Family’s roots trace to slavery

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Maxine Crump of Baton Rouge, always wanted to know where her great-grandfather came from. Her family knew he was from the East Coast, but wondered how he came to Louisiana.

She was driving to Maringouin in early February when she received a call from Richard Cellini, an alumnus of Georgetown University, giving her information about her great-great grandfather. Neely was one of 272 slaves sold by the Jesuits in 1838 to keep the university financially viable.

“I thought, ‘The Jesuits? They’re priests,’” said Crump, a retired television news anchor.

After the recent discovery of the slave sale, Georgetown students were also surprised and staged a protest demanding the name of the dormitory named for Father Thomas Mulledy SJ and reflection hall named for William McSherry SJ be changed. This caught Cellini’s attention and he contacted genealogist Judy Riffel of Baton Rouge to

SEE ROOTS PAGE 19

Traveler opening the doors of faith on journey

By Rachele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

Step by step Dylan Cuddy is on a personal journey.

The Massachusetts native is crossing the country on foot in the name of Divine Mercy while also hoping to determine the future God has prepared for him.

Starting in Jacksonville, Florida, Cuddy is on a mission to enter through as many Holy Doors as he can find on his way to the West Coast and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

In late April, he passed through Baton Rouge, visiting the Holy Door of Mercy at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Two days earlier, he was in Convent where he walked through the Holy Door at St. Michael Church.

Yet even as this 24-year-old experiences life on the road, many times finding himself completely dependent on strangers, he is realizing more than just his future vocation.

Cuddy is discovering God’s unconditional mercy and learning a trust deeper than anything he ever could have imagined.

“I’ve always known over the past few years or so that I’m being called by God. I’m just not sure what it is he wants me to do,” said Cuddy, who explained he is open to the priesthood if that is God’s desire for him.

But why journey across the country on foot to discern, traveling without even hiking boots and covering many miles in just flip flops or even wearing no shoes at all?

For Cuddy, the idea was planted at a very young age.

“I’ve always had a yearning for travel. When I was little, I used to talk with my best friend Richie about

SEE TRAVELER PAGE 7
The pipe organ at St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge was blessed and dedicated in February 2011. Designed and crafted especially for St. Aloysius Church by the Casavant Frères Organ Company of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, the organ is unique in the diocese because it incorporates both old world and modern technology. The instrument has mechanical key action similar to the organs of Bach’s time. There is a direct mechanical connection—thin wooden strips called trackers—between the pipes and the keyboard. This connection allows the organist to have more control over how the pipes speak. Overall, the style of this organ is similar to the dark and rich sonorities associated with 19th-century French organs. The St. Aloysius organ is ideally suited to accompany the congregation, choir, and solo vocals. Crafted of mahogany with maple pipe shades, the organ case frames the large window above it. Some of the design elements—like the capitals at the top of the tall pipe towers—reflect the design of the church’s altar and ambo. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator

Archbishop Joseph Rummel and clergy members are shown gathered outside of the old St. George Church in 1935, the same year he was installed as archbishop for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The Knights of Columbus from St. George are also shown with Archbishop Rummel, where construction on the new St. George Church is continuing and is expected to be completed in 2017. Photo provided by the Archives Department of the Diocese of Baton Rouge

Celebrating the Eucharist

The Feast of Corpus Christi, which will be celebrated May 29, dates to the Last Supper and the first Eucharist.

But not until the 13th century was there a distinct feast of the Blessed Sacrament, the origins coming from an unlikely source. Beginning at the age of 16, St. Juliana of Liege (what is modern day Belgium), began having visions of a silver moon with a portion of it obscured while kneeling in prayer.

St. Juliana, (1193-1252), repeatedly attempted to make the vision go away, uncertain of its meaning. It was not until she joined the convent that the Lord came to her to reveal its significance.

It was then the Lord explained to her that the moon resembled the cycle of the church, and the obscured area signified something was incomplete, that being a feast to celebrate the Blessed Sacrament.

The Lord explained to St. Juliana that a feast needed to be instituted in order that Catholic doctrine might receive aid from the source of life new strength and irreverence and sacrilegious behavior toward the divine mercy in the Blessed Sacrament might, by adoration, be repaired.

St. Juliana asked the Lord to be excused from this charge and for 20 years the secret remained in her heart. Reportedly, she shed tears of blood over her anguish.

Eventually, she related the story to Bishop Robert de Thore, bishop of Liege. He discussed it with Father James de Threzis, who was then archdeacon at the cathedral of Liege and who became Pope Urban IV. Both clergy members embraced the idea and the feast was initially celebrated in the church in 1246, although not worldwide.

But, the establishment of Corpus Christi did not come without controversy. Some monks protested against the devotion and insisted the sacrifice at the daily Mass was adequate to commemorate the love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Following the death of St. Juliana in 1252, Pope Urban was petitioned to extend the feast through the entire church. But it took the Miracle of Orvieto in 1263, when blood began seeping through a consecrated host during a Mass being celebrated by a German priest who was undergoing his own faith crisis, to make that a reality.

Shortly after the miracle, Pope Urban commissioned St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the Proper for the Mass and an office for the feast day. One year later, in 1264, through the papal bull Transitus Pope Urban made the feast universal.

Originally, Corpus Christi was to be celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, with indulgences granted to the faithful who attended the Mass as well as the office. In 1970 the feast of Corpus Christi did not come without controversy.

In 1970 the feast of Corpus Christi was changed to the Sunday following Trinity Sunday in the majority of the world, including the United States. A procession of the Eucharist usually follows the last Mass of the day, with the host placed in a monstrance.
Budget cuts might force scaling back of services CCDBR offers

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge is bracing for a series of budget cuts, evaluating how those reductions might affect the services CCDBR offers to more than 16,000 people annually.

The financial hits are coming from a number of funding sources, primarily United Way, according to chief executive officer David Aguillard. He said the agency is absorbing a 35% cut in United Way funding, dropping from $413,000 to $260,000.

He said CCDBR is likely to also take a financial hit from the state, as legislators grapple with a $600 million budget shortfall.

“We have had challenging budgets in the past, usually because of program growth, complexity and regulations,” Aguillard said. “This year, the challenge is the loss of revenue from United Way.”

“We will have to scale back somewhere,” he added. “I think we will see significant changes in terms of reducing some of the services that we have offered in the past few years. I would say nothing is off the table.”

Aguillard explained where the United Way cuts particularly hurt is that some of the past funding was program specific. He said CCDBR’s mental health services “took a pretty big hit because of cutbacks.”

Currently, Catholic Charities offers four programs that are unique to the agency: Sanctuary for Life, a home for unwed mothers; Josephs Homes, where recently-released prisoners are offered a place to stay while they look for employment and re-enters society; refugee resettlement and the largest immigrant legal services department in the area, which Aguillard said, “is of growing importance to this community.”

“That’s where our population growth comes from,” he added. “They are helping our economy, providing jobs, have a lot of gifts, talent and skills to offer. We should be helping them fully integrate into our community and welcome them.”

According to Aguillard, unmet needs will be only one of the many criteria to be used, adding, “I don’t know that you can say one is more important than another.”

“There are some programs that we have had here for over decades that over time because of government cutbacks and increasing regulations have become cumbersome and expensive to continue to provide,” he added. “If there is someone else in the community who can do it better than us and more efficiently, and that community need is getting met we would be happy to help someone take over that program.”

Alternative funding sources are also being sought for many of the agency’s programs, which may reduce the sting of the budget cuts. Aguillard said staff is looking at programs that would lend themselves to grants so that perhaps sources can be identified for programs that are getting hit the hardest.

Also, identifying alternative funding for programs not getting cut may free up those monies to be used to help salvage those programs that might be jeopardized.

Although United Way is putting a crimp in Catholic Charities’ budget, Aguillard said the cuts were not a surprise, revealing his staff has been preparing for as much as a 50% percent cut.

“When compared to how (other community agencies that suffered even more drastic cutbacks) did, we didn’t do that bad,” he said. “Sure we would have liked to have done better. But every agency that had funding cuts from United Way, they all do vitally important work. They serve the same clients that we do. And United Way did what they had to do, and we fully support the direction they are moving in to a greater accountability, transparency about the process, community input and competition.”

He expressed gratitude for the continued financial support from the Diocese of Baton Rouge, saying, “The bishop’s office has always been a rock steady financial supporter of Catholic Charities. They have always been as generous as they can possibly be.

“We’re kind of lucky we got that. Some of the other agencies that were hit by United Way don’t have that blessing.”

Aguillard said decisions regarding cutbacks should be finalized by the end of May, with those cuts going into effect July 1, allowing the agency 30 days to notify clients who might have to find different agencies to have their individual needs met. He added that in some cases the July 1 deadline might have to be extended so clients can receive services without interruption.
Bishop Muench announces pastoral appointments

Bishop Robert W. Muench announced the appointment of Father Joseph Vu as parochial vicar at Ascension of Our Lord Church and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Donaldsonville effective July 1.

Bishop Muench also announced the appointment of Edwin Martin as parochial vicar at St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge.

Father Vu is a 2005 graduate of Bishop Sullivan High School and was ordained by Bishop Muench on May 25, 2013 at St. Joseph Cathedral. He has served as parochial vicar at Christ the King Church and Catholic Center at LSU.

Deacon Martin will be ordained by Bishop Muench on May 28.

Ryan Halford is scheduled to be ordained a transitional deacon, also on May 28.

Bishop Muench has appointed Halford deacon assistant to Father Jamin David and the parish of St. Margaret Queen of Scotland Church in Albany.

Governor signs pro-life bills

By Richard Neek
The Catholic Commentator

As the state legislature winds to a close, pro-life supporters are celebrating Gov. John Bel Edwards’ recent signing of two pieces of legislation.

The governor on May 19 signed into law bills increasing the waiting period between pre-abortion counseling and the actual procedure and placing certification requirements on those performing abortions.

Both of the bills originated in the House and the Bioethics Defense Fund provided legal consultation on both.

HB 488, authored by Rep. Frank Hoffman of West Monroe, increased the current waiting period from 24 hours to 72 hours between abortion counseling and procedure.

“We applaud (Edwards) for signing the Woman’s Enhanced Reflection Act into law today, and we thank (Hoffman) for his leadership on this crucial measure,” said Deanna Wallace, legislative director for Louisiana Right to Life. “This important bill empowers women considering abortion with additional reflection time before an abortion so they can consider their options more effectively.

Since abortion facilities in Louisiana are only in the business of selling abortion, this reflection period allows for further consideration of other choices, including adoption and parenting. In situations of coercion or violence, HB 488 gives a woman more time to reach out for help before being forced into an abortion they do not want.

Don’t miss this opportunity to have your message seen by decision makers in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Space and time is limited.

To make space reservations now, call or email Wanda Koch at 225-387-0983 or wkoch@diobr.org

For additional information on this directory go to http://thecatholiccommentator.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/2016-PRINT-RATES.pdf

“Today is a victory for women in Louisiana.”

Wallace also praised Rep. Katrina Jackson of Monroe for authoring HB 488, which requires those performing abortions either be a board certified physician or under the direct supervision by a board certified physician. Wallace commended Jackson for “her work of protecting the health and safety of Louisiana women by ensuring that unqualified physicians are not performing abortions in Louisiana.”

