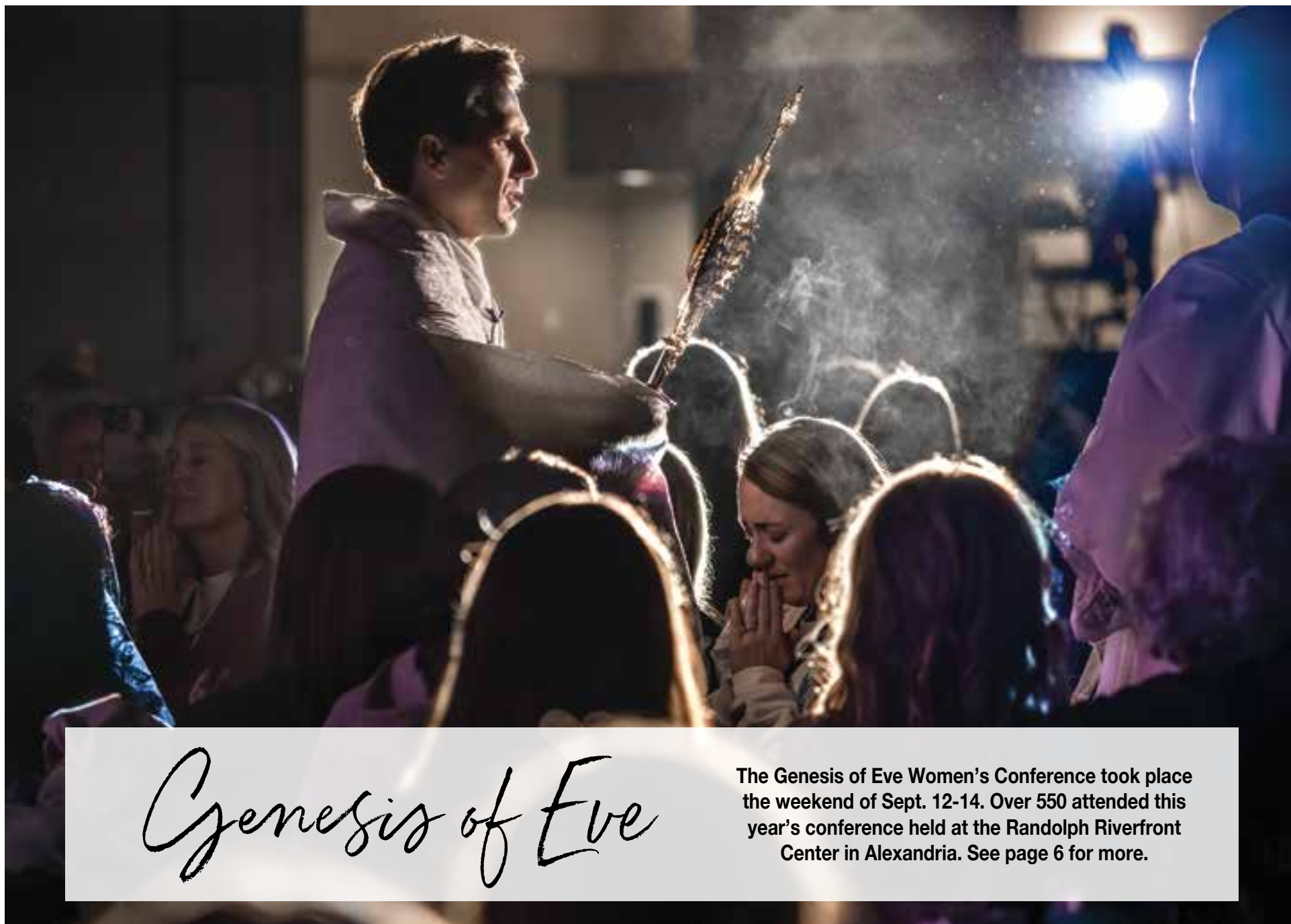


CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVI, No. 9

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970 September 22, 2025



Genesis of Eve

The Genesis of Eve Women's Conference took place the weekend of Sept. 12-14. Over 550 attended this year's conference held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. See page 6 for more.

INSIDE

Women's Conference draws over 550

A weekend of encouragement, wisdom, and honesty shared to remind that we're not alone in this journey of faith. The Genesis of Eve Women's Conference, held the weekend of Sept. 12-14 in Alexandria, fulfilled all of that and more. See photos on page 6.

Our Hispanic Communities in action

Hispanic Heritage Month kicked off on September 15. Several local events were held this past month including the 2nd Annual Kermes at St. Louis Church in Glenmora and a one day youth retreat in Alexandria. See more on page 11.

Beyond the Limits Youth Conference

Don't miss the chance to give your child a day that could change everything. Middle school isn't just a chapter to get through, it's a foundation to build on and when that foundation is Christ, the possibilities are truly beyond the limits. Read about it on page 17.

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CHURCH
TODAY

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September 22, 2025

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DEACON CANDIDATES INSTITUED AS LECTORS TO CONTINUE FORMATION. On Sunday, Aug. 24, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, the ten candidates in formation for the permanent diaconate took another step in their journey. They were instituted into the Ministry of Lector. Congratulations and thank you to these candidates, their spouses, families and their supportive parish communities. Please continue to pray for them.



BISHOP MARSHALL AND BISHOP DAVID TALLEY. While in both Mobile, Alabama and in Thibodaux, Louisiana, Bishop Marshall ran into Bishop David Talley who also attended both ordination/installations. Bishop Talley is now the Bishop of Memphis, but served as the Bishop of Alexandria from 2017-2019.

BISHOP MARSHALL ATTENDS BISHOP ORDINATION AND BISHOP INSTALLATION. Wednesday, Sept. 3, Bishop Robert Marshall concelebrated the Mass of Installation of the Most Reverend Mark Rivituso as the Archbishop of Mobile, Alabama. Bishop Rivituso was formerly an Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis. It was a joyous celebration in Mobile's beautiful and historic Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

On Friday, Sept. 5, Bishop Marshall concelebrated the Mass of Ordination and Installation of Most Reverend Simon Peter Engurait as the Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux (below). The Mass was celebrated at the Strother Gym at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. This was Bishop Marshall's first opportunity to participate in the laying on of hands at a bishop's ordination!



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New young saints encourage faithful to live life to the full, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Our Sunday Visitor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The greatest risk in life is to waste it by not seeking to follow God's plan, Pope Leo XIV said, proclaiming two new saints — two young laymen of the 20th and 21st centuries.

"Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upward and make them masterpieces," the pope said Sept. 7.

"The simple but winning formula of their holiness," he said, is accessible to everyone at any time. "They encourage us with their words: 'Not I, but God,' as Carlo used to say. And Pier Giorgio: 'If you have God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach the end.'"

Before canonizing the first saints of his pontificate, Pope Leo greeted the more than 80,000 faithful who had gathered early in St. Peter's Square because he wanted to share his joy with them before the start of the solemn ceremony.

"Brothers and sisters, today is a wonderful celebration for all of Italy, for the whole church, for the whole world," he said before the Mass.

"While the celebration is very solemn, it is also a day of great joy, and I wanted to greet especially the many young people who have come for this holy Mass," he said, also greeting the families of the soon-to-be



NEWLY CANONIZED. Pope Leo XIV pronounces the homily during the canonization Mass of St. Carlo Acutis, a British-born Italian boy who became the first millennial to be made a Catholic saint, and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Sept. 7, 2025. (OSV News Photo/Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters)

saints and the associations and communities to which the young men had belonged.

Pope Leo asked that everyone "feel in our hearts the same thing that Pier Giorgio and Carlo experienced: this love for Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist, but also in the poor, in our brothers and sisters."

"All of you, all of us, are also called to be saints," he said, before leaving to prepare for Mass and paying homage to a statue of Mary with baby Jesus and the reliquaries containing the relics of the two young men.

