amazing shafts of colorful light in various directions as it appeared to spin and dance.

Suddenly, it appeared to zig-zag downward, hurtling toward the people. Many screamed out in terror, many begging for mercy, others praying the Act of Contrition. As suddenly as it had appeared to be falling toward them,

the sun swerved back into its orbit and took its normal place. The rain had stopped and everything, including the muddy ground, was dry. The promised miracle had indeed occurred as promised.

After the Apparitions

As predicted by Our Lady in the 2nd apparition, Francisco and Jacinta Marto died shortly after of the international flu pandemic that started in 1918. Francisco died on April 4, 1919 at the age of 10 and Jacinta died on Feb. 20, 1920 at the age of 9.

At the age of 14, Lucia was sent to the school of the Sisters of St. Dorothy (Dorothean) in Vilar, Portugal. In 1925, she received another apparition from Our Lady and this time, she was asked to convey the message of the First Saturday Devotions.

In October 1930, after a canonical inquiry, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima officially declared the visions of Fatima as "worthy of belief" officially permitting the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

In 1947, Sister Lucia left the Dorothean order and joined the Discalced Carmelite Order in Coimbra, Portugal. Lucia died on Feb. 13, 2005 at the age of 97.

In March 2017 the Holy See announced that Pope Francis will canonize two of the visionaries, Jacinta and Francisco, on May 13, 2017 at a Mass in Fatima during a two day visit. The decision followed papal confirmation of a



miracle attributed to the intercession of the two visionaries.

Sister Lucia's cause for sainthood is still in progress. Popes Pius XII, Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have all voiced their acceptance of the supernatural origin of the Fátima events.



MIRACLE OF THE SUN. After the final apparition, the sun parted the clouds and instantly dried everything and everyone who was wet from the rain only minutes earlier. An estimated 700,000 witnessed the sun "dancing" -- zig-zagging in the sky and appearing to be falling toward them. Many screamed in terror, many begging for mercy, others praying the Act of Contrition.

United Nations International Pilgrim Statue *of* Our Lady of Fatima

One of four in the World
coming to the Diocese of Alexandria!

May 23-25

- May 23 -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria
- May 24 -- St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie
- May 25 -- MB of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches

May 23: St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

- 9 a.m. -- Confessions
- 10 a.m. -- Procession, Rosary, Consecration, talk by Rev. Chad Partain, Veneration of the Statue
- 12:05 p.m. -- Mass
- 1 p.m. -- Rosary and Veneration
- 2 p.m. -- Story of Fatima by Judith Studer
- 3 p.m. -- Chaplet of Mercy, followed by Veneration of 1st class relics of Jacinta and Francisco Marto

Similar schedules at St. Anthony of Padua in Bunkie and the MB of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches were incomplete at press time, but will be in the May Church Today and online at www.diocesealex.org

About the Statue

The United Nations International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is one of four statues like this made in the world. It was sculpted by Jose Riveria Thidhem and blessed by Pope Pius XII in 1947. As the statue travels the world on an airplane with custodian Judith Studer, she is not shipped as "freight" but occupies her own (purchased) seat on the airplane.

A Plenary Indulgence is granted to anyone who participates in any of the events above and adheres to all the usual conditions of gaining an indulgence.



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SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL was held March 30 - April 1 at Best Western- Landmark in Metairie. The speakers were Father Kevin Scallon, CM and Dr. Mary Healy. Pictured are eight attendees from the Diocese of Alexandria: (from left) Selma Nelken, Eve James, Joan Gahagan, Cheryl Stoker, Norma Taitano, Debbie Didier, Jean Moreau. Not pictured is Mary Wilson.



CDA SACRED HEART (Pineville) FEEDS HUNGRY THROUGH ST. JOSEPH ALTAR. The 3rd annual St. Joseph Altar organized by CDA Court Bishop Greco 2072 from Sacred Heart Church in Pineville had all the fancy breads, fruit, dried pasta, and sweets that one would expect too see on a St. Joseph Altar. But most of those who shared in the bounty of the altar came from the streets around the neighborhood and were in need of food. Each person was given a large bag with a handle and was instructed to fill the bag with whatever the bag could hold. "You could tell in their eyes they were so happy to choose from such an abundance of food," said Court Regent Melody McGee. In addition to the food available on the St. Joseph Altar, a meatless soup was served and each person who entered received a St. Joseph gift bag that contained "storm" bread, fava beans, a St. Joseph prayer card, and a card that explained the meaning of everything on the St. Joseph Altar. Pictured are (from left) Melody McGee, regent; Nita St. Andria, secretary; Barbara Murray, vice regent; Becky Burton, financial secretary; and Edna Smith, treasurer. For more St. Joseph Altar pictures from various parishes around the diocese, go to www.diocesealex.org.

