CHURCH TODAY

Volume LV, No. 9 www.diocesealex.org Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970 September 23, 2024

Deacon Candidates

At the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral, ten men who have completed the aspirancy year of formation for the permanent deaconate were admitted as candidates for Holy Orders. Pictured with Deacon Richard Mitchell and me are the following: John Bibaeff, Gary Bonnette, Donald Collins, John DeVille, Brad Gadel, Ian Kho, Tom Matuschka, Kenneth McMullen, Monroe Milton, and Lee Morphis. One more aspirant, Michael Lanclos, could not join us today and will be admitted to candidacy at a later date. Congratulations to these Candidates and thank you for your willingness to serve the people of the Diocese of Alexandria. Please keep them in your prayers.

INSIDE

St. Mary's Residential Training School celebrates 70th Anniversary

Families, residents, board members, and staff celebrate the 70th anniversary of St. Mary's on Saturday, Sept. 14, with a rebrand and name change. More details can be found on page 4.

Catechist Enrichment Day set for Sept. 28

Calling all Catechists entrusted with handing down the faith to the youth and adults in our Diocese! We invite you to join us for a Day of Enrichment! Registration opens on Tuesday, July 30, and closes on Friday, Sept. 20. Space is limited. See the story on page 4.

Catechism Chat: How to introduce your kids to church teaching

As parents, we are the first educators of our children (CCC 2223). See page 14 for tips from Jackie and Bobby Angel on introducing your children to church teaching.

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Alexandria, LA 71303
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Publisher:
Most. Rev. Robert Marshall
Publication Manager / Editor:
Cari Terracina, ext. 255,
cterracina@diocesealex.org
Multimedia Manager /
Advertising:
Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;
joanferguson@diocesealex.org
Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209;
starver@diocesealex.org

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2024 #iGiveCatholic
on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3

We are so excited to announce that the Diocese of Alexandria will be participating in #iGiveCatholic 2024! This is an incredible opportunity for our Parishes and Schools to raise funding in very intentional ways that can create tangible impacts. From parking lot repairs to new playground equipment or new religious education curriculum; your community can reach its goal this Giving Day! What could your Parish benefit from?

#iGiveCatholic is a Social Media Campaign that enables the Catholic community to come together on Giving Tuesday and make a real difference on a local level. This year the Diocese of Alexandria is funding all Registrations and Fees, therefore there is no cost for Catholic Organizations to participate! The Diocese along with #iGiveCatholic will provide all needed resources for each Organization's designated Point Person, along with planning support.

There are many ways to participate in #iGiveCatholic, including Giving, sharing posts on Social Media, and joining us in prayer. Want to help more? Reach out to your Pastor to find out if your Organization has registered for #iGiveCatholic 2024 and how you can get involved!

Mark your calendars and join us this year for Giving Tuesday on December 3rd, as we embrace the opportunity to Give Thanks, Give Back, and Give Catholic!

Register Your Organization Today! https://alexandria.igivecatholic.org

Jubilee Year Mission to be held at Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen

The Jubilee Year aims to renew HOPE in God's PROMISES and inspire believers to live as witnesses of hope, promoting dignity, justice, and harmony. Pope Francis calls the faithful to be a beacon of hope, encouraging believers to live out this hope through faith and actions.

In that light, Fr. Ramji Shoury, pastor of Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen and St. Charles Mission in Goudeau will conduct a 3-part series "The Mission on Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025" Oct. 10, 17, 24 (Thursdays) at 6:00 p.m. in the Little Flower Church, Evergreen. The theme is Romans 5:5 "Hope Does Not Disappoint." The topics scheduled will be:

- Oct. 10, Scriptural background for the Jubilee Year.
- Oct. 17, Jubilee Year and Spiritual Renewal
- Oct. 24, Pastoral and personal applications of the Jubilee Year 2025

Correction from Complete Seminary Burse List that appeared on page 8 of the August 26 issue of the Church Today:

Completed Burses at $15,000.00 Each:

- Bishop Charles P. Greco
- Monsignor Henry F. Beckers
- Monsignor Milburn Broussard
- Monsignor Thomas F. Early (3 Completed)
- Monsignor Bruce Miller (2 Completed)
- Monsignor B. A. Scallan
- Father H. Gerald Bordelon
- Father Daniel Corkery (3 Completed)
- Father Michael P. Kammer
- Father Christian Ogbonna
- Father William B. Provosty (2 Completed)
- Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard
- Bobby D. Basco
- Angelo R. And Ena F. D'Angelo
- John Dominick Driscoll
- Miss Mary F. Early
- Daryl "Pat" Mauterer
- Irvin and Elma Moreau, Harrison P. Moreau, Michael N. Moreau, Deborah S. Moreau Bouche, Emily A. Moreau, Tom and Mary Candiotto, and Ruby Moreau
- David Stafford "Brother" O'Shee
- Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Shores
- John Gregory Simms
- John T. Simms, Jr.
- Sadie Stroud

We apologize for the error.

24-HOUR ADORATION TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION

St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA will be hosting 24-hrs of Adoration praying for our nation every first Sunday night into Monday night of the month starting in September leading up to the election in November. If you are interested in signing up, please email stjosephinstjoe@gmail.com

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WHAT IS EUCHARIC ADORATION?

Eucharistic Adoration is the act of spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. While the Eucharist is continually present in all Catholic churches in the tabernacle, Eucharistic Adoration refers specifically to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposted on the altar in the monstrance.

"Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration."
• Pope Saint John Paul II (Catechism of the Catholic Church § 1380) •

As international Eucharistic Congress ends, Catholics can 'shine their light' amid world's problems, says Bishop Cozzens

By Eduardo Campos Lima
Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — While the serious problems the world is facing are mostly beyond the control of the church, Catholics can "shine their light" and draw people to a path of peace and solidarity, said Bishop Andrew Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, the chairman of the board of the National Eucharigist Congress, Inc.

After leading the successful National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, Bishop Cozzens took part in the International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador, that started Sept. 8 and ended with final Mass Sept. 15.

"The Congress in the U.S. surpassed our expectations in every way. That was a beautiful moment for the whole country," Bishop Cozzens told OSV News. "To experience the church alive in Latin America is also a great gift."

Both the events emphasized the theme of healing brought by the Eucharist. In Indianapolis, the third day of the congress especially focused on opportunities for physical, psychological and spiritual healing. In Quito, the "wounds of the world" — the many challenges currently faced by societies, including the immigration crisis, political polarization, and the deep divides caused by it in many nations — were debated in different presentations throughout the week.