In his homily, the pope

underlined Jesus' call in the day's Gospel reading "to abandon ourselves without hesitation to the adventure that he offers us, with the intelligence and strength that comes from his Spirit, that we can receive to the extent that we empty ourselves of the things and ideas to which we are attached, in order to listen to his word."

That is what the two new saints did and what every disciple of Christ is called to do, he said.

Many people, especially when they are young, he said, face a kind of "crossroads" in life when they reflect on what to do with their life.

The saints of the church are often portrayed as "great figures, forgetting that for them it all began when, while still young, they said 'yes' to God and gave themselves to him completely, keeping nothing for themselves," the pope said.

"Today we look to St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis: a young man from the early 20th century and a teenager from our own day, both in love with Jesus and ready to give everything for him," he said.

Pope Leo then dedicated a large portion of his homily to sharing quotes from the two

and details of their lives, which is something Pope Francis had shifted away from, preferring to focus more on the day's readings.

"Pier Giorgio's life is a beacon for lay spirituality," Pope Leo said.

"For him, faith was not a private devotion, but it was driven by the power of the Gospel and his membership in ecclesial associations," he said. "He was also generously committed to society, contributed to political life and devoted himself ardently to the service of the poor."

"Carlo, for his part, encountered Jesus in his family, thanks to his parents, Andrea and Antonia — who are here today with his two siblings, Francesca and Michele," he said, as the crowd applauded, and Antonia smiled shyly at the camera.

St. Acutis also encountered Jesus at the Jesuit-run school he attended and "above all in the sacraments celebrated in the parish community," he said. "He grew up naturally integrating prayer, sport, study and charity into his days as a child and young man."

The pope said the new saints "cultivated their love for God and for their brothers and sisters

see SAINTS on pg. 5

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

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please first call the Louisiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency. If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report should then also be made to the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist at 318-542-9805.

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 Sonto reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us.

Amen.

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2025 #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2



We are so excited to announce that the Diocese of Alexandria will be participating in #iGiveCatholic 2025!

#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.

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 2025 and how you can get involved!

Last year, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral set a goal to purchase new liturgical vestments and exceeded expectations, raising \$10,190! This remarkable generosity highlights the power of our faith community coming together.

Mark your calendars and join us this year for Giving Tuesday on December 2, as we embrace the opportunity to Give Thanks, Give Back, and Give Catholic!



LOUISIANA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS MEETING. On Tuesday, Sept. 16, Bishop Robert Marshall travelled to the Immaculata Center of the Diocese of Lafayette for a meeting of the New Orleans Provincial Council and the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops. He joined (left to right) Bishop Simon Peter Engurait of Houma-Thibodaux, Bishop Francis Malone of Shreveport, Bishop Glen John Provost of Lake Charles, Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, Bishop Douglas Deshotel of Lafayette, and Bishop Michael Duca of Baton Rouge. Thank you to the Diocese of Lafayette for your hospitality.

ANNUAL OLPS FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

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Menard: 318-445-8233
Cabrini: 318-448-3333
Sacred Heart: 318-985-2772

*If today
you hear
his voice,
harden not
your hearts.*

Psalm 95: 8
Responsorial Psalm
for October 5
Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary time

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(318)717-1995

SAINTS

Continued from pg. 3

through simple acts, available to everyone: daily Mass, prayer and especially Eucharistic adoration.”

St. Frassati was born April 6, 1901, in Turin and died there July 4, 1925, of polio at the age of 24. St. Acutis was born to Italian parents May 3, 1991, in London and died in Monza, Italy, Oct. 12, 2006, of leukemia at the age of 15.

The pope said that “even when illness struck them and cut short their young lives, not even

while living in Italy. It was her unexplained healing that provided the second miracle needed for St. Acutis’ canonization.

St. Frassati was active with Catholic Action, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Italian Catholic University Federation and the Dominican Third Order. Lorenzo Zardi, vice president of the youth group of Italy’s Catholic Action read the second reading at the Mass and Michele Tridente, the secretary general of the lay movement, also presented the pope with offertory gifts.



this stopped them nor prevented them from loving, offering themselves to God, blessing him and praying to him for themselves and for everyone.”

Several family members and people closely associated with the new saints attended the Mass, along with dignitaries, such as Italian President Sergio Mattarella.

St. Acutis’ parents, Andrea and Antonia, and his twin siblings, Michele and Francesca, who were born four years after their brother died, were present and together brought the pope the offertory gifts. Michele also did the first reading at the Mass in English.

Valeria Valverde, who read the first prayer of the faithful, is a young Costa Rican woman who suffered a severe head injury

Before praying the Angelus, the pope once again thanked everyone for coming to celebrate the church’s two new saints.

However, he also called for people’s “incessant prayer for peace, especially in the Holy Land, and in Ukraine and in every other land bloodied by war.”

“To governing leaders, I repeat, listen to the voice of conscience,” he said.

“The apparent victories won with weapons, sowing death and destruction, are really defeats and will never bring peace and security,” he said.

“God does not want war. God wants peace!” he exclaimed to applause. God gives strength to those who work toward leaving behind the cycle of hatred and pursue the path of dialogue.

What if your son became pope? The story of Mildred Prevost

By Paula Umana
Blessed is She

Can you imagine raising a child . . . and never realizing that one day, he would become the pope?

That was the incredible story of Mildred Agnes Martínez Prevost, the woman who gave the world Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost—now the first American-born pope.

I’m writing this just days after his election on May 8, 2025, and like many mothers watching this historic moment, I asked myself: Who raised him? Who prayed for him? Who taught him faith? Behind every great man, there is often a woman of profound love and conviction. And in this case, that woman was Mildred—a humble librarian, parish volunteer, and mother who raised three boys on the South Side of Chicago.



Who is Mildred Prevost?

Born in 1911 and raised in Chicago, Mildred came from a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Her family has roots in New Orleans’ Seventh Ward, a vibrant Catholic Creole community known for its blend of African, Caribbean, Spanish, and French traditions. Her father, Joseph Martínez, was a cigar maker from the Dominican Republic, and her mother, Louise Baquié, was born in New Orleans. Faith, discipline, and culture were the fabric of her upbringing.

She attended Immaculata

POPE LEO XIV’S MOTHER, Mildred Agnes Martínez Prevost with her three sons, Louis, John, and Robert in this undated photo.

High School, an all-girls Catholic school, and graduated in 1929—a time when women pursuing education was rare. Later, she earned a master’s degree in library science from DePaul University, studying alongside her future husband, Louis Marius Prevost, a World War II veteran and school superintendent.

Mildred worked as a librarian in Catholic schools, including Von Steuben and Mendel Catholic High, where she also

led the Mothers’ Club. Her life was a quiet but radiant witness to Catholic service: singing in the church choir, leading the Altar and Rosary Society, and arranging flowers for the sanctuary. Two of her sisters even became nuns, a sign of the deep religious atmosphere that surrounded her family.

Raising a Future Pope

see MILDRED on pg 13

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Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop

Wednesday
October 8, 6:00-9 p.m.

Lector Workshop

Wednesday
October 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Both workshops
will be held at:
St. Joseph Catholic Center,
4400 Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria

dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org

Genesis of Eve



GENESIS OF EVE SPEAKERS. Keynotes and impactful discussions were led by Emily Wilson, Fr. David Michael Moses, Rachel Bulman and Kathryn Whitaker.



THE SPIRIT OF GENESIS OF EVE. Capturing the joy in a moment during the women's conference held Sept. 12-14 in Alexandria.



BISHOP CELEBRATES MASS. Bishop Robert Marshall and Deacons Lee Moreau and Richard Mitchell prepare for communion during the Genesis of Eve Women's Conference.



OVER 550 ATTENDEES. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrates Mass during the Genesis of Eve Women's Conference.

