

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVII, No. 8

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

August 24, 2026



Back-to-School

Classes began on August 7. Best wishes and we hope everyone has a safe and blessed school year! See pages 10-11 and the back page for photos of the first days of the 2026-2027 school year from the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Alexandria. (above) Fr. Brian Seiler blesses classrooms at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville.

INSIDE

A Legacy of Faith and Love

The love we have for our children and grandchildren invites us to consider what we will leave for generations to come. Through faith, stewardship, and thoughtful planning, our legacy can continue sharing God's love long after we are gone. See page 2 for the full article.

New Faces Around the Diocese

New leaders are stepping into roles of service across the Diocese of Alexandria. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana welcomes a new operational director and social work intern, while St. Mary's Assumption School welcomes a new principal. Meet them and learn more on pages 12 and 16.

Walking the Path to Sainthood

A new exhibit at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria highlights more than 80 Americans on the path to sainthood, sharing stories of missionaries, martyrs, and faithful witnesses whose lives reveal Christ across our nation's history. Explore the exhibit on page 13.

INDEX

News/events	2
National / World	3
Feature	4
Vocations and Burses	6-7
Features and Local News ...	9
Picture Spread.....	10-11
Social Ministries	12
Features.....	13
Schools / Youth.....	16
Diocesan Briefs	18
Calendar	19

CHURCH
TODAY

Volume LVII, No. 8
August 24, 2026

P. O. Box 7417
Alexandria, LA 71303
318-445-6424

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

The CHURCH TODAY (USPS
393-240) is published by the
Catholic Diocese of Alexandria,
once a month, free of charge to
members of the parishes in the
Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana.
Out of diocese subscriptions are
\$20 a year.

The office is located at
4400 Coliseum Blvd.,
Alexandria, LA 71303.
Periodicals postage paid at
Alexandria, LA.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to
The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box
7417, Alexandria, LA 71306
Website: www.diocesealex.org
To receive a free subscription,
call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or
e-mail starver@diocesealex.org

by Deacon Richard Mitchell
Director of Stewardship
and Development for the
Diocese of Alexandria

I never truly understood the depth of a parent's love for a child until I became a "girl dad" in 1995—and then again in 1998. As a native of Alexandria, I have been blessed most of my life with family and faith, but becoming a father gave those blessings an entirely new meaning.

The moment I held each of my daughters and realized that I was responsible for another human being was both exciting and terrifying.

Looking into those beautiful blue eyes, I made them a promise:

"Little one, you will know that you are loved by me, that you are a gift from God and a child of God, and I will do everything I can to protect you and give you every opportunity to succeed in life."

If you are a parent, I suspect you have made a similar promise, whether aloud or silently in your heart. We want what is good for our children. We want to protect them, prepare them and give them opportunities we may not have had ourselves.

Jesus speaks to this natural desire of a parent in Luke's Gospel: "What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?" (Luke 11:11-12)

Aristotle described love as willing the good of another. For a parent, however, love goes beyond simply wishing for the good of our children. We try to show them what is good. We teach them to do good. Most importantly, we try to live in such a way that they see goodness—and God—through us.

I did not think my love for my family could grow any stronger.

Then my two granddaughters were born.

Before long, I found myself looking at them and saying

essentially the same words I had spoken to their mother years earlier:

"Little one, you will know that you are loved by me, that you are a gift from God and a child of God, and I will do everything I can to help you succeed in this life."

What Will Our Legacy Say?

I hope that is the legacy I leave my family.

I hope they always know how deeply I love them. I hope they can say that I preached the Gospel to them not only through my words, but, more importantly, through my actions. And I hope they understand that faith in God is the foundation upon which a good life is built.

That raises an important question for each of us: What will our legacy say to the generations that follow us?

For my wife and me, one way of answering that question is through our estate planning. After making provisions for our family, we intend to remember the Church in our financial giving after we are gone.

Why?

Because we want to have a part in the future of the Church.

We want future generations to have the same opportunity we have had to encounter Jesus Christ, to know and love the Lord through His Church, to receive the sacraments, and to grow in faith within their parish communities.

In a sense, our estate plan

allows us to extend that promise I first made to my daughters—and later to my granddaughters—to people I may never meet.

You are loved. You are a gift from God and a child of God. We want you to have every opportunity to live a good life rooted in faith.

Introducing Legacy Sunday

This year, the Diocese of Alexandria received a grant to begin a new initiative called Legacy Sunday, which will launch the weekend of September 19-20, 2026.

Through this initiative, we will introduce Catholics to estate planning and the many ways each of us can Leave Your Legacy for future generations. Legacy Sunday will begin in six church parishes throughout the Diocese of Alexandria. Following the completion of this initial effort, we plan to introduce the initiative throughout the Diocese in 2027.

But you do not have to wait for Legacy Sunday—or for 2027—to begin thinking about your legacy.

You can begin today.

Estate planning is not only for people with large estates. It is about being a good steward of whatever God has entrusted to us. It is about caring for our families, making our wishes known and prayerfully considering the people, parishes and ministries that have helped shape our lives.

If each of us does a

little, together we can make a significant impact on our church parishes and diocesan ministries for generations to come.

A Legacy Close to My Heart

This work has also become deeply personal for me.

My mother passed away in May 2024, and I am dedicating my work of helping others think about their legacies to her memory. Her passing has reminded me that a legacy is about far more than the possessions we leave behind. It is about the faith we pass on, the people we love, the lives we touch and the good that continues because we were here.

As Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Alexandria, I would be honored to sit down with you and hear your story.

There is no pressure and no obligation. We can simply have a conversation about your hopes for your family and your faith. We can talk about end-of-life planning, estate planning, charitable giving or other preplanning that can help you and your loved ones remember—and continue—your legacy.

Ultimately, Christian stewardship asks us to recognize that everything we have is a gift from God. During our lives, we are called to receive those gifts gratefully, nurture them responsibly, share them generously and return them to God with increase.

And perhaps one of the greatest gifts we can leave behind is a message to generations yet to come:

You are loved. You are a gift from God. You are a child of God. And because we loved you, we wanted to help make sure the gift of faith would be here for you, too.

To schedule a no-pressure conversation about your legacy, please contact me at dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org or 318-445-6424, ext. 206.



Diocese of Alexandria Website
www.diocesealex.org



Diocese of Alexandria Facebook
facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria



Diocese of Alexandria Instagram
[@dioceseofalexandria](https://dioceseofalexandria)

Ahead of beatification, the women behind Archbishop Sheen's missionary work remember hidden work

by Ines San Martin
Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — When Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is beatified Sept. 24 in St. Louis, attention will rightly fall on the celebrated television preacher whose broadcasts brought Catholic teaching into millions of American homes.

But for almost two decades, behind Archbishop Sheen's extraordinary reach stood a largely unknown group of women who opened thousands of letters, recorded donations, thanked contributors, and helped transform his words into material support for missionaries and young churches around the world.

Archbishop Sheen served from 1950 to 1966 as the national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies. The society coordinates World Mission Sunday, the annual worldwide day of giving that supports the Church's work in more than 1,100 mission territories.

It was a responsibility central to Archbishop Sheen's priesthood and public ministry. Alongside his radio and television work, he traveled, preached missionary appeals and served as editor of MISSION Magazine, which began being published by the national office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1951.

When the prelate spoke



SHEEN BEATIFICATION. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is seen in an undated photo posing with women who worked at the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in New York City. (OSC News photo / Pontifical Mission Societies USA Archives)

about the missions on television, preached an appeal or published a new issue of the magazine, the response would arrive in the form of 8,000 to 10,000 letters a day, filled with thank-you notes and donations.

Envelopes poured into the society's national office in New York. Some contained large checks. Others held a few dollars, coins saved by children or brief notes explaining the sacrifice

behind the gift.

And behind the scenes, a small army of women opened

those envelopes, recorded the offerings and made sure the donors received a response.

'Our office would be swamped'

Helen Fitzpatrick was one of "the gals," as she still affectionately calls them.

Now 89, Fitzpatrick began working part-time at the society in 1954, while a senior at St. Vincent Ferrer High School in Manhattan. After graduation, she joined the staff full-time and remained for about a decade.

