RETURNING TO NORMAL

Parishes begin to rebuild

By Debbie Shelley and Rachele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

Contract workers from Belfor Property Restoration have been working 14 hours a day to get the facilities at St. Alphonsus Church and School in Greenwell Springs up and running. The first priority was getting its school operational first, according to St. Alphonsus Pastor Father Michael Moroney. Contractors replaced flooring and painted walls in flood- ed rooms and repaired the cafeteria. The school opened on Aug. 29, but the school offices are in various stages of

SEE PARISHES PAGE 23

Expansion helps Sanctuary for Life serve need

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

“...to all of the people present and others who have been part of this mission of Sanctuary for Life where we honor all human life and respect all human life, (today) should give us a good feeling, it should give us some hope,” Bishop Muench said under an unseasonable fervid September sun.

“But it’s more than doing it just to feel good. It’s doing it because it’s right, it’s necessary, it is needed, and we and others are called upon to use our time, our talent, our energy, our ingenuity and our material ability to support to make things happen.”

Sanctuary for Life began in 1999, opening its modest doors to three expectant mothers. But not long after being appointed executive director of Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge about 10 years ago, David Aguillard met with then-Vicar General Father Than Vu and they quickly found themselves questioning the mission of Catholic Charities.

“We were trying to wrap our minds, our hearts and our prayer lives around all of the various ministries,” said Aguillard, taking a moment to praise Father Vu, who died in February 2014.

“And we said surely we can house more than three women at one time. The importance of life to us, the importance of supporting women who are falling on hard times who don’t have anywhere else to turn, the importance of the unborn, that is one of the core ministries, core values, core positions of the Catholic Church and

SEE EXPANSION PAGE 18
Life-Giving faith

The 27th and 28th Sundays in Ordinary Time steer our minds and hearts toward the gift of faith. St. Luke’s Gospel, Chapter 17, verse 5 is a direct petition from the Apostles to Jesus. They simply request, “Increase our faith.” How often have we petitioned for the same from Jesus? How often do we ask for more trust in, or more belief in, the promise that God will do what he says?

Jesus’ proverbial response is encouraging. A mustard seed, although small, has enormous potential. A seemingly speck planted in the dirt grows into a tree providing shade, refuge, nutrients and life. Same is true with faith. A tiny seed of faith instilled in a person has the potential to develop into one that responds to the demands of being a servant of God, the master: one who comforts, shelters, feeds, visits, forgives, prays and, yes, believes in all that Jesus promises.

Subsequently, deeply rooted faith leads to gratitude. This is profoundly witnessed in the healing of the 10 Lepers. Crying out for mercy, Jesus’ simple command for them to “go show themselves to the priests” preludes the transformative healing. Only one leper returns to Jesus to express humble gratitude, by which Jesus affirms, “Your faith has SAVED you.” Belief in what God promises heals and saves.

The Catechism reiterates that “faith seeks understanding (#158); faith is a personal act ... a free response to God (#166); faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man (#162); and faith makes us taste in advance the light of the beatific vision, the goal of our journey here below (#163). The powerful gift of faith enables us to seek what is true, respond to this truth, receive the truth and humble ourselves before God, knowing all we have and all we believe is from and in him. It all begins with a tiny seed.

In your quiet time ask yourself: Where do I need strength in my faith? Where is my unbelief? When I pray, do I believe in the promises of Christ? Lord, increase my faith. Amen.

DePaula is the director of Evangelization & Catechesis, Diocese of Baton Rouge

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US

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

| Oct. 5 | Rev. Jason P. Palermo  
 | Dcn. Ricky P. Oubre  
 | Br. Ramon Daunic SC  
 | Rev. Amrit Raj IMS  
 | Dcn. Stephen Paul Ousso  
 | Sr. M. Soubirous MC  
 | Rev. Thomas C. Ranzino  
 | Dcn. Ricky A. Patterson  
 | Br. Clement Furno CSMR  
 | Rev. Rubin Reynolds  
 | Dcn. Curles P. Reeson Jr.  
 | Sr. Patricia Sullivan CSJ  
 | Rev. Anthony J. Russo  
 | Dcn. Frank W. Rhodes Jr.  
 | Br. Harold Harris SC  
 | Oct. 6 | Rev. Amal Raj  
 | Savarimuthu IMS  
 | Dcn. Alfred J. Ricard Jr.  
 | Sr. Vandana Thomas CMC  
 | Rev. Michael J. Schatzle  
 | Dcn. Thomas M. Robinson  
 | Br. Virgil Harris SC  
 | Dcn. Mauricio Salazar  
 | Sr. Thanh Tam Tran ICM  
 | Rev. Alexander J. Sheldon  
 | Dcn. Eliazar Salinas Jr.  
 | Br. Ronald Hingle SC  
 | Rev. Philip F. Spano  
 | Dcn. Mario (Sam) Sammartino  
 | Sr. Margarida Maria  
 | Oct. 11 |  
 | Oct. 12 |  
 | Oct. 13 |  
 | Oct. 14 |  
 | Oct. 15 |  
 | Oct. 16 |  
 | Oct. 17 |  
 | Oct. 18 |  
 | Vasques FMOL  
 | Rev. Robert F. Stine  
 | Dcn. Milton J. Schanzbach  
 | Br. Noel Lemmon SC  
 | Rev. Martin N. Thanh ICM  
 | Dcn. Peter Schlette  
 | Sr. Doris Vigneaux CSJ  
 | Rev. Frank M. Uter  
 | Dcn. Joseph M. Scimeca  
 | Br. Roger Lemoyn SC  
 | Rev. Henry C. Vavasseur  
 | Dcn. Rudolph W. Stahl  
 | Sr. Adelaide Williamson CSJ  

BISHOP ROBERT W. MUENCH’S 2016 FALL SCHEDULE

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR, Napoleonville  
Sunday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Prairieville  
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.

HOLY GHOST, Hammond  
Monday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

ST. THOMAS MORE, Baton Rouge  
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.

ST. JUDE, Baton Rouge  
Monday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.

ST. ALOYSIUS, Baton Rouge  
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.

CHRIST THE KING, Baton Rouge  
Sunday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.

HIGH SCHOOL VISITS

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, Hammond  
Friday, Oct. 14

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, Baton Rouge  
Friday, Oct. 21

ST. JOHN, Plaquemine  
Thursday, Oct. 27

ASCENSION CATHOLIC, Donaldsonville  
Friday, Oct. 28

CATHOLIC OF POINTE COUPEE, New Roads  
Monday, Oct. 31

CATHOLIC HIGH, Baton Rouge  
Thursday, Nov. 10

ST. JOSEPH’S ACADEMY, Baton Rouge  
Tuesday, Nov. 29
Msgr. Lefebvre remembered

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Msgr. Gerald Lefebvre will be remembered as a priest who was fierce – in his pursuit of wisdom, his call for social justice and love and care for friends and neighbors. Family, friends, priests throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge and women religious gathered to celebrate his life and ministry of 60 years for the Diocese of Baton Rouge at a funeral Mass at St. Jean Vianney Church in Baton Rouge on Sept. 23.

A native of Port Allen, Msgr. Lefebvre died on Sept. 18 in Baton Rouge at the age of 85.

Born Sept. 11, 1931 in Baton Rouge, Msgr. Lefebvre graduated from Catholic High School in 1944. He attended St. Joseph Seminary College and Notre Seminary and was ordained by Bishop Louis A. Cail louet on June 9, 1956.

 Msgr. Lefebvre, who served as editor of The Catholic Commentator from 1975-79, served as pastor at St. Stephen the Martyr Church in Whitehall, St. Patrick Church in Baton Rouge, St. Gabriel Church in St. Gabriel, St. John the Baptist Church in Brusly, St. Isidore the Farmer Church in Baker and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Marr ingouin.

He also served as parochial vicar at St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, St. Mary of False River Church in New Roads, St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine and Mater Dolorosa Church in New Orleans.

Additionally, Msgr. Lefebvre served as director of communications, vice-chancellor, dean of the North Central Deanery and dean of the Northeast Deanery. He was also a member of the College of Consultors, chairman of the Ecumenical Affairs Office, member of the Diocesan Council of Administration and domestic prelate.

Msgr. Lefebvre was also the founding priest of the separated, divorced and widowed ministry, now the divorced and separated ministry, and served as the director of conference for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

He retired from active ministry in 1999.

In the funeral homily, Father Tom Ranzin o, St. Jean Vianney pastor and vicar general for the diocese, said Msgr. Lefebvre was strong, loving, wise and intentional in his love for the church and looking after those in need.

“He would fight for the rights of the broken and bruised,” said Father Ranzino, noting that Msgr. Lefebvre had a brave heart to embrace “spirit and flesh.”

Msgr. Lefebvre would carefully bring up questions about those who were cast aside in “showing how much that person means to us,” according to Father Ranzino.

He said Msgr. Lefebvre was forthright, in that you knew where he stood on issues and was fair. He also had a love of learning which was vibrant and peaceful.

Shaped by the spirit of Vatican II, Msgr. Lefebvre worked to make sure people understood their faith.

“He worked hard to interpret the faith of the church for the faithful to follow,” Father Ranzino said.

