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# CHURCH TODAY

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Volume LI, No. 8

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

August 31, 2020

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**SPECIAL EDITION**

## Welcome

**Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.**  
Thirteenth Bishop of Alexandria

### INSIDE

#### **Diocese welcomes Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. to Alexandria**

Reverend Monsignor Jozsef Forro, delegate of the apostolic nuncio to the United States, several bishops and almost 90 clergy joined the people of the Diocese of Alexandria in welcoming Bishop Robert Marshall to Alexandria on Aug. 20. See pages 14-15 for pictures from the day.

#### **Bishop Marshall looks forward to re-engaging people in the faith**

Bishop Marshall joined us in answering several questions about his life as well as his hopes for the Diocese of Alexandria. Find out more about our new bishop on page 19.

#### ***Stump the priest* and a new Student Spotlight**

The Office of Communications is excited to offer two new columns in the *Church Today* newspaper: *Stump the Priest* and *Student Spotlight*. See pages 22-23 for details.

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# *Congratulations!*

bishop robert marshall

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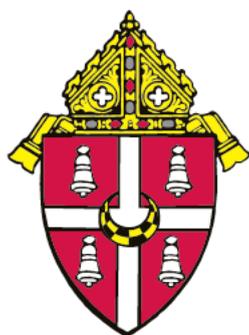
*May you remember all of the many ways God has touched people through your ministry in the Diocese of Memphis.*



*May He now endow you with an even deeper wisdom and ever deepening holiness as you guide the flock now entrusted to your care in the Diocese of Alexandria.*



*"You didn't choose me but I chose you and appointed you..."*



## DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

The staff of the St. Joseph Catholic Center  
joyfully welcome Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

# *Welcome Bishop Marshall!*

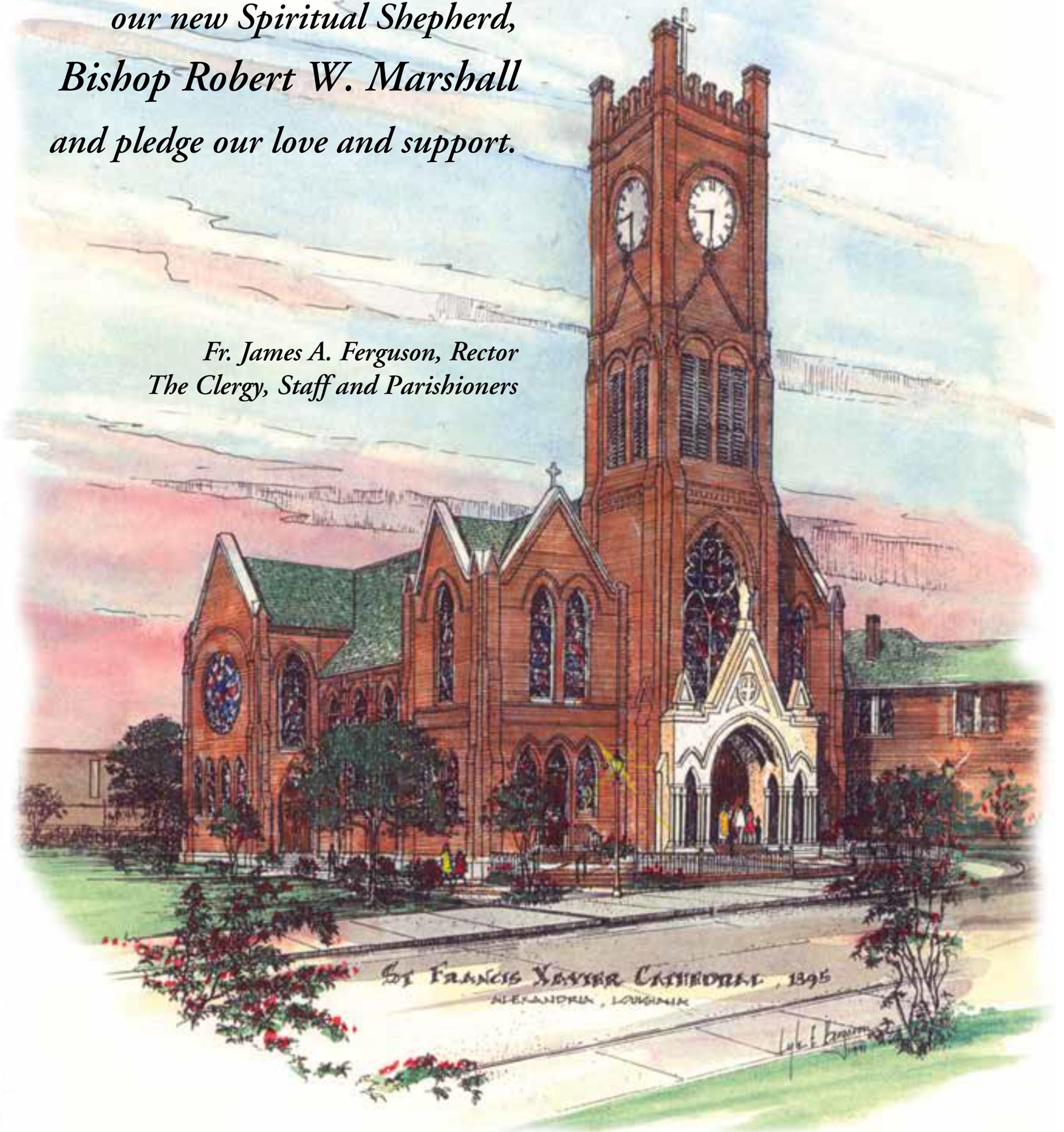


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# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL PARISH

*We extend a warm welcome to  
our new Spiritual Shepherd,  
Bishop Robert W. Marshall  
and pledge our love and support.*

*Fr. James A. Ferguson, Rector  
The Clergy, Staff and Parishioners*



# Letter of Welcome from Archbishop Gregory Aymond



Dear Bishop Marshall,

Welcome to the Diocese of Alexandria and CenLA!

We were delighted that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed you as shepherd of this local church, and I know that the people of God await you with open hearts and a spirit of gratitude.

As an apostolic administrator for the past year and a half, I have come to know the diocese to have very dedicated priests, deacons, women and men religious, and faith-filled laity. It is a church on the move as Pope Francis would say, and I believe that your appointment here will be one that will bring great solidarity to the diocese and help fulfill its mission of proclaiming Christ to all people.

The spirit of evangelization is certainly present in the Diocese of Alexandria and people are eager to proclaim Christ and to share their faith with others. I have no doubt that you will come to know and

quickly appreciate the people of the Diocese of Alexandria.

I have known you for many years, and I know that you are a man of faith, a dedicated priest, a good administrator, and will shepherd the people entrusted to your care with fidelity and loving pastoral care.

Once again, I welcome you to the Diocese of Alexandria and look forward to celebrating your ordination and installation.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am  
Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond  
Apostolic Administrator

GMA/jm



## *A Prayer for Bishops*

*God, eternal shepherd, you tend your Church in many ways and rule us with love. You have chosen your servant, Robert Marshall, to be a shepherd of your flock. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world.*

The prayers of Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop-emeritus Alfred C. Hughes, Bishop Fernand J. Cheri, the clergy, the religious, and the laity of the Archdiocese of New Orleans are with Bishop Robert Marshall as he begins his episcopal ministry as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria.



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**CHURCH  
TODAY**



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# Welcome Bishop Robert Marshall!

## A personal look at the man who is our new bishop

**Bishop Marshall tells us in his own words...**

**Age:** 61. Born June 17, 1959

**Hometown:** Memphis, Tennessee

**Background:** I come from a Catholic Family. My parents were graduates of Catholic schools. I went to grade school at St. Michael School (my parish school). I was an altar server from sixth grade and was a lector for school Masses and for parish Masses during my high school years. I first thought of priesthood in these early years.

**Catholic education a huge influence**

Like my father, my brother, my uncles and my male cousins, I attended Christian Brothers High School and graduated in 1977.

The Christian Brothers came to Memphis and opened a school in 1871. In the 149 year history of CBHS, I am the first alumnus to become a Catholic bishop.

After graduating from high school, I went to Christian Brothers College (now University) where I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History



**BISHOP MARSHALL'S SEMINARY YEARS.** Bishop Robert Marshall (in the back with the beard and ball cap) with fellow seminarian Father Louis Sklar, while on a mission trip in Nicaragua, South America.



**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL.** Bishop Marshall's high school graduation picture.

in 1980. I had enjoyed my time in college, and was somewhat involved in campus ministry, but my focus shifted to focusing upon a career. Any thoughts of priesthood were pushed aside as I settled on becoming a lawyer. I graduated from college in three years, largely because I tested out

of 32 credit hours as a result of the excellent education I had received in Catholic schools. I entered law school in the Fall of 1980 at Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis). I was a member of the Law Review staff and served as Articles Editor in my final year of school. While in law school, I began attending St. Anne Church (the parish which includes the university campus). I accepted an offer of an associate's position with a large St. Louis-based law firm – then Bryan, Cave, McPheeters & McRoberts (now Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner). I worked in their Banking and Real Estate Department and their Corporate and Securities Department. After three years in St. Louis with Bryan Cave, I accepted an offer to return to Memphis as a Staff Attorney in the Investment Banking Division of Union Planters National Bank. Though I had a couple of apartments and eventually purchased a home in various parts of town, I remained

an active member of St. Anne parish. Eventually, I was a lector, a choir member, a cantor, and a member of the RCIA team.

**Discernment**

As my activity in the parish grew, the investment banking business became more uncertain. I moved from one division to another within the Union Planters

corporate family and ultimately the bank sold the division and our department was closed down in 1994. As I began to look at my options – return to a law firm (private practice), seek a new job as a corporate attorney, or open my own legal practice – it became clear to me that I was only interested in law in order to make a living. My real



**LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION.** Bishop Marshall and his father and grandmother at his graduation from law school.

joy came from my work in the parish. I began discussing my future with the associate pastor at St. Anne, the late Father Gabe DiFederico, who encouraged me to consider priesthood as an option. I realized that my life was at a turning point. If I pursued priesthood and discerned away

family came to Memphis from New York/New Jersey by way of Virginia. They were employees of Virginia Bridge and Iron Co. and came to work on part of the Harahan Bridge. My father's mother came from a very Catholic family. When my father was 5 years old, his mother died. His

while riding the street car to high school that he met my mother. My father graduated from high school in May-June 1943 and was immediately drafted and entered the Navy. He served in the South Pacific during World War II and was discharged in 1946. As his family had no means to support him if he had gone to college, he got a job as a teller at Union Planters National Bank and worked for that same bank for more than 46 years.

He was also quite skilled with his hands. He made ceramics, counted cross-stitch, had a model railroad, did Native American inspired beadwork, and many other projects. For the last 5 years of his life, he had to use a wheelchair. Though his movement was restricted, he continued to produce his counted cross-stitch designs up until the month before his death in 2011. My mother cared for him throughout this time.

My mother was born Margaret Anne Martin in 1926. Both of her parents were cradle Catholics. My grandfather, Michael Lawrence Martin, was born and raised in Nashville. His father died when he was quite young and when his mother died some years later, he and his siblings were placed in St. Mary's Orphanage in Nashville. They gradually aged out and got jobs. My grandfather worked for the L & N (Louisville and Nashville) railroad which brought him to northwest Tennessee.

My grandmother, Anna Marie (Annie) Fitzsimmons was born in Benton County, Tennessee, in a town called Faxon that was flooded when they dammed the Tennessee River. She was the youngest of eight surviving siblings and was the only girl. She was sent to Catholic boarding schools for high school – first, St. Cecelia Academy operated by the Dominican sisters in Nashville, and then the school operated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky. Upon graduation, she got a job in a bank in nearby Paris, Tennessee. It was there that she met her future husband. They were married on November 17, 1924, in the first nuptial Mass to be celebrated in the newly built Holy Cross Church in Paris. Shortly after their marriage, my grandfather got a job at the new Sears Roebuck store in Memphis. He worked at Sears throughout the depression. Because of his

stable employment, he was able to help many family members through hard times.

They bought a house within walking distance to Blessed Sacrament Church and School. Because of that proximity, my grandmother was a natural substitute teacher when one of the

County). He is a preacher in a congregation of the Church of Christ. He has been married to the former Cheryl Sheets for over 30 years. They have two children: Caroline Marshall Mauney who married in 2019 (She has her own internet business.) and William F. Marshall who is on active duty in the United States Navy stationed in Meridian, Mississippi.



**ROBERT WILLIAM MARSHALL, SR.** Bishop Marshall's father and his two brothers, Ed and John Henry.

from it, I could always return to practicing law. But if I made a financial commitment to starting a practice or accepted a demanding job, I would probably never have the chance to consider priesthood again. So I took the leap of faith.

#### Family Foundation

My father, Robert William Marshall, was born in the family home in 1924. He was premature and not expected to live, but he somehow survived. My father's

father died a year later. My father was raised by his maternal grandmother – who was widowed by that time – and by his eldest brother. He grew up during the Great Depression and his family was poor. Nonetheless, he attended Catholic schools. His grade school was operated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY, and he attended Christian Brother College (High School), operated by the De La Salle Christian Brothers. It was



**PRIESTLY ORDINATION.** Bishop Marshall, his parents and brother at the reception following his ordination to the priesthood.