*The Lord has revealed
to the nations
his saving power.*

Psalm 98:2 | Responsorial Psalm for October 12
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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BISHOP MARSHALL VISITS SEMINARIANS. On Thursday, Sept. 4, following a bishop’s installation Mass in the Archdiocese of Mobile, Bishop Robert Marshall traveled to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. There, he celebrated Mass for the seminary community and had breakfast with those Alexandria seminarians who currently attend NDS. From left to right are: Cullen Phillips, Graham Descant, Matthew Bonner, Bishop Marshall, Blaine Phillips, Gabe Dowden, and Jacob Cass. Please keep our seminarians in your prayers. Your generous contributions to the Annual Diocesan Appeal help to ensure that our diocese will have priests in the future.

Seminarian Burses

August 2025 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Siltan Innerarity	\$25.00
Father Rickey Gremillion Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Wade DeCoste Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Daniel O’Connor Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
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:

**Chancery Office,
Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417**

Thank you for your generosity!
--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman

LOST AND FOUND NOTICE:

A small piece of jewelry was found while cleaning up after the Evening with the Seminarians event at St. Rita Holy Family Center on Monday, Aug. 4. To claim it please contact Sandi at 318-445-6424, ext. 209.

**October 13
Bishop’s Annual
Golf Tournament**
benefiting the
Seminarian Education Fund

Contact
starver@diocesealex.org
318-445-6424, ext. 209

**JOB OPENING:
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What is my Vocation?

Do you want guidance in learning about God the Father’s specific plan for you?
Do you feel called to give more and be more? Do you have questions about how to discern you Vocation?
JOIN US! Saturday, November 8
The day will include an extensive panel of vocations experts made up of religious brothers, sisters, and priests. **Open to All Youth** and anyone discerning his/her vocation.
Where: St. Mary’s Assumption Catholic Church, Cottonport

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



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH IN CAMPTI CELEBRATES 194TH ANNIVERSARY. In 1831, land in the town of Campti was donated by Miss Frances Crichton and a new chapel was built on it, blessed and dedicated in honor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin by Fr. Jean Baptiste Blanc of Natchitoches on September 8, 1831. A Mass celebrating this anniversary was held on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025.

Spiritual Direction informational meeting (online)

Are you being called to become a Spiritual Director? Do others seek you out for spiritual conversations? You are cordially invited to attend a free virtual information session on Zoom to learn more about becoming a trained Spiritual Director. This session with Mike Van Vranken will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Please register for this online meeting at <https://nolacatholic.org/internship-information-meetings>



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O Angel of Light,
O Spirit so bright,
Show us the way
In this darkness of night.

Protect our souls
During the coming storm
And from all those things
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For, to Jesus through Mary
Our Hearts will reside.

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Fall Events, Fairs and Festivals!

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

Saturday, Sept. 27: Gumbo served at 5:00 p.m.; Bingo 5:30-9:30 p.m., **Sunday, Sept. 28:** Dinner served at 10:30 a.m.; Bingo at 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. To buy raffle tickets, call Brigitte Kelso at 318-452-6615. Bingo information: Charisa Bernard at 318-792-8454. Dinner tickets: Erica Ducote at 318-264-5615, or buy from all Knights of Columbus members. All other information please call Mark Gauthier at 318-787-3252; Cory Bernard at 318-308-1359; Randy Guillory at 318-709-0443; Austin Ducote at 318-462-2816. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9294.

Oct. 4 OLPS Fall Festival, Alexandria

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria will host its annual Fall Festival on the school grounds Saturday, Oct. 4. Join us for a day of activities including games and prizes, talent show and lots of food cooked up by the Knights of Columbus! All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Prompt Succor School! For more information, call 318-487-1862.

Oct. 4 Steak Night and Dance

Come have an enjoyable night at St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. dinner is served 6:00 p.m. followed by music and dancing until 11:00 p.m. Menu includes steak, baked potato, green beans, dessert and drink. \$25 per ticket and must be pre-purchased. Contact Elizabeth Metoyer at 318-792-5442; Catrell Sanders at 318-518-0064 or Nazy Metoyer at 757-323-9401. All proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville, LA.

Oct. 18-19 Sacred Heart School Fall Festival, Moreauville

Saturday, Oct. 18: 5K/1Mile FunRun \$25 entry; Poker Run \$30 entry; Catfish plates at 5:00 p.m. \$12; booths open 5:00-10:00 p.m.; Fireworks show on the banks of Bayou des Glaisses after Bingo closes. **Sunday, Oct. 19:** Booths open 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Cochon de Lait or BBQ Chicken at 10:30 a.m. \$15 a plate; Online Silent Auction closes at 12 noon. Lots of games and family fun including Bingo, Silent Auction, cakes, food, candied apples, drinks,

face painting, Rock Monster, Toxic Meltdown, inflatables, Split the Pot, Country Store. Grand Raffle \$2/ticket prizes include 500 lb butcher calf; 2 LSU vs Western Kentucky tickets; Chromebook, concrete religious statue; cash prizes of \$500, \$300, \$250, \$150. Raffle drawing will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19. Entertainment provided both days by The Cajun Outlaw Band. For more information contact Karen Moreau at 318-985-2772.

Oct. 25-26

St. Rita Fall Festival, Alexandria

Join us at St. Rita Church, Alexandria for the annual Fall Festival! On **Saturday, Oct. 25** the fun starts with Silent Auction opening in the Holy Family Center at 4 p.m. Chicken and sausage gumbo is served at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$8. Kids Costume Contest at 5:00 p.m. for ages 0-10. Trunk or Treat starts at 5:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 5:45 p.m. Concession stand, Sweet Shoppe until 9:00 p.m.

On **Sunday, Oct. 26**, Silent Auction and Sweet Shoppe continue from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Oct. 26 Trunk or Treat

Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth

Join us Oct. 26 at 6:00 p.m. for Trunk or Treat at Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth. We'll have games and other activities too!

(right) ALEXANDRIA PRIESTS PARTICIPATE IN CLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS FOR SAINTHOOD.

Fr. Thomas Kennedy and Fr. Taylor Reynolds, as well as priests from all over Louisiana, attended the closing ceremony of the diocesan preparation of documents for sainthood for the 5 priests of Natchitoches. The event was held at Holy Trinity in Shreveport where some of the priests ministered and entailed a statement from the nuncio, oaths of officials signed and sworn and the final packages of documents signed and sealed with wax. The documents will be delivered to Rome on Oct. 9 to the Dicastery for the Cause of Saints which will begin the Roman Phase of this process. Pictured left to right: Fr. Thomas Kennedy, Fr. Taylor Reynolds, JCL and Fr. Peter Mangum, JCL.

Oct. 29 Trunk or Treat

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville

Join us Oct. 29 at 6:00 p.m. for Trunk or Treat at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville.

Nov. 1 - Cabrini Fest, Alexandria

St. Frances Cabrini School is dedicated to making a Catholic education possible for everyone. We depend greatly on our sponsors and fundraisers to help keep tuition costs low while providing the best education possible. Cabrini Fest is a major event we sponsor every year. It's a fun community-wide event that includes booths, raffles, bingo, talent show, live entertainment and a take-out dinner at the end of the day. This year, 2025 Cabrini Fest will be held on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 Church Fair

St. John the Baptist, Cloutierville

Friday, Oct. 31: Trick-or-Treat hayride starts at 5:30 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 1:** Poker Run starts and finishes at St. John the Baptist Church Hall, 161 Hwy 491, Cloutierville. Registration time is 11:30-12:45 and kickstands up at 1:00 p.m. Registration is \$25 for the first rider/\$10 second rider. Registration includes one meat pie or hamburger. Prizes for best and worst hand. Donations are welcome. Contact: Catrell Sanders at 318-518-0064 or Donald Rachal, Sr. 318-663-2094. All bikes welcome, neutral territory. Bingo, food and games at 5:30 p.m. with a dance starting at 9:00 p.m. **Sunday, Nov. 2:** 11:00 a.m. Bingo, food and games continue, raffle drawing at 4:00 p.m.





