

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVIII, No. 5

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 15, 2017

## ON THE INSIDE

### **UN International Pilgrim Statue coming to Diocese of Alexandria May 23-25**

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, the United National International Pilgrim Statue will be in the Diocese of Alexandria May 23-25 at three locations -- Alexandria, Natchitoches, and Bunkie. A plenary indulgence is granted (under the usual conditions) to anyone who participates in one of the planned events on page 5.

### **Clergy Assignments**

For a complete list of the clergy assignments issued for the Diocese of Alexandria by Bishop David Talley, go to pages 6-7.

### **Bishop Talley to ordain three men to the priesthood June 17**

Deacons Derek Ducote, Daniel Hart, and Gus "Dutch" Voltz will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, June 17 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral by Bishop David Talley. In addition, seminarian Luke LaFleur will be ordained a deacon on Saturday, May 27 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.



# Neil Gorsuch sworn in as newest justice on US Supreme Court

(CNS) -- After he was sworn in for the U.S. Supreme Court in a public ceremony at the White House Rose Garden April 10, Justice Neil Gorsuch said he would be "a faithful servant of the Constitution" and of the laws "of this great nation."

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, for whom Gorsuch once clerked, administered the oath to the court's 113th justice. At 49, the former federal appeals court judge from Colorado is the youngest justice to serve on the court in 25 years.

Earlier in the day, Chief Justice John Roberts administered the constitutional oath in a private ceremony inside the Justices' Conference Room at the court.

President Donald Trump praised, saying Gorsuch "will go down in history as one of the truly great justices in the history of the U.S." He said his now-confirmed nominee to the court will render his judgments "not on his personal preferences but based on a fair and objective reading of the law."

Gorsuch, who also clerked for the late Justice Byron White, a fellow Coloradan, fills the seat left vacant by the death of Justice



**U.S. CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS**, right, administers the constitutional oath to Judge Neil Gorsuch as his wife, Louise, holds the Bible during an April 10 private ceremony at the Supreme Court in Washington. It was the first of two oaths he was taking to be sworn in as the newest Supreme Court justice. (CNS photo/U.S. Supreme Court via Reuters)

Antonin Scalia last year.

In his remarks, Gorsuch said he felt humbled by being called to serve on the nation's highest court and he told his former law clerks he was grateful for their

service. "Your names are etched in my heart forever," he said.

He was confirmed for the court April 7 in a 54-45 vote. The move came after lawmakers a day earlier had voted 52-48 along

party lines to approve a rules change introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, to cut off debate and allow confirmation of Trump's nominee by a simple majority,

rather than the 60 votes needed.

The three Democratic senators who joined the Senate's 51 GOP members to vote for confirmation were Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

"For decades, liberal senators and interest groups had attacked Republican judicial nominees with procedural and political weapons that Republicans were slow to match," National Right to Life senior policy adviser Douglas D. Johnson said. "This week, the Republicans took decisive action to restore parity to the judicial confirmation process, and we commend them for it."

Gorsuch has been a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, based in Denver. Nominated by then-President George W. Bush, he was unanimously confirmed for the circuit court in 2006.

He was raised Catholic and attended Catholic elementary schools and a Jesuit-run Catholic high school in Maryland, Georgetown Preparatory School. He now attends an Episcopal church with his family in Colorado.

## Executive order promises to 'ease' the Johnson Amendment

### 1954 law banned churches, non-profits with tax-exempt status from endorsing candidates

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- At a White House Rose Garden ceremony May 4, President Donald Trump signed an obscure executive order that left many, including Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wondering exactly what it was about.

The two-page order, "Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty," was posted on the White House website hours after it was signed.

It devotes the most space to a promised "easing" of the Johnson Amendment -- a 1954 law that bans churches and nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt status from taking part in partisan political activity. Although it would take an act of Congress to do away with this regulation, Trump can direct the Internal Revenue Service not to enforce it.

Many people likely aren't

familiar with the amendment by name, or they weren't before this executive order, but they support the idea of it, according to a May 4 poll by the Public Religion Research Institute.

The poll shows 71 percent of Americans favor the law, as do most all major U.S. religious groups. Only about one-third of white evangelical Protestants favor allowing churches to endorse candidates, compared to 56 percent who oppose it. Also, just 23 percent of white mainline Protes-

tants, 25 percent of Catholics and 19 percent of black Protestants support churches endorsing political candidates.

Cardinal DiNardo said the amendment was likely more important to evangelical Christians than Catholics because, as he pointed out, the Catholic Church "has the tradition of 'Faithful Citizenship,'" which he said puts the Johnson Amendment in a bigger context.

"Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," the U.S.

bishops' quadrennial document on political responsibility, guides voters not according to the stances of specific political candidates but Catholic social teaching.

Richard Garnett, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame, said in an email to Catholic News Service that the order's emphasis on weakening the Johnson Amendment did not seem particularly significant, noting: "it is already the case that the relevant agencies and officials are highly deferential -- as they should be

-- to churches and religious leaders, especially when it comes to what's said in the context of sermons and homilies."

In the Diocese of Alexandria, David Brook, the chief financial officer for the diocese, said the executive order has little bearing on the churches in our diocese at this point. He said diocesan policy currently prohibits pastors and school administrators from speaking out about candidates, and that diocesan policy remains in effect at this time.

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## Bishop Louis F. Kihneman II named new bishop of Biloxi, MS

By David Tisdale  
Catholic News Service

BILOXI, Miss. (CNS) -- For those in the capacity crowd attending the installation of Bishop Louis F. Kihneman III as the new bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi, the general sentiment was he's well worth the wait.

Bishop Kihneman, 65, former vicar general of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, was appointed by Pope Francis to replace retired Bishop Roger P. Morin and was supposed to be ordained and installed in February. However, the ceremony was delayed while the new bishop recovered from surgery for diverticulitis.

Bishop Morin welcomed his successor near the start of Mass in the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral. He told Bishop Kihneman he hoped the memory of the installation, the prayers for his success from the people who attended the ceremony, and the celebration to follow would "be a source of support for you in the years ahead."

Prior to his reading of the



**BISHOP LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN III**, flanked by retired Bishop Roger P. Morin of Biloxi, Miss., and Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Ala., blesses the congregation as he walks throughout Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral after his April 28 ordination and installation as fourth bishop of Biloxi. (CNS photo/G.M. Andrews for Gulf Pine Catholic)

pope's letter announcing the selection of Bishop Kihneman, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, called on the new church leader to be a "father, pastor and good shepherd, a brother who, in his faithful episcopal ministry,

will continue to build up this portion of the Lord's flock into a vibrant communion of charity."

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, who served as the second bishop of Biloxi, offered Bishop Kihneman encouragement during his homily. He

cited the liturgy's reading from the first book of Kings in which God exhorts Elijah to help turn people's hearts to God and gave the new bishop a similar charge.

During the ordination ceremony, Archbishop Rodi asked Bishop Kihneman about his re-

solve to uphold the faith and discharge his duties as head of the diocese. The archbishop then invited the congregation to stand and pray for the new bishop as he began his ministry of serving the church in a new capacity.

Following the presentation of the Book of Gospels, ring, miter and crozier, both archbishops led Bishop Kihneman to the cathedra, marking his official installation as Biloxi's fourth bishop.

Bishop Kihneman walked through the cathedral after Communion, greeting people in attendance and in a brief address to the congregation, he offered thanks for the support of his family, friends, and to God for getting him to Biloxi.

He also expressed gratitude to the doctors and nurses who aided him in his recovery and to the children of the diocese who sent him get-well cards.

"It's been quite a journey," he said.

In thanking his late parents, he humorously remarked that his father was surely looking down and taking note of the timing for the installation.

## PP clinic in Bossier closes after 40 Days for Life campaign

BOSSIER CITY, La. (Life SiteNews) -- Pro-life intercessors have claimed a victory with the closing of a Louisiana abortion business.

40 Days for Life has sponsored prayer vigils outside the Bossier City Medical Suite and now local leader Chris Davis says the abortion mill has ceased operations.

"After five years of standing in prayer outside the Bossier abortion facility, God has answered those prayers in a big way!" Davis said. "Thanks to 40 Days for Life and all the local volunteers who have an untold number of hours on the sidewalk!"

Documents obtained by Louisiana Right to Life reveal that the facility's operators returned their medical license to the state Department of Health.

The document also states that Dr. James Degueurce, who apparently was the abortionist there, "intends to continue providing abortion care to Louisiana women at a clinic yet to be determined."

"With the closure of Bossier



**BOSSIER CITY ABORTION CLINIC CLOSURES.** After 40 Days for Life had sponsored prayer vigils outside the Bossier City Medical Suite for the past five years, the abortion clinic finally closed its doors and moved out of the building.

City Medical Suite, there is one less facility in Louisiana destroying the lives of innocent unborn babies," Louisiana Right to Life Executive Director Benjamin Clapper said.

Republican Congressman Mike Johnson of the 4th District issued a statement calling the closure a "wonderful development."

"I believe we have a moral obligation and duty to defend the most defenseless among us and to stand up for innocent unborn children."

Clapper reflected on the many lives the abortion business cut short. "From 2006 to 2015, this facility sold 7,482 abortions," he said. "We mourn for these

lives that will never enjoy life in Louisiana, but we rejoice that this facility will no longer be in the business of abortion."