**Anna Marie Fitzsimmons Martin**

sisters was sick. As the school grew, she became a full time fifth grade teacher – though she was not paid for the first eight or ten years. She was certainly the first lay teacher at Blessed Sacrament School and one of the first in Memphis.

My mother went to Blessed Sacrament School and was taught by the Sisters of Mercy. She went to Catholic High School at the nearby Immaculate Conception parish where she continued to be taught by the Sisters of Mercy. Graduating in 1944, she entered Memphis State College (now the University of Memphis) where she obtained a degree in Biology. She worked for 11 years as a chemist at Quaker Oats Company. She stopped working shortly before I was born. She devoted herself (as did most women of her generation) to caring for me and for my brother who is five years younger. She was an active member of the Altar Society and Home and School Association at St. Michael parish and was a member of the Rosary Circle of the Ave Maria Guild. She often volunteered at Ave Maria Nursing Home and, in her later years, she was a resident in the Assisted Living facility of Ave Maria.

I have one brother, Patrick Martin Marshall, who is five years younger than me. He lives in Chino Hills, California (San Bernardino

### Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. Quick Glance

Age: 61  
Hometown: Memphis,  
Tennessee

Education:  
Bachelor of Arts in History:  
Christian Brothers College  
(now University), 1980

Juris Doctorate (Law):  
Memphis State University  
(now University of Memphis),  
1983

Master of Divinity: Notre  
Dame Seminary, New  
Orleans, 2000

Ordained a Priest: 2000

Pastor:  
Sacred Heart Church,  
Humboldt, TN  
St. Matthew Church,  
Milan, TN  
Church of the Ascension,  
Memphis, TN  
St. Francis of Assisi,  
Cordova, TN  
Cathedral of the Immaculate  
Conception, Memphis, TN

For the Diocese of Memphis:  
Presbyteral Council

College of Consultors

Chair of the Bishop's Annual  
Appeal Steering Committee

Diocesan Pastoral Planning  
Committee

Priests' Personnel Committee

Board of Trustees of Christian  
Brothers University

Vicar General

Delegate of the Apostolic  
Administrator

Father Paul Kunnumpuram, the staff and parishioners of  
**CHRIST the KING**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Simmesport, Louisiana



*Welcome!*

**Bishop Robert W. Marshall**

*Prayerful best wishes as you begin your ministry here!*



His Excellency,

**The Most Reverend  
Glen John Provost, D.D.,**

Bishop of Lake Charles,  
with the clergy, religious and laity of the  
**Diocese of Lake Charles**  
congratulate

**Bishop Robert W. Marshall**

on his ordination and installation  
as Bishop of Alexandria



***Welcome Bishop Robert Marshall!***

*We offer our prayers as  
you begin as our shepherd...*

*~ Father Chad Partain,  
Father Taylor Reynolds and  
Deacon Lawrence Feldkamp,  
the parishioners, faculty,  
staff and students*



***St. Frances Cabrini Church and School, Alexandria***



*Fr. Peter Kuligowski and the parishioners of*

***St. Joseph Church***

***St. Joseph, LA***

***Welcome!***

## **Bishop Robert Marshall**



*Fr. Peter Kuligowski and the parishioners of*

***St. Francis of Assisi Church***

***Waterproof, LA***



## **Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**

*Established 1905*

*and*

## **Saint Anthony of Padua School**

*Established 1931*

**Bunkie, Louisiana**

*Extend to*

***Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall***

***Heartiest Congratulations and Joyful Prayers***

***upon your appointment as***

***Thirteenth Bishop of the***

***Diocese of Alexandria***

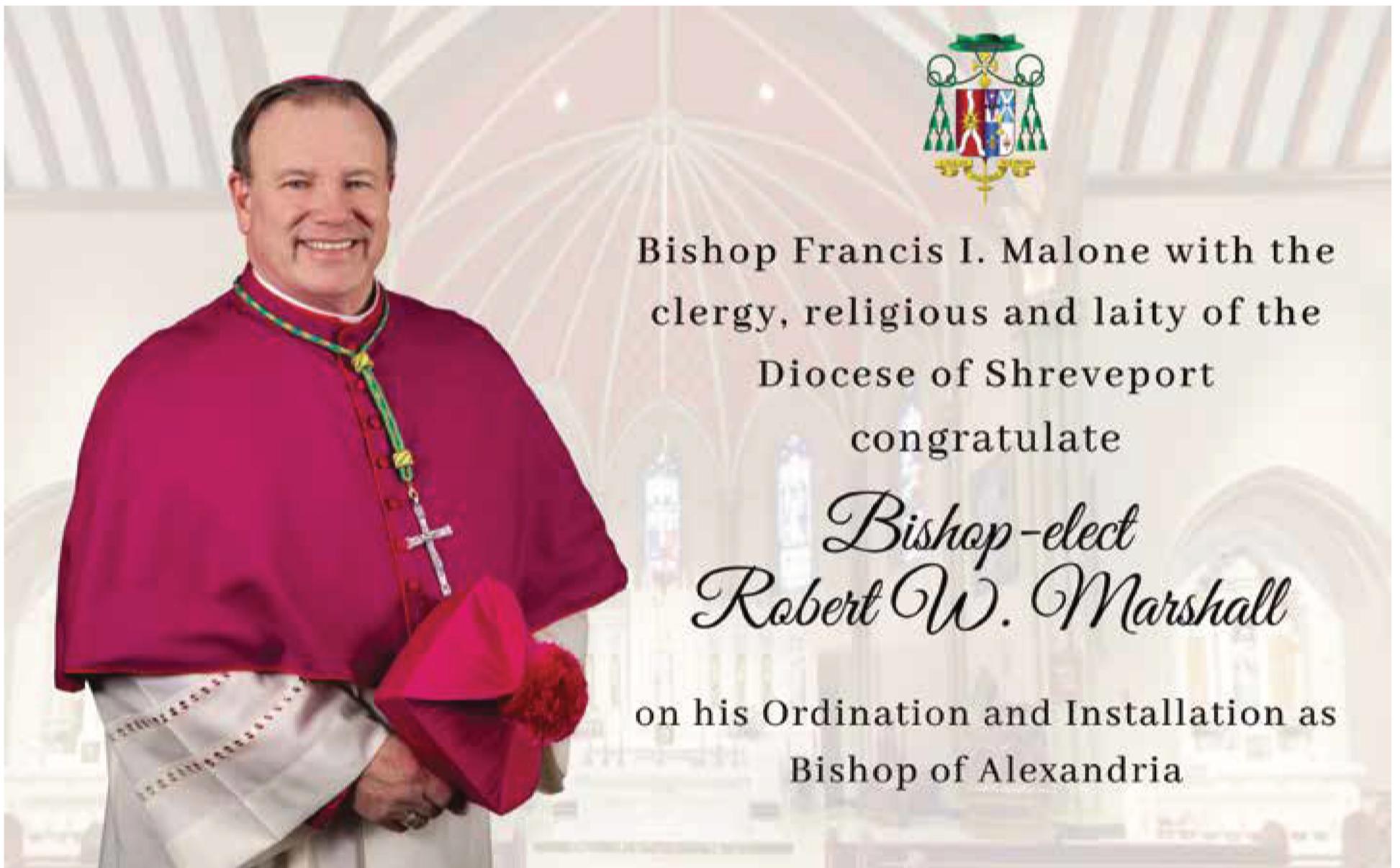
# Congratulations, Bishop Robert!

From your Brothers at  
Christian Brothers High School  
Memphis, Tennessee  
St. John Baptist De La Salle...

Pray for us!

Live Jesus in our hearts!

Forever!



Bishop Francis I. Malone with the  
clergy, religious and laity of the  
Diocese of Shreveport  
congratulate

*Bishop-elect  
Robert W. Marshall*

on his Ordination and Installation as  
Bishop of Alexandria



(back row, left to right: Brother Patrick Conway FSC, Brother Robert Werle FSC, Brother Dominic Ehrnmantrauf FSC, Brother Michael Schmelzer FSC, Brother Thomas Sullivan FSC, front row, left to right: Brother Walter Schreiner FSC, Brother Terence McLaughlin FSC, Brother Joel Baumayer FSC, Brother Mark Gubbels FSC, Brother Ignatius Brown FSC)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIEND BISHOP ROBERT W. MARSHALL**  
**May "Jesus Always Live In Your Heart"**

The Lambert Hall Christian Brothers Community of

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**NOTRE DAME SEMINARY WELCOMES**

**Bishop Robert W. Marshall**

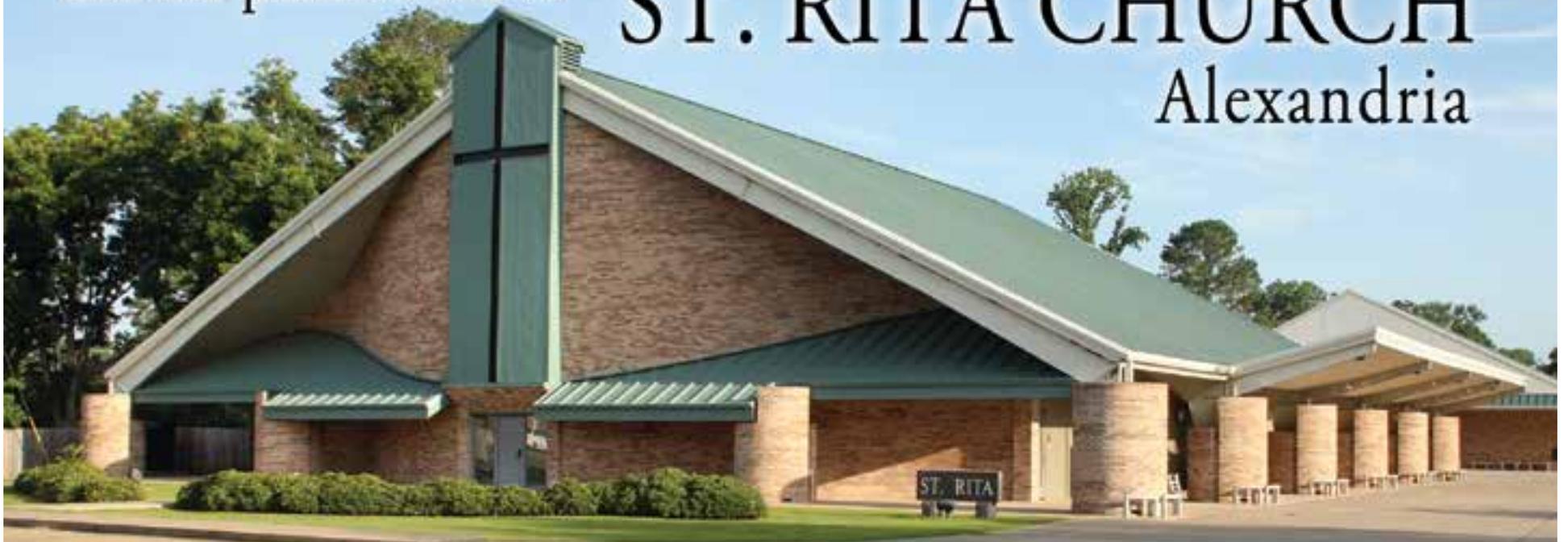
**NDS Alumnus and The Diocese of Alexandria's New Faith Leader**

*The Very Reverend James A. Wehner, Rector/President,  
and the seminarians, faculty, and staff at Notre Dame Seminary  
offer prayerful congratulations and best wishes as you begin  
your faithful service to the Diocese of Alexandria.*



**NOTRE DAME SEMINARY | WWW.NDS.EDU | (504) 866-7426**

Father Anthony Dharmaraj, Father Luke LaFleur  
and the parishioners of **ST. RITA CHURCH**  
Alexandria



*Extend a warm welcome to Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.  
and wish you many wonderful years with us!*

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston sends

**Prayers and Congratulations**

to

*Bishop*

**Robert W. Marshall, Jr.**

The Diocese of Alexandria has great reason to rejoice  
at Pope Francis' appointment  
of their new Bishop, Robert Marshall.

Bishop Marshall, be assured of our prayers for you  
as you shepherd the Lord's Church in Louisiana.

May your days there be many, fruitful and joyful.



Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Auxiliary Bishop George A. Sheltz

Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza

Retired Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto

The Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

*Prayerful Welcome to  
Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall  
as Thirteenth Bishop of Alexandria*



*The priests, deacons and the parishioners of  
St. Joseph Church, Marksville*

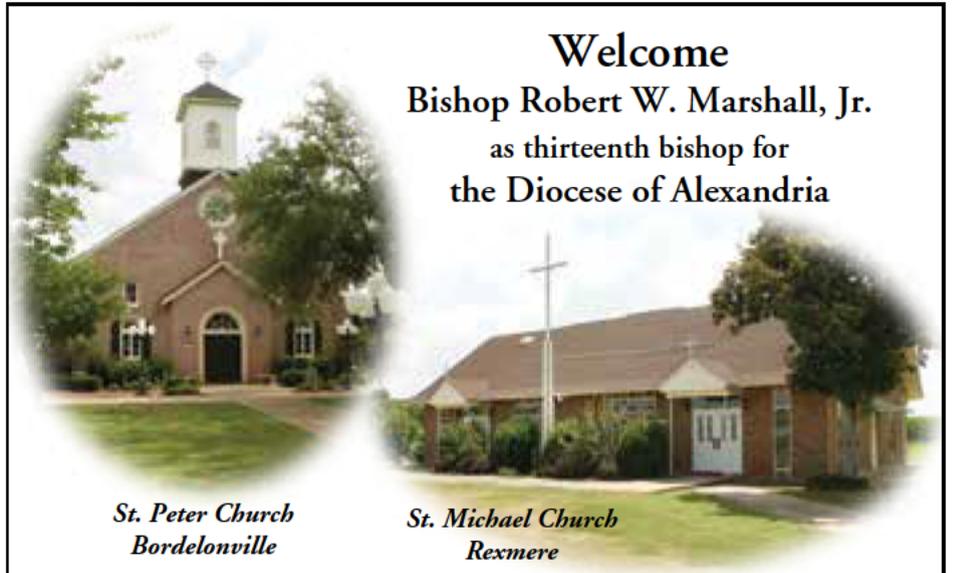
**Congratulations • Felicidades  
Obispo/Bishop Robert W. Marshall**

from the clergy  
and people of the  
Diocese of Little  
Rock. May God  
bless you.

de parte del clero  
y el pueblo de la  
Diócesis de Little  
Rock. Que Dios lo  
bendiga.



† Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock  
Obispo de Little Rock



**Welcome  
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.  
as thirteenth bishop for  
the Diocese of Alexandria**

*St. Peter Church  
Bordelonville*

*St. Michael Church  
Rexmere*

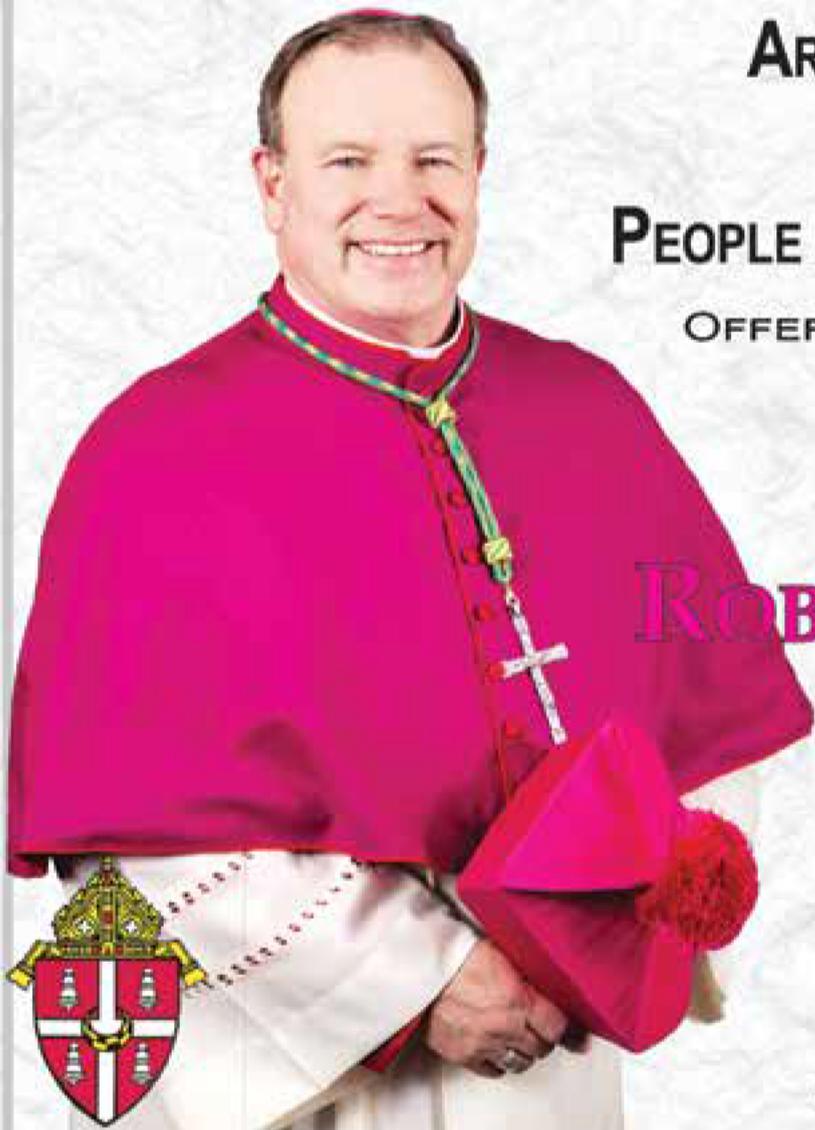
**ARCHBISHOP THOMAS J. RODI  
AND THE  
PEOPLE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE  
OFFER PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES TO**



**MOST REVEREND  
ROBERT W. MARSHALL, JR.**

**AS HE BEGINS HIS SERVICE AS THE  
THIRTEENTH BISHOP  
OF THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA**

*WE PRAY GOD WILL SHOWER ABUNDANT BLESSINGS UPON HIM.*



# Mass of Episcopal Ordination and Installation August 20, 2020 • St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

## Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Jr., Thirteenth Bishop of Alexandria



**SOLEMN VESPERS.** Bishop-elect Marshall knocks three times on the door of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral preceding Solemn Vespers, Wednesday, Aug. 19.



**ORDINATION OF BISHOP ROBERT MARSHALL.** Archbishop Gregory Aymond lays his hands on Bishop-elect Marshall's head and at that moment, he becomes a bishop. All of the bishops present also lay hands during this part of the ordination rite.



**LEFT:** Bishop-elect Marshall with the bishops and priests, gathering outside of the cathedral prior to the ordination Mass.

**RIGHT:** Bishop-elect Marshall presents to the congregation the Papal Bull from Pope Francis that states his assignment as bishop of Alexandria.

**BOTTOM (LEFT):** Bishop-elect Marshall, Fr. Scott Chemino and Fr. Craig Scott, processing into the cathedral.



*Visit the Diocese of Alexandria website at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) for more pictures from the day.*

*All pictures by Lilly B. Photography.*



**THIRTEENTH BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA (LEFT):** Bishop Robert W. Marshall becomes the thirteenth bishop of Alexandria when he sits on the cathedra at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Archbishop Gregory Aymond applauds along with the entire congregation.



**ABOVE:** Bishop Marshall delivers his first remarks after being ordained as thirteenth bishop of Alexandria. It was an emotional moment for everyone.

**BELOW: (RIGHT)** Due to the restrictions because of COVID-19, the capacity of the cathedral was reduced by fifty percent. Representatives from the churches within the diocese of Alexandria had to watch the ordination and installation remotely via livestream at the Divine Providence Center at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria.

**BELOW: (CENTER)** As a co-consecrator, Bishop Talley joins in the gesture of laying on of hands.



**ABOVE:** Bishop-elect Marshall lays prostrate while the Litany of Saints is sung.

**BELOW:** Archbishop Aymond anoints Bishop-elect Marshall with sacred chrism.



**RIGHT:** The bishops from bottom left to right: Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Bishop Terry Steib, Bishop Robert Marshall, Bishop Joseph Kopacz, Bishop David Talley, Msgr. Jozsef Forro; second row: Bishop Mark Spalding, Bishop Emeritus Robert Muench, Bishop Francis Malone ; back row: Bishop Glen Provost, Bishop Douglas Deshotel, Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs, Bishop Michael Duca.





THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE  
MILITARY SERVICES, USA,

JOINS

*Archbishop Timothy Broglio*

IN CONGRATULATING

*Bishop Robert W. Marshall*

ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS ORDINATION

AS THE

BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA, LA.

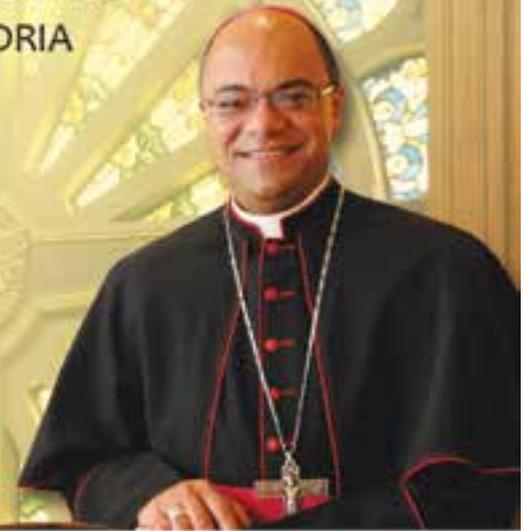
CONGRATULATIONS  
AND PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES TO

*Bishop Robert W. Marshall Jr.*

ON HIS ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

THIRTEENTH BISHOP OF THE  
DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

MAY YOU ENJOY  
GOD'S GRACE AND  
BLESSINGS  
IN THE YEARS AHEAD



+ *Abelton J. Silva*

and the  
Catholic faithful  
of the  
Diocese of  
Houma-Thibodaux



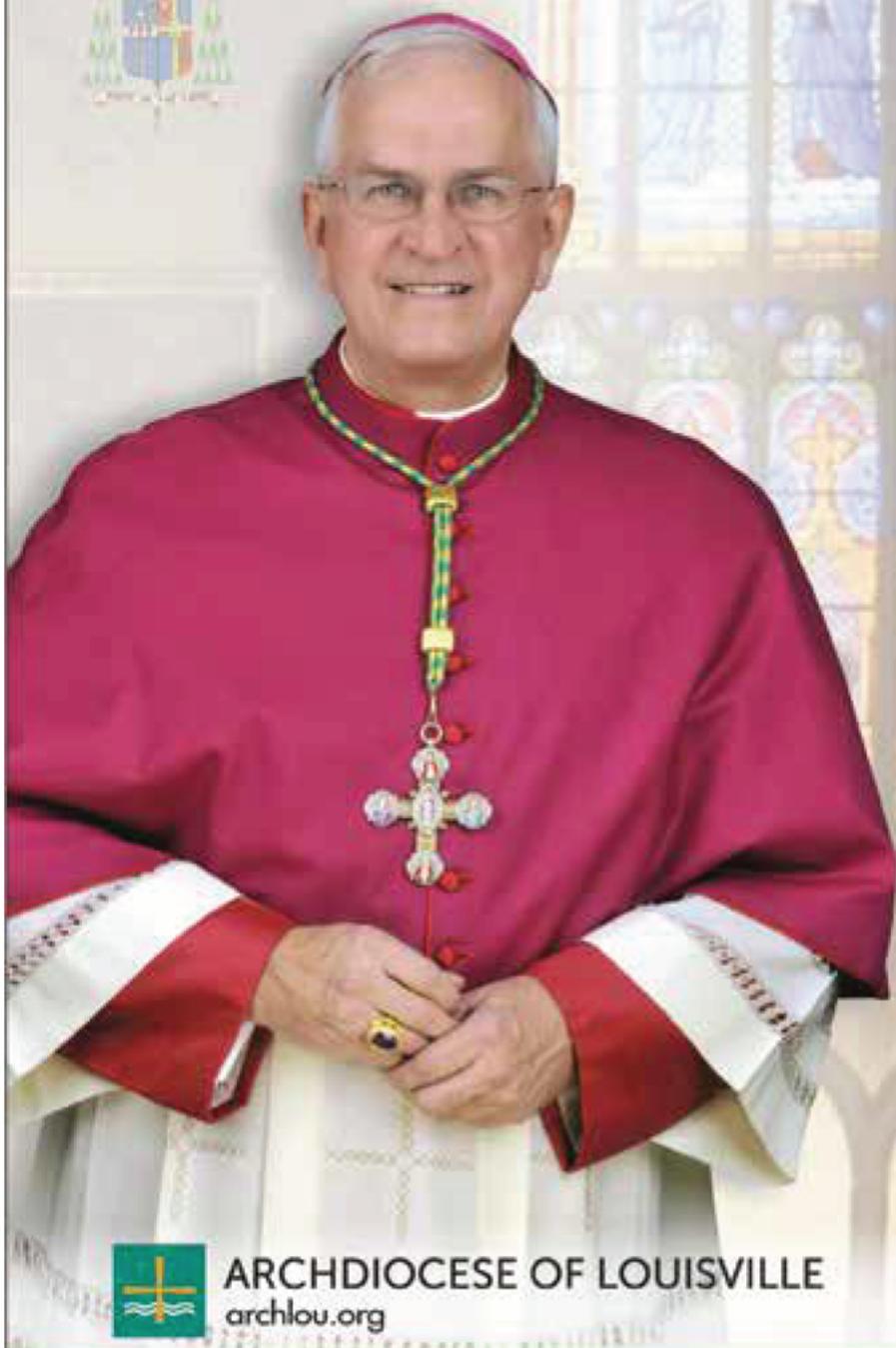
BISHOP JOSEPH R. KOPACZ  
AND THE DIOCESE OF JACKSON EXTEND

*congratulations*

*& best wishes*

TO BISHOP-ELECT  
ROBERT W. MARSHALL  
AS YOU BEGIN YOUR MINISTRY IN  
THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

*The Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.  
and the clergy, religious,  
and lay faithful of the  
Archdiocese of Louisville  
send prayers and best wishes to  
Bishop Robert W. Marshall,  
son of the Province of Louisville,  
on his ordination as the  
thirteenth bishop of the  
Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana.  
Ad multos annos!*



 ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE  
archlou.org

**Welcome from St. Martin Church  
Lecompte, Louisiana  
and  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church  
Forest Hill, Louisiana**

The families and parishioners of St. Martin Church in Lecompte welcome Most Rev. Robert Marshall as our new bishop.