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ST. EDWARD CHURCH, FISHVILLE, HOSTS WORKSHOPS. An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop was held on Saturday, Aug. 22 at St. Edward Church, Fishville, LA (near Pollock). It was followed by a Lector Workshop in the afternoon. Dcn. Jason Lavergne was the facilitator. Pictured with the attendees are Fr. Daniel Hart, pastor of St. Edward, and Dcn. Jason Lavergne.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT. For his Eagle Scout project, Jacob C. of Scout Troop 6, landscaped and renovated the flower beds in front of St. Frances Cabrini School and cleaned up the Mother Cabrini Statue! Thank you, Jacob!



BISHOP MARSHALL CELEBRATES MASS AT LSUA. On Wednesday, Sept. 10, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass on the LSUA campus. Thank you to Dr. Paul Coreil and the LSUA administration for welcoming him to the campus, to Amelia Bordelon, Director of Campus Ministry for the diocese and the members of the Catholic Student Organization for nurturing a Catholic presence on campus, and to all who joined us for the celebration. After Mass, the Knights of Columbus Council from Echo and Fifth Ward prepared and served lunch to the students and all who gathered.



(above and below) FIESTA! DINNER FOR OUR HISPANIC COMMUNITY. Catholic Charities hosted an event on Saturday, Aug. 30, for the beautiful families in our Forest Hill and Glenmora Church parishes. A huge thank you to the St. Rita Hispanic Cooking Team for preparing a delicious dinner, to our Diocese of Alexandria Teresian Sisters, to our Diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministries, Jonathan Felix, and to all the guests who joined us for this celebration, all made possible by Healthy Blue grant funding!



(left) SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S ROOM MOTHER CLUB. These room mothers work closely with Mrs. Karen Moreau, Director of Development, Stewardship, and Events Coordinator on school events and activities at Sacred Heart School. The upcoming event is this year's 60th Annual Fall Fair. Each class donates a gift basket or large ticket item to the Silent Auction.

Hispanic Heritage Month kicked off on September 15. Here are some recent events happening on our Hispanic communities:

2nd annual *Kermes* held in Glenmora

The Parish of St. Louis Church in Glenmora celebrated the Feast Day of St. Louis of France, Patron Saint of the Arts (August 25th).

The celebration took place Aug. 31, as the 2nd annual “Kermes”, with the efforts and leadership of Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez and the collaborating members of both Glenmora, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church in Forest Hill. Parishioners from Father Edwin’s previous home parishes also assisted and volunteered to carry out this event.

The event was filled with authentic Mexican food, fresh fruits, water, desserts, as well as games/activities for the kids. The kids enjoyed carnival style games with prizes, mechanical bull riding, and chasing a chicken for a top prize.

The traditional Mariachi band brought the event to life, bringing the heartfelt and cultural influence of Hispanic generations here to the local community.

This Kermes, through the assistance and participation of the community, was a fundraising opportunity for St. Louis Church in Glenmora. As the surrounding community is growing, the need for resources is growing as well. This event will help bring resources to St. Louis Church for its CCD program and the support youth group of the Parish.

We highlight that this event was a great opportunity for all members of the community to come together and culturally celebrate our faith. As members of different parishes collaborated to achieve this event, it is

a representation of walking *together as one Church*. As we are instilled with the values in our faith of loving our neighbor and living together, the Parish of St. Louis looks forward for future collaboration towards the efforts of unity and cultural expression within our communities.

La parroquia de la iglesia de San Luis en Glenmora, Louisiana, celebró la festividad de San Luis de Francia, Patrón de las Artes (25 de agosto).

La celebración fue el 31 de agosto de 2025, como la segunda «Kermes» anual, gracias al esfuerzo y liderazgo del Padre Edwin y la colaboración de los miembros de Glenmora y Forest Hill. Los feligreses de las parroquias anteriores del padre Edwin también ayudaron y se ofrecieron como voluntarios para llevar a cabo este evento.

El evento estuvo repleto de auténtica comida mexicana, aguas frescas de frutas, postres, junto con juegos y actividades para los niños. Los niños disfrutaron de juegos de feria con premios,



montar en un toro mecánico y perseguir a una gallina para ganar premio.

La tradicional banda de mariachis animó el evento, aportando la influencia cultural y el corazón de las generaciones hispanas a la comunidad local.

Esta Kermes, gracias a la ayuda y participación de la comunidad, fue una oportunidad para recaudar fondos para la iglesia St. Louis en Glenmora.

A medida que la comunidad circundante crece, también lo hace la necesidad de recursos. Este evento ayudará a aportar recursos a la iglesia de St. Louis para su programa de catecismo y el grupo de apoyo a los jóvenes de la parroquia.

Ha sido maravilloso ver como este evento fue una gran oportunidad para que todos los miembros de la comunidad se reunieran y celebraran

culturalmente nuestra fe. El hecho de que miembros de diferentes parroquias colaboraron para llevar a cabo este evento es una muestra de que caminamos juntos como una sola Iglesia. Dado que se nos inculcan los valores de nuestra fe de amar al prójimo y convivir, la parroquia de St. Louis espera con interés futuras colaboraciones en fortalecer la unidad y la expresión cultural dentro de nuestras comunidades.



2ND LATINO YOUTH AND FAMILY RETREAT took place Saturday, Aug. 23, at the OLPS Divine Providence Center. It offered the Latino/Hispanic communities of our Diocese the opportunity to grow and strengthen their Catholic Faith and relationship with God. The retreat was focused on the Latino Youth of our Diocese but also included essential integration of the whole family. This was a day filled with dynamic activities, lessons, and testimony from our speakers/presenters: Dr. Alex Gotay, Speaker and retreat facilitator for High School youth; Brandon Morel, Speaker for elementary to Jr. High school grade levels; and Karla Alvarez, Director of Multicultural Ministry for The Diocese of Shreveport.

Not only are these speakers well known in their respective fields and missions, but they also offered a unique insight to the cultural aspects of what it is to pursue faith as a Latino. Youth and family joined together from different parishes and Hispanic communities throughout the Diocese for this event.



Catholic Charities Welcomes 2025-2026 Social Work Interns

Since we opened for operation of services in September of 2022, we have been fortunate to receive Social Work Interns from different universities, including Louisiana Christian University and Northwestern State University. Some students are in the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program, and some are in the Master (MSW) program. All have been important and crucial to the smooth running of our Assist.Educate.Elevate. basic needs assistance services.

This academic year (2025-2026), we are pleased to introduce Gabrielle Colson, who is in her advanced placement curriculum at Louisiana Christian University in Pineville. She received her bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) which promoted her academic hours in the master's degree (MSW) program. She is with Catholic Charities approximately sixteen hours per work week for her field placement assignment,

and will receive extensive training in client interviewing, assessment, advocacy, and community resources awareness. Additionally, she will have opportunities to participate in community outreach events, community networking events, community project meetings, and observation of approved mental health therapy sessions and vaping and tobacco cessation group sessions.



Gabrielle Colson

Concurrently, Catholic Charities has received a grant from

CHRISTUS Fund that promotes a collaborative relationship between our organization and CHRISTUS St Frances Cabrini Hospital for a project called "The Road to Healthy Living." Catholic Charities is the fiscal agent for the grant and is responsible for the oversight and supervision of grant deliverables. Two Louisiana Christian University MSW students received placements at the hospital to implement this grant which will provide clinic food pantry boxes, Farmer's Market vouchers, and city bus passes to CSFC clinic and hospital patients who show food insecurity and transportation challenges. Emily Paul and Jansen Kervin are the

two young ladies assigned to this field placement for this academic year.

Field placements are possible through Catholic Charities Director of Operation's Licensed Clinical Social Work



Emily Paul



Jansen Kervin

(LCSW) designation, required for students to be eligible for internship assignments. Prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude to our local universities for trusting us with the professional development of their students.