Her principal responsibility was ensuring that acknowledgment notes were sent to those who supported the missions. The work was constant.

"No matter where he (Archbishop Sheen) was, the office was never without work," Fitzpatrick recalled. "Every time he would send out an appeal or print the magazine, our office would be swamped."

Bernadette Schumann, also in her 80s, remembers that the women worked across two rooms, surrounded by correspondence that connected ordinary American Catholics with the missionary

See SHEEN, pg. 14

250 Hours Adoration

Mater Dolorosa completes 301 hours of Eucharistic Adoration during the month of July, the most hours reported in the diocese.



PRAYER FOR PROTECTION THIS HURRICANE SEASON

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

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

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

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.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary to celebrate 195 year anniversary



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campti will be celebrating its 195th Anniversary on September 13, with Rosary at 8:30 a.m., Mass at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude with brunch immediately following.

Everyone is invited to celebrate this joyous blessing bestowed upon our community.

History of Nativity of BVM:

In 1831, land for a chapel in the town of Campti was donated by Miss Frances Crichton. This new chapel was blessed and dedicated in honor of the

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin by Father Jean Baptiste Blanc of Natchitoches on September 8, 1831.

The congregation grew and in 1850, construction began on a new church under the direction of Father Philbert Jourdain, later named as pastor on October 19, 1851. Difficulties with the contractors forced Father Jourdain to retire to a monastery in France. A mortgage was negotiated and the church remained as a mission of Natchitoches until 1856 when Father Jean Baptiste Avenard was assigned as pastor. He succeeded

in paying off the debt and helped to see his parish through the dark days of war and reconstruction. Campti was burned by Federal troops in 1864, but the church survived intact.

Following their initial arrival in the Diocese of Natchitoches in the late 1880s, the Sisters of Divine Providence established localized "convent schools" or small parochial schools adjacent to rural parishes and in 1894, the sisters established St. Cecilia's School in Campti. Under Bishop Desmond, the parish was placed under the care of the Dominican Fathers in 1940.

Facing shifting regional demographics and the consolidation of Catholic education across the Diocese of Alexandria, St. Cecilia's School permanently shut its doors in 1965.

Today, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the last remaining wood-frame antebellum church in the diocese. In 2003, Bishop Sam Jacobs designated the church in Campti as a 'Proto-parish' in the Diocese of Alexandria meaning it was an original parish within the Diocese of Natchitoches before it became the Diocese of Alexandria in 1910.

Nativity Church also serves the mission of Our Lady of the Rosary, Black Lake.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
CAMPTI, LOUISIANA

195TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 9/13/26
8:30 a.m. Holy Rosary
9 a.m. Mass

(Immediately following Mass a brunch in the Social Hall)

✠ D's Place ✠

Cottonport's Community Meeting & Event Center

Party, Family Reunion, Reception,
Dance, Conference, Repass, Etc.

659 Indian Bayou Rd. Cottonport, La., 71327

318-737-8661 philip61557@yahoo.com

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

Psalm 95: 8
Responsorial Psalm
for September 6
Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time



Flu Shots & Vaccinations

Many gifts including large selection of religious items:

- My Saint My Hero religious jewelry
- Holy Medals
- Jesus Calling & other inspirational books
- Rosaries
- ACTS bracelets
- First Communion, Confirmation & Baptism gifts

Follow us on Facebook @ Cottonportcornerdrug.giftboutique

(318) 876-3665

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

206 Choupique Lane • Cottonport, LA 71327

Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners



SERVING LOUISIANA FOR CAR, TRUCK, OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS
AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

INJURED?
CALL 318-561-2500



DECADES OF EXPERIENCE READY TO HANDLE ALL TYPES OF
INJURY AND DEATH CASES

RICHARD J. ARSENAULT ALEXANDRIA, LA WWW.NBALAWFIRM.COM LA-25-18559



ST. WILLIAM CHAPEL, OLLA. On Sunday, August 2, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. William Chapel in Olla and posed with parishioners for a group photo.



ST. MARTIN CHURCH, LECOMPTE. On Wednesday, July 29, St. Martin parishioners and the surrounding community came together for a women's supper and reflection on Saints Martha and Mary. Approximately 100 ladies attended! They were treated with a special meal cooked by Father Chad!



2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA

Ph: (318) 416-9901

*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.



ST. JULIANA'S LOVE CHOIR RECENTLY CELEBRATED ITS 51ST ANNIVERSARY. Paul Desselle, director, has been the choir's director for all of those years. He is the only remaining original member of the choir from 1975. Current members of the Love Choir pictured left to right, front row: Sylvia Davis, Velda Lacour, Maerose Nash, Flora Mays, Paul Desselle. Back row: Stella Poindexter, David Brook, Margaret Brook, Linda Broussard, Mary Roque. Not pictured: Margaret Johnson.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, DEVILLE. VBS was held July 13-17 at St. John the Baptist Church in Deville. More than 60 kids participated and this year's theme was "Let Your Light Shine".



WOMEN OF THE WELL PRAYER GROUP. St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Echo was pleased to host the "Women of the Well" Prayer Group on Tuesday, Aug. 11. It was a wonderful evening filled with prayer, fellowship, meaningful conversation, and a light meal. We are grateful for everyone who joined us and helped make the gathering such a special one.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, HESSMER. St. Alphonsus hosted VBS over the summer. We had an amazing attendance of 70 children. Mrs. Tina Laborde's vision came to life with the help of all of her volunteers. Father Kenneth Michiels led the children in a Eucharistic procession.

Completed Burses at \$15,000.00 Each:

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

The following is a list of established burses and amounts in each:

St. Damien De Veuster	175.00
Bishop William Friend	100.00
Bishop Lawrence P. Graves	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco	2,800.00
Bishop Ronald P. Herzog	450.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs	1,200.00
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.	1,200.00
Bishop David P. Talley	525.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock	1,535.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor S. Scott Chemino	750.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	650.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	600.00
Monsignor James Ferguson	2,625.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	1,100.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwaitaal	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Bruce Miller	300.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O’Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	965.00
Monsignor Mozart Pelletier	100.00
Monsignor John V. Plauche	400.00
Monsignor F. Joseph Rateau	570.00
Monsignor Russell J. Richie	616.14
Monsignor B. A. Scallan	10,085.90
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	10,006.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	10,975.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	1,260.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	11,220.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putten	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	3,200.00
Father Walter Ajaero	350.00
Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
Father Lawrence Bonin	70.00
Father H. Gerald Bordelon	13,885.00
Father Vernon Bordelon	445.00
Father Gilles Boyer	85.00
Father Joshua Burch	370.00
Father Basil Burns	100.00
Father Alfred Chlebowczyk	375.00
Father Jules L. Claes, CICM	4,761.00
Father Wilbur G. Cloutier	3,690.50
Father Daniel Cook	2,500.00
Father Daniel Corkery	12,750.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella	1,750.00
Father John H. Cunningham	1,900.00
Father Dennis A. Curren	850.00
Father Leonard Curtis, OP	1,050.00
Father Ferreolus D’Cruz	875.00
Father Dwight de Jesus	1,025.00
Father Edward Deasy	625.00
Father Wade DeCoste	975.00
Father Blake Deshautelle	375.00
Father Joseph Desimone	25.00
Father Anthony Dharmaraj, MSFS	200.00