May the Good Shepherd bless you and strengthen you in your new ministry serving the People of God in the Diocese of Alexandria.



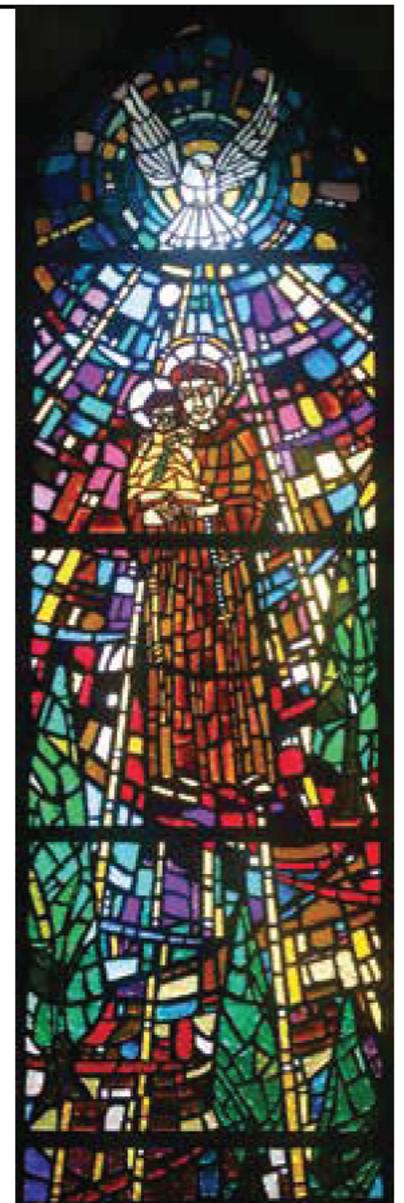
Bienvenidos, Señor Obispo Robert Marshall a la Diócesis de Alexandria! Recibe un fuerte abrazo de las familias y todos de la Misión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Forest Hill.

Que el Señor le bendiga en su ministerio de servicio al Pueblo de Dios en Alejandria. Que el amor y la intercesión de la Virgen del Guadalupe estén siempre consigo.

MAY THE LOVE  
OF JESUS LIVE  
IN YOUR HEART  
AND MARY'S  
MANTLE OF LOVE  
SURROUND YOU  
AS WE WELCOME  
YOU AS OUR  
SHEPHERD!

*– Father John O'Brien  
and the parishioners of*

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**  
NATCHITOCHE



*Welcome Bishop Robert Marshall  
and congratulations on your Ordination and Installation as thirteenth Bishop of Alexandria  
We extend to you our best wishes as you begin your ministry in this wonderful diocese!  
Your neighbors at Financial Solutions Group, LLC*

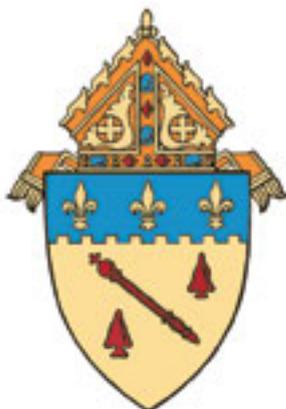


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***We, the Church of Baton Rouge,  
express our heartfelt  
congratulations to  
Bishop-Elect Robert W. Marshall  
and the  
Diocese of Alexandria  
on your Episcopal Ordination.***

***We pray that God will bless  
and guide you.***



**Bishop Michael G. Duca  
Diocese of Baton Rouge**

## Bishop Marshall looks forward to re-engaging people in the faith

*Tell us about your Christian upbringing. Always Catholic?*

I have always been Catholic. I was baptized in Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Church in north Memphis. We moved to east Memphis shortly before I was two years old. I attended St. Michael School (staffed by the Sisters of Charity of Nashville), Christian Brothers High School, and Christian Brothers College (now University). I received First Communion in 1966, was invested as an altar boy in 1971, and was confirmed in 1973 (all at St. Michael). I was a lector since sixth grade and was a member of the parish liturgy committee and a master of ceremonies for the Easter Triduum when I was in high school. I remained active in these ministries during my three years of college, but backed away from most of them when I entered

law school. During law school, I began attending St. Anne Church on Highland Street (in Memphis, it is called St. Anne Highland) which is near the university campus. Eventually, I joined the choir and became a cantor at St. Anne. I celebrated my first Mass at St. Anne on June 11, 2000.

I do not remember a time when I was not closely connected to the Catholic faith. In school and in the home, everything was centered on faith.

*Which three ministries have been dearest to your heart, and why?*

I have loved my time in parish ministry – and it is difficult to separate one aspect of parish work from another. I enjoy celebrating the sacraments – presiding at liturgy and preaching. As that is the primary work of a priest, that is obviously dear to

my heart. We gather as Church around the Altar of God for the celebration of the Eucharist. It is a great privilege to lead the people of God in this great act of worship and thanksgiving.

I have taught a number of adult education classes and I find that I enjoy teaching. It is, I suppose, an extension of preaching, but represents an opportunity to really explore a topic, to bring new insight and a different perspective to a familiar topic.

Because of my own wonderful experience in Catholic schools, I have valued my time as a pastor with parish schools. Seeing students every day and encouraging their faith has been a great gift.

*When you first learned of your appointment, what went through your head?*

I was absolutely speechless when I spoke to Archbishop Pierre. I asked for some time to think and pray about what was being asked of me. It was the prospect of being a bishop, a successor to the Apostles, that was daunting – not where I was being asked to serve. I did wonder if I was ready to leave

my home town. Had either of my parents been alive and not in good health, I might not have had the courage to accept. But with my mother's death in 2018, it seemed as though I was ready for something new.

*What is your first impression of Alexandria?*

My first impression was colored by the fact that my current bishop was also my predecessor. Bishop Talley spoke of the Diocese of Alexandria with such affection that it was impossible not to pick up some of that great love. Add to that the fact that I knew some of the priests of Alexandria from my time at Notre Dame Seminary – it felt like it could be home. Even with the physical distancing and the restrictions of the pandemic, the people of the area have been very kind and welcoming.

*What will you miss the most about leaving your home in Memphis?*

I have spent almost my entire life in Memphis. I will miss all of the people I know there. No matter how long I live here, I will never have the history, the common ground, that I have with the people of Memphis.

*What are you most looking forward to in your new position as bishop?*

Having never been a bishop before, I am not sure I know what to look forward to. I know that I have been grateful when, as a priest, I have received the support and encouragement of my bishop. I hope to be similarly supportive and encouraging for our priests. And I recognize that this pandemic has presented all of us with a unique challenge – re-engaging people in the faith after this long period of absence and distance. That is something this time in history has thrust upon us and I hope to be up to the task.

*Explain the meaning behind your motto: "Live Jesus in our hearts."*

My motto is directly related to my experience with the Christian Brothers in high school and college. The prayer is attributed to St. John Baptist de La Salle. LaSallians begin each period of prayer with the statement, "Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God." We conclude each period of prayer with the phrase, "Live Jesus in our hearts," to which the assembly responds, "Forever." Reminding ourselves that we are always in God's presence and inviting His Son to make his dwelling – to become incarnate – in our hearts is the essence of LaSallian spirituality – and of our Catholic faith. Jesus is not some remote, far removed, "hands off" being. Made in God's image and likeness, we are reminded of how close God is to us, how much He longs to be welcomed into our hearts.

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Youth of the Diocese continue to learn, support each other, and celebrate their communities! See below or visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) to see more pictures of life in the Diocese.



**RITE OF ADMISSION.** The Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders was held Friday, July 24 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Seminarian Donnie Kuzma was accepted and will continue attending Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for priestly formation. Please pray for Donnie and all of our seminarians.

**SCHOOL BLESSING.** Students, faculty, and family members gathered at St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie for a special prayer service on Aug. 10. Father Scott Chemino, Mrs. Michelle Reynolds, and Ms. Melissa East led everyone in prayers of protection and peace.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.** John Morovich, Diocesan Coordinator of the Knights of Columbus, is pictured above presenting a check to Father Scott Chemino and Bishop-elect Robert Marshall. All six Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assemblies contributed to the Excellence in Religious Education donation.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL. (ABOVE)** Sacred Heart School held its 8th grade graduation Mass and Commencement Ceremony on July 16. Fr. Jose Pallipurath celebrated the Mass, and homeroom teacher, Mrs. Katie Freeman, and principal, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy conducted the commencement exercise. Music was provided by Sr. Cristina Angelini and Mrs. Karen Moreau. Sacred Heart would like to congratulate all of our graduates and their parents. Many thanks to all of the faculty and staff, and photographer, Mrs. Jan Bordelon for helping with this year's graduation.

**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MANSURA.** Confirmation was held on July 18. Pictured above, Evelyn Simon (Teacher's aid), Julia Boston (11th grade teacher), [redacted] Father Irion St. Romain, [redacted]



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD.** [redacted], daughter of Matthew and Jean Derr Bushong made her First Communion on July 25. Due to the COVID Epidemic, she was unable to celebrate her First Communion with her class of over one hundred children in Colorado. (RIGHT) Jacque and Laure Derr celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 25. Father Brian Seiler was the celebrant for the family Mass, presenting the couple with an Apostolic blessing from Pope Francis.

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**SACRED HEART, MOREAUVILLE.** Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville celebrated First Holy Communion on June 20 (above, left).

**MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS.** The largest First Communion class in the parish's history, celebrated their First Communion on Friday, July 17.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES, FIFTH WARD.**



**HOLY GHOST CHURCH.** The First Holy Communion Mass was held at Holy Ghost Church in Marksville on July 25.

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# Answering the internet's most asked questions about Catholicism

Welcome to our new section of the Church Today, entitled Stump the Priest, where we ask one of our own diocesan priests a handful of short questions about the faith. Questions can range from anything covering God, creation and man, Catholic beliefs and practices, prayer, and more.

This question and answer forum is intended to help give a greater certainty that God exists, that He loves us, and that His truth will lead us to peace and happiness. In this month's Stump the Priest column, we welcome Father Luke LaFleur, newly appointed Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Alexandria. Please keep Fr. LaFleur and all of our seminarians and deacons in prayer.

## Q. Did Jesus have a last name?

A. A last name, as we understand it today, refers to the name that is given to a particular household. This is to let people know who is a person's family and to help distinguish others who may have the same first name. This concept is similar to Jesus' time. As we read in the Bible, people were identified by their parents, especially their father. Peter was called "son of Jonah," and even Jesus Himself is referred to as the "son of Joseph" by the people of His native town of Nazareth since St. Joseph was the foster father of Christ. With this in mind, it gives even greater significance to the title of Jesus as "Son of God," which further highlights Jesus' Divine Nature and His relationship with God the Father.

Sometimes, people were identified by the place where they grew up. For example, the sign that hung upon the Cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

Whenever we hear Our Lord called "Jesus Christ," we are not saying that "Christ" is Jesus' last name; rather, "Christ" is a title that is given to Jesus, which means "Anointed One." It is a reminder for us that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. So, while Jesus may not have had a last name in the same sense that we do today, He was remembered as Jesus the son of Mary and Joseph, and most importantly, Jesus the son of God.

## Q. Is the church really necessary? Doesn't it really come down to your personal relationship with God?

A. Think about it this way: if God took all the trouble to become man, be raised in a family, spend 3 years teaching us about the Kingdom of Heaven, suffer and die for us, and then rise from the dead, wouldn't He make sure that after He ascended into Heaven, He would leave behind some way or institution that assured that His followers lived out what He taught? This is precisely the purpose of the Church and why it IS necessary. The role of the Church is to continue Christ's saving mission here on earth and to pass on the teaching of Christ and His Apostles. Of course, Christ gave us the Holy Spirit to guide the Church, but remember that He first gave the Holy Spirit to His Apostles on the Day of Pentecost. These Apostles are the ones who passed on the message

of the Gospel to the rest of the world. This oral transmission of the Gospel is what we call Tradition, and just like Sacred Scripture, this Tradition is divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. Our personal relationship with God is important, and we should daily seek to love Him more and more, but as with any relationship, it must be founded on truth. The teaching of the Church helps us make sense of Scripture and how the Holy Spirit is speaking to us in the written Word.

## Q. How does one become Catholic?

A. For any adult who is interested in becoming Catholic, they would go through the process of what the Church calls The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.). This is a series of instructions, which are typically once a week, about the Catholic faith which usually begins in the Fall and lasts until the Eater Vigil (the Saturday before Easter). At the Mass of the Easter Vigil, those who have completed R.C.I.A. fully enter into the Catholic Church and receive the appropriate Sacraments. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the nearest Catholic Church in your area to register for R.C.I.A. classes.

## Q. How does the Church decide who becomes a saint?

A. It's important to remember that anyone who is in Heaven is considered a saint, but the Church does have an official "canon" of Saints who can be venerated by Catholics around

the world. Anytime someone is canonized, it means that he or she is added to this list of Saints by the Church. For someone to be considered a saint, the deceased person must first be recognized by their holiness of life, and in turn, their life should inspire others within their local area to pursue holiness themselves. In other words, there must be some form of public devotion to him or her and a widespread desire for them to be considered a candidate for canonization. This is what they Church calls *fama sanctitatis*.