Bishop Robert W. Muench said at the conclusion of the Mass that while Msgr. See Funeral Page 8
Pierre Part families offer camps for evacuees

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Cynthia Richard slipped under her covers around midnight on Aug. 14, apprehensive about the torrential rains that showed no signs of abetting but consoled by assurances from her son-in-law, who lived a few houses away in their Gonzales neighborhood, that they would be safe from rising waters.

Richard said she had lived in her house for 10 years and in the area for more than four decades and flooding had never been an issue. Less than two hours later, her world, like so many others, was turned topsy-turvy by the frightening sight of water rapidly filling their neighborhood like a bowl. By 2 a.m. water was up to Richard’s knees and her son-in-law was knocking on the door, insisting they evacuate.

At first, her destination was uncertain but through a friend of her son’s, they were able to find refuge on a houseboat in Pierre Part.

“I was so grateful and appreciative,” Richard said of the temporary living quarters, where she stayed for three days. “I actually had a place to lay my head down and cook something to eat.

“You can’t get any more grateful than that.”

The generosity offered to Richard is the norm in a tiny nabe of southeast Louisiana already known for its hospitality and welcoming atmosphere. Up and down the bayou, residents opened their camps to families whose homes had succumbed to the unprecedented flooding.

Al Aucoin said he received a call from one of his friends who related that his house in Prairieville and that of his daughter and son had flooded and they had nowhere to go.

“I told him ‘you know where my camp is;’” Aucoin said. “I could not even comprehend saying no to somebody pleading for help.”

“In Louisiana we have a lot of families taking care of families,” added Aucoin, who owns a small RV park and is allowing a family with young children whose Denham Springs home was flooded to stay at one of his trailers at no charge. If it would not be for that, a lot of people would not have a place to stay.

“It ain’t really much. I always thought if God gave you something you need to give a little bit back.”

The generosity extended to those in need was no surprise to Father Al Davidson, pastor at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Pierre Part. He said donations began arriving on Aug. 13, even before some of the worst flooding would begin.

Father Davidson said leaders of the recently formed Catholic Daughters in the parish met Aug. 13 to organize a collection center, which he announced at vigil Mass later that day and at all Masses the following day. The word quickly spread of the need for cleaning supplies, toiletries, clothing and food.

“Within hours, donations filled the room of the (parish) building,” Father Davidson said.

More than 40 volunteers of all ages, from children to senior citizens, assisted in collecting, sorting, packing and delivering supplies. By the afternoon of Aug. 14 supplies were being shipped to the Assumption Civil Parish collection center and the next day to Lamar Dixon Civic Center.

Father Davidson said he purchased several pillows and gave away hundreds of dollars in gift cards. Several days after the waters began to recede, he said the focus shifted from the essentials to cleaning supplies, as many people temporarily living in the nearby camps were beginning the gruelling process of repairing their damaged homes.

A week after the storm, Father Davidson said Catholic Daughters prepared a “feast” of pasta, corn, bread and “hundreds of desserts” for at least 100 people that was served in the parish hall.

“The people here are so generous,” Father Davidson said. “They are willing to be generous with what they have, whether it be money, personal belongings, camps.

“Their love of neighbor and willingness to assist in difficult times is built in, whether it’s the Cajun or Catholic part of their culture. Everybody is willing to participate. All I have to do is ask and they will stand in line to help.”

Minus that deep commitment of faith, minus the imbedded culture of helping others in need, Richard, her adult children and her three grandchildren would have been stranded in the middle of the night, blinded by rain with nowhere to go as the rising water reshaped their lives for years to come.

“You couldn’t get any better than the people at St. Joseph,” Richard said. “I couldn’t speak for two days. I was so overwhelmed. I felt like I was in a nightmare.

“We prayed together (at St. Joseph) and it was wonderful. I was so grateful.”

Richard remains heartbroken as she rebuilds her own home while daily looking at the carnage of people’s lives stacked in mountains of debris along the street. Despite the devastation she and her family endured, she will always remember with a profound fondness the hospitality extended to her and her family, who found solace in a small houseboat.

It was a feeling shared by many along the bayou in Pierre Part, knowing that a summer camp never looked so beautiful.
Archives building proposal approved by Metro Council

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A dream that began to take shape 12 years ago is on the fast track to becoming a reality.

With an 11-0 nod of approval from the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council on Sept. 21, the Diocese of Baton Rouge Route cleared the final hurdle for construction to begin on a much-needed archives building on property located behind the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Retreat center.

“We’re getting a building!” archivist Ann Bolton exclaimed with joy as she departed City Hall minutes after the vote. “We’re really excited.”

The approval brought to a close a months-long dialogue between the diocese and neighborhood residents. Four meetings, including two public meetings, were held, which at times were contentious and sometimes heated.

As architect Richard Brown pointed out to council members, the diocese made major concessions, including realigning the location of the 7,500-square-foot building, which will house records dating to the 1700s. According to the final configuration, the closest point to a residential neighbor will be 75 feet and the building will be set back approximately 145 feet from Parker Street.

The Acadian style design also blends in with the neighborhood, which features tree-lined streets and mostly traditional style houses.

District 7 Councilman Lamont Cole, who represents the neighborhood, which features tree-lined streets and mostly traditional style houses, said the diocese “did an outstanding job” reaching out to the community and holding meetings he described as “tense.”

“(The diocese) was attacked but they made considerable concessions,” he said. “Members of the community contacted me to say that they made so many concessions they were okay with the project as planned.”

During the council meeting Cole thanked Ingraham for engaging with the community and said openness made a difference.

Ingraham said architects are finalizing the drawing and is optimistic the project will be put out to bid by the end of the year. He has set a timetable for the structure to be completed by December 2017 when Bishop Robert W. Muench turns 75, a time when he has to submit his retirement letter to the Vatican.

“The current archives building is housed in the Catholic Life Center and the storage crunch has reached a point where records are currently being stored in at least three closets. Additionally, there is a premium of office space, with one staff member’s office set up in the research room, where volunteers and researchers gather.

Perhaps most important to Boltin and her staff, the new building will house a 1,600-square-foot vault, a substantial increase from the current 300-square-foot vault. Boltin said the expanded space will provide a secure place to preserve the history of the area.

“We will have more space for records from the parishes, anything of historical significance, sacramental records, whatever they send to us, we can responsibly care for them,” she said.

The project, which has been in the discussion stages since 2004, is being fully funded from the sale of diocesan property, funds raised through the Bishops’ Annual Appeal and a large donation, according to Ingraham. “I’m glad we can start the project,” Ingraham said. “It’s something we’ve been working on for years.”

NOW IS THE TIME

Don and Carl of Mr. D’s say don’t wait for disaster to strike. Tree removal is a highly technical, yet a delicate task that requires qualified professionals. Call on us BEFORE the HURRICANE SEASON and we will give you a FREE quote on any tree removal or trimming.

Call Today!
225-292-6756

Mr. D’s Tree Service
Don and Carl say THANKS to their customers in the Baton Rouge area for over 35 years of service! Licensed and fully insured
Reverence for the name of Jesus/Family divided on Sundays

Q When is it appropriate to call out verbally the word “Jesus”? If his name is not being used in a disrespectful way but to implore his help, certainly this would not be considered swearing, right? Some people seem to have a fear of uttering his name, lest they appear to be swearing. (Timberville, Virginia)

A What you intend when you say something may not be what hearers understand. Although you mean to implore Christ’s help by calling out spontaneously the word “Jesus,” someone listening might well think instead that you are expressing surprise or dismay which would contribute to the growing disrespect for the Lord’s name.

Why not instead say, “Help me, Jesus” and remove any doubt? Reverence for the divine name, in addition to being mandated by the Second Commandment, has a rich scriptural basis. It was the first point made by Jesus when he taught us how to pray. (“Hallowed be your name,” Mt 6:9.) And in his Letter to the Philippians (2:10), Paul says that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”

Some of the saints, in fact, whenever they heard the name of Jesus being used with disrespect, would bow their heads — as a silent reminder of the reverence they felt was due.

Given the fact that the holy name is so often and so casually abused in today’s world, perhaps all of us have a duty to ask the Lord’s forgiveness and seek to make reparation. We need to stand in awe of God’s mystery and majesty, realizing that even the opportunity to approach him in prayer is a gift of his mercy.

Q We have been members of one parish for more than 20 years, but now we have a priest who emphasizes external flourishing, like “ad orientem” Masses. Our teenage children prefer one particular parish nearby, but I hesitate because it seems so informal and not in keeping with church guidelines. (It uses lay preachers, for example, and has people go to confession by writing things on pieces of paper to be burnt.)

For us, attending Sunday Mass as a family is now a thing of the past, which is very sad. Do you have any suggestions? (Name of city and state withheld)

A First, to explain a phrase that might puzzle some readers: “ad orientem” Masses. Literally, it means “toward the East,” indicating that the priest and the people both face in the same direction, following an ancient custom.

More commonly today, the phrase is used when the priest and the congregation both face toward the front of church, as opposed to Masses where the celebrant faces the people.

A bit of a flap ensued in July 2016 when the Vatican’s top liturgical official, Cardinal Robert Sarah of Guinea, suggested that priests begin to celebrate Mass facing away from the congregation.

Quickly, though, the Vatican’s official spokesman – Father Federico Lombardi SJ – noted that there was no new directive and that the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the church’s official “guidebook”) indicates in No. 299 that, wherever possible, the priest should face the congregation.

Now, to the substance of your question. I attach a high priority to a family’s celebrating Sunday Mass together as a family unit.