Seminary Burses

Father Derek Ducote	817.00
Father Randolph J. Engelen	550.00
Father Richard Fale	5,700.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier	1,475.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin	200.00
Father James Foster	280.00
Father Louis Gagnard	50.00
Father John M. Gayer	970.00
Father William Gearheard	100.00
Father Serafin Glasnovic	150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion	14,765.00
Father Daniel Hart	5,700.00
Father William M. Hopp	10.00
Father Mark W. Horacek	50.00
Father Bartholomew Ibe	200.00
Father Tom Jezek	400.45
Father Robert Johnson	50.00
Father Michael P. Kammer	921.00
Father W. John Kiley	625.00
Father Francis X. Kronemeyer	100.00
Father George Krosfield	175.00
Father Peter Kuligowski	1,408.00
Father Paul Kunnumpuram, MSFS	475.00
Father Henri Jacquemain	50.00
Father Luke LaFleur	125.00
Father Martin Laird	125.00
Father Paul LaPalme	50.00
Father Russell J. Lemoine	425.00
Father Frederick J. Lyons	1,600.00
Father Bernard F. Maguire	105.00
Father Robert M. Maure	10.00
Father Dale Meade	100.00
Father Jamie Medina-Cruz	200.00
Father Jack Michalchuk	150.00
Father Adrian Molenschot	6,300.00
Father Joseph Montalbano	400.00
Father Govie J. Moraus, Jr.	200.00
Father Albi Mulloth	500.00
Father Christudas Nayak	275.00
Father Peter T. Norek	1,150.00
Father Kenneth Obiekwe	500.00
Father Daniel O’Connor	3,218.00
Father Thomas O’Connors	10.00
Father MacGrace Onwumere, SMMM	25.00
Father Abraham Palakkattuchira	100.00
Father Chad Partain	250.00
Father Martin L. Plauche	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi	1,000.00
Father George Pookkattu	50.00
Father William B. Provosty	105.00
Father Rusty Rabalais	1,200.00
Father Charles Ray	1,600.00
Father Frederick Taylor Reynolds	1,190.00
Father Yves J. Robitaille	1,900.00
Father José Robles-Sanchez	1,700.00
Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez	75.00
Father James Roy	100.00
Father Kenneth Roy	3,505.00
Father Sheldon Roy	250.00
Father Lloyd M. Samson	50.00
Father Craig Scott	2,500.00
Father Brian Seiler	50.00
Father Louis Sklar, III	1,150.00
Father Paul B. Smith	250.00
Father Irion St. Romain	100.00
Father Ker Texada	200.00
Father August Thompson	1,500.00
Father Adam Travis	100.00
Father Abraham Varghese	25.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde	1,300.00
Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
Father Gus Voltz	3,315.00
Father Silvan A. Watercotte, OFM	160.00
Father Kenneth Williams	880.00
Father John Wiltse	250.00
Father Joseph Xavier	100.00
Father Kurian Zachariah	100.00
Father Bernard Zagst	1,300.00
Reverend H. Biggers	158.50
Deacon Emile “E. J.” Barre, III	100.00
Deacon Matthew Bonner	6,200.00
Deacon Rodrick “Benny” Broussard	20.00
Deacon L. G. Deloach	675.00
Deacon Darrell Dubroc	200.00
Deacon Raymond J. Dunn	3,300.00
Deacon Ray D. Gibson	120.00
Deacon Charles A. Jones	1,150.00
Deacon Gregory P. LeBlanc	100.00
Deacon Todd Marye	100.00
Deacon Patrick C. McCusker	100.00
Deacon Richard W. Mitchell	250.00
Deacon Doug Moreau	25.00
Deacon Ted A. Moulard	300.00
Deacon Clifford John “Kip” Pelto	120.00
Deacon Ken J. Primeaux	25.00
Deacon Kenny Sayes	100.00
Deacon William E. Shaidnagle	100.00

Deacon Gary A. Schupbach	1,225.00
Deacon William “Bill” Travis	200.00
Deacon Luther “Luke” White	50.00
Deacon John L. Whitehead	100.00
Deacon Michael L. Young	200.00
Sister Margaret McCaffrey	300.00
Sister Marie Therese McGee, OP	100.00
Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, CDP	100.00
Ismael and Libby Agosto	250.00
Shirley Alexander	1,125.00
Charles P. and Florence C. Anastasio	880.00
Germaine Armand	550.00
Virgie D. Aymond	225.00
Delores Basco	150.00
Harold and Lillie Beridon	9,400.00
John M. Bauer	150.00
Dr. Lamar and Jean Boese	50.00
Will Bollich	100.00
J. V. Bonnette	50.00
Will Brittain	50.00
Carolyn Brouillette	50.00
Chris and Barbara Cancienne	50.00
Nathan Cannella	225.00
Frank V. Cariere	175.00
Dylan Michael Cashio	400.00
T. W. Clark	50.00
Joseph and Lucy Costantino	600.00
James Curley	50.00
Charles D’Amico	50.00
Leo P. Dobard	7,100.00
Randolph J. Engelen	200.00
Gerald Flynn	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Flynn	100.00
Anne Berry Gallagher	2,025.00
Anthony and Mary Glorioso	350.00
Robert L. Greiner, Sr.	400.00
Toby Guedry	1,000.00
Gail T. Gutierrez	100.00
William J. Hamlin	500.00
Madeline Jeansonne	100.00
Leonard E. and Marjorie V. Johnson	2,950.00
Richard Kelly	100.00
Maria S. Keran	3,000.00
Floyd J. LaCour, Jr.	9,100.00
Eugene and Rita LaPalme	300.00
Garry and Connie Leglue	100.00
Huey and Neen Lemoine	150.00
Louis Lowrey	652.00
Judge Alfred and Mary Jo Mansour	2,050.00
Cecilia Vanderlick Mathews	100.00
Huey and Ethel Mathews	1,000.00
Louis Henry “Dump” Mathews, Sr.	100.00
Cecilia M. McDowell	1,000.00
Ethel Miller	100.00
Odis James Miller	190.00
E. V. “Tiny” Moore	250.00
Yvonne Moore	300.00
Gerald Moreau	215.00
Helen Morgan	12,000.00
Marge Murrin	315.00
Alcide A. Nassif	522.29
Kitty Treadway Nassif	100.00
Maurice Noel	295.00
N. J. and Hannah Nolan	10,000.00
Harvey Miller “Buddy” Normand	100.00
Louis Jeansonne Normand	1,200.00
Shirley O’Connor	100.00
W. D. O’Neal	8,159.00
Danny O’Quinn	100.00
Stella and Regina Pelczar	500.00
Albert and Elsie Poche	900.00
Kathleen Poole	500.00
Edna Rabalais	8,532.50
Rita Juneau Rabalais	4,000.00
William F. Reynolds	3,000.00
Mary Lee and Gerald Robichaux, Sr.	8,900.00
Dr. Sidney Rud	50.00
Luis R. Robles-Cortez	125.00
Dr. Brenda V. Seiler	1,200.00
Josephine G. Serio	275.00
John Gregory Simms	4,275.00
Robert Upton	100.00
Dr. Charles Vanderlick	200.00
Henry Vanderlick	400.00
Jerome and Audrey Vandersypen	2,665.00
Mark Vilar	250.00
Patsy Dekeyzer Vincek	200.00
Gus Voltz, Jr.	6,135.00
Larry Lee Wiltse	1,925.00
Tracy P. Wiltse	1,825.00
Mary Virginia Young	100.00
Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence	100.00
Deceased Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas	
Court Regina Pacis #1372, Natchitoches	775.00
In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches	100.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Alexandria	3,260.00
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Tallulah	100.00
St. Mary’s Assumption Parish, Cottonport	700.00
General Fund	2,000.00
Total	804,254.17



DESSERT EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR SEMINARIAN EDUCATION. Cookies, cakes, pies, bread pudding, banana pudding, cupcakes, and cobblers. Those and more covered the tables at Maryhill Renewal Center for the 1st Annual Desserts with the Seminarians fundraiser benefiting the seminarian education fund. If you missed the event but you'd still like to make a donation to the seminarian education fund, you can visit www.diocesealex.org and click on the donate button for online giving.

(top) Seminarians Graham Descant, David Rubio, Matthew Kramer, Blake Bernard, Ty Schexnayder, Ryan Richard, Dcn. Blaine Phillips, Fr. Donnie Kuzma, Fr. Luke LaFleur, Dcn. Gabe Dowden.

(middle) Ladies from St. Joseph Church in Colfax manned their table of cakes, cookies and other confections.

(bottom) Seminarian Blake Bernard poses with the group of ladies from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield and their impressive display of baked goods.



Seminarian Burses

July 2026 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Silton 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. Marian French	\$100.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
Total	\$300.00

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

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.

LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

**NEW & USED CARS •
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS**

**6400 COLISEUM BLVD.
WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM
318-767-3300**





ALTAR SERVERS MASS. On Saturday, Aug. 15, the annual Altar Servers Mass was held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Over 140 altar servers from 23 church parishes within the Diocese of Alexandria attended along with their families, pastors and other church representatives. We are blessed to have so many, young and old, dedicating their time to serve in their church.



MEN'S SILENT RETREAT. Aug. 7-9, Men from the diocese and beyond, attended a silent retreat held at Maryhill Renewal Center and led by Dcn. Michael Parker from the Diocese of Baton Rouge.



ACOLYTE MASS. On Sunday, Aug. 16, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, the deacon candidates were installed as Acolytes. There are currently ten in diaconate formation. Pray for our deacon candidates during their journey to diaconate ordination next year.

*The Lord
is kind
and merciful,
slow to anger,
and rich in
compassion.*

Psalm 103: 8
Responsorial Psalm
for September 13
Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

PETER J. LEMOINE

Social Security Disability Law

*Recipient of Social Security Disability Leadership Award:
National Top 100 Social Security Disability Law Firms*

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, Lafayette Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives

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

(318)717-1995

Father Antony leads Camino adventures with Joy

By Kristine Antoon

Father Joy Antony, who is in residence at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, has become our area's Camino priest.

His homilies often reflect on his past Camino experiences.

For thousands of years, pilgrims have walked to Spain's Santiago de Compostela, which ends at the magnificent cathedral housing the remains of St. James. Father Joy became curious about "the Way" in 2023 and joined a trip with Anita and Tony Go, Dr. Joe Landreneau and Fr. Martin Laird. They walked the La Plata route, which was challenging, and stayed in various hostels along the route.

Although the terrain was grueling and he had not trained enough, this journey proved to be a dynamic experience, and Father Joy was eager to experience it again. In 2024, Fr. Joy led two groups on the Way. This is when he realized the blessing of leading Camino pilgrimages, and this has been a gift for so many.

What is it about this Camino that makes such a lasting impression on Father Joy and others? Why would anyone go on vacation to walk 15 miles a day and stay in modest hotels?



CAMINO PILGRIMAGES WITH JOY. Fr. Joy Antony leads pilgrims on his "spiritual adventures" along "the Way" or the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

Father Joy calls it a "spiritual adventure" -- a big adventure every day with a family of pilgrims who share meals and Mass together. Between being in the great outdoors, walking through enchanted forests and villages, and the social interactions with all your fellow pilgrims, there is a tangible "JOY" you cannot put into words. As a group, you are part of a wonderful traveling church on the way to heaven, and there are no words to fully explain it.

Father Joy has led five Camino pilgrimages, and he will

be walking with another group this fall. When asked "how many more," he will tell you there is no limit. For the health, spiritual and social benefits he and so many others have enjoyed, he will continue his ministry on the Way.

"There is a simplicity," he said, "to traveling light, enjoying nature at a slow speed, and depending on the kindness of strangers that translates into all parts of your life. The best kind of addiction."

Father Joy recently was among 19 pilgrims, which consisted of 3 married couples, 4 young adults, and 8 ladies on a two-week journey. We all loved his optimism.

"Today will be flat," he'd encourage when it got hard, or "around the next corner we will start going downhill."

He offered instruction on the finer points of blister management, making kefir milk, and walking properly: "chest up, eyes up, core engaged."

"Father Joy," said one of the pilgrims, "has eyes that seek God in nature but also in each person he encounters. He has a love of laughter and fellowship that he freely shares. What a treasure he is and how blessed are we for his beautiful vocation as a priest."

Buen Camino!



ANNUAL AVOYELLES DEANERY SUPPER. On Monday, July 27, Don and Janice Brevette of St. Genevieve Church in Brouillette, hosted clergy from the Avoyelles Deanery and Alexandria for a 1-hour boat cruise on the Red River followed by a fish fry with all the trimmings along with homemade deserts. Pictured are Dcn. Jason Lavergne, Fr. Abraham Varghese, Fr. Rusty Rabalais, Fr. Wade DeCoste, Fr. Matthew Bonner, Fr. Dwight DeJesus, Fr. Joy Antony, Fr. Abraham Palakkattuchira, Dcn. Gary Schupbach, Dcn. Darrell Dubroc, Dcn. Ken Primeaux.



ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY. On Tuesday, July 28, one of our seminarians, Graham Descant, was admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders at a Mass celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.



Upcoming Retreats:

September 10-13
Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Mary's
Assumption, Cottonport

September 17-20
SPANISH
Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by Our Lady of
Guadalupe, Forest Hill

October 15-18
SPANISH
Mens ACTS Retreat
hosted by Our Lady of
Guadalupe, Forest Hill

All retreats are held at Maryhill
Renewal Center.

Specializing in Pilgrimages for Parishes, Groups & Individuals

Kristine Antoon
318.792.4709
kristine@freedomtravelllc.com

Annie Collins
504.606.4712
annie@freedomtravelllc.com



FREEDOM TRAVEL, LLC

We have 35 years of curating Custom International Travel



A Division of The Company

Melanie Blanchard, Broker
Donald Baker, Agent
Robert Tassin, Agent

Licensed in Louisiana, USA
Phone: 318-473-8751
3306 Giamanco St. Alexandria, LA

Website: bakeragroproperties.com

We specialize in forest, recreation, and agriculture properties.

John Kramer & Son Funeral Home
has proudly served central Louisiana for



We are deeply grateful to the community
for trusting the Kramer family and our
dedicated staff for five generations.



(left) **ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, BUNKIE.** Students take a moment for a photo op on the first day of classes before heading to their first class of the day.



ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. First lunch of the school year on Friday, Aug. 7. (below) High school classes begin!



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. Mrs. Jennifer Keeton's 4th grade class is ready to start the 2026-2027 school year. Go Bulldogs!



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. (above) The Senior class at Menard participate in the long-standing tradition for the first day of classes--Scoot to School! (left) Junior high and high school students entering the building for their first day of classes.

5TH ANNUAL Catholic Women's Conference

genesis of love
RENEWED. UNITED. CHANGING.

Work in Me

Downtown Alexandria, LA
SEP 18-20, 2026



Father Brian Higginbotham



Kandra Tierney Norton



Rachel Bulman



Katie McGrady



Mother Colleen

Work in me, O adorable Heart of Jesus, because you know well how impossible I am, if doing perfectly everything that you want of me! Mother Colleen

Adoration • Confession • Shopping • Praise & Worship • Meals Served Saturday & Sunday • Sunday Mass • Photobooth



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION SCHOOL, COTTONPORT. Students line up in the hallway on the first day of classes.



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION SCHOOL, COTTONPORT. Students take a moment for a photo op before heading to their classrooms.



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, BUNKIE. The St. Anthony Cheerleading squad hosted a pep rally to welcome the students back to school.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. Welcome back OLPS Bulldogs! Mrs. Claudine Reich's kindergarten class look ready to learn this year.

Holy Family Apostolic Sanctuary
2026 Conference

The Release of the Holy Spirit

John Martinez
Vickie L.S. Smith

Music by Tommy Doyle

Fr. Jim Harman
Jackie Schratz

Friday, October 23, 2026 - Sunday, October 25, 2026

Come join us for a transformative weekend
as we receive anointing, spiritual awakening and the gifts of healing
at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria, Louisiana.

Holy Masses at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, gifted speakers, prayers, praise and worship music & fellowship will prepare us to renew and restore the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we received at Baptism and Confirmation.

COME EXPERIENCE THE RELEASE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

View Registration at: www.HolyFamilySanctuary.com or...
Scan Code or use link below to Register
www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-release-of-the-holy-spirit >>>

FEATURED SPEAKERS
John Martinez
Vickie Smith
Fr. Jim Harman
Jackie Schratz
Bobby Contreras

Cost: \$149 per person
*Includes, conferences, lunch and supper on Saturday

Room Block: Codic Holy Family Apostolic \$119.00	Holiday Inn Alexandria Downtown 701 4th St, Alexandria, LA 71301 (318) 541-8333
--	---

Sponsored by: Holy Family Apostolic Sanctuary Foundation



Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana Welcomes New Operations Director and Social Work Intern

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is pleased to announce exciting leadership and staff transitions as it prepares for the upcoming ministry year.

