

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVI, No. 10

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

October 27, 2025



Altar Servers

The Diocese of Alexandria held a special Mass honoring the Altar Servers from across the diocese at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Saturday, Sept. 27 with Bishop Robert Marshall presiding. Over 110 Altar Servers and their families attended. See more photos in the photo gallery at www.diocesealex.org

INSIDE

Together As One Church: Pastoral Plan Update

The pastoral plan, "Together As One Church: Embracing a Future of Hope" guides the future of the Church in our diocese. Since last December, several opportunities were available to share thoughts and learn about options for the future. See page 2.

St. Anthony receives statue of St. Therese

St. Anthony Church in Bunkie recently celebrated the welcoming and blessing of a statue of Saint Therese of Lisieux. The statue was originally from the motherhouse of the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist at Mater Dolorosa Parish (Plaucheville). Read about it on page 4.

Radio Maria USA opens new studio

A large crowd of key figures and friends, including some from Central LA, gathered Sept. 10 for the Grand Opening of the newest Radio Maria studio located in Columbia, TN. The new facility, located at 412 Hatcher Lane, is home to frequencies 1280 AM and 98.9 FM. Read about it on page 15.

INDEX

News/events	2
National / World	3
Feature	4
Vocations and Burses	7
Features and Local News	9
Picture Spread.....	10
Social Ministries	12
Features.....	14
Schools / Youth.....	16
Diocesan Briefs	18
Calendar	19

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Pastoral plan guides the future of the Church in our diocese

In December 2024, Bishop Marshall invited all to participate in a pastoral plan initiative “of prayer, dialogue, and discernment in which we can open our eyes to a new vision for the Church here in Central Louisiana.” We have named this process “Together as One Church: Embracing a Future of Hope.”

Each parish and mission was asked to reflect upon strengths of their church community, the challenges that confront it and then to imagine how we might more effectively respond to Christ’s call to spread his message of Good News. The goal is to form a sustainable structure of vibrant, mission-driven parishes, schools, and ministries.

Since last December, the diocese has conducted several periods of “listening” and “planning area information” sessions where our church communities could come together and share with one another our hopes, dreams, needs and our struggles in an effort to embrace this future of hope.

As of today, the process continues, no final decisions have been made yet. In his initial communication about the pastoral plan initiative, Bishop stated we will be challenged to seek out and welcome others and to walk together, hand-in-hand, into this future of hope. From the many sessions conducted,



PASTORAL PLAN INITIATIVE ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION. A “planning area informational” session was held at St. Joseph Church in Marksville in September. During the session, those attending were able to learn about plans of action for their church communities. Following the sessions, attendees were encouraged to submit feedback through a portal on the diocesan website. The next steps will be announced in November.

we can see that we are still being challenged to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this journey of discernment and recommit ourselves in creating a vibrant, mission-driven Church that witnesses the love of Christ to all. It is truly a walk through the desert.

During this process the diocese has had the wonderful support and assistance of Catholic Leadership Institute who has partnered with 184 dioceses and

archdioceses in the United States, Canada and beyond. Our CLI team member is a very experienced consultant who helped our pastoral plan core team take on this tremendously overwhelming work.

Spread over thirteen civil parishes, the Diocese of Alexandria has a very small Catholic population, ranking 168 out of 193 in the United States. Through this process we have focused on the main challenges

our diocese faces in the future: fewer priestly vocations and a declining population. These same issues have affected almost every diocese in the country. Fostering vocations and actively participating in evangelization is something every one of us can do.

The diocese has ten men in priestly formation. These men will continue their own personal journey of discernment and we ask for your prayers for them. Only one of them will be ordained to the transitional diaconate this January and then be eligible to take his priestly vows next summer. In 2027, we hope to have two more men ordained to the priesthood, and we hope to increase the number of seminarians.

In contrast, we will be faced with four priests eligible for retirement in 2026 and another three in 2027. Though the efforts of our parish vocation committees are bearing fruit, it will be some time before we can report a “net gain” in the number of priests. Our parishes must become centers of evangelization which is the work of every Catholic – not just the work of the priest.

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Pope Leo's first official text: Dilexi Te

By Michael R. Heinlein
Our Sunday Visitor

Pope Leo XIV has given the church the first official text of his pontificate's magisterium, "Dilexi Te," an apostolic exhortation addressed "to all Christians on love for the poor."

While the text is explicitly addressing the reasons why love and care for the poor are central to the faith, there are also some clues that can help us sharpen our perspective of how Pope Leo is shepherding the church in our day.

When Pope John XXIII called the Second Vatican Council, the world was terribly divided. He wanted the council to bring its own internal unity to the fore, as a model to overcome the global strife plaguing the world in the aftermath of two world wars. The church can only be a leaven to society, however, if we are faithful to the unity Christ willed for us the night before he died to set us free.

Bringing unity

But, as Pope Leo became the church's universal shepherd earlier this year, the church finds itself divided more than in recent memory — carrying with it the burden of grave consequences. "Dilexi Te" manifests both Pope Leo's recognition that we need to grow in unity and subtly illustrates a means to bring such unity to a fractured church, something he has spoken of from the earliest days of his pontificate.



POPE LEO XIV RELEASES THE FIRST OFFICIAL TEXT OF HIS PONTIFICATE'S MAGISTERIUM. Pope Leo XIV greets visitors and pilgrims from the popemobile as he rides around St. Peter's Square at the Vatican before his weekly general audience Oct. 15, 2025. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

"Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant, unites strangers, and reconciles enemies... Through your work, your efforts to change unjust social structures or your simple, heartfelt gesture of closeness and support, the poor will come to realize that Jesus' words are addressed personally to each of them: 'I have loved you' (Revelation 3:9)."

pope leo xiv, dilexi te

Important to remember as Catholics endlessly bicker on social media, or as even cardinals find ease in publicly questioning the church's teaching, or when

hearing bishops are at odds with their faithful over liturgical preferences. All this, of course, cannot endure. In examining how we practice the faith, vis-à-vis

our love and concern for the poor as the exhortation intends, Pope Leo warns: "Either we regain our moral and spiritual dignity or we fall into a cesspool" (No. 95).