In other legislative matters, on May 17 the Senate by a 35-2 margin approved HB 1081, the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Act. Authored by Rep. Mike Johnson of Bossier City, the act prohibits the practice of dismemberment abortions.

More commonly known as D&E, the abortion procedure is a second trimester abortion method where triclops are used to remove the body parts of an unborn child.

If approved by Edwards, Louisiana would become the sixth state to pass such legislation.

“Louisiana should not be a place where our fellow human beings, no matter whether they are born or unborn, are treated in a manner similar to that of dismemberment abortions,” said LARTL executive director Benjamin Clapper.

Wallace said the procedure tears apart the unborn child “limb from limb.”

“Before the first trimester ends, the unborn child has a beating heart, brain waves and every organ system in place,” she added. “Dismemberment abortions occur after the baby has reached these important milestones.”
Works of Mercy grant helps fund HOPE Ministries food pantry

Sarah K. Anderson took her time perusing the grocery-style shelves, perhaps internally mulling over recipes. Even while deciding on everything from carrots to rice and peas, Anderson’s infectious smile was in contrast to gathering clouds outside announcing a late spring storm.

But this was no ordinary trip to the grocery store. Anderson was making her monthly visit to HOPE’s Client Choice Food Pantry, which provides food assistance to some of the most impoverished families and individuals in Baton Rouge. As someone who is raising her two grandsons, ages 8 and 10, by herself, the pantry has become a blessing not only for Anderson but for many of the families who live in the 70805 zip code, where it is estimated some 35 percent of the population live below the federal threshold poverty level.

“The pantry helps me out a lot,” said Anderson, who has spent her entire life living in the zip code. “This is a big deal to me.”

The pantry is operated by HOPE Ministries, a Baton Rouge charitable organization that operates the pantry as well as The Way to Work, a client-centered program providing a structured environment to help participants achieve and maintain employment, housing, financial and family stability.

HOPE Ministries, formed in 2003 out of the merger of two existing non-profits in 2003, was one of six recipients awarded the Bishop Stanley Joseph Ott Works of Mercy Trust Fund grants. The pantry received a $5,000 grant.

“We applaud the efforts of HOPE Ministries to help some of the most needy members of our community,” said Eric Guerin, CFRE, associate director of stewardship for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. “Their food pantry is a wonderful example of an organization fulfilling a need to feed the poor.

“The work that they do and the assistance they provide in one of the most impoverished areas of our community fits in with the mission and the intent of the Works of Mercy. We hope the grant will help them further facilitate their mission.”

The pantry, which serves anywhere from 12,000 to 15,000 people annually, is unique in that it is only one of two of the estimated 131 food pantries in the Baton Rouge area that is designed more like a corner grocery store than a standard distribution site. Rather than receiving a pre-packed box of food, the clients, who are allocated monthly visits to the pantry, are able to shop for what they need and will use.

“One of the things we really try to do with our clients is offer them a dignified experience,” said Kelli Rogers, chief operations officer of HOPE Ministries and who has also served as a volunteer as well as director of development and director of volunteers for the agency.

“We provide more dignity for them to be able to select the things they need for their family based on nutritional needs and preferences,” she added. “Also it reduces waste. They will pass by things they don’t need and that reduces food waste a great deal.”

The program is simple, Rogers says. Clients’ eligibility is based on federal poverty guidelines and most are eligible for food stamps.

Clients must bring a photo ID and proof of residence that they live in the 70805 zip code. Volunteers will also ask for a budget slip, although it is not required.

Volunteers help clients shop, as well as pointing out quantities allowed of each commodity based on family size and need. Volunteers also assist clients who might be elderly or disabled.

Along with the standard food commodities, the pantry will offer several items not available through food stamps, such as diapers and other necessities.

For Tawanda Roach, who lives with her 67-year-old mother, the pantry is critical to their monthly food planning.

“In our area, if you don’t have transportation you can’t always get back and forth to the grocery store,” she said. “It would be very difficult without the pantry.”

Rogers said the pantry receives nearly three-quarters of its food from the Baton Rouge Food Bank and another 25 percent from food drives from various organizations and churches. However, she said HOPE is embarking on a project that will not only increase its food supply but provide healthier options for the clients.

She said plans call for the planting of a garden that will include vegetables and fruits on the three-acre site where HOPE is located in north Baton Rouge. A summer intern funded through an Exxon-Mobile grant will be responsible for developing a community-based volunteer program to maintain the garden.

Rogers said the Works of Mercy grant will help develop the garden and other new possibilities, including possibly opening up the pantry during evening hours once a month because many of the working poor cannot get there during the day.

“Our efforts are focused on trying to change the quantity and the quality of the food we are able to provide,” Rogers said. “We’re all starting to think differently beyond feeding the hungry but also helping people to achieve better health and quality of life based on what they are eating and what food they have access to.”

For Anderson, the pantry is more than a monthly supplement to help feed her family. She also views it as a spiritual blessing.

“You should be grateful for what you got and thank the Lord for what you have,” she said. “If you don’t have something, the Lord will provide, and this is one way the Lord is providing.”

Also receiving grants were the Alzheimer’s Services of the Capital Area, Baton Rouge Youth Coalition, Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless, Livingston Youth and Family Counseling and Pat’s Coats for Kids.
Q I am curious as to the church’s definition of suicide and how it may apply to my situation. I am an 85-year-old male Catholic, and I have been diagnosed with third-stage kidney disease. When the disease progresses to the point of requiring dialysis, I do not want to undergo that treatment.

I would rather die naturally – at home or in hospice – and I have on file a medical directive that says so. (My sister-in-law – also a practicing Catholic – began dialysis, but the treatment was so painful and life-changing that she suspended it and chose to die at home.) (Baltimore)

A The Catholic Church does not require a patient to undergo every medical procedure imaginable just to stay alive, particularly if that treatment might be excessively burdensome. It depends on someone’s medical condition, the treatment itself and the prognosis.

In your case, dialysis would be considered an “extraordinary means” and would not be required. It would only prolong your life for a short period, and the risks might well exceed the benefits. If, on the other hand, a teenager with a kidney condition were in an auto accident and needed dialysis for a short period of time to transition back to relative health, that would be a different matter. (You will probably feel more comfortable, though, speaking with a local priest and getting this same assurance in person.)

Q I was married to my husband in a traditional (tribal) ceremony. He is not a Catholic but has allowed me to practice my Catholic faith. All of our children have been baptized in the Catholic faith, and two years ago my husband and I went through the Catholic course of marriage preparation with the plan of marrying in the Catholic Church. But we never went through with that ceremony because my husband feels strongly that the ancestral wedding ceremony was sufficient.

I suffer greatly because I cannot receive holy Communion. I would even like to leave my husband because of this.

A Fortunately there is a ready-made solution, already provided for in the church’s Code of Canon Law (Nos. 1161-65). The technical name for the process is “rationalization” (which means “healing in the root”), and it can be applied when the non-Catholic party is unwilling to have the marriage “blessed” in a Catholic ceremony.

It involves a retroactive validation, i.e., a decree by the diocesan bishop that the church accepts the original consent as valid, without having to go through a new marriage ceremony.

There are some conditions that must be fulfilled, including: there is no previous marriage by either party that needs to be annulled; the consent of the parties to the marriage still exists, along with the essential requirements for a valid marriage: the intent of monogamy, fidelity, permanence and openness to children; and, the Catholic party intends to remain a Catholic and to do all that he or she can to see that any children of the marriage are baptized and brought up as Catholics.

There is also a provision that “for a grave cause” the non-Catholic partner need not even be informed of the church’s decision. (For example, if the non-Catholic were likely to have an extremely negative reaction to the sanction process.) In your situation, you would best be advised to consult with your local diocese. If your circumstances qualify you and the decree of sanction were to be granted, you would be able to receive the Eucharist.

FATHER DOYLE is chancellor for public information and a pastor in the Diocese of Albany, New York. Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfat her Doyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St. Albany, NY 12208.

Question Corner
Father Kenneth Doyle

Is dialysis required?/Traditional but non-church wedding

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TRAVELER ▲
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walking the railroad tracks across America,” he said.
As he grew, the dream continued even though he kept it secret. Then the unthinkable happened. Within a year, both of his parents died and once he graduated from high school, it looked like his desire to travel would never come true as his life took on the normal trappings of adulthood, such as working full-time and paying bills.

For several years, Cuddy even lost his faith, opting instead to turn his back on God. But deep inside, he knew things were supposed to be different, and with the encouragement of a family friend, Cuddy returned to the church Divine Mercy Sunday. Since that day last year, everything has changed.

“IN my prayers, one thing that kept coming up was mercy, just this idea of mercy. Then when I found out Dec. 8 started the Year of Mercy, I just knew I was going to do this in the year of God’s mercy,” said Cuddy.

Starting in Jacksonville at an Amtrak station in the early morning hours of Feb. 18, Cuddy has traveled through such cities as Tallahassee, Pensacola, Mobile, New Orleans, Tahbodaux and Baton Rouge. He plans to continue his journey through Texas, New Mexico and Arizona and hopes to end in California by late summer or early fall.

“In researching cathedrals with Holy Doors, I learned that the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine (in Florida) is one of the oldest, and the one in Los Angeles (where his journey will end) is one of the newest. So, I’m going from the oldest to the newest,” he said.

Along the way, Cuddy is receiving and giving God’s mercy.

“When I was in Jacksonville, I met Zach, Suzie and Scott. They were homeless, and we were just giving each other things that we needed,” he said, noting how he even received advice in return.

“They told me not to go to downtown Jacksonville because it was dangerous (for a homeless person) there,” he said.

Yet, the next day Cuddy needed to go there so he could walk through the Holy Door at a minor basilica. As the sun began to set, he was hoping to find his way back to the beach area where he crossed paths with another homeless person. At first Cuddy was unsure, but he discovered he was in a position to help others.

Making his way to the park where many homeless people in the area were staying, Cuddy began to offer what little he had to those in need.

At first, they were confused and didn’t understand why Cuddy would give everything he had to them. Then one man spoke up.

“He said, ‘I know what he is doing. He is suffering so we don’t have to,’” said Cuddy, who noted the reference to Christ was “just amazing.”

“Ever since then I haven’t been afraid to talk to people or to reach out,” he added, confirming the deep trust he has now in God.

“There are challenges. Yes, sometimes I won’t have enough food or a place to stay, but there’s always a greater good from that to be fulfilled down the line,” said Cuddy.

For example, he explained how even when he approached Baton Rouge, he was worried that he couldn’t find a safe place to stay. As he called various places, he decided to camp outside the city, only to experience what he called a “great work of mercy” the next day when someone he had never met personally offered to pay for him to stay the night in a local hotel.

“It’s not about everything working out perfectly and having all of the answers. Sometimes, trust is a leap of faith,” he said.

Jennifer Giambrone, a parishioner at St. Anne Church in Napoleonville, understands the idea of trust. Giambrone and her husband met Cuddy when he was traveling through the area on his way to Baton Rouge. After talking with him, the couple was so taken by his story that they did something completely out of character; they invited him to stay the night at their house.

“There was just a trust with him. I thought certainly if this person is traveling and going through the Holy Doors from Florida to here, surely God has his hand on him,” said Jennifer “Jo” Giambrone.