At the end of August, Director of Operations Jennifer Gilchrist will officially retire from her full-time role. Catholic Charities extends its deepest gratitude to Jennifer for her years of dedicated service and leadership during the reactivation of the Diocese of Alexandria Catholic Charities Chapter. While she is stepping down from operational duties, she will continue to bless the agency with her clinical expertise by serving as the licensed (LCSW-BACS) supervisor for social work interns.

Succeeding Jennifer as the new Director of Operations is Blair Nardini Jeanise. A mission-driven executive leader, Blair brings more than twenty years of experience in



Blair Jeanise
Director of Operations,
Catholic Charities
of Central Louisiana

nonprofit program development, educational leadership, and operational management to the role. Deeply rooted in the local community, Blair has served as an assistant principal at Pineville Elementary, a co-founder of the

regional enrichment nonprofit The Edge Cenla, and the coordinator of faith formation at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church. Blair holds master's degrees in both Educational Leadership and Trauma-Informed Education. Her deep commitment to Catholic social teaching and background in community partnerships make her uniquely qualified to steer the daily operations of Catholic



Rebecca Bordelon
Social Work Intern

Charities.

Catholic Charities is also delighted to welcome Rebecca Bordelon, a Master of Social Work (MSW) student from Louisiana Christian University, who will be completing her field practicum placement with the agency for the Fall and Spring semesters. Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Louisiana Tech University, where she graduated Cum Laude. She brings valuable hands-on clinical and behavioral experience to the agency, having served as a

counseling intern at We Care Behavioral Health and currently working as a Registered Line Technician assisting children with Autism Disorder. Rebecca will work under the clinical guidance of Jennifer Gilchrist to support individuals and families across Central Louisiana.

Please join Catholic Charities in welcoming Blair and Rebecca, and in thanking Jennifer for initiation of Catholic Charities initiatives and her continued mentoring of the next generation of Catholic social workers.

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 Midst 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
- To support our work, thank you for your donation of time, talent, or treasure!
- **Volunteer** - cccenla.org/volunteer
- **Donate** - cccenla.org/hero-of-hope
- **Assist.Educate.Elevate.**
Emergency Basic Needs Assistance
(For those at risk of utility disconnect and eviction, victims of house fires, and information and referral)

Second Blessings Thrift Store **4409-A Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria**

Located between the Chevron Station and Heart of Cenla Credit Union at Windermere Blvd

Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm

Visit our website for details about donations, large furniture pickup requests, and volunteering
<https://cccenla.org/second-blessings-thrift-store>

Questions? Email info@cccenla.org

I believe people who love the Truth have the best shot at heaven, because God is Truth, and Satan is a Liar, and the father of lies. Truth lovers almost naturally reject lies and avoid telling lies like the plague. In my view, people who love truth are also the best candidates for holiness, since they desire truth and spontaneously rejoice in truth. In Veritatis Splendor, Pope Saint John Paul II teaches that people are "made holy by obedience to the truth" (1 Pet 1:22).

For more reflections on "truth"
visit gregwasson.com

Paid for by Catholic Reflections

HONOR MARY PRAY THE ROSARY

Paid for by a member of
The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

*The Lord is near
to all who call upon him.*

Psalm 145: 18
Responsorial Psalm for September 20
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Brigitte Kelso
Owner/Agent
2918 S. MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria, La. 71301

Phone: 318.448.2226
Fax: 318.448.2280
bkello@kelsoinsurance.com

Auto, Home, Recreational Vehicles, Collector Cars, Commercial

Path to Sainthood exhibit

By Fr. Taylor Reynolds
Guest Contributor

This past July 4th marked the 250th anniversary of America.

Primarily, we see that the nation was not formed from wars, insurrections, or rebellion; rather it was formed by men and women who lived generosity, courage and hope.

The Church has known this truth through the lives of the saints; men and women who have lived both in obscurity and fame, poverty and riches, virtue and sacrifice, but in all things have manifested the face of Jesus and the power of God present in weakness.

Recently I attended an event at the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Greenbay, Wisconsin, the only approved Marian apparition in the United States, where they hosted an exhibit of the various causes open for different Americas, expanding from the missionaries and martyrs who first arrived in this country to bring the faith, to the slaves and natives converted to the recent Americans who lived in states and towns familiar to every person in this nation. I was able to attend helping to represent Charlene Richard as one of the 80 different causes, each at different stages of the canonization process.

At the end of the event, I asked to acquire the digital files of the boards for the Church of St. Frances Cabrini, herself one of the American Saints featured. I recently was able to recreate this American Saint Exhibit at Cabrini Church in Alexandria. The exhibit is set up in the front foyer of the church to the left. The boards are arranged chronologically starting with the early missionaries and martyrs in the U.S. such as the Franciscan martyrs of Georgia and The North American Martyrs of Issac Jogues. The exhibit



PATH TO SAINTHOOD ON DISPLAY AT ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH. Cabrini Church invites everyone to view the display which is now open.

moves into the 1700s with various priests, religious and bishops such as Junipero Serra and John Neumann who came to help administer the faith to the newly grown church. In the 1800s, there were many faithful who ministered during the growth of America such as the Shreveport Martyrs and St. Damien of Moloki. And in recent times of the 1900s, and 2000s, the exhibit displays familiar people such as Sr. Thea Bowman, Fulton Sheen, Dorothy Day and even Michelle Dupong who died in 2016.

Every board also has a QR

code to scan for more information on the cause itself. Accompanying the exhibit is a directory book that has each of the causes listed chronologically. There are also Catholic Comic books available for kids as well as a scavenger hunt for kids to use to learn and guide them through the exhibit. The exhibit is open any time that the church is open and will remain for the foreseeable future. We pray that this exhibit will be a beautiful means of spreading the example of the saints as well as their power of intercession. God bless.

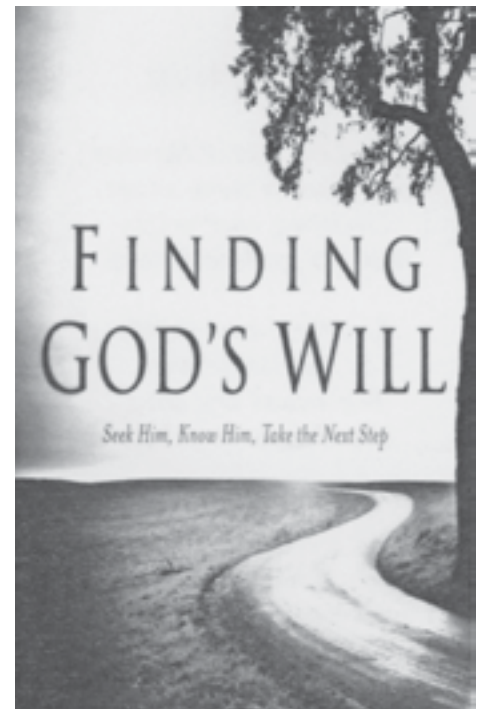
Lacombe
Floor Finishing
310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322
Specializing in installation

• Floor Finishing	• Ceramic Tile Floors
• Hardwood Floors	• Reseal Tile Floors

Ph: (318) 481-0950
Morgan Newton, Owner

Petrus
FEED & SEED

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA
442-2325



by Marcus Descant

**Our Lord and Savior gave us a new start,
uniting our wills with a gentle heart.**

**Uniting our wills is the only way,
we must try and do this everyday.**

**His love for us is ever so great,
if you follow His will, it will never be too late.**

**His Holy spirit dwells in us,
to Jesus alone, who we can always trust.**

**So, if we unite our wills in every way,
we can always find in Him a place to stay.**

lizdescant@gmail.com

Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

October 12 Bishop's Annual Golf Tournament

benefiting the

Seminarian Education Fund

Contact

starver@diocesealex.org

318-445-6424, ext. 209

LUMBER



MILLWORK

**Jeansonne's Millworks
& Cabinet Shop**

* Architectural Millwork
* Custom Cabinets & Moulding

Phone 445-5665 * FAX 445-5276

GUY JEANSONNE
Owner

1843 Sterkx Road
Alexandria, LA 71301

Listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on

KLIL 92.1 KZLG 95.9

8 a.m. Sunday Mass

7 a.m. Sunday Mass

SHEEN

Continued from pg. 3

Church.