I do recognize the argument that people profit most from a eucharistic setting that matches their individual taste and best helps them sense the divine, but I feel that is outweighed by the lasting value of worshipping God as a family.

And, though I have no empirical evidence to back this, my sense anecdotally is that families who have worshipped together continue their fidelity to the Eucharist far into the future.

So my suggestion would be for you to sit down with your family, discuss the value of being with each other on Sundays and reach an accommodation — whether it be choosing a “neutral site” (a nearby parish where everyone seems fairly comfortable) or, perhaps, rotating as a family each Sunday among three or four different parishes.

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 askfatherdoyle@ and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, NY 12208.

Find more ‘archived’ viewpoints from Father Doyle or any of our columnists at The Catholic Commentator Online under “Viewpoint” at: thecatholiccommentator.org
‘Gut’ feeling leads to helping others rebuild their lives

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

“I have a bit of a savior complex,” said Joseph Ricci, expressing the desire of students at Catholic colleges and student centers in the Diocese of Baton Rouge to help people reassemble their lives through sweat and prayers after flooding left most of south Louisiana a national disaster area in August.

A member of the Catholic Student Association at St. Albert the Great Chapel and Catholic Student Center in Hammond, Ricci said when he saw the news he had a “gut feeling” he should give back to those who had given so much to his school community, Southeastern Louisiana University.

That “gut feeling” gelled into active gutting of houses. Ricci was among the members of CSA, SLE and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity who spent what should have been the first day of classes for SLU removing drywall and flooring in flooded homes.

After spending the morning gutting homes in Walker in the Woodlands Crossing subdivision, Ricci and the remaining members of the group traveled to Denham Springs and worked in the home of a volunteer first responder who had five feet of water in her home.

Ricci watched a five-minute YouTube lesson on how to gut a house, but said he mostly learned “on the spot.”

Although the work was hard and hot, Ricci said one of the most rewarding experiences came when cleaning out the home of a 79-year-old woman.

“She hugged us and said, ‘I can’t believe this. I am most thankful for people like you.’” Ricci said.

Ricci, who said he would like to become a public servant, said the experience helped him feel grateful “knowing you have helped your brother and sister in Christ, without having to worry about what race, creed or color they are.”

Naomi Hill, who heads the service team at Christ the King Church and Catholic Student Center at LSU, said before the flood team leaders were scrambling to come up with a service project idea when God seemed to say, “Here you go – here’s a way for you to help people.”

“We thought we would go to the soup kitchen. We had no idea we would be getting into this,” said Hill.

The team posted a notice on their Facebook page of a meeting concerning how to help flood victims.

The freshmen “Arise,” retreat was canceled, but the freshmen were invited to help with the service project.

“The freshmen jumped on board,” said Hill. “This is awesome. I would have been so intimidated.”

Hill pointed out that helping with the homes, primarily of the elderly, was an excellent way for upperclassmen to introduce themselves to the underclassmen and mentor them.

Over the course of three weeks, the CTK students cleaned out more than 30 homes.

For Cisco Gonzales, another member of the CTK service team, helping was “personal.”

Gonzales lived in St. Bernard Civil Parish when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005. It destroyed his family’s home. When the family moved a short distance away, that home was flooded by Hurricane Isaac in 2012.

Gonzales said the CTK volunteer’s eyes were opened by the extent of the damage.

“They were super surprised. They never dreamed of banging on sheet rock and making it fall. They were shocked at seeing what mother nature could do,” said Gonzales.

But once they started, they didn’t want to stop.

“We had to tell them to take water breaks,” Gonzales said.

At Our Lady of the Lake College, the flooding was an opportunity for student Victoria Leigh, president of the Catholic Student Association at the college to bond with the people of her new home country. She had been a physician assistant in the Ukraine, but is going back to school in order to be a PA in the United States. A survivor of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster when she was two years old, she contacted Tammy Vidrine, director of campus ministry, to find out how she could help. She and her husband worked in a home that had sat for two weeks.

The biggest challenge was trying to balance my family (husband and four kids) with time to help those in need, both people I knew and complete strangers. The biggest blessing was seeing those in need get some help with the debris removal and gutting of their homes,” Leigh said.

As an outreach to the students, OLOL student Angela Clement organized a uniform/scrub drive, working with organizations throughout Louisiana and Alabama.

Lacie Butler, another OLOL student found an opportunity to give back to Karen Goodridge, student development specialist at the college and advisor for the student ambassadors whose home was flooded.

“I was not planning on joining the student ambassador program as an incoming freshman at first but then I met Mrs. Karen. After talking about the program with her, I felt that God was calling me to join the ambassador program,” said Butler.

She and her mother responded to a text that was sent out to the student ambassadors to see who could help at Goodridge’s house.

“It was nothing short of hard work,” said Butler. “Mrs. Karen had so little belongings left that the small things that survived became the big things that mattered most. My mother and I then took their clothes that were left, washed them, and then stored them at my house. It was extremely heart breaking to see everyone’s lives just washed away so unexpectedly.”

“I believe that joining the ambassador program at the time I did led to the opportunity to help others in that time of tragedy,” she said.
LeFebvre had 60 years of earthly ministry, as promised in the Old and New Testament, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” He added that people on earth are benefiting from his prayers in heaven. The bishop noted that the Msgr. was active in priestly ministry up until his last days and left a legacy for “those of us who live and breathe.”

Priests of the diocese spoke of the influence that Msgr. LeFebvre had in shaping the church community.

Father Jon C. Kohler, retired priest of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, said Msgr. LeFebvre had a keen eye for the needs for the church in the future. As the number of priests began declining, the Religious Studies Institute was established in the Diocese of Baton Rouge almost 30 years ago, through the initiative of four priests: Msgr. LeFebvre, Father Hubert Brou, Msgr. William Greene and Father Robert Marcel. RSI offered courses for the laity in this diocese so they could obtain the education they need to take leadership roles in the church.

“They were really concerned that the lay people receive the skills needed to work alongside the priests,” Father Kohler said.

Even in retirement, Msgr. LeFebvre was active in ministry.

“He was interested that the church’s ministry continued – he was interested in helping people,” said Father Kohler.

“The church is not perfect, but he was faithful and an encourager,” he added.

Among the many people Msgr. LeFebvre brought Christ’s presence to were those afflicted with Hansen’s Disease.

While pastor at St. Gabriel Church in St. Gabriel, he became aware of the plight of those suffering from leprosy at the Carville leprosarium. After retirement, he ministered and celebrated Mass to the remaining Hansen’s patients who were moved from Carville to Ochsner Medical Center.

“They were alienated from their families so they stayed at Ochsner,” Father Kohler said.

People of all ages received Msgr. LeFebvre’s pastoral care. While pastor at St. Gabriel, he established a youth program. He celebrated Mass at Ollie Steele Manor and for the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Baton Rouge CSJ Center in Baton Rouge.

“He was very much loved by the people. He was cheerful and generous with the people,” said Sister Mildred Guillot, whose twin brother, Msgr. Leo Guillot, deceased, was ordained along with Msgr. LeFebvre and was his good friend. When she served as a nurse at the Sisters of St. Joseph Hospital in New Roads, now Pointe Coupee General Hospital, Msgr. LeFebvre was parochial vicar at St. Mary of False River Church.

“He was a young priest then,” said Sister Mildred, who noted that he would “go on to many places to help out” during the course of his priesthood and retirement.

She said Msgr. LeFebvre would visit her brother, who died last year, as he was ill and dying, and she and the family received a lot of comfort from that.

Sister Mildred was happy that Msgr. LeFebvre agreed to celebrate Mass at the sister’s retirement home after Msgr. William Greene was unable to do so.

She said he was very generous to the sisters.

“He would never accept payment” (for the Mass) said Sister Mildred.

“He gave us beautiful homilies every day,” said Sister Mildred. “He kept up with everything going on and would talk about it. He did that until his last homily.”
An upcoming Catholic conference scheduled in Metairie might provide a welcome respite for the women of the Diocese of Baton Rouge who are weary of the ubiquitous sight of mountains of debris and the rebuilding effort.

And perhaps best of all, one can apply to attend at no charge.

The Women IN the New Evangelization (WINE) is sponsoring a Catholic women’s conference on Sat., Oct. 15 at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie.

Rosato, who lost her home during Hurricane Katrina, said her original intent was to host a conference on the north shore for about 30 to 40 women, tying in with the Jubilee Year of Mercy. When she contacted noted Catholic speaker and song writer Kitty Cleveland, the idea came up about putting together a WINE conference.

Founded in 2015 by Kelly Wahlquist of Minneapolis, Minnesota, WINE is a women’s ministry designed to invigorate women’s groups and parishes through encouraging, supporting and nurturing women in the Catholic faith and by equipping and mobilizing women as intentional disciples of Christ, according to the group’s website.

When the August floods impacted several of the team members, including Womack and Joan Landry, who has been in charge of lining up the vendors, there was some uncertainty surrounding the conference. Wahlquist then launched Restore the Vineyard, a ministry created to help women in the dioceses of Baton Rouge and Lafayette who have lost their homes.

Through an online campaign, $5,700 has been raised, which will be used for scholarships for women who have been impacted to attend the conference.