“I think people are always looking for an opportunity to serve God, and to me in a way, this was like God was showing up. It is still just unexplainable, I knew right away that it was okay,” she added.

To follow Cuddy’s Divine Mercy journey online, go to his blog at mercyrun.com.
Surrogacy bill passes through legislature

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A bill aimed at strengthening Louisiana’s surrogacy laws has made curious political bedfellows involving pro-life supporters and the LGBT community.

HB 1102, which has passed through both chambers of the state legislature and is headed toward Gov. John Bel Edwards’ desk, establishes legal parameters for surrogacy, including the enforcement of contracts between parties, prohibits compensation to the surrogate mother, mandates a variety of medical testing, counseling and background checks and defines “intended parents” as a man and a woman.

Pro-life supporters have expressed concern regarding the objectification of women, potential for a greater number of abortions, health risks for surrogate mothers and their unborn children and the moral and spiritual ramifications.

The LGBT community has expressed opposition over the language defining the intended parents, which would deny same-sex couples from using surrogacy.

Similar legislation has on two previous occasions passed through both houses with little opposition, as happened this year, but were ultimately vetoed by then-Gov. Bobby Jindal.

“I think this bill is totally demonic,” said Alana Newman, director of the Coalition Against Reproductive Trafficking and Social Marketing.

“(Proponents) want to bend morality to meet their behavior,” added Newman, who admitted in her testimony that she sold her own eggs 10 years ago. “There’s going to be greater health risks to both the mother and child.”

Newman, a resident of Lake Charles and mother of two young children, expressed frustration with the legislative process. She said she believes legislators were not adequately educated on the numerous risks surrogacy presents and that they placed loyalty to fellow lawmakers who supported the bill above what she perceives as the best interests of the surrogate mother and unborn child.

“It’s hard for me to get a clear picture of what (legislators) know about surrogacy,” she said. “Everything was just so rushed. Maybe only getting to talk to a legislator for only five minutes before going into (a meeting), I could not compete. It was extremely frustrating.”

Danielle Van Haute, respect life coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, called Kim at (225) 336-8700, ext. 364.

The Employment Services Program for the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge serves the following parishes: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Point Coupé, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish.

This project is provided with support from the Walmart Foundation and Louisiana Public Broadcasting.
St. Patrick youth honored as Louisiana Hero

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

“This is our miracle baby,” said Father Than Vu, former vicar general of the Diocese of Baton Rouge who died in January 2015 and was then pastor of St. Patrick Church in Baton Rouge, when he held up Katie LeBlanc as a newborn welcoming her in 1997 into the church after coming home from the first of many hospital stays and surgeries.

Katie was born with spina bifida, a disease that this determined, faithful young woman lives with, not under. She was recognized as one of the 2016 Louisiana Young Heroes. Young Heroes of Louisiana is sponsored by Louisiana Public Broadcasting and the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge.

Katie’s life is one of spreading joy and encouraging others to have faith. Her mother, Nancy LeBlanc, remembers feeling the strain when her daughter faced her 10th surgery at two years old. Nancy LeBlanc prayed with the surgeon and held her rosary.

When she was notified her daughter was in surgery, she was filled with peace. “God told me, ‘She’s not in your hands, she’s not in the surgeon’s hands, she’s always been in my hands,’” said Nancy LeBlanc.

She is not surprised Katie is thriving because she was born a cheerful survivor. “She came out of the womb a happy person,” said Nancy LeBlanc. “She’s always trying to cheer up everyone else. When she was a child in a stroller before she was in a wheelchair, if she saw someone was sad she would wave to them and shout ‘Hey!’ She made them smile, not because they knew she was disabled, but because of her persistence.”

The teachers at Tara High School, where Katie graduated from on May 18, talked about how much brighter their day was after talking with Katie. “You just have to live life as it comes,” said Katie.

Her active life demonstrates that anything can be done, you may just have to modify.

She started dancing with BREC at four years old. And later she performed as a mouse in the Inner-City Nutcracker, a production featuring children with disabilities as well as children from the inner city and underserved youth. She did such a good job she performed in the Mid-City Dance Project year-round. She went on to other dance projects and currently portrays the Snow Fairy in the Tri-Parish Ballet’s Nutcracker.

It is during the Tri-Parish Nutcracker that Katie also dances with her father, John, who portrays Mother Ginger, with a mustache.

“It’s not unusual to have a Mother Ginger with a mustache but I think the first year Katie was embarrassed,” said Nancy LeBlanc.

Now Katie smiles about her dad’s whimsical ways.

The young hero has inspired other disabled youth through her dancing. She and her mother bring the piece of cheese prop that Katie rode in for her part as the mouse each year for the Inner-City Nutcracker. Remembering seeing Katie in the production, a disabled girl announced, “I want to ride in the cheese too!”

Katie is also a para-triathlete. She went through some grueling practices in the summer heat, riding an adapted bike, swimming and wheeling her wheelchair. She was also invited to compete in the International Cajun Classic wheelchair tennis tournament, but the event was postponed because of rain. Katie did not participate on the rescheduled date because she helped with the St. Patrick’s Easter egg hunt (in which her dad is the Easter bunny), demonstrating faith is her priority.

Signaling her interest in church ministry at a young age, Katie approached the music coordinator about joining the children’s choir, but she was too young. However, she was given a conductor’s baton so she could help “direct” from the congregation.

She also was the first disabled altar server at St. Patrick.

Father Jerry Martin, then pastor of St. Patrick, said a ramp had been built for the altar in the 1980s for Glenn Gaudet, a lector who had been disabled in a car accident. Katie approached Father Martin and asked to become an altar server. With his blessing she was trained, with procedural adaptions, by Renee Lindsey.

“She is an example of the entire community working together so that the liturgy is what it should be,” said Father Martin, noting Katie is a focused, faithful and determined young lady.

There are many ways in which Katie serves St. Patrick. Last year, she helped teach the third-grade PSR classes, and this year she will help teach fifth grade. She also helps with the Advent giving tree. For her efforts, LeBlanc was recognized by the Knights of Columbus as the female recipient of the Knights of Columbus Youth Leadership Award. She and Jarge Getz, the male recipient of the KC Youth Leadership Award, also received the Sterling Reine Award, given to a junior or senior male and female who exemplify service.

In receiving her Young Heroes Award at a banquet at the Renaissance Hotel on April 27, Katie said she would like the award to remind others that people with disabilities are just like them.

“We live normal lives like everyone else. We just do things differently,” said LeBlanc.

She plans to use her life experiences to help children. She hopes to attend South-eastern Louisiana University and become a child life specialist, working with children in the hospital and helping them understand their illness. When Our Lady of the Lake Regional Hospital held its groundbreaking for a children’s hospital in February, she was digging dirt.

What other things would this accomplished youth like to do?

“I’d like to drive,” said Katie. The cost of a vehicle, driver training and modification equipment she needs is daunting, but her twinkling eyes and confident smile shows she will do that.
The new St. Jude community center includes several conference/meeting rooms with flat screen televisions available. Church officials said the meeting rooms are ideal for use by the various parish ministries, as well as other groups.

“We have satisfied all of the needs of the ministries,” said Deacon James Morrissey. “They were impressed with the plans.”

Deacon Morrissey said the building also has rooms for prayerful reflection, which will assist with the parish’s various ministries. He said the architects met with ministries for their input, and early returns show the building has struck the right chord.

“We have satisfied all of the needs of the ministries,” Deacon Morrissey said. “They were impressed with the plans.”

The exterior of the building, above, blends in nicely with the rest of the church and school. The green space, left, borders on the community center and the church and is near the elementary school. Future plans call for a parish hall to be built, which will share a lobby with the new community center and also border the green space, creating a serene campus in the urban area.

“We are just in awe of the final product,” said Deacon James Morrissey, who oversees the project. “The architects of GraceHebert Architects really took ownership of the project. They cared a lot about the building and what the final product would look like. That made a difference.”

Deacon James Morrissey
Overseer of the project

Community center adds pizzazz to St. Jude

By Richard Meek

The Catholic Commentator

From the stunning renovation of an existing church to a sparkling new multi-featured building, St. Jude Church is creating an oasis of serenity on the outskirts of one Baton Rouge’s troubled areas. The transformation began within the past three years when a complete renovation of the church was completed. Discussions had centered on renovating the existing structure or building a new church with a much higher price tag. Renovation seemed the more fiscally prudent and the result is a stunning church that has preserved its history and been enhanced by a touch of the contemporary.

Earlier this year, a new $6 million, 12,500-square-foot community center was opened adjacent to the church, creating a campus-like feel to the parish grounds. The two-story building boasts 13 offices, a nursery, multiple meeting rooms, an open central area for staff, a larger kitchen to accommodate receptions, and a media room that pastor Father Troy Nelson will use to host his upcoming podcasts, modern televisions complete with HDMI accessibility and even a green space out back.

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The building is free of charge for use by the ministries and other parish functions, but Deacon Morrissey is also encouraging others to get involved in using the facility at a nominal fee. He would like it to become a gathering place where perhaps meetings can be held to address concerns regarding the nearby Garden area, which has been plagued by an uptick in crime in recent years.

Other events can also be booked, pending approval of church officials.

“We want to reach out to the people,” Deacon Morrissey said.

He added that the final price came in close to the original estimate, although Keith Gargard, who was on the construction team (with Percy J. Mathon Contracting) and has been hired by St. Jude to oversee the facility, said a few planned amenities had to be trimmed, perhaps the most notable being no granite countertops in the kitchen. He quickly added that the cuts were minimal and certainly did not detract from the finished product.

Deacon Morrissey said the parish developed a multi-phase master plan in 2011, with the first phase being renovation of the church, which was completed in 2014. Phase 2 included the new building and Phase 3 calls for a new parish hall that will be designed to host larger events, such as wedding receptions.

The plan is for the community center and new parish hall to share a lobby. When completed, the buildings will frame the inner green space, creating a unique sense of peacefulness in a busy urban area.

Deacon Morrissey said construction for the parish hall is likely still a few years away, depending on funding. For now, parishioners and staff are taking pride in the latest addition to their transforming campus.

“It’s truly a powerful place to be,” Deacon Morrissey said.

STEVING INTO THE FUTURE

An inviting area for employees to dine is one of the many features of the new community center at St. Jude Church in Baton Rouge. The 12,500-square foot building was opened earlier this year. (Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator)
Students leaving their artistic footprints at Redemptorist St. Gerard

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Footprints stamped on paper that were decorated until they turned into much more were among the creative snapshots taken by students of time marching through the seasons of the calendar and faith at a Redemptorist St. Gerard Elementary art show May 4.

“The students were really excited about showing their work. They are really proud of what they have done,” said art teacher Cindy Rivet, who organized the showcase of artwork students in grades kindergarten through fourth-grade created throughout the school year. “They did something for each season, and there are lots of religious themed items, such as the manger scene, the cross at Easter.”

Rivet watched the progression of many of the students from their first timid attempts to becoming blossoming artists.

“When they first started, they might mix the colors together. And I will say, ‘Let’s try another way. Let this dry and we will do this again.’ Their creativity improved,” she said.