Pope Francis recently distinguished 3 types of people who could be considered for canonization: those who are martyred for the faith; those who lived a life of deep prayer, and were an example of great charity to those around them; and, lastly, those who died from a result of heroic charity. These people were not executed like the martyrs, but rather died because of some great act of selflessness. St. Damian of Molokai is a great example of this category. Although he was not martyred for the faith, he died as a result of leprosy which he

contracted while ministering to the leper colony in Molokai.

## Q. What are you most looking forward to in your new role as Director of Vocations for the diocese?

A. One of my goals as Vocations Director is to visit the schools, universities, and youth groups in our diocese in order to help promote vocations. One of the things I enjoyed most in Natchitoches was visiting St. Mary's Catholic School and getting to know the students. Truly, every priest should be a local promoter of vocations in their respective parish(es), but it is helpful for young men and women to be able to meet the Vocations Director and know the face and name of the priest assigned to help them on their path of discernment. It is my hope that being more visible throughout the diocese, it will make it easier for anyone who is discerning a call to priesthood or religious life to approach me or any other priest who can guide them as they figure out God's call for them.



We welcome  
Father Luke LaFleur  
as the new  
Director of Vocations  
for our diocese!

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# Parish Spotlight: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville

## Established 1932

During the colonial period, priests from Natchitoches would minister in the Alexandria/Pineville area, usually during the Ember days – those special days for fasting.

In the 1840's and 1850's, the pastor of St. Francis Xavier would cross the river to minister to scattered Catholic settlements in Holloway Prairie, Cotile, Plaisance and Calcasieu.

In 1877, Bishop Francis Leray blessed a mission chapel in Pineville and dedicated it in honor of St. Louis, King of France.

In 1881, the chapel was rebuilt on Lakeview Street by Fr. Menard and rededicated in honor of the Sacred Heart. A new orphanage, dedicated in honor of St. Joseph, was built on Lakeview Street in 1917.

On November 2, 1932, Bishop Daniel Desmond established the parish and appointed Fr. E. B. Scallon as the first resident pastor.

In 1951, plans were drawn up for an even larger church to be built on lands belonging to the Aertker family. The new church, was blessed by Bishop Charles Greco on December 21, 1955.

Two missions were established: Immaculate Heart of



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE.** On the land at 600 Lakeview Street that was donated by the Aertker family.

Mary in Tioga in 1952 and St. John's in Wardville in 1953

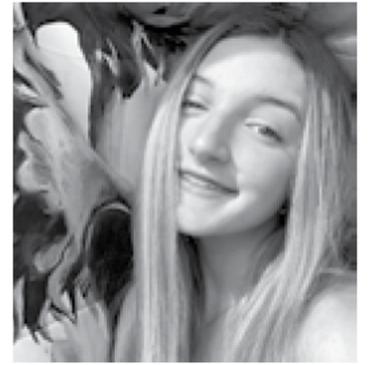
In 1971, the sanctuary was renovated. Bishop William Friend dedicated the new Activities building in 1984. A new community center was built between the church and the old school building in 1986. In 1988, Bishop John Favalora blessed the new Youth Center. The sanctuary

was renovated again in 2004. Extensive renovations to the rectory were completed in 2007.

Today, Sacred Heart of Jesus offers many vibrant ministries including a food pantry, thrift store, Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard, three choirs and a contemporary praise band, Wednesday night parish supper, adult bible study, and much more.

## Student Spotlight

Maria [redacted] is a freshman [redacted] School, and attends both Sacred Heart church in Pineville, and Saint Edward's church in Fishville.



Maria [redacted]

She attends CCD at Sacred Heart, and loves reciting the rosary and praying with her family. Maria made her first communion and is an altar server at St. Edward's church, where she helps the priest prepare for communion and rings the Sanctus bells. She loves her church family and community, and learning about Jesus. Her interests include bible study, school, going to the gym, participating in extracurricular activities, playing guitar, and spending time with her friends.

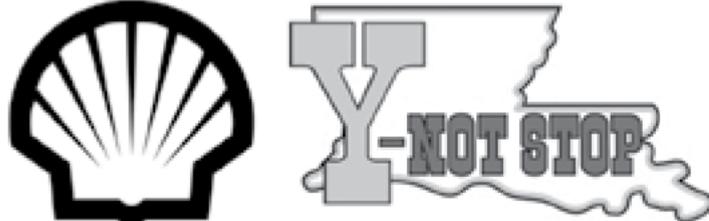
In the past, Maria wanted to be a police officer, since her parents are both officers. However, she is now interested in becoming an attorney, with the desire to help people in the community.

Maria is the daughter of Robert and Belinda [redacted], and is the last of three children, with an older brother and sister.

"Mia is an inspiration to her peers in CCD and at Youth Group meetings and lock-ins. She is always willing to help out her church community with anything from filling Food Pantry bags for Sacred Heart Church's Food Pantry, to helping with Vacation Bible School and the Church Fair. She is also our note taker when she attends youth conferences. Mia always has a smile on her face, and encourages her peers to attend Mass with her."

- Dawn Parker and Carla Rachal, youth ministers at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville

Thanks Maria, for being our first Student Spotlight!



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The Apostolic Letter, or Papal Bull, of Pope Francis is read out loud by the Nuncio to the United States, Pope Francis' representative. The document authenticates the discernment process of the Church and the Holy Father's choice of this priest for ordination to the episcopate.

**LAYING ON OF HANDS**

This ancient gesture, which expresses the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, is the heart of the ordination rite. Archbishop Aymond imposes his hands upon the head of Bishop-elect Marshall and as co-consecrators, Bishop David Talley and Bishop Terry Steib from the Diocese of Memphis, join in this gesture, as do all the bishops in attendance.

**ANOINTING**

The head of the new bishop is anointed with sacred chrism oil, signifying the full share in the priesthood of Christ he has received through the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination.

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The Book of the Gospels is presented as a symbol of the bishop's ministry of preaching and teaching. The ring symbolizes the Bishop's fidelity to the Bride of God, the Church. The miter signifies the Bishop's resolve to pursue holiness. The crosier signifies his duty of guiding and governing the Church entrusted to his care.

**SEATING OF THE BISHOP**

Archbishop Aymond escorts Bishop Marshall to the "cathedra," the Bishop's chair that is a symbol of being invested with the authority to teach and shepherd the Church of Alexandria.

**FRATERNAL KISS**

A fraternal gesture of peace is extended to Bishop Marshall by the assembled bishops as a sign of welcome into the episcopacy.



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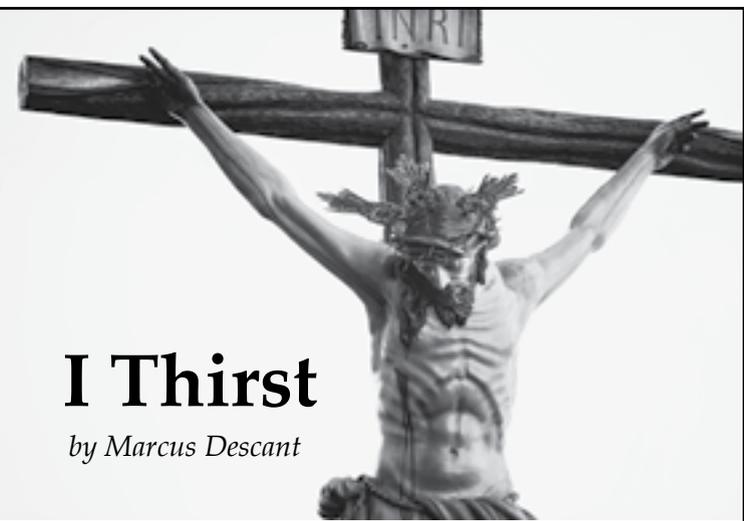
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by Marcus Descant

One of Christ's last words on the cross,  
Were directed to us who were lost.

So, as the words came to our mind,  
We know for sure they were divine.

These two words were directed to us,  
Giving us hope and someone to trust.

We hope these words would quench  
his thirst,  
Begging for us to put Him first.

So as we try and struggle to the end,  
We know for sure we are going to win.

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# Catholic All Year: celebrating the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta

The Catholic Church holds up all of these saints expressly to give us examples of how to live a faithful Catholic life, whatever our personal circumstances.

But one challenging thing is that so many of the most familiar saints are so old-timey! It's easy to slip into thinking, well, I could face down the wild beasts or dedicate my life to the poor or renounce my fortune and join a monastery, if only I had lived back then. But things are different now!

While we've yet to have our first canonized saint of the social media age (will it be you?), there are saints and blessed who lived lives of great holiness in our modern era. They lived, as we do, with the modern blessings and curses of photography, television, phones, cars, airplanes, and air conditioning.

### A Modern Saint

Mother Teresa is a modern saint. She was born Anjeze (Agnes) Bojaxhiu in Albania in 1910. She left home at the age of eighteen to join the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland so she could learn English and become a missionary. She arrived in India the next year, learning Bengali and teaching in the convent school. She made her first religious vows in 1931, and chose the name Teresa, the Spanish spelling of the name of St. Therese of Lisieux.

In 1946, while on her way to her annual retreat, Teresa felt a call to leave the protection of her convent and serve the poor while living among them. Two years later, with the permission of her superiors, she replaced her traditional habit with a white sari trimmed with blue and began her missionary work among the poorest of the poor. In 1950, she obtained the permission of the Vatican to found her own religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, with thirteen fellow sisters.

At the time of her death from heart failure in 1997, her ministry had grown to 610 missions in 123 countries, including orphanages, schools, hospices, and charity centers for people of all faiths, and had the help of over 300 brothers and 4,000 sisters worldwide. Those numbers have continued to grow. There are now more than 800 missions and 5,000 sisters!

Teresa lived and worked quietly with some of the world's most forgotten people, but she was also an international celebrity. She disliked having her picture taken, but she appeared all over the world on television and in film documentaries, in newspapers and magazines. She gave hundreds of speeches that were heard by millions of people, upholding Catholic teaching about controversial subjects such as war and abortion. She was honored with countless awards

and honorary degrees, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was lauded as a saint and a hero well before her death. She also endured slander from the media and anonymous death threats from strangers. Hers was a life of heroic virtue lived in a very modern world.

St. Mother Teresa's canonization process was begun by her friend Pope St. John Paul II immediately upon her death. She was named a saint by Pope Francis in 2015, in a ceremony conducted in St. Peter's Square and live-streamed on the Internet to every corner of the world.

### Ways to celebrate St. Mother Teresa's Feast Day

Even in the middle of a pandemic, remembering and celebrating the lives of the saints can bring stability, peace, and joy to our homes. Consider celebrating St. Lawrence's feast day with your family, cooking meat and veggies on the grill and having everyone come prepared with a couple of their favorite jokes to share.

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**St. Mother Teresa's feast day is**  
**September 5**

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Visit [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org) or purchase the book *The Catholic All Year Compendium* for a list of additional saints and ways to remember them on their feast days.

Let us ask for the intercession of all saints in heaven during the present health crisis.

**BRUMFIELD vs DODD POLICY.**

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following statement is published:

**DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA  
NON-DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY  
August, 2020**

The Diocese of Alexandria School System re-affirms its non-discriminatory policy on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities and employment policies in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Sections 4.03(a) and 4.03 (c) Revenue Procedure 75-50.

All students, faculty members and staff, without exception, are admitted to all rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available at the schools which do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its employment policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

- Sacred Heart School, Moreauville
- St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie
- St. Joseph Elementary and High, Plaquemine
- St. Mary Assumption School, Cottonport
- St. Mary's Elementary and High, Natchitoches
- Holy Savior Menard Central High, Alexandria
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

Most Rev. Robert W. Marshall, Jr.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

*Martha Neil Anthony*



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*Send your congratulations and well wishes  
to Bishop Marshall at [bishop@diocesealex.org](mailto:bishop@diocesealex.org)!*

*Please include your name, church parish,  
and city in your email.*

WELCOME AND BEST WISHES TO

*Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.*

OF THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU WITH EVERY GRACE AND BLESSING

AS YOU BEGIN YOUR NEW MINISTRY.



FROM BISHOP J. MARK SPALDING  
AND THE PRIESTS, DEACONS, AND FAITHFUL  
OF THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE



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NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN**

*Bishop  
Robert Marshall*

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*Welcome  
Bishop Robert W. Marshall*

**From The  
Faculty, Staff,  
and Students at  
St. Mary's  
Assumption  
School**



## Meet Bishop Marshall

### A history of his ministry in pictures

Bishop Robert Marshall was ordained a priest, June 10, 2000, by Bishop J. Terry Steib, SVD, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Memphis. Bishop Marshall has served in these capacities: both the Presbyteral Council and College of Consultors of the Diocese from 2005-2020; Chair of the Bishop's Annual Appeal Steering Committee for two years; the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee in 2008-2010; Priests' Personnel Committee from 2005-2020; Master of Ceremonies from 2001-2012; Delegate to the Apostolic Administrator (Archbishop Joseph Kurtz from October 2018 until April 2019); appointed Vicar General by Bishop David Talley in April 2019 and served until June 30, 2020. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Christian Brothers University in 2016 and continues to serve on that Board.