Such problems are a reality both in the U.S. and in Latin America, Bishop Cozzens said.

"The divisions in society are so deep that only God can overcome them. The Eucharist, as has been said beautifully in this International Congress, invites us to live a kind of fraternity," he said, adding that "we are sons and daughters of our God the creator, so every human being in that sense is a brother and sister."

While we cannot change darkness, Bishop Cozzens argued, we can shine our light to attract people to the good.

"The power that heals the world is the power of God. We're called to demonstrate by the way that we live and by the way that we forgive that we're able to love the way Christ loves," he said.

CATHOLICS CAN 'SHINE THEIR LIGHT' AMID WORLD'S PROBLEMS. Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc., speaks at a July 19, 2024 press conference during the congress in Indianapolis. (OSV News photo / Gina Christian)

Both in the U.S. and in Latin America, the church has historically been supportive of immigrants, working for their rights and for policies that can improve their conditions. But with U.S. elections around the corner, it's not an easy time to defend the Catholic views on that matter, Bishop Cozzens pointed out.

"Of course, as bishops we are constantly speaking for the dignity of every human life, especially of those who are vulnerable like the immigrants. But it doesn't appear to be a time when our voice is being listened to," he said.

With many charitable initiatives focusing on immigrants, however, Catholics provide concrete actions that show what their beliefs are, Bishop Cozzens emphasized.

"We are on the ground caring for immigrants and trying to treat them as our brothers and sisters. We want them to experience dignity, and we want them to experience a home, especially in the church," he said.

Despite all hardships and social challenges, Catholics are called to keep an Eucharistic life, something that was expressed through several testimonies — many given by lay people — during the international congress. Bishop Cozzens told OSV News that those narratives especially made an impact on him.

The involvement of the laity also was fundamental in the organization of the congress in the U.S., Bishop Cozzens said.

"Most of the speakers were lay people. And we had a whole committee of people who planned the Congress that was mostly formed by lay people. I think it's a beautiful thing that the Eucharist is a gift for the church and the church today works in collaboration this way," he said.

Bishop Cozzens added that the increasing participation of lay people in the life of the church is related to the practice of synodality, especially the process of co-responsibility.

"We built our congress from a synodal process," he said. "We organized listening sessions around the country with lay leaders and apostolic leaders. It proved to be very effective. I think you see that also here in Quito among the speakers and different testimonies."

Eduardo Campos Lima writes for OSV News from São Paulo.

O God our Creator,

from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defned our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome - for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us - this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the United States, USCCB

St. Mary's Residential Community Services celebrates 70th Anniversary with rebrand and name-change

Recently celebrating its 70th anniversary, St. Mary's Residential Training Facility has rebranded as St. Mary's Residential Community and Services to more closely describe its mission and function.

St. Mary's was founded on the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a joyful environment. Today, they continue this mission by providing a loving home where individuals with intellectual disabilities can reach their fullest potential.

The 55-acre campus in Central Louisiana is designed to meet the unique needs of residents, featuring state-of-the-art facilities, including an on-site ABA Learning Center. Here, young residents with autism and other developmental disabilities receive personalized therapy and skill-building activities to enhance their well-being.

St. Mary's is committed to a holistic approach, ensuring each individual receives the care, education, and support they need to succeed in a community where everyone is valued and empowered.

St Mary's
RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY & SERVICES

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AND SERVICES. Families, residents, board members and staff celebrate during the 70th anniversary party held at St. Mary's on Saturday, Sept. 14. Pictured is the "balloon drop" that happened during the event. Bishop Robert Marshall and the Our Lady of Sorrows sisters attended the event at well. The OLS sisters were involved with St. Mary's for over 60 years since its founding in 1954. (Photo by Joshua Candiloro)

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Sunday, Oct. 6, 3:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Assumption School,
(CYO Building)
COTTONPORT

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center,
4400 Coliseum Blvd.
ALEXANDRIA

NOTE: Minors are not allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and discussions.
To register, go to www.virtus.org.
For more information,
call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

ACTS

Upcoming Retreats:

November 7-10, 2024
Women's ACTS Retreat
St. Augustine Church
(318) 379-2521

November 21-24, 2024
Women's ACTS Retreat
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
(318) 445-2497

All retreats are held at Maryhill Renewal Center.

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Psalm 128: 5
Responsorial Psalm
for October 6
Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
for October 2024

For a shared mission:

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the anticipation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious, and lay people.

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(318)717-1995

See the latest news from around the Diocese at www.diocesealex.org

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION THIS HURRICANE SEASON

O God, Master of this passing world,
hear the humble voices of your children.
The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.
You are still the Master of land and sea.
We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control;
the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant,
can awake from its seeming lethargy,
overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land,
and spread chaos and disaster.
During this hurricane season, we turn to You, O loving Father.
Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid,
and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother,
we ask you to plead with your Son of our behalf
so that spared from the calamities common to this area
and animated with a true spirit of gratitude,
we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son
to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us.
Amen.

Composed by Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1985 - 1981)
Second Bishop of Lafayette (1956 - 1973),
following Hurricane Audrey in 1957

St. Mary's Annual Feast for Good set for Oct. 16

Whether you're a seasoned foodie or just love a good time get ready for a night of culinary magic at Feast for Good!

Like St. Mary's new branding, "Feast for Good" is reimagined this year as well. After more than 15 years, Chef John Folse is passing the Feast for Good ladle to fellow Louisiana culinary artist, Jay Ducote, a Food Network STAR and food enthusiast.

You may have seen Chef Jay in one of his many Food Network appearances including: Superchef Grudge Match; Chopped or Cutthroat Kitchen on that episode where he beat Bobby Flay!

What's Cooking? The evening kicks off with a live cooking demonstration by Chef Jay himself—watch as he whips up one of his signature Southern flavors with a twist, sharing his tips, tricks, and a whole lot of personality along the way. Then, sit back and savor a gourmet meal that's as delightful as it is delicious.

Bid on More than Just Good Taste As you enjoy the evening's culinary delights, you'll have the chance to bid on some incredible items in both our live and silent auctions. From exclusive experiences to unique treasures, there's something for everyone. Best of all, every bid supports a cause close to our hearts—empowering young people with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential.