Rosato said 105 scholarships available and women can apply for them by emailing her at paigefrostoaol.com, calling her at 985-807-5666 or by visiting wintewnewevangelization.com, click on Restore the Vineyard and follow the prompts about receiving a scholarship.
St. Jude celebrates its diversity during 50th anniversary Mass

By Rachele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

If you were a kid growing up in Baton Rouge in 1966, chances are you rode the “Wild Mouse” at Fun Fair Park, took your picture with Goudchaux’s Santa Clause on Main Street or spent many family dinners eating Italian food at Giamanco’s.

However, if you grew up along Highland Road, and were a part of the city’s continuing expansion, then chances are you remember more.

Back then, on Sept. 6, 1966, a new church parish was established to better accommodate the rapidly growing area between two other Baton Rouge churches, St. George and St. Aloysius.

Named to honor St. Jude the Apostle, the new church attracted roughly 600 families at first and celebrated its diversity during 50th anniversary Mass in the auditorium of Magnolia Woods Elementary School before moving to the parish hall two years later.

Soon, in 1974, the construction of the original church would follow, and in 2013, the church received an extensive renovation.

Today, some 3,000 families call St. Jude home.

“I doubt if Father (Clement) Funk, and the other Holy Cross Fathers had any idea as to how this area of town would look these many years down the road,” said Father Trey Nelson, pastor of St. Jude Church, as he delivered the homily at a special Mass commemorating the parish’s 50th anniversary.

The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Robert W. Muench, was held on Sept. 11, a date with much significance as it recalls the somber anniversary of the terrorist attacks in America, and one that was remembered with prayer by those gathered.

During his homily, Father Nelson spoke generously of a church community that has grown faithfully through good works, a love for others and a deep desire to simply do what is needed, a quality Father Funk probably first displayed as evidenced by stories that say he used to ride the lawnmower himself to cut grass.

Charmaine Biossat, director of ministries at St. Jude Church, who chaired the 50th anniversary committee for the parish, said the theme of the celebration, “One Hope! One Faith! One Family!” was chosen by Father Nelson and accurately describes the community.

“This is one of the most, if not the most, diverse parish community. We wanted to incorporate that in our celebration,” said Biossat.

To accomplish that task, nine colorful banners, each emblazoned with the simple word “Welcome” in nine different languages led the Mass procession. The languages represented, which reflect the history of the area, were Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Filipino, Haitian Creole, Italian, Ibibio (a Nigerian dialect), Polish and Irish.

“They are a reminder of who we are and the richness of our diversity,” explained Biossat, adding that the word “Welcome” on the banners was especially appropriate for St. Jude Church.

“Many people who come to our church to visit, maybe they are passing through or are visiting relatives, always tell us how welcoming we are to them,” she said.

During his homily, Father Nelson mirrored that sentiment, describing one particular encounter he experienced with a man and his daughter driving through town.

“The daughter spoke to me, and said, ‘...my dad and I are on the way to M.D. Anderson because he has been diagnosed with cancer. At this point on our trip, we didn’t know where to go, so we just pulled in here at random. And all I can say is, God put us in the right place at the right time. This was exactly what we needed,’” Father Nelson said.

Following Communion, Barry Stewart, a member of the church’s parish council, also talked about this welcoming feeling when he shared a reflection piece on what St. Jude Parish has meant to him.

One major highlight for the hundreds of St. Jude parishioners in attendance was the music.

One piece, “At the Table of Christ Jesus,” featured about 20 children, some students at St. Jude School, singing in front of the altar.

Before the final blessing, which was followed by a reception in the gym featuring a jazz group from St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge and an expansive array of food and desserts, the St. Jude Church choir performed a brief medley of some of the most popular liturgical songs from the history of the parish. It received a standing ovation.

“I just enjoyed the music so much! At one point, I turned to my husband, and I said, ‘I grew up singing these songs,’” Biossat said, smiling.

“It was such a special day.”

THE 2016-17 BATON ROUGE DIOCESE DIRECTORY IS PRINTED!

The new directory has all of the current listings and information on churches, clergy, schools, diocesan departments and personnel of the diocese, religious, retreat centers, deaneries, institutions and organizations and more!

To place your order, fill out the form below and mail to The Catholic Commentator, P. O. Box 3316, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3316 with a check or money order for $9.50 for each directory ordered. The directory will be mailed to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Diocesan Directories Ordered</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip _______ Phone with area code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pope Francis announced coadjutor bishop in Alexandria

Pope Francis appointed Bishop David P. Talley, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, to serve as coadjutor bishop to Bishop Ronald P. Herzog in the Diocese of Alexandria.

The announcement was made Sept. 21 by Bishop Herzog at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria.

“I’m happy, I’m excited to be here in the Diocese of Alexandria,” Bishop Talley said during a meeting with the priests of the diocese. “I pray that I will be the bishop that I need to be for this diocese.”

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta said in a statement that the pope has given the people of the Diocese of Alexandria a “tremendous pastoral gift.”

“Bishop Talley is a servant minister of our church, who is graced with extraordinary wisdom, patience, kindness and dedication. He developed those gifts as priest and bishop here in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, where he always cared for our people as a true minister of mercy and kindness,” said Archbishop Gregory. “Thus, he now begins this new appointment with exceptional credentials.”

The Mass of Welcome in Alexandria is planned for Monday, Nov. 7.

A native of Columbus, Georgia, Bishop Talley, 66, was ordained a priest on June 3, 1989, at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta, by Archbishop Eugene Marino SSJ. He earned a licentiate and doctorate in canon law from the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome, Italy.

He has served in a number of pastoral roles in the archdiocese, including as pastor of three metro Atlanta parishes, vocations director, the chancellor of the archdiocese and as judicial vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal.

He was named a prelate of honor, with the title of monsignor, by Pope John Paul II in May 2001. On Dec. 17, 2012, he was named an auxiliary bishop of the Atlanta archdiocese by Pope Benedict XVI.

He became the first native-born Georgian to serve as a bishop in the Atlanta archdiocese when he was ordained on April 2, 2013. His episcopal motto is “He will give you a new heart.”

When Bishop Talley was director of vocations, the archdiocese initiated a cross-cultural immersion program for seminarians where they spend time living in El Paso, Texas, and in Juarez, Mexico to learn Spanish and be more knowledgeable about Hispanic culture and more skilled at ministering in a variety of communities.

One of his roles in the archdiocese is as chaplain to the disabilities ministry. His experience ministering among people with disabilities, which began at his first parish assignment, is key to his spiritual life, he said.

“All they can do is ask the Lord for help. That simplicity and humility is where I think the church should be – humble before God,” the bishop said in an interview in 2013.

Bishop Talley was raised as a Southern Baptist but has said he left the faith as a teenager over the issue of racial segregation. At Auburn University he met Catholics and read the writings of Father Thomas Merton, which led him to become Catholic, he said. He was 24 when he joined the church at St. Mary Church in Opelika, Alabama.

Family members remain faithful Baptists, including a brother who is a deacon. That background gives him a broad view, he said.

“I do know a faith across the spectrum,” he said.

Bishop Talley also received a master’s degree in social work at the University of Georgia. For a time before entering the seminary, he worked as a caseworker in Atlanta’s Fulton County to protect children from abuse. He studied at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Indiana, before ordination, where he received a master of divinity degree.

Bishop Talley also currently serves as vicar general and director of priest personnel and is a member of the Council of Priests and the Committee for Ongoing Formation. He serves on various committees for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, such as the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Special Assembly Planning Committee and the Secretariat of Child & Youth Protection Services.

As coadjutor bishop, Bishop Talley will assist Bishop Herzog, working in harmony with him in governance of the Alexandria diocese. A coadjutor bishop has the right of succession, and so Bishop Talley will succeed Bishop Herzog at the time of his retirement. Bishop Herzog has served the Diocese of Alexandria as bishop since January 2005.

The Alexandria Diocese, consisting of 13 civil parishes, includes some 50 church parishes, 22 missions and more than 44,000 Catholics.

“We will sorely miss him in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, even as we thank him sincerely for sharing himself with us over these years, but we will gladly accompany him with our prayers and warmest best wishes as he starts his service to Bishop Herzog and to all of God’s people in the Diocese of Alexandria. May the Lord watch over him and all those entrusted to his pastoral care,” said Archbishop Gregory.

HOUMA-TIBODAUX DONATIONS – Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, a New Roads native, presented a check to Bishop Robert W. Muench to assist in the relief efforts. Bishop Fabre said $200,000 was collected during a recent second collection at all of the Sunday Masses, and the money was split between Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Lake Charles, with the Diocese of Baton Rouge receiving $152,000. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux executive director Rob Gorman presented a check to Bishop Muench for $30,000, which was raised during an online fundraising campaign.

Pictured, from left, are Gorman, Bishop Fabre, Bishop Muench and Carol Spruell of Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge. Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator
STREET PARTY – Blue skies and a brilliant early fall sun greeted hundreds of people who attended the annual Grand Day at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge. Parents, their children and their grandchildren attended a special Mass celebrated by pastor Father Paul Coacre and received a special blessing. The block of Main Street in front of the cathedral was blocked off for a street party featuring pony rides, a petting zoo of farm animals, excursions on the St. Joe's Express train, face painting, music and a camel. Inside the parish hall hamburgers and hot dogs were distributed.