For ecclesial unity to be nurtured, especially as divisions fermented over the last decade, Pope Leo provides in "Dilexi Te" a means for Catholics to find common ground, offering a concrete opportunity to foster consensus, communion and authenticity. In it we find, perhaps, Pope Leo is offering the church an opportunity to hit the reset button, issuing an invitation for the church to stop and reprioritize ourselves, to see the difference Christ makes in our lives and must lead us to make a difference in the world. As St. Paul famously taught, "the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13).

Reading the Gospel

A great deal of the infighting among Catholics today, especially in the United States, is due to a lopsided ordering of priorities and allegiances. And to all those shaped more by politics, economics or ideologies — all of which might "lead to gross generalizations and mistaken conclusions" regarding the poor — Pope Leo warns of "the need to go back and re-read the Gospel, lest we risk replacing it with the wisdom of this world" (No. 15).

In situating Christian love for the poor in a robust Christology ("Love for the Lord ... is one with love for the poor," No. 5), in

thoroughly collating the church's tradition on care for the poor in the lives of some truly remarkable saints and papal predecessors, and in underscoring the importance of love for the poor as intrinsic to the church's mission and call to holiness, Pope Leo is giving us an occasion to live the wisdom expressed by Pope John XXIII: to strive for "that which unites rather than that which divides." In every line of his exhortation, Pope Leo is reminding us how "charity has the power to change reality" (No. 91).

Do yourself a favor and read every word of the text. As you do, and as you reflect upon it as an examination of conscience regarding our individual and collective care for the poor, don't miss what appears to be a hidden roadmap for how Pope Leo is gently working to unify a fragmented church.

Michael R. Heinlein is author of "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I." and a promised member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

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.

2025 #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2

#iGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY

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!

Advanced Giving begins Monday, Nov. 17! On that day and thereafter, anyone can visit www.iGiveCatholic.org/community/

alexandria and search for a church or school and donate.

Not sure if your church or school is participating? Reach out to your Pastor to find out if it has registered for #iGiveCatholic 2025 and how you can get involved but hurry because registration ends Nov. 1.

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Bunkie church receives statue of Saint Therese of Lisieux

Saint Anthony Church in Bunkie recently celebrated the welcoming and blessing of a statue of Saint Therese of Lisieux, a nineteenth century French nun popularly known as the Little Flower. The statue was originally from the motherhouse of the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist at Mater Dolorosa Parish (Plaucheville).

As part of a recent renovation of Saint Anthony church, the statue was fully restored by Norman Fauchaux Sacred and Religious Art, LLC. It features the young saint dressed in a Carmelite habit holding the crucifix of Christ surrounded by roses.

The blessing took place at a special Mass celebrated by the parish in anticipation of the October 1 feast day of Saint Therese. Special music by Saint Anthony Choir included selections in English, French and Latin. A full procession of flower girls, torch bearers, and altar servers opened the liturgy.

The celebration featured hundreds of roses surrounding the statue of Saint Therese and at the altar of the church. Following the Mass, there were blessed roses for everyone who attended to take to the sick, to nursing homes, and to the homebound of the community.

In 2026 Saint Anthony parish will celebrate the 100th



RESTORED ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX STATUE. As part of the recent renovation of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie, this St. Therese statue was refreshed and installed in the church. It originally belonged to the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist.

anniversary of the construction of the present church. The pastor and parishioners extend an open invitation for all who wish to visit this historic and beautiful structure. Saint Anthony Church has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, United States Department of Interior.



ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX STATUE BLESSING. The statue was blessed at a special Mass and the celebration featured hundreds of roses which were then offered to those attending.

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(318)717-1995

*The Lord
is my
shepherd;
there is
nothing I
shal want.*

Psalm 23: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for November 2
Commemoration of
All the Faithful Departed



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL. Cabrini School held its annual Parade of Roses on Wednesday, Oct. 1.



ST. JOSEPH MARKSVILLE'S YOUTH LEARNING THE ROSARY.

On Wednesday, Oct. 15, Mrs. Lauri Knoll's 8th Grade CCD class focused on the origin of the rosary, its significance, and its power. After this discussion the students were given instructions on how to pray the rosary. After the lesson the students worked together to build their own rosary, then took it outside to pray the rosary together. The students each received their own rosary along with the rosary pamphlet on how to pray the rosary. Mrs. Knoll stated this class blesses her more than she can express.

More photos on photo galleries at www.diocesealex.org



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH FAIR. (above) Fr. Dwight de Jesus joins the Cajun Outlaws on stage. (below) Gumbo cooking on an open fire.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR FALL FESTIVAL. The Sweet Shoppe open for business. (below) Game booths were busy all day.



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ALTAR SERVER MASS. A Mass to honor all the altar servers at our churches in the diocese was held on Saturday, Sept. 27 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Over 110 altar servers and their families attended. Pictured are Mario [redacted] and Samuel [redacted], parishioners and servers at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Forest Hill, and brought up the offertory gifts.