The closure brings the number of abortion businesses in the state to three. Those include Women's Health Care Center in New Orleans, Delta Clinic in Baton Rouge, and Hope Medical

Group for Women in Shreveport.

The closure of Bossier City Medical Suite is not expected to slow down the local abortion industry. The Shreveport abortion business is only six minutes away.

Early last year, the Bossier City clinic stopped doing abortions for a brief time because of a pro-life law protecting women's health by requiring local hospital privileges. Clinic owners petitioned and received a "stay" of enforcement of the pro-life law.

40 Days for Life lists 85 similar closures and attributes the trend to the power of peaceful prayer.

"We encourage the pro-life community to continue its efforts to provide help to mothers and babies, both before and after birth. We look forward to a day when all babies are protected by law and welcomed with joy," Clapper said.

Davis confirmed the closure with a picture of a moving truck outside the clinic as the staff packed the business into boxes.

## The month of May: To our mommas and Our Lady

Since 1908, our nation has circled the 2nd Sunday of May on our calendars as Mother's Day. So, on the 14th of this month, every son and daughter in central Louisiana should find a way to let your momma know how much you love her. For those of us who are living without her presence, we will remember all that she was for us. We will thank God for her and ask the Lord to bless her with light and love.

This Mother's Day celebration of the gift of our mommas is always at about mid-month. But there's another remembrance in May, taking up the whole month. In our Catholic culture, May is Mary's month. Just think about this woman of God: As a teenager, she was visited by a messenger from God and the news she received...the Annunciation...was both awesome and dangerous. From the moment of her YES, she supported her son...God's



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

(John 15:5)

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

Son... loving him, accompanying him when she could, always praying for him.

As you might remember from the story in John's Gospel, Mary was at a wedding celebration in Cana, where in the joy of the gift, a young man and a young woman were ready to commit their lives to one another, Mary asked her son to assist the hosts with the refreshments. Do whatever he tells you she said. Good advice for those hosts. Good ad-

vice for us.

Though the intimacy of the Last Supper of Holy Thursday seems to have been reserved for the Twelve...Our Lady was not far from her son. And when the deed was done...when He was hanging from that Cross, as a lamb of sacrifice, Mary was there...with him (John 19.25-27). It was at that moment that Mary was given to us...the Church of her son...to be a mother to us all.

Mary and the Age of the

Church: After the radiant joy of Easter, after the apostles had been embraced and forgiven and readied for mission...and after the Risen Lord had left this good earth, ascending into the mystery of the Father's kingdom... Mary was with the little flock of the Lord (the Church) as they looked to the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)...and a new harvest (Acts 1.14).

Mary, the teen that said YES to God's incredible plan of re-

demption. Mary, the devout Jew and faithful wife of Joseph, teaching Yeshua the prayers and the customs and the life of the people of the Covenant. Mary, a widow, beloved in her village, longing to see her son as he went about the villages announcing God's good news. Mary, at the foot of the Cross, listening to the last words of her dying son. Mary, a member of the Church, a mother for us... a model disciple: do whatever he tells you.

Take out your Bible and read again this God News of God's love. Take that Rosary and in prayer, remember the mysteries of God...involving this woman and her son...God's Son. Mary, connected to her son as branches to the Vine. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, pray for us.

AMDG

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

## Our Lady of Fatima's message still relevant 100 years later

In his homily of May 13, 1982 at Fatima, Portugal one year after the assassination attempt on his life, St. John Paul II spoke with supernatural clarity about the Message of Fatima:

The appeal of the Lady of the message of Fatima is so deeply rooted in the Gospel and the whole of Tradition that the Church feels that the message imposes a commitment on her. For this very reason the evangelical call to repentance and conversion, uttered in the Mother's message, remains ever relevant. It is still more relevant than it was 100 years ago. It is still more urgent.

Jesus called for repentance and conversion. The message of Fatima also calls for conversion and repentance. The message of Fatima is so much the fruit of the Gospel preached by Mary's Son and his Apostles, that the Pope says it "imposes a commitment on" the Church. This language of John Paul II could not be more emphatic. He seems to place the apparitions of Fatima above all others. Above, in so far as they are most conformed to the Gospel. And this is why Fatima remains "ever relevant." As long as the Gospel is relevant, Fatima will remain relevant.

Revelation, with a capital

### Guest Editorial

Greg Wasson

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria

"R" is the word we use to describe the public disclosure of Truth by Jesus, his Apostles, and the prophets before them. It ended with the death of the last Apostle. Revelation is closed. There will be no more new Revelation. But the Church will ever develop what has already been revealed.

Revelation with a little "r" is the word used by the Church to describe the "private" revelation of truths unveiled since the death of the last Apostle. According to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (*Verbum Domini*), apparitions or "private" revelation is an aid to living the Gospel at a particular time.

Fatima is "private revelation." In The Message of Fatima the Vatican said: "it is certainly the most prophetic of modern private revelations." This important distinction is made by Pope Emeritus Benedict along with the Catechism of The Catholic Church, binding private revelation to a particular time in history.

St. John Paul II said Fatima is "ever relevant." He certainly cannot mean for this to be literal in detail. World War I and World War II are over. Russia has spread and still spreads her errors; the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart has been made, First Saturday is established, the "O Jesus" antiphon is said with practically every rosary. What remains "ever relevant" in Fatima is what remains ever relevant in the Gospel: the call to Repentance.

Michael Gaitley, MIC, in his book *Divine Mercy Explained*, relates why God revealed the Divine Mercy Message in our time. He believes Pope John Paul II would say that it was because "evil has a reach and power in our day like never before." Gaitley says that "our time is marked by unprecedented evil." However, he claims, as the Apostle Paul did in Romans – where sin increased, grace abounded all the more – that God will not abandon us nor be overcome by evil. "John Paul

would say "Be not afraid."

Nonetheless, before we can receive mercy we must repent. God will not force himself on us. We have to approach him with contrite hearts for the torrents of the Divine Mercy to reach us. We must repent. Thus we see how the

Messages of Fatima and Divine Mercy supplement and complement one another.

We can hear today the call to repentance in Fatima which anticipates and supports the Divine Mercy, "ever relevant," ever deeply rooted in the Gospel.

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United Nations International Pilgrim Statue

# Our Lady of Fatima

One of four in the World coming to the Diocese of Alexandria May 23-25!

**Tuesday, May 23**  
**St. Francis Xavier Cathedral**  
 Alexandria

- 9 a.m. -- Confessions
- 10 a.m. -- Procession of Knights of Columbus/Peter Claver  
 Rosary and Consecration  
 Presentation by Rev. Chad Partain  
 Veneration of the Statue
- 12:05 p.m. -- Mass
- 1 p.m. -- Rosary and Veneration
- 2 p.m. -- Presentation on "The Story of Fatima" by  
 Judith Studer, international custodian of the statue
- 3 p.m. -- Chaplet of Mercy  
 Veneration of 1st class relics of  
 Jacinta and Francisco Marto



**Wednesday, May 24**  
**St. Anthony of Padua**  
 Bunkie

- 9 a.m. -- Arrival, greeting, and enthronement of Our Lady  
 Prayers of tribute and blessing  
 Holy Rosary -- Glorious Mysteries
- 10 a.m. -- Procession of Roses by St. Anthony school  
 children and assembly  
 Concelebrated Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin  
 Mary by the priests of the Avoyelles deanery  
 Rev. Scott Chemino, homilist
- 11 a.m. -- Presentation by Judith Studer,  
 international custodian of the statue  
 Holy Rosay -- Joyful Mysteries  
 Act of Consecration
- 12 Noon -- Silent Meditation
- 1 p.m. -- Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
 Adoration, Silent Meditation
- 2 p.m. -- Holy Rosary -- Sorrowful Mysteries  
 Silent Meditation
- 3 p.m. -- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
 Concluding prayers

**Thursday, May 25**  
**MB of the Immaculate Conception**  
 Natchitoches

- 6 a.m. -- Confessions
- 6:30 a.m. -- Celebration of Mass
- 12 Noon -- Procession and Veneration of the Statue  
 Reflection by Father Brian Seiler
- 2 p.m. -- Holy Rosary
- 2:30 p.m. -- Presentation on "The Story of Fatima" by  
 Judith Studer, international custodian of the statue
- 3 p.m. -- Chaplet of Mercy  
 Veneration of 1st class relics of  
 Jacinta and Francisco Marto

**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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## 2017 Clergy

## May 1

Official day to  
announce clergy  
assignments

How are clergy  
assignments determined?

Bishop David Talley has started a new tradition of announcing clergy assignments at a much earlier date than in the past.

May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, is now designated as the day that clergy assignments will be announced and made public in the diocese.

“By this designated day of going public, the people of our diocese may anticipate and expect the announcement on May 1 every year,” said Bishop David. “I invite the faithful of our parishes to join with all of our priests, deacons, and religious to make this a day of prayer for all who work as the Lord’s co-creators, including the clergy of our diocese.”

Determining clergy assignments each year is a very long, carefully thought-out process that begins in December of each year.

- **Dec. 1** -- Priests and deacons receive an Intent Form. The cleric can indicate if he desires to stay where he is assigned, or if he desires to be considered for another assignment. The cleric may also share with Bishop David if there are any other circumstances that need to be considered (health issues, retirement, special duties, etc.)

- **Jan. 15** -- Intent Forms must be turned in to the Clergy Personnel Advisory Committee, made up of 10-12 priests who meet monthly with the bishop.