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:**
Grief/Loss B.R.E.A.T.H.E.
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!
- **Volunteer** - cccenla.org/volunteer
- **Donate** - cccenla.org/hero-of-hope

Questions? Email info@cccenla.org

Campus Ministry:

LSU of Alexandria:

LSUA Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @lsuacatholics

Northwestern State University:

NSU Catholic Student Organization FOCUS Ministries.
Contact Holy Cross Church: (318) 352-2615

Louisiana Christian University:

LCU Catholic Student Organization "Wildcat Catholics" 318-447-2956.
Follow us on Instagram @wildcatcatholics

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**Tuesday, October 14
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.

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MILDRED

Continued from pg. 5

Together, Mildred and Louis raised three sons—Louis, John, and Robert—in Dolton, Illinois. They were devout parishioners at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, where faith wasn't just practiced; it was the air they breathed.

From his earliest years, little Robert had a deep love for the Catholic faith. In an interview in *People* magazine, his brother John recalls, "Some people play school, some people play army, he played priest, and we had to go to Mass". John went on to say that when Robert was in first grade, a neighbor said he would be the first American pope. And she was right.

A Mother's Deep Devotion and Deep Love

But at the heart of this story is a mother who lived her vocation in hidden ways. A woman who probably worried if her sons were listening. A woman who offered small acts of love—making

meals, helping with homework, lighting candles at church—never knowing they were shaping the soul of a future pope.

Mildred died in 1990, never seeing her son rise to the papacy. But her legacy is alive in every step Pope Leo takes, every homily he gives, and every soul he now shepherds. So next time you're folding laundry, washing dishes, or rushing to church with your children, remember Mildred.

Remember that God sees it all: the late nights, the early mornings, the silent prayers whispered at the kitchen sink. Remember Pope Leo's mom, who arranged flowers for Sunday Mass, ironed altar linens, smiled while baking cookies for parish fundraisers, and still managed to raise a saintly son.

She didn't seek applause or recognition. She simply lived her faith with dignity, with devotion, and with deep love. Her life wasn't loud, but it was luminous. Mildred reminds us that the most powerful formation often happens in the smallest, hidden moments.

To every mother wiping tears, preparing meals, sitting

through long meetings at school, or volunteering during parish celebrations, know this:

*Your sacrifices matter.
Your love is seen.
And your faith is forming something eternal.
Because maybe, just maybe ...
your son could be the next pope.
Or your daughter,
the next great Saint.
Or your family,
a light to the world.
Hope is not a feeling.
Hope is a decision—
a way of life."*

Paula Umana was a professional tennis player, ranked #1 in Costa Rica and Central America. She is a Catholic speaker living with paraplegia, and a passionate advocate for redemptive suffering. Paula is also the host of the EWTN show Gifts of Hope and a bilingual author dedicated to bringing faith and healing to audiences in English, Spanish, and French. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband and five children.

Local Chefs face off for a cause at "Feast for Good"

Alexandria, LA — It's part cooking showdown, part community celebration, and all for a good cause. Feast for Good is returning to Central Louisiana with an evening of food, fun, and philanthropy—raising funds for children and young adults with developmental disabilities served by St. Mary's Residential Community and Services.

Guests will enjoy a one-of-a-kind lineup of activities:

- Chef Showdown – Local chefs compete head-to-head for "Best Appetizer," with guests casting votes.
- Celebrity Chef Demonstration – Louisiana's own and Food Network alum, Jay Ducote, will take the stage for a live cooking demo, offering kitchen tips and behind-the-scenes stories.
- Dinner & Auctions – A gourmet meal, live and silent auctions featuring luxury trips, dining experiences, and more.

Feast for Good has raised more than \$340,000 in the past five years, funding projects like a campus movie theater, splash pad upgrades, a new food delivery van, and transportation for residents with mobility challenges. Proceeds from this year's event will continue to expand programs, therapies, and family support for children with autism and

developmental disabilities across Louisiana.

"Every plate tells a story at Feast for Good," said Bo Vets, Administrator of St. Mary's. "From the creativity of our chefs to the impact it makes for the young people St. Mary's serves, each dish represents the community coming together to make a real difference."

The event will take place Wednesday, October 22 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at: <https://stmarysalexandria.networkforgood.com/events/88932-2025-feast-for-good> or scan the QR code:



For more information, contact Tamara McNulty, Development Director: Tamara.McNulty@stmarys-rts.org or call 318-445-6443 ext. 2144.

JOB OPENING: Cafeteria Workers

Cafeteria workers needed at
Holy Savior Menard High and St. Frances Cabrini Schools
in Alexandria
and Sacred Heart School, Moreauville.
To apply, contact
Menard: 318-445-8233
Cabrini: 318-448-3333
Sacred Heart: 318-985-2772

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary October 7

Silent Retreat
Oct. 10-12
Maryhill Renewal Center

"Our Lady in Sacred
Scripture"
Hosted by the
Discalced Carmelites

For more information please
contact Mary Jo McCoy at (318)
346 6860 or (318) 481 9638.

Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

Do you have a devotion to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

Do you have a desire to learn and become more involved with this vital ministry to and with our indigenous brothers and sisters?

Are you looking for new opportunities to pray, serve and grow alongside believers right in your own community?

You are invited to **COME & SEE** what we're all about!

- Tribal affiliation, though welcome, is not a requirement •

The "Heart of Saint Kateri" Circle meets:
2nd Thursday of each month 6:00 p.m.
St. Margaret's Church Hall
402 Ryan Street • Boyce, LA 71409

For more information, call (318) 471-2044 or (318) 308-6886

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*Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121:2

Responsorial Psalm for October 19 | Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

How to date like a Saint, one woman's perspective

By Beth Davis
Blessed Is She

At forty-two years old, I've spent my entire adult life single. I've certainly liked men (though to be honest it's rare to make a connection), been on a few dates (even more rarely), and have even thought I was in love (spoiler: it wasn't). But my dating history can largely be described as situationships, long before the word was adopted into the modern vernacular. And I don't think I'm alone.

There's a reason "situationship" (i.e., a romantic or sexual relationship that is not considered to be formal or established) has entered the universal lexicon. In this modern age, both men and women are struggling with romantic relationships. Many young people, afraid of or unskilled at emotional intimacy, end up in non-committal relationships, seeking the benefits without the boring or hard stuff. Whether sought out or simply settled for, situationships rob both parties of their dignity and the opportunity to grow in sacrificial love of another, eroding the virtues of hope and trust we are meant to exercise in relationships.

Especially for those raised in a broken or dysfunctional home where a happy, healthy marriage was not modeled, we must actively push against the temptation in dating to treat each

other—and our hearts—casually. And instead, we must seek out examples of holy and committed marriages to show us the way in both courtship and marriage.

Enter the Saints

One Saturday morning as I leisurely browsed rows of Catholic books, I had the distinct sense that the Lord had something to show me. This keen awareness was heightened when my eyes rested on a beautiful cover depicting the meeting of Saints Ann and Joachim. The title? Courtship of the Saints: How the Saints Met their Spouses by Patrick O'Hearn.

What Patrick didn't know is that whenever I meet a married person, my favorite question for them is always, "How did you meet your spouse?" Standing there in the bookstore I wondered, How had I never thought to ask the Saints the same thing?

Sure, we might understand intellectually that vocation is the vehicle to holiness, but rarely do we consider the real marriages of actual Saints as a framework for our own preparation and discernment. The vision we lack for our lives can be found in the married Saints' fidelity to God and their spouse through the sacramental grace of marriage. No other foundation will endure life's difficulties and unknowns.

This, my friends, is the marriage preparation we desperately need.

Heaven as the Goal

As Catholic women, you and I were baptized into and belong to the Kingdom of God. We are citizens of Heaven. Yet many of us do not understand this eternal reality so we live like everyone else, and we date like the world dates. Instead, we need to adopt the cultures and customs of the Gospel when it comes to courtship and marriage.