COME AND SEE WEEKEND, COVINGTON. Director of Vocations, Fr. Luke LaFleur, accompanied two young men from our diocese for the annual fall Come and See Weekend at St. Joseph Seminary, Oct. 3-5. It was a great opportunity for them to see the seminary campus and discover what seminary life is like. Pictured left to right: seminarians David Rubio, Matthew Kramer, our two guests for the weekend, seminarian Blake Bernard, Fr. Luke LaFleur and seminarian Will Brittain. These tours are similar to any other tour of a college campus. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a priest, please contact Fr. Luke LaFleur at frllafleur@diocesealex.org.

Clergy assignments

Bishop Robert Marshall has made the following priest appointments:

Msgr. Scott Chemino, presently pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie, in addition, has been appointed Pastoral Administrator of Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen.

Father Joseph Xavier has been appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Rita Church, Alexandria.

Father Joshua Burch has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville.



Monsignor Scott Chemino



Father Joseph Xavier



Father Joshua Burch

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The waters of the river
gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High!

Psalm 46: 5 | Responsorial Psalm for November 9
Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

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FATHER DWIGHT DEJESUS CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY IN PHILLIPINES. Fr. Dwight de Jesus, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo, recently attended a celebration and retreat to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination. The event was held at the Bosco School of Theology in Manila, Phillipines, where Fr. Dwight met up with his brother priests who were also ordained the same year.



Seminarian Burses

September 2025 Donations

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Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
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Ms. Patricia D. Belaire.	\$50.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Marian French.	\$100.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
Anonymous	\$1000.00
Father Charles Ray Burse	
Ms. Ingrid Cannella	\$2000.00
Matthew Bonner Burse	
Total	 \$3,550.00

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--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman

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The day will include an extensive panel of vocations experts made up of religious brothers, sisters, and priests with break out sessions, Q&A, and Holy Hour. Ends with 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass.

Open to ALL YOUTH and anyone discerning his/her vocation. Lunch is included.

To RSVP or for more information contact Tammy Bernard at 318-305-1730.

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.



OLOR 165TH ANNIVERSARY. On Oct. 5, Our Lady of The Rosary Chapel at Black Lake celebrated its 165th anniversary. The mission has served as a cornerstone for generations and this milestone honored the long-standing spiritual and cultural heritage of the Black Lake community. Parishioners and visitors gathered to reflect on history, faith, and enduring devotion to the church since its founding in 1860.



CATECHIST ENRICHMENT DAY, SEPT. 27. Attendees from across the Diocese of Alexandria gained new techniques and ideas to take home with them and apply to their religious education and CCD ministries within their own church parishes and schools. Speakers for the day included Amber Hyatt, Sylvia Davis, Deacon Les Glankler, Fr. Taylor Reynolds and Bishop Robert Marshall.

CONSECRATED
Continued from pg. 14

where the suffering bears fruit and the heart receives peace. There is a mutual discernment process between the community and the candidate.

After a few years in the convent, I was not thriving. While I was surrounded by sisters who became fully alive, my health slowly deteriorated and religious life began to feel incredibly heavy. It was such a mystery and very difficult to navigate. I felt ready and willing to offer it all up and suffer through it, but Jesus began to invite me to more freedom and more life. This darkness became a place where Jesus was teaching

me greater surrender and trust. As I could not understand the Father’s will, I felt so united to the Passion of Christ. And Jesus’ death always leads to new life!

The Care of the Church

During this time, I felt so cared for by the Church. The sisters in my community encouraged me, my spiritual director reminded me to fix my eyes on Jesus, religious sisters from another community cared for my medical needs, and my friendships with the Saints deepened as I learned from their guidance. Through many hours of prayer and numerous conversations with my Religious Superior and my spiritual director, we discerned together that Jesus was leading me to a new life

outside of this community. There were many tears on the day I left, but I was deeply consoled by Jesus’ words to me in prayer during my last visit to our convent chapel, “Go in peace.”

The winding path of my vocational discernment has surprised me countless times. While my life today looks different than I imagined, I rest in the peace that Jesus has remained by my side. It is a love story full of trust and abandonment to Divine Providence.

No matter where you are on your vocational journey, let the Wisdom of Holy Mother Church lead you to a life of holiness! Do not be afraid!



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA BREAKS GROUND. Sunday, Sept. 28, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass and officiated over the ground breaking ceremony for the new “Child Jesus” parish hall of St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA. The plot of land was blessed and ground officially broken following the 10:00 a.m. Mass with the entire St. Joseph Community present. Pictured with the Bishop is Fr. Taylor Reynolds (pastor), Michael Vizard (Financial Chair) Mike Benoit (Building Committee President) Mike Butler (Contractor)



Mary, Queen of Heaven

Oh, Blessed Mother, so
Holy and Pure
God’s gift to us, you can rest assure

A gift from Heaven to help us here,
By praying to you,
we know you are near.

Please show us the way to your Son,
And pray for us until it’s done.

You are our Mother, Full of Grace,
Can’t wait to meet you one day
face to face.

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ST. RITA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. St. Rita honored Conrad Ducote as Volunteer of the Year at our annual Volunteer of the Year Luncheon on Sunday, Sept. 21. Congratulations to Mr. Ducote for your many hours of volunteering as Maintenance Supervisor.



WOMEN'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY SERIES. Our Lady of Prompt Succor's "She Shall be Called Woman" is a popular new series just for women held weekly. A new series will begin in the spring.



HOLY GHOST CHURCH JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMS. A group of Jubilee of Hope pilgrims from Holy Ghost Church in Marksville continue their pilgrimage with visits to Our Lady of Lourdes in Vidalia (pictured above with pastor Fr. Dan O'Connor) and a little lagniappe visit across the river to Natchez, MS where they visited St. Mary's Basilica (right). The Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope closes at the end of this year.