From the Intent Forms, the Advisory Committee determines which assignments are open and which clergy members are available to fill those spots.

Continued on pg. 7

## Central Deanery



**Rev. Peter Faulk**  
Adjutant Judicial Vicar  
and **Parochial Vicar**  
St. Martin Church, Lecompte  
and **Sacramental Minister**  
St. Rita Church, Alexandria



**Rev. Jason Gootee**  
**Pastor**  
St. Mary Church, Jena;  
St. Edward Mission, Fishville  
and Prison Ministry, Pollock



**Rev. William Gearheard,**  
**Chaplain**  
Rapides Regional Medical Center  
and **Parochial Vicar**  
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral



**Rev. Stephen Soares,**  
**Pastoral Administrator**  
OL of Lourdes, Winnfield; St. William  
Chapel, Olla and Hispanic Ministry



**Rev. Walter Ajaero**  
**Parochial Vicar**  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church,  
Pineville



**Rev. Joseph Desimone**  
**Parochial Vicar**  
St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria;  
and Chaplain, LSUA



**Rev. Daniel Hart**  
**Parochial Vicar**  
St. Rita Church, Alexandria



**Rev. Dan Cook**  
**Chaplain, Manna House;**  
**Sacramental minister,**  
St. Cyril & St. Margaret Mary Chapels  
and Nursing Home Ministry  
for St. Frances Cabrini Church

## Eastern Deanery



**Rev. John Pardue**  
**Pastor**  
St. Patrick Church, Ferriday;  
St. Gerard Mission, Jonesville



**Rev. Dale Meade**  
**Pastoral Administrator**  
St. Mary Church, Winnsboro;  
St. John’s Chapel, Columbia



**Rev. Blake Deshautelle,**  
**Pastor**  
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate  
Conception, Natchitoches



**Rev. Thomas Paul**  
**Pastoral Administrator**  
St. Francis of Assisi, Powhatan;  
St. Anne’s Chapel, Spanish Lake

## Natchitoches Deanery

# Assignments

## Avoyelles Deanery

# May 1

Continued from pg. 6



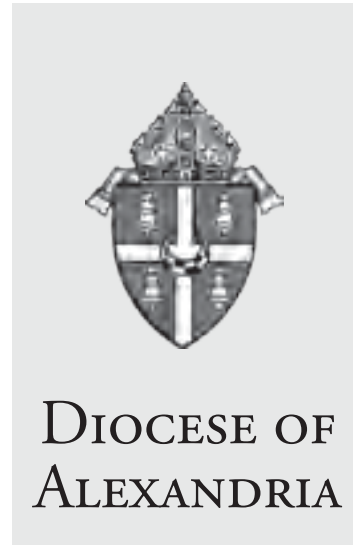
**Rev. Rusty Rabalais,**  
Pastor  
St. Joseph Church,  
Marksville



**Rev. Dwight DeJesus**  
Pastor  
St. Francis de Sales, Echo;  
St. Joseph Church, Cheneyville



**Rev. Kurian Zachariah**  
Pastor  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward;  
St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau



Some of the things considered are:

- the personality of the priest or deacon
- the personality or cultural history of the parish
- the gifts and talents of the priest or deacon
- the specific needs of the parish at that time
- the age and health of the priest or deacon
- the size of the parish
- the financial stability of the parish
- other assignments of the priest under consideration (many of our priests have multiple assignments)
- other factors (available housing, the finances of the parish or mission and the ability to offer the priest his salary)

The committee then begins the process of discussing the “best fit” for each parish.

“We may meet 4-5 times before we make the final recommendations,” said Father Chemino, vicar general, and a member of the committee. The bishop is present throughout the discussions and hears all of the recommendations.

Once the bishop approves the recommendations, he discusses the assignment with the priest affected by the move. The bishop then prepares a letter making the transfer official.

- **May 1** -- Clergy assignments are made public. Priests will announce the new assignments at Mass on that day and then post the list in the back of church. The list will also be posted on the Diocese of Alexandria’s website ([www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)) on this day.

- **July 1** -- All assignments are effective on July 1.



**Rev. Paul Kunnumpuram**  
Pastor  
Christ the King Church,  
Simmesport



**Rev. Abraham Palakkattuchira**  
Pastor  
St. Genevieve Church,  
Brouillette



**Rev. Derek Ducote**  
Parochial Vicar  
St. Mary’s Assumption,  
Cottonport

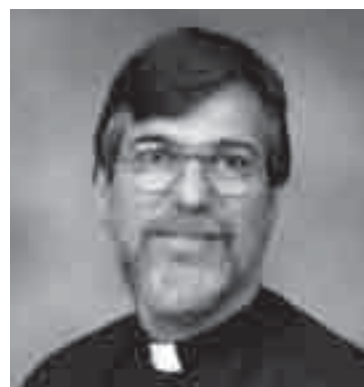


**Rev. Gus Voltz**  
Parochial Vicar  
St. Joseph Church,  
Marksville

## Other Assignments



**Rev. Taylor Reynolds**  
Graduate studies in Canon Law,  
Santa Croce, Rome, Italy



**Rev. Stephen Brandow**  
Diocesan Chaplain  
Boy Scouts



**Rev. James Nellikunnel**  
Returning to his Order in India



**Rev. Jacob Thomas**  
Retired

**May 6: First Annual Mass of Renewal**



**INSTITUTION OF LECTOR FOR DEACON CANDIDATES.** Ten deacon candidates for the Diocese of Alexandria were instituted as Ministers of Lector during the Mass of Renewal held May 6 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Pictured are (front row) Lawrence Feldkamp, Steven Gramigna, Bishop David Talley, William Aldridge, Paul Sunderhaus, and Father Dan O'Connor, director of the Permanent Diaconate program. Back row: Darrell Dubroc, William Endris, Steven Newbury, Mark Adkins, Thomas Robichaux, and Luke White.



**DEACON CANDIDATE.** Steven Newbury (back and center) was admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders May 6 during the First Annual Mass of Renewal. He has rejoined his fellow classmates in deacon formation as a candidate. Pictured is (front row) Bishop David Talley, Jennifer Newbury (Steven's wife) and Father Dan O'Connor, director of the Permanent Diaconate program. Bishop David said that the Mass of Renewal will become an annual event of the permanent diaconate program -- a time of formation for the candidates and a time of renewal for the ordained deacons, and a time of discernment for interested men. The Permanent Diaconate is an ordained ministry of men. For more information about becoming a deacon, contact Father Dan at 445-3693.



**RECOMMITMENT OF VOWS.** Ten deacons renewed their vows of commitment to the diaconate during the Mass of Renewal held May 6 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Pictured are (front row) Deacons E. J. Barre, Greg LeBlanc, Bishop David Talley, L.G. DeLoach, and Father Dan O'Connor, director of the Permanent Diaconate program. Back row: Richard Mitchell, Gary Schupbach, William Travis, Kip Pelto, Ted Moulard, and Michael Young.

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# Bishop Talley to ordain three men to the priesthood June 1

Deacons Derek Ducote, Daniel Hart, and Gus "Dutch" Voltz will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, June 17 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral by Bishop David Talley. Following the ordination Mass, a reception will be held in Xavier Hall.

## Daniel Hart

Daniel Jude Hart, the son of Johnnie and Timothy Hart, is a parishioner of St. Martin Church in Lecompte. He attended St. Frances Cabrini Elementary School and graduated from Holy Savior Menard Central High School in 2009.

After graduation he attended Louisiana State University in Alexandria for a year before entering seminary at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington. There he completed three years of studies in philosophy.

From 2013-2017, Hart attended the Pontifical North American College in Rome where he recently graduated with a degree in Theology.



Derek Ducote

After his first Mass on Sunday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at St. Martin Church in Lecompte, he will serve as parochial vicar of St. Rita Church in Alexandria.

## Dutch Voltz

Gus "Dutch" Aloysius Voltz III, son of Kathleen Voltz and the late Gus A. Voltz Jr., is a lifelong resident of Alexandria.

He attended Our Lady of Prompt Succor School and graduated from Holy Savior Menard



Daniel Hart

Central High School in 1970. After graduation he attended Northwestern State University in Natchitoches and in 1974 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from LSU in Baton Rouge.

Later, he received a law degree from Loyola University in New Orleans and practiced law in Alexandria for more than 30 years. For several years, he served as an advocate and auditor for the Diocesan Tribunal.

In 2011, Voltz entered Notre



Gus "Dutch" Voltz

Dame Seminary in New Orleans, where he recently graduated with a degree in Theology.

After his first Mass on Sunday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, he will serve as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

## Derek Ducote

Derek Ducote and his parents Kelly and Chris Ducote, are members of St. Francis Xavier

Cathedral in Alexandria.

After attending St. Frances Cabrini School and graduating from Holy Savior Menard Central High School in 2001, he entered seminary at St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La. Four years later, he graduated from St. Joseph Seminary with a B.A. in Philosophy.

But shortly after graduation, Derek stepped out of formation for a few years to better discern his vocation. During his 8-year hiatus from formation, he worked for a law firm in Baton Rouge for a year and taught for seven years in the classroom, -- five of those seven years at Holy Savior Menard. In early 2013, he returned to the seminary, this time at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. He recently graduated with a degree in Theology

He will celebrate his first Mass on June 17 at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Marksville and on June 18 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. He will serve as parochial vicar of St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport.