Quilts for Heroes honors local veteran

Geraldine Deptula, a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force was presented with a Quilt of Valor in February by the Rapides Quilts for Heroes (RQH).

The Rapides chapter, made up mostly of members from Mary, Mother of Jesus Catholic Church in Woodworth, is part of Quilts of Valor, a national organization that makes quilts for all veterans.

According to Brenda Mathews, a member of the RQH, the group decided to give one of their recently completed quilts to Deptula for her many years of service in the Air Force. Deptula is also a member of Mary, Mother of Jesus Church and a retired nurse practitioner.

"We knew Geraldine loved daisies and this particular quilt followed the Star Daisy design," she said. "We knew this one was perfect for Geraldine."

The Rapides Quilts for Heroes meets for the day, every Tuesday of the month. Mathews said anyone who wishes to join does not necessarily have to know how to sew, (although most do). In addition to veterans, the group has also made quilts for flood victims and other people in need.



Retired Lt. Col. Geraldine Deptula



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FOUR GENERATIONS OF ALTAR SOCIETY MEMBERS. Leta Juneau, 90, a member of the St. Rita Altar Society for more than 50 years, is pictured with four generations of St. Rita Altar Society members. Her daughter recently joined the Altar Society and then encouraged her other family members to join as well. Pictured are (from left) Samantha Holder, great granddaughter; Melissa Phillips, granddaughter; Ms. Leta, Sharon Yarbrough, daughter; and Heather Johnson, granddaughter. Leta was recently honored for being the "longest serving member" of the St. Rita Altar Society.



CDA REGINA PACIS COURT 1392, in Natchitoches, honored its senior members at the February meeting for their contributions to the Court. All senior members over age 80 were called by name by Adele Scott, regent, and presented with a small angel and prayer card for their continued volunteer service. Those recognized were Maudie Baranowski, 53 years; Betty Ledet, 42 years; Sadie Dark, 59 years; Marielise Brossett, 38 years; Mary Keyser, 38 years; Marilyn Williams, 64 years; Betty Poche, 57 years; Adrene McKnight, 48 years; Ginny Tobin, 13 years; Melba Ackel, 59 years; Billie Vercher, 67 years; Nona Bobo, 27 years; Beatrice Owsley, 11 years; Juanita Henry, 62 years; Elaine Bacon, 39 years; and Reba Gongre, 39 years.



13TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SECRETARY APPRECIATION SUPPER. Father Edwin Rodriguez, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer, hosted the 13th annual Secretary Appreciation Supper on Feb. 21. It was the largest group ever to attend. Pictured are Ginny Guillory, Cheryl Bernard, Elizabeth Darce, Beatrice Bordelon, Danita Coco, Shirley Mayeux, Delilah Aymond, Janice Bordelon, Janis Lacombe, Stacy Chesne, Julia Voinche, Gilda Augustine, Cynthia Williams, Rosie Fanara, Bertha Lavalais, Juliette Linzay, Janeita Townsend, and Susan Poche.

St. Alphonsus Church hosts 13th annual Secretary Appreciation Supper



SECRETARY OF THE YEAR. Father Edwin Rodriguez, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer presents Beatrice "Bea" Bordelon from St. Peter/St. Michael Church in Bordelonville the "Avoyelle Catholic Church Secretary of the Year Award." She received a nice gift with her name engraved on it and her name was added with past winners to a plaque that is displayed in her church office until the next supper to be held in 2018. Congratulations Mrs. Bea!

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From the
Diocese of Alexandria

St. Mary's Assumption choirs win at district festival



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION (Cottonport) 4TH-5TH GRADE CHOIR participated in the District Choir Festival held in March at Tioga High School. The elementary choir won a Superior rating both in concert and sightreading to win a Sweepstakes Trophy. This qualified them for the State Choir Festival to be held April 25 again at Tioga High School.