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2025 Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament

Winners of the tournament



FIRST PLACE 1ST FLIGHT. Les Glankler Team: Dcn. Les Glankler, Paul Glankler, Craig Campo and Bart Jones with Bishop Robert Marshall.



SECOND PLACE 1ST FLIGHT. Christus Cabrini Hospital Team: Monte Wilson, Dr. Andrew Furman, Kevin McGlothlin, Jeremy Lee with Bishop Robert Marshall.



FIRST PLACE 2ND FLIGHT. Sheriff Mark Wood Team: Mark Wood, Chaston Wood, Marcus Sandoval, Robert Beauregard with Bishop Robert Marshall.



SECOND PLACE 2ND FLIGHT. Sabine Bank Team: Jim Cole, Bruce Gandy, Jamey Johnson, John Migliore with Bishop Robert Marshall.

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Special Thanks to

the Links on the Bayou staff for hosting and making the day a great one for all!

Red River Bank for providing lunch for the tournament and to the Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria for preparing the meal after the tournament.

Southern Chevrolet and Southbound Spirits for their generous donations.

see you next year!

The Annual Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament was held at Links on the Bayou in Alexandria on Monday, October 13. Thank you to all of our sponsors and everyone who participated this year. All proceeds benefit the Seminarian Education Fund.



BISHOP'S GOLF TOURNAMENT. Bishop Robert Marshall and the seminarians, left to right, Fr. Luke LaFleur, director of Vocations, Gabe Dowden, Will Brittain, Blaine Phillips, Blake Bernard, Bishop Marshall, David Rubio, Matthew Kramer, Cullen Phillips, Graham Descant, Matthew Bonner, Jacob Cass. (below) Deacon Bill Endris from St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville, putting the ball during tournament play.



**Special thanks to our
Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament
Platinum Sponsor:**



A testimonial during a time of need

One of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana's three initiatives, indeed the most fundamental service of all Catholic Charities organizations, is the corporal works of mercy in action: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead. We cannot offer help with all of these, but with grants, donations and fundraising, we routinely feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and shelter the homeless. Individuals who are at risk of eviction or disconnect of utilities may register for our budget class, schedule an assistance appointment and after an interview with our licensed social worker and student intern, individuals are vetted for eligibility for assistance. We research every request – it is vital we are good stewards of the funds gifted to us for this work. It may surprise people to know that about 85% of the people we assist

are employed – unfortunately many only make \$10-\$15 an hour which is not a living wage for a household. A single mom whom we recently assisted sent us this letter about her experience:

“As a full-time worker and single parent, when I had some major unexpected expenses hit, I got behind on all of my bills and suffered a serious financial setback. I contacted Catholic Charities because I was behind on my rent and had no way of getting caught up to pay my bills, as we basically live paycheck to paycheck and are on a strict budget. I was so overwhelmed and felt as though I was not making any progress, was in danger of losing our house, all

the while falling further behind. Not only did they help me with a substantial portion of the amount I was behind on my rent, but they provided a free budgeting class and set up a meeting with the bank officer who taught the budgeting class. She had creative ideas to save money that I never would've thought of.

I am truly grateful for the assistance, emotional support, and financial advice that I received. For the first time in a long time, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel and will be able to get my finances back on track. Thank you again!”

Thank you for your support of our work, especially your prayers.



HOMELESS OUTREACH. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana staff, LCU interns, and volunteer Greg Wasson, served a hot lunch to over 50 people and distributed brown bag lunches and tarps during Volunteers of America Cenla monthly Homeless Outreach event at Emmanuel Baptist Church parking lot. All made possible by a grant from our supportive community partner, Healthy Blue!

*The Lord
comes to
rule the
earth with
justice.*

Psalm 98: 9
Responsorial Psalm
for November 16
Thirty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

JOB OPENING:

Cafeteria Workers

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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

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Wednesday, October 29
6:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Center
4400 Coliseum Blvd.
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Monday, November 17
6:00 p.m.

St. Michael the Archangel
Church, Leesville

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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WHITE COAT MASS. We gathered at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Friday, Oct. 17 for the annual White Coat Mass with those who serve our community in the medical and health care professions. On the cathedral steps, the priests, deacons, physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals paused for a photograph before Mass.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL ROSARY WALK. On Friday, Oct. 10, Cabrini School conducted the "Our Lady of the Rosary" walk which was led by Father Chad following school Mass.

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Vocational discernment: Consecrated life

By Rose Coleman
Blesse is She

As a child, I was intrigued by religious life in the movies *The Sound of Music* and *Sister Act*. Little did I know that one day I would follow Jesus both in and out of the convent!

As an adult, I experienced a vocational call to follow Jesus more closely in the Evangelical Counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. I am eternally grateful that Jesus invited me to intimately know the beauty of the Consecrated Life in our Church today. Religious sisters who thrive in their lives of radical Consecration to God within their religious communities are a profound witness to us.

A Call Throughout a Life

I grew up in a Catholic family and received the gift of faith. The idea of moving abroad as a missionary was an attractive

thought that I noticed occasionally. Essentially, I knew that if Jesus invited me to do something radical for Him, I would follow. I wanted to glorify Him through my words and actions. I wanted to grow in holiness. I wanted Him to use my life to build and strengthen His Catholic Church.

As I helped my friends prepare for their weddings, my heart hoped for a love story of my own. I had such a deep desire to be a wife and mother, yet I felt confident in God’s faithfulness and goodness. Jesus would show me the way, right?

A Penetrating Word

During my second year of teaching, I began going to daily Mass and frequent confession. As the grace of the Sacraments began to flow through my daily life, I felt especially connected to the Church. This deepened Sacramental life provided spiritual growth and a sense that God was doing something new in my heart.