While witty banter, physical attraction, and shared interests can all contribute to that elusive spark we desire to feel, there are far more important qualities required for a happy and holy marriage. Here the witness of Blessed Charles (Karl) of Austria and Servant of God Zita of Bourbon-Parma reminds us of the true purpose of love.

Inspired by the love of his aunt and uncle, Karl sought a faithful wife with whom he could build a holy marriage and a beautiful life. He had known Zita in childhood and when the two were reacquainted, they became close friends before Karl proposed. On their wedding day, the saintly emperor told Zita, "Now, we must help each other to get to Heaven" (O'Hearn p. 56).

Like Karl and Zita, we must

begin with the end in mind. Heaven is our ultimate hope, so it should be the ultimate goal when it comes to courtship and marriage. A holy marriage won't happen by accident. We must be committed to this ideal first for ourselves and then look for the same values in the person we wish to spend our lives with.

Trust in the Waiting

Saint Gianna Berretta Molla was thirty-three years old when she married the love of her life, Pietro Molla, who was forty-three. A trained physician, she dreamed of being a missionary with her priest brother in Brazil. But in 1954, she made a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, with the intention of asking our Lady "to let her meet the man who would be her spouse, the man that the Lord had prepared for her since eternity" (p. 150).

On December 8, 1954, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Gianna was reintroduced to her future spouse Pietro Molla and began to fall in love. Our Lady's intercession was at the center of their love story. And she desires to do the same for us. We can trust that God, through Mary's intercession, will "make all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28), even and especially our waiting.

Courage in Courtship

Both Saints Louis and Zélie Martin had hearts set on religious life. They desired to love and serve Jesus with their whole lives, but for different reasons were both prevented from pursuing those dreams. Instead each one surrendered to God's will and

see DATE on pg 15

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Hope Farrar Kramer Education Trust Awards Grants to Sacred Heart School and Our Lady of Prompt Succor School.

The Catholic Foundation of North Central Louisiana today announced that its Hope Farrar Kramer Education Trust has awarded grants to Sacred Heart School in Moreauville and Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria. The grants will fund math programs aimed at improving student performance. Sacred Heart School will receive \$6,135.77 to implement their i-Ready math program, while Our Lady of Prompt Succor School will use its \$2,500 grant for the Zearn math program. Both initiatives focus on boosting math scores and core competencies for all students, including those who already excel.

The Hope Farrar Kramer Education Trust was established in 2006 by Graham and Sarah Kramer in honor of Hope Kramer, Sarah's mother and Graham's late

wife. Graham and Sarah not only invest in the community, they also give their time by serving on the Foundation Board. The Catholic Foundation of North Central Louisiana, invests charitable donations to support needs or legacies within the Diocese of North Central Louisiana. A huge thank you to the Kramer family for their ongoing generosity through the Hope Farrar Kramer Education Trust. This year, their support is making a difference for the children at Sacred Heart in Moreauville and Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria.

If you would like to know more about the Catholic Foundation, please see our website @www.catholicfoundationalexandria.org, or contact us at 318-487-9222. You can also send an email to president@catholicfoundationalexandria.org

DATE

Continued from pg. 14

opened their hearts to another vocation: marriage.

This saintly couple first encountered one another while crossing a bridge in Alençon, France. In Courtship of the Saints, O'Hearn points out that their meeting on St. Leonard's bridge "would become an apt metaphor as God led Louis and Zélie from a world of singleness and uncertainty to a world of marriage entailing sacrifice, suffering, deep union, and mission" (p. 109).

It can be vulnerable to open ourselves up to others, to love. We need God's help to make us courageous enough to step out of our routines and fears and into something new and wonderful. Courage to open our hearts to the Lord, to listen to Him in discernment, to wait to be pursued, to then respond graciously, and to unveil our hearts over time to a man God deems worthy of our priceless hearts, a man who has earned it.

Our vocational path will no doubt look different from the one we imagine, but in the face of discouragement or

disappointment, remember that God, the Author of Life and Faith, knows how to write a great love story. We need only to have the courage to be patient as it unfolds and smile back when we pass a man on a bridge.

Holy Mentor Couples

Blessed Karl and Servant of God Zita, Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla, and Saints Louis and Zélie Martin are more available for intercession than we know. Consider enlisting them or your own patron Saints to be on your own personal vocation committee in Heaven. So as you wait for the gift of your vocation, especially when discouragement strikes, you can turn in trust to Jesus and the Saints, knowing that they know it all and they're way ahead of you.

Beth Davis is a lover of Jesus, a retired youth minister, the Director of Formation for Blessed is She. She is passionate about teaching women how to develop an intimate relationship with Jesus in prayer through writing, speaking, and mentorship.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE RECEIVES GRANT. Pictured left to right: Becky Crooks, board member for the Catholic Foundation; Sarah Kramer of Hope Farrar Kramer Education Trust; SHS principal, Amy Coco.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL RECEIVES GRANT. Pictured left to right: Becky Crooks, board member for the Catholic Foundation; Meredith Rhoads, OLPS principal; Sarah Kramer of Hope Farrar Kramer Education Trust; OLPS pastor, Fr. Rusty Rabalais.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATE TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. John Morovich, Diocesan Coordinator for the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, presents two checks to Bishop Robert Marshall and Director of Religious Education and Faith Formation, Deacon Jason Lavergne.



Upcoming Retreats:

**October 16-19
SPANISH**

Mens ACTS Retreat
hosted by Our Lady of
Guadalupe, Forest Hill

November 6-9

Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Augustine Church
Isle Brevelle

November 16-19

Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Rita Church
Alexandria

All retreats are held at Maryhill
Renewal Center.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. On Friday, Aug. 22, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass on the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria with the community of the parish school. After Mass, Bishop Marshall had the opportunity to visit with some students and teachers. Thank you to Father Chad Partain, Pastor, Sister Nina Vincent, OLS, Principal and the faculty, staff and students for their welcome.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL GREEN POINT DONATION. Mrs. Karen Moreau, Coordinator of Events; Principal Miss Amy Coco; Mr Blake Bordelon, Green Point Ag; and Director of Safety, Mr. John Soldani accept a \$1,000 donation from Green Point Ag for this year's Christmas Show Venue and Fall Fair Donation.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School

CAMPUS COUNT DOWN

Supporting our vision for a progressive school campus

Tune in for Daily Drawings Oct. 1st - 30th

facebook.com/PromptSuccorSchool

2025

Drawing @ 2 pm!

30 Drawings to WIN over \$20,000 in cash!

2025

\$400	\$500	\$300	\$400	\$1K Friday	\$500
\$400	\$500	\$400	\$500	\$400	\$1K Friday
\$400	\$500	\$400	\$500	\$400	\$1K Friday
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\$400	\$500	\$400	\$500	\$400	\$1K Friday
\$400	\$500	\$400	\$500	\$400	\$1K Friday

Fundraising is a vital part of the maintenance and growth of a Catholic school.OLPS School depends on fundraising for improvements and other projects that tuition does not cover. The Campus Countdown was started by the Home and School Association to raise funds for an A/C system in the gym in 2018. Each year this fundraiser selects a specific need or purpose to support. We have been able to complete HUGE projects thanks to its success. Previous projects include the gym's A/C, the new big playground, various security upgrades, and the playground fence. Last year's funds contributed to phase 2 of the fence project and to updating the PreSchool playground. We are so excited to announce that this year's Campus Countdown will go towards a new Pre-K playground! The 2024 Campus Countdown raised over \$95,000! 84% of the tickets were not purchased by a current OLPS parent. We also sold tickets in 24 states! In addition to the funds raised, the Campus Countdown is a lot of fun for students! They participate in Facebook Live drawings and can win a variety of prizes as a family and as a classroom. We are so proud of how this fundraiser has grown and evolved thanks to the support of our community!