**SEMINARIAN LUKE LAFLEUR MEETS POPE FRANCIS.** The 3rd Year Theology class at the Pontifical College Josephinum made a pilgrimage in January to Rome and Assisi. On Jan. 1, Alexandria seminarian Luke LaFleur was chosen to serve Mass for Pope Francis at St. Peter's Basilica. Before Mass, the pope greeted all of the seminarians who were serving. Luke will be ordained a deacon on Saturday, May 27 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral by Bishop David Talley. Luke is the son of Randal and Theresa LaFleur of Alexandria.



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**FATHER BRUCE MILLER, J.C.L.**, celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest at St Peter's Basilica, in Rome. He has been in the Eternal City for many days now in his capacity as the head of the Canon Law Society of America. All priests celebrating anniversaries will be honored at the annual Jubilarian Mass to be held May 26 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. The public is invited to attend.

## Menard junior dies in accident after being confirmed hours earlier

Adam Jeansonne stood before Bishop David Talley on Friday, April 21 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. His older brother Zachary stood behind him as his sponsor.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, April 22, Adam died in a tragic car accident just feet away from the driveway of his home in Pineville.

His many friends and teachers at Menard were shocked upon hearing the news as it quickly spread through social media.

A "GoFundMe" account was set up in his name to help his family with funeral expenses. In less than 24 hours, more than \$18,000 was donated. The account had reached more than \$20,000 at presstime.

In the parking lot at Menard his red Ford truck was adorned with flowers, sports uniforms, American flags, bottles of tea, crawfish seasoning, and of course, his hunting overalls.



Menard junior Adam Christopher Jeansonne died April 22 in a tragic car accident at the age of 17.

"Adam was a good kid," said principal Joel Deselle. "He was active in his faith, loved sports, and well liked among the students. He will be missed."

Grief counselors were available for the students at Menard on Monday and Tuesday following his death.

On Wednesday, April 26, the school closed for the day to allow students and faculty to attend the

crowded funeral.

Friends say he was a very generous person who loved to make people laugh. He was a friend to all and the life of a party.

Adam was a five-year member of the Menard golf and soccer teams. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and loved to cook. He was a member of the Troop 6 Boy Scouts at St. Frances Cabrini Church where he was working

toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Adam was a devoted to his Catholic faith and was confirmed at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, where he was active in the youth group. Adam chose St. Hubert as his confirmation name, the patron saint of hunters.

Despite his young age, Adam took a deep interest in politics, theology and loved his Southern

heritage. After graduating from Menard, Adam planned to join the military and to pursue a degree in the science or medical field.

Those left to cherish his memory include his parents, David and Jill Worthy Jeansonne of Pineville; a brother, Zachary; grandparents Michael "Pop" and Jan "Granny" Butler of Boyce; paternal grandmother Eutha Jeansonne of Echo; maternal grandparent Chuck and Janet Worthy of Ball; great-grandmother Martha Butler and Sue Worthy, both of Alabama; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and Adam's beloved beagle, Leo.

Pallbearers were William Sadler, Alex Trotter, Hunter Howell, Adam Brown, David Miller, Wyatt Schneider, Jonathon Viator, and Austin Irons.

Honorary pallbearers were Brooks Anderson, Nick Grabowski, Lance Hair, Colin Roberts, Ben Vanderlick, the Menard Soccer team, and the Class of 2018. The Honor Guard was provided by Troop 6 Boy Scouts.

## Servant House co-founder dies at 78

Agatha "Aggie" Rose Bozek Neck, co-founder and co-director of Servant House, a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer, passed away March 23 in her home in Marksville. She was 78.

Aggie and her friend Donna Culotta teamed together in 1989 to start Servant House, a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer. For 30 years, the duo has offered inner healing and spiritual direction, a prison ministry, Bible study, prayer groups, a food pantry, and "food for the mind and soul" to anyone who came to the door.

Aggie was also involved in the local Magnificat Chapter and with Steubenville South since its inception 22 years ago. She also received the Diocesan Distinguished Service Award in 2009 for her work at Servant House.

She was a life-long member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marksville, where she served over the years as a lector, Eucharistic Minister and director of Religious Education. She is survived by her husband Clyde of 57 years and three children.



**SCOUT SUNDAY** was celebrated March 19 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with Bishop David Talley. Girl Scouts receiving awards were all from Troop 216 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria and included Shelby , Sydnee Meagan Kanin Mallori , Britney , Kennedy , Emily , Harlee Charleigh London , Emily Kaia and Bailee Boy Scout awards went to Austin Troop 49; Maya Troop 342; Alexander and Jackson from OLPS Cub Scout Pack 9; and Jack and Daren from St. Frances Cabrini Cub Scout Pack 6. The servers pictured are Nathan and Daniel

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## Rev. James Nellikunnel, CMI returning to India after 17 years in the diocese

After 17 years of serving in the Diocese of Alexandria, Rev. James Nellikunnel, CMI, will be returning to India for another assignment by his Carmelite order.

“I have enjoyed my time in the United States and have learned so much about the people and culture of this country,” he said. “Maybe I will take some of what I have

learned back with me.”

Father James came to America in late 1999 and stayed with Msgr. Steve Testa in Bunkie for a short time. On Jan. 15, 2000, he was installed by Bishop Sam Jacobs as the pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen, where he stayed for 5.5 years.

In 2005, he was assigned to Christ the King Church in Simmesport, where he served until

2011, when he was assigned to his present post at St. Mary’s in Winnsboro.

“It was a surprise to my parishioners when I announced that I would be leaving,” he said. “But my provincial in India has called me back to my country where I will be assigned to a school. I’m not sure in what capacity I will be serving at the school, but I am up to any task that will be assigned



Father James Nellikunnel, CMI

to me.”

Father James will be leaving for India on June 30.

“I wish to thank all of the people in the three churches where I have served for their kindness and hospitality when I served as their pastor,” he said. “I especially want to thank those who accepted me and made me feel at home in a foreign country.”



**KCs DONATE TO PROVOSTY HOME.** Father Edwin Rodriguez Hernandez, pastor of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Hessmer and Bradley Bordelon, Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus Council # 3088, presents a check for \$1,134.51 to Mrs. Christina Giuffre, a staff member at the LeDoux R. Provosty Sr. Memorial Home located on Hwy 115 in Hessmer.

## Avoyelles KC councils supporting LeDoux Provosty Home in Hessmer since 1982

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

In 1982, LeDoux R. Provosty Sr., a prominent judge in Alexandria, gave his son, Rev. William Provosty, a priest in the Diocese of Alexandria, some starter money to “do something charitable.”

At the time, Father “Bill” was on the Board of Directors at St. Mary’s Residential Training Center in Alexandria.

He was aware of the need

for a group home for the developmentally disabled in the Avoyelles area, so he used the money to build a four-bedroom home on five acres in Hessmer and called it the LeDoux Provosty Sr. Memorial Home.

It opened in 1983 with six residents, ages 7-21. The six residents lived at the home under the supervision of Charles and Mary Ellen Randall.

For the past 34 years, the Randalls have been house direc-

tors of the home providing meals, supervision and training, and most of all loving care, to the consistent number of six residents.

“Father Bill was a good friend of ours and he asked if we would be willing to take on this responsibility of being the house directors,” said Mary Ellen. “We said ‘yes’ then and have been doing it ever since. Although it can be difficult at times, we love what we do.”

Over the years, some of the residents of have come and gone, but of the six remaining residents at the home today, three are of the original six that were here when it opened. The home today has expanded to include six bedrooms for the six residents, ages 40-60.

The Provosty Home receives funding from several sources, but one of the most consistent donors of the home have been from the KC Councils in Avoyelles.

“From day one, the Knights of Columbus Councils in Avoyelles have been supporters of the Provosty Home,” said Mary Ellen. “Every year, the proceeds from their annual Tootsie Roll drive are donated to the Provosty Home. We appreciate it so much.”

To make a donation to the Provosty Home, mail check to LeDoux Provosty Home, Hwy 115, Hessmer, La. 71341.



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**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH (Marksville) EASTER EGG HUNT.** St. Joseph Catholic Church held its annual Easter Egg Hunt April 9 from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Church Hall. Activities included an Easter Egg Hunt, games, and sack races. Refreshments were served and prizes were awarded. Pictured with Fr. Rusty Rabalais, pastor are the winners of the Egg Hunt, golden egg, and sack races.

Egg Hunt Winners -- 1st Place: Sophie	John	Jalynn
and Chloe	2nd Place: Jack	Pierce
and Ali	3rd Place: Bailey	Luke
and Amelia	Golden Egg Winners: John	Caitlin
and Amelia	Sack Race Winners: Pierce	Connor
Chloe	and Carl	



**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL (Bunkie) PRE-K CLASS** show off the bunny ears they made for Easter. Pictured are (front row) Sadie River Atlee Mrs. Ashley Coulon, Landon and Camille Back row: Thomas M'Lee Charlie Harper Jace Frances Easton and Kemper



**HOLY GHOST/ST. RICHARDS EASTER EGG HUNT.** Father Abraham Varghese, (far left) pastor of Holy Ghost/St. Richards Church in Marksville, joined in the annual Easter Egg Hunt held April 8 with the students and teachers in the CCD program. The children, as well as the adults, had a great time.

**STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE EASTER EGG HUNT.** Sts. Francis & Anne Church in Kolin held an Early Easter Egg Hunt, Lenten Egg Dying activity and Steubenville South plate lunch fund-raiser on Palm Sunday (April 9). The kids of the parish race to begin their search for the eggs.





**OLPS PASSION WALK.** (at left) Bishop David Talley says a few words to those gathered at the grotto of the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral for the Good Friday Passion Walk that started at Cathedral and ended at Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

**EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE MASS** was held at 7 a.m. at the outdoor altar of Holy Rosary Mission in Emmanuel.



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Placheville) STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** High school students at St. Joseph School in Placheville put on a Living Stations of the Cross recently. (Above) Jesus dies on the cross while his Mother and the Women of Jerusalem watch with the crowd. (Left) Key players in the Living Stations of



the Cross are Grant as Barrabas, Ty as Pontius Pilate, Wyatt as Jesus, Colton as a Roman Guard, Lexi as Mary Mother of Jesus, and Kaitlyn Veronica.



**SACRED HEART (Pineville) LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** Students from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville Youth Group put on a Living Stations of the Cross April 15 at the Easter Vigil Mass. Pictured is Veronica wipes the face of Jesus on the way to Calvary.



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Pineville) LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS.**



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA (Bunkie) MAY CROWNING.** The students of St. Anthony School in Bunkie celebrated May Crowning May 5 with a procession of roses through the streets of Bunkie. The 8th grade girls, in their white dresses, lead the procession while the 8th grade boys carried a statue of Our Blessed Mother on a platform filled with roses. Inside the church, Grace crowned Mary.



**Prayer to Our Lady**  
by Marcus Descant



O morning star, O dove of light,  
Come to our aid during this flight.  
Give us the grace we need each day  
To fight the world, for this we pray.

As a suckling babe in a mother's arms,  
Protect us from evil and all that harms;  
Lead us to your Son Most High.

Thus, when all is done,  
We can say with a sigh:  
All praise and honor to God on high.

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**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) MAY CROWNING.** The May 5 May Crowning at St. Joseph School was a beautiful arrangement of colorful flowers and girls in white dresses.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville)** held its May Crowning May 5 after the 8:15 a.m. Mass.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL (Alexandria).** The CCD students at the Cathedral processed into the church May 7 with fresh flowers for the crowning of Mary.



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) MAY CROWNING.** and carry flowers for the crowning of Our Blessed Mother at St. Joseph School.



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## St. Mary's School in Cottonport to implement Blended Learning program

St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport plans to implement a new technology-enhanced education model this fall called Blended Learning.

St. Mary's will be the only school in Diocese of Alexandria, and quite possibly Central Louisiana, to begin using this innovative teaching system for their students in grades K-8.

Blended Learning is a new approach to teaching that combines technology and traditional face-to-face instruction allowing students to work at their own level and pace.

"The use of technology will allow teachers to differentiate instruction to all of his or her students," said Nathan Laborde, principal. "Those who are struggling will be able to catch up and those who are above grade level will be able to move forward while remaining in their existing class."

Technology will play an important role in this method. One-half of a class of students will use iPads and Chromebooks for a portion of their lesson, while the other half will receive traditional instruction from the teacher.

St. Mary's will utilize iReady Reading and Math programs as its computer components. iReady currently meets or exceeds all of the Louisiana State Standards in reading and math, so students will be well-prepared for whatever school they attend after St.



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (Cottonport) IMPLEMENTS BLENDED LEARNING.** Beginning this fall, students in grades K-8 at St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport will utilize a new technology-enhanced education model called Blended Learning. Blended Learning is a new approach to teaching that combines technology and traditional face-to-face instruction allowing students to work at their own level and pace. Students who are struggling will be able to catch up and students who are above grade level will be able to move forward while remaining in their existing class.

Mary's.

There is a book component to iReady called Ready, so students, teachers, and parents will still be able to link the computer work to a textbook. iReady can be accessed at home or anywhere they have access to the internet, so work can continue after school

hours. This enables students to make learning an all-inclusive activity, not just something that happens at school.

Students take assessments automatically while engaged in iReady and their instruction and lessons are created based on the data from these assessments.

All instruction is data driven so students can progress at their own pace and levels.

"Teachers will now have opportunities to work with students in smaller groups and get to know the children better to help them with exactly what they need," said Laborde.

In order to prepare for the implementation, teachers will receive three days of staff development throughout the school year on Blended Learning and the use of iReady. Growth will be celebrated every day, week and month.

"It is not about where you begin, but about where you end up and how much you grow academically," said Laborde. "We will have Champion Ceremonies to recognize achievement and hard work each month."

An on-site technology coordinator will be added to the staff to assist teachers and students with the process.

Other additions will be the use of Google Classroom and Classflow. Many areas of instruction will be delivered electronically via Google Apps for Education.

Laborde said that St. Mary's has planned for this the past five years investing monies to create an infrastructure to handle such a technological endeavor.

"Blended Learning is more than just technology-enhanced education. It is a distinct model of instruction that is growing across the country and has seen tremendous successes in K-12 schools in all areas," said Laborde. "We are excited here at St. Mary's to attempt to lead the way into Blended Learning in Central Louisiana."



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## St. Frances Cabrini School to open a 7th grade this fall

Sister Nina Vincent, principal of St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria, announced May 3 that a 7th grade program will be open for the 2017-18 school year.

“Our hope is to add an 8th grade next year (the 2018-19 school year), which will complete the addition of a whole new junior high program at Cabrini,” she said.

According to Sister Nina, the parents of 6th graders had been expressing an interest in adding a junior high program. After enough parents showed interest to start a 7th grade class, approval from the state and the diocese was

secured.

Any parent who would like to register a 7th grader in the junior high program should contact Sister Nina or Liz Hines at 318-448-3333.

Cabrini School was built in 1948 by Bishop Charles P. Greco under the direction of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. It originally served grades 1-6, then expanded to include grades PreK - 8.

In 2008, the 7th and 8th grades were closed. In 2011-12, Cabrini had only 91 students. Today, Cabrini’s enrollment is 247, a 259% increase in only 5 years.

## Sisters of the Secular Institute of the Two Hearts to begin teaching at St. Joseph School this fall

Beginning in July of 2017, St. Joseph School and Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine will welcome five religious sisters from the Secular Institute of the Two Hearts (SITH) to work as teachers in the school and in the pastoral works of the parish.

“We are very excited that the sisters have accepted the invitation to serve in my parish,” said Father Martin Laird, pastor of Mater Dolorosa.

Father Martin said the road to getting the sisters here started many years ago, even before he was assigned as pastor of the parish.

“I’ve been involved with the Alliance of the Holy Family International (AHFI) since the late 1990s, of which the SITH sisters are a part of,” said Father Martin. “Over the years, while attending international clergy conferences that they sponsored and while accompanying them in foreign missions, I have come to know the sisters and the other members of the AHFI.”

Then, last year, when he was assigned as pastor of Mater Dolorosa Church and St. Joseph School, he requested, through Bishop Ronald Herzog, that a few members of the order come to Plaquemine to help out around the parish on a trial basis.

“Just the presence of the sisters with us and working around the parish proved to be beneficial for everyone,” said Father Martin.



**SISTERS OF THE SECULAR INSTITUTE OF THE TWO HEARTS (SITH)** will begin teaching at St. Joseph School and doing pastoral work in the parish at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine this fall. This picture was taken in October 2016 when four sisters were in Plaquemine for a limited time.

After a positive experience for both the school and parish, as well as for the sisters themselves, a request was made by Bishop David Talley for a group of sisters to teach religion at St. Joseph School for the 2017-18 school year and to assist with the pastoral works of the church parish.

Fr. Laird was recently notified that the mother superior accepted the request and agreed to send five SITH sisters to live in the parish convent. The sisters will primarily be teaching religion classes at St. Joseph School and CCD classes at Mater Dolorosa, Father Martin said. But the sisters will also be helping with pastoral ministries in the parish such as leading prayer groups and Bible studies, teaching CCD, visiting homes, organizing summer camps for kids, and leading the First Friday vigils and devotions.

“We are looking forward to the arrival of the five sisters in early July,” said

Father Martin. “We feel their deep Catholic faith, prayers, and missionary witness will inspire our church and school communities to grow in holiness.”

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# State Living Wills vs new Catholic Living Wills

## Louisiana bishops address moral, legal issues about life, impending death

(Editor's Note: The following is an edited version of what is printed in the LCCB's Catholic toolkit for Living Wills. To read the entire document, go to <https://lhccf.org/religious-cultural-resource-library#atholic>.)

### Statement from the Catholic Bishops of Louisiana

Increasing medical knowledge and technology make possible today the prolonging of human life to a point beyond that envisioned just a decade or two ago.

We, the Catholic Bishops of Louisiana, desire now to address some of the moral and legal issues which have emerged about life, impending death, and advance medical directives. We do so from the standpoint of Catholic teaching, offering to the terminally ill—or to those who must make decisions for the terminally ill—principles to be applied to life-death situations.