One day at daily Mass, my pastor’s homily especially convicted me. Father said, “Saint John Bosco believed that one in three young persons has a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. If you are not in a permanent vocation right now, please open your heart to discerning the priesthood or the Consecrated Life.”

My heart was pierced and

I felt the desire to explore this mysterious world of Consecrated Life. Knowing that I needed a guide, I talked to my pastor after Mass that day. Father encouraged me to contact the Vocation Office of our Archdiocese. My heart sank a bit. I had never talked to anyone about discerning my vocation, so it seemed like a huge leap to go straight to the Vocation Director of my Archdiocese.

A Process of Listening and Following

After some prayer, I finally mustered up the courage to call the Vocation Director. In God’s providence, the timing was perfect. There was a new discernment house for women opening in a few months and I decided to move in. Living in a discernment house for nine months provided a time set apart to ask the question and pray for vocational clarity. Strengthened by the friendships with the other eleven women who were also discerning, a space in my heart opened where I could finally ask the question of religious life. I encountered sisters from many different communities, traveled to three convents for their “Come and See” weekends, and met with my spiritual director every month.

A whole new world opened to me, but I was also very scared.

- What if Jesus actually called me to religious life?

- What will my family think?
- How will I leave the job I love?
- Could I really leave everything behind?
- Will I be genuinely happy?
- Will my life feel empty without earthly marriage and physical children?
- How will Jesus fill the desires of my heart?

I brought these questions to prayer, to my spiritual director, and to religious sisters that I met. I listened and desired to say “yes” to wherever Jesus was leading.

Christ Alone

Jesus revealed His will to me during an eight-day Ignatian silent retreat that spring. As I prayed with Scripture, I felt an incredibly personal invitation to belong to Christ alone. Jesus drew me to His Heart and invited me to be His bride. I recognized a particular charism the Holy Spirit within

and knew which community He wanted me to join. I felt joy and delight.

Entering and Exiting

I entered the convent five months later and I stayed for six years. When I reflect on my discernment, there is an abundance of peace. Jesus invited me to discern with this community and He remained with me when I chose to leave. Amid the painful grief of saying goodbye, there was also hope in a new life in Christ.

The Church in her wisdom advises that a woman should discern with a community for eight years before making perpetual vows. A vocation to the Consecrated Life takes time to grow. The call needs to be nurtured and purified and tested. Those who are given the grace of this vocation experience a flourishing of life

See CONSECRATED, page 8

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Radio Maria opens new studio in Nashville

A large crowd of key figures and friends gathered Sept. 10 for the Grand Opening of the newest Radio Maria studio located in Columbia, Tenn. The new facility, located at 412 Hatcher Lane, is home to frequencies 1280 AM and 98.9 FM.

"We had beautiful weather to celebrate the grand opening of the new studio in Columbia," said Fr. Dan Reehil, national priest director of Radio Maria. "Thank you to Bishop Mark Spaulding for coming to dedicate and bless our chapel and studio. And a special thank you to all the Radio Maria leadership who flew in from Milan, Italy to be with us particularly our president, Vittorio Viccardi."

"I also want to thank all of the many generous people who donated money for the renovations, equipment and furnishings. Everything turned out so beautiful and I truly appreciate all of the hard work of the builders and the generous donors who made this all possible," he said.

The Most Rev. J. Mark Spaulding, bishop of the Diocese of Nashville, along with Fr. Reehil; Vittorio Viccardi, president of World Family of Radio Maria in Italy; Alicia del Cid, WF representative from Guatemala; and Carlo DiMaggio, president of Radio Maria USA from New York, all participated



RADIO MARIA DEDICATES NEW STUDIO IN TENNESSEE. Board members from Radio Maria USA and World Family leaders participated in the dedication and blessing of the new studio in Columbia, Tenn. on Sept. 10. Pictured are (from left) Mary Snyder, Columbia, TN; Alecia del Cid, WF Guatemala; Carlo DiMaggio, RMUSA president, NY; Vittorio Viccardi, president of World Family, Milan, Italy; Most Rev. Mark Spaulding, bishop of the Diocese of Nashville; Fr. Dan Reehil, national priest director of RMUSA; Mary Pyper, Ohio board member; Jeannie Petrus, Alexandria, LA board member; and (standing in back) John Tumminello, Alexandria, LA board member. Not pictured is Kevin Fontenot, program manager of Radio Maria USA.

in the ribbon-cutting ceremony held outside the front entrance of the facility. Bishop Spaulding then entered the building blessing each room, including the chapel, studio, kitchen, and offices.

The building will be used by Fr. Reehil, to celebrate Mass, to host small events, and to broadcast programs directly from the studio. Nik LaBella, national coordinator of Radio Maria, will use it as his office as well as volunteers

who will use it as workspace for completing special projects and for hosting small events.

A reception was held outside the studio under a tent. Guests included board members from Louisiana, Ohio, New York and Tennessee as well as parishioners from St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church (Fr. Dan's parish), technical engineers from Houston and Italy, and many friends and supporters of Radio Maria.



Radio Maria USA inducted into Hall of Fame

Radio Maria USA was inducted into the Vernon Parish Gospel Music Hall of Fame Sept. 3 for its dedication to spreading the Gospel message.

Program manager Kevin Fontenot was presented with the 2025 Minister Melvin Coleman Gold Award during a brief ceremony in the Radio Maria studio by Vernon Parish Gospel Music Academy founder James Bonner.

"On behalf of Radio Maria USA, I want to thank the Vernon Parish Gospel Music Academy for recognizing Radio Maria with this award," said Fontenot.