Why you should be there: This isn't just another night out; it's a chance to make a real difference while indulging in the finer things. You'll be in great company, with guests who come from all across Louisiana to take part in Feast for Good. Plus, with Chef Jay at the helm, you know it's going to be one heck of a night!

So, mark your calendars and get ready to dine, bid, and give back in style. We can't wait to see you there!

As you know,"Feast for Good" sells out quickly each year! This year's event is at England Airpark Community Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. on October 16.

To reserve your seat, visit https://shorturl.at/427RF

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Fall Events, Fairs and Festivals!

St. Francis de Sales Church Fair, Echo - Sept. 27-28

Join us for the 2024 Annual Church Fair at St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9294. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening, street dance starts at 8:00 p.m. to the music of High Stakes Band, $10 cover charge for adults. Saturday's fair activities begin at 5:00 p.m. Both days include fun games and great food! Hope to see you there! For more info contact Mark Gauthier at (318) 787-3252, Cory Bernard at (318) 308-1359, Randy Guillory at (318) 709-0443 or Jeff Dufour at (318) 613-1376.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Fall Fest - Oct. 5

Join us from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria, for our annual Fall Fest! Talent show, Spirit Shop, Cheer team and dance line performances, Silent Auction, Art Sale, Sweet Shop, food, fun games and more!

St. Joseph, Plaucheville, School Fair - Oct. 12-13

Join us for the 125th Anniversary Celebration! The fun starts after Saturday Mass, with fried catfish dinners, a silent auction and grand raffle, bingo, tons of games for kids young and old, and entertainment by Philip Meche Cajun Outlaw and The Cartoons. Tickets are available to purchase at the school office and local businesses.

Sacred Heart School's 59th Fall Festival in Moreauville - Oct. 19-20

Saturday: 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Color Run starts at 7:00 a.m. $25 entry fee. Contact Lindsey Lambert, 318-359-2445. Poker Run at 12:15 p.m. $30 entry fee per bike. Contact Lacy Lemoine, 318-359-9572 (motorcycles, antique cars & Jeeps are all welcome!) Catfish dinner at 5:00 p.m. following 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. $10 per plate. Sunday: Cochon de Lait and BBQ Chicken dinners at 10:30 a.m. following 9:30 a.m. Mass. $13 per plate. Bingo, silent auction, games, cakes, food, face painting, rock monster, inflatables, music by the Cajun Outlaw Band. Raffle $2 per ticket, prizes include LSU tickets, butcher calf, cash and more. Drawing at 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Silent Auction closes at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information contact Karen Moreau, 318-359-1943 or Sacred Heart School, 318-985-2772.

St. Rita Fall Festival - Oct. 26-27

Join us for family fun, Oct. 26-27 at St. Rita Church, Alexandria. On Saturday, Oct. 26, silent auction begins at 4:00 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. we will have chicken & sausage gumbo, burgers, meat piec and more. Saturday's bingo starts at 5:45 in the Holy Family Center. We'll have a kid's costume contest for ages 0-10 and Trunk or Treat begins at 5:30 p.m. On Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the silent auction continues with more gumbo, burgers and sweet shoppe items.

Mary, Mother of Jesus Trunk or Treat - Oct. 30

Join us Oct. 30 at 5:30 p.m. for Trunk or Treat at Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth. We'll have games and other activities too!

Sacred Heart of Jesus Trunk or Treat - Oct. 30

Join us Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. when youth can trick or treat in the safety of our Activities Building parking lot. Food, Treats, Costume Contest! If you would like to provide a trunk or donate candy, please email: sacredheartofjesus.ccd@gmail.com. See you there!

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Psalm 90: 14 Responsorial Psalm for October 13
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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ST RITA WOMENS ACTS Retreat was held at Maryhill Renewal Center the weekend of Aug. 22-25

ST. MARGARET LUMINARY ROSARY RECITATION SET FOR OCT. 6. In honor of October being known as the month of "The Most Holy Rosary," St. Margaret Catholic Church in Boyce will be hosting a special Luminary Rosary Recitation on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. All are welcome and invited.

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EWTN World Premiere of "The Five Priests" Oct. 8

The Five Priests, a full-length documentary that recounts the lives of five Roman Catholic priests who died in the 1873 Yellow Fever epidemic in Shreveport and are now Servants of God in the Vatican canonization process, is receiving acclaim at international film festivals, including being a monthly WINNER at the Cannes World Film Festival. The documentary will make its world premiere on EWTN on Oct. 8 at 9:30 p.m. The Five Priests was produced by the LSUS Foundation in conjunction with the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans, and directed by Chris Charles Scott of Strategery Films in Las Vegas, Nevada.Visit ShreveportMartyrs.org for more on the heroic lives of these priests.

Documents arrive in Rome to verify cause for Charlene Richard

Fr. Taylor Reynolds and several members of Charlene Richard's family, including her older brother and several sisters, all made a trip to Rome to attend the opening ceremony at the Dicastery for the Cause of the saints where Richard's box of documents was officially opened. This marks the beginning of the Roman phase in which her documents will be examined for their legal accuracy to the canal's analysis and then the in-depth study of the documents concerning her heroic virtue and power of intercession. Shortly after, the creative validity will be given concerning how accurate the process was followed.

Charlene Richard

Many prayers are asked for the successful examination and people are encouraged to invite and seek Charlene's intercession as she begins to move forward in the cause of saints.

RICHARD DOCUMENTS UNBOXED IN ROME. Cardinal Marcello Semeraro opening the box with Fr. Taylor Reynolds and a Richard family member looking on. Below, more family members with Fr. Taylor and the documents ready to be examined by the Vatican Dicastery in Rome.

Two more parishes receive initiative grant
Formation for the next generation – Fall 2024

Catholic Extension has entered their second year in offering grants to parishes to enrich the education of youth and families. The three-year program puts into motion ideas generated from the input of parents and parish leaders. In the first year of the program, three parishes from the Diocese were awarded $15,000.00 each to implement their plans in their respective parishes: Immaculate Heart of Mary in Tioga, Mary Mother of Jesus in Woodworth and St. Joseph Church in St Joseph, LA.

In the second year of the program, two more parishes in our Diocese have been awarded the grant. Although their parish listening sessions have not taken place yet, St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo and St. Rita Church in Alexandria will be hosting their listening sessions at the end of October. During the listening sessions, a facilitator from Catholic Extension will spend time hearing from the parish leaders and caregivers of the parish to generate ideas on how the funding can be used. After the listening session, the parishes submit proposals to Catholic Extension for approval of funding.