The choir is directed by Brother Anthony Dugas.



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION (Cottonport) 6TH-7TH-8TH GRADE CHOIR participated in the District Choir Festival held at Tioga High School in March. They received an Excellent in concert and a Superior in sightreading.

The choir is directed by Brother Anthony Dugas.



ST. ANTHONY 4TH GRADERS VISIT VETERANS MEMORIAL. The 4th graders from St. Anthony School in Bunkie visit the Veterans Memorial in Bunkie recently as part of their Social Studies class.

Diocese of Alexandria • Catholic Schools Office Position available: Principal

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- Minimum of 5 years experience in Education
- Preference of Catholic Education
- Credentials meeting Non-Public School
- Certification for State of Louisiana
- Demonstrated Leadership Ability in Education
- Availability on or before July 1, 2017

Interested applicants may call Vanessa Pichon
at (318) 445-6424, ext. 227 for an application packet.
Catholic Schools Office, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306

Deadline for Application Packet: May 1, 2017

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



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Josh Blakesley Band releases 6th album: *Mass of Restoration*

Album offers simple acoustic guitar music for a contemporary Mass setting

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

When the liturgy changes were made in 2011, Alexandria native musicians Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough began a project that was just recently completed -- writing a contemporary Mass setting for the Catholic Church.

Mass of Restoration: Acoustic Sessions is the sixth album for Josh Blakesley, released March 3, 2017. It is available for download on iTunes or anywhere you like to purchase and stream music. Sheet music is also available through OCP (ocp.org).

Developed as an easy-to-sing Mass setting for contemporary liturgy, *Mass of Restoration* will appeal to anyone who enjoys music with a more modern feel, especially teens and young adults. Its simplicity lends itself well to Life Teen groups, summer camps and other youth and young adult retreats.

With accompaniment parts for guitar and keyboard, the setting can be adapted to fit any parish's style. For those churches that may simply use a guitar to accompany music at Mass, the recordings offer a wonderful illustration of one way this setting could be played. Josh and Grae were joined by band mates Blake Powell and Christian Gaudet in the recording process. Included in the selections is the *Lenten Gospel Acclamations*, making



MASS OF RESTORATION. Josh Blakesley and band members Grae McCullough, Blake Powell, and Christian Gaudet have released *Mass of Restoration: Acoustic Sessions*, which offers acoustic guitar music for a contemporary Mass setting. Its simplicity lends itself well to Life Teen groups, summer camps, and youth/young adult retreats.

this the most complete set of any contemporary setting.

"So far, we've had a massive grass roots response to *Mass of Restoration*," said Josh, "and we're really excited about that."

Josh said the album was a labor of love because setting the entire Mass to music has always been a goal of his. So when the wording of prayers at Mass changed, Josh was committed to start working on *Mass of Restoration*.

"It was a slowly evolving project that took years to complete," he said. "I knew I wanted

the tone to be simple, with a modern, contemporary feel, so that anyone could use it in their parish."

Together, Josh and Grae spent long hours collaborating on writing the music, one prayer at a time. After completing one song, they would start using it at Mass in their home parish -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria.

In a series of videos (produced by local videographer Charlie Dyess), Josh invited a group of his musician friends from all parts of the country to record the songs of the *Mass of Res-*

toration. The "presider at Mass" in the video was played by Father Taylor Reynolds of St. Rita parish.

In addition to Josh Blakesley and his band, the choir members include John Finch, Kristin Fuselier, Rebecca Jones, Sarah Kroger, Laurie Lopez, Dave and Lauren Moore, James and Kristyn Opdenhoff, Andrea Thomas and Adam and Lori Ubowski. These videos are available to everyone through OCP's YouTube channel.

After the songs were completed, Josh and Grae worked with OCP (Oregon Catholic



Mass of Restoration

1. Kyrie, Eleison
2. Glory to God
3. Alleluia
4. Lenten Gospel Acclamation
5. Holy
6. We Proclaim Your Death
7. When We Eat This Bread
8. Save Us, Savior
9. Amen
10. Lamb of God

Press) for publishing. After a few revisions, the compilation was sent to the USCCB (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) to approve the correct wording of the text. According to Josh, it was a three-year process from the time it was sent to OCP until it was finally released.

