
CHURCH TODAY

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

April 27, 2020



INSIDE

Welcome Bishop-Elect Marshall to the Diocese of Alexandria

Pope Francis has appointed Robert W. Marshall, priest of the Diocese of Memphis, TN, to serve the people of the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana as bishop. Read more on page 5.

New transitional deacons for the diocese

See pages 6 and 7 to meet the seminarians who will be ordained transitional deacons for the Diocese of Alexandria, and encouragement to continue to pray for our priests and seminarians.

Effects of COVID-19 on our Catholic schools

Overnight, our method and location of Catholic education has been transformed. Read a letter from Thomas Roque, our superintendent of Catholic schools, on page 21 encouraging us to continue praying for our teachers, parents, and students.

COVID-19 Response Team formed

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To Priests, Religious, Lay Staff, and all the faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria:

A message from Most Rev. Gregory Aymond, Apostolic Administrator,

As the crisis of COVID-19 continues to unfold, we are surrounded with uncertainty. I deeply regret that I am unable to be with you physically; but, please know that I am indeed with you in prayer and solidarity, as we navigate the upcoming days and weeks.

Recognizing that there are many questions, concerns, and issues surrounding this crisis, I have appointed a special "COVID-19 Response Team" for the Diocese of Alexandria. This committee is comprised of Father Peter Faulk JCL, Judicial Vicar;

Mr. David Brook, CFO; Father Scott Chemino, JD, JCL, Delegate to the Apostolic Administrator; Father Rick Gremillion (who has served as Coordinator of Disaster Preparedness and Relief for the Diocese); and Father Craig Scott, V.F., who will serve as Chair.

This committee will be addressing a myriad of issues, including:

1. How do we "restart" wisely when the Stay At Home order is lifted (Diocesan and Parish offices, ministries, public liturgies)? Will this "restart" be slow and graduated? What will our precise plan be?

2. If the Stay At Home order is extended beyond April 30, how can we effectively continue our work and ministry, while protecting the safety and health

of staff, priests, lay ministers, and the faithful? What provisions can be made for certain staff to work from home and what do they need to make this possible?

3. When public liturgies are allowed, what restrictions will be necessary and for how long?

These questions are just the "tip of the iceberg" as this crisis continues. The main focus of this Committee will be to offer guidelines in all areas of the life and ministry of the Church in the Diocese of Alexandria, while at the same time protecting health and life, and following the mandates of civil authorities. The Committee will be contacting you soon to hear your personal concerns and questions.

Please know that this Committee and its members are



available to you, as I am. Our faith, hope, and trust remain with the Lord God, who is forever faithful.

Sincerely in Christ,

**Most Reverend
Gregory M. Aymond
Apostolic Administrator**

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COVID-19 Response Team Report #1

TO: Priests, Deacons, Religious, Lay Staff, Volunteers, and all faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria

FROM: Fr. Craig Scott, Chair, COVID-19 Response Team

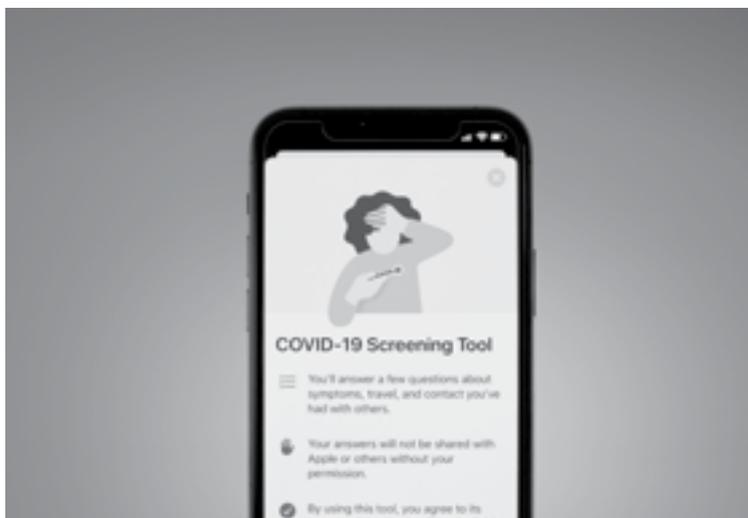
All,
We had the first meeting of the COVID-19 Response Team on Tuesday, April 21; in attendance were myself, Fr. Scott Chemino, JD, JCL, Fr. Peter Faulk, JCL, JC; Mr. David Brook, CFO; and via Zoom, Fr. Rick Gremillion, Rebecca Beaman and Patricia White (from the State Department of Health), and Bishop-Elect Robert Marshall.

1. STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

We began our meeting by hearing from Patricia White and Rebecca Beaman of the local State Health Department. Some points that they shared with us:

Because of the nature of this virus, information changes almost daily, which has resulted in confusion and perpetuation of misinformation. We simply do not know enough about this virus yet.

We will be dealing with COVID-19 on some level until



there is a vaccine developed. The only thing that will slow/stop the spread of the virus is avoiding human contact, by social distancing, masks, gloves, and only gathering in very small groups.

If the general Stay At Home order by Governor Edwards is indeed lifted on May 1, this does not mean that we return to business and public liturgies as usual. The Governor has indicated that it will be a "phased" re-opening, and religious services are likely to be far down on the list, and will more than likely involve a number of restrictions; size of the crowd, social distancing, masks, gloves, sanitizing churches after

services before another service begins, et cetera.

Combatting this virus is particularly difficult due to the fact that not all of those who have the virus become symptomatic. While originally it was believed that a 14 day quarantine would be sufficient for those who test positive, there are now cases of asymptomatic people testing positive for 28 days or longer.

Obviously, this is not the news we were hoping to hear; yet, this crisis is so fluid that daily interaction with the State Department of Health is our goal.

They ended their presentation with a plea to priests: Please protect yourselves. If visiting the sick or dying with

the Sacraments, follow the guidelines previously discussed, including using cotton swabs for the Anointing.

Some smaller hospitals in the rural areas are allowing clergy to visit, with an intake test which includes temperature check, and gloves, masks, gowns, et cetera. Our hospital Chaplains are doing an amazing job and obviously following the protocol of their own institutions.

2. PARISH AND DIOCESAN STAFF.

Some Pastors have asked if Staff is allowed to come in to perform essential functions (deposits, bill payment, payroll). It is appropriate for Staff to come for a short period of time to handle these functions. No more than 2 Staff members (which would include the Pastor/Priest) should be present at once, and should take necessary precautions, especially the "six foot" distancing rule. Offices should NOT be opened to the public. Buildings should be checked periodically and lawn maintenance can continue, again with the necessary precautions. All of this is obviously contingent upon the individual Staff member: age, health,

Pope pens editorial on joy in the time of coronavirus

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service



CHRISTIANS CALLED TO BE JOYFUL WITNESSES. In an editorial published April 17, by the Spanish magazine *Vida Nueva*, Pope Francis said Christians are called to be joyful witnesses to Christ's victory over death during the coronavirus pandemic. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Like the women at the tomb whose sorrow turned to joy after the Resurrection, Christians also are called to be joyful witnesses to Christ's victory over death amid the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis said.

In an editorial published April 17 by the Spanish magazine, *Vida Nueva*, the pope said that those who take part in "the Lord's passion, the passion of our brothers and sisters, even living our own passion, our ears will hear the newness of the Resurrection: we are not alone, the Lord precedes us on our journeys by removing the stones that paralyze us."

"If there's one thing we've been able to learn in all this time, it's that no one is saved alone," he wrote. "Borders are falling, walls are crumbling and all fundamentalist discourses are dissolving before an almost imperceptible presence that shows the fragility of which we are made."

In his editorial, titled "Un plan para resucitar" ("A plan to resurrect"), the pope also acknowledged that an invitation to be joyful "may seem like a provocation or a bad joke in front of the grave consequences we are suffering due to COVID-19."

"Like the first women disciples who went to the tomb, we live surrounded by an atmosphere of sorrow and uncertainty that makes us ask, 'Who will roll back the stone from the entrance of the tomb for us?' How will we deal with this situation that has completely overtaken us?" he asked.

In today's precarious era, the pope said, the stone in front of the tomb symbolizes the

worry and anguish that "buries hope," especially for the elderly, disabled people, families struggling financially, as well as health care workers and public servants who feel "exhausted and overwhelmed."

The weight of that stone, he added, "seems to have the last word."

Continuing his reflection on the women disciples, the pope said that despite their suffering

and fear, they still went out to the tomb and did "not allow themselves to be paralyzed by what was happening."

While many of the apostles fled, the women carried their spices and oils to anoint Jesus' body, much like the many men and women today who try to bring the "ointment of co-responsibility to care for and not risk the lives of others."

"We saw the anointing

poured out by doctors, nurses, warehouse workers, cleaners, caretakers, transporters, security forces, volunteers, priests, nuns, grandparents, and educators and so many others who were encouraged to give everything they had to bring a little healing, calm and soul to the situation," the pope wrote.

The good news of Christ's resurrection, he continued, is what brings hope and joy to all and shows that "our actions -- our anointing, our giving, our vigilance, and accompanying in all possible ways in this time -- are not and will not be in vain."

"God never abandons his people; he is always close to them, especially when sorrow is most present," the pope wrote.