#### Parishes served:

Associate Pastor: Church of the Incarnation, Collierville, TN (2000-2002)

Pastor: Sacred Heart Church, Humboldt, TN and St. Matthew Church, Milan, TN (2002-2004)

Pastor: Church of the Ascension, Memphis, TN (2004-2012)

Pastor: St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cordova, TN (2012-2017)

Parochial Administrator and later, Pastor:

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Memphis, TN (2017-2020)



**ORDINATION.** Bishop Marshall celebrates his first Mass after his priestly ordination. It took place at St. Anne (Highland) Church in Memphis, TN on June 11, 2000, the Solemnity of Pentecost.



**BAPTISM.** Father Marshall celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cordova.

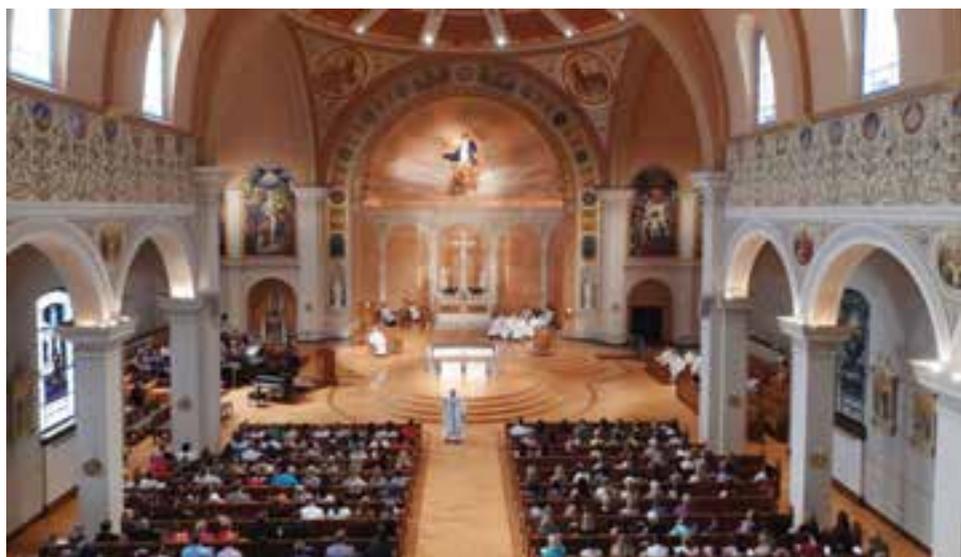


**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, COLLIERVILLE.** Father Marshall blesses the renovated library and digital information center at St. Francis of Assisi School, Cordova.

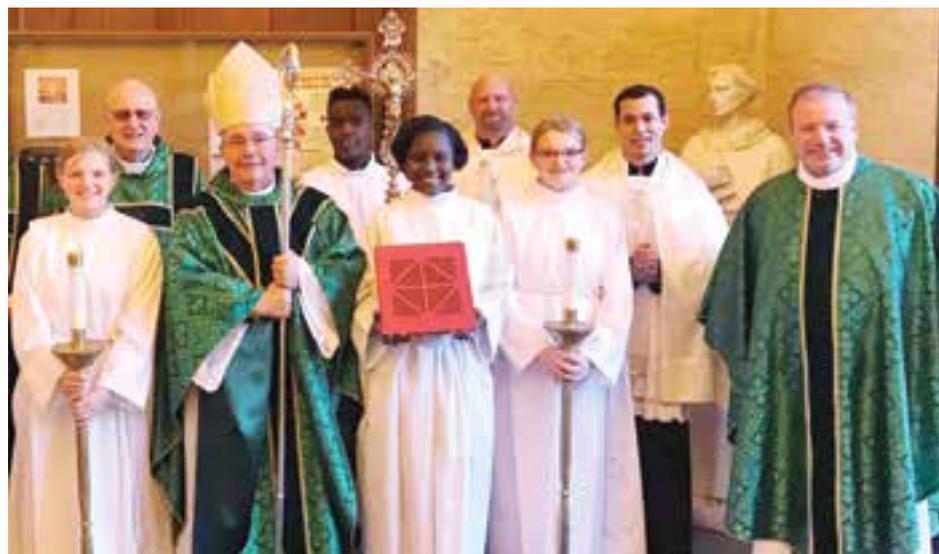




**ALL SOULS DAY.** Father Marshall blesses the Altar of the Dead on All Souls Day at Church of the Ascension, a bilingual parish in Memphis where he was pastor for eight years.



**SCHOOL YEAR OPENING MASS.** As Vicar General, Father Marshall celebrates the Opening Mass of the 2019-2020 school year with teachers and administrators from all of the diocesan Catholic schools on August 5, 2019.



**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, MEMPHIS.** (LEFT) Father Marshall celebrates Mass with the students of Immaculate Conception Cathedral School. (RIGHT) Father Marshall and other liturgical ministers before a Mass celebrated by Bishop David Talley at the Cathedral.

# Bishop Marshall to join long line of Alexandria bishops

Catholic missionaries who first came to the Louisiana territory date back to 1682 when the Franciscan Zenobius Membre, chaplain to R. LaSalle's expedition down the Mississippi River, stopped at the village of the Tensas Indians, near present-day Newellton, LA.

The oldest town in the diocese and in the entire state originated in 1716 when J. B. LeMoyné de Bienville sent a military force to establish Fort St. John the Baptist on an island in the Red River. The settlement became known as "Le Poste de Natchitoches."



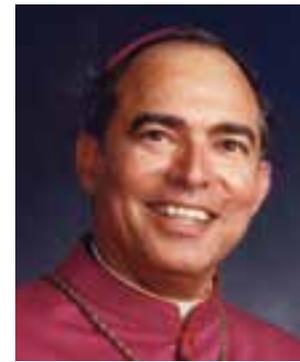
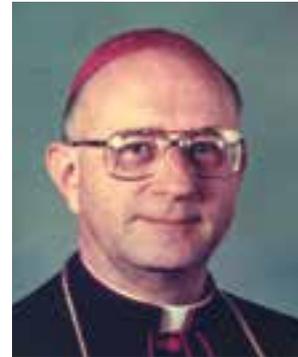
1877. Two years later he was made coadjutor archbishop of New Orleans, but he remained administrator of Natchitoches until 1883 when he became ordinary of New Orleans.



**Bishop Daniel Desmond**  
5th Bishop, Alexandria  
(1933-1945)

Daniel F. Desmond was consecrated on Jan. 11, 1933. During his 12-year term as bishop, Desmond established 26 new parishes, many of them for black congregations for whom the bishop showed a special care and concern.

was installed as the 7th bishop of the diocese on July 8, 1973. When Bishop Graves took over in 1973, On Jan. 12, 1977, the diocese was redesignated as the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport.



**Bishop Sam G. Jacobs**  
10th Bishop, Alexandria  
(1989-2003)

Bishop Sam Jacobs was appointed the 10th bishop of Alexandria on July 11, 1989 and consecrated on Aug. 24, 1989. He was named Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux on Aug. 1, 2003

**Bishop Antoine Durier**  
3rd Bishop, Natchitoches  
(1885-1904)

Antoine Durier, from Lyons, France, became the 3rd bishop of Natchitoches. One of his biggest accomplishments was calling the Sisters of Divine Providence and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to his diocese to open much needed schools.

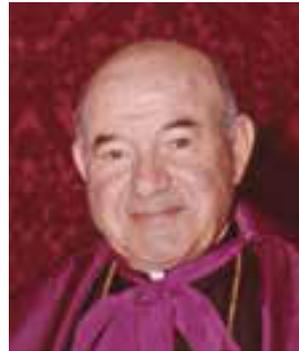
**Bishop Auguste M. Martin**  
1st Bishop, Natchitoches  
(1853-1875)

In 1853 when Louisiana's second diocese was created from the Archdiocese of New Orleans with Natchitoches as its see city, Auguste Marie Martin was named the first bishop. The diocese covered three-fifths of the state, had five priests, six parish churches, three mission chapels, one school and 22,000 Catholics. Martin died Sept. 29, 1875.



**Bishop Francis X. Leray**  
2nd Bishop, Natchitoches  
(1877-1885)

Francis Xavier Leray was consecrated April 22,



**Bishop Charles P. Greco**  
6th Bishop, Alexandria  
(1946-1973)

Bishop Charles Greco was appointed the 6th bishop of Alexandria on Jan. 15, 1946 and was consecrated Feb. 25, 1946. Bishop Greco erected 33 new parishes during the 27 years of his administration. He retired May 22, 1973 and died on Jan. 20, 1987.

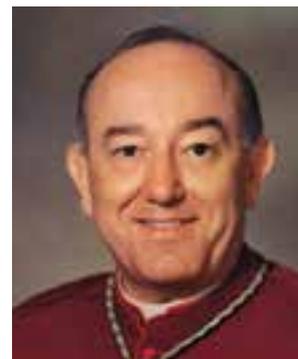
**Bishop William B. Friend**  
8th Bishop,  
Alexandria-Shreveport  
(1983-1986)

On Aug. 31, 1979, William B. Friend was named auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport.

He was installed as the 8th bishop of Alexandria on Jan. 11, 1983.

When the diocese split in 1986, Bishop Friend became the first bishop of Shreveport.

He died on April 2, 2015 at the age of 83.



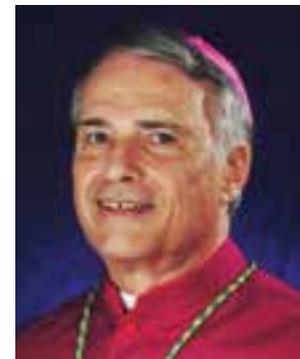
**Bishop John C. Favalora**  
9th Bishop, Alexandria  
(1986-1989)

Bishop John C. Favalora was consecrated on July 29, 1986 and became the 9th Bishop of Alexandria. He was named Bishop of St. Petersburg, Fla. on March 7, 1989 and Archbishop of Miami on Dec. 20, 1994.



**Bishop Lawrence Graves**  
7th Bishop, Alexandria  
(1973-1982)

Lawrence P. Graves



**Bishop Ronald P. Herzog**  
11th Bishop, Alexandria  
(Jan. 5, 2005-2017)

Bishop Ronald Herzog was ordained the 11th bishop of Alexandria on Jan. 5, 2005 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. Bishop Herzog passed away April 12, 2019.



**Bishop David P. Talley**  
12th Bishop, Alexandria  
(Feb. 2, 2017-2019)

Bishop David P. Talley was consecrated on April 2, 2013 for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA. serving as auxiliary bishop there until being appointed

coadjutor for Alexandria in November 7, 2016. He became ordinary in February 2017 upon Bishop Ronald Herzog's retirement. On April 2, 2019, Bishop Talley was installed as sixth bishop of Memphis in Tennessee.

## How are priests chosen to be bishops?

Every bishop is appointed by the pope. The process of appointing a bishop begins when the bishops of an ecclesiastical province (an archdiocese plus its regional dioceses) meet each year to discuss potential candidates.

The candidates, who are priests from each diocese, are presented to the archbishop of the province prior to the meeting. At the meeting, resumes of the candidates are usually distributed and qualifications discussed. The Church provides explicit guidelines about the qualities and qualifications each candidate should have.

Though specific procedures differ from province to province, a vote is usually taken to determine whether particular candidates have gained the approval of the bishops. The provincial archbishop then forwards the list of approved candidates to the pope's official representative in that country. In the United States (and many other countries), this representative is known as the *nuncio*.

The nuncio, after conducting a detailed investigation of each candidate, decides on three names to forward to the pope along with his own recommendations. Though the pope greatly relies on the advice of the nuncio, the appointment of a bishop is ultimately the pope's decision; he is free to choose anyone he wishes.

# Bishop Robert Marshall's Coat of Arms -- explained

Each bishop has his own coat of arms that bears his episcopal motto — usually a quote from Scripture — and symbols that have some personal significance to the man.

The coat of arms is used on documents and letterhead and other items pertaining to that bishop.