"There were so many letters and so much work, but we knew every envelope represented someone who cared about the missions," said Schumann, who goes by "Bernie." "We were proud to be part of it."

Archbishop Sheen also made sure the staff understood the spiritual purpose behind the paperwork.

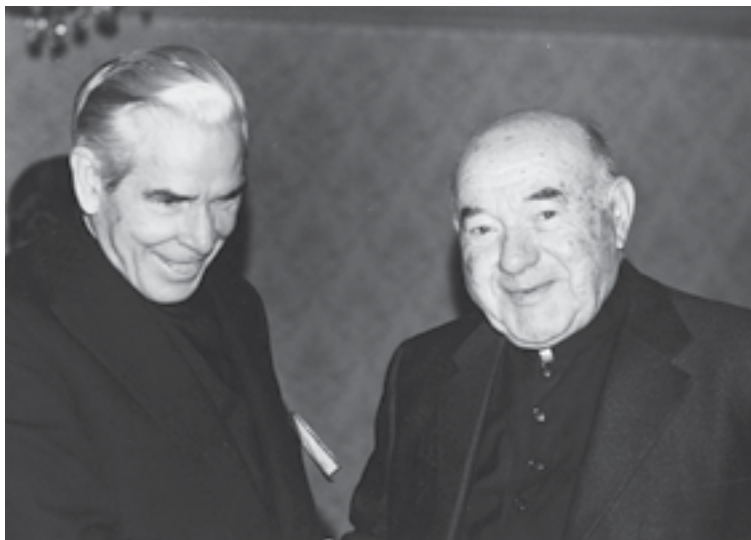
"At 3 every afternoon, we stopped whatever we were doing and prayed the world mission rosary together," Schumann said. "Bishop Sheen made sure that the work we did for the missions was always rooted in prayer. He also took the time to introduce us to visiting missionaries, to make sure we could 'see' who we were helping, even if we couldn't all come to the missions with him."

'It was a gift to work there with him'

For Beatriz Mendoza Orlansky, the path to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith began with exile and an unexpected change of plans.

One of 10 children, she left Cuba with her family in 1960 and resettled in Miami after Fidel Castro came to power. Later that year, she traveled to New York with a cousin and a friend because, she said, "that was the dream we all had."

Her family already knew Archbishop Sheen. Before the Cuban Revolution, he had traveled to the island to celebrate the marriage of one of her relatives. The prelate also arranged a scholarship for her sister Sofia to attend Rosemont College, a Catholic women's college in Pennsyl-



BEATIFICATION OF ARCHBISHOP SHEEN. Bishop Charles Greco is seen in this undated picture with Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

vania then operated by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus.

Young, single and hoping to become a flight attendant, Mendoza approached Archbishop Sheen with a request. TWA (Trans World Airlines) — which he had dubbed "Travel With Angels" — sponsored his television program, and she wondered whether he might put in a good word.

"He told me that I wasn't going to be a stewardess," she recalled.

Instead, Archbishop Sheen put her to work for the missions.

"My job was to open the letters, collect the money and send the thank-yous," she said. "It was a gift to work there with him."

By the time she joined the staff, the daily rosary was no longer part of the office routine. But the 3 p.m. pause remained.

"He would always come out at 3 p.m. and share with us a three-minute reflection that would remind us why what we did mattered," she said.

'The impossible, we do immediately'

During those years, the office began producing donor acknowl-

edgments in-house, an operation substantial enough to resemble a small print shop. A sign at its entrance captured the staff's spirit: "The impossible, we do immediately. Miracles might take a little longer."

Mendoza and her husband, Hector Orlansky, an Argentine whom she married 52 years ago, both came to regard Archbishop Sheen with deep admiration.

"He was one of my heroes," Hector said, "a man with a culture and wisdom I have never seen in my life."

Dozens of women helped sustain the Society for the Propagation of the Faith during Archbishop Sheen's 16 years as national director. Some of the women married and raised families. Others entered religious life. Most are no longer living, and their contributions were often known only to their colleagues and families.

Mary Regis McLoughlin, who died in 2022, served as the working editor of MISSION Magazine during the 1960s,

managing its day-to-day production while Archbishop Sheen remained its named editor.

Sister Marlene Brownnett, a member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus who died in 2024, worked in the Propagation of the Faith office before entering religious life. She later became Archbishop Sheen's close friend and served on the board of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation.

None of the women interviewed by OSV News expects to be in St. Louis for the beatification. But the celebration will also belong, in a small way, to them — and to the many women whose names are now lost to history.

Unknown to the millions who tuned in each week to hear the man dubbed "God's microphone," their work helped ensure that his missionary appeals produced more than admiration. Letters were answered, donors were thanked, missionaries received support and countless small sacrifices were joined to the Church's global mission.

Grandparents' Day: September 13

*Saints Joachim and Anne,
pray for us.*

**SABINE STATE
BANK**
& Trust Company
Member FDIC



Call your local
branch for
information.
(318) 256-7000

Telephone 318-445-1446
Fax 318-445-1449

Certified Gemologists
Registered Jewelers

Under the clocktower
Schnack's
FINE JEWELRY
Established 1865
1438 Dorchester Drive
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408
www.schnacks.com



N|B|A NEBLETT, BEARD
& ARSENAULT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SERVING LOUISIANA FOR CAR, TRUCK, OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

INJURED?
CALL 318-561-2500



DECADES OF EXPERIENCE READY TO HANDLE ALL TYPES OF INJURY AND DEATH CASES

WWW.NBALAWFIRM.COM

RICHARD J. ARSENAULT ALEXANDRIA, LA LA-25-18559

Hixson-Ducote Funeral Home
Avoyelles Monuments

Ray and Marie Ducote, Owners

Bunkie
(318) 346-6346

Plaucheville
(318) 922-3200

Five Saints for a new school year

By Victoria Cardona
Blessed is She

This August feels especially significant in my house. Like so many others, I am gathering school supplies and preparing for a new routine. This year, however, I am stepping into a classroom of my own for the first time.

As a brand-new teacher, I have spent my summer planning engaging lessons, arranging files, and praying for my future students. Alongside the excitement come some questions: Will I have the wisdom to teach well? Will my students know they are seen and loved? Will I be the teacher God is calling me to be?

Whether you are packing your child's backpack for the first day of Kindergarten, dropping off your high school senior, sending your college student back to campus, or—like me—walking into a classroom as the teacher, the beginning of a school year is an invitation to entrust ourselves to the Lord. We prepare as best we can, but we do not start this school year alone.

The Saints are more than holy figures from a long time ago. They are brothers and sisters in



Christ who intercede for us.

As Saint James writes, "If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you" (James 1:5). What better way to begin the school year than by asking for that wisdom through the intercession of the Saints?

Five Saints for a New School Year

As we start a new school year, these five Saints remind us that every lesson, every challenge, and every ordinary school day

can become a chance to grow in wisdom and holiness.

Saint Thomas Aquinas: When Learning Leads Us to Truth

School can easily become about grades and checking assignments off our to-do lists rather than pursuing its true purpose: growing in knowledge and understanding.

Saint Thomas Aquinas gently reminds us that education has a greater purpose: to seek the truth. One of the Church's greatest theologians, Aquinas understood

that every truth propels us closer to God.

Whether we are learning the alphabet, solving math equations, or studying AP literature, we have an opportunity to marvel at the beauty of God's creation and grow in wisdom. Aquinas even composed a prayer before study, asking God to enlighten his mind and strengthen his memory. What a beautiful reminder that wisdom is not something we earn on our own but a gift we receive from the Lord.

As students, parents, or teachers, perhaps we can begin each school day or homework session with a simple prayer, asking the Lord to guide our learning with humility and use our knowledge to love Him and serve others.