Pope Francis said that the current pandemic also has highlighted the need "to unite the entire human family" and that the only way to conquer the coronavirus is through the antibodies of solidarity."

"We cannot afford to write the present and future history with our backs turned to the suffering of so many," the pope wrote. "It is the Lord who will ask us again, 'Where is your brother?' and, in our ability to respond, may the soul of our peoples be revealed, that reservoir of hope, faith, and charity in which we were begotten and which, for so long, we have anaesthetized or silenced."



Catholic Trivia



The season of Lent lasts forty days.
How long does the Easter season last?

Answer on page 20.

The Diocese Chancery Office is now using only one post office box.

The only current Post Office Box is 7417.

P.O. Box 8714 is no longer in use.

A message from the Diocese of Alexandria's Safe Environment Program

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please call: Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437).

If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report also should be made to the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp at 318-542-9805.

For updated information, news articles, and documents regarding ongoing activity and planning for securing and maintaining a Safe Environment for all, visit www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing (visit www.diocesealex.org and look for "A Safe Environment For All" under the "Our Faith" tab). Here, you can find Bishop Talley's message for November 2018, as well as updates from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also found on this page is the letter from Pope Francis to all Bishops in the United States regarding a meeting in February 2019 at the Vatican entitled "The Protection of Minors in the Church."

Do you know someone who wants to receive the Church Today FREE of charge?

Visit the sign-up form at www.diocesealex.org, or email cari.terracina@diocesealex.org with their name and mailing address.

RESPONSE

(continued from pg. 2)

comfort level. As this next week unfolds, Diocesan Staff will be given more information. When the Diocesan Offices are able to “open,” a “staggered” plan will be developed for the health and safety of all; Pastors are encouraged to do the same with their Parish Staff.

3. FUNERALS .

The current guidance of Archbishop Aymond stands: Funeral liturgies may be conducted with 10 or less in attendance and following necessary precautions. (The same still applies for Weddings and Baptisms). However, please note that each Funeral Home is handling their services at their own discretion. Some are allowing only graveside services. If you have a death, please make sure that the family (or you) speak to the Funeral Director about what their particular practices are.

4. PASTORAL/ SPIRITUAL/CATECHETICAL

RESOURCES.

All Catholic publishing companies have developed/are developing resources for this time. Much of it is based on “recovery” and we aren’t there yet. Pastors and Parish Staff are encouraged to investigate what might be beneficial to their particular parish. Most of these resources are free.

5. FINANCIAL ISSUES.

Obviously with no public Masses, collections begin to suffer. For the parishes that do not offer Online Giving and/or Electronic Funds Transfers, this is particularly difficult. We encourage Pastors to invite your people to continue to give by mailing in their contributions as they are able. If you have the ability to set up Online Giving, you are encouraged to do so.

Some parishes, and the Diocese, have applied for and been approved for Payroll Protection Loans through the Small Business Association, in conjunction with a local bank. However, as of last Wednesday, the funds had been depleted and any who attempted to apply on Wednesday or after were

unable to do so. Congress is in the process of approving a new stimulus plan, so please check with your local bank for guidance, or Mr. David Brook, CFO, can assist you.

Mr. David Brook would like to hear from Pastors in regard to their collections at this time, compared to a “normal” year. Please send him this information to dbrook@diocesealex.org.

6. CANONICAL ISSUES, MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS:

Fr. Peter Faulk, JCL, JV, noted that Pope Francis has created a Vatican Commission to provide universal guidelines for episcopal conferences led by Cardinal Turkson. Along with treating issues such as the Church’s social teaching, care for the poor and the most vulnerable, and care for the environment - a vademecum for episcopal conferences is being crafted which will emphasize public safety and above all, cooperation with civil authority on the part of the faithful. This commission will also provide guidelines in order to properly understand the

exercise of religious freedom. A key component of this is an informed understanding of modern constitutional systems in which local governments retain the right, under the law, to limit the exercise of said religious freedom in light of extraordinary societal crises. Only the favoring of one faith based organization over another would be deemed unconstitutional. The faithful have a right to the sacraments, but under c. 213, the hierarchy retains the right to prudently and judiciously determine the criterion for a just distribution of the spiritual goods of the Word of God and the sacraments in accord with a wise and virtuous cooperation with civil authority in the midst of extraordinary circumstances.

As we are just beginning this work, and this crisis continues to unfold, we appreciate your patience. We pray that you will find this information helpful. Any member of this Committee is available should you have any questions.

Be safe!

In Christ,

Fr. Craig Scott



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Why did Jesus weep? / Is it too late to pray?

Q. I have always been attracted to the verse in John’s Gospel (11:35) that says that, learning of the death of Lazarus, “Jesus wept.” It shows, I think, how much Christ loved Lazarus and all of humanity. But reflecting further on that passage, I’m wondering just why Jesus wept.

Do you think it was because Jesus was actually grieving over the death of his friend? Or do you think that he wept tears of joy, knowing that Lazarus was not suffering from his illness anymore, that Lazarus was perhaps getting a taste of heaven and that Christ was going to use the occasion to show forth the power of God? (Waipahu, Hawaii)

A. That short and simple verse from the Gospel reflects a complex truth, a truth that prompts your excellent question and makes the answer difficult. Jesus had two natures: He was truly human and truly divine, and both natures were at work in the matter of Lazarus.

Pope Leo the Great, reflecting on this same passage,



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

is thought to have said: “In his humanity Jesus wept for Lazarus; in his divinity he raised him from the dead.” Jesus felt deeply the pain of Lazarus’ death. When Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus of the impending crisis, their message had been, “Master, the one you love is ill.”

Clearly, Jesus knew in advance what he was going to do, for he told them, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God.” But his awareness of that eventual outcome did not relieve Christ’s human sorrow, and this is the mystery of his dual nature. And so, the answer to both of our letter writer’s questions is “Yes.”

Jesus was truly grieving over

Lazarus’ passing and the pain it was causing Martha and Mary, but just as surely he knew that the situation would serve ultimately to glorify God.

The mystery of that duality will only lift fully when we, one day, rest in God’s house; but meanwhile it may help to think that, right now, we ourselves struggle to balance those twin feelings. When someone we love dies, our faith promises the joy of reunion; yet, even so, we feel deeply the sting of loss. We believe in eternal life, but that doesn’t stop our tears.

Q. I have a question that is personal. I haven’t been to church in a while; and I don’t usually pray, although recently I have

begun to. Will God accept me still, if I start going to church at this point in my life? (I want to get close to him and I hope that it’s not too late.) (Anaheim, California)

A. It is never too late. God’s love for us is deep and everlasting. The Second Letter of Peter (3:9) tells us that the Lord “is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Think of the criminal on the cross who turned to Christ only hours before his death and was promised that, that very day, he would be with Jesus in paradise. And think, too, of St. Augustine, who lived a dissolute life as a young man, fathering a child out

of wedlock and who, for years, followed various philosophers only to become disillusioned with their teachings.

When he was in his 30s, Augustine was inspired to pick up a Bible and “chanced” upon these words from Paul’s Letter to the Romans (13:14): “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.” Soon after, he was baptized by St. Ambrose and became one of our greatest saints.

Later, reflecting on his experience, Augustine made this keen observation: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” Thank you for your question, and I will pray for you on your journey back to prayer and Catholic practice.

Questions may be sent to askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

Welcome Bishop-elect Marshall!

Pope Francis names Marshall as bishop of Alexandria

On Tuesday, April 21, 2020 the Vatican announced the appointment of Father Robert W. Marshall, Jr. as thirteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria.

"I'm sorry I could not be here for this good news announcement," said Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond who has served as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Alexandria for the past year. "In light of

"I want to express my deep gratitude to the Holy Father for this appointment. It came as a complete surprise and is a great honor to be called to shepherd the people of God in central Louisiana."

– Bishop-elect Robert Marshall

Governor Edwards' "stay-at-home" order and my ongoing (COVID-19) recovery, I am not able to greet you in person. Regardless, it is a privilege for me to join you in welcoming your new bishop. I am very grateful to Fr. Scott Chemino for acting as my delegate in this matter and many others as I have ministered in the Diocese of Alexandria."

Bishop-elect Marshall was born on June 17, 1959 in Memphis, Tennessee. A graduate of Catholic schools, Bishop-elect Marshall attended St. Michael School, Christian Brothers High School, and Christian Brothers University, all in Memphis. He obtained his law degree from



BISHOP-ELECT ROBERT MARSHALL, a priest from the Diocese of Memphis, recorded a video presentation to introduce himself to the people of the Diocese of Alexandria. After the video, he participated in a brief video conference with some of the priests of the Diocese as well as staff members of the St. Joseph Catholic Center who were present for the presentation. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, no date has yet been set for Bishop-elect Marshall's Ordination and Installation Mass, but as those dates are scheduled they will be made public.

Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis) and practiced law for twelve years in both St. Louis, Missouri and Memphis.

Discerning a call to priesthood, Bishop-elect Marshall studied at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana, and received a Master of Divinity degree in 2000. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 2000, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Memphis by the Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, S.V.D.