“I got to use all the colors of paint. Everything in here I like,” exclaimed kindergartner Amarya Davis as she was looking through her portfolio of artwork she would be taking home. She showed a patriotic work of art she made from handprints when the students made such items to give to veterans at a Veterans Day breakfast. Her artwork also included a Christmas tree, St. Nicholas, flowerpots for spring and carrots (“Rabbits Like Carrots for Easter”) and corn on the cob for fall.

Her mother, Shawn Davis, who was among the many parents who came to see the children’s work, said, “She’s very artistic. I’m very proud of her. She likes using different colors and she’s got a big heart. I’m very fortunate that she is a student here.”

Many of the students enjoyed using their sense of touch through art.

“I liked getting paint on my hands,” announced first-grader Persia Johnson, who said she had not made artwork before as she showed her painting of a reindeer made from a footprint as well as an Easter basket.

Second-grader Kingston George put himself in the mind-set of his favorite animated character, Goku, the main protagonist in the “Dragon Ball” manga series, when he created a drawing featuring the character during a “free time” period in art. Goku is courageous and naive, but he grows up to become Earth’s greatest defender. Watch out if he gets mad.

“He fights against evil, he zaps them,” said George with ninja-like moves. An action movie fan, George said his mother taught him how to draw when he was two.

Art became a time of meditating for the Holy Family, Poche said he learned that “Jesus was home-born. I did the best I could to make it nice for him.”

As he focused to keep the lines straight for his triangle that formed the dwelling for the Holy Family, Poche said he learned that “Jesus was home-less and so was his parents.”

Kierra Parker, also in third grade, said the best part of a making her marble-swirl painting was sliding the marbles around on paper in a box.

“After a couple of minutes, I came up with this beautiful artwork,” said Parker. “It was fun playing with the marbles. Sometimes they jumped out and I had to find them.”

She also made a seahorse out of Play-Doh.

“I love water so I wanted an animal that would be in water,” she said. Parker said she loves arts and crafts because her mother and father are artists. She enjoys the creative process, such as making things for her doll.

“I realize that if you like to make art, after you start doing it, it’s even more funner than when you started,” she said.

Fourth-grader La’Darius Kilbourne believes getting the details right is important to creating a quality piece of art. For one piece featuring triangular shapes, Rivet helped him put masking tape down on paper and he painted between the lines in colors of yellow, green, brown and blue.

“I think he did an awesome job,” said his mother, Lakisha Kilbourne. “I’m very proud of him. I knew he was talented, but I didn’t know he was that neat.”

La’Darius’ favorite piece was a summer scene, which allowed his mind to drift to the outdoors and get his mind off his studies.

“I liked making the flowers,” he said.

Among the most loyal art collectors at the show were the artists’ family members.

Patri Bell said her grandson, fourth-grade student Alexander, “used such vivid colors” in a painting featuring polka dots. “Look how the red looks like it is swirling around and coming out at different points, it’s interesting,” Bell said.

She said art is a valuable mode of expression for Alexander and the other students. “I think it’s good therapy for children. You see a lot of religious pictures, which is really awesome,” she said.

Bell has a gallery of Alexand-er’s art in her kitchen, marking precious moments of his life that are going by so fast.

“I frame all of his pictures and put them on the wall. They are in the kitchen where he can see his work,” Bell said.

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TOPS IN TIP – Holy Ghost Catholic School seventh-graders, from left, Bryan Doan, Marie-Claire Honoree and Amelia Fritz were honored recently at the Duke University TIP State Recognition Ceremony at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Honoree also received grand recognition and will travel to Duke for a ceremony celebrating that accomplishment at a later date. Other school seventh-graders honored during the ceremony include Casey Artigues, Emma Davis, Cade Garafola, Claudia Olah and Ella Paddock. The Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) identifies academically gifted students and honors seventh-grade students who have scored at or above the national average of recent high school graduates on at least one part of the ACT or SAT college entrance exams.

Photo provided by Cindy Wagner | Holy Ghost School

CROWNING MARY – Elaine Casselberry, an eighth-grade student at St. Jean Vianney School, places a flower wreath on the statue of our Blessed Mother during the school’s May Crowning activities May 6. SJV second-graders also participated in the day’s events. Casselberry was chosen to crown Mary by her classmates and school staff. Photo provided by Bridgette DiGerolamo | St. Jean Vianney School

HELPING OTHERS – St. Alphonsus School eighth-graders, from left, Kyle Langlois, Mark Williams, Luke Evans, Bailey Haynes and Evan Maddie deposit the many pop tops their school collected throughout the year at the Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis, Missouri. The students were participating in a mobile classroom trip with their entire eighth-grade class. In addition to stopping at the Ronald McDonald House, the St. Alphonsus students and their chaperones also assisted with a disaster relief project at the St. Louis Area Food Bank and helped box donated snacks and water for flooding victims in Louisiana. The students were able to process 360 cases or 7,200 pounds of food items. Photo provided by Dr. Cindy Ryals | St. Alphonsus School

Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools
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**Captain America: Civil War**

Disney

This turbulent comics-based adventure is more an ensemble piece featuring the whole Avengers crew of superheroes than an outing primarily focused on the titular good guy (Chris Evans). Yet, as the group splits over whether to submit to United Nations supervision, public concerns have been raised over the collateral damage their crusades tend to exact. He becomes the leader of one rival faction. Anthony and Joe Russo highlight the cost of even well-intentioned mayhem as well as the downside of pursuing vengeance.

Downey Jr.). Co-directors (and brothers) of the other is headed by Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.).

**Newcomers to the Marvel universe may find themselves bewildered since the script does little to bring the uninitiated up to speed, while parents will have to consider carefully before allowing even older teens to view material best suited, in terms of combat scenes and vocabulary, to grownups. Possibly acceptable for mature adolescents. Constant strong violence, including torture, but with minimal gore, a few uses of profanity and of mature language, several crass terms. A-III; PG-13**

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**Motion Picture Association of America classifications:**

- **G** – General audiences; all ages admitted
- **PG** – Parental guidance suggested; some material may not be suitable for children
- **PG-13** – Parents are strongly cautioned to give special guidance for attendance of children under 13; some material may be inappropriate for young children
- **R** – Restricted; under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
- **NC-17** – No one under 17 admitted

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**Movie Reviews**

USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting

May 27, 2016

**ENTERTAINMENT.**

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**THE CATHOLIC COMMENTATOR**

**STARTING MAY 31**

**CATHOLICS COME HOME TELEVISION SERIES**

Each episode features an interview with someone who recently returned to Jesus and the Catholic Church, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit. Guests include former atheists, agnostics, Protestant Christians and fallen-away Catholics who came home.

**Tuesday, 9:30a; Wednesday, 11:30p; Friday, 2:30p; Saturday, 10:30a**

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**Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge**

**Diocesan Director of Hispanic Apostolate**

General Statement of Duties

The purpose of this position is to provide pastoral and organizational leadership for the Hispanic Apostolate and to empower the people of the Community to carry out their mission.

Education and Experience Requirements

- Bachelor’s degree or five years working with the Hispanic community, in a similar position.
- Bilingual in English and Spanish in verbal and written skills, organizational and interpersonal skills and ability to work with diverse group and individuals.
- Knowledge and understanding of the deep cultural differences among Hispanics from the different Latin American countries.
- Due to the nature of this position, it is required that the incumbent be a practicing Roman Catholic, in good standing, who is registered and active in a parish.

Other Requirements

- Commitment to the mission of the Hispanic Apostolate and the Diocese.
- Ability to maintain knowledge and skills required for this position.
- Proven administrative skills, including planning, organizing, implementing, management and supervision, budgeting skills, collaborative ministry and conflict resolution.
- Ability to represent the Hispanic Apostolate at a local, regional, and national level.
- Ability to oversee the development and implementation of personnel policies for the Center.
- Ability to assure the formation and training for support of staff and volunteers who provide leadership and direction to the Hispanic Apostolate such as Religious Education, Adult Formation, Evangelization, Youth Ministry, Family Life, Pastoral Care, and Community Services.
- Ability to assure the development of catechetical and sacramental preparation in accord and consistent with the Diocesan norms.
- Understanding of computer programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Quickzen.
- Ability to be on call for emergencies, attend evening meetings, travel and work extended hours as needed.

Please submit letter of interest, resume and references to hr@diobr.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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**REVIEWS**

**MOVIE**

**NC-17** – Restricted; under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

**R** – be inappropriate for young children

**PG-13** – Parents are strongly cautioned

**PG** – Parents are strongly cautioned

**PG-13** – Parents are strongly cautioned

**L – Limited adult audience**

**A-IV – Adults, with reservations**

**A-II – Adults and adolescents**

**A-I – General patronage**

**CLASSIFICATIONS:**

- **Parental guidance suggested; some material may be inappropriate for children under 13; some material may be inappropriate for young children**
- **Respectful ambivalence about the person of Jesus not only undercuts the film’s appeal for believers but creates some aesthetic confusion as well. Religious themes requiring mature discernment, brief partial nudity, momentary scatological humor. A-III; PG-13**

**Money Monster**

**R** – be inappropriate for young children

**PG** – Parents are strongly cautioned

**PG-13** – Parents are strongly cautioned

**R** – Restricted; under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

**NC-17** – No one under 17 admitted

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**Last Days in the Desert**

Broad Green

Toward the end of his 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert, Jesus (Ewan McGregor), here called by his Hebrew name, Yeshua spends time with a family of wilderness dwellers, becoming emotionally invested in the conflict between the father (Ciaran Hinds) and his teen son (Tye Sheridan) over the lad’s future as well as the fate of the terminally ill mother (Ayelet Zurer). Watching the situation with mocking spite, and doing his best to sow doubt in the Savior’s mind, is the Devil (also McGregor) who manifests himself as his adversary’s double. Striking cinematography and a high level of artistic commitment from the cast are offset, in writer-director Rodrigo Garcia’s drama, by a sluggishly paced plot that fails to evoke as much interest in viewers as it does in his possibly divine but possibly merely human protagonist. Respectful ambivalence about the person of Jesus not only undercuts the film’s appeal for believers but creates some aesthetic confusion as well. Religious themes requiring mature discernment, brief partial nudity, momentary scatological humor. A-III; PG-13

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**For more Movie Reviews, visit thecatholiccommentator.org and look under ENTERTAINMENT.**

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**Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.**
Taking time to heal after ending a relationship

Charlie Puth's latest song is “One Call Away,” and it raises the question of when it is appropriate to make overtures of “interest” to someone who has just ended a romantic relationship.

The song’s protagonist says to the person who has ended the relationship that “if you need a friend, I just wanna give you love.” He also expresses how he is “reaching out to you, so take the chance.” He wants to be “there to save the day.” He reminds her that “I’m only one call away.”

The song’s video tells us more about the situation and shows us that his interest in her is very recent. He seems like an opportunist rather than someone who cares about her. Consequently, he seems much more like an opportunist than someone who cares about her.

It is important to remember that when you are coming out of a relationship, you are more emotionally vulnerable and perhaps more susceptible to the type of overtures that the song’s protagonist makes.

When a relationship ends, go slow. Focus on yourself and what you can learn. God’s will for us is that we find healing, but sometimes this means setting clear boundaries with others. And if someone comes on way too strong and tells you that “I’m only one call away,” it is best to step away from the situation.