"I'm very proud of it (*Mass of Restoration*)," said Josh. "Our hope is that *Mass of Restoration* will offer any size parish the tools for providing an easy-to-sing Mass setting for contemporary liturgy."

For more information, or to purchase, visit www.ocp.org or iTunes.



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What's in YOUR child's Easter basket?

Filling your child's Easter basket can be a teachable moment about the Resurrection

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Most all of us grew up on Easter baskets, Easter Bunnies, and Easter Egg Hunts. Chances are, you are following the same traditions for your family now.

But after the chocolate bunnies, candy bars, and jelly beans are discovered and the excitement fades, what's left in your child's Easter basket?

A new trend among the younger Christian-minded parents today is the concept of introducing "bite-size" evangelization treats in the Easter basket – a book about the story of Easter, a DVD of animated Bible stories, an Easter-themed coloring book, or even a chocolate cross to replace a chocolate bunny.

So what's the point?

Carefully selected Christian (Catholic) – themed pieces in your child's Easter basket can open the door to conversations about the death and Resurrection of Christ. It is a deliberate effort on your part (as a faithful parent) to put "Christ back in Easter."

It's easy to do. Depending on your child's age, choose an item that would interest your child. Start with one or two items the first few years; more when your child is more responsive to

deeper conversations. Finally, still include the traditional treats (candy, eggs, small toys) in the Easter basket, alongside the Christian treat.

There are hundreds of ideas for "Christian-themed" Easter baskets (or sometimes called Jesus baskets or faith baskets) on Pinterest or by Googling those terms. You can find most of these

items at discount stores, dollar stores, online, craft stores, or your local Catholic bookstore. There are also plenty of free downloads on the Internet for coloring pages, crafts, homemade treats, activity ideas, and more.

Start the tradition this year. It's not too late. Listed below are few ideas to get to started. Happy Easter!



Easter-themed coloring book
Bible story coloring book
A child's Missal for Mass
New American Bible

CDs and DVDs

Animated Bible stories on DVD
The Passion of Jesus DVD
(for the older kids)
Veggie Tales (Easter)
Christian music
Josh Blakesley CDs
John Michael Talbot CDs

Jewelry and Crafts

A crucifix
A simple wooden cross
Paint a cross craft set
Rosary
Scapular
Cross necklace
Christian bracelets that tell a story

Books

(choose from age appropriate)
The Easter Story
God Gave Us Easter
The Catholic Children's Bible
Fireside Teen Bible
Book of Prayers
Daily Devotionals
Stations of the Cross booklet

Treats and Toys

Religious Easter stickers
Rosary eggs
Religious themed bookmarks
Chocolate cross
Chocolate lamb
Easter coloring page (printed from the Internet)
Small box or colors or markers

VIRTUS

• Thursday April 25 -- 6 p.m.,
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Every adult who works/volunteers with children/youth in the Diocese of Alexandria's churches/schools is required to attend a VIRTUS™ *Protecting God's Children for Adults* sexual abuse awareness training. After the training, all employees and volunteers are required to continue "ongoing-training" as long as they are employed or volunteering.

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Voiceless: award-winning Christian pro-life film is now on DVD

Compiled from
several online reviews

The 2016 award-winning Christian pro-life film *Voiceless* gives us a taste of the moral courage America is desperately in need of, especially in this time where complacent, dormant Christianity seems to be the norm.

The film opened in selected theatres Oct. 7, 2016 (but not in Alexandria) and was just released on DVD March 3.

Jesse Dean (played by Rusty Joiner) is a recently discharged soldier who had a rough upbringing, but because of his wife, Julia (Jocelyn Cruz), found God and now is totally devoted to his faith.

He and wife move to Philadelphia so he can take a new job as an outreach leader at an old church whose membership has been declining. As everything is going well and as he starts connecting to the community, he discovers there's an abortion clinic directly across the street from the church.

Dean comes to realize that it is not enough to be silently opposed to evil, but rather, action, in the face of critics and adversity, is the only way to live his faith and obey God. While plagued by his own shortcomings and marital struggles, Dean has to find a way to awaken his church.