Saint Joseph of Cupertino: When School Feels Difficult

Let's be honest—not everyone loves school. Some may struggle academically. Some wrestle with test anxiety or learning differences, while others compare themselves to their classmates. Even adults can feel inadequate when they are learning new things.

As I prepare for my first year

of teaching, I often wonder if I am ready. And that is why I find such comfort in Saint Joseph of Cupertino.

He struggled throughout his education and faced many setbacks before eventually becoming a priest. His life reminds us that God is not looking for perfect report cards or prize-winning science fair projects. He is asking for faithful hearts that continue showing up, even when things get difficult.

If your child comes home discouraged after a tough exam, or if you are facing challenges in your own vocation as a parent or teacher, ask Saint Joseph to pray for perseverance. Our weaknesses are often where God does some of His most beautiful work.

Saint Carlo Acutis: When Technology Becomes a Tool for Holiness

For today's students, the school day extends far beyond the classroom. Homework is submitted online, research begins with a search engine, and friendships are formed through social media.

While technology is an

See SAINTS, page 17

Virtus Training is now available ONLINE!

Now it is more convenient to become VIRTUS certified!

Detailed information about how to register for an online training session is available on the Safe Environment webpage on the

Diocese of Alexandria website:

diocesealex.org/our-diocese/safe-environment/

For more information, contact Kecia Coco,

Director of the Safe Environment program,

kcoco@diocesealex.org.

"If any of you
is lacking in wisdom,
ask God,
who gives to all
generously
and ungrudgingly,
and it will be given you..."

saint james

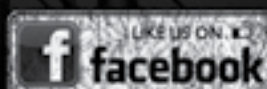
YOUR COMMUNITY STORES



WWW.YNOTSTOP.COM



visit us at
DESPINOTIRE.COM



PEST AID CO.

We Sell
Do-It-Yourself
Pest Control
Supplies



Termites • Ants
Ticks • Roaches
Mice • Fleas
Mosquitoes

COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

6 Month Service Agreements

Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.



473-0228

1-800-256-0450

2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA



*Remember
your mercies,
O Lord.*

Psalm 25: 6
Responsorial Psalm
for September 27
Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

St. Mary's Assumption welcomes new principal



Michael Rachal

Mr. Michael Rachal is the new principal at St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport. He is an Avoyelles Parish native and has 33 years in the school system there. He worked as a high school math teacher before becoming an administrator. He is married to Allison, and they have two children, Drake and Peyton. They also have two grandchildren, Luke and Colton. Mr. Michael's vision is to work with teachers, parents, and community to make a safe environment that excels academically and spiritually.



BUNKIE ROTARY CLUB DONATES TO ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL. The Bunkie Rotary Club recently donated \$5,000 to St. Anthony School in Bunkie. The money will be used for academic and physical needs of the school. Pictured are: Bruce Coulon, Rotary Past President; Sadie LaPoint, Principal of SAS; Joey Borne, current Rotary President.



FACULTY MASS STARTS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the annual back-to-school Mass for Catholic School faculty held at St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria. 229 administration, faculties and staff representing all 8 of our Catholic schools attended along with Superintendent Sylvia Davis and staff from the Diocese of Alexandria Office of Catholic schools and Child Nutrition. In light of the recent consecration of the USA to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, a Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart was celebrated.

Sept. 7

LABOR DAY

BRUMFIELD vs DODD POLICY.
In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following statement is published:

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA
NON-DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY
August 2026

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

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

- Sacred Heart School, Moreauville
- St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie
- St. Joseph Elementary and High School, Plaquemine
- St. Mary Assumption School, Cottonport

- St. Mary's Elementary and High School, Natchitoches
- Holy Savior Menard Central High School, Alexandria
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

– Most Rev. Robert W. Marshall, Jr.,
Bishop of Alexandria

2026 High School Football Schedule

Holy Savior Menard Eagles	St. Mary's Catholic School Tigers
Sept. 4 vs. Lake Arthur	Sept. 3 (Thursday) vs. Vidalia
Sept. 11 at Grant	Sept. 11 at Red River
Sept. 18 at St. Mary's (Bishop's Bowl)	Sept. 18 vs. Holy Savior Menard (Bishop's Bowl)
Sept. 25 vs. Abbeville	Sept. 25 at Grant
Oct. 1 (Thursday) at Buckeye (Squirrel Bowl)	Oct. 2 at Winnfield
Oct. 9 at Church Point	Oct. 9 vs. Logansport (Homecoming)
Oct. 16 at Delta Charter	Oct. 15 (Thursday) vs. Jonesboro-Hodge
Oct. 23 vs. Port Barre (Homecoming)	Oct. 23 at Lakeview
Oct. 30 at Oakdale	Oct. 30 at Ringgold
Nov. 6 vs. Avoyelles (Senior Night)	Nov. 6 vs. Montgomery

Game time 7:00 pm. All games on Friday unless noted otherwise.

SAINTS

Continued from pg. 15

incredible gift, it can also become a distraction, making it easy to lose sight of what truly matters.

That is one reason why I love Saint Carlo Acutis.

Rather than avoiding technology, Carlo embraced it. A gifted computer programmer, he used his talents to create a website cataloging Eucharistic miracles, believing that the internet could become a place to share the beauty of the Catholic faith. Carlo understood that every gift God gives us, including technology, can be used to draw others closer to Christ.

In a world that constantly encourages us to compare ourselves online, Carlo's words feel especially relevant: "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies" (source). He reminds us that our identity is not found in our grades, our accomplishments, or the image we create on a screen. Our identity is found in being beloved sons and daughters of God.

As another school year begins, perhaps Saint Carlo Acutis invites us to ask a simple question before we reach for our phones or open our laptops: Will this help me grow closer to Jesus and love others well? When we use technology with the right intentions and keep a Christ-centered mindset, even our screens can become places where His light shines.

Saint John Bosco: When Friendship Becomes a Gift

One of the biggest concerns at the start of the school year

has little to do with academics. It's questions like: Will my child make friends? Will someone sit with them at lunch? Will they be kind to others?

Saint John Bosco dedicated his life to serving young people because he knew they flourished when they experienced genuine love and encouragement. He saw education as being about more than forming brilliant minds—it was about forming holy hearts.

The classroom becomes a place where students can practice generosity and compassion just as much as they learn reading and science. As parents and teachers, we can pray not only that our children succeed academically, but that they also become the kind of students who reflect Christ's love to everyone they encounter.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: When the Little Things Matter

Most school days are not extraordinary. Rather, they are filled with spelling practice, completing extra-credit assignments, answering homework questions, grading papers, and driving to sports practice.

These mundane activities are precisely where Saint Thérèse of Lisieux invites us to find Christ. Her "Little Way" serves as a reminder that holiness is not just found in grand gestures, but in simple acts of love offered faithfully each day. As Scripture says, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).

Where Christ Leads, We Follow

As I prepare my own classroom, I know there will be

lessons that don't go according to plan and days that leave me feeling tired. Parents know this feeling as well. Some mornings will be rushed. Some afternoons will end with unfinished homework. But none of those moments are wasted when they're offered to Christ. The mundane school days—the ones that feel repetitive—are often where God forms us into the people He created us to be.

As another school year begins, perhaps choose one of these Saints to accompany your family. Learn about his or her life, celebrate a feast day together, or simply ask for that Saint's intercession on the drive to school each morning.

I am starting this school year with a classroom full of students

I will soon come to know and love. You may be beginning the year with a child taking brave first steps into a new classroom or onto a college campus. Wherever this season finds us, we can trust

that Christ goes before us and the Saints walk beside us.

May this school year be one marked by deeper wisdom, new knowledge, and hearts that grow closer to Jesus.

Gift of Life Banquet Thursday, September 24

Join us for the annual Gift of Life Banquet to be held at the Randolph Riverfront Center 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 24.

Contact the Cenla Pregnancy Center at 318-314-3062 for more information.



ST. ALPHONSUS YOUTH ATTENDED STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Youth leaders and chaparones Janell Dauzat, Holly Ash, Chelsi Dauzat from St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer accompanied their youth group to Steubenville South in June.



COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY - PRICE

WE DELIVER!