A lucky winner is chosen for a daily cash prize starting Oct. 1st through Oct. 30th! Each ticket has 30 chances to win over \$20,000 in cash! Winning tickets are returned to the drawing every day. Tickets purchased once the drawings begin are only eligible for the remaining drawings. Winners are chosen LIVE on Facebook by students or a video is posted each day at 2 PM. Tune in for the fun! Tickets are \$55 and must be purchased on www.OLPSCampusCountdown.com.



ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. The students had the honor of watching the 9/11 Parade as it passed by the school. With flags waving, they stood together in remembrance of those lost, in gratitude for our first responders, and in prayer for our country. In the classroom, students reflected on the events of September 11th through lessons, discussions, and activities designed to help them understand the importance of unity, sacrifice, and faith during difficult times.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Psalm 34:7 | Responsorial Psalm for October 26
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners

Beyond the Limits: A day that changes everything

Middle school is a season of in-betweens.

Your child isn't a little kid anymore, but they're not quite grown either. They're beginning to step into new independence — learning how to navigate friendships, balancing bigger responsibilities, and facing new questions about who they are.

It's a season of rapid change: one day they seem confident and unstoppable, the next day they're quiet and unsure. Emotions run big. Opinions form quickly. They're watching the world closely, wondering where they fit, and often wondering if anyone really understands what they're going through.

As a parent, you see it. You see the spark of possibility in your son or daughter — their creativity, their curiosity, their humor, their capacity to love. But you also see the pressures: the push to fit in, the weight of comparison, the distractions that can pull them off course.

That's why middle school is more than just a season to survive. It's a season that shapes the heart. A season where big questions take root: Who am I? What do I believe? Does God care about me? What difference can I make?

And it's precisely in this tender, searching season that the



BEYOND THE LIMITS YOUTH CONFERENCE. Over 200 middle schoolers attended the 2024 Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference (above). Registration is now open for 2025 Beyond the Limits to be held Dec. 6 at the Alexandria Convention Center at 2225 N. MacArthur Drive in Alexandria.

Church has something powerful to offer.

A Day Built Just for Them

On Saturday, Dec. 6, hundreds of middle schoolers from across the diocese will gather for Beyond the Limits,

a one-day conference designed entirely with them in mind. From the moment they walk in, they'll know this is no ordinary "church event."

The music is upbeat and alive. The games are hilarious and high-energy. The speakers are engaging and relatable, people who aren't afraid to share their own stories of struggle and faith. Teens lean in because they recognize the honesty — they see themselves in the stories being told.

But the day isn't just about fun. It's about encounter. Students will have the chance to pray in a way that makes sense to them

— through worship, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through quiet time before Jesus in Adoration. The day will close with Mass, celebrated with our bishop, anchoring everything in the Eucharist.

Over and over again, we hear from parents and youth leaders: "This was the turning point." For some, Beyond the Limits is where faith first clicks. For others, it's where they realize they're not alone in wanting to follow Christ. And for many, it's simply the joy of being surrounded by other young people who are laughing, praying, and discovering the same God who loves them

beyond measure.

Why It Matters

Middle school doesn't have to be a season of confusion or compromise. With Christ, it can be a season of discovery, joy, and deep belonging. The habits, friendships, and seeds of faith formed now can ripple out for years to come.

As parents, you don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to shoulder the entire weight of your child's faith journey alone. Sometimes, the most important thing you can do is simply get them in the room.

That's what Beyond the Limits does: it creates the space. It provides the mentors, the message, the music, and the moments of encounter that speak directly to the middle school heart. And God does the rest.

Registration is Now Open

Parents, registration for Beyond the Limits is officially open. The conference will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Alexandria Convention Center located at 2225 N. MacArthur Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$85, which includes lunch and all activities. Space is limited, and spots will fill quickly.

You can register your 6th–8th grader today at <https://steubenvillesouth.com/register/>

Don't miss the chance to give your child one day that could change everything. Because middle school isn't just a chapter to get through — it's a foundation to build on. And when that foundation is Christ, the possibilities are truly beyond the limits.



2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA

Ph: (318) 767-8596

Dine in or Take out . . . order from our extensive menu or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet.

CLOSED TUESDAYS

Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 3:30 pm.

Dinner: Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. • Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.



save the date

Beyond the Limits
Jr. High
Conference,
Saturday, Dec. 6

registration
opens
September 16

steubenvillesouth.com

Retrouvaille Marriage Help - October 3-5

Restore. Refresh. Renew. Retrouvaille is a Christian marriage program, Catholic in origin. A team of three couples and a clergy member team present the Retrouvaille weekend. The presenting team members have grown through serious disillusionment, pain, and conflict in their own relationships. They offer hope as they share their personal stories of struggle, reconciliation, and healing. Our next Weekend Program will be held at Grand Coteau Retreats in Grand Coteau, LA on October 3-5. BatonRougeCoordinators@helpourmarriage.org

Seminary Come and See Weekend - Oct. 3-5

St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College is scheduled to have its Fall Come and See weekend from October 3-5. 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 fillafleur@diocesealex.org.

Steak Night Fundraiser - Oct. 4

Come have an enjoyable night at St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is served 6:00-7:00 p.m. followed by Music and dancing until 11:00 p.m. Menu includes: steak, baked potato, green beans, dessert and drink. Cost is \$25 per ticket and must be pre-purchased. Contact Elizabeth Metoyer at 318-792-5442; Catrell Sanders at 318-518-0064 or Nazy Metoyer at 757-323-9401 to buy tickets. All proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville, LA.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop - Oct. 6

The next workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. The average time for the workshop is about three hours, so please plan accordingly. There is no need to register and no charge to attend. We will be happy to have you! When the session is completed, you will receive a certificate. For more information, contact Dcn. Jason Lavergne at 318-445-6424, ext. 207, or by email at dcjnlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Spiritual Direction Informational Meeting (Online) - Oct. 8

Are you being called to become a Spiritual Director? Do others seek you out for spiritual conversations? You are cordially invited to attend a free virtual information session on Zoom to learn more about becoming a trained Spiritual

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Director. This session with Mike Van Vranken will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Please register for this online meeting at <https://nolacatholic.org/internship-information-meetings>

Silent Retreat - October 10-12

The Discalced Carmelite Community of Alexandria invites you to attend a Silent Retreat at Maryhill Renewal Center on October 10-12. Retreat master will be Fr. Jorge Marie Cabrera, OCD. The theme for the retreat is "Our Lady in Sacred Scripture". For more information please contact Mary Jo McCoy at (318) 346 6860 or (318) 481 9638.

Discalced Carmelites meeting - Oct. 11

The Order of the Discalced Carmelites holds its monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. every second Saturday, at Maryhill Renewal Center. Anyone is invited to attend morning prayer followed by Mass and then the meeting. If you are interested in Carmelite spiritual studies, please contact Mary Jo McCoy at 318-346-6860 or 318-481-9638. **If you plan to attend.....Please call Mary Jo McCoy at the numbers listed above OR Deacon Bill Travis at 318 640-2827 or 318 664-7069 and someone will meet you at the Maryhill gate.

Lector Formation Workshop - Oct. 22

The next Lector Formation workshop will be held 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. There is no need to register and no charge to attend. We will be happy to have you! When the session is completed you will receive a certificate. For more information, contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at dcjnlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Feast for Good - Oct. 22

Come support St. Mary's Communities and Services at Feast for Good, Wednesday, Oct. 22 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria as celebrity chef Jay Ducote goes head-to-head in a cooking competition with local chefs Amy Pillarisetti and John Ed Laborde! Enjoy gourmet dining and exciting auctions, all to benefit the children and young adults with developmental disabilities who call St. Mary's Communities and Services home. Tickets on sale now at bit.ly/F4G25.

Vocations Panel - Nov. 8

Do you want guidance in learning about God the Father's specific plan for you? Do you feel called to give more and be more? Do you have questions about how to discern your Vocation? Join us on Saturday, Nov. 8 at St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport.