## The Coat of Arms

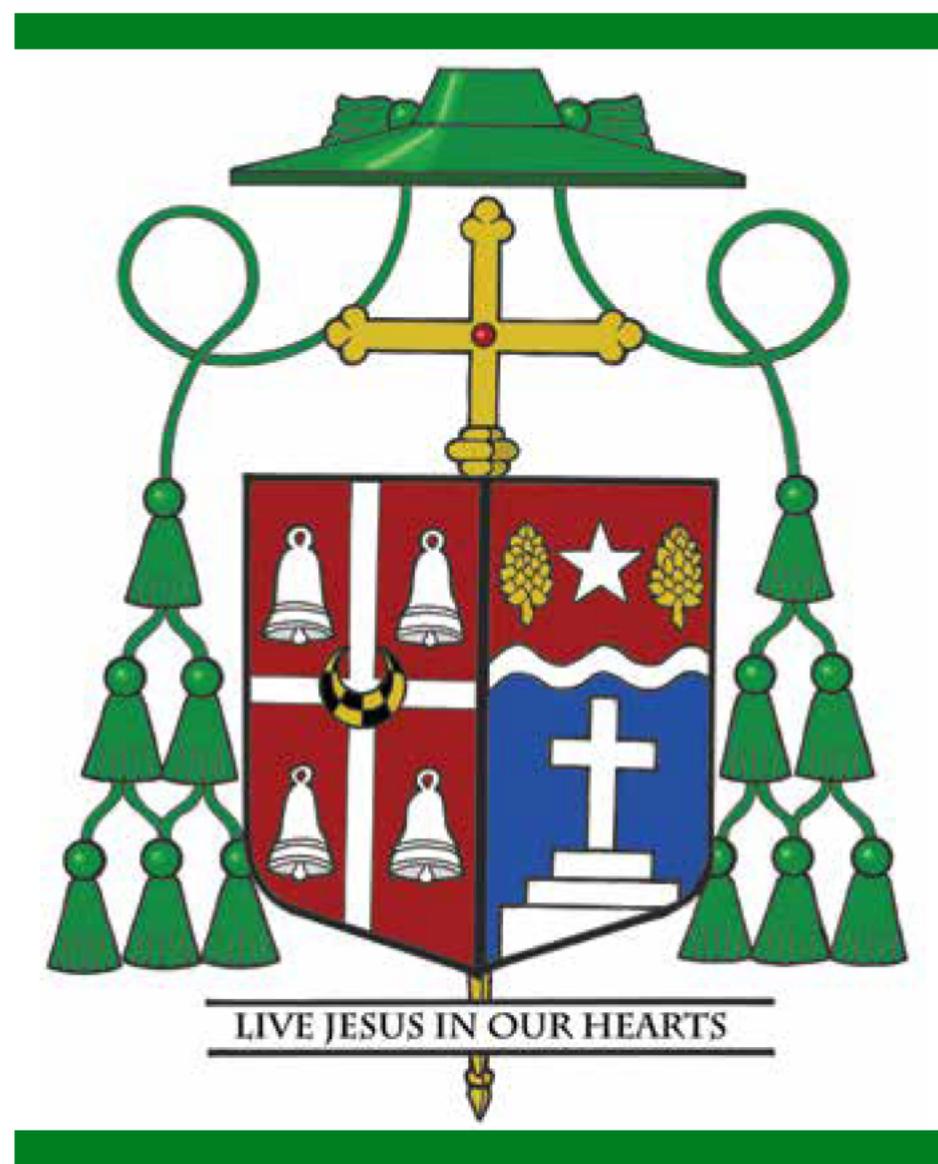
A bishop's coat of arms (also called an "episcopal heraldic achievement") is composed of a shield, the central and most important part of the design; a scroll with a motto; and the external ornamentation.

**BLAZON:** Arms impaled, in the dexter: Gules, a cross throughout between four bells all Argent, overall at the center point, a crescent chequy Sable and Or. (Diocese of Alexandria); in the sinister: Azure a Latin cross issuant from three steps in base below a barrulet wavy all Argent; on a chief wavy Gules between two pine cones Or a mullet of five points Argent. (Bishop Marshall). The achievement is ensigned with an episcopal cross Or behind the shield and a bishop's galero Vert cords and twelve tassels disposed in three rows of one, two and three all Vert. On a scroll below the shield the motto: "Live Jesus In Our Hearts."

**EXPLANATION:** The personal coat of arms assumed by Bishop Marshall combines symbols that are meaningful to him reflecting his life and priestly ministry.

The coat of arms of the Diocese of Alexandria was adopted in 1933 by Bishop Daniel Desmond and designed by heraldist Pierre de Chaignon la Rose. The red background represents the Red River which runs through the city. The silver (white) cross stands for the Christian faith and is surrounded by four bells borrowed from the ancient See of Alexandria, Egypt for which the city that is the seat of the diocese is named. Over all of this is a crescent divided into gold (yellow) and black checks. This is borrowed from the Spanish arms for the family "Xavier" and serves as an allusion to St. Francis Xavier, the titular patron of the cathedral church.

Bishop Marshall's arms depict a blue background with a silver (white) Cross of Calvary. This type of cross is depicted as a Latin cross (the lower arm being longer than the other three) atop three gradings or steps. Both the background color and the cross are derived from the coat of arms associated with the name "Martin" in Ireland. This was the bishop's mother's maiden name and is used to honor his family heritage. The lower portion of the field is divided from the upper third called a "chief" by a narrow silver (white) wavy line. This wavy line represents the Mississippi River near to which the bishop



has lived for most of his life. In addition, a symbol of the Mississippi River is included in the coat of arms of the Diocese of Memphis in which the bishop served as a priest prior to becoming a bishop.

On the red background of the chief are a single silver (white) five-pointed star between two gold (yellow) pine cones. The star comes from the emblem of the DeLaSalle Christian Brothers who educated the bishop both in his high school and college years as well as educating his father and uncles. That Religious Community of men had a profound and lasting impact on not only the bishop's education but also on his spiritual life and journey and on the lives of his family. The red background and pine cones are borrowed from the coat of arms of the bishop's patron saint, St. Robert Bellarmine.

**MOTTO:** The motto below the shield is, "Live Jesus In Our Hearts" from a prayer attributed to St. John Baptist de La Salle (1651-1719), founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and patron saint of teachers of youth. The prayer is used multiple times each day in LaSallian schools throughout the world, most frequently in dialog. The leader says, "Live Jesus in our hearts," and the students

respond, "Forever!"

The shield is also ensigned with those external ornaments that indicate the bearer is a bishop. The gold (yellow) cross is placed vertically behind and extending above and below the shield. This is often mistakenly thought to be a processional cross like those used in liturgical processions. However, in former times archbishops, and later all bishops, had a cross mounted on a staff carried immediately in front of them while in procession or on solemn occasions. This cross was a symbol of their rank as bishop. While such an episcopal cross is no longer used practically it has been retained heraldically. In fact, there are other clerics who make use of the ecclesiastical hat with its many tassels but the one true heraldic emblem of a bishop, and the only essential one, is the episcopal cross placed behind the shield.

Above the shield is the ecclesiastical hat, called a galero which, in heraldry, replaces the martial helmet, mantling and crest. "The hat with six pendant tassels (green, purple or black) on each side is universally considered in heraldry as the sign of prelacy. It, therefore, pertains to all who are actually prelates." (Heim, Bruno B., *Heraldry in the Catholic Church* 1978, page 114) The galero is green with

green cords pendant from it and twelve green tassels arranged in a pyramid shape on either side of the shield. At one time in history bishops and archbishops wore green before adopting the more Roman purple we see today. In heraldry the green hat and tassels was retained for prelates with the rank of bishop according to the Instruction of the Secretariat of State, "Ut Sive" of March, 1969.

*The armorial bearings of Bishop Marshall were designed, blazoned and rendered by the Rev. Guy Selvester a priest of the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. May, 2020*

## Bishop Marshall explains his thoughts behind the design

I wanted to honor both of my parents in the coat of arms — the Cross of Calvary on the blue field is borrowed from the Coat of Arms of the Martin family in Galway, Ireland. My mother's family comes from Galway and the Martins are one of the recognized "Fourteen Tribes of Galway."

I am a "junior," so my father and I share our full name. I honored my father by the inclusion of the gold pinecones on a field of red. These are taken from the coat of arms of St. Robert Bellarmine — the baptismal patron saint that I share with my father. In addition, the combination of my coat of arms with that of the diocese is called either "impaling" or "marshalling" — so my last name is implicitly included as well.

I chose to separate the chief (the top part of the shield) from the body of the shield with the emblem of a river. In addition to the fact that I lived most of my life in Memphis, St. Louis and New Orleans (all on the Mississippi river), the Mississippi forms the Western boundary of the Diocese of Memphis and the Eastern boundary of the Diocese of Alexandria.

The inclusion of the five pointed star is part of the emblem (the "Signum Fidei" or Sign of Faith) of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. Throughout the world, LaSallian communities are noted by the LaSallian star. This represents my heritage as well as that of my father, my uncles, my brother, and most of my male cousins. I drew my motto from the LaSallian tradition as well.

# BISHOP ROBERT W. MARSHALL



On the occasion of his episcopal ordination and installation, prayers and best wishes for Bishop-elect Robert W. Marshall and the Diocese of Alexandria from the priests, deacons, seminarians, consecrated religious, the faithful, and Bishop Michael F. Olson of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.



The Catholic Schools Office  
and Child Nutrition

*Welcomes*

**Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.**  
Prayerful best wishes as you begin your ministry  
as our thirteenth Bishop!



WELCOME TO  
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**BISHOP  
ROBERT W.  
MARSHALL**

WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS FROM THE PRIESTS, STAFF AND PARISHIONERS OF  
**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA**



OUR LADY OF  
**PROMPT SUCCOR**  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL





**Welcome**  
**Bishop Robert Marshall!**

from Father Joseph Xavier  
and the parishoners of

*Our Lady of Lourdes Church*  
Vidalia, LA



FATHER BINO JACOB, DEACON GREG LEBLANC  
AND THE CONGREGATION OF

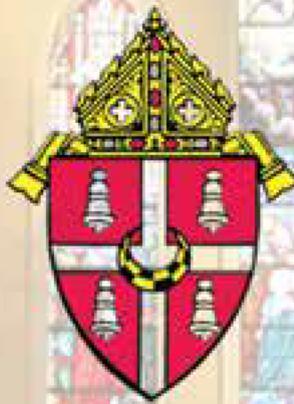
**STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH**  
**OF KOLIN**

CORDIALLY WELCOME

BISHOP  
**ROBERT W. MARSHALL**



TO THE  
**DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA**



**Welcome**  
*to* **The Diocese**  
*of* **Alexandria**

**Bishop**  
**Robert W. Marshall**

**KRAMER**

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**Welcome  
Bishop Robert W. Marshall**



from the  
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of the Discalced Carmelites:  
"Elijah the Prophet and St. Mary of Jesus Crucified"  
in Alexandria, Louisiana



*Congratulations and  
Prayerful Wishes from  
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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Bishop Marshall**



May You Reap  
A Hundredfold  
As You Commit To  
"Live Jesus  
In Our Hearts"!



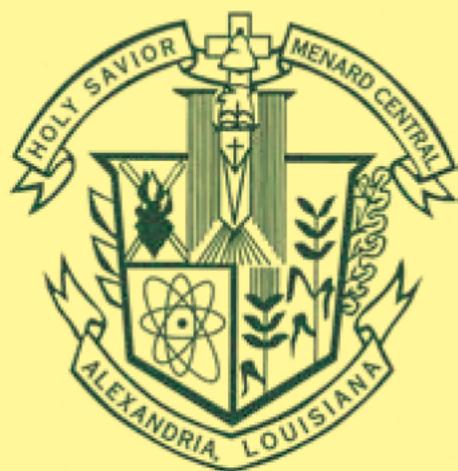
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The Administration, Faculty,  
Staff and Student Body of  
**Holy Savior Menard Central High School**

would like to welcome  
**Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.**  
to Central Louisiana.

We offer our Prayers and Best Wishes  
as you begin your call as  
our bishop for  
the Diocese of Alexandria



*St. Genevieve Church*  
*Brouillette, Louisiana*



*Congratulations!*

and Prayerful Best Wishes to  
**Our New Bishop Robert Marshall**

from

Rev. Abraham Palakkattuchira, CMI, Pastor  
St. Genevieve Church Family  
and Ladies Altar Society

# Welcome

Most Reverend  
**Robert W. Marshall**  
to our Diocese!

Minor Basilica  
of the Immaculate  
Conception  
Natchitoches,  
Louisiana



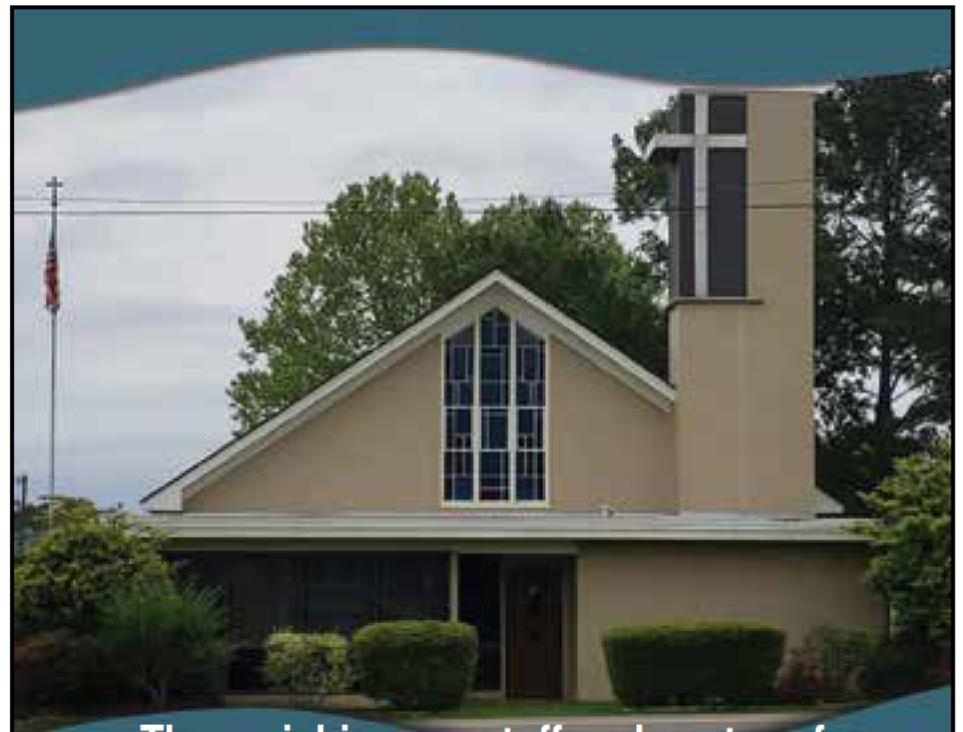


*Welcome*

**Bishop Robert Marshall!**

*May you be blessed to lead  
and guide us as our shepherd!*

**Our Lady of Sorrows Church**  
Moreauville, Louisiana



The parishioners, staff and pastor of  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**