Pastor Gil (James Russo)



VOICELESS. A Special Forces veteran (Rusty Joiner) who teaches boxing at an inner-city Philadelphia church's outreach center is dismayed to find an abortion mill operating across the street. Previously uninvolved in the political controversy, but with a personal stake in the issue shared by his wife (Jocelyn Cruz), he works to get his fellow parishioners mobilized to shutter the place. He's opposed by the pastor (James Russo) but supported by a neighbor (Susan Moses) whose husband helped found the church but who has ceased to worship there. A scene of gun violence with slight gore, mature themes. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

is opposed to this type of activism. But Jesse is spurred on by his Scottish-born neighbor, Elsie (Susan Moses). Elsie's husband helped found the church but she has ceased to worship there because of the proximity of evil across the way.

The film starts slightly slowly, but one-third of the way in it

morphs into a moving and compelling case for the pro-life movement, as one might suspect. But the most surprising and particularly effective aspect of the film is its reality.

Voiceless doesn't shy away from pro-abortion arguments, the ugliness of haunting sin, or the backlash associated with speak-

ing up for truth. The film also drops the euphemism of abortion at times and calls it what it is: murder. The real setbacks and the portrayed ugliness of abortion serve the film well, setting it apart from most other Christian flicks.

Plus, the acting was quite good, especially from Dean's wife, actress Jocelyn Cruz, who

DVD REVIEW

gets you to hate her one minute and cry for her the next.

The film will leave you feeling rebuked for your inaction, yet inspired that you can make a difference.

Voiceless has received three awards at several secular film festivals, winning "Best Feature" at the Northeast Film Festival, "Best Feature Film" at People's Choice, and "Best Feature Film" at the California Independent Film Festival.

When it first opened in October 2016, on the day of Planned Parenthood's 100th year of operation, the pro-life movie *Voiceless* was shown right in front of the newly opened D.C. Planned Parenthood.

The screening began on Sunday evening at 7:00 and was held literally within feet of the Planned Parenthood facility, with the screen centered directly under the luminous Planned Parenthood logo. The ground in front of the recently opened abortion facility is public property, so the organizers behind the event were able to obtain a permit to show the film.

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Bible Study

Father Silverino Kwebuza will be conducted Bible studies in two of his parishes. The method that will be used is called the “transformative approach to unlock the teachings of the Bible,” which involves study, discussion, and prayer. Anyone interested in joining either group may call Fr. Silverino Kwebuza at 318-359-4996. All are welcome.

- St. Joseph Church in Colfax -- Every second Wednesday of the month, starting at 6 p.m.
- St. Margaret Church in Boyce -- Every first Thursday of the month, starting at 6 p.m.

St. Cyril Pork Dinner

St. Cyril Catholic Church in Flatwoods is having a Roast Pork Dinner on Sunday, April 23 from noon-until. Dinner includes roast pork, two sides and a roll. Eat in or take out. Bingo games, cake-walks, and an afternoon of family fun!

Cabrini Crawfish Boil

If you love crawfish, come to St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria on Friday, April 28 from 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. for the Cabrini Crawfish Boil. Limited tickets are available for \$50 per person. A cash bar will be available to purchase alcoholic beverages. Other events will include



THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS, COURT PADRE PIO of Cottonport sponsored an educational contest for students in grades 4-8 with the theme “Whatever you do for the Least of my Brethren, You do for Me”. The winners from St. Mary’s school along with other participants were recognized at the school

Mass. They are pictured with Fr. Walter Alero, along with CDA members Kathy Joffrion, Vice-Regent Marilyn Duet, Kathy McDonald and Monica Nicholson.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

a live and silent auction; door prizes will be given throughout the evening. Tickets available at www.cabrinischool.com and the school office.

Pulse Immersion Camp

Pulse Immersion Camp (formerly Camp Joshua). PULSE Immersion will take place from Friday, April 28, at 5 p.m., to Sunday, April 30, at Noon, on the grounds of Camp Abbey in Covington. You will have the opportunity to visit the new Northlake Crisis Pregnancy Center, as well as sharpen your pro-life knowledge and persuasion skills, discuss effective activism among other pro-life topics, and hang out with fellow passionate pro-life students from all over the state! Cost \$60 per student for the weekend. Register today at www.prolifelouisiana.net.