This prestigious award goes to those in the gospel music field for their faithfulness in recording music or lyrics, and/or establishing gospel programs in or around Vernon Parish and beyond. The VPGMA is an organization established to honor those in the field of gospel music in seven categories: singer, songwriter, musician, promoter, producer, inspirational dance and gospel rap.

(left) 2025 MINISTER MELVIN COLEMAN GOLD AWARD. Program Manager, Kevin Fontenot accepts award on behalf of Radio Maria USA.

SAINTS FUN FACTS

Saint Gertrude the Great was told by Our Lord that each time the following prayer was said, one thousand souls would be released from purgatory!

"Eternal Father, I offer you the most precious blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family! Amen!"

Think of the impact of your intercessory prayers!

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November 6-9

Womens ACTS Retreat

hosted by St. Augustine Church
Isle Brevelle

November 13-16

Womens ACTS Retreat

hosted by St. Rita Church
Alexandria

November 20-23

Womens ACTS Retreat

hosted by Sacred Heart of
Jesus Church, Pineville

All retreats are held at Maryhill
Renewal Center.

St. Joseph School Hosts Annual Lynn St. Romain Golf Tournament

The St. Joseph School Athletic Department held its Annual Lynn St. Romain Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 13, at Gator Grounds in Bunkie, Louisiana. The event kicked off with registration at 8:00 a.m. and a 9:00 a.m. tee-off, drawing an excellent turnout of players, sponsors, and supporters.

This year's tournament was a great success, with proceeds benefiting the SJS Athletic Department, helping cover season costs, as well as funding facility and equipment upgrades for student-athletes.

The day concluded with recognition of the winning teams:

- **First Flight/1st Place:**
J. Riche, D. Laborde, R Lacombe, and J. Sauseda
- **First Flight/ 2nd Place:**
J. Guillot, J. Gauthier, J. Gremillion, and J. Rabalais
- **Second Flight/1st Place:**
P. Meche, G. Firmin, K. Gauthier, and D. Musso
- **Second Flight/ 2nd Place:**
D. Dauzat, D. Dauzat, Z. Gullett, and D. Armond

St. Joseph School extends sincere gratitude to all who participated, volunteered, and sponsored the tournament. Your support ensures that SJS athletes have the resources they need to thrive both on and off the court and field.

"We are truly blessed by the generosity of our community," said Rhiannon Moreau, Principal of St. Joseph. "The success of this tournament is a reflection of the commitment we share to building strong programs for our students."

The school looks forward to continuing this tradition and honoring the legacy of Lynn St. Romain through athletics and community spirit.



First Flight/1st Place: J. Riche, D. Laborde, R Lacombe, and J. Sauseda



First Flight/ 2nd Place: J. Guillot, J. Gauthier, J. Gremillion, and J. Rabalais



Second Flight/1st Place: P. Meche, G. Firmin, K. Gauthier, and D. Musso



Second Flight/ 2nd Place: D. Dauzat, D. Dauzat, Z. Gullett, and D. Armond

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Psalm 122: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for November 23
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Pray, recommit to journeying with young for vocations, says bishop

(OSV News) — An annual observance centered on vocations is a moment for prayer and rededication to helping young people find their place in God's plan, said Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, Michigan.

"With fervor ... let us pray and renew our commitment to journey with and encourage young people as they discover the hope God has placed in their hearts through discerning how He has called them to be witnesses of the love 'poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit,'" said Bishop Boyea, quoting Romans 5:5.

National Vocations Awareness Week

The bishop, who serves as chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, issued an Oct.

15 statement ahead of National Vocation Awareness Week, which the nation's Catholics will mark Nov. 2-8.

Launched in 1976 by the U.S. bishops, the observance was moved in 1997 to coincide with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January, then returned in 2014 to the first full week in November.

Regardless of scheduling, the goal of National Vocations Awareness Week remains timeless and crucial — and the aim is a whole-of-church effort, said the USCCB in its Oct. 15 media release containing Bishop Boyea's statement.

"Each year, national Catholic organizations, dioceses, schools, and local parish communities sponsor events and provide different resources to raise awareness for vocations, and help those who are discerning

a vocation, particularly one to ordained ministry or consecrated life," said the USCCB.

Prayers, handouts and bulletin inserts

The USCCB's website, www.usccb.org, includes a dedicated page with resources for National Vocations Awareness Week — available in both English and Spanish — including prayers, handouts and bulletin inserts, a recommended reading list for those discerning a vocation, and links to helpful ministries and organizations.

The Catholic Church defines a vocation — from the Latin word "vocare," meaning "to call" — as "the calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter."

Laity are intended to shape temporal affairs in accord with God's will, while priestly and religious vocations "are dedicated

to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation," states the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us celebrate all who have responded to God's call whether to serve as husbands, wives, parents, priests and others as ordained ministers, or consecrated persons," said Bishop Boyea.

Learning 'the art of discernment'

He quoted a June 24 meditation Pope Leo XIV offered during the Jubilee of Seminarians, in which the pope said, "If you cultivate your heart through daily periods of silence, meditation, and prayer, you will learn the art of discernment."

In that meditation, Pope Leo stressed the importance of "learning discernment," since young hearts in particular can "overflow with desires, dreams and ambitions," often rendering them "overwhelmed and bewildered."

By following the example set by Mary, said the pope, "we will surely learn to keep all those things in our heart and meditate on them."