CHS STUDENTS HONORED – Nine Catholic High School seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists, and four have received National Merit Commended honors in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Top photo, National Merit Semifinalists are, front row, from left, Nicholas Mueller, Andrew Ford, Michael Krzystowczyk and Jordan LeBas; Back row, are Dominic Maggio, Brian Long, Andrew Schoonmaker, Harold Miller and Matthew Berdon. Seniors recognized for National Merit Commended honors in the bottom photo are, from left, Colin Hebert, Lance Chaisson, Christopher Alumbaugh and William Martin. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Of the roughly 1.6 million juniors across the nation who take the qualifying test, only the top 50,000 scorers qualify for the scholarship program. From that elite group, the top one third qualify for National Merit Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

PEACE DAY – English I students at Holy Ghost School in Hammond celebrated International Day of Peace by creating a “Pinwheels of Peace” display. Pictured are, from left, Bryan Doan, Sophie Sundler, Claudia Olah, Billie Guffey, Amelia Fritz, Ava Alexus, Natalie Husseini, Macie Colson, Roman and Cadre Gunther. The pinwheels were made by second, third and fourth-grade students during their library class to spread messages and prayers of peace. The United Nations’ International Day of Peace is celebrated every year on Sept. 21.

ALPHABET FUN – Kindergarten students at St. Elizabeth School in Paincourtville are watching the alphabet come alive this year. Thanks to Leroy Blanchard, an alligator trapper, the students were able to see, touch and even smell real alligators while studying the letter “A.”

PEACE DAY – English I students at Holy Ghost School in Hammond celebrated International Day of Peace by creating a “Pinwheels of Peace” display. Pictured are, from left, Bryan Doan, Sophie Sundler, Claudia Olah, Billie Guffey, Amelia Fritz, Ava Alexus, Natalie Husseini, Macie Colson, Roman and Cadre Gunther. The pinwheels were made by second, third and fourth-grade students during their library class to spread messages and prayers of peace. The United Nations’ International Day of Peace is celebrated every year on Sept. 21.

GRANDPARENTS DAY – On Sept. 22 fourth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classes at Holy Family School in Port Allen celebrated grandparents day beginning with Mass. Pastor Father Duane Allen spoke about the essential role grandparents have in the lives of their grandchildren. Each grade performed a song after Mass, then the grandparents visited the students’ class rooms and enjoyed refreshments in the cafeteria. Pictured above, the seventh-grade class is ready to perform their song.

CHS STUDENTS HONORED – Nine Catholic High School seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists, and four have received National Merit Commended honors in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Top photo, National Merit Semifinalists are, front row, from left, Nicholas Mueller, Andrew Ford, Michael Krzystowczyk and Jordan LeBas; Back row, are Dominic Maggio, Brian Long, Andrew Schoonmaker, Harold Miller and Matthew Berdon. Seniors recognized for National Merit Commended honors in the bottom photo are, from left, Colin Hebert, Lance Chaisson, Christopher Alumbaugh and William Martin. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Of the roughly 1.6 million juniors across the nation who take the qualifying test, only the top 50,000 scorers qualify for the scholarship program. From that elite group, the top one third qualify for National Merit Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

ALPHABET FUN – Kindergarten students at St. Elizabeth School in Paincourtville are watching the alphabet come alive this year. Thanks to Leroy Blanchard, an alligator trapper, the students were able to see, touch and even smell real alligators while studying the letter “A.”

GRANDPARENTS DAY – On Sept. 22 fourth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classes at Holy Family School in Port Allen celebrated grandparents day beginning with Mass. Pastor Father Duane Allen spoke about the essential role grandparents have in the lives of their grandchildren. Each grade performed a song after Mass, then the grandparents visited the students’ class rooms and enjoyed refreshments in the cafeteria. Pictured above, the seventh-grade class is ready to perform their song.

BATON ROUGE – Blue skies and a brilliant early fall sun greeted hundreds of people who attended the annual Grand Day at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge. Parents, their children and their grandchildren attended a special Mass celebrated by pastor Father Paul Coacre and received a special blessing. The block of Main Street in front of the cathedral was blocked off for a street party featuring pony rides, a petting zoo of farm animals, excursions on the St. Joe’s Express train, face painting, music and a camel. Inside the parish hall hamburgers and hot dogs were distributed.
SJA teacher receives prestigious Presidential Award

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Linda Messina was happily raising her four children and volunteering to work with a special needs student named Michael at Magnolia Woods Elementary School in Baton Rouge when he asked her to watch him perform in a Christmas program.

Messina was puzzled by Michael’s invitation at which he told her, “I don’t have anyone else to watch me.”

“I knew I was going to be a teacher right then,” said a glowing Messina.

After receiving her degree in education, Messina went on to teach 22 years at St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge. She has taught chemistry, biology, honors biology, advanced placement biology and environmental science. She is the school’s science fair coordinator and co-moderator of the SJA Science Club. On Sept. 8 she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science in Washington, D.C. She was given a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to use at her discretion.

Becoming a teacher was not easy for Messina. Her degree was in biology and her experience was in the medical technology field, so she had to go back to school in order to teach.

“I went to the kid’s soccer games and I had these books in my lap,” said Messina, who resolved not to miss special moments in her children’s lives.

She was later able to thank Michael for guiding her toward a rewarding career when she saw him at a grocery store. “I told him, ‘I just want you to know that I’m a teacher because of you.’

He smiled from ear to ear. I’ll never forget that,” Messina said.

This year Messina has decided not to teach in the classroom so she can focus her attention on the science fair. Since 2000, SJA has placed first five times and second four times in the regional fair. In the past five years, SJA has finished first, second or third in the state fair. Over the past 10 years, at least two and as many as four students qualified for the international fair each year.

She is currently overseeing 185 science research projects, so she is still teaching and mentoring and learning from the students. She goes out into the community and seeks support from experts who are willing to mentor students as they work on their projects.

Messina credits the mentors in helping the students succeed with the projects, particularly Dr. Ed Bush and Dr. Pam Blanchard, head of the LSU Coastal Roots Program. The program allows students in second grade through high school to learn about and become environmental stewards by establishing native plant nurseries at their schools. SJA served as a pilot school in the program and has participated for the past 10 years.

Another mentor Messina has regularly called on has been Dr. Patrick DiMario, a professor of cellular biology at LSU. Messina enjoys working in DiMario’s research lab.

“I love it because I’m working with current technology,” she said.

A strong advocate of STEM education for girls, she said she pushes them outside of their comfort zone so they can see their capabilities.

She is thrilled when alumnae tell her about their careers in the science or medical field. She has attended many college graduations, weddings and baby showers for her former students. She said she is amazed at the confident, capable women they have become. One LSU student is researching a cure for breast cancer at LSU.

“I call my students butterflies, they go through a cycle and emerge … I cry,” said Messina.

“Linda Messina does not let her students get by with a mediocre effort,” said SJA alumnae, Dr. Shannon Berryhill, who is in residency at LSU New Orleans at the LSU School in New Orleans for a combined internal medicine-pediatrics. “Linda taught me that when the work is tough, you push through and put forth your best because the best is what you deserve. As a doctor, this lesson has taught me that putting forth my best is what my patients deserve. As a wife and mother, my best is what my family deserves. Linda lives this example every day and I am forever grateful to have been taught by such an incredible person.”

SJA senior Meghan Bowie said, “Mrs. Messina is passionate about not only helping students but also molding them into strong leaders and intellectuals. In and outside of the classroom she continues to be a role model of a hard-working, nurturing individual.

“Under her guidance I placed first in state with my project. Though science fair is considered an ‘out of school’ project, Mrs. Messina devoted many afternoons and nights to carefully review every girl’s project. Through her instruction I learned not only good studying and time management habits, but also a variety of skills.”

Messina concedes there are times she hears her students who have gone on to LSU speaking to their college professors and “I have no idea what they are talking about.”

“That’s the greatest moment, when they pass me up,” said Messina.
STM student shines light of giving in the darkness of flooding

**By Rachele Smith**
The Catholic Commentator

At just 11-years-old, Ella Uffman is proof that one person can make a big difference.

As the oldest of five children, she knows the importance of helping out. So, perhaps it’s not surprising that Uffman, a sixth grader at St. Thomas More School in Baton Rouge, figured out a way to get school supplies to students impacted by the August floodwaters.

“I was helping out in the activity center after the flooding when I noticed the table with the school supplies was empty. I thought I could get people to donate more supplies,” she said.

Her idea, while simple at first, would ultimately fill a huge need because while STM church and school did not flood, many parishioners, school families and those living in the neighborhood were severely affected.

“We did not flood, but many of Ella’s classmates were flooded,” said Connor Uffman, Ella’s dad.

Before getting to work, however, Ella said she first had to get permission from her parents who were already busy helping with STM’s many flood relief efforts.

“I was proud of her for coming up with the idea, but I told her my hands were full with what I could help with, and if she wanted to do this, then she had to do the work,” said Amy Uffman, Ella’s mom, who added that at her daughter’s request, she posted information about the donation on Facebook since Ella is not allowed to have an account.

“(Ella’s) godmother, friends, everyone just started sharing it (the post),” said Connor Uffman, explaining that out-of-state friends and even customers from the couple’s online clothing business began offering to help.

But Ella wasn’t just banking on social media. She also began visiting relatives and family friends to make a personal plea, and very quickly, she started receiving donations. Items like binders, notebooks, pens and crayons began arriving. But there was more. She also began getting cash which included checks and even some loose change from her siblings who not only donated from their piggy banks, but who also helped sort supplies.