**On the Record**

Charlie Martin

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And if someone comes on way too strong and tells you that “I’m only one call away,” it is best to step away from the situation.

**MARTIN** is an Indiana pastoral counselor who reviews current music for Catholic News Service. Please write to cmartin@hughes.net, or at: 7125 West CR 200 South, Rockport, IN 47635, or like this column on Facebook at “Charlie Martin’s Today’s Music Columns.”
editorial

Flawed policy

President Obama’s directive requiring public schools to allow students who identify themselves as transgender to use bathrooms corresponding with their chosen gender not only further blurs the line of gender confusion but provokes additional evidence of a society plunging further into a moral abyss.

Days after Obama’s misguided and perplexing directive, which was issued through the U.S. Department of Education, the president curiously, said the guidelines were necessary because he believes students who have a different sexual orientation or identity as transgender are subject to bullying.

Paralleling that sentiment, the White House, in a separate statement, said the guidelines would also protect against discrimination and protect the safety of every student.

Not surprisingly, the chairmen of two United States Conference of Catholic Bishops committees, called the directive “deeply disturbing.”

The statement, issued by Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the U.SCCB’s Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and Archbishop George J. Lucas, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Catholic Education, said the president’s directive contradicts a basic understanding of human formation so expressed by Pope Francis that “young people need to form consciences, not to replace them.”

In St. Matthew (19:3), Jesus says that from the beginning of our creation as man and woman, God intended us to live in permanent marriages, faithful to one another until death. He gave to all married couples the mandate to have children and to live faithfully to one another raising their children. This was to be their free response to the divine gift of marriage.

Although mankind failed through sin in the beginning, God sent our redemption in the person of Jesus. God becoming man in the human family changed the history of the world. The Incarnation of Jesus took a yes of faith from Mary to the bewilderment of the angel. He also took a yes from St. Joseph to create a family and protection for Mary and her child.

The 30 years of simple family life in Nazareth taught Jesus his Jewish faith, his trade as a carpenter and the beauty of family life. Pope Francis says that in Christian marriage Christ is present to the spouses. Through his spirit, he gives the spouses the power to live the love he has shown us. With that grace, they build up the body of Christ, forming a domestic church with their family. As St. John Paul II pointed out, this family, this little church, “is their call to holiness” (“Familiaris Consortio”).

The family is also an image of God because God is a Trinity, a communion of persons. As an image of God, a sacrament, Christian marriage is more than a social convention, a ritual, or just a commitment. It is a sign, as St. Paul says, of the relationship of Christ and the church (Ephesians, 5). The couples give their lives to one another as Jesus did to us, his church.

When they marry, the couple promise to each other “total self-giving, faithfulness and openness to new life” (“Amoris Laetitia” #77). I believe that in this modern culture of commitments made-to-be-broken, this radical demand of “marriage in the beginning,” as Jesus reminded us, has to be emphasized in high school religion classes, in pre-marriage preparation programs, and in the head-to-head meetings with the priest or deacon who will be receiving the couple’s vows.

As divorce rates indicate, marriage is not easy today. But, as Pope Francis says, there is a great strength to be had in Catholic marriage where Jesus “dwells with (the couple), gives them the strength to take up their crosses and to follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another’s burdens.” Jesus showed how much God loves us by becoming one of us. “By becoming one flesh, (the couple) embody the espousal of our human nature by the son of God” (“Amoris Laetitia” #73).

What about marriage in other Christian denominations and in non-Christian faiths? Most do not consider marriage as a sacrament.

Pope Francis recognizes the “positive elements of marriage found in other religious traditions ...” (“Amoris Laetitia” #77). He says, “We can readily say that anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil, a family that shows that the Spirit is alive and at work will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation, whatever the people, religion or region to which they belong” (“Amoris Laetitia” #77).

“Amoris Laetitia” is an exercise in pastoral theology. Faithful to his promise not to change official church teaching, Pope Francis refers to Pope Paul VI’s ban on artificial contraception and says that every act of conjugal love needs to be open to life, and that couples in “irregular relationships” should be led by counseling to receive the sacrament of marriage where possible. However, he is trying to bridge the divide between teachings and practice on these issues. An editorial in the April 16 issue of the National Catholic Reporter notes that Catholics are being urged by “Amoris Laetitia” to trust themselves. The pope writes: “We can add that individual conscience needs to be better incorporated into the Church’s praxis.” We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who ... are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations; and “We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.”

Surveys of Catholic behavior have indicated that on matters of marriage and procreation the Catholic faithful have been trusting their own discernment for quite a while.

Father Carville is a retired priest in the Diocese of Baton Rouge and writes on current topics for The Catholic Commentator. He can be reached at johnmycarville@gmail.com.

Vocation of the family

AFTER recounting all of the obstacles to modern marriage in Chapter Two of “Amoris Laetitiae,” such as consumerism, pornography, extreme individualism, unsettled economy, refusal of commitments, abortion, etc., Pope Francis concludes by urging us not to let such negative values of our modern world paralyze us and destroy our hope. We must look to Jesus to find the true vocation of the family. This is the theme of Chapter Three: The Vocation of the Family.

St. Paul tells us that “marriage is a gift from the Lord” (1 Cor 7:7), and that this gift includes sexuality: “Do not refuse one another” (1 Cor 7:5). In this human journey as a married couple, God’s indulgent love can always be counted upon. Pope Francis points us to the Gospels, which “clearly present the example of Jesus who ... proclaimed the meaning of marriage as the fullness of revelation that restores God’s original plan.”

In St. Matthew (19:3), Jesus says that from the beginning of our creation as man and woman, God intended us to live in permanent marriages, faithful to one another until death. He gave to all married couples the mandate to have children and to live faithfully to one another raising their children. This was to be their free response to the divine gift of marriage.

Although mankind failed through sin in the beginning, God sent our redemption in the person of Jesus. God becoming man in the human family changed the history of the world. The Incarnation of Jesus took a yes of faith from Mary to the bewilderment of the angel. He also took a yes from St. Joseph to create a family and protection for Mary and her child.

The 30 years of simple family life in Nazareth taught Jesus his Jewish faith, his trade as a carpenter and the beauty of family life. Pope Francis says that in Christian marriage Christ is present to the spouses. Through his spirit, he gives the spouses the power to live the love he has shown us. With that grace, they build up the body of Christ, forming a domestic church with their family. As St. John Paul II pointed out, this family, this little church, “is their call to holiness” (“Familiaris Consortio”).

The family is also an image of God because God is a Trinity, a communion of persons. As an image of God, a sacrament, Christian marriage is more than a social convention, a ritual, or just a commitment. It is a sign, as St. Paul says, of the relationship of Christ and the church (Ephesians, 5). The couples give their lives to one another as Jesus did to us, his church.

When they marry, the couple promise to each other “total self-giving, faithfulness and openness to new life” (“Amoris Laetitia” #77). I believe that in this modern culture of commitments made-to-be-broken, this radical demand of “marriage in the beginning,” as Jesus reminded us, has to be emphasized in high school religion classes, in pre-marriage preparation programs, and in the head-to-head meetings with the priest or deacon who will be receiving the couple’s vows.

As divorce rates indicate, marriage is not easy today. But, as Pope Francis says, there is a great strength to be had in Catholic marriage where Jesus “dwells with (the couple), gives them the strength to take up their crosses and to follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another’s burdens.” Jesus showed how much God loves us by becoming one of us. “By becoming one flesh, (the couple) embody the espousal of our human nature by the son of God” (“Amoris Laetitia” #73).

What about marriage in other Christian denominations and in non-Christian faiths? Most do not consider marriage as a sacrament.

Pope Francis recognizes the “positive elements of marriage found in other religious traditions ...” (“Amoris Laetitia” #77). He says, “We can readily say that anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil, a family that shows that the Spirit is alive and at work will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation, whatever the people, religion or region to which they belong” (“Amoris Laetitia” #77).

“Amoris Laetitia” is an exercise in pastoral theology. Faithful to his promise not to change official church teaching, Pope Francis refers to Pope Paul VI’s ban on artificial contraception and says that every act of conjugal love needs to be open to life, and that couples in “irregular relationships” should be led by counseling to receive the sacrament of marriage where possible. However, he is trying to bridge the divide between teachings and practice on these issues. An editorial in the April 16 issue of the National Catholic Reporter notes that Catholics are being urged by “Amoris Laetitia” to trust themselves. The pope writes: “We can add that individual conscience needs to be better incorporated into the Church’s praxis.” We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who ... are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations; and “We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.”

Surveys of Catholic behavior have indicated that on matters of marriage and procreation the Catholic faithful have been trusting their own discernment for quite a while.

Father Carville is a retired priest in the Diocese of Baton Rouge and writes on current topics for The Catholic Commentator. He can be reached at johnmycarville@gmail.com.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US

Please pray for the priests, deacons and religious women and men in the Baton Rouge Diocese.

June 1
Rev. Matthew E. McCaughhey
Dcn. J. Thomas Traylor
Br. Harold Harris SC
June 2
Rev. Paul A. McDuffe
Dcn. John W. Veron
Sr. Adelaide Williamson CSJ
June 3
Rev. Roberto Merced OP
Dcn. Doanh Van Vu ICM
Br. Ronald Hingle SC
June 4
Rev. Andrew J. Merrick
Dcn. J. Peter Walsh
Sr. Martha Ann Abshire FMOL
June 5
Rev. Victor G. Messina
Dcn. James E. Wax
†Br. Warren Laudumiey SC
June 6
Rev. Michael A. Miceli
Dcn. P. Chauvin Wilkinson Jr.
Sr. M. Animachristi MC
Rev. Cleo J. Milano
†Dcn. Henry J. Zeringue
Br. Noel Lemmon SC
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Dcn. Nutan S. Minj IMS
Dcn. Alfred Adams Sr.
Sr. Barbara Arceneaux FMOL
Rev. Eliecer Montanez-Gimilados
MCM
Dcn. Michael A. Agnello
Br. Roger LeMoynie SC
June 8
Rev. Michael J. Moroney
Dcn. Donald L. Ard
Sr. Kathleen Babin CSJ
June 11
Rev. Cate A. (Trey) Nelson III
Dcn. Frank E. Bains
Br. Malcolm Melcher SC
June 12
Rev. Hung Viet Nguyen ICM
Dcn. Thomas D. Benoit
Sr. Sandra Blanchard CSJ
June 13
Rev. Tan Viet Nguyen ICM
Dcn. Mark T. Berard
Br. Paul Monterro SC
June 14
Rev. Nicholas J. (Jack) Nutter III
Dcn. Willie M. Berthelot Sr.
Sr. Carolyn Brady CSJ
**VIEWPOINT**

**Youth today – Who are they really?**

A seminarian I know recently went to a party on a Friday evening at a local university campus. The group was a crowd of young, college students and when he was introduced as a seminarian, as someone who was trying to become a priest and who had taken a vow of celibacy, the mention of celibacy evoked some giggles in the room, some banter, and a number of jokes about how much he must be missing out on in life. Poor, naive fellow! Initially, within this group of millennials, his religious beliefs and what this had led to in his life was regarded as something between amusing and pitiful.