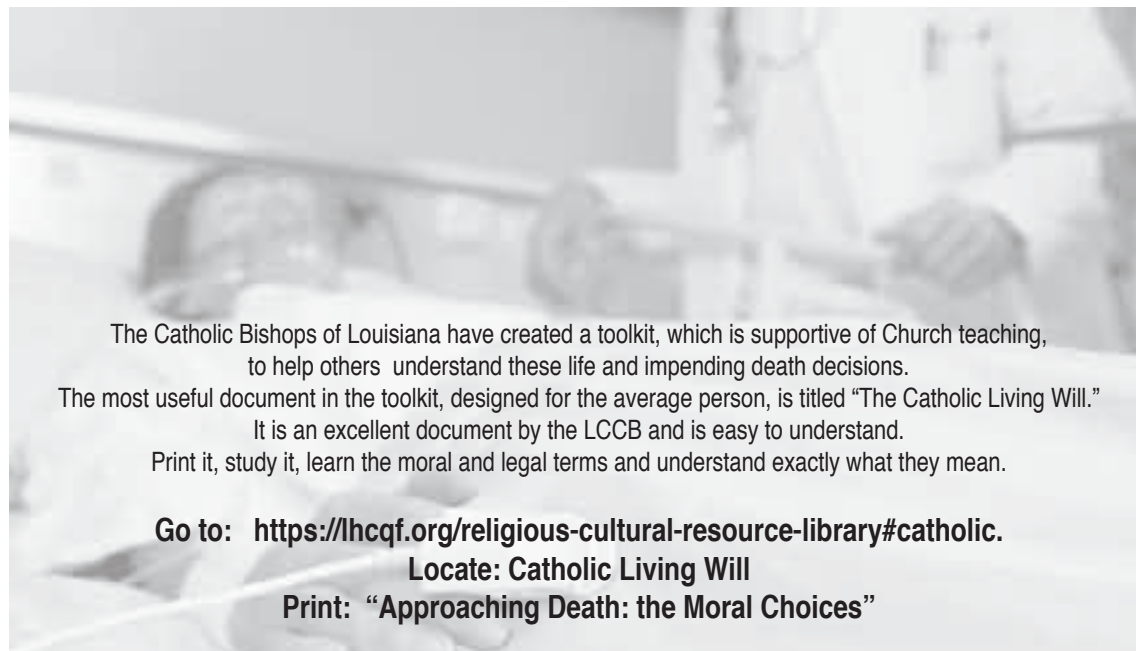
The Catholic Church teaches that human life is sacred, and that we have an obligation to sustain that God-given gift. However, the Church has never taught that this obligation persists in an unqualified way in every terminally ill situation.

We must defend life from the time of conception to natural death, and we oppose unequivocally the intentional termination of anyone's life.

### Right to Die

We must, however, address the current debate about the so-called "right to die" for those who are terminally ill. Those who suggest that such persons have a "right to die" by causing or seeking their own deaths or aiding or permitting another individual to end his or her life, are in grave error and are acting contrary to the law of God. This is directly forbidden by the fifth commandment: "Thou shalt not kill."

But, if we interpret the "right to die" in the context of the right to accept the natural journey toward death and to refuse extraordinary means or useless medical treatment to maintain life, then



The Catholic Bishops of Louisiana have created a toolkit, which is supportive of Church teaching, to help others understand these life and impending death decisions. The most useful document in the toolkit, designed for the average person, is titled "The Catholic Living Will." It is an excellent document by the LCCB and is easy to understand. Print it, study it, learn the moral and legal terms and understand exactly what they mean.

**Go to:** <https://lhccf.org/religious-cultural-resource-library#atholic>.

**Locate:** Catholic Living Will

**Print:** "Approaching Death: the Moral Choices"

we are free to yield to God's providential care and plan. The Church teaches that human life is sacred, but that no one is obliged to preserve life in all circumstances through extraordinary means.

### Ordinary vs Extraordinary means of sustaining life

The medical profession and the Church both speak of "ordinary" and "extraordinary" means of maintaining life, but the difference in the use of these terms is critical to those called upon to make life-death decisions.

Physicians generally refer to what is technically possible under "ordinary" or "extraordinary" circumstances to preserve or terminate life.

The Church, however, focuses on the word "ethical," and teaches that we should use "ethically ordinary means" in all circumstances to sustain human life, but are not required to use "ethically extraordinary means."

For example, if steps taken to preserve life are genuinely beneficial and do not involve severe pain, excessive costs, or severely disabling effects they are "ethically ordinary means" and must be taken.

On the other hand, "ethically extraordinary means" or "useless means" are those which become useless during the course of treatment or are overly burdensome in the benefit they provide.

Persons are not obliged to

use "ethically extraordinary" or overly burdensome means, but may, at their option, request them. The refusal to do so is not the same as suicide.

The same declaration recognized the difficulty, at times, of determining what is ethically ordinary or extraordinary. The document guides us as follows:

"It is possible to make a correct judgment as to the means by studying the type of treatment to be used, its degree of complexity or risk, its costs and the possibilities of using it, and comparing these elements with the result that can be expected, taking into account the state of the sick person and his or her physical and moral resources." (Section VI, Par. 6)

This calls for prudence—the first of the cardinal virtues and the virtue which enables us to make practical judgments in a spirit of faith in the concrete circumstances of human life.

### Medically assisted nutrition and hydration

There is another specific issue which we need to address in relation to what the law considers ordinary and extraordinary means of sustaining life. This is the question of medically assisted nutrition or hydration given to patients nearing the end of their life or those suffering from a severe form of Alzheimer's disease or some other disease which impairs oral ingestion or who are in

a "permanent vegetative state."

*Under Louisiana law, medically assisted nutrition and hydration are defined as constituting medical treatment.* Thus, by law, nutrition and hydration can be withdrawn from a patient under the same circumstances and considerations which are involved in deciding whether other medical means of supporting life can be terminated.

As Catholic Bishops, however, we want to make some important distinctions. As Catholics, we must determine what is ethically acceptable, not just medically permissible under the law of the State of Louisiana.

*First, nutrition and hydration administered orally or through a peripheral vein should normally be considered as care rather than treatment.* When, however, this brings no comfort to a person who is imminently dying or when it cannot be assimilated by the patient's body, even this need not be continued.

Secondly, nutrition and hydration via a nasogastric tube or a stomach tube are usually considered medical treatment since they necessitate a physician's involvement or surgery. When the benefits outweigh the burdens, these should ordinarily be used. When the burdens outweigh the benefits, these need not be initiated or continued.

We also wish to distinguish the comatose state from the "per-

sistent vegetative state." The comatose state is temporary and will eventually resolve itself by the patient regaining consciousness or reaching the plateau of the "persistent vegetative state" or dying. Decisions regarding the comatose state should be made in accordance with the above stated principles.

The "persistent vegetative state" involves continued activity of the stem of the brain. Hence, the person is not "brain-dead." Nor is the person a vegetable!

In this case, we make our own the following directive:

*"We reject any omission of nutrition and hydration intended to cause a patient's death. We hold for a presumption in favor of providing medically assisted nutrition and hydration to patients who need it, which presumption would yield in cases where such procedures have no medically reasonable hope of sustaining life or pose excessive risks or burdens." (National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Pro-Life Committee)*

### Who decides?

Catholics have the responsibility to become familiar with the Church's teaching, and then are free to make responsible decisions in accordance with the principles set forth in this document. We encourage Catholics to formulate advance medical directives which embody those principles and express their desires.

In cases where individuals are in full control of their faculties, they can express their convictions and discuss them directly with members of their family and physicians.

If it is impossible because of the individual's medical or mental condition, a proxy should make the decision, again in conformity with the principles contained in this statement, and after discussions with family members, the attending physician and one other physician.

The individual making the decision, or his or her proxy, should be mindful at all times of protecting, at the time of death, the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of life.

# Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist

## OLPS Church to bring reknown speaker to talk about the Eucharist

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor



Dr. Brant Pitre, professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and a renown Catholic speaker, will be at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church July 22 to present a one-day conference on “*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*.”

If you have never read his book or listened to his CD on the same topic (Jesus and Jewish Roots of the Eucharist), you are in for a treat.

Dr. Pitre is an extremely enthusiastic and engaging speaker who lectures regularly across the United States. He has produced dozens of Bible studies on CD, DVD, and MP3, in which he explores the biblical foundations of Catholic faith and theology.

Even though he has a Ph.D in theology and teaches at a seminary, he has a gift of explaining very complex faith issues in a very clear and easy to understand way. *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* is perhaps one of his most profound topics.

In fact, his book (and his pursuit of a Ph.D. in biblical studies) came about from his own personal experience.

When he and his wife, a Baptist at that time, had gone to visit her pastor who was to marry the

**DR. BRANT PITRE**, professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and a renown Catholic speaker throughout the United States, will be at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church July 22 to present a one-day conference on “*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*.” Register now at [www.olpschurch.org](http://www.olpschurch.org). Space is limited.



engaged couple, Pitre was ambushed by the minister over issues of Catholic theology -- in particular the belief in Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist. The meeting turned into a fiasco as the pastor pummeled Pitre with question after question about Catholic theology. It was Pitre's inability to answer the questions that eventually led to not only his pursuit of a PhD in biblical studies, but also to writing the book.

Dr. Pitre uses the Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish tradition to frame the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, and to provide a

fresh look at the heart of Catholic practice — the Eucharist. By taking us back to the Jewish roots of our faith, Dr. Pitre gives us a powerful lens through which to see anew the bread of the presence, the manna, the Last Supper, and ultimately the meaning of the Eucharist.