The day will include an extensive panel of vocations experts made up of religious brothers, sisters, and priests. Open to ALL YOUTH and anyone discerning his/her vocation. More details to follow.

Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference - Dec. 6

Middle school students (grades 6-8), this is for you! Join us for the Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference - a high-energy, faith-filled day designed just for you. With keynote speaker Chris Padgett, emcee Paul Hood, and worship led by Kelly Lombardi, you'll encounter Christ in a way that's bold, personal, and unforgettable.

Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$85 per person.

Don't miss this chance to grow in faith and have a blast with friends from across the diocese and beyond. To register, contact your youth minister or church office, or visit www.steubenvillesouth.com.

Confirmation Retreat - Jan. 24 and Feb. 28, 2026

The annual Confirmation Retreat will have two options (the same retreat each weekend, students are only required to attend one):

- Jan 24, 2026
- Feb 28, 2026

Presenter will be John Listi, Director of Parish Renewal and Evangelization, Youth Ministry at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Abbeville, LA.

Pre-Cana (Marriage Prep) Workshop - Feb. 7, 2026

Please note, the October 11 workshop has been cancelled due to low registration. These one-day workshops will be at the St. Joseph Catholic Center located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, LA. Registration for the February 7, 2026 workshop is now open. There is a fee of \$60 per couple. You may pay online after submitting the registration form. Other future workshop dates:

- May 30, 2026
- Sept. 12, 2026

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne in the Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207.

Church Today News Deadlines

October 27
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Oct. 16

November 24
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 13



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October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>SEPTEMBER</div> <div><div>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>When You Pray series</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH</div>	<div><div>30</div><div>Women's Faith Formation Meeting</div><div>6:30-8:00 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY</div>	<div>OCTOBER</div> <div><div>Faith of the Fathers Series</div><div>6:30-7:30 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Church, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</div>	<div><div>2</div><div>MEMORIAL of the HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</div></div>	<div><div>3</div><div>FIRST FRIDAY</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIKWE</div></div>	<div><div>4</div><div>OLPS Fall Festival</div><div>10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</div><div>OLPS School</div></div> <div><div>Steak Night and Dance</div><div>5:30 p.m.</div><div>St. John the Baptist, Cloutierville</div></div> <div>Seminary Come and See Weekend -- Covington</div> <div>Retrouville Marriage Help Weekend -- Grand Coteau</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</div>	<div><div>5</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</div></div>
<div><div>6</div><div>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Joseph CC, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>When You Pray series</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>EMHC Workshop</div><div>6:00-9:00 p.m.,</div><div>SJCC, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</div>	<div><div>7</div><div>Women's Faith Formation Meeting</div><div>6:30-8:00 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>MEMORIAL of OUR LADY of the ROSARY</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</div></div>	<div><div>8</div><div>Faith of the Fathers Series</div><div>6:30-7:30 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Church, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>Spiritual Direction Information Meeting (Online)</div><div>7:00 p.m.</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL</div></div>	<div><div>9</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</div></div>	<div><div>10</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</div></div>	<div><div>11</div><div>Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting</div><div>9:00 a.m.</div><div>Maryhill Renewal Center</div></div> <div>Discalced Carmelites Silent Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</div>	<div><div>12</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</div></div>
<div><div>13</div><div>Bishops Golf Tournament</div><div>12 noon</div></div> <div><div>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>SJCC, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>When You Pray series</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO</div>	<div><div>14</div><div>VIRTUS Training</div><div>6:00-9:00 P.M.</div><div>St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>Women's Faith Formation Meeting</div><div>6:30-8:00 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR DCN. K. PRIMEAUX</div>	<div><div>15</div><div>VIRTUS Training</div><div>6:00-9:00 p.m.</div><div>St. Peter Church, Bordelonville</div></div> <div><div>Faith of the Fathers Series</div><div>6:30-7:30 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Church, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</div>	<div><div>16</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</div></div>	<div><div>17</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</div></div>	<div><div>18</div><div>PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX</div></div>	<div><div>19</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</div></div>
<div><div>20</div><div>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>When You Pray series</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR DCN. K. SAYES</div>	<div><div>21</div><div>Women's Faith Formation Meeting</div><div>6:30-8:00 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. G. SCHUPBACH</div>	<div><div>22</div><div>St. Mary's Community Feast for Good</div><div>6:00 p.m.</div><div>Randolph Riverfront Center, Alex</div></div> <div><div>Lector Workshop</div><div>6:00-8:00 p.m.,</div><div>SJCC, Alexandria</div></div> <div><div>Faith of the Fathers Series</div><div>6:30-7:30 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Church, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</div>	<div><div>23</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</div></div>	<div><div>24</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</div></div>	<div><div>25</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</div></div>	<div><div>26</div><div>Trunk or Treat</div><div>6:00 p.m.</div><div>Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth</div></div> <div>St. Rita Fall Festival -- Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</div>
<div><div>27</div><div>B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Grief Support</div><div>6:00-7:30 p.m.</div><div>St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS</div>	<div><div>28</div><div>Women's Faith Formation Meeting</div><div>6:30-8:00 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR DCN. C. THIBODEAUX</div>	<div><div>29</div><div>Trunk or Treat</div><div>6:00 p.m.</div><div>Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville</div></div> <div><div>Faith of the Fathers Series</div><div>6:30-7:30 p.m.</div><div>OLPS Church, Alexandria</div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</div>	<div><div>30</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</div></div>	<div><div>31</div><div>HALLOWEEN</div><div>PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS</div></div>	<div><div>NOVEMBER</div><div><div>1</div><div>CABRINI FEST!</div><div>10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</div><div>St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria</div></div></div> <div>Church Fair, St. John the Baptist -- Cloutierville</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY ALL SAINTS DAY</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</div>	<div><div>2</div><div>ALL SOULS DAY</div><div>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</div></div>

Our Catholic Schools in Action

Each month we will highlight what is happening at the Catholic Schools across the diocese.



HSM LEADERSHIP CLASS. Principal Chris Gatlin is teaching The Principles of Leadership class this year at Holy Savior Menard. The class is offered to Juniors and Seniors and focuses on the skills of leadership and putting those skills into practice within each student's own sports and extra-curricular activities he or she is involved in. HSM has already witnessed the ripple effect these young leaders are having on their school community!



ADORATION AT HOLY SAVIOR MENARD. Every month, Holy Savior Menard celebrates our faith with an all-school Catholic Activity. In September, the entire student body gathered in the gym to pray in Adoration, with music led by students.

More photos on photo galleries at www.diocesealex.org



ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. Something special is happening in the St. Joseph School library! Our students are diving into the new Accelerated Reader program with excitement and joy. From our youngest readers to our dedicated 6th graders, everyone is discovering books they love while working hard to grow in knowledge and wisdom. At St. Joseph, we know that reading not only strengthens the mind but also helps us live out our faith—seeking truth, beauty, and goodness in all we do. What a blessing to see our students so eager to learn!



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE, COMMISSIONS FLAG BEARERS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR. At the beginning of each school year, Sacred Heart School commissions students to become flag bearers for the academic year. Their responsibility is to put up and retire the flag each morning during school hours, have the flag present at all assemblies and events on campus. Congratulations to Sacred Heart School's 2025-2026 Flag Bearers who were commissioned on Aug. 11: 7th graders Noah Mayeux, son of Willie and Angela Mayeux of Mansura, and Cohen Minogue, son of Kristyn Guillot and Bruce Minogue of Marksville. Pictured with them are principal, Amy Coco, Fr. Brian Seiler and Director of Safety, Mr. John Soldani.



(above and below) **SACRED HEART SCHOOL SACRISTAN WORKSHOPS.** On Aug. 22, Fr. Brian Seiler along with religion teacher Mrs. Carmen Necaie, held Sacristan Workshops for students at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville. The workshops are for grades 3-8.