This is a great opportunity for parishes that if the financial burden was removed, can implement ideas for parents/caregivers to help improve the catechesis in their parishes.

According to research, many parents and caregivers desire to pass on the Catholic faith to their children, but struggle with the most effective way to do this.

The Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative puts Christian parents and caregivers in direct dialogue with catechetical and parish leaders, helping both sides move toward a plan of action in their church communities. These Catholic Extension Society-funded sessions will be led by a designated facilitator, experienced leaders in ministry who work closely with parents to help them succeed as teachers to their children.

CHRISTIAN PARENTING CAREGIVING INITIATIVE GRANT. A large turnout of parishioners attend the first listening session held on May 1 in Woodworth. The first three parishes awarded the grant were Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga and St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA. This fall, two more parishes in the diocese have received the grant: St. Rita in Alexandria and St. Frances de Sales, Echo.

EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM. Saturday, Sept. 14, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. Thank you to Monsignor James Ferguson who concelebrated.

Online OCIA Workshop for religious education leaders set for Oct. 28

An online Virtual Workshop titled: "The New Translation of the OCIA: An Opportunity to Re-envision Catechumenal Ministry" will be presented by LTP on Oct. 28 beginning at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m.

Those involved with parish-level religious education would benefit from attending this workshop. In addition to surveying the changes in the OCIA ritual text, Christian initiation ministry coordinators, teams, and catechists will assess current practices of ministry and discuss ways to take a renewed approach to catechumenal ministry. Join us from where ever you are virtually! It is encouraged that groups in the parish gather together to participate in the workshop, but it is not mandatory. We will gather at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria to participate in the online workshop if anyone wants to join us there. To register, contact Deacon Jason Lavergne for a link to access the registration form. When the event date/time nears, a link to join the online workshop will be emailed to the email address you entered on the registration page. If you have any questions about the workshop, or to register, please contact dcnjlavergne@dioceesalex.org or call 318-445-6424 x207.

Catechetical Formation Enrichment Day, Sept. 28

Calling all Catechists entrusted with handing down the faith to the youth and adults in our Diocese! We invite you to join us for a Day of Enrichment! Please join us on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the LSU-Alexandria campus Brumfield Caffey Ballroom. The day is free of charge and will consist of engaging talks, a panel Q&A, lunch, and more, all led by host Paul George and speaker, David Calavitta. Registration opens on Tuesday, July 30, and closes on Friday, Sept. 20. To register visit www.diocesealex.org. Space is limited.

Email Hannah at the Diocese of Alexandria office at hmorgan@diocesealex.org or Steubenville South at hello@steubenvillesouth.com with any questions.

Seminary Come and See Weekend November 8-10

St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College in Covington is scheduled to have its Fall Come and See weekend from November 8-10. This is a great opportunity for any male 16 years old or older to come and see the seminary campus and what seminary life is like. For more information, please contact the Director of Vocations, Fr. Luke LaFleur at frllafleur@diocesealex.org.

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MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES. On Thursday, Aug. 29, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Rita Church, Alexandria with over 60 priests of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (Fransalians). These priests are serving in dioceses throughout the United States and gathered this week on retreat at Maryhill Renewal Center. It was a great witness of faith from the global church. Thank you to Father Anthony Dharmaraj and the parishioners of St. Rita for their hospitality.

DEACONS RETREAT. Sunday, Sept. 15, Deacons and their wives from the Dioceses of Alexandria and Shreveport gathered at Maryhill Renewal Center over the past few days on a retreat led by Dr. Tom Neal. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass with them this morning. As usual, we stopped for a photo in front of the Maryhill Chapel.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL SISTERS CELEBRATED THEIR FEAST DAY on September 13. A lovely luncheon was provided by the first grade room mothers and the Parents Club provided the celebration cake. Sr. Sandra Norsworthy principal, and Sr. Kalen Sarmiento PK4 teacher have been in Moreauville on and off for the last twenty five years. Gifts and card were given to the Sisters from students, faculty, and staff. Sacred Heart School remains blessed to have the Sisters at our school. Pictured: Sr. Kalen Sarmiento, Fr. Brian Seiler, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy.

Seminarian Burses

August 2024 Donations

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Father Rusty Rabalais Burse
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller $200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse

Total $400.00

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. A Seminary Burse may be names of anyone - bishop, priests, religious, or lay person - chosen by the original donor, and may be added to and allowed to grow. A burse is completed when it reaches $15,000.00 but another burse of the same name can be started. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to:

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--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman

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your presence in the sacraments.
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Set their souls on fire with love for your people.
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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.

// prayer for priests

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, BUNKIE. On Sunday, Aug. 18, St. Anthony's Children of Mary Congregation invested four new members: Caden [redacted], Jordyn [redacted], Camille [redacted], and Sawyer [redacted]. They recited their consecration prayer and received their blue Miraculous Medals.

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, BUNKIE, 8TH GRADE NIGHT. Pictured, left to right: Maddy [redacted], Brees [redacted], English [redacted], Caden [redacted], Joel [redacted] and Brayden [redacted]

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN MARKSVILLE hosted its Youth Group Kick-off event on Wednesday, Aug. 14. Over 40 youth from around the parish joined in for an evening full of activities that included adoration, mass, food, and fun!

St. Joseph's Youth group is open to any youth, grades 6-12, from Avoyelles parish. For information on youth group meeting dates and times, please contact the church office at 318-253-7561

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL SCAPULARS. On Sept. 5, 3rd-grade students proudly received their Brown Scapulars, a cherished tradition at OLPS. Their joyful smiles brightened the day, which also marked the Feast Day of Saint Mother Theresa. Father Thomas Kennedy honored the occasion by bringing a second-class relic of St. Theresa's habit. It truly was a memorable day filled with meaningful gifts and celebrations!

OLPS FOOTBALL. The OLPS Football team has been preparing for their upcoming games this September and October. Our team is made up of talented 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. We can't wait to see them shine on the field! Go Bulldogs!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ORDER OF MERIT. Sir Knight Kenneth Ducote (Msgr. Van de Putten Assembly #2333, St. Joseph Church, Marksville) was presented the Order of Merit Award in grateful recognition and appreciation for his faithful and exceptional service to God and country. He has unselfishly served the Knights of Columbus for 50 years in several capacities. Presenting the award is SK Kell Luke, former Louisiana District Master of the Fourth Degree. SK Ducote was presented this prestigious award at the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree District Meeting held in Baton Rouge on Sept. 7.