But before the evening was out, several young women had come, cried on his shoulder and shared about their frustration with their boyfriends’ inability to commit fully to their relationship. This incident might serve as aparable describing today’s young people in our secularized world. They exhibit what might aptly be called a bi-polar character about faith, church, family, sexual ethos and many other things that are important to them.

They present an inconsistent picture: On the one hand, by and large, they are not going to church, at least with any regularity; they are not following the Christian ethos on sexuality; they seem indifferent to and even sometimes hostile to many cherished religious traditions; and they can appear unbelievably shallow in their addiction and enslavement to what’s trending in the world of entertainment, fashion and information technology. Looked at from one perspective, our kids today can appear irreverent, morally blase, and on a heavy diet of the kind of superficiality that characterizes reality television and video games. More seriously still, they can also appear myopic, greedy, pampered and excessively self-interested. Not a pretty picture.

But this isn’t exactly the picture. Beneath that surface, in most cases, you will find someone who is very likeable, sincere, soft, good-hearted, gracious, moral, warm, generous and searching for all the right things (without much help from a culture that lacks clear moral guidance and is fraught with over-choice). The good news is that most young people, at the level of their real desires, are not at odds at all with God, faith, church and family. For the most part, youth today are still very good people and want all the right things.

But, that isn’t always so evident. Sometimes their surface seems to trump their depth so that who they really are and what they really want is not so evident. We see the surface and, seen there, our youth can appear more self-interested than generous, more shallow than deep, more blase than morally sensitive, and more religiously indifferent than faith-filled. They can also manifest a smugness and self-sufficiency that suggests little vulnerability and no need for guidance from anyone beyond themselves.

Hence their bi-polarity: Mostly they want all the right things, but, too often, because of a lack of guidance and their addiction to the culture, they aren’t making the kinds of choices that will bring them what they more-deeply desire. Sexuality is a prime example here: Studies done on millennials indicate that most of them want, at the end of the day, to be inside a monogamous, faithful marriage. The problem is that they also believe that they can first allow themselves ten to fifteen years of sexual promiscuity, without having to accept that practicing ten to fifteen years of infidelity is not a good preparation for the kind of fidelity needed to sustain marriage and family. In this, as in many other things, they are caught between their cultural ethos and their own fragile securities. The culture trumpet’s a certain ethos, liberation from the tedium of the past, complete with a smugness that belittles whatever questions it. But much of that smugness is actually whistling in the dark. Deep down, our youth are pretty insecure and, happily, this keeps them vulnerable and likeable.

Maybe Louis Dupre, the retired philosopher who taught for many years at Yale, captures it best when he says that today’s young people are not bad, they’re just not finished. That’s a simple insight that captures a lot. Someone can be wonderful and very likeable, but still immature. Moreover, if you’re young enough, that can even be attractive, the very definition of cool. The reverse is also, often times, true: More than a few of us, adults, suffer from our own bi-polarity: we are mature, but far from wonderful and likeable. This makes for some strange, paradoxical binaries.

Who is the actual young person of today? Is it the person who is wrapped up in his or her own world, obsessive about physical appearance, addicted to social media, living outside marriage with his or her partner, smug in his or her own non-traditional moral and religious views? That, I believe, is the surface appearance. The actual young person of today is warm, good-hearted, generous and waiting, waiting consciously and for God’s embrace.

God is with us even when our greatest joy seems to vanish

As a priest, I’ve spent the past 30 years of my life writing about supernatural joy in the lives of others. The message is simple: faith, together with the discipline of controlling your thoughts, can help overcome even the most horrible emotional pain we can experience.

The pain of life, as many of us know, is real, and seemingly unending while we’re going through rough moments. However, in any tragic circumstance there is one word you need to focus on and that is survival. You can go on grieving for a year or a decade or more, but sooner or later you will have to decide whether you’re going to be a survivor or whether you’re going to let problems destroy you.

The good news is that most young people, at the level of their real desires, are not at odds at all with God, faith, church and family. For the most part, youth today are still very good people and want all the right things.

In Exile

Father Ron Rolheiser

Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted at ronrolheiser.com, or facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir

There is still a job for you to do in this world, perhaps a job that nobody else can do, and if you don’t do it, it will remain undone. Millions have come to the realization that they must be ready to carry on with courage. I’ve learned some of this through the correspondence I sometimes receive.

A woman once wrote me a letter that helped me understand a great deal about the pain of grief. She said that on a beautiful sunny July morning, her 26-year-old son was killed in a car accident. He was on his way to work when a driver pulled out of a side street and killed her “wonderful boy.”

She said she never knew such a feeling of desperation, such isolation and unending agony before the depth of the pain, the flow of tears and the silence were overwhelming. And yet, she said, “I never knew one could still exist when everything inside had died.”

This brokenhearted woman managed to survive with the help of God. She later said that with time, and with the help of God, she found her bearings. She said she learned to find joy in the midst of the most excruciating pain.

She said she learned that even when you have suffered a terrible loss, the worst loss one can imagine, one day a person will discover that he or she will laugh again and live again. Knowing that God is by your side, helping you every step of the way, you will come to learn the important lesson that joy really does prevail over sorrow.

This story also reminds me of a grief-stricken man who was tempted to commit suicide. One day while riding on a bus, he spotted a pamphlet on the floor and picked it up out of curiosity. It contained this message: “Today you may feel hopeless, but tomorrow or the next day you will remember that you have a purpose, a true mission in life. It will transform you, and give you the courage to carry on.”

He decided not to commit suicide, and never thought of it again. He wrote to me several months later to explain how this sense of mission changed his life forever.

It reassured me of the words found in John 16:33: “In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”

FATHER CATOIR writes on issues of spirituality for today’s Catholic for Catholic News Service.
Right to Life Breakfast – Baton Rouge Right to Life will host a benefit breakfast Saturday, June 25, 9 – 11:30 a.m., at St. Thomas More Church Parish Activity Center, 11411 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge. Speakers include Dr. Rob Chassuk, family physician, associate director of graduate medical education and family medicine residency program chief at the Baton Rouge General Hospital and affiliate of Woman’s New Life Center, and Karen Stoehr, a pro-life mother and jazz vocalist. Dr. Wojciech “Al” Krotoski will be posthumously honored with the Joan Dowd Lifetime Achievement Award. Tickets are $30 and $200 for a table of eight. For more information, visit prolifelouisiana.org.

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites – The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites welcomes all who are interested in developing their prayer life according to the Carmelite saints. The next meeting will be Sunday, June 12, 1:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center in St. Gabriel’s Room, 444 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge. For more information, call 225-343-3181 or 225-803-3391, or email robertwhite456@att.net.

Metairie Retreats – The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie, will host the following retreats: Friday, June 3 – Sunday, June 5, “Practicing Mercy: Kissed by Mercy, Embraced by Love,” with Father Philip Chirocip SJ; Friday, June 10 June – Sunday, June 12, “Finding Afresh the God of Our Longing,” with Father Simeon Gallagher OFM Cap; Friday, June 24 – Sunday, June 26, “The Holy Year of Mercy,” with Father Donald Blanchard. For more information, visit retreats.arch-no.org or call 504-267-9604.

SoulCore – Immaculate Conception Church, 865 Hatchell Lane, Denham Springs, will host “Nourishing Body & Soul classes,” which pairs prayers of the rosary with core strengthening, stretching and full body exercises. An informational class will be held Friday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the main hall. A wine and cheese social will follow the workout. For more information, call 225-938-5236 or email amandamilton88@gmail.com.

St. Joseph the Worker Fair – St. Joseph the Worker Church, 3304 Hwy. 70, Pierre Part, will host a fair Saturday, May 28 – Sunday, May 29. There will be food, music, games, bounce houses and obstacle courses for children. A live auction starts at 2 p.m. On Sunday. For more information, call 985-252-6008.

Rosaryville Retreat – Rosaryville Spirit Life Center, 39093 Rosaryville Road, Ponchatoula, will host a retreat, “Healing the Hurts of the Heart,” with Dorothy DeGranidis Friday, June 10 – Sunday, June 12. This charismatic weekend will include prayer, healing and songs. The cost is $115 for commuter, $200 for double. For more information, visit catholicrotretecenter.org or call 225-294-5039.

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Position Available
Director of Music Ministry & Liturgy
St. George Catholic Church, in Baton Rouge, seeks a full-time Director of Music & Liturgy.

Requirements: a practicing Catholic, an understanding of Catholic liturgy and music documents, a degree in Music, and 3 to 5 years of experience with both traditional and contemporary music.

Essentials: proficiency in piano or organ, other instruments a plus; communication and organizational skills; ability to collaborate with a large pastoral staff and a Liturgy Commission.

Duties: coordinate music and liturgy for 5 weekend Masses, Holy Days, funerals, weddings and sacramental rites; recruit, develop, rehearse and direct children and adult choirs, ensembles, cantors and instrumentalists.

Deadline for Application: June 17, 2016.

Qualified applicants contact Carol Sharp at carolis@st-george.org.

Most Blessed Sacrament School is seeking certified teachers for the 2016-2017 school year. Please submit resume, including references to Mrs. Saylor at saylor@mbll.org.

St. Joseph’s Academy seeks a full-time science teacher for the 2016-2017 school year. The successful candidate will teach for physical science courses and be the science resource teacher. Please send resume with references and current transcripts to Executive Assistant to the Principal, Stephanie Potter at potters@ssabr.org.

St. Michael High School is seeking a full-time Chemistry instructor for the 2016-2017 school year. Please send resume to Julie Lechich, Asst. Principal, PO Box 86110, Baton Rouge, LA 70897-6110 or email jlechich@stmbbr.org.

LEGAL NOTICE
Anyone with knowledge of the whereabouts of Mary Beth Walsh is asked to contact the Diocesan Tribunal at 225-336-8755.

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trace descendants.

Because Neely and his descendants remained steadfast to the Catholic faith, Riffel traced the sacramental records to Crump and her family. It was learned Neely worked the soil of a 2,500-acre estate near Bayou Maringouin, owned by John Beatty near where Crump grew up.

Crump said it was as if time stood still.

**Selling Lives**

Georgetown University relied on Jesuit plantations in Maryland to finance its operations. The plantation’s slaves were often donated to the Jesuits by wealthy parishioners, said Cellini. When the university ran into financial trouble, its presidents, Cellini said, Fathers Thomas Mulledy and William McSherry arranged the sale, which is worth about $3.3 million in today’s dollars.

The buyers of the slaves included Henry Johnson, who was a member of the House of Representatives and owned a plantation in Donaldsonville, and Beatty.

There was dissension among the Jesuits regarding the sale because many knew about the harsh conditions slaves faced in the South.

Father Mulledy justified the sale by promising the slaves would receive the sacraments, practice their Catholic faith and remain together as a family.

Thomas Murphy wrote in his book, “Jesusit Slaveholding in Maryland, 1717-1838,” “Father Mulledy was concerned that diehard Jesuit opponents might assist the slaves to escape before transportation, so he arrived on the (Maryland) plantations, unannounced, accompanied by Johnson and a sheriff, to confine as many slaves as possible by force. Not all the slaves could fit in one ship, however, so there had to be a second transportation a few weeks later. During the interval, several Jesuits indeed encouraged their slaves to hide in the woods. At least a dozen slaves avoided transportation altogether by so doing. In the confusion, it seems quite likely that several slave families were separated.”