Bishop-elect Marshall has served in parish ministry in a number of parishes in the Diocese

of Memphis, most recently as the pastor of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Memphis (2017-Present). As a clergy in the Catholic Diocese of Memphis, Bishop-elect Marshall has served as the Associate Pastor of the Church of the Incarnation, Collierville, Tenn. (2000-2002), and as the Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Humboldt, Tenn., and St. Matthew Church, Milan, Tenn. (2002-2004); the Church of Ascension, Memphis (2004-2012); St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cordova, Tenn. (2012-2017), and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Memphis (2017-Present).

In addition to his work in parishes, Bishop-elect Marshall has also served the Diocese of Memphis as a Master of Ceremonies for Bishop Steib, a member of the Presbyteral Council, the College of Consultors, the Priest Personnel Committee, the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee, and the Bishop's Annual Appeal Steering Committee. He was the delegate of Archbishop Joseph Kurtz who served as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Memphis for five months and he currently serves Bishop David Talley and the diocese as Vicar General.

"I have known Bishop-elect Marshall for a number of years, and am very pleased to welcome him to episcopal ministry here in the Diocese of Alexandria," added Archbishop Aymond. "Please join me in praying for him, and for the diocese as we move through this transition."

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, and in light of the current suspension of public Masses in the Diocese of Alexandria and the State of Louisiana, no date has been set for Bishop-elect Marshall's Ordination and Installation Mass. As those plans are finalized, they will be announced.

The Bishop selection process

The process of collecting names of candidates to submit to Pope Francis is the first task in the appointment of a Catholic bishop. Identifying potential candidates by developing a provincial list is an ongoing process, one that occurs even as a bishop is in office.

For our diocese, the provincial list is developed by the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of New Orleans which includes all the dioceses of Louisiana. In a provincial meeting, these bishops, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Gregory Aymond, vote on and forward a provincial list to Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States (a Vatican diplomatic representative with the rank of ambassador) who then chooses candidates from the provincial list to suggest to Rome.

The apostolic nuncio plays a decisive role in the selection process. He narrows the list to those who best fit the needs of a diocese and its members. Those needs are spelled out in the quinquennial report. The quinquennial is a periodic evaluation of a diocese that is submitted to the pope every five years.

Archbishop Pierre's list will be accompanied by a detailed report that includes candidate profiles and his personal recommendations. The list and report are sent to the Congregation for Bishops in

Rome.

The Congregation of Bishops, which usually meets twice a month, will discuss Archbishop Pierre's report and vote for the preferred candidate. By the time the list gets to the Congregation, the candidates have undergone a lot of scrutiny. Although the Congregation may follow the recommendation of the nuncio, they may also choose another of the candidates on the list, ask that another list be prepared or make their own independent recommendation.

Once the Congregation makes its selection, the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops will meet with Pope Francis and present the Congregation's recommendations to the Holy Father. The pope will subsequently make his decision, which may not necessarily be that of the Congregation. The Congregation notifies the nuncio of the pope's decision. The nuncio, in turn, contacts the candidate and, if he accepts the appointment, the Vatican is notified and plans are made to make a public announcement.

Although there are specific steps in the selection process, there is no timetable for the process.

There are currently seven vacant Sees (dioceses with no bishop) within the United States at this time, according to the website catholic-hierarchy.org.

St. Joseph Catholic Center updates

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, the seven Roman Catholic dioceses of Louisiana are all in compliance with the statewide mandated closure of non-essential businesses.

The Diocese of Alexandria's Saint Joseph Catholic Center, the diocesan offices, will remain closed until further notice. This closure is to reinforce the isolation efforts stressed by state and private health care officials for all individuals across the state. Catholics are encouraged to follow the diocesan website, www.diocesealex.org, to stay informed of developments in this regard, and to pray for all who are suffering as a result of this health emergency.

Meet our seminarians, soon to be transitional deacons

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to announce we will have two seminarians to be ordained as transitional deacons on May 16, 2020 at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans.

Being ordained to the diaconate is one of the final steps in priesthood formation. If all goes as expected, Kennedy and Johnson will be ordained to the

priesthood next summer.

The diocese currently has ten men in priestly formation, and with the support of their home parishes, they will continue their formation to priesthood. Thank you to everyone for your support for these men through the Annual Bishop's Golf Tournament as well as the Suppers with the Seminarians fundraisers.



Robert Johnson
from St. Anthony of Padua,
Natchitoches

1. Tell us briefly, a little about your story of discernment.

I have wanted to be a priest from the time I was in 7th grade. I had been an altar boy since I was in 4th grade and I always felt a calling to assist with various parish needs. Having grown up just 5 city blocks from my childhood parish, I was close enough to be on call for funerals, weddings, and the other parish functions. I loved assisting the priest in the celebration of the sacraments and helping the Church bring people closer to Christ. I continued to assist at the altar until I was in high school; when soon after I felt a call to enter seminary formation. After completing one year of college

seminary I realized it was not the path God was calling me at that time. I then successfully owned and operated a restaurant for 8 years when I heard God calling me once again and to discern the priesthood. Since June of 2019, I have been affiliated with Alexandria, and very much look forward to serving the people of the diocese.

2. What is something that has kept you moving forward in your time of discernment?

My formational path has been a little out of the usual track, and it has been long. My attachment to our dearly Blessed Mother, and to her spouse St. Joseph, has helped carry me along. Sometimes it seemed as though the path would never end,

but I am happy now to see light at the end of the journey.

3. What do you most look forward to after becoming a transitional deacon?

As a transitional deacon, I really look forward to assisting at liturgies and preaching. It is something that I have been preparing for all of these years, and I am very excited about being with the good people of our wonderful diocese.

4. What do you hope people take away from your life and work?

The only hope I have for my ministry in the diocese is that through my preaching and assistance at the altar, people will be drawn into a deeper relationship with our Blessed

Lord. The public prayer of the Church is one of my favorite aspects of ordained ministry. I very much look forward to assisting the people of our diocese very soon as a transitional deacon and in the future as a priest of God.

5. How can we, the people of the Diocese of Alexandria, pray for you?

The most important thing the people can do for their clergy is support them through prayer. So, please pray for me, deacon candidate Bobby Kennedy, and all other clergy of the diocese that our ministry may be in accord with the Divine Will and that we remain faithful to our calling for all of our days.



Thomas Kennedy
from Minor Basilica of the
Immaculate Conception,
Natchitoches

Look for our Q&A with Transitional Deacon candidate Thomas Kennedy in next month's issue of the Church Today, along with additional pictures and information from their Ordinations.

Both Transitional Deacon candidates will be part of Notre Dame Seminary's Five Month Diaconate Internship Program, which will run from June - October, 2020.

Look for updated Clergy Assignments in next month's issue of the Church Today.

Assignments are scheduled to be announced on May 1, feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Pope Pius XII established this feast day in 1955 to honor St. Joseph and celebrate the Catholic Church's commitment to the dignity of labor. St. Joseph cared for Mary, his wife, and Jesus, his son, through his work as a carpenter, representing for us the ideal of dignified work and faithful contribution to the common good. His example reminds all workers to participate in God's continuing creation each and every day through our own labor.

This silent saint, who was given the noble task of caring for and watching over the Virgin Mary and Jesus, now cares for

and watches over the Church and models for all the dignity of human work.

St. Joseph is the patron of

the Universal Church, unborn children, fathers, workers, travelers, immigrants, and a happy death.

"Human work, and especially manual labor, receive special prominence in the Gospel... At the workbench where he plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the Redemption."

– Pope St. John Paul the Great

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer card with this prayer can be downloaded and printed from foryourvocation.org

Praying for priestly vocations with St. John Vianney

By Susanna Parent
Blessed is She Ministry

Eight years of prayer and study pointed to one incredible day.

Laudate Dominum rang through our ears as we sang praise to the Lord that this day had finally come.

My Brother-in-Law, the Priest

I sat with my husband and his parents in the very front pew of the Cathedral. There were only three chairs in front of us. One chair for my brother-in-law and two for the other transitional deacons who were about to lay their lives down out of love for their Bride, the Church. These men made it to this long-awaited day to make their promises of celibacy, obedience, and simplicity of life as newly ordained diocesan priests.

After the proclamation of the Gospel, a bittersweet moment took place. The deacons were each summoned by name. They moved from their place - sitting with the rest of the congregation - to the altar. They were no longer meant to be sitting with us as we participated in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Their new place was to become in *persona Christi Capitis*, in the person of Christ the Head. They were to serve the people of God, especially through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Minutes after they moved to their place on the altar, the Bishop laid his hands on their heads and invoked the Holy Spirit. Their soul was then imprinted with an indelible sacramental character, a mark which would set them apart for the fulfillment of their vocation: the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

"This Sacrament configures the recipient to Christ by a special grace of the Holy Spirit, so that he may serve as Christ's instrument



for his Church." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1581)

The Joy of the Priesthood

As the newly ordained processed out of the church, "O God Beyond All Praise" resounded within the walls of the Cathedral. People smiled from ear to ear as they breathed deeply from their chest, belting out "...whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise."

My brother-in-law, now Father, encourages me to marvel at God's beauty simply by his

witness of love.

After his Mass of Thanksgiving, he shared with everyone there that when people ask him why he decided to become a priest and to live a life of celibacy, he responds, "I did it, because of Love, and it is a Love that I want you to know too. If you want to know how to find that Love, please talk to me. Or talk to your parish priest, or any priest you know."