Tioga, Louisiana

**Welcome**

**Bishop Robert W. Marshall**

to the Diocese of Alexandria

*A Warm Welcome*

**From Your Sacred Heart Church Family**

AND

**PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES**

**AS YOU BEGIN YOUR**

**MINISTRY!**



**BISHOP ROBERT W. MARSHALL**

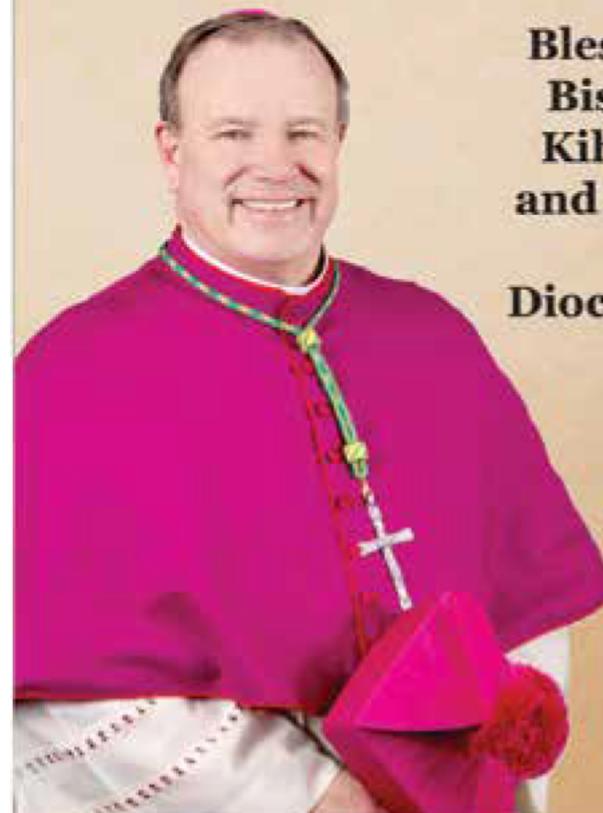


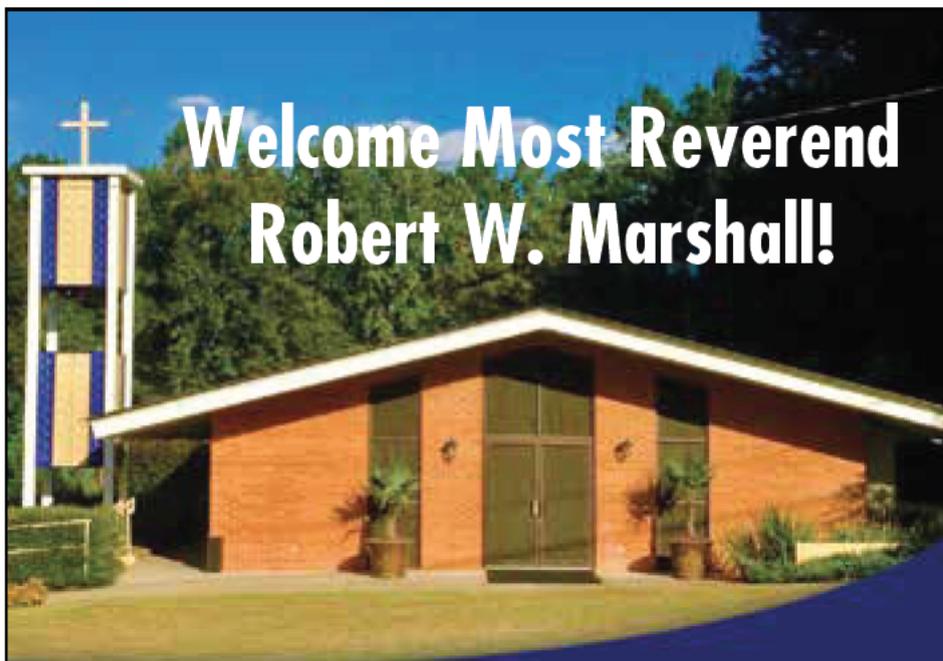
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**Congratulations to  
Bishop Robert W. Marshall  
on your installation as  
Bishop of Alexandria**

**Blessings from  
Bishop Louis  
Kihneman III  
and the Faithful  
of the  
Diocese of Biloxi**





**Welcome Most Reverend  
Robert W. Marshall!**

**Mary, Mother of Jesus Church  
in Woodworth  
warmly welcomes  
our new Shepherd to the  
Diocese of Alexandria!**



***Congratulations***

*to our brother from Tennessee*

*Most Reverend  
Robert W. Marshall*

*on your installation as Bishop of  
the Diocese of Alexandria, La.*



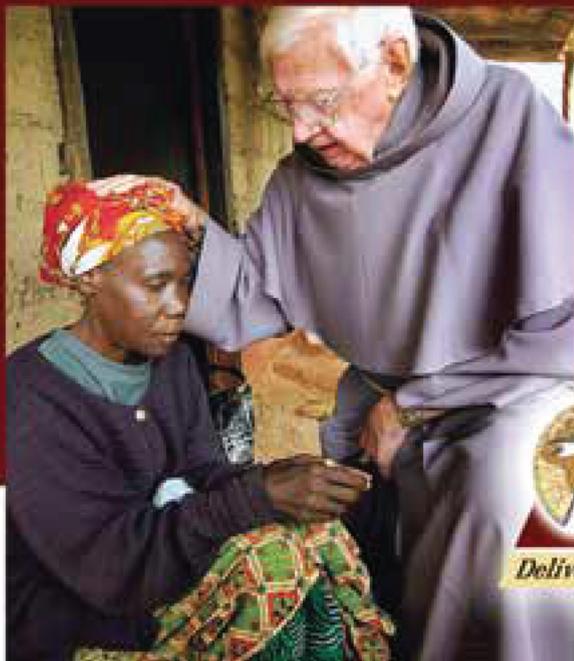
***Blessings***

*from Bishop Richard F. Stika,  
Cardinal Justin Rigali,  
and the Faithful of  
the Diocese of Knoxville*



# **Bishop Robert W. Marshall**

*Congratulations and prayerful best wishes on your Ordination and Installation.*



*May the Diocese  
of Alexandria  
grow in faith  
and love with your  
spiritual guidance.*



**Cross Catholic  
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*Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor*

**[CrossCatholic.org/cdr](http://CrossCatholic.org/cdr)**

## Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14: Fall Natural Family Planning (NFP) Class Series

You are invited to attend a Natural Family Planning class series teaching the Sympto-Thermal Method, through the Couple to Couple League International, the largest provider of NFP instruction in the nation. Natural Family Planning is effective, safe, and morally acceptable to delay or achieve pregnancy. Attendance of all 3 classes completes the course. Classes will be held 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the Saturdays of Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14. There is a one-time fee of \$135, which includes the Student Guide book, fertility charts, digital thermometer, 6 months of CycleProGo mobile app, the award-winning Family Foundations magazine subscription, and ongoing consultation. For more information and to register for classes, visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) or contact Michael and Leah Pelto at 318-730-2839 or [michaelandleah@suddenlink.net](mailto:michaelandleah@suddenlink.net). Transition NFP classes (after childbirth/pre-menopause) are taught on an as-needed basis. Please contact Michael and Leah to schedule a class.

## Sept. 11-13: Marriage Help (Retrouvaille)

Is your marriage going down the right road... or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. The next Re-

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

trouville Weekend in the Diocese of Baton Rouge will be Sept. 11-13. (All COVID-19 precautions will be in place.) For more information, contact Bill and Missie at 985-232-5963 or visit the website at [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

### Sept. 14: Directory pre-order deadline

Pre-order the 2020-2022 Directory for the Diocese of Alexandria with photos and contact information for diocesan employees, clergy, religious, deacons, and seminarians. See page 25 for the order form.

### Sept. 25: Lunch Benefit for Cheryl Paul

On Friday, September 25, from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Mac's Fresh Market on Hwy 28., the John Paul II KC Council #14657 is conducting a fundraiser to benefit Mrs. Cheryl Paul, who will be having a kidney transplant. Plates are \$9.00 each, with jambalaya, corn on the cob, roll, and dessert.

### Maryhill Legacy Bricks now available!

A great gifting opportunity! These beautiful, personalized, and engraved commemorative Maryhill Legacy Bricks make the perfect year round gift. These commemorative paver bricks will be installed and displayed at the entrance of the main chapel as a permanent legacy at Maryhill Renewal Center. To order your Maryhill Legacy Brick, contact Deacon Luke White or order online at [www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/](http://www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/).

## Introducing new Church Today columns

### Student Spotlight

The Church Today would like to recognize young men and women across our diocese for their achievements in school and community life, may it be fine arts, hobbies, athletics, church, school, club and community service, who have been faithful in lifestyle and service, but who aren't always recognized. We don't know them like you do!

We are seeking nominations from priests, Youth Ministers, Directors of Religious Education and other church parish staff members, and teachers for "Student Spotlight:" Catholic teenagers and/or students in both Junior High Schools and Senior High Schools, both those attending our Catholic schools or those attending public schools.

If you know of a teen you'd like to recognize, please fill out the form, found on the Diocese website at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org). Help us to introduce some of our wonderful youth to the rest of our diocese!

### Stump the Priest

As often as possible, we will publish 5 - 10 rapid fire Q&A's with one of our diocesan priests. If you have any questions about Catholicism that you'd like to see answered in the Church Today, please email them to [cteracina@diocesealex.org](mailto:cteracina@diocesealex.org).

*For updated livestream Mass times, and additional updates from the Diocese of Alexandria, visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org). Other online Mass and service times are listed on the USCCB website.*

### Upcoming VIRTUS sessions

**Thursday, September 3, 6:00 p.m.**

Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, NATCHITOCHEs

**Thursday, September 10, 6:00 p.m.**

Mater Dolorosa Church, PLAUCHEVILLE

**Tuesday, September 22, 6:00 p.m.**

St. Joseph Catholic Center, ALEXANDRIA

Face masks MUST be worn during the entire session. The session typically lasts 2.5-3 hours. Seating will be one (1) person per table (spouses may sit together).

A maximum of ONLY 15 adults will be allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and disclosures.

To register, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

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/](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/).

Telephone 318-445-1446  
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## Church Today News Deadlines

**Next issue:  
September 28  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, Sept. 17**

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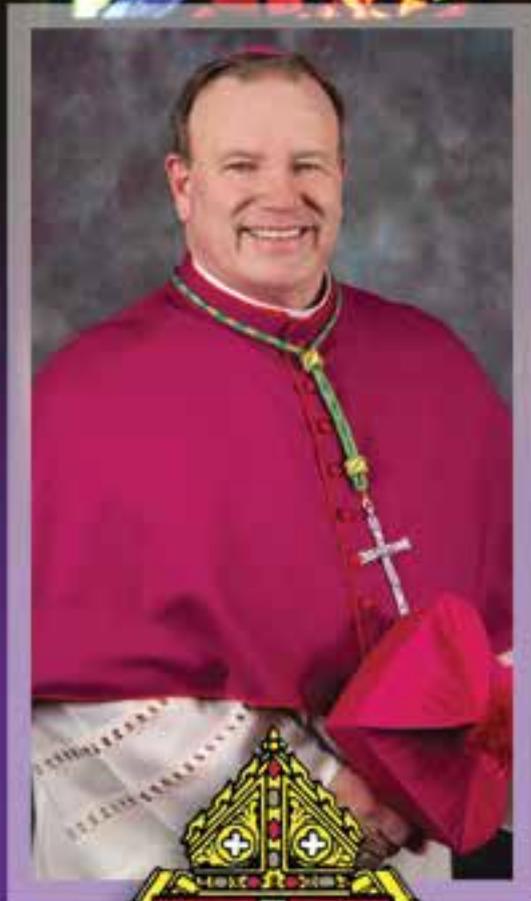
## Hixson-Ducote Funeral Home Avoyelles Monuments

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# September 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>AUGUST 31</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 1</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>FEAST of SAINT MOTHER TERESA FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>LABOR DAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>FEAST of the NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Mater Dolorosa Church Plaucheville PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Natural Family Planning Class Location TBA 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>
<b>Retrouville Weekend, Baton Rouge</b>						
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>FEAST of the EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE (optional memorial) PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIKWE</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>FEAST of SAINT MATTHEW PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria, 6:00 p.m. PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Jambalaya Fundraiser Mac's Fresh Market, Pineville 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>FEAST of SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL the ARCHANGELS PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 1</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN</p>



*Welcome*



**BISHOP ROBERT W. MARSHALL**

*As 13th bishop for the Diocese  
of Alexandria, Louisiana*

May you receive abundant blessings from  
God as we, together, extend the healing  
ministry of Jesus Christ.



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