WITHIN LIMITED AREA • CHECKS ACCEPTABLE

Everything from cheese to our "Full House"

#1 ALEXANDRIA 902 VERSAILLES BLVD. 448-4104	#2 BALL 6301 MONROE HWY 640-2983	#3 PINEVILLE HWY 28E AT STILLEY RD 445-9249
---	--	---

VALUABLE COUPON

Two Medium Pizzas \$22.99

Single Topping only

Additional Toppings Extra • Not valid with any other coupon
All prices subject to change

Expires 9/28/26

YOU GET IT ALL AT



WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM

Alexandria: 318.448.4225 • Ville Platte: 337.363.6322 • Toll Free: 800.766.4819

OFFICE SUPPLIES • OFFICE FURNITURE • OFFICE MACHINES
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS • BREAKROOM & FOOD SERVICE SUPPLIES
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES • JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT • PRINTING

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

Discalced Carmelite meeting - Sept. 12

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.

Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop - September 12

These one-day workshop at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., the day will include presentations on various topics that are vital to a couple's lifelong marriage. Ends at about 3:00 p.m. Lunch included. Space is limited, please register as soon as possible.

Registration for the Sept. 12, 2026 workshop is now open. **There is a fee of \$60 per couple.** To register, please visit: <https://www.diocesealex.org/pre-cana-marriage-prep-workshop/>

After submitting the registration form, you will see a link to pay online. You can also pay the day of the workshop via check, money order or cash. Or you can prepay by mailing your check or money order (payable to Diocese of Alexandria) and mail to: Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.

Other future workshop dates in 2027:

February 27; May 22; Sept. 11

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

Nativity of the BVM, Campti 195th Anniversary - September 13

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campti will be celebrating its 195th Anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 13 with a Rosary at 8:30 a.m., Mass at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude with brunch immediately following. Everyone is invited to celebrate this joyous occasion for our community.

Cenla Pregnancy Center Gift of Life Banquet - Sept. 24

Join us for the annual Gift of Life Banquet to be held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in downtown Alexandria

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

on Thursday, Sept. 24. Keynote speaker will be Seon Corcoran, CEO of Men for Life. After losing his first son, Sean endured years of addiction and hardship, culminating in a near-fatal overdose that led him to seek help. Now with a successful law career, Sean is an advocate for the impact of abortion on men and the value of fatherhood. To become a Gift of Life Banquet sponsor, to buy a table or tickets, please contact the Cenla Pregnancy Center at 318-314-3062.



St. Francis de Sales Church Fair - Sept. 26-27

Saturday, Sept. 26: Mass at 4:00 p.m. Fair Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. Gumbo: \$10 per serving (Please bring your own containers for takeout) cakes, cracklings, chuck wagon, and soft drinks available. Bingo: \$25 wristband for 3 cards (Play all night); kids games: \$1; raffle; Street Dance: No charge. **Sunday, Sept. 27:** Brisket Dinner (with trimmings): \$15 per plate; cakes; Bingo: \$20 wristband for 3 cards (Play all day). Ticket Information: Call 318-264-5615

Beginning Experience - September 26-27

Widowed, separated, or divorced? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience of Alexandria is registering now for a weekend away that provides an individual with the opportunity to encounter self and to grow with a purpose to achieve inner peace. The experience is to help close the door gently on the past and move on with renewed hope and purpose. The weekend will be held at Maryhill Renewal Center Sept 25-27. Cost is \$185.00 and includes two nights' lodging and meals, if you need assistance please don't hesitate to ask. For more information, visit: www.beginningexperience.org or to register contact Anna at (318) 448-1990, (318) 452-2678 or asweat7@aol.com

Healing Power of Christ Through Marriage series/retreat - begins Oct. 4

We'd love for you to join us this fall for something we believe God has been preparing for your marriage all along. This unique series of events isn't just a lecture. It's a journey – a safe, confidential community of couples walking the same road. Your presenters will be couples just like you. Whether your marriage is struggling or strong, there is always more God wants to give you through it. Over 5 afternoons together, plus a closing retreat and a follow-up, all at Maryhill Renewal Center, we'll make room for real healing, deeper faith, and the kind of intimacy that only comes through trust, honesty, and time. You will take away true growth, learn how healing happens, and break the nervous system patterns that hold you back.

The Sessions: 5 Sundays, 1:00-4:00 pm Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Nov. 1

The Retreat: Nov. 12-15

The Follow-up: Sunday, Dec. 6 from 1:00-4:00 pm

Cost is \$500 for the entire journey which will include reflection, prayer, Mass. Lodging and meals included. For more information or to register, email ministry@sacramentalmarriage.org or call Steve at 318-794-0944 or Amanda at 318-792-7404.

SAVE THE DATE! Day of Reflection - Oct. 10

Presenter, Fr. Louis Sklar, will give a talk about "Carmel in Our Lives Today." The day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends with Vigil Mass at 4:15 p.m. at Maryhill Renewal Center. More information to follow.

Annual Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament - Oct. 12

Bishop's Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Seminarian Education, will be held Monday, Oct. 12 at Links on the Bayou, Alexandria. Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m., tee time is 12:00 noon. The 4-person scramble includes green fees, cart, mulligans, range balls, lunch, dinner and refreshments. 4-man team entry fee starts at \$550 with several other sponsorship opportunities. To sign up a team or to become a sponsor, contact Sandi Tarver at starver@diocesealex.org

SAVE THE DATE! 2026 CabriniFest! - Oct. 24

From 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Join us for this day of fun for the entire family! All proceeds benefit St. Frances Cabrini School. More information to follow.

Church Today News Deadlines

September 28
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Sept. 17

October 26
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Oct. 15



Anne M. Oestricheer, CPA, CFP®
Chris Daigrepoint
Will Whisenant

Oestricheer Financial Management Services

Let us help your family pursue your financial goals.

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303

(318) 448-3556

www.o-fms.com

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC



September 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
AUGUST 31 PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	SEPTEMBER 1 PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 PRAY FOR DCN. LG DELOACH	3 St. Mary's vs. Vidalia Men's ACTS Retreat hosted by St. Alphonsus Church, Hessmer -- Maryhill Renewal Center PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	4 Menard vs. Lake Arthur FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	5 FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ	6 PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC
7 LABOR DAY PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE	8 PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS	9 PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	10 PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP	11 Menard at Grant St Mary's at Red River PRAY FOR MSGR. J. FERGUSON	12 Pre-Cana Marriage Workshop 8:00 am-3:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria Discalced Carmelite Meeting 9:00 am Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	13 Grandparents' Day Nativity BVM Church, Campti 195th Anniversary 9:00 am Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Campti PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER
14 PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	15 PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA	16 PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	17 PRAY FOR DCN. M. GUIDRY	18 Menard at St. Mary's Bishop's Bowl Game PRAY FOR FR. D. HART	19 PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	20 PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON
21 PRAY FOR DCN. S. JONES	22 PRAY FOR FR. T. KENNEDY	23 PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	24 Cenla Pregnancy Center's Gift of Life Banquet 6:00 pm Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM	25 Menard vs. Abbeville St. Mary's at Grant PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR	26 Beginning Experience -- Maryhill Renewal Center Church Fair -- St. Francis de Sales Church, Echo PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	27 PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME
28 PRAY FOR DCN. J. LAVERGNE	29 PRAY FOR DCN. G. LEBLANC	30 PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL	OCTOBER 1 Menard at Buckeye Squirrel Bowl PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 St. Mary's at Winnfield PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	3 PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER	4 Healing Power of Christ Marriage Series 1:00-4:00 pm Maryhill Renewal Center PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL. (above) High school and junior high students rushing to find their first classes on the first day of school, Friday, Aug. 7.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. Students pose in front of the school on the first day of classes.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL. The day before students arrive, Fr. Taylor Reynolds blesses the school including administrative offices and staff.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL. Mrs. Katie Scalfano's 3rd grade class is ready to go for the 2026-2027 school year. Go Panthers!



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHES. Elementary students enjoying the first lunch of the 2026-2027 school year.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHES. The Senior Class of 2027 pose for a group photo on their first day of their senior year.