Do we know that deep kind of love? The kind of love that makes us want to give up everything in order to respond to that love in the fullest way possible? When was the last time we gave ourselves the time

to sit with Jesus and really let His love for us sink in, and sink in deep? When was the last time we considered Jesus our brother, companion, and friend?

St. John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests

St. John Vianney's feast day is celebrated on August 4. He was a priest who is known for spending up to sixteen hours each day hearing confessions. This is a remarkable gift of self to his bride, the Church. In 1929, Pope Pius XI made Saint John Vianney the patron of parish priests. Pope Saint John XXIII spoke of him, saying:

"...when the priest adores Christ Our Lord and gives thanks to Him, or offers satisfaction for his own sins and those of others or finally when he prays constantly that God keep special watch over the causes committed to his care, he is inflamed with a more ardent love for the Divine Redeemer to whom he has sown allegiance and for those to whom he is devoting his pastoral care."

Praying for Our Priests

In remembrance of Saint

John Vianney, let us pray for our parish priests. Let's pray for those men who are discerning calls to the priesthood. Let's be sure to give them a sincere "thank you" the next time we see them. Thank them for devoting their life to helping us fall in love.

Who are the priests in your life who call you closer to Jesus?

Susanna Parent serves as Evangelization Manager for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in the Office of Evangelization. She is a recent graduate of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program with the School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas. When she's not reading and writing, you can find her enjoying life with her new husband, brewing French press coffee in her kitchen, reading wine labels with her friends in an effort to discover the perfect Pinot Noir and blogging about her travel adventures. You can learn more about her at fiatandaily.blogspot.com.

Continue to support your church parish

In light of announcements made from President Trump and Governor Edwards, effective immediately, public Mass cannot be celebrated. Priests may celebrate Mass privately.

Though you are not obligated to attend Mass during this time, please consider continuing to support your church parish with your tithing and donations. Church parishes rely on these funds to continue to operate and provide programs and services to the faithful in our communities. The address to each church parish can be found on the diocese website at www.diocesealex.org.

Your pastor will appreciate your continued support.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Download the Spotify app and search for "Diocese of Alexandria" to listen to #SongsfortheSabbath --- songs to center our hearts, minds, and homes on Christ.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for May

For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Prayer in thanksgiving for our Bishop-Elect

Heavenly Father, eternal shepherd, you tend your church in many ways. Help your chosen servant, Bishop-Elect Robert Marshall, that he may watch over your flock. Help him to be a faithful teacher and pastor, a wise administrator, and a holy priest. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Self-care during the pandemic

By Kevin Boudreaux
Guest Contributor

Self-care can be thought of as regularly giving the proper attention and care it takes to maintaining our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health and wellness. For most people this involves engaging in activities that are enjoyable and rejuvenating, such as exercise, hobbies, prayer, or social gatherings. These things we do to keep us 'sane' help foster resiliency and enable us to withstand the daily stressors of life. Under normal circumstances, most of us can achieve a good balance between work and responsibility, play and self-care.

When chronic stress enters our lives, oftentimes the activities that we engage in to maintain our 'sanity' become less of a priority as we invest our energy into managing the sources of our stress. We stop doing the things we need to feel normal and healthy. Coincidentally, we end up feeling worse because we aren't taking care of ourselves, which in turn furthers our feelings of stress. Over time, this cycle leaves us feeling frazzled, crazy, and burnt-out.

There is no question that the restrictions placed on us due to COVID-19 have increased our overall levels of stress. Here are just a few common examples of what you may be struggling with during this time:

- lack of routine;
- separation and isolation from friends and family;
- worrying about the health of loved ones;



- boredom;
- uncertainty about the future;
- lay-offs, furloughs, reduced hours;
- finances;
- family conflict;
- children being out of school;
- worsening of mental health conditions like depression and anxiety.

In order to effectively

manage our stress, we have to make time to take care of ourselves. As stress increases, so should self-care. Here are just a few recommendations for maintaining our sanity during this pandemic:

Social interaction: Stay connected. There are numerous ways to connect with friends and family for a digital face-to-face interaction. Use Zoom, Skype, Facetime, or Google

Hangouts.

Create a routine: Don't underestimate the importance of a healthy routine for you and your family during difficult times. Routines help to ground us by giving us order and predictability.

Stay busy and active: Complete household projects, get outside, go for walks, ride bikes, explore different parks and trails, clean, declutter, enjoy your hobbies and interests, play board games, cards, make time to have fun as a family.

Exercise: Regular exercise reduces feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression. Be creative and find ways to maintain physical activity. Biking, walking, jogging, calisthenics, stretching. There are numerous resources online for ways to exercise without having to go to a gym.

Practice patience: Most of us aren't used to being around each other as much as we are. It's normal to experience irritation or aggravation. Practice patience and forgiveness.

Finally, don't be afraid to reach out for help to speak with a professional if you are experiencing worsening mental health conditions or if you are having significant changes in sleep, appetite, mood, or energy levels. Most mental health therapists are offering telehealth sessions at this time. You can find local counselors in your by visiting www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapists.

Kevin Boudreaux is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Private Practice at Life Solutions in Alexandria, LA.

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DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF LIFE AND JUSTICE

The Diocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice now provides a list of social services available while the Corona Virus measures are in effect.

The Office of Life and Justice lists this directory as a public service. It does not recommend, support, or guarantee any of the mentioned services.

Each consumer should be vigilant and ask questions of each provider, including costs (if any), confidentiality of medical or personal information, and to whom they can address complaints if necessary.

Please visit www.diocesalex.org/latest-news/social-services-information/ for a directory of local services.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED:

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please first call the Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency.

If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report should then also be made to the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist at 318-542-9805.

Father Faulk elected President of CCTO

Father Peter Faulk, JCL, the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Alexandria was recently elected president of CCTO, the Conference of Chancery and Tribunal Officials of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of New Orleans and Mobile, AL.

The Conference, first created in 1951, serves as the Southern regional chapter of the Canon Law Society of America. As President, Fr. Faulk will oversee the management and government of the affairs of the Conference, along with the Board of Directors, throughout 2020-2021. Fr. Faulk holds a License in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, Italy, and is presently pursuing a PhD in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of Mexico, located in Mexico City.



Sister Maria Elise Van Dijk, CDP Dies

Sister Marie Elise van Dijk, CDP, entered eternal life on April 6, 2020, at the age of 92. She was born on March 19, 1928 in Lisse, the Netherlands to Petrus Wilhelmus van Dijk and Katherina Johanna Beuk. Her baptismal name was Wilhelmina Maria Josephina. She professed first vows as a Sister of Divine Providence on June 22, 1957. Her ministerial calling was education.

Wilhelmina received a teaching certificate from Providence College in Amsterdam. She taught in The Netherlands for six years before entering the convent. She was fluent in Dutch, English, and German. Sister Marie Elise

was a Catholic school principal for a total of 38 years in various Texas cities and in Cloutierville, Louisiana. During 23 of those administrative years, she also taught in the classroom. She taught mathematics for ten years in the Edgewood Independent School District.

Due to the current circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 virus, a Memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date, when her whole community can gather to celebrate her life.

In lieu of flowers, you may make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.



Father Jorge Ortiz-Garay: first Catholic priest in the U.S. to die of coronavirus

Father Jorge Ortiz-Garay, a Mexican-born Brooklyn pastor, became the first priest in the

United States to die as a result of COVID-19. He was the pastor of St. Brigid's parish, located

in Wyckoff Heights, and the Diocesan Coordinator of the Ministry to Mexican immigrants.

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

Seminararian Burses

March 2020 Donations

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Father Walter Ajaero Burse	
Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$50.00
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Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$100.00
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
Ms. Theresa Robichaux	\$100.00
Leonard E. Johnson Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$500.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
Total	\$1,275.00

Parish Spotlight: St. Peter, Bordelonville/St. Michael Church, Rexmere Established 1903

The Catholics of Bordelonville were originally served by the priests of Moreauville. In 1900, Fr. Constantine Brahic was sent to secure land for the development of a new parish.

In September 1903, Bishop Durier divided Sacred Heart parish and established the parish of St. Peter's in Bordelonville with Fr. Regis Gimbert serving as the first pastor. The church building was completed that same year.

The first baptism was recorded on October 2, 1903. The Daughters of the Cross came to establish a school in 1905. It remained open until 1910. Fr. Peter Bresselaer served as pastor from 1923-1937. The church and rectory survived the 1927 floods intact only to be destroyed by a fire later that year. A new brick church was built and blessed in 1928.

Msgr. Isidore DeCeulaer was named pastor in 1937 and served the church and community for the



ST. PETER CHURCH IN BORDELONVILLE.

next 32 years until his retirement in 1969.

In 1964, St. Michael's in Rexmere was established as an independent parish with Fr. Theodore Leliveld as the first pastor. In 1975, St. Michael's became a mission of the Bordelonville church.

Fr. Gustave Bergeron served as pastor from 1969 to 1975. Under his leadership a parish hall/community center was built and dedicated in honor Msgr. DeCeulaer. Fr. Bergeron also built a new rectory and completed the first phase of the mausoleum.

Eleven pastors have followed Fr. Bergeron. Under Fr. James Roy a major renovation of the

church interior was completed in the 1970's.



ST. MICHAEL CHURCH IN REXMERE.