The groundwork for the investigation is laid by looking at the Last Supper and Jesus' statements about “eating his flesh” and “drinking his blood.” These statements were in direct contradiction to the Jews at that time and to other statements about eat-

ing flesh and blood in places like Gen. 9:3-4, Lev. 17:10-12 and Deut. 12:16.

Pitre asks the important question of how a first century Jew like Jesus could make such statements in light of the Old Testament injunctions. Pitre explains that to fully understand what Jesus was saying and doing, one must immerse themselves in the Jewish literature.

And that's what the conference is all about -- delving into Scripture and exploring Jewish history to uncover what was revealed in the Old Testament and

how it is fulfilled in the New Testament.

The conference will be held July 22 from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the OLPS Divine Providence Center. The registration fee is \$15 if you register by June 30 and \$20 if you register after June 30. Space is limited, so register now to secure your spot. Registration forms will be available soon at [www.olpschurch.org](http://www.olpschurch.org).

You can also contact Claire Lemoine at 318-305-7301 or email her at [claire\\_lemoine@bellsouth.net](mailto:claire_lemoine@bellsouth.net) and she can email a form to you.

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# Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 is best for grown-up viewing

Kids may have difficulty deciphering ambiguous tones of faith and religion in sci-fi sequel

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Sound fundamental values underlie the spirited sci-fi follow-up "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" (Disney). But thematic elements demanding discernment, together with some less than family-friendly dialogue, make this return to the stars best for grown-ups.

That's a shame because, in continuing to adapt a series of Marvel comics, writer-director James Gunn not only maintains the jaunty atmosphere of the 2014 original but adds an interesting allegory about the dangers of selfishness from which younger viewers might have profited.

This parable takes shape after the hero of the first film, Peter Quill, aka Star-Lord (Chris Pratt) encounters his long-lost -- and previously unidentified -- father, the "celestial" or demi-god Ego (Kurt Russell). The creator and ruler of his own paradise-like planet, Ego, seems to have a lot to offer Peter, and the two quickly bond.

In one scene, for instance, they play a game of catch that, for all its apparent simplicity, nonetheless manages to highlight both this sequel's positive and more challenging aspects. On the plus side, the incident is touching be-



**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2.** Chris Pratt stars in a scene from the movie "Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (CNS photo/Marvel Studios)

cause we know that, as a child, Peter yearned to share this iconic experience with his unknown dad.

The fact that Ego has taught Peter how to create things out of thin air, however, and that Peter has just used this inherited ability to bring the ball of light they're tossing around into existence suggests why impressionable moviegoers might be led astray. Adults, on the other hand, can choose to see Ego and Peter's semi-divine

status as an exaggerated version of human free will, with its attendant potential for good or evil.

In the long run, initial appearances turn out to be deceptive, and Peter and Ego eventually find themselves at odds. Family troubles also dog Gamora (Zoe Saldana), the alien Peter would like to make his girlfriend, as she pursues her longstanding rivalry with her scheming sister, Nebula (Karen Gillan).

In between these clan conflicts, the Guardians -- their membership rounded out by tactless musclebound extraterrestrial Drax (Dave Bautista), Rocket the racoon (voice of Bradley Cooper) and undersized tree-like creature Baby Groot (voice of Vin Diesel) -- do battle with an array of adversaries.

One band of their opponents is led by Yondu Udonta (Michael Rooker), the blue-skinned space

pirate who raised Peter after his human mother, Meredith (Laura Haddock), died. Yondu ostensibly valued Peter for his ability to steal things by getting into small spaces. Yet, as is the case with Nebula, further disclosures reveal that Yondu is not the callous villain he seems.

Along with tackling the movie's mythology, mature patrons will need to sort through Gunn's somewhat ambiguous, though incidental, use of religiously themed music and imagery. Such details include the incorporation into the soundtrack, at a pivotal moment, of George Harrison's 1970 hit, "My Sweet Lord," as well as the fact that Ego's palatial home resembles a church.

Religious moviegoers will want to see these touches as ironic, and they can be interpreted in that light. But the task of reconciling them with a positive view of faith is not one that can be casually entrusted to kids.

The film contains mostly stylized combat violence with little gore, some sexual humor, a few mild oaths and occasional crude as well as more frequent crass talk.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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# Popular new series on Netflix glorifies suicide, seeks revenge

## Educators, school psychologists raise alarms about *13 Reasons Why*

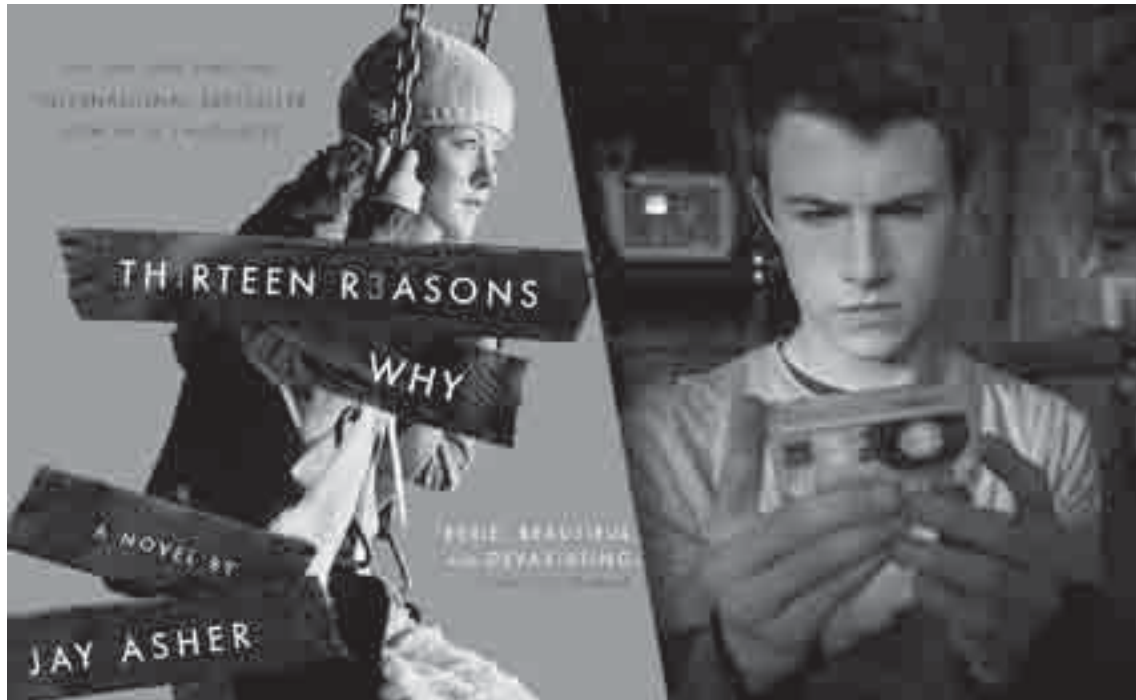
By Moriah Balingit  
The Washington Post

Educators and school mental health professionals across the country are warning parents about the Netflix series “13 Reasons Why,” saying the show’s graphic depiction of a teenager’s suicide could contribute to a “contagion effect” among students with mental illness and linking it to self-harm and suicide threats among young people.

The show has prompted a major response from educators and administrators, who have spoken at PTA meetings, sent messages home and even cautioned certain groups of students about whether to watch it at all.

“There’s no room for error when it comes to student wellness,” said Rebecca Aguilar, who oversees school counselors at Thoreau Middle School in Fairfax County. She recommends that parents “stay engaged with your children. And if they are watching it, process it with them.”

The show traces the perils and eventual suicide of a teenager named Hannah and is based on a young adult novel of the same title. In the opening episode, viewers learn that Hannah has committed suicide. Before her death, she sent 13 cassette tapes to friends and acquaintances, explaining in detail how they contributed to her downfall. The show toggles between life after Hannah’s suicide, as her grieving peers struggle to untangle the reasons she ended her life, and Hannah’s tortured adolescence, when she becomes



**13 REASONS WHY.** The late Hannah Baker explains why she committed suicide to her high school peers through a collection of cassette tapes she left behind. Educators and school mental health professionals have been deeply concerned about the impact on young people who view the series. The series is so extremely graphic that Netflix has added explicit warning to the three most graphic episodes. Parents of teens should be aware of this Netflix series.

the victim of vicious rumors, cyberbullying, a sexual assault and an incompetent school counselor. It ends with the graphic portrayal of her suicide.

A Netflix spokesman said in a statement that the company has heard that the show has “opened up a dialogue” about the intense themes depicted in it.

Netflix said it added explicit warnings to the three most graphic episodes and is adding another warning before the first episode. The statement said it also produced a behind-the-scenes documentary about the show called “Behind the Reasons.” In it, the

actors and creators indicate they consulted with mental health professionals on some aspects of the show.

“Entertainment has always been the ultimate connector and we hope that ‘13 Reasons Why’ can serve as a catalyst for conversation,” Netflix said.

The National Association of School Psychologists sent a notice to school mental health professionals across the country on how to talk about the show. A spokeswoman said it was the first time the association has put out guidance in response to a television show.

“Across the suicide-prevention communities and experts, there is concern in the way that the suicide is portrayed and the buildup to the suicide ... could trigger suicide contagion or copycat behavior,” said Kathy Cowan, the spokeswoman.