Cornelius Hawkins was 13 when he was forced aboard the Katharine Jackson and brought to New Orleans and subsequently to Maringouin.

**Broken Promises**

Because of financial obligations, the plantation owners had difficulty meeting their notes, and promises, to the Jesuits. Murphy wrote in his book that in 1848 Father James Vandeveldt, S.J toured Louisiana and visited Thompson, a former pupil, to see what had happened to the slaves. He wrote to Father Mulledy about the spiritual problems in the neighboring plantations of Johnson and John Thompson. The two had negotiated deals to pay off Johnson’s mortgage. Father Vandeveldt noted that the closest Catholic church (Ascension Catholic Church in Donaldsonville) was 10 miles across the Lafourche Bayou. There were also no nearby churches for slaves in Maringouin to attend.

**Tracking Family**

Tracing the history of the slaves has been quite a venture for Riffel.

“I have spreadsheets to keep track of the slaves over time,” she said.

She began researching what happened to the enslaved after slavery ended. “That’s when I got into the Catholic Church records,” said Riffel. She followed a trail of marriage, death and baptismal records to locate descendants.

“I told my client that if these slaves were sent anywhere else but Louisiana, we wouldn’t be talking today, because if they weren’t for the Catholic records here, we wouldn’t be able to do what we are doing here.

“Louisiana has wonderful records. We have great civil records and a great (Catholic) archives here.”

**Louisiana has wonderful records. We have great civil records and a great (Catholic) archives here.**

-Judy Riffel
Genealogist

This book in the Diocese of Baton Rouge Archives Department contains multiple references of baptisms by Ascension Catholic Church slaves belonging to Henry Johnson, who owned a plantation in Donaldsonville. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator

**DePaula named to lead Catechesis**

Dina DePaula has been named director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

DePaula, who holds a Master of Arts in Theology degree from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans, is currently the director of pastoral services and adult formation at St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, a position she has held since 2011.

From 2002-2011 she was the producer and office manager at CatholicLife TV and served as a talk show host for three years. DePaula, who earned advanced catechist certification through St. Joseph’s Seminary College, has also served in a number of volunteer ministries.

“I am deeply humble and grateful for this new calling,” DePaula said.

DePaula will begin her new position July 1.
The Diocese of Baton Rouge will play a prestigious role when deacons from around the world converge in Rome for the Jubilee for Deacons, scheduled May 27-29.

The event is a celebration for deacons, along with their wives and children, during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Lisette Borné, associate director for vocations and seminarians for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, has been invited to be the lector at a papal Mass scheduled May 29 at St. Peter’s Square.

Borné, a Marian Servant of the Eucharist and a spiritual director certified through the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence and Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, said Sunday, the invitation was extended to her by Father Geno Sylva, a priest originally from New Jersey who celebrates an English Mass at Santo Spiriti in Sassia, a 12th century titular church in Rome.

Borné and her husband, Deacon Dan Borné, have been attending the Mass celebrated by Father Sylva while visiting Rome in recent years. Deacon Borné has assisted at Mass, and Lisette Borné has previously served as lector.

Two weeks ago Deacon Borné, who is also attending the jubilee celebration, received an email from Father Sylva, an official of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of New Evangelization, asking if Lisette would be interested in being a lector at the Mass to be celebrated by Pope Francis.

“After being rendered speechless and crying a few tears of disbelief, I humbly and joyfully accepted the honor and blessing of reading God’s Word at the papal Mass,” she said.

The deacons are scheduled to participate in a number of activities, including a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the Vatican, as well as attend several meetings.

The papal Mass is scheduled to air live at 3:30 a.m. and re-broadcast at 1:30 p.m. on EWTN. CatholicLife TV is also airing the Mass live.
St. John High School graduates May 12

Graduation ceremonies for St. John High School Class of 2016 were held Thursday, May 12 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine.

Named as valedictorian was Alexandra Nicole Cheramie and Jerry An Uong as salutatorian.

Included in the class of 2016 are Walter Marionneaux Barker Jr., Noah Lane Barriere, Joseph David Beatty, Garrett Miles Booksh, Kasey Thomas Bourgeois, Jace Thomas Cedotal, Collin Wren Crockett, Casey Renee Curry, Michael Jules D’Albor, Jacob Richard David, Maci Eysssa Deviller, Blake Tureme Doiron, Alexis Victoria Finch, Corti Elizabeth Granier, Amanda Nicole Guidry, Kyndal Leigh Guillory and Andrew Joseph Gulotta.

Chandler Michael Hebert, Zachary Michael Hurst, Gavin Paul Landry, Courtney Elizabeth LoBue, Holly Elizabeth Medine, Payton Lynn Passantino, Kenneth Stevens Perry, Anna Marie Pire, Gavin Kyle Primeaux, Samantha Jo Pulizzano, Jacob Paul Richard, Dina Brooke Roberts, Madison Louise Robichaux, Caleb Aaron Romig, Colby Dale Sadden, Nadia Aleah Sam, Gabrielle Kay Schnebelen, Madison Grace Schnebelen, Nicholas James Seneca, Leighton Elizabeth Stagg, Dylan Anthony Tempanaro, Kortlyn Blaire Theriot, Joseph Patrick Thibeau, Breanna Elizabeth Thibodeaux, Peyton Joseph Voisin, Brian Gabriel Weaver, Allie Marie Wintz, Mason Barrett Young and Andrew Joseph Zito II.

Valedictorian Alexandra Nicole Cheramie, left, and Salutatorian Jerry An Uong

OLOL College announces May 2016 graduates

More than 190 Our Lady of the Lake College students were conferred master’s, bachelor’s or associate degrees during the commencement exercises held on Monday, May 23 in the Baton Rouge River Center Arena.

The keynote speaker, Deacon Dan S. Borné, is president of the Louisiana Chemical Association, Chairman of the Board of BlueCross BlueShield of Louisiana and a Our Lady of the Lake College Board of Trustee. Deacon Borné has also worked for a state senator, a congressman, three United States senators and a governor in addition to serving as a public address announcer for LSU football and basketball. He talked to the new graduates about the importance of this transition in their lives, alerted them to the many challenges that are sure to come, and suggested to them that their faith, families and friends are the things they can depend upon to get through the changes that life will throw at them.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Master of Health Administration

Mirrion Moran and Erika Washington

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Addison Heffron

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Darian Breaux, Elizabeth Dau er, Ani Heuly, Tayoyn James, Travis Lambert, Sally Moon, Autumn Rounds and Chelsea Taylor, Derek Wiltz

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Bailie Guirky

Bachelor of Science in Health Service Administration

Christina Johnson, Amy Kell, Ashley Mathis, Shaya Picture and Rachel St. Germain

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Kristin Annaloro, Patrick Arce ment, Alicia Brand, Amanda Buchar, Krystle Chase, Jason Cohen, Madison Corley, Jennifer Fender, Melinda Flocke, Jade Gautreau, Kristen Hebert, Johanna Lasseigne, Amanda Manerd, Emily Rea, Thuy Tran, Angelique Vidrine, Carl issa Wells, Mary Willis, Maddie Windstein and Alicia Zoringle

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assisting


Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology


Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy

Ryan Batton, Sharon Bernard, Brandi Blowers, Drew Cashio, Renee Rogers, Mandy Shurkey, Rachel Sherwood, Dauny Shilling, Chelsea Simmons, Allison Taylor, Callie Taylor, Regan Terry, Maegan White and Erica Wooden

SCHOOL OF NURSING Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Madelyn Alharada, Amy Alsman, Alexandra Babcock, Jordan Bailey, Summer Barmann, Jessica Boechler, Taylor Booth, Meagan Bourgeois, Kolleen Bouvier, Morgan Boyer, Kay ley Broussard, Laurie Brown, Meghan Brown, Angelle Cacci enne, Pashele Carriere, Lauren Casanova, Emilee Chapman, Kiser Cooper, Katie Corley, Savanna Cox, Emily Daniels, Michele Dedrick, Kristyn Devun, Claire Dimel, Anneliese Doheny,
Leading the Class of 2016 are valedictorians Courtney Dazé and Jacob LaGrange and salutatorians Mariana Cuervo and Meredith Daigle. Baccalaureate Awards/Mass was held May 12, and commencement was held May 14, both at Ascension of Our Lord Church in Donaldsonville.

Also graduating in the class of 2016 were Cole Anthony Amedee, Julia Ann Beck, Megan Rayna Brooks, Danielle Elizabeth Brout, Kaylee Michelle Burns, Claire Alexandra Falcon, Danielle Claire Giroir and Troy Michael Graves Jr.

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Catholic High School of Baton Rouge held its graduation ceremony Saturday, May 21 at the Baton Rouge River Center Arena.

Valedictorian for the Class of 2016 is Parkes Peltier Winder. Salutatorian is Carson Montgomery Piontek.

Also graduating were André Cary Aguillard, Michael Paul Annaloro, Kade Saurage Ashley, Jason Blaine Attusso Jr., Jared Michael Barrilleaux, Andrew Michael Barrios, Spencer Jeffrey Baudier, Jonathan Karl Bernard, Alex John Bertrand, Vincent Joseph Bianca, Blair Patrick Bogan, Connor James Bollich, Colin Murray Bone, William Jacob Borne, Connor Hiram Bowen, Waynes Baker Bradley III, Matthew Charles Bremer, David Ian Brian, Austin Michael Brock, Nicholas Ashley Brooksher and Chase Christian Brouillette.


Also Jackson Werner Marcin, William Neal Mathews, Miles Louis McLindon, Justin Mont Moro and Michael Joseph Mouton.

Catholic High School graduates 231 students.
St. Joseph's Academy holds its 2016 graduation

St. Joseph's Academy graduation was held Sunday, May 22 at the Baton Rouge River Center Arena.

For the Class of 2016, Caroline Elizabeth Matthews was designated valedictorian and Ashley Marie Roy salutatorian. Others in the Class of 2016 include Madison Claire Acaldo, Miranda Beth Acaldo, Kennedy Shaye Achord, Danielle Rebecca Adams, Allison Reed Adler, Natalie Marie Aguillard, Glorida Elisa Alvarado, Alyssa Rose Anderson, Andie Elizabeth Anseman, Delia Ann-Lang Ardoiin, Anna Fay Ashford, Mary Katherine Audiffred, Caroline Paige Babin, Rowan Edeai Baird, Francesca Elizabeth Baker, Julia Louise Baronet, Hannah Elise Barrileaux, Kathleen Landry Barton, Lauryn Nicole Bass and Amanda Doris Bell.


Also Kristian Alexandra Caruso, Laura Elizabeth Castille, Samantha Lucia Castro, Nicole Theresa Catalano, Chloe Hope Cates, Claire Marie Capdevielle, Ashley Engel Chastain, Kelly Ngoc Chau, Riley Carson Chautz, Sullyn Angelle Cloudet, Taylor Michelle Coleman, O'Talley Irene Collins, Danielle Christy Conti, Chapman Kaylynn Cooper, Claire Elizabeth Cordell, Caroline Renee Cothern and Mary Casey Countryman.