St. Mary’s Greco Bowl

Save the date for St. Mary’s Greco Bowl on June 21. Support the children of St. Mary’s Residential Facility and

enjoy an evening of great food by Louisiana Chef John Folse. Wednesday, June 21 at the historic Hotel Bentley.

Job opportunity

Substitute Child Nutrition Technician needed immediately for Diocesan Catholic School Cafeterias in Avoyelles & Rapides parish. Must be available between 6:30 AM – 2:30 PM, M-F. Substitute position could eventually lead to permanent full-time position. Applicant must be drug free & able to pass a background screening. If interested contact the Diocese of Alexandria Child Nutrition Office today at (318) 445-6424 ext. 232.

Host a student in your home!

The Share! Student Exchange Program needs volunteers -- with or without children at home -- to host international high school students for the 2017-2018 school year. The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope to arrive in August for enrollment in their new high school. For more information, please contact Sheila at 318-447-1765 or SHARE!: 1-800-941-3738 or email info@sharesouthwest.org, or visit sharesouthwest.org.

St. Martin Church: Event 2017

St. Martin Catholic church in Lecompte will hold its annual Event 2017 June 2-4. The Event begins Friday, June with a dance featuring “Ronnie Bryant and Friends from 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. in the Church Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. A cash bar and free hors d’oeuvres will be available. Admission is \$15 per person and may be purchased at the door. Saturday, June 3 will feature Family Night beginning with Bingo at 6 p.m. in the Church Hall. Concessions will be available. On Sunday, June 5, a BBQ chicken dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$8 a plate. A Sweet Shop will be available also. A Live Auction beginning at 12:30 p.m. will top off the day. Please join us for a weekend of food, fun, and fellowship! For more information, contact the Church Office at 318-776-9480 or Brian Johnson at 318-308-1234.

Dr. Brant Pitre to speak July 22

Mark your calendars now for a one-day conference on July 22 featuring the popular speaker Dr. Brant Pitre, who is a professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. The one-day conference titled “The Jewish Roots of the Holy Eucharist, will be held Saturday, July 22, at the Divine Providence Center at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. More information will be provided later.



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April - May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>Men's Catholic Scripture Study 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div> <div>Bible Study Group 6:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE</div> <div>10</div>	<div>Chrism Mass 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</div> <div>11</div>	<div>Bible Study 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL</div> <div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>HOLY THURSDAY PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</div>	<div>14</div> <div>GOOD FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</div>	<div>15</div> <div>HOLY SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</div>	<div>EASTER SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</div>
Go to www.diocesealex.org for full details of Holy Week services						
<div>Women of Grace 10-week Series 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div> <div>Bible Study Group 6:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>EASTER MONDAY PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</div> <div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</div>	<div>Bible Study 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</div> <div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</div>	<div>21</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</div>	<div>22</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Fr. Michael Gaitley Divine Mercy Retreat 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Cajundome, Lafayette</div> <div>Pork Dinner 12:00 noon until... St. Cyril Chapel, Flatwoods</div> <div>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</div>
<div>Men's Catholic Scripture Study 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div> <div>Bible Study Group 6:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</div> <div>24</div>	<div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</div> <div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</div>	<div>27</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Cabrini Crawfish Boil 5:30-9:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</div> <div>PULSE Immersion Camp (formerly Camp Joshua) -- Covington, LA PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL</div>	<div>29</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</div>	<div>30</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</div>
<div>MAY 1</div> <div>Women of Grace 10-week Series 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div> <div>Bible Study Group 6:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY</div>	<div>2</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</div>	<div>3</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Bible Study 6:00 p.m. St. Margaret Church, Boyce</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</div>	<div>5</div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM</div>	<div>6</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</div>	<div>7</div> <div>National Day of Prayer</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL</div>
<div>Men's Catholic Scripture Study 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div> <div>Bible Study Group 6:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</div> <div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</div>	<div>Bible Study 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Colfax</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</div> <div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</div>	<div>12</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU</div>	<div>13</div> <div>100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</div>	<div>14</div> <div>MOTHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</div>

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