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*Lord, let
Your mercy
be on us,
as we place
our trust in
You.*

Psalm 33: 22
Responsorial Psalm
for May 10

**For updated
contact information
and Mass times
for our
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Mary, Mother of Jesus Church organizes convoy to support their parish priest

*By Cindy Sayes
Mary, Mother of Jesus
Church, Woodworth*

I was speaking with another member of our Pro-Life group, Joanne Brundette. We were talking about Fr. Paul (LaPalme) and how all of this social distancing and staying at home is affecting us all. Joanne asked me what I thought about getting together some of our families with kids, and having them make some signs and drive by the rectory. I was so excited about the idea that I took it and ran!

Since we were not having any services on Holy Saturday, we thought that would be the perfect day. I called the Mayor of Woodworth first, Mayor David Butler. He was ALL IN. Next I contacted all of my groups that I have in my phone. The message stated that we would meet at Caroline Dorman school in Woodworth and

caravan past Fr. Paul's house. Everyone was to pass the word to everyone they knew in our parish, making sure that no one told Fr. Paul. Signs should be made, and no one should get out of their cars in order to abide by the social distancing guidelines.

Next, I contacted some friends of Fr. Paul's, one of which was his neighbor. This was a huge help because he was able to help me get Fr. Paul outside for the parade. I called Fr. Paul on Friday night to tell him I had a surprise for him and would be bringing it Saturday morning.

When I arrived at Caroline Dorman Saturday morning, Woodworth police was already there as our escort. People began arriving, and it was a huge celebration. I cannot even explain the emotions that I felt as I watched all of the cars coming in. Everyone was rolling down their windows, laughing, carrying on, displaying their



CONVOY TO SUPPORT PARISH PRIEST. Parishioners of Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth organized a convoy to the rectory of their church on Holy Saturday.

signs, and talking about how we miss each other. It was a beautiful gathering.

I left there around 10:00 a.m. and went to Fr. Paul's, expecting to have to really work to get him out of his house. I was overcome with emotion over what I had just experienced, and was trying to come up with a story to persuade him to come out onto the driveway. However, his neighbor was already in gear. He had Fr. Paul outside. He

had picked up breakfast, and they were all eating outside. Perfect!

The fun part was when the caravan got to Father's house. All he could see was the police car. He had no idea what was behind it. The police car stopped and waited until I got Father down the driveway. There were around 60 cars, filled with families, signs, stuffed animals, a couple of treat bags, and big smiles. I guess this is the advantage

of being a smaller parish. We are so tight with each other. Everyone was so excited to see Father Paul, and he was excited to see them. It was such a blessing for all of us. It was just what we all needed. This was our Easter blessing. We could not celebrate Mass in the same physical church building, but we were able to show the love that we have for each other and for our wonderful pastor, Fr. Paul. I am sure that we will remember this occasion for a very long time.

Easter Sunday may have been very different this year, but we all had a feeling of joy in our hearts. We look forward to the day when we are back in our beautiful little church with each other, celebrating the Eucharist together as one family in Christ.

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PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited," "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C," "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings," "An Unsolved Mess: Analyzing the Social Security Administration's Methodology for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers."

318-717-1995

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Psalm 66: 1
Responsorial Psalm for May 17

Alleluia is our song



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. On Palm Sunday, Father Rusty rode in the back of a pickup truck, down many streets in Marksville, offering prayer. This touching scene was just before the procession began as Marksville Police and escorts knelt in prayer. As with all churches, St. Joseph is closed for services during the COVID-19 crisis. But the faithful still find a way to pray.



SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. Thank you to Fr. Jose Pallipurath and Sacred Heart Parish for giving our community the opportunity to pray The Stations of the Cross safely. The stations were located next to the church along the cemetery driveway.



CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER, EVERGREEN. Fr. Walter Ajaero, pastoral administrator of Church of the Little Flower, celebrates Mass live on the church's Facebook page.



ST. PETER/ST. MICHAEL CHURCH, BORDELONVILLE. Fr. Ramji Shoury Blessing with Blessed Sacrament both Bordelonville and Rexmere up to Big Bend to burn the Corona Virus and send it to the Netherworld with the Divine Power.

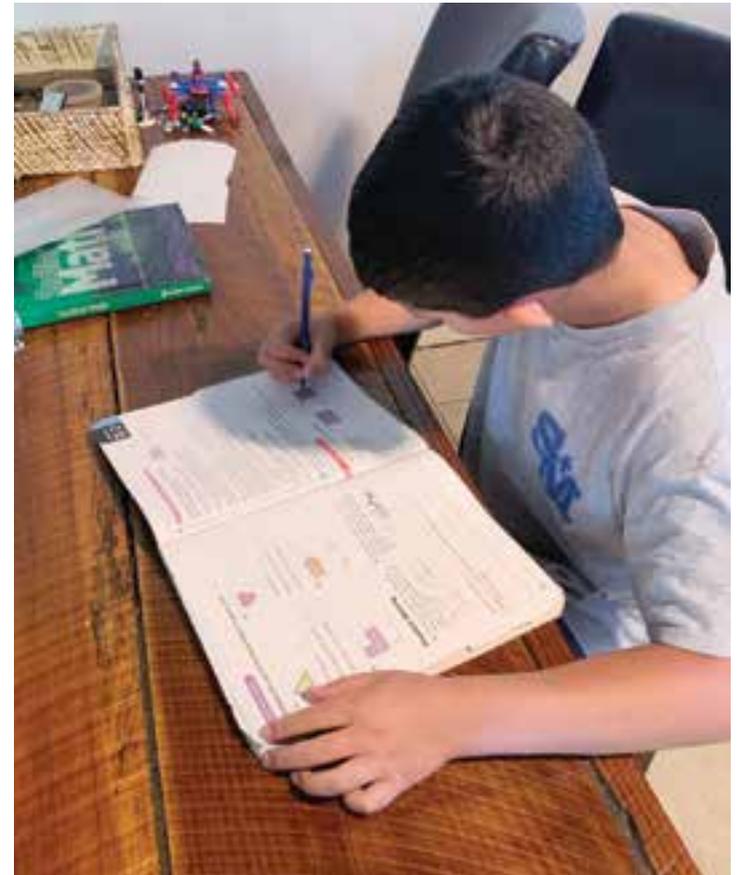
People of the diocese support essential healthcare workers and professionals, and continue to show their creativity. See below or visit www.diocesealex.org to see more pictures of life in the Diocese.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD STUDENTS VOLUNTEER TO PRODUCE PPE. PPE 3D Printing for Cenla is a group of local volunteers who have 3D printed, assembled and delivered hundreds of masks/shields to medical staff in our area over the last few weeks. This week Wilson Anglin organized a group of students at Menard to join PPE 3D Printing for Cenla. Using the 3D printer from Menard, three 3D printers from the Rapides Parish library, and his own 3D printer, Wilson is leading a team of students that so far includes Spencer █████, Anderson █████, Avery █████, Abby █████, Cyrus █████, Seneca █████, Olivia █████, and Talyn █████. Cy and Seneca █████, along with alumni Evan Constantino, are running the printers with Wilson, while the others are assembling face shields and N95 masks daily. The students are so excited to be able to help the professionals in our community in this time of need. Materials for this project are provided through donations, so if you are interested in keeping this group supplied, please go to www.cenla-ppe-fundraiser.myshopify.com to purchase t-shirts or donate directly.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHES. Students of St. Mary's School in Natchitoches participated in "Virtual Spirit Week" by sharing photos of their activities and artwork on the school's Facebook page. Students and teachers also implemented modified lessons via online resources.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. The OLS Sisters and postulants decorated the front of Sacred Heart School to encourage the school community of God's promise of hope in these trying times.

Want to join in making a difference?

Jonathan and Lauren Stokes are proud to be associated with a local group of professors, physicians, colleges, and individuals who together share the mission of creating more PPE (personal protective equipment) for our local healthcare workers. 100% of the proceeds (GoFundMe's small portion excluded) raised from this fundraiser will be given to this project to create 3-D N95 masks and face shields. Any healthcare workers, hospital, or clinic is encouraged to request materials from this project. PPE is being created for all!



3D PRINTED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. Seeing the need for additional personal protective equipment for healthcare employees as recommended by the CDC, Dr. Marvin Mata, the Pediatrics Department Chair and Medical Director of PICU and Hospitalist Service at Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital, called on Liz Hines, Director of Curriculum and Development of St. Frances Cabrini School, to make design modifications and 3D-print personal protective face masks.

As Governor Edwards has said on numerous occasions, we all play a vital role in flattening the curve by staying home. Here is an innovative opportunity for you to have an even stronger and direct impact on our frontline healthcare workers.

Remember, these frontline workers may ultimately be taking care of you or one of your family members. We

need them to feel confident that they are equipped with proper equipment in order for them to stay healthy themselves.

Though we have had significant initial success, the need is great, and more financial support is needed. Please join

us in this opportunity to do even more than just staying home.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3cyVDFU> to donate to the Go Fund Me.



A Request

by Marcus Descant

Welcome home!



For those who are lost and have gone astray, Ask for God's help to come back to stay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

My Father has many mansions.

Enter into His rest.

lizdescant@gmail.com
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

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Mass is being offered online and on radio

Mass will be offered online on Facebook, YouTube, or on the radio at the following churches. Please visit the links listed below.