LSUA Life Festival hosted by Generals for Life set for Nov. 15

The Generals for Life student organization at LSUA will be hosting a Life Festival on the university campus, Saturday, Nov. 15. The event features live music and a chili cook-off competition. Attendees can purchase "votes" for their favorite chili dish and a panel of judges will choose the overall winner. Games and other activities are also planned. Proceeds support the club and the life-affirming organizations it supports such as Cenla Pregnancy Center and the Family Justice Center. Funds will also go toward assisting students wishing to attend the National March for Life in Washington, DC this winter. If you are interested in competing in the chili cook-off, please contact Hagan Menard at 337-600-4021 or haganpmenard@gmail.com.



BISHOP VISITS SACRED HEART SCHOOL IN MOREAUVILLE. On Friday, Oct. 3, Bishop Robert Marshall This morning, celebrated First Friday Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville with the community of Sacred Heart School. Thank you to Father Brian Seiler, Father Joshua Burch, Ms. Amy Coco, Principal, and the students, faculty and administration of SHS for the wonderful welcome!



BISHOP VISITS ST. ANTHONY CHURCH AND SCHOOL IN BUNKIE. On Wednesday, Oct. 15, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie with the community of St. Anthony School. After Mass, he visited students in their classrooms. Thank you to Monsignor Scott Chemino, Mrs. Sadie LaPoint, and the faculty, staff and students for their enthusiastic welcome.

*Let us go
rejoicing
to the house
of the Lord.*

Psalm 122: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for November 23
The Solemnity of Our Lord
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King of the Universe

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Contact Holy Cross Church: (318) 352-2615

Louisiana Christian University:

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

All Souls Day Mass - Nov. 2

Please join us as Bishop Robert Marshall celebrates the 11:00 a.m. All Souls Day Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Sunday, Nov. 2. During this Mass, all of the names that were sent in for special intentions and donations made in honor of for the Annual Diocese Appeal will be listed in the Mass program.

Vocations Panel - Nov. 8

Do you want guidance in learning about God'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 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 with break out sessions, Q&A, and Holy Hour. Ends with 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. Open to ALL YOUTH and anyone discerning his/her vocation. Lunch is included. To RSVP or for more information contact Tammy Bernard at 318-305-1730.

Discalced Carmelites meeting - Nov. 8

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.

Silent Retreat 2025 - Nov. 13-16

During this Silent Retreat: "Journey into Hope," each retreatant will have daily opportunities to meet individually with a spiritual director. Mass, reconciliation, and adoration will be included. Single room assignments. Plenty of outdoor areas for prayer and relaxation. All meals and snacks included. Location: Maryhill Renewal Center. Spiritual Directors: Joan Dobard, Carol Olson, Karen Dill, and Ingrid Cannella. Cost is \$275.00 per person. Registration Deadline: November 5, 2025 Contact/Registration Information: Ingrid Cannella, 318-792-3331 or email icnewell@yahoo.com

Cathedral Altar Society Bake Sale - Nov. 15-16

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Altar Society will have their Fall Bake Sale Saturday, Nov. 15 at the 4:00 p.m. Mass and Sunday, Nov. 16 at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

LSUA Life Festival - Nov. 15

The Generals for Life student organization at LSUA will be hosting a Life Festival on the university campus, Saturday, Nov. 15. The event features live music and a chili cook-off competition. Attendees can purchase "votes" for their favorite chili dish and a panel of judges will choose the overall winner. Games and other activities are also planned. Proceeds support the club and the life-affirming organizations it supports such as Cenla Pregnancy Center and the Family Justice Center. Funds will also go toward assisting students wishing to attend the National March for Life in Washington, DC this winter. If you are interested in competing in the chili cook-off, please contact Hagan Menard at 337-600-4021 or haganpmenard@gmail.com.

St. Margaret Church Fall Fundraiser - Nov. 16

Join us after 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Margaret Church in Boyce. BBQ lunch plates available for \$10; raffle tickets \$3 each or two for \$5. Raffle prizes include a handmade king size quilt, hand made painting, Louisiana themed gift basket. Don't miss out on this perfect fall day! For more information call 318-793-8811 or message us on Facebook!

"Cookies to Casserole and In-between" - Nov. 22-23

Sponsored by St. Frances Cabrini Church's Sanctuary Society. The event will be held in the Cabrini Activities Building on Saturday, Nov. 22 before and after the 4:30 Mass (between 3:30 and 6:00 p.m.) and on Sunday, Nov. 23 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Come by and shop for choice items that can be added to your Thanksgiving table. There will be a wide assortment of casseroles, soups and gumbos to sweets and other delicious items. We'll also be raffling off three items: a Benedictine crucifix, a garden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a small statue of Mary for inside the home.

Christ the King Eucharistic Procession at OLPS - Nov. 23

Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, Nov. 23 for the Christ the King Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, 2120 Elliott Street, Alexandria. Following Mass we'll have a Eucharistic Procession outdoors. In the event of inclement weather, the outdoor procession will be replaced by a period of indoor Adoration and Benediction.

Journeys in Faith Bible Study with Liz Descant - starts Dec. 1

This innovative Bible Study with Liz Descant will be conducted via Facebook group starting Monday, Dec. 1. Questions will be posted weekly. Post your answers in the comments for all to read. We will learn from each other! No Zoom meetings, no set time to be anywhere, do it on your own time! Participating in the Bible Study is free of charge but you will need the book "Who Do You Say That I Am?" available on Amazon. To join the Facebook group, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/803790292314883> For more information email lizdescant@gmail.com.

#iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday - Dec. 2

Give back, give Catholic on Giving Tuesday. On Tuesday, Dec. 2 you can visit <https://www.igivecatholic.org/community/alexandria> and donate to a church or school in the diocese to help them raise funds for their church and school projects.

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 with keynote speaker Chris Padgett, emcee Paul Hood, and worship led by Kelly Lombardi. Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$85 per person. To register, contact your youth minister or church office, or visit www.steubenvillesouth.com.