Suicide was the second-leading cause of death for teens in 2014, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, although it is still relatively rare.

But recent attention on the issue has prompted schools to step up their suicide-prevention efforts, focusing on screening students to uncover potential mental

### TV SERIES REVIEW

health issues and urging students to talk to adults when they are worried about a classmate.

The guidance, posted on the association’s website, advises some children not to watch the series.

“We do not recommend that vulnerable youth, especially those who have any degree of suicidal ideation, watch this series,” the association said. “Its powerful storytelling may lead impressionable viewers to romanticize the choices made by the characters and/or develop revenge fantasies.”

Mental health professionals have criticized the show for several reasons, saying it romanticizes suicide and inspires teens to imagine what could happen after their own death. In reality, experts say it is often mental illness and stressors that lead to suicide, although the show does not touch upon whether Hannah has mental illness. In the show, Hannah’s suicide is a means to exact revenge against the people she felt wronged her.

“It implies throughout the show that she actually gets revenge, [that] she has an impact on the people she leaves behind in a way that you can’t really guarantee with suicide,” Cowan said.

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## Outdoor illuminated rosary starts

Join St. Joseph Church in Marksville every Thursday, from May 18 - Oct. 26, at 8 p.m. to pray the Rosary before an illuminated Rosary located outside on the grounds of the parish hall. (Time changes to 7 p.m. in September). In case of inclement weather, the Rosary is prayed in the church.

## CDA Movie Night

CDA Court #1459 will be showing the movie "The Fourth Wise Man" on Thursday, May 18 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the St. Rita Holy Family Center. Free.

## Jubilee Mass for Priests

The annual Jubilee Mass for Priests celebrating ordination anniversaries will be held Friday, May 26 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Bishop David will be the celebrant and all priests of the diocese are invited to be concelebrants. The public is invited.

## Marriage Help

Retrouvaille (retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the Lafayette/Acadiana upcoming program May 26-28, call 800-470-2230 / 337-873-3981 or visit our website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

## Josh Blakesley Band Night of Worship

(Sts. Francis & Anne). The Youth Ministry Team at Sts. Francis and Anne in Kolin will be hosting a Night of Worship with the Josh Blakesley Band on Sat. May 27 beginning with a 4 p.m. Mass followed by Praise & Worship Acoustic Concert from 5-6 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Humphreys at 318-715-4010.

## Chuck Weeks Memorial 5K Run

THE CHUCK WEEKS MEMORIAL PRO-LIFE 5K WALK/RUN will be held Saturday, May 27 at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield. Cost to enter is \$20 and includes a t-shirt if you register before May 16. Forms may be picked up by contacting Tracy Kelley, 232 Jeff Kelley Road, Winnfield, LA. All proceeds will go to the Louisiana Right to Life and to the Chuck Weeks Memorial Fund.

## Schoenstatt Shrines

One of the 12 USA Schoenstatt Auxiliary Shrines will be at St. Mary Assumption Church in Cottonport on Sunday, May 28. The Auxiliary Shrines are replicas of the original carried by Deacon Joao Pozzobon, founder of the Rosary campaign. All area Schoenstatt groups are invited to bring their pilgrim MTA shrines. Mass will be at 9:30

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

a.m. followed by a presentation by state coordinators John and Kathy Strickland. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited to attend. Any questions call Nita Brouillette 318-481-2725. For more information on the Schoenstatt Movement or the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign, visit [Schoenstattla.com](http://Schoenstattla.com).

## 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 2 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 4, 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.

## Adult Confirmation

Bishop David Talley will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to adults from throughout the diocese on Sunday, June 4 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All candidates must register with the Cathedral by Monday May 26, accompanied by a recent copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate.

## Self Defense/ Self Awareness Class

Sacred Heart Church in Pineville will offer its 3rd annual Self Defense/Self Awareness Clinic at the Church Activities Bldg. Classes will be held on June 7, June 14, and June 21 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more info, call Joseph Thompson (after 4 p.m.) at 318-451-3548.

## NFP Classes

Summer series of Natural Family Planning classes teaching the 99% effective Sympto-Thermal Method will be on the Thursdays of June 8, July 6, and Aug. 3, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Attendance of all 3 classes completes the course. There is a one-time fee of \$130 which includes Student Guide book, fertility tracking charts, digital basal body thermometer, 1 year membership CycleProGo app, and Family Foundations magazine. You can register on

the Couple to Couple League International's website, [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org). For more information, contact Michael and Leah Pelto at [michaellandleah@suddenlink.net](mailto:michaellandleah@suddenlink.net) or (318) 640-8678.

## Softball tournament

Gather your team of 12 people now to compete in the 2nd Annual Sts. Francis & Anne 'Incrediball' Softball Tournament, June 10 (originally scheduled for June 3, but had to change) starting at 8 a.m. at the Wardville Complex (off Hickory Street in Pineville). The first 12 teams will be accepted (ages 13 and up). Team cost is \$150 per 12-member team (includes lunch). Concessions available; vendors are welcome. Spectator admission is \$2 per person. For more information, call Roman at 318-623-6690 or Debbie at 318-715-4010. All proceeds will benefit the SFA Youth Ministry and Steubenville South Groups.

## Women's Retreat

Immaculate Conception in Dupont, is hosting a Women's Retreat titled, "Be Healed, Be Loved" on Saturday, June 10 in the Church hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration fee is \$20 and includes lunch. The Gals from Everyday Missionaries is helping co-ordinate the event. Guest speaker will be Sister Mary Michael of the Dominicans of Nashville. Registration forms in the church or [www.everydaymissionaries.com](http://www.everydaymissionaries.com)

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, May 31.

Contact Evelyn Guillory @ 318-359-5542 or Debbie Ortego @ 318-359-8142

## St. Mary's Greco Bowl

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. Come and enjoy one of Chef Folse's unique, Cajun dishes followed by a live cooking demonstration to teach guests how to recreate his magic in their home kitchen. This year's Greco Bowl will also feature a Silent Auction. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased online at [www.stmarysalexandria.org](http://www.stmarysalexandria.org) or at St. Mary's campus located at 6715 Highway 1 South, Boyce, LA. For more information, contact Tamara McNulty at 318-445-6443 ext. 2144.

## Refreshed in the Spirit Day

CENLA Magnificat and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana will sponsor a "Refreshed in the Spirit" day on Saturday, July 8 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Center at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. There is no registration fee for this event but you must pre-register by June 30, 2017 - by email at [cenlamagnificat@gmail.com](mailto:cenlamagnificat@gmail.com) or [dianeardoin@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeardoin@yahoo.com) or 318-419-1547.

Bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks (water and tea) and desserts will be provided.

## Echo Retreat for Young Adults

Registration is open now for an Echo Cenla Retreat for Young Adults to be held July 21-25 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville. ECHO is a Theology of the Body Camp put on by DumbOx Ministries. The camp includes listening to spiritual talks, hiking and swimming, jamming to live music, attending Mass and receiving Jesus daily, ...and experiencing the love of the God and community. Open to young adults who have been out of high school for at least one full year.

For more information, go to [www.dumbboxministries.com/echo](http://www.dumbboxministries.com/echo).

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# May - June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>15</b> Graduation St. Mary's School Natchitoches	<b>16</b> Graduation Holy Savior Menard Alexandria	<b>17</b> Graduation St. Joseph School Plaucheville	<b>18</b> CDA Movie Night 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. Rita Holy Family Center  Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Radio Maria Spring Mariathon</b>						
PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ	PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN	PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER	PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. James Church, Alexandria	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	<b>26</b> Priests Jubilee Mass 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria	<b>27</b> Chuck Weeks 5K 9:00 a.m. OLL, Winnfield  Diaconate Ordination 10:00 a.m. OLPS Church, Alexandria  Josh Blakesely Band 4:00 p.m. Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin	<b>28</b> Schoenstatt Shrine 9:30 a.m. St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport  <b>THE ASCENSION of the LORD</b>
PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA POSADA	<b>Our Lady of Fatima International Pilgrim Statue presentation:</b> SFX Cathedral Alexandria      St. Anthony of Padua Bunkie      Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Natchitoches			PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	<b>Retrouvaille Weekend, Lafayette</b>	
PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA POSADA	PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	PRAY FOR FR. S. SOARES	PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA
<b>29</b> Diocesan Offices Closed  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>JUNE 1</b> Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Adult Confirmation 2:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	<b>Event 2017 -- St. Martin Church, Lecompte</b>		
PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	<b>FIRST FRIDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	<b>FIRST SATURDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. G. UZONDU	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHASE
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Self Defense Class 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville	<b>8</b> Natural Family Planning Class Series begins 6:00-8:00 p.m.  Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Sts. Francis & Anne Softball Tournament 8:00 a.m. Wardville Complex, Pineville  Women's Retreat 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church, Dupont	<b>11</b>  <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO
PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO	PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE	PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Self Defense Class 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville	<b>15</b> Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Priest Ordinations 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria	<b>18</b>  <b>THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST</b>  <b>FATHERS DAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK
PRAY FOR FR. T. ALLEN	PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK

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*Rick*

"Usually with someone who has Rick's problem, you have just a few hours to do something about it; I knew right away from the CT scan what my surgical team and I had to do to try to save him. It's so serious that I tell family members to go ahead and say their goodbyes. Rick was in very good shape and his surgery went quite well!"

*Dr. DeWitt*

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