Our diocesan church parishes have been working hard to provide spiritual resources to the people of our diocese. Please continue to visit your church parish's Facebook page (you do not need a Facebook account, just click "not now" and view the content) or the diocesan website for updates, and pray for our diocesan priests and parish staff as they continue their ministry.

Thank you, parish secretaries and staff members for your hard work and dedication to continue to bring the message of Christ to all homes in our diocese!

Sunday

- 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (time varies) Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us (click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 9:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Facebook
Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:15 a.m. St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 10:00 a.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen on Facebook
St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle on Facebook
St. Patrick Church, Ferriday on Facebook
- 10:30 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- 11:00 a.m. Mass from St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans on Facebook
- 11:30 a.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville on Facebook or YouTube

Radio broadcast of Mass will be available on your radio on these stations:

- 7:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville KZLG-FM 95.5
- 8:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville - KLIL-FM 92.1

Monday - Friday

- 7:00 a.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth on Facebook or YouTube
- 8:00 a.m. Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us (click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 8:30 a.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:00 a.m. Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine on Facebook
- 9:15 a.m. (Latin) St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 12:05 p.m. Mass from St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans on Facebook
- 5:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube

Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:15 a.m. St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 4:00 p.m. Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us (click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 5:00 p.m. St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville on Facebook

View recorded Mass:

- St. Frances Cabrini Church on YouTube
- St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches on YouTube



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Please continue to visit www.diocesealex.org for updated livestream Mass times, as well as additional updates from the Diocese of Alexandria.

Other online Mass and service times are listed on the USCCB website.

Upcoming **VIRTUS sessions**

All VIRTUS sessions have been cancelled until further notice.

For more information call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.



Upcoming Retreats

All ACTS Retreats have been cancelled until further notice.

Please contact individual retreat organizers for more information about rescheduling.

Information will be updated periodically on the Diocese of Alexandria website as well.

A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/.

From disaster, an Easter people rise

By Carolyn Woo
Catholic News Service

I start this column with a heavy heart. A classmate's brother with the COVID-19 virus is fighting for his life on a ventilator in an intensive care unit. A classmate's daughter Lizzie, an oncology nurse in New York City, stands ready to be reassigned to the care of pandemic patients. Our son Ryan, a geriatrician, has been exposed to infected colleagues and patients while staying on the front line.

Despite the chaos, job loss, economic hardships, and massive suffering inflicted on an unprepared and hapless global community, the prism of COVID-19 casts shards of light that illumine certain truths about our personal, communal, and spiritual lives: who we are, who we are to one another, and who God is to us.

This plague has opened our hearts and minds to questions that we should have been asking all along: What is most important to us? Do we love well? What can we count on? What is our purpose here and now, and how do these relate to what God promises awaits us: eternal life?

It is ironic that the pandemic has come upon us during Lent: the designated time to give form to these thoughts through an examination of our self-centeredness, the gifts of ourselves we can make to others,

and time carved out to talk to God. For many people, COVID-19 has made these practices instinctive, pervasive, and integral to the way many of us now think and respond.

Being homebound, we discover new ways of being in our homes: not just shelter in place, but circles of belonging, love, affirmation, and commitment. With so many more waking hours together, we make it through our cranky and exhausted moments countered by the gratitude that we are safe in one another's company.

We talk, share fears, laugh, rediscover beloved games under dusty covers, travel on internet highways to aunts, uncles, grandparents, long-lost roommates, and somehow know, as Julian of Norwich did, that all will be well.

We pay attention to our loved ones, the little green buds on the trees that open a little more each day, crocuses, and first daffodils in neighbors' yards, cardinals, nuthatches, finches, juncos who take their turns at the bird feeders, and robins who poke their heads in the spring earth looking for worms.

Somehow the beauty and holiness of the earth shows what we do have: God whose creation shouts out to us how loved we are. We may not have a map of where we are headed, but we have the compass that points toward compassion and consideration as the way out.

Fear cannot hush as we bang our pots, pans, walking sticks, and fire poker against metal railings, or sway and jive to joyful rhythms across balconies and apartment windows.

Against the threat of physical harm, first responders, health professionals, essential services



providers, drivers, stockers, cashiers, et al., show up to do their part as we say "thank you" and desperately want it heard.

Nobody seeks the risks, but our sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, siblings, friends, and people whose names we will never know do it because they can, and because our well-being is worth it to them. In our vulnerability, we claim each other, sacrifice each other and know that we can only make it out together.

Another friend's grandson Keane chalk-painted on his driveway "Christ is here." Indeed, he is; he is risen and so are we. Our life is not from life to death as we age, but from death to life as we grow in love and connectedness.

Woo is distinguished president's fellow for global

development at Purdue and president of Catholic Relief University and served as the CEO Services from 2012 to 2016.

COVID-19 Note: Northwestern State has no intention of canceling ADVANCE at this time. However, if COVID-19 forces NSU to cancel ADVANCE prior to our start date, all enrolled students will receive a full refund for payments they have made toward the cost of the program.

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March 19, 2020 (applicants currently in grades 8 - 11)
May 8, 2020 (applicants currently in grade 7)

***REGULAR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE:**

April 10, 2020 (applicants currently in grades 8 - 11)
May 20, 2020 (applicants currently in grade 7)
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to join in praying the Coronavirus novena.

While we face the coronavirus pandemic, let us turn to the face of God in prayer and ask for His healing, His help, and His protection. Join in the Coronavirus novena at www.praymorenovenas.com, praying for all who are affected, all who are sick suffering, for all those who work in the medical profession, and for those who have died as well as for their grieving family members.

V Encuentro Prayer for Easter at a time of crisis

God of life and healing, you sent Your Risen Son to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus.

Grant us today a missionary spirit and send us forth to encounter our sisters and brothers by the ways that are within our reach; To walk with them in this time of crisis, to listen to their concerns with compassion, to respond to their fears with sensitivity, and to proclaim your Word with hope, so that they might feel your presence in flesh and blood in their homes.

Nourish us today as missionary disciples, and stay with us always, as we dedicate ourselves this Easter season to rediscover love, and share it in our families and with the whole human family.

We ask you this with burning hearts, filled with the Holy Spirit, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and under the loving protection of our Blessed Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. Amen.

Resources for ministry during COVID-19 crisis

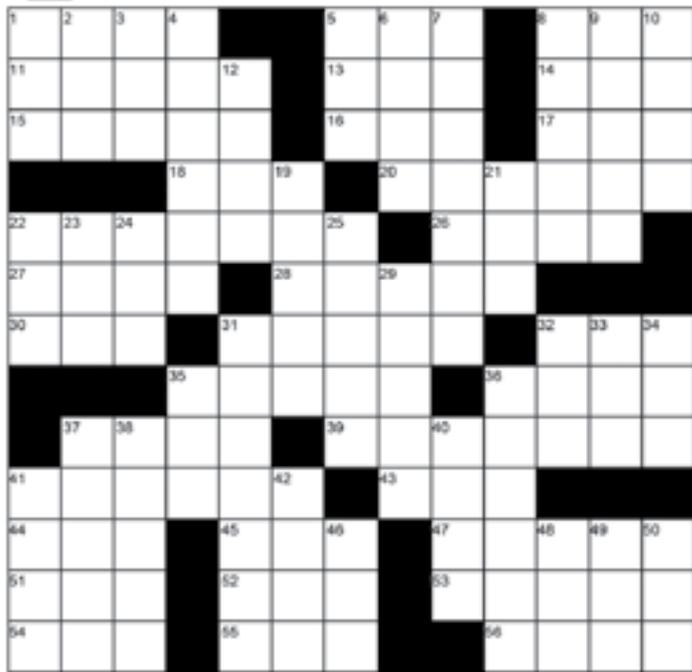
The V Encuentro has compiled a list of resources provided by partners and Catholic organizations that are meant to assist Hispanic/Latino pastoral ministers, parents, and all Catholics.

Included is a list of Masses being streamed online; online opportunities for adoration, praying of the Rosary, and Stations of the Cross; resources for prayer, worship and Mass in the home; links to prayers for Catholics, parents, and pastoral leaders; online resources for Catholic parents; resources for Directors of Faith Formation, catechists, and pastoral leaders; resources for youth, young adult, and campus ministries; resources for persons with disabilities; mental health resources, and software and resources to help pastoral ministers move their ministries online.

These resources can be found at www.vencuentro.org.