See more photos from across the diocese at www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/all-photo-galleries/

GENESIS OF EVE WOMENS CONFERENCE. The Genesis of Eve Womens Conference held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria the weekend of Sept. 6-7. Over 600 attended fron 17 states.

Catholic Charities 2024-2025 Social Work Interns

September marks the beginning of a new school year, not only for our elementary, middle, and high school students, but also for those seeking higher education degrees. We are fortunate at Catholic Charities to participate in Schools of Social Work Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) field placement programs. Since we opened our doors for services in September of 2022, we have been blessed with interns interested in receiving their practicum hours for educational and professional formation with us. Our first year, two MSW LCU students were with us; our second year, one LCU BSW student and one NSU BSW student worked with us. This year, we are pleased to share that again we have two LCU MSW students offering their time and talent to us as we serve the needs of people in Central Louisiana. Thank you for your prayers and support for these two ladies and for the work of Catholic Charities.

Judith Geystan

My name is Judith Geystan, and I'm 52 years of age. The reason why I wanted to apply and attend Louisiana Christian University in the MSW program, because of the Christian environment. I had put off going back to school for a while, but my mother kept pushing me to get my master's degree, so I prayed to God to make sure this was the right decision, and it was! While I'm at Catholic Charities as an intern, I would like to learn more about the organization, how they work with different organizations in the community, and how they all work together to meet the needs of the community. I would like to accomplish change with our homeless in the community, getting them into housing so they can live a normal live instead of being on the street and I would like to see change in some laws and policies that affect our homeless and the community. Ideally, I would like to make a difference in our local government organizations right where I live and learn all that I can as a social worker by researching and gaining more knowledge.

Sydney Smith

I am Sydney Smith, an LCU MSW student, and my ultimate goal is to become a licensed clinical social worker and therapist. I believe the LCU Master of Social work program will provide me with the essential knowledge and experiences needed for licensure. Interning with Catholic Charities of Central LA is a key step in my educational journey; under Mrs. Gilchrist's guidance, I hope to gain experience in utilizing local resources to address community challenges such as hunger, homelessness, and disaster relief. I plan to use this opportunity to build meaningful connections and drive positive change in Central Louisiana, striving to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Psalm 33: 22 | Responsorial Psalm for October 20
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Services Offered by Catholic Charities of Central LA

Visit cccenla.org to access a variety of services. Appointments are required and can be made online.

- **Mental Health Counseling**
- **Christian Life Coaching**
- **Christian Support Groups:**
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  Peace in the Mds of Crisis Divorce Support
- **Vaping/Tobacco Cessation (Youth and Adult)**
- **Disaster Preparedness Resources**
- **Financial Literacy Budget Class**
  - in partnership with Red River Bank and OFMS
- ***Assist.Educate.Elevate.***
  Emergency Basic Needs Assistance
  (For those at risk of utility disconnect and eviction, victims of house fires, and information and referral)
- **SNAP Enrollment Assistance**

To support our work, thank you for your donation of time, talent, or treasure!
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- **Donate** - cccenla.org/hero-of-hope

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CATHOLIC FOUNDATION DONATES GRANT TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOR INITIATIVE. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana receives a grant donation from the Catholic Foundation to fund the organization's "Assist.Educate.Elevate" emergency basic needs assistance program. This kindness has blessed the people served with the gift of safety and health when eviction and utility disconnection are looming. It also provides the tools people need to help them manage their funds through budget classes. This considerate gesture of support and confidence in the work of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana will positively affect the lives of Central Louisiana residents. Pictured left to right: Becky Crooks, Catholic Foundation board member, Jennifer Gilchrist, Director of Operations for CCCLA and Curtis Meaux, Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation.

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Kindergarten/Senior Buddy Tradition at St. Mary's Catholic School

St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches has an established tradition of having a Kindergarten Buddy program. The kindergarten students are assigned a Senior Buddy throughout the year as a mentor. They meet frequently during the year, attend field trips and enjoy a variety of fun activities together. The senior and kindergarten classes at St. Mary's Catholic School recently had their "Buddy Reveal" where they learned who they were partnered with for the school year. This year for the Buddy Reveal, the senior student placed one shoe in a pile with a name on it and the kindergarten student had to find the shoe with their own name and match the shoe to their senior buddy. It was an added twist to introduce the new buddies as they begin this enduring tradition together.

Senior and kindergarten students pictured are first row (left to right): Anna [redacted], Macie [redacted], Anna Grace [redacted], Aria [redacted], Brooklyn [redacted], Barrett [redacted], Brianna [redacted], Ava [redacted], Eva [redacted], Cailah [redacted], Remi [redacted], Zinnia [redacted], Katelyn [redacted], Georgia Kate [redacted], Charlotte [redacted] and Addison [redacted]. Back row: Ryan [redacted], Abigail [redacted], Ainsley [redacted], Amy [redacted], Vincent [redacted], Addison [redacted], Conor [redacted], Cahill [redacted], Chance [redacted], Grevalia [redacted], Camden [redacted], Mary [redacted], Destanee [redacted], Peter [redacted], Ridge [redacted], Braylon [redacted], Robby [redacted], Peyton [redacted], Elaina [redacted] and Ja'keria [redacted].

Próximas sesiones de VIRTUS
(Español)

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NOTA: No se permite la asistencia de menores de edad debido a el contenido para adultos de la FORMACIÓN VIRTUS. Para registrarse, vaya a www.virtus.org. For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Psalm 126: 3 | Responsorial Psalm for October 27
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechism Chat: How to introduce your kids to church teaching

By Jackie and Bobby Angel
National Catholic Register

The truth is: The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a beautiful compendium of the essentials of Church teaching, written in a cohesive way that unites Scripture and Tradition and includes passages from the saints, early Church Fathers and councils of the Church.

When promulgated by St. John Paul II in 1992, it became the first universal catechism in more than 400 years. Yes, it's an important point of reference for Catholics, but it's written much more poetically than most people think. For instance, it begins: "The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself" (27).