The Light is On for You: Advent Day of Reconciliation - Dec. 11

In addition to Advent penance services, the Diocese of Alexandria will offer an Advent day for confession on Dec. 11 when most churches within the Diocese will offer a time in the evening to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please check www.diocesealex.org for times that will be posted soon.

ECHO Adventure Retreat at Kisatchie National Forest - Dec. 12-14

Echo Community's Adventure retreats invite young adult men and women into an experience that brings them closer to truth through prayer and sacraments, recreation, and "unplugging" from technology, all in the context of God's gift of creation. The retreat is for young adults ages 19-35, and the cost is \$125. Retreat will be held at the Beaver Dam Campground near Minden, LA. Use the link below for registration: <https://rb.gy/dwh6nh>

Church Today News Deadlines

November 24
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 13

December 29
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Dec. 11



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November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
OCTOBER 27 PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	28 She Shall Be Called Woman Series 6:30-8:00 p.m. OLPS Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ	29 VIRTUS Training 6:00-9:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria Faith of the Fathers Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE	30 PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD	31 HALLOWEEN PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	NOVEMBER 1 ALL SAINTS DAY FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 All Souls Day Mass with Bishop Marshall 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. ALL SOULS DAY PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG
3 When You Pray series 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria	4	5 Faith of the Fathers Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS Church, Alexandria	6	7 Blue Mass 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria	8 Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center Vocations Panel 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport	9
NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK -- NOVEMBER 2-8						
PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE	Womens ACTS Retreat hosted by St. Augustine Church -- Maryhill Renewal Center			
			PRAY FOR DCN. F. ANDRADE	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR DCN. EJ BARRE	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW
10	11	12 Faith of the Fathers Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS Church, Alexandria	13	14	15 LSUA Life Festival LSUA campus	16 Fall Fundraiser 10:30 a.m. St. Margaret Church, Boyce
PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	VETERANS DAY PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. J. BURCH	Cathedral Altar Society Bake Sale -- Cathedral			
			Womens ACTS Retreat hosted by St. Rita Church -- Maryhill Renewal Center			
			Silent Retreat: Journey into Hope -- Maryhill Renewal Center			
			PRAY FOR MSGR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR DCN. R. CHRISTOPHER	PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE
17 #iGiveCatholic Advanced Giving starts! VIRTUS Training 6:00-9:00 p.m. St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville	18 OPEN HOUSE 5:30 p.m. Holy Savior Menard Central High School, Alexandria	19 Faith of the Fathers Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS Church, Alexandria	20	21	22	23 Christ the King Eucharistic Procession 10:30 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
DISCOVER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK -- NOVEMBER 16-22					Cookies to Casseroles -- Cabrini Activities Bldg	
PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	PRAY FOR DCN LG DELOACH	PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	Womens ACTS Retreat hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Church -- Maryhill Renewal Center			
			PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ	PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC	PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE
24 PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS	25 PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	26 PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP	27 THANKSGIVING PRAY FOR MSGR. J. FERGUSON	28 PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	29 PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER	30 First Day of Advent PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE

Our Catholic Schools in Action



ANNUAL BISHOP'S BOWL FOOTBALL GAME. Menard claimed the trophy for the first time since the inauguration of the Bishop's Bowl Football game five years ago. The annual contest between the Tigers of St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches and the Eagles of Holy Savior Menard High School, Alexandria was begun in 2020. Both teams, players, coaches and classmates, knelt as Bishop Robert Marshall said a prayer at the conclusion of the game.

ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL JUNIOR RUNNERS. On Saturday, Sept. 6, Cabrini School Junior Runners got up bright and early for their FIRST race of the year! Results:

Boys: 1st Place 8 year olds: Landry [REDACTED]

4th Place 8 year olds: Luke [REDACTED]

7th Place 7 years olds: Rylie [REDACTED]

1st Place 6 years olds: Wyatt [REDACTED]

5th Place 5 year olds: Jenson [REDACTED]

2nd Place 4 years olds: Ayden [REDACTED]

Girls: Fastest Overall Time 3-5 year olds: Millie [REDACTED]

2nd Place 6 year olds: Aubree [REDACTED]

7th Place 7 year olds: Ry'Leigh [REDACTED]

8th Place 8 year olds: Gemma [REDACTED]

10th Place 8 year olds: Mia [REDACTED]

7th Place 10 year olds: Karis [REDACTED]



SACRED HEART SCHOOL's 2025-2026 4-H officers put up a 4-H Banner and crafted "Go Green" letters to advertise and support National 4-H Week. Thank you to sponsor Mr. Lance Gauthier for leading, encouraging, and supervising the members on the display. Mrs. Hailey Gauthier co-sponsor extends warm wishes to all 4-H clubs celebrating. Pictured: Joey [REDACTED], Secretary; Eli [REDACTED], Vice President; Lane [REDACTED], President; Lillian [REDACTED], Recreational Leader; Josie [REDACTED], Reporter; Cora [REDACTED], Treasurer; Sydney [REDACTED], Chaplain/Parliamentarian.

**National
Discover Catholic Schools Week
November 16-22**



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITERS. Creative Writers are given a theme and this year's is Space. Students will have to use the line "God's love is out of this world" in their stories.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL BETA INDUCTION. On Thursday, Oct. 9, the St. Frances Cabrini School Jr. Beta Club held an Induction Ceremony and Installation of Officers.



FIRE PREVENTION AT ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. PreK-4th grade had a special visit from the Plaquemine Fire Department on Monday, Oct. 6 in honor of Fire Prevention Week! Students learned about fire safety, the importance of having a plan, and even got to see the fire truck up close! Thank you to our local heroes for keeping our community safe!