The Cross Word

May 3, 10 and 17, 2020



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Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1Pt 2: 20b-25; Jn 10:1-10 & Acts 6:1-7; 1Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12 & Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1Pt 3:1518; Jn 14: 15-21

ACROSS

- 1 Abbreviate (abbr.)
- 5 Type of spider
- 8 Reverence
- 11 Jesus healed more than one
- 13 Time frame
- 14 Doctoral degree
- 15 Music speed
- 16 Defeat
- 17 Big truck
- 18 End of Sale (abbr.)
- 20 Look up to
- 22 Coiled (2 wds.)
- 26 Quiet down

- 27 Pain
- 28 Matched, as in socks
- 30 Yang's partner
- 31 Vows
- 32 Kitten's cry
- 35 Computer language
- 36 Small particle
- 37 Permanently damage
- 39 Reporter
- 41 Key trait of a deacon
- 43 Evergreen tree
- 44 Deer relative
- 45 ___ Francisco
- 47 Fry briefly
- 51 Downwind
- 52 No room here

- 53 First among disciples
- 54 Solid-state drive (abbr.)
- 55 Bishop's turf
- 56 Tilt

DOWN

- 1 Alternative (abbr.)
- 2 Bumbling insect
- 3 Beats per minute
- 4 "___ and be baptized"
- 5 Stitch
- 6 Opera solo
- 7 Lighted on altar
- 8 Easter month
- 9 Eddy
- 10 Cliff rim
- 12 Crucifix
- 19 Berried shrub
- 21 Wet dirt
- 22 Reporter's question
- 23 French "yes"
- 24 Pot
- 25 British spelling for "paten"
- 29 Not the shepherd
- 31 Diffusion of water
- 32 Momma
- 33 Estimated time of arrival
- 34 Ashen
- 35 Succor
- 36 "House of ___"
- 37 10,560 feet
- 38 Requested
- 40 Thin strand
- 41 Lutheran church group
- 42 Horse hair
- 46 North northeast
- 48 Great Basin tribe
- 49 British drink
- 50 Sea eagle

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Talking about God and grief with children

By Laura Kelly Fanucci
Catholic News Service

February is a tough month for our family, bringing the anniversary of our twins' deaths. Each year I find myself answering hard questions from our sons about their sisters. Why did they die? Where are they now? Will I get to see them again?

As a parent who is theologically trained (and personally affected), I find it fascinating to reflect on children's perspectives on grief and loss. Kids ask the same questions as adults, crystallized to their purest form. They are unashamed to express intense emotion - if given safe space.

In past generations, well-meaning professionals counseled parents to protect children from life's losses. Research now affirms that both adults and children benefit from talking openly about death and learning to cope with loss in healthy ways.

A child old enough to love is old enough to grieve. Studies have shown that even the youngest children can be affected by the disruptions that grief brings to a family.

Here are three questions I often hear children (and adults) ask while grieving. While I'm not a clinical counselor or a

medical professional, I can speak to the theological realities behind these questions - and encourage you to draw from your own faith when children in your family are touched by grief.

Why did God let this happen?

The problem of suffering surfaces as quickly for children as for adults. Did God want this to happen? Why did God answer other prayers but not ours? How can we trust that God is still good?

Scripture speaks of God weeping with us (John 11:35), promising to destroy grief (Revelation 21:3), and desiring life, not death (Ezekiel 18:32). Sharing these stories with children can open up new ways of understanding God after loss.

Older kids and teenagers can tackle thornier discussions: the doctrine of free will, the nature of sin and the reality of evil. But for all who mourn, remembering that God remains with us in sadness and suffering is what we need to hear first and foremost when someone we love has died.

Will I die, too?

Children are quick to worry once faced with mortality. Will my mom and dad die now? If I get sick, am I going to die?

While we can assure kids that modern medicine is powerful, it's equally true that healing is a



mystery. Some people recover, some die and none of us will be here on earth forever. Faith means embracing mystery and trusting in what we cannot fully understand.

Reminding children of God's

particular love for them can bring comfort. God created them and knows them (Isaiah 43:1). God counts each of their hairs (Matthew 10:30). God calls them by name (John 10:3).

Are they in heaven?

Young children are often preoccupied with physicality. Where did my friend go? Why can't I see Grandpa anymore?

When we mourn at any age, it helps to remember what the Church teaches about salvation and resurrection. We pray that our beloved dead are in the hands of God. We hope to see them again in heaven. We stay connected through the communion of saints, asking them to pray for us, and believing they remain united with us in love beyond what we can see.

Grieving children (and adults) need reassurance and reminders of God's love through life's hard times. We don't have to hide the truth or offer easy answers in order to share God's comfort.

Sitting with kids' questions, making space for their emotions and surrounding them with love reflects our faith in the God who welcomed children and wept with mourners - the God who knows grief.

Fanucci is a mother, writer, and director of a project on vocation at the Colledgeville Institute in Colledgeville, Minnesota. She is the author of several books, including "Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting," and blogs at www.motheringspirit.com.

Martha Neil Anthony



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Psalm 47: 6
Responsorial Psalm
for May 24

How to add website shortcuts to the iPhone home screen

Masses and other services are being offered online through Facebook, YouTube, and individual church and ministry websites. Opportunities to encounter Christ and His Church abound. However, if your parent, grandparent, or even technology-challenged spouse or friend is having difficulty accessing these resources, you can help them gain quick access to the church service of their choice on their iPhone or iPad's home screen.

Let us show you how.

To add websites to your home screen that will appear like app icons, follow these steps:

1. Open Safari. Other browsers, such as Chrome, will not work for this process.
2. Navigate to the website you want to save to your home screen. Make sure you visit the

exact page you want to open through the shortcut.

3. Tap the "Share" button at the bottom of the page. It looks like a square with an arrow pointing out of the top.

4. In the list of options that appears, scroll down until you see "Add to Home Screen." Tap this option.

5. On the next screen, choose a name for the website shortcut on your home screen. You should see the link so that you can confirm it, as well as the site's favicon that becomes its "app" icon. Click "add" when you are done.

6. Now, just tap the new app on your home screen, and it will open the website in its own navigation window.

If you ever decide you want to remove the website shortcut, you can delete it just like you would any other app on your

phone.

TIP: You do not have to have a Facebook account to view content on Facebook. Just touch "not now" on the sign up window that pops up. You may have to do this more than once.

If you are viewing via the Facebook app, you can set who you see first on your newsfeed: tap the three lines on the bottom right, scroll down until you see Settings & Privacy, touch that and then touch Settings. Scroll

until you see News Feed Settings, touch News Feed Preferences, then Prioritize who to see first. Select the people/accounts you want to see at the top of your newsfeed. Select as many as you want.



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"As long as faith gives me strength I will always be joyful. Sadness ought to be banished from Catholic souls... the purpose of which we have been created shows us the path; even if strewn with many thorns, it is not a sad path. It is joyful even in the face of sorrow."

• Pier Giorgio Frassati •

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What we knead to know

By **Katie Prejean McGrady**
Catholic News Service

In early March, I went to Sam's Club to stock up for the coming shelter-in-lace order. On a whim, I put yeast and a large bag of flour into my cart. Having never baked bread before, it was the definition of a random purchase. Something in me thought bread may be hard to come by, so I wanted the ingredients to bake it myself if need be.

As things became more uncertain with schools and businesses closing, public Masses suspended and all my speaking events cancelled for the coming months, the very scary reality of "I'm not in control of any of this" began to live rent-free in my head.

The world seemed to stop, and answers were less clear each day. I found myself in my kitchen with nothing but time, a lot of all-purpose flour, and this shrink-wrapped pack of yeast, with the one thing I could control: learning how to bake bread.

A month into this, the yeast has definitely earned its spot in the fridge and my stand mixer has proven its weight in gold. The Great McGrady Bake Off happens daily, the 2-year-old ready to taste test everything.

So much has been lost in this pandemic - time with friends and family, the chance to worship together in our parishes, even

the feeling of security and safety. Uncertainty reigns supreme.

With the loss of control came a great sense of fear and panic, but with that a remarkable chance to stop, to settle and to trust, not just in my own plans or desires by perhaps in the bigger plans of an all-knowing God who never permits an evil from which a greater good cannot be accomplished.

As churches had to close their doors, priests and bishops became very creative with how to reach their people. The first week that public Masses were suspended in my diocese, my pastor did a Eucharistic procession throughout the whole parish territory, Jesus literally exposed in the monstrance on an altar in the back of a red Ford pickup.

Online conferences were developed, youth groups began gathering via Zoom and Skype, and a hunger began to grow within us - a hunger for the Eucharist and for our community. With that growing hunger, I am convinced we will see churches packed to the brim when this is over, people renewed in their desire to go to the Mass they have missed so much.

Bread goes through a few stages on its way to the oven. Measuring and mixing ingredients leads to kneading the dough, which some could argue is its own form of therapeutic punching. Then the dough rises, giving the yeast time to do its



job.

It's the rising of the dough that is perhaps the most important step. Letting the bread rise - giving it time to settle, rest,

and grow - is critically necessary to good bread. Throw it in the oven too soon, it's flat and dense. Let it rise too much, it overflows and cracks.

But if the rise is timed well, the yeast does its job - leavens the dough and converts sugar into carbon dioxide - and the bread becomes something truly lovely.

I think this pandemic has turned us into loaves of bread. We're mixed together, punched around by circumstances far beyond our control. We're sitting in a pan (our homes) rising slowly. And something truly remarkable is happening, if we give it time and pay attention to what God is doing rather than what we cannot.

Perhaps God is leavening us in this moment, converting us into something new - a people who hunger for Him, pay attention to our neighbors, make sacrifices for the common good and never again take for granted the gifts we've been given.

It may take some time. The rise doesn't happen immediately, after all. But maybe, if we're patient, we'll learn what we knead to know.

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author. She is project manager of Ave Explores from Ave Marie Press and logs over 100,000 travel miles a year speaking to audiences of all ages and sizes. She has her degree in theology from the University of Dallas and lives with her husband and daughter in Lake Charles, LA.