As parents, we are the first educators of our children (2223). As learned as we might be, nothing trumps our lived witness as parents and the home environment we create. Our kids are always watching our behaviors, how we speak to and about each other, and how we honor our faith. So how do we introduce our kids to the Catechism and invite them into a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church?

First of all, take it to prayer. If our kids are going to understand their faith as more than rules and rituals, they must first see us parents living out a prayerful relationship with Christ. Take your Catechism to a local chapel, the backyard or the messy dining room table, and ask for the grace to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We must be a well that pours over the grace of God to our children. By being united to Christ in a regular rhythm of prayer, we'll grow in the peace and wisdom necessary to lead our children, recognizing what they can handle and where we can point them deeper.

Secondly, there are many "versions" of the Catechism that we can utilize for teaching kids at varying ages. We've used several variations with our own children. For instance, we have an illustrated, question-and-answer Baltimore Catechism that has helped our children prepare well for first Communion. We also have a YouCat for Kids that our kids read on their own; this version includes helpful questions and quotes from the saints and other Catholic figures like G.K. Chesterton. The original YouCat is also a colorful instruction of the faith (both are available at EWTNRC.com). Our older kids inevitably land on some unexpected page, read a bit, and start sharing what they read or ask us questions. Speaking of questions, our kids have questions — all the questions. "Are we real?" our 6-year-old philosopher asked one night, shortly before her befuddlement over God having a mother: "Why do we say Mary, the Mother of God? God can't make his own mommy … can he?" (Starting at 487, the Catechism has plenty to say on Mary, thankfully!) Sometimes we're good at answering questions our kids aren't asking and ignoring the questions that they are. If we don't know the answer, we can easily say, "That's a great question! I'm not sure, but let's look it up together!" As parents, we have to always be growing in understanding of the rich treasure of our faith, encourage our kids that they know their questions are good, and show them where they can find the answers.

Lastly, we've all witnessed the global popularity of The Bible in a Year podcast with Father Mike Schmitz. Father Schmitz is back in 2023 with The Catechism in a Year, taking 365 days to walk through the Catechism in brief chunks, narrating the text with his own insightful and warm commentary. Listening to Father Schmitz's new podcast will be a beautiful opportunity to dive into the Catechism with your family (with other people around the world). What a gift to give our children: becoming familiar with and taking to heart the Catechism as a family.

Jackie and Bobby Angel are a husband and wife who live the faith while parenting their children and working as authors, speakers, musicians and evangelists for the Catholic faith. They are regular contributors on the Ascension Presents YouTube channel and also host the Conversations with Jackie and Bobby podcast.

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IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND

by Marcus Descant

Our Lord and Savior has a heart of gold,
He is always with us whether young or old.

Love and mercy pour forth from his heart,
laying the foundation to give us a new start.

As we long to be with Him above, we can
only get there through His mercy and love.

He has every one of us in the palm of His
hand, hoping each of us gets to the Promised Land.

If we do what He says and follow His way,
we can rest assure of an eternal home one day.

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2nd Annual Cars for a Cause Car Show

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Holy Savior Menard High School for Cars for a Cause Car Show. All makes and models of cars and trucks are welcome! Car Show winners are determined by voting among car entrants, voting ends at 1:00 p.m. Raffle for split pot. Silent Auction from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Entry fee is $25 and includes a t-shirt. Car show winners announced at 2:00 p.m. Lunch, soft drinks, bottled water available for purchase. Rain out TBA. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Bishop Van de Ven Council #3200. All proceeds go to support Knights of Columbus charities. For more information contact Mike Jeansonne at 318-277-1270 or mjeansonne.law@gmail.com or Tim Ledet at 318-625-1611 or ledettim@yahoo.com or Craig Campo at 318-613-4461 or ccampo@pga.com

(right top and bottom) NATIONAL CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS CONVENTION. The 60th Biennial National Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas was held this week in New Orleans. I was pleased to participate in the closing Recognition Banquet. CDA Courts are active throughout our diocese. They are involved in many charitable activities and are active supporters of our seminarians. As you can see from the photos, I was able to catch up with friends from the Diocese of Alexandria who were participating in the convention.

Women's Worship Workshop set for December 7

St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, LA will be hosting a women's workshop Saturday, Dec. 7 starting at 9:00 a.m. on Lake Bruin. The speaker will be Grammy nominated singer Laura Huval, who will offer talks, music, worship and more for any woman needing a refresher in the Lord. This event is provided FREE by St. Joseph Church. Brunch will be included and the day will end with Mass on the lake. For more information and to reserve your place, please email stjosephinstjoe@gmail.com.

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SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S ANNUAL FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AND FLAG BEARER COMMISSIONING was held on Aug. 19 in front of Sacred Heart School. Four eighth graders were commissioned to be this year's Flag Bearers. They are responsible for raising the flag and retiring it everyday, and making sure it is cared for, along with having it present at all public functions. Pictured, back row: Deacon Reggie Ducote, Fr. Brian Seiler, Mr. John Soldani, Director of Student Affairs, Sr. Sandra Norwsworthy, Principal. Front row: Brooklyn [redacted], Lillie [redacted], Charles [redacted], Axil [redacted].

SACRED HEART SCHOOL (MOREAUVILLE) THIRD GRADE. The third grade students read the "Explanation of the Pledge of Allegiance". Top row: Lillian [redacted], Jaxson [redacted], Reece [redacted], Gideon [redacted], Ahnalise [redacted]. Middle row: Kasen [redacted], Jaxon [redacted], Joslynn [redacted], Maci [redacted]. Front row: Cora [redacted], Charlie [redacted], Jobi [redacted], Henry [redacted], Lane [redacted].

SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE, JR. BETA. Sponsor: Miss Hailey Cooper, President: Margeaux [redacted], Vice President: Lane [redacted], Secretary: Isabella [redacted], Treasurer: McKinley [redacted], Chaplain: Colton [redacted], Reporter: Pierce [redacted].

SACRED HEART SCHOOL FOURTH GRADE. fourth grade read what it meant to be "An American." Mrs Angelia Ducote read " The American Flag has been known as "Old Glory "," The Stars and Stripes " and " The Colors." and Mr. John Soldani read "Why We Should Always Respect the Flag." Top row: Elizabeth [redacted], Jaxson [redacted], Baylor [redacted], Khloe [redacted], Landry [redacted], Addison [redacted]. Bottom row: Bryson [redacted], Taliah [redacted], Crimson [redacted], Jude [redacted], Joseph [redacted], Hudson [redacted].