“Once she started receiving cash, that’s when we stepped in to help to make sure there was transparency (with the donations) and to assure that the money was used for what it was intended,” said Amy Uffman, explaining that her daughter’s idea, which started with compassion, quickly morphed into other life lessons, including financial literacy and basic math skills when she went shopping for supplies.

“We would tell her how much was on the (liquid bank) card, and she would keep a running total to make sure she didn’t go over,” said Connor Uffman.

Ella collected about $1,700 and used that money to not only help her school but another one as well.

“We started with STM and coordinated with them on what they needed. Then, when those needs were met, we still had quite a bit of money left, so we began looking at other schools that needed help,” said Amy Uffman.

They chose Denham Springs Elementary in Livingston Civil Parish, an area where more than 90 percent of the homes and businesses were impacted by flooding.

Ella worked closely with Nikki Henry, a third-grade teacher at the school, even going with her to purchase supplies. It was a shopping excursion that taught Ella an unexpected lesson.

“Cole (an employee at the store) gave me a notebook that said ‘Follow Your Dreams’ on it,” she said, smiling. Her mom explained that the employee was so touched by what Ella was doing for others, he purchased the notebook for her as a gift.

It was an act of kindness that showed Ella how giving can grow.

“We were just blown away by the generosity of people. Here at the school, we had teachers, some who were flooded themselves, giving money to Ella,” Amy Huffman, her mom said, noting that one gift was especially heartwarming.

“My (literature) teacher last year (Elizabeth Curry) gave me a card with a quote she wrote in it,” said Ella.

That quote was from the book, “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,” one of Ella’s favorite series. In the book, the character Professor Dumbledore tells his students, “Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”

“Her teacher added that Ella was the light,” said Amy, reflecting how her daughter has learned so much through this experience.

“You always try to teach your kids to do the right thing and that one person can make a difference. Ella had some help with this, yes, but it was her idea, her vision. One person can do a lot,” she said.
Never the last installment, the assassin is son. Though retired since the end of 1972 movie starring Charles Bronson kicked off with the 2011 remake of a Jason Statham returns as the hit-playlike a cut-rate “Mission: Impossible” but thoroughly off-kilter moral core, director Denis Gansel, who thankfully downplays to carry out three kills. Director Den Morgan Fox

Unoriginal sci-fi thriller omits even an occasional reflection on what it means to have a human moral sense. Instead, director Luke Scott and screenwriter Seth Owen put Morgan (Anya Taylor-Joy), a creature made of synthetic DNA, through the paces of shlock 1980s horror as she wreaks murderous havoc on her creators. Frequent references to the artificial creation of human life, frequent physical violence, occasional gore, and fleeting rough and profane language. L; R

Sully

Werner Bros.

Satisfying profile of US Airways pilot Capt. Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger (Tom Hanks), whose 2009 feat in landing his crippled plane on the Hudson River and saving the lives of all on board gained him instant fame. Though immediately embraced as a hero by the public, behind the scenes he was second-guessed by federal investigators (led by Mike O’Malley) and tortured by self-doubt. In adapting Sullenberger’s memoir “Highest Duty,” director Clint Eastwood maintains a surprisingly sober tone overall, though there are also moments of enjoyable wit. What emerges is the portrait of a morally deep-rooted and honorable man whose heartfelt concern for those in his charge is matched by his appreciative attitude toward his co-pilot (Aaron Eckhart) and the mutually supportive love he shares with his wife (Laura Linney). Despite some salty language, these ethical assets make the film possibly acceptable for older adolescents. Potentially disturbing scenes of peril and destruction, at least one use each of profanity and the F-word, about a dozen crude or crass terms. A-III; PG-13
Wherever I Go

Refrain:
I know I could lie, but I'm telling the truth
Wherever I go there's a shadow of you
I know I could try looking for something new
But wherever I go, I'll be looking for you
Some people lie, but they're looking for magic
Others are quietly going insane
I feel alive when I'm close to the madness
No easy love could ever make me feel the same
I know I could lie, but I won't lie to you

(Repeat refrain.)
Wherever I go, I'll be looking for you
Some people pray to their God for some magic
Cause no easy love could ever make them feel the same
No easy love could ever make me feel the same
Make me feel the same, same, same

(Sung by OneRepublic | Copyright 2016, Mosley, Interscope)

Moving on after ending a relationship

Wherever I Go is OneRepublic's latest single, released off their forthcoming, fourth studio album. OneRepublic frontman Ryan Tedder describes the song as an “appeitizer” for their new album, their latest attempt to keep their music evolving artistically but still keep the “humanity in the instruments.”

Perhaps the band was able to keep to this goal with the music, but the song’s character seems to be struggling with his humanity. He is lost in obsession over an ended romance. He knows that he should open himself to meeting others. Still, he hesitates, for “wherever I go, I’ll be looking for you,” referring to his past romantic partner. He believes that “no easy love could ever make me feel the same.”

Although the character states he could look “for something new,” this is an option that he needs to avoid, given his current emotional state. Rather than see another for who she is, he would likely try to duplicate his previous romantic experience. Because of this remaining obsession, he may be disillusioned about any new relationship and end up hurting his new love interest.

His obsession is a problem in itself, but behind this behavior lies what he really needs to face—his grief. He is mourning what has been lost. There are no shortcuts around genuine hurt and sadness, but there are better ways to manage these feelings than falling into obsession.

The first thing needed is for him to accept the whole truth of his feelings. Often, feelings of grief are complex and involve many types of emotions. He may be facing regret for his part in the separation. Because he needs support in processing these complex feelings, he should seek out a professional who can help him get beyond the obsession, process the grief and heal his life.

If he takes this approach, in time he will discover that the obsession will fade as he no longer needs to distract himself from the deeper hurt.

The song highlights why it is so important to go slowly in relationships. When you meet someone new, most times you know little about the person's history. Thus, you need time. Observe how the other person reacts to various situations and keep a careful check on your own feelings about what you are learning in this new relationship.

Almost all of us go through difficult episodes in life. The goal in finding the right person with whom to form a new relationship is not to discover someone who has not encountered hurt and disappointment. Rather, you need to know how the individual has lived through such problems.

What has he or she learned about himself or herself and about relationships? Has the person turned mistakes into lessons about how to live and love more effectively? When you take the time to let this type of information unfold, you can see more clearly if the person that you are attracted to is someone with whom you want more than just a beginning relationship.

The song's character suggests that some people pray to receive “magic” from God, presumably to get past this (Ex 5:10)."I have observed..." (LK 10:18).

The feast of St. Bernadette Soubirous is in this month. "Ora nobis" (2 Sam 22:16).

“...the word's found...

1. Wherever I go, you're the ghost in the room
2. I don't even try looking for something new
3. Cause wherever I go, I'll be looking for you
4. Some people try, but they can't find the magic
5. Others get down on their knees and they pray
6. I come alive when I'm close to the madness
7. No easy love could ever make me feel the same
8. Make me feel the same, same, same

MARTIN is an Indiana pastoral counselor who reviews current music for Catholic News Service.
we needed to do something about it.”

Sanctuary for Life soon moved to its current location that expanded its capacity to eight women, and about five years ago the agency launched an ambitious renovation to accommodate a growing need. According to CCDBR board chair person Angele Davis Kelly, the expansion began with a few board members and volunteers.

“It was just an idea back then,” she said. “This project became a reality because of the generosity of many and the love of so many. This is a very special project in our community.”

Sanctuary for Life is a housing program for homeless pregnant women, regardless if they intend to raise the baby or put the child up for adoption. Since 1999, more than 250 women have taken advantage of Sanctuary’s many services, which not only include housing, transportation and medical care but also mandates the women continue their education or enroll in job training, parenting classes and undergo drug testing.

Aguillard beamed with pride when he noted that 100 percent of Sanctuary for Life graduates have established households, with 90 percent employed.

“For all of our talk there are times when women in our city, women in this neighborhood, become pregnant and they become outcasts,” Aguillard said, adding they are often rejected by boyfriends and even families.

“The result of (Sanctuary for Life) is not only do we save the lives of unborn children but we also save the lives of women who have nowhere else to turn, who are on the edge, sleeping in their cars, sleeping under a bridge with no support, and think there is nothing left to do other than take their lives and the life of their unborn children,” he added.

Deanna Wallace, legislative director for Louisiana Right to Life, said the program is essential to the Baton Rouge community. She said that all too often women have opted for abortion because they were scared and without any support from friends and family.

“Abortion is a reflection that society has failed to support women, as they feel they must chose between their child and themselves,” Wallace said. “Giving them the support they need is a real solution to their problem instead of a temporary solution like abortion.”

“(Sanctuary for Life) doesn’t just give women facing an unplanned pregnancy a place to live; they help them find job training, learn to parent, get an education and escape the streets.”

The expansion was funded by the Diocese of Baton Rouge and the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

In closing, Bishop Muench held up a medallion he was wearing with the hand of God holding an infant.

“You, today, make that hand of God alive, visible and loved,” the bishop said.
Nine Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate jubilees

Nine Sisters of St. Joseph celebrated their jubilees on Sept. 24 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge. Father Donald Blanchard celebrated the Mass.