And Claire Kraemer Couvillion, Molly Michelle Cowgill, Caroline Elizabeth Cox, Claire Elizabeth Credeur, Baylee Renee Daigle, Holly Elizabeth Danielson, Adrienne Margaret Dawson, Alison Elizabeth Dazzio, Abrielle Elizabeth DeCuir, Caroline Elaine DeJohn, Camille Catherine Delaune, Anna Elizabeth Deshotel, Mary Katherine Dicharry, Hannah Nicole DiLeo, Wellesley Jane Dittmar, Gabriel Ngoc NgaDoan, Taylor Marie Dottley, Emily Anne DuBoulay, Cole Catherine Dunnam, Emily Elizabeth Durio, Allison Carolyn Edwards, Colleen Claire Eisenbraun and Grace Anne Eierloh.

Also Abigail Elizabeth Ellis, Savannah Sue Esteeve, Alexis Christine Falcon, Annaliesa Renee Fanguy, Alysson Elise Farriss, Kaci Marie Favaro, Emilia Elise Ferritta, Claire Anne Fisher, Emily Elizabeth Flores, Madeline Elise Ford, Lauren Kate Foshee, Caroline Michelle Fournoux, Cecilia Angelle Fuller, Raegan Mackenzie Gallegos, Elizabeth Joy Garner, Riana Marie Gaudet, Claire McKay Gauthier, Jenny Tameka Gantier, Victoria Lee Geiger and Fallon Francis Gerald.

And Allie Marie Godso, Ashley Nicole Gremillion, Madison Elizabeth Grob, Sarah Catherine Guarisco, Katie Claire Guilloiry, Victoria Elizabeth Guitreau, Claire Elaine Hadlock, Katherine Drusilla Harelson, Mary Elizabeth Harrel, Aleah Jules Harris, Molly Frances Harris, Alexis Monet Hart, Mary Olive, Kendra Martin, Ashley Elizabeth Henderson, Ashlyn Marie Hindsight, Melanie Anne Homan, Gabrielle Victoria Hollier, Franki Lynn Holmes, Hannah Grace Honore, Courtlyn Nicole Hood and Kayleigh Elizabeth Hoppe.

Also Carly Elizabeth Hubbard, Carolyne Retta Hunt, Olivia Catherine Hymel, Mary Michael Ibert, Khoury Myhand Ieyoub, Kelsey Elizabeth Jarreau, Parish Eileen Jarreau, Olivia Rose Johnson, Nicole Ann Jones, Jessica Katherine Katzmarcy, Clare Noel Kelsey, Margaret Ann Kimble, Olivia Grace King, Eleanor Marie Koonce, Alanna René Kowal, Haley Catherine Kraus, Caroline Marie Kurzweg, Brooke Nicole Laird, Claire Marie Laikvold and Adrienne Carole Lambert.

And Ava Elinia Landry, Hannah Michele Landry, Karalene Marie Landry, Sarah Elaine Langlois, Lillian Margaret Ma贝尔 LaPlace, Cayley Elizabeth LeBlanc, Kalynd Renee LeBlanc, Kylene Marie LeBlanc, Courtney Margaret LeJeune, Hannah Marie LeJeune, Annie Emery Lewis, Madison Rebecca Loewe, Alexa Michelle Lonibos, Molly Elizabeth Lopinto, Anna Claire Lusco, Sydney Paige Machen, Caroline Kayes Magee, Molly Elizabeth Magee, Elizabeth Randall Marchand and Megan Elizabeth Marcus.

Also Madelynn Isabella Florence Marks, Caroline Elise Martin, Amie Marie Martinez, Isabelle Brooks Maxwell, Ashley Michelle Mayer, Lillian Roques Mayhall, Lauren Nicole McFarland, Gabriella Elizabeth McMenemy, Katie Elizabeth Mcnamara, Marie Angelique Mangis, Amy Elizabeth Miller, Mary Grace Miller, Sarah Louise Miller, Mackenzie Theresa Mire, Michaela A Mary Mitchell, Sarah Rose Modica, Paige Elizabeth Modicut, Grace Anne Montgomery, Emily Mary Moore, Sophie Marie Moran and Kylie Brianne Morazan.


Also Ava Catherine Politz, Bailey Anne Polson, Emily Elizabeth Poole, Amy Elizabeth Powell, Hannah Nicole Prejean, Leslie Claire Purpera, Skylar Mackenzie Quartararo, Emily Ann Rapp, Grace Elizabeth Reames, Mary Catherine Reinschmidt, Lily Anastasia Rennhoff, Avery Elisabeth Richard son, Sydne Michael Rigby, Emily Renee Riviere, Julia Grace Roane, Grace Kelye Rogers, Natalie Elizabeth Roppolo, Olivia Lynn Ruffino, Emily Ann Rumfola and Abigail Grace Saia.

And Alejandro Beatriz Sanchez, Whitney Estelle Say, Cecilia Jane Schexnayder, Caroline Groves Schroeder, Elise Nicole Schuyten, Marie Claire Scioneaux, Gabrielle Marie Sheets, Elizabeth Anne Sicard, Molly Elizabeth Sides, Brooke Elizabeth Christina Smith, Meagan Gaither Smith, Maci Danatma Smothers, Ivy Katherine Soutier, Yasabella Carmen St. Amant, Elise Marie Sterling, Tristan Marie Stewart, Caroline Elizabeth Stoeower, Haley Nicole Sylvester, Amelia Aline Talbot and Avery Elizabeth Talbot.

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The graduating Class of 2016 at Ascension Catholic Diocesan Regional School had 33 members.

13 Honor Students

Anticipated TOPS 4 Year Awards – 55%

$1,189,411.48 – Scholarship Monies

Photo by Michael Tortorich Photography
The Class of 2016 was offered admission to 98 colleges & universities. $21.4 million in scholarship money was offered to 67.5 percent of the Class of 2016 (does not include TOPS information. TOPS data is not yet available for the Class of 2016)

SJA has a non-discriminatory admissions policy.

Recognized three times as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

3015 Broussard Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 383-7207
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Catholic of Pointe Coupée graduates 56

Catholic of Pointe Coupée High School held its graduation ceremony Friday, May 13 at St. Mary of False River Church.

Selected as valedictorians were Sarah Ann Elliott and Reed Mark Smith. Selected as salutatorians were Masyn Inell Cameron and Jared Stephan Collins.

Completing the Class of 2016 were Tracy James Aucoin, Katelynn Marie Bellelo, Garrett George Bradley, Jacob Landry Bradley, Hannah Nicole Cannon, Kaitlyn Nicole Cenevert, Joseph Thomas Chustz, Molly Elizabeth Cline and Jared Arthur Clinton.


St. Michael holds graduation

St. Michael High School’s graduation was held Friday, May 20 at the Baton Rouge River Center Arena.

Lauren Elizabeth Reed was selected valedictorian and Colin Joseph Shortess salutatorian. Included in the Class of 2016 were Emily Marie Alfieri, Michael Joseph Alfred, Rachel Alyce Armstrong, Braden Nicholas Aucoin, James William Avault IV, Samantha Raye Badame, Esther Claire Badon, Madeline Michelle Bailey, David Eric Bell, Amari Victoria Bellard, Cameron Reed Bennett, Rachel Elizabeth Bergeron, Breezy Lynne Bertea, Robert Alexander Beuerle, Paige Renée Boudreaux, Claire Elizabeth Bowman, Taylor Alyssye Boykin, Bradley James Wally Brignac, Madison Marion Brooks and Michael Edwin Buckley Jr.


Also Kristen Hope Hernandez, Margaret Mary Hoover, Kylie Marie Johnson, Ashley Michelle Johnson, Anna Marie Jones, Hannah McGuire Keltner, Carly Rae Kimbrough, Rachel Alyce Lachney, Jacob Anthony LaCour, Anna Grace Landry, Annalise Claire Lasavie, Jacob Thomas Lasseigne, Benjamin Joseph Lauman, Claire Elizabeth Lavastida, Schyler Marie Lee, John Michael Leggio, Jasmine Kenelle Mackson, Alexander Matthew Madere, Steven Austin Maestas, Connor Daniel Mains and Avery Robin Malastea.


Also Brandon Khoi Nguyen, Duc Minh Nguyen, Renee Yen Nhi Nguyen, Jayla Jean Notestine, Rachel Celeste Odom, Miranda Jade O’Neal, Joy Neeamaka Onwuzuligbo, Ad police Marie Otterstetter, Victoria Ann Oursou, Brandon Alan Palfry, Davon Shamam Parker, Rachel Conover Parker, Brandon Michael Perrien, Caitlin Elise Pethike, larissa Marie Powers, Jessie Marie Quintrille, Robert Manuel Quinniga and Julia Elizabeth Robe.


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Four seminarians earn degrees from St. Joseph Seminary

Four seminarians for the Diocese of Baton Rouge graduated with their bachelor’s degree on Friday, May 13 from St. Joseph Seminary, St. Benedict.

They are Mathew Thomas Dunn, Nicholas Chase Lyons, Chase Michael Rodrigue and James Michael Wallbillich.

All four will continue their studies in the fall at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

Deacon Edwin Martin received a Completion Certificate for the Ordination Preparation Program and Danny Roussel received a Completion Certificate for the Pre-Theology Program from Notre Dame Seminary.

Also, graduating with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from the Diocese of Baton Rouge were Ryan C. Carruth of Baton Rouge and Scott Lindsey Smith Jr. of New Roads.

Three from diocese graduate

Three students from the Diocese of Baton Rouge will receive their diplomas from St. Stanislaus College Prep Saturday, May 28.

They are Nicholas Lee Robinson, Prairieville; Richard Cade Harkrider, Zachary; and Keaton Joseph Turnipseed, Baton Rouge.

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Jennifer Drouin, Mary Edwards, Joseph Farley, Molly Fekete, Annessa Flowers, Andrea Fockler, Kaitlyn Gahan, Audra Gardner, Melissa Gomez, Kelcie Gonzales, Jazlyn Green, Jeiffery Green, Hyacinth Hansel, Olivia Hebert, Brianne Hicks, Alise Hodges, LariForcha Holmes, Alisha Hunt, Kristin King, Sydney Laborde, Deborah LaGoo, Jenna Landry, Grace Lee, Lindsey Lobell, Claudia Martinez, Janet McCue, Joan McEwan, Matthew McFall IV, Chase McGarry, Brooke Melancon, Kay Melancon, Leslie Melancon, Cooper Moore, Elizabeth Nichols, Faith Olivera, Tammy Onellion, Margaret Oswald, Margaret Otwell, Jeanne’ Palmisano, Todd Patton, Shannon Perere, Ethan Perreolin, Nyeisha Philson, Kathleen Posey, Nicole Punch, Veronica Quintanilla, Diane Rak straw, Royshelia Ricard, Isehika Ri ley, Jalesia Roynor, Kristi Robert, Alexis Robicheaux, Shawn Segur, Lauren Severson, Leslie Smith, Susan Squadrato, Marissa Streat, Elizabethh Swift, Markeeta Tennie, Alfreda Thomas, Jessica Traunernicht, Ellen Travis, Ashley Troegel, Brandon Tumey, Tori Underwood, Ella Vermillion, Jessica Webb, Kelsey Westley, Brittany Williams, Echezo na Williams, Garrett Williams, Sarah Williams, Christina Wood, Jessica Wright and Helen Zyjewski.