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN DEVILLE. VBS Workers and students who attended "Come to the Table" VBS the week of July 22 – 26.

The four necessites for reaching middle schoolers

By Jill Bagshaw
Life Teen International

Every adult who works with middle schoolers is going straight to heaven. I have been telling youth ministers, teachers, coaches, and directors for years how their involvement with this elusive age group guarantees it. So, if this is you, please accept an extended standing ovation because you are a hero. Yet, even as I salute you, I recognize some of my enthusiasm comes from relief that it is not me.

I worked in church ministry for a long time, positioning my involvement in proximity to middle school youth ministry. (I have the evidence documented in retreat and camp t-shirts.) I was just close enough to develop a genuine appreciation for the youth ministers and core members but not close enough to commit to a year-round official assocation with middle school ministry.

Yet I felt God calling me to venture into the deep, so I joined an Edge core team. It has been a surprisingly incredible journey to accompany middle school youth. God was patient with me and waited until I was ready to say "yes" to middle school ministry. Now that I have, I'm in; there's no turning back.

It is a joy to walk a MILE in the shoes of a sixth, seventh, or eighth-grader. Here are four tips I have learned for reaching middle schoolers.

Meet

Be attentive to the middle schoolers' energy and match it. For example, if you approach a quieter, more reserved youth, do not begin the interaction with too much enthusiasm. It will make her shrink back, and you will lose relevance. Instead, note her demeanor, vocal tone, and eye contact and match them. On the other hand, if an extroverted middle schooler is holding court, you will need to match his charisma – without overshadowing it – to gain credibility. Meeting the middle schooler where they are is like sitting down in their sandbox and building something side-by-side. Match their energy and then move to the next tip.

Invite

Once you have their attention, quickly build a good rapport. Trust is necessary for a favorable response when you invite a middle schooler to behave a certain way or think deeper. Compliance with a basic invitation, such as asking a middle schooler to store her phone during the Edge Night, is a good starting point but needs to move beyond routine expectations. The ultimate goal is to effectively invite middle schoolers to learn more about Jesus, the Catholic Church, and their faith journey. The next tip will assist with the invitation.

Listen

We honor a person when we listen to them. Receptive listening is one of the best ways to walk a mile in someone else's shoes. It involves being present, reflecting on what you hear, asking questions, and using open body language. Middle schoolers spend a lot of time listening to information at school, so be patient when they display signs of underdeveloped conversational skills. Some youth may be unnerved sitting across from an adult. They may be more comfortable talking while doing an activity, such as sketching, playing cornhole, or making a prayer bead string. Great conversations can happen while you sit beside the youth and join him in an activity. You can model good social cues without the expectation of receiving them back. Listening pro-tip: Follow up on something from a previous conversation with a youth the next time you see her.

Enjoy

Middle schoolers are goofy, funny, and usually highly receptive to people they trust. It is beautiful when youth endeavor to live a life for Christ. Show the joy of the Gospel by having fun with middle schoolers! Find the humor in their jokes, celebrate their victories, and invest in their successes. Leading a middle schooler closer to Christ is an incredible privilege, and there is plenty of fun to be had along the way. Enjoy the journey!

See you in heaven.

Jill Bagshaw is the Director of Catechesis and Research for Life Teen. She brings over two decades of Church ministry experience and education to her current role, where she is dedicated to equipping youth ministers with fun, hihg-quality resources designed to reach teens. Jill and her husband Scott share life with their three teenagers in Scottsdale, AZ. You can find her folding laundry, working on logic puzzles, doing (her own) homework, or behind the piano at church.

Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference: Dec. 7

Calling all middle school students! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join us at Beyond the Limits, Jr. High Conference on Saturday, December 7 to be illuminated in the light of Christ.

All students in grades 6 – 8 are invited to attend this retreat with their parish youth group. Learn more soon at steubenvillesouth.com, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates. s

Group registration is now OPEN! More information, including t-shirt pre-orders and a schedule outline will be available soon. Don't miss this opportunity to spend a day with Mike Patin, Ragan Savedra, and Kelly Lombardi. Let's geaux!

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Church Fair Echo - Sept. 27-28

Join us for the 2024 Annual Church Fair at St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9294. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening, street dance starts at 8:00 p.m. to the music of High Stakes Band, $10 cover charge for adults. Saturday's fair activities begin at 5:00 p.m. Both days include fun games and great food! Hope to see you there! For more info contact Mark Gauthier at (318) 787-3252, Cory Bernard at (318) 308-1359, Randy Guillory at (318) 709-0443 or Jeff Dufour at (318) 613-1376.

Beginning Experience Retreat - Sept. 27-29

Widowed, separated or divorced? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience of Alexandria is registering now for a weekend away that provides an individual with the opportunity to encounter self and to grow with a purpose to achieve inner peace. The experience is to help close the door gently on the past and move on with renewed hope and purpose. The weekend will be held at Maryhill Renewal Center - Pineville, LA on September 27-29, 2024. Cost is $185.00 which includes two nights' lodging and meals.

For more information the website is: www.beginningexperience.org

or to register contact: Anna at (318) 448-1990 or (318) 452-2678 asweat7@aol.com

Blessing of the Animals - Oct. 5

Join us at 9:30 a.m. before the kick off of the Our Lady of Prompt Succor Fall Fest for Blessing of the Animals in honor of the Feastday of St. Francis of Assisi. The Rite of Blessing will be led by Fr. Thomas Kennedy at the front of the church. For your safety and courtesy to others, please have your animals appropriately secured, as other animals and people will be present. Please clean up after your pets. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come rain or shine!

OLPS Fall Fest - Oct. 5

Join us from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School for our annual Fall Fest! Talent show, Spirit Shop, Cheer team and dance line performances, Silent Auction, Art Sale, Sweet Shop, food, fun games and more!