Celebrating 70 years of religious profession was Sr. Mary John Hotard CSJ; celebrating 60 years were Sr. Sandra Blanchard CSJ, Sr. Carol Gonsoulin CSJ, Sr. Adele Lambert CSJ, Sr. Margaret Maggio CSJ, Sr. Evelyn Mee CSJ and Sr. Kathleen Pittman CSJ; celebrating 50 years were Sr. Frances Duos CSJ and Sr. Diane Poynot CSJ.

Sr. Mary John, who spent three years as a volunteer at St. Jean Vianne Church in Baton Rouge, entered the congregation in 1944 in New Orleans, professing first vows in 1946 and final vows in 1949. She began teaching in 1946 in New Orleans before moving to Cincinnati, Ohio. She returned to New Orleans and served as a principal and teacher. From 1980 to 1986 she initiated and conducted a development program in New Orleans for the Medaille congregation. Sr. Mary John then returned to parish ministry at Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant for nine years and became a volunteer at St. Jean Vianne for three years. She retired in 2008 and lives at Our Lady of Wisdom Center in Algiers.

Sr. Sandra, formerly known as Sr. Peter Chanel, graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge in 1954 and entered the congregation in New Orleans that year, professing first vows in 1956 and final vows in 1961. At St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans she received a bachelor's in education from Loyola University New Orleans in 1967 and certification in the art of upholstery in 1996 from Minneapolis Technical College.

Sr. Carol, formerly known as Sr. Frances Cabrini, entered the congregation in New Orleans in 1953, professing first vows in 1955 and final vows in 1961. She earned a bachelor's in education from Loyola University New Orleans in 1967 and certification in the art of upholstery in 1996 from Minneapolis Technical College.

Sr. Carol taught at St. Joseph's Academy and several schools in the New Orleans area, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and San Antonio, Texas. After a sabbatical in Minnesota, Sr. Carol taught in Wisconsin and Minnesota. She also spent 16 years doing upholstery and caning in St. Paul, New Orleans and Baton Rouge. She is retired since 2009 and resides in Baton Rouge.

Sr. Adele, formerly known as Sr. Fidelis, graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in 1954 and entered the congregation in New Orleans that year, professing first vows in 1956 and final vows in 1961. She received a bachelor's in education from St. Mary's Dominican College in 1959 and a master's in religious education from Notre Dame Seminary in 1975.

For five years, she served as principal at St. George School and for one year was religious coordinator at St. Thomas More in Baton Rouge.

She also taught at St. Joseph's Academy and at schools in New Orleans, Norco and Bay St. Louis.

Sr. Adele served as executive director of the Archdiocesan Office of Social Apostolate from 1992 to 2002 and worked for a year for the archdiocese in the Office of Continuing Education for Priests. In 2004 she became the first president of St. Joseph's Academy in the school's 143-year history. Retired since 2012, she continues to be active in the CSJ Associates Program.

Sr. Margaret Maggio, formerly Sr. Mary Stephen, graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in 1953 and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, professing first vows in 1955 and final vows in 1960. She received a bachelor's in education from Loyola University in New Orleans in 1967 and a master's in religious education from Notre Dame Seminary in 1975.

Sr. Margaret began teaching in 1955 at St. Rose of Lima in New Orleans. She taught at St. Joseph School in Baton Rouge, St. Mary's in New Roads and several schools in New Orleans and Bay St. Louis.

In 1993 Sr. Margaret became involved in the ministry against the death penalty as Sr. Helen Prejean's administrative assistant, a responsibility which continues to the present. Sr. Margaret is director of the CSJ Associates Program for New Orleans.

Sr. Evelyn Mee, formerly Sr. Juani-ta, graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in 1953 and entered the congregation in New Orleans that year, professing first vows in 1955 and final vows in 1960. She received a bachelor's in education from Loyola University New Orleans in 1966 and a master's in religious education from Notre Dame School of Theology in New Orleans in 1977. She began teaching in 1955 at St. Joseph Academy in New Roads and served as assistant principal at St. George for three years.

She taught at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Baton Rouge and from 1990-2009 ministered in religious education at the school and parish.

Sr. Evelyn also taught school in New Orleans, Cincinnati and Grand Coteau.

Sr. Evelyn is retired in Baton Rouge where she continues to do volunteer ministry.

Sr. Kathleen Pittman, formerly Sr. Gerard, graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in 1954 and entered the congregation in New Orleans that year, professing first vows in 1956 and final vows in 1961. She received a bachelor's in history cum laude from St. Mary's Dominican College in 1959 and did graduate studies at Xavier University in New Orleans. Sr. Kathleen's first year of teaching was at St. Joseph's Academy in 1959 and taught at schools in New Orleans and Marrero.

She worked with Pax Christi in New Orleans as associate coordinator, and from 1991 – 1995 was director of parish social ministry for Associated Catholic Charities in New Orleans. She is now retired and living in New Orleans.

Sr. Frances Duos, formerly Sr. Alison, graduated from Sunset High School and entered the congregation in New Orleans in 1964, professing first vows in 1967 and final vows in 1974. She received a bachelor's in education from St. Mary's Dominican College in 1969 and a master's in religious education from Loyola University New Orleans in 1978.

She has taught at SJA, and for eight years served as director of adult religious education at St. George. She taught at Catholic High School of Pointe Coupee and at schools in New Orleans, Grand Coteau, Opelousas and Breauxville.

Sr. Diane Poynot, formerly Sr. Jeanette, graduated from St. Joseph Academy in New Orleans in 1962 and entered the congregation that year, professing first vows in 1965 and final vows in 1973. She attended St. Mary's Dominican College and received a bachelor's in nursing at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette in 1969.

She ministered as a registered nurse at Terrebonne General Hospital in Houma for 10 years, and in 1979 she and the late Sr. Renee Louise started the first Home Health Ministry in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux as a branch of Metropolitan Home Health of New Orleans. She served as a nurse at St. Joseph Parish in Chauvin for 33 years.
Unity in disaster

Never mind the mercury, fall has finally arrived.

For Baton Rouge residents a change of seasons is welcome, drawing to a close the city’s worst summer in history, ripe with racial unrest, historic flooding and thousands of residents coping with the arduous challenges of the cleanup process while grappling with life-altering decisions.

On the bright side, and yes, there is always a blessing from God even in the darkest of times, a community that was seemingly divided on the weekend we celebrated our nation’s birthday was once again uniting by Labor Day.

Racial tensions gripped Baton Rouge when in the early morning hours of July 5 police officers shot and killed Alton Sterling, a 37-year-old African-American. Police claim deadly force was needed because officers believed Sterling was reaching for a weapon.

However, the African-American community vehemently countered those claims and protests, fueled by outside influences, blocked intersections, paralyzed traffic and overall put a community on edge. Less than two weeks later, a barrage of bullets pierced an otherwise quiet Sunday morning, leaving three law enforcement officers dead and three others wounded.

A month later, it started raining and for at least five days Mother Nature refused to turn off the spigot. More than 30 inches of rain fell in some areas, and rivers crested at record levels. Widespread flooding caused damage in at least 90 percent of homes in Denham Springs, Central and St. Amant and also devastated many other areas.

But it took that disaster to galvanize a community that had been so polarized weeks earlier. As the floodwaters rose and rescue efforts mobilized, there were no color boundaries, only black helping white and white helping black.

Recovery has been a synergized effort by all races and faiths, which is indeed indicative of the true spirit of Baton Rouge area residents.

Evacuation centers housed people of all income levels, skin color and faith. And as Bishop Robert W. Muench recently pointed out, evacuees all had the same sized cot, the same food to share. Privilege was checked at the front door, with clashing cultures and ideals morphing into one of survival.

The flooding, as bad as it was, was presented an opportunity for healing, an invitation to cross racial lines and act in the image of Christ. Fortunately, and clearly not surprising, area residents answered that call, and for that we should all be thankful.

As the calendar flips to autumn, the memories of a difficult summer will hopefully begin to fade, although never forgotten. But what will also be remembered is a community emerging stronger and more cohesive as we all attempt to help our neighbors rebuild their lives.

The pope doesn’t ‘make’ saints

Catholicism can be sort of bewildering to Protestants, believers in non-Christian faiths and those with no particular religious beliefs. We Catholics often add to the confusion by the way we describe our beliefs and customs. The “making” of saints is a good example.

Under Bishop Stanley J. Ott in the 1980’s our diocese began sponsoring pilgrimages to Rome. The pilgrims usually found that it was a wonderful experience filled with inspiration, surprises and personal adjustments to the delightful Italian culture.

Much of the good experience was due to the cutest young Italian tour guide ever, named “Robbie” (for Roberta) Palma. The itinerary one morning required everyone to board the bus at their hotel behind St. Peter’s Basilica and cross the city to take the Appian Way to the Catacombs of St. Calixtus. As the bus came alongside St. Peter’s, it stopped dead in the middle of an impossible traffic jam. There were almost no traffic lights in Rome in the 1980’s.

One of the pilgrims began complaining loudly until Robbie said over the microphone, “Meester, eet’s that Pope (John Paul II), he’s making saints again. Maybe you get off the bus and go into the square, he make you one too.” Everyone laughed so hard the pilgrim quieted down, and eventually the group got to the catacombs. Pope John Paul was declaring someone a saint, not making him one. Only God’s grace does that. But Pope John Paul increased the list of those whom Catholics believe to be saints by a large number.