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?? Catholic Trivia Answer ??

The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one "great Sunday." These are the days above all others in which the Alleluia is sung. The Sundays of this time of year are considered to be Sundays of Easter, and are called, after Easter Sunday itself, the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays of Easter. The first eight days of Easter Time constitute the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord.

There are 50 days of Easter, beginning on Easter Sunday to Pentecost.

Answer:

Catholic Campus Ministry is provided at LSU of Alexandria, Louisiana College, and Northwestern State University. Contact any University for more information.

LSU of Alexandria:
Catholic Student Organization
Phone: 318-473-6494
lray@diocesealex.org

Northwestern State University
Catholic Student Organization
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dylan.browning@nsucatholic.org

Louisiana College Catholic
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Effects of COVID-19 on our Catholic Schools

By Thomas Roque, Sr.
Diocese of Alexandria



Overnight, our method and location of Catholic education has been transformed from face-to-face teaching in our brick and mortar schools to virtual learning from home. In that transformation, we are facing many challenges and the fear of an unknown future. While abiding by CDC recommendations and the Governor's directives, our dedicated teachers and principals are working hard on these challenges, which have tested our faith and show us that God is in charge. As superintendent, my faith is guiding me to trust firmly in Jesus to lead us through this pandemic.

Challenges now faced by our students and their parents:

- Academics
- Deadlines
- Promotions to the next grade
- Student social life interruptions prom, ring ceremony, awards days, sports
- Financial questions
- Sleepless nights

Even in dramatic challenges, such as with COVID-19 school closures, there are opportunities to give life lessons to your children. They have a rare opportunity to witness how your family adapts, to appreciate what was, and to be a part of creatively finding new ways to move forward with faith in better days ahead. They look to parents and teachers as models of how to endure with grace and mercy from God. During this Easter season, the gospels give us the best examples through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Just as Christ faced the ultimate sacrifice, so can we. What would Jesus do? How well are you carrying your cross? Are you engaged in daily prayers to our Father? Have you forgiven those who "know not what they do?" Are you supporting those whose struggles are greater than your own - the poor, vulnerable,

weak, and those suffering from anxiety: the sick, healthcare workers, unemployed, our leaders, our church, and, of course, our students and their parents?

Fear brings out the best and worst in people, yet "this too shall pass." Let us count our blessings. Some that have been shared with me include: a deepening of their faith, a closeness with their children as they work together at home to manage all the competing needs and stay engaged, learning new virtual learning technologies that were always available but underused and underappreciated, a newfound gratitude for family, friends, communities, and church that we sorely miss.

The faculties at our schools have been challenged to teach virtually, to share distance learning technologies with their students, and to communicate

electronically with parents and students daily and weekly. Regarding concerns about students getting academically behind, what do we do when schools open in August? We will do as any good teacher does at the start of a new school year - assess his or her students, pick them up where they are, teach them well, and move them to higher levels of learning, with encouragement and faith. Our Catholic educators will confront the challenges and become models for our students to emulate.

Catholic schools face a unique challenge - relying on tuition and fundraising to stay afloat, especially in uncertain times. While school closures impact our teachers, let's not forget the impact on families who "chose" a Catholic education for their children and pay the expense for their instruction in

an environment of faith. WE APPRECIATE YOU! I think of your struggles as you address changes at work, home, and now having to try to support your children academically at home the best you can, and I realize some simply cannot. We need to pray for all - our teachers, our students, and their parents that they may endure and may continue to choose a Catholic education in the years to come.

The best education that parents and teachers can give their children is to model their faith. Be not afraid. God's graces in times of challenge are truly life-changing. While the pandemic will subside, we all will have powerful new graces - gifts of the spirit and of wisdom to carry us into a bright new future for Catholic education.



EDUCATION CONTINUES ONLINE. Although learning has temporarily been taken out of the four walls of our classrooms, Holy Savior Menard teachers and students are continuing the educational process by utilizing Microsoft Teams within Office 365. All teacher/student communication, including video conferencing, instructional videos, assignments, and quizzes will take place through this platform.

Just a few weeks removed from our administrative response to the Alexandria tornado-developing methods to keep our students engaged if we are ever without our school building, our teachers have stepped up to the challenge of educating our students in a new way. We are confident that our students, already familiar with Office365, will embrace this technology. With the ability to keep virtually all students on track, HSM is thankful that our preparation and know-how will alleviate potential stress for students and families, especially graduating seniors.

While not an ideal shift in the middle of the semester, the seamless transition to an e-learning environment reminds us how special and unique our students and parents are - although we are delivering education in a new way, we are continuing the journey we started at the beginning of the year, to fully developing each student, mind, body, and soul. We will also begin sharing ideas, problem solving, and working together as a community as we readjust to a structured learning routine at home.

POSTPONED:

Holy Savior Menard Senior activities, all athletic events, and the production of Oklahoma have been postponed.

Please visit www.holysaviormenard.com for daily updates.

In the course of the day, the faithful should not omit to visit the Blessed Sacrament, which, according to the liturgical laws, must be kept in the churches with great reverence in a most honorable location. Such visits are a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, an acknowledgement of the Lord's presence.

– Pope St. Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei*

During the closure of our schools, the students from the Diocese of Alexandria Catholic Schools are eligible to receive meals (breakfast and lunch).

The list of school feeding sites can be found at www.diocesealex.org/latest-news/school-feeding-sites/

This information will be updated periodically on the Diocese of Alexandria website at www.dioceealex.org.

Maryhill Renewal Center is closed until further notice. If you were to attend an event or retreat at Maryhill, please know that it has been cancelled. Contact your event organizer for more information about rescheduling.

POSTPONED: Pilgrimage to the Holy Land originally scheduled for May 3-12, 2020

The pilgrimage with Fr. Bino Jacob to the Holy Land which was originally scheduled to depart May 3 has been postponed. For more information, visit www.pilgrimages.com/frbino

TENTATIVE: Last Day of School for Catholic Schools in the Diocese - May 15

Check the Diocese website for more information.

CANCELLED: Medjugorje Pilgrimage originally scheduled for May 19

The pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Dubrovnik with Father Derek Ducote and Fred Schoonover has been cancelled. For more information visit: catholicjourneys.com/md2020 or contact Fred Schoonover at (318) 359-2205.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

TENTATIVE: St. Mary's School, Natchitoches Graduation - July 13

Check the Diocese website for more information.

TENTATIVE: Holy Savior Menard Senior Graduation - July 14

Check the Diocese website for more information.

TENTATIVE: St. Joseph's School, Plaquemine Senior Graduation - July 15

Check the Diocese website for more information.

Pilgrimage to France - October 21-30

Fr. Martin Laird will lead a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France from October 21-30, 2020. The journey will include visits to the holy sites in Lourdes, Lisieux, and Paris with a special trip to the glorious Chartres Cathedral. More information can be found on the Magnificat Travel website at <https://holytravels.org/tours>.

Feast Days and Solemnities to observe in May 2020:

May 1: St. Joseph the Worker
May 13: Our Lady of Fatima
May 21: Ascension of the Lord
May 31: Pentecost

Cenla's Praise in the Parking Lot

Cenla's Praise in the Parking Lot was started by Miranda and Brittany Buchanan, who coordinated individuals to show their love and support for our frontline essential workers. Within a few hours of starting the event's Facebook page, more than 900 members were part of the Facebook group, and within a couple of days there were over 5,000 members. The group gathered together on April 2, flashing vehicle lights, waving hands, holding signs, and praying over our essential healthcare workers as the christian song "Waymaker" was played on Q93.

Let us continue to pray and show our support for our healthcare workers and professionals.



A prayer to St. Rose of Lima

St. Rose of Lima saved her city from an attack by pirates in 1615.

Dear St. Rose of Lima, in your life you gave yourself generously in prayer and self-sacrifice and were loved by Jesus as the dearest rose of His heart.

When blood thirsty men threatened your city, you threw yourself in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Your burning love strengthened you to vow to not leave Jesus alone to be crucified again. Your zeal compelled you to stand, ready to face the wicked foest.

By your loving prayer before God and heroic courage before the enemy, you saved your city.

Good St. Rose, plead for us today as we are threatened by a new enemy. May we be saved and spared, as our hearts burn with love for our God.

By your penance on earth and your prayers in heaven, may our Sweet

Savior turn to us who humbly seek His protection.

Most of all, may the evils of sin never touch our hearts.

Be for us a loving sister and a heavenly aid that Jesus may again be praised and loved ever more. Amen.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: May 25
Deadline for news:
Thursday, May 14



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Morgan Newton, Owner

May 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>APRIL 27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ</p>	<p>MAY 1</p> <p>FEAST of St. Joseph the Worker FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND</p>	<p>2</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN</p>
<p>4</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>	<p>6</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p>7</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Mother's Day PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>
<p>11</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. TIMMERMANS</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FEAST of Our Lady of Fatima PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p>15</p> <p>TENTATIVE: Last Day of School for Catholic Schools in the Diocese PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE</p>
<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>FEAST of the Ascension of the Lord PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>
<p>25</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>	<p>31</p> <p>PENTECOST PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>

**"So do not fear, for I
am with you;** do not be
dismayed, for I am
your God. I will
strengthen you and
help you; I will uphold
you with my righteous
right hand"

ISAIAH 41:10



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