Day of Reflection - Oct. 12

You are invited to attend a 'Day of Reflection' hosted by the Discalced Carmelite Community of Alexandria on October 12, 2024 at Maryhill Renewal Center, Northside Youth Building. Our presenter will be Fr. Louis Sklar and the topic is "Teach Me To Pray". We will gather at 8:30 am for welcome and registration. The day will begin with Morning Prayer at 9 am and conclude after a 4 pm mass. The cost is $10.00, please bring your Brown Bag lunch, we will provide coffee, tea, water, and snacks. For more information please contact Mary Jo McCoy at 318 346-6860 or 318 481-9638.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Marriage Prep Workshop - Oct. 12

Are you engaged or planning your upcoming wedding? Beginning Oct. 12, Pre-Cana workshops are returning to the Diocese of Alexandria, and will be held quarterly. These one-day workshops will be held at the St. Joseph Catholic Center located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, LA. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., the day will include presentations on various topics that are vital to a couple's lifelong marriage. The workshop will end at approximately 3:00 p.m. and lunch will be included. Space is limited so register soon. Cost is $60 per couple. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207

Bishop's Golf Tournament - Oct. 14

Bishop's Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Seminarian Education will be held Monday, Oct. 14. This year, the tournament moves to Links on the Bayou, Alexandria. To sign up a team or to become a sponsor, contact Sandi Tarver at starver@diocesealex.org.

White Coat Mass - Oct. 18

The Diocese of Alexandria invites you to the 2024 White Coat Mass in honor of all medical professionals, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria, Friday, Oct. 18 at 12:05 p.m. with Bishop Robert Marshall presiding. To RSVP, please contact Dr. Joseph Landreneau at josephlandreneau@gmail.com or Cathy Norris at 318-448-6797.

Sacred Heart School's 59th Fall Festival in Moreauville - Oct. 19-20

Saturday: 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Color Run starts at 7:00 a.m. $25 entry fee. Contact Lindsey Lambert, 318-359-2445. Poker Run at 12:15 p.m. $30 entry fee per bike. Contact Lacy Lemoine, 318-359-9572 (motorcycles, antique cars & Jeeps are all welcome!) Catfish dinner at 5:00 p.m. following 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. $10 per plate.

Sunday: Cochon de Lait and BBQ Chicken dinners at 10:30 a.m. following 9:30 a.m. Mass. $13 per plate.

Bingo, silent auction, games, cakes, food, face painting, rock monster, inflatables, music by the Cajun Outlaw Band. Raffle $2 per ticket, prizes include LSU tickets, butcher calf, cash and more. Drawing at 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Silent Auction closes at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information contact Karen Moreau, 318-359-1943 or Sacred Heart School, 318-985-2772.

ECHO Married Couples Retreat - Oct. 25-27

ECHO Community is hosting a married couples retreat at Maryhill on Oct. 25-27. Married couples will come together to dive into St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, all the while growing in their own relationships in authentic community with other couples. The retreat will offer dynamic talks, life giving discussions, quality time with your spouse, encounters with Christ through the sacraments, art, music, silent prayer, and so much more! For more information visit: www.echoretreats.com/marriage.html

St. Rita Fall Festival - Oct. 26-27

Join us for family fun, Oct. 26-27 at St. Rita Church, Alexandria. On Saturday, Oct. 26, silent auction begins at 4:00 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. we will have chicken & sausage gumbo, burgers, meat piec and more. Saturday's bingo starts at 5:45 in the Holy Family Center. We'll have a kid's costume contest for ages 0-10 and Trunk or Treat begins at 5:30 p.m. On Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the silent auction continues with more gumbo, burgers and sweet shoppe items.

Spiritual Freedom Silent Retreat - Nov. 7-10

In a retreat surrounded by the quiet of nature, you will be encouraged to listen in prayer to the voice of God speaking to your heart. Come to Maryhill Renewal Center for a weekend of silent reflection and prayer, each retreatant is provided a private room and an individual Spiritual Director who will guide the weekend reflections using the Spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. This is a directed silent retreat. Cost is $275. For more information, contact Ingrid at inewell@yahoo.com or 318-792-3331; Joan at jdobard@gmail.com or 318-490-1385; Nicki at forevercatholic820@gmail.com or 318-447-6383.

Church Today News Deadlines

October 28
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Oct. 17

November 25
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 14

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October 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
SEPTEMBER 23 PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER	24 **Our Lady of Guadalupe Capital Campaign Kick-off** **VIRTUS Training (Spanish)** 6:00 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Forest Hill PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	**VIRTUS Training** 6:00 p.m. St. Mary's School Natchitoches 25 **The Preternatural World Series** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	26 **VIRTUS Training** 6:00 p.m. St. John the Baptist Church, Deville PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON	27 **CHURCH FAIR -- ST FRANCIS DE SALES ECHO** **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE RETREAT -- MARYHILL** PRAY FOR DCN. S. JONES	28 **Catechetical Formation Enrichment Day** 8:00 a.m. Brumfield Caffey Ballroom, LSUA Campus PRAY FOR FR. T. KENNEDY	29 **24-hour Adoration St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, LA** PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI
30 PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM	OCTOBER 1 PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 MEMORIAL of the HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR	3 PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	4 **RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE HELP WORKSHOP -- BATON ROUGE** FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME	**Blessing of the Animals** 9:30 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria 5 **Annual Fall Fest** 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. OLPS School, Alexandria FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR DCN. J. LAVERGNE	6 PRAY FOR FR. G. LEBLANC
7 MEMORIAL of OUR LADY of the ROSARY PRAY FOR DCN. A. MANGINI	8 **EWTN World Premiere of "The Five Priests"** 9:30 p.m. EWTN Network PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL	**VIRTUS Training** 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria 9 **The Preternatural World Series** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	10 **Jubilee Year Mission Series** 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	11 PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER	12 **Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop** 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria **Discalced Carmelite meeting** 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	13 PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER
14 **Bishop's Golf Tournament** 12:00 noon Links on the Bayou, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK	15 PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS	16 **The Preternatural World Series** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER	17 **Jubilee Year Mission Series** 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen **Our Lady of Guadalupe Men's ACTS Retreat (Spanish) -- Maryhill Renewal Center** PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL	18 **White Coat Mass** 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria FEAST of ST. LUKE PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN	19 **SACRED HEART SCHOOL FAIR -- MOREAUVILLE** PRAY FOR DCN. D. MOREAU	20 PRAY FOR DCN. L. MOREAU
21 PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD	22 PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH	23 **VIRTUS Training (Spanish)** 6:00 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Forest Hill PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	24 **Jubilee Year Mission Series** 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY	25 **ECHO Married Couples Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center** PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	26 **Cars for a Cause Car Show** 10:00 a.m. Holy Savior Menard Parking Lot, Alexandria **St. Rita Fall Festival** PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE	27 PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN

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