At St. Teresa’s canonization, which took place in St. Peter’s Square on Sept. 4, after clearing a very rigorous security check, we were given a little book containing the entire Mass of Canonization celebrated in some parts Latin, and other parts Italian, with English translation. The gathering hymn was the Hymn of the Holy Year of Mercy, sung in parts, the papal choir beginning and then all of the people answering, sometimes the choir in Latin, the people in Italian. It was very moving because the people completely filled the square and overflowed down the Via Conciliazione toward the Tiber River.

In place of the penance service, choir and people alternated singing verses of Veni Creator Spiritus (Come Holy Spirit) in Latin, but with the English translation on the opposite page. Then Cardinal Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, formally petitioned the Pope “to enroll Blessed Teresa of Calcutta among the saints that she may be invoked as such by all the Christian faithful.” To strengthen the “petition,” the choir and people alternated verse and response of the Litany of the Saints, ending with St. Teresa a Jesu (St. Teresa of Jesus). The pope then concluded the litany, asking God to accept the prayers of his people that what we were about to do might contribute to the growth of the church. Finally, he proclaimed the simple formula of canonization:

“For the honor of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother bishops, we declare and define Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to be a saint, and we enroll her among the saints, decreeing that she is to be venerated as such by the whole church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

That was it. The pope officially recognized and declared Mother Teresa to be the saint she already was by the grace of God and her life-long response to him. The people applauded and with the choir sang “Iubilate Deo, cantate Domino” (Shout to the Lord, sing to the Lord). The Mass went on as usual, and no one had to urge the people to sing and respond. The spirit in that huge square was amazing.

Pope Francis looked like he was really enjoying it, and after Mass he went up and down the aisles in his pope-mobile waving and touching people, especially the ill who were in wheel chairs right on the other side of the barrier in front of us. St. Teresa’s nuns in Baton Rouge saw that we had good seats.

In fact, the memories that stick with me now, three weeks later, are the wonderful opportunity we from Baton Rouge had two days before the canonization to visit with the Sisters of Charity at their convent on the outskirts of Rome. At St. Teresa’s death her congregation numbered 3,842 sisters working in 594 houses in 120 nations. I think that at least one nun had come from each of those houses for the canonization of their founder. We prayed with them in their little chapel as they prepared for evening prayer and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. As is the custom in the East, we had to leave our
Indulgences revisited

When Pope Francis launched the Holy Year of Mercy, he promised that Christians could gain a special indulgence during this year. That left a lot of present-day Roman Catholics, and even more Protestants and Evangelicals, scratching their heads and asking some hard questions: Is Roman Catholicism still dealing in indulgences? Didn’t we learn anything from Luther and the Reformation? Do we really believe that certain ritual practices, like passing through designated church doors, will ease our way into heaven?

These are valid questions that need to be asked. What, indeed, is an indulgence?

Pope Francis in his decree, The Face of Mercy, (Misericordiae Vultus), says this about indulgences: “A Jubilee also entails the granting of indulgences. This practice will acquire an even more important meaning in the Holy Year of Mercy. God’s forgiveness knows no bounds. In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God makes even more evident his love and its power to destroy all human sin. Reconciliation with God is made possible through the paschal mystery and the mediation of the church. Thus, God is always ready to forgive, and he never tires of forgiving in ways that are continually new and surprising. Nevertheless, all of us know well the experience of sin. We know that we are called to perfection (Mt 5, 48), yet we feel the heavy burden of sin. Though we feel the transforming power of grace, we also feel the effects of sin typical of our fallen state. Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of our sins remain. In the sacrament of reconciliation, God forgives our sins, which he truly blot out; and yet sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes an indulgence on the part of the father who, through the Bride of Christ, his church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him from every residue left by the consequence of sin, enabling him to act in charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.

The church lives within the communion of the saints. In the Eucharist, this communion, which is a gift from God, becomes a spiritual union binding us to the saints and the blessed ones whose number is beyond counting (Rev 7, 14). Their holiness comes to the aid of our weaknesses in a way that enables the church, with her maternal prayers and her way of life, to fortify the weakness of some with the strength of others. Hence, to live the indulgence of the Holy Year means to approach the father’s mercy with the certainty that his forgiveness extends to the entire life of the believer. To gain an indulgence is to experience the holiness of the church, who bestows upon all the fruits of Christ’s redemption, so that God’s love and forgiveness may extend everywhere.

Let us live this Jubilee intensely, begging the father to forgive our sins and to bathe us in his merciful ‘indulgence.’

What’s the pope saying here? Clearly, he’s not teaching what has been for so long the popular (and inaccurate notion) that an indulgence is a way of shortening one’s time in purgatory. Rather he is tying the idea of indulgences to two things: First, an indulgence is the acceptance and celebration of the wonderful grtuity of God’s mercy. An indulgence is, in effect, the more-conscious acceptance of an indulgence, that is, the conscious acceptance of a love, a mercy and a forgiveness, that is completely undeserved. Love can be indulgent. Parents can be indulgent to their children. Thus whenever we do a prayer or religious practice with the intent of gaining an indulgence the idea is that this prayer or practice is meant to make us more consciously aware of and grateful for God’s indulgent mercy. We live within an incredible, ineffable mercy of which we are mostly unaware. During the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites us to do some special prayers and practices that make us more consciously aware of that indulgent mercy.

Pope Francis invites us to do some special prayers and practices that make us more consciously aware of that indulgent mercy.

OBLATE FATHER ROLHEISER, 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. Now on Facebook at facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

In Exile
Father Ron Rolheiser

POPE ▼

From page 20

shoes at the door. Then we shared some time under the trees along side their garden drinking fruit juice and eating cheese with those whom some in our party knew from traveling with the sisters when Mother Teresa came to the United States and also to Baton Rouge.

One of our party, Marie Constantin, a profession-al photographer in Baton Rouge, had taken the photo-graph-poster of Mother Teresa that hung on the balcony of St. Peter’s for the beatification ceremony a few years back. For the canonization, all of the religious goods stores around St. Peter’s carried that picture on postcards they were selling. Marie has just published a book about her visits to Mother Theresa in Calcutta and her travels in the United States with her as one of her photographers.

Through her religious order and the enormous number of laity throughout the world who assist them, the spirit of Mother Teresa will continue in Calcutta, Rome and throughout the cities of our world, as it does in Baton Rouge. The night before the canonization, we were invited to a special Mass in the Church of Santa Maria della Valle on the Via Vittorio Emanuele for the sisters and laity connected with them in Rome. We noticed that one large lay group there had numerous children with them who looked Indian, Chinese, African, Middle Eastern and anything but Italian. They turned out to be all orphans whom Italian families, inspired by Mother Teresa, had adopted. At the canonization they were again with us in the same section in front of the papal altar.

Since the beginning of Christianity with the martyrs of Roman persecutions, the Catholic Church has venerate-d saints. Through the example of their lives and sometimes deaths, the faith has spread. They are our heroes in the communion of saints, and always will be. May the prayers and blessings of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta be with you.

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 johnnycarville@ gmail.com.
St. Benedict Fall Festival – St. Benedict the Moor Church, 5479 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville, will hold its fall festival Sunday, Oct. 2 at 1 p.m. For more information, call 985-513-3470.

Pro-Vita Dinner – Abortion survivor Sarah Zagorski will speak at the Pro-Vita dinner and silent auction, “Thirst for Souls,” Thursday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m., at the St. Michael High School gym, 17521 Monitor Ave., Baton Rouge. For information call 225-620-5291, or email youthmarchforlife@gmail.com.

Mother of Perpetual Help Icon 150th Anniversary – A jubilee missionary icon commissioned for the Year of Mercy will visit St. Gerard Majella Church, 5453 Plank Road, Baton Rouge from Oct. 9 – Oct. 22. For information, call 225-355-2553.

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites – The next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 9, 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.

Public Rosary Rallies – The annual America Needs Fatima Public Square Rosary Rallies will be held at the following locations: Saturday, Oct. 8, noon at St. Mary of False River Church Parish Hall, 348 W. Main St., New Roads; call 225-638-9665 for more information; Saturday, Oct. 15, noon at the Catholic Life Center, 1800 St. Acadian Thwy., Baton Rouge, call 225-769-0271 for more information; Zachary’s public gazebo on Virginia Street, call 225-454-8289; KC Home Grounds, 1905 W. Main St., Lutcher; MM Motors, Corner of Hwy. 3125 and Nicole St., Paulina; and St. Michael Church, 6490 Hwy. 44, Convent. Call 225-869-3898 for more information.

Pro-Life Mass – A monthly pro-life Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 11, 5:30 p.m., at St. Agnes Church, 749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge. For information, call 225-383-4127.

White Coat Mass – The Capital Area Medical Guild and Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center will celebrate a white coat Mass on Sunday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m., at Our Lady of the Lake Chapel, 7777 Hennessy Blvd. To RSVP, email steven.fe@olormc.com.

Catholic Women’s Infertility Support Group – Sponsored by the Office of Marriage and Family Life, Diocese of Baton Rouge, the group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 7 – 8 p.m., in the Kleinpeter Activity Center of St. George Church, 7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge. For information, email stellajuliedot@gmail.com.

The Catholic Commentator
PO Box 3316
Baton Rouge LA 70821-3316

Print Your Ad

This space is available for your ad!

BAR E PETER GOLF
ALES AVILA ESAU
NODE DENIMNESS
NNE AURA POETS
SEMINAL PLEA
PRO APRIL PCL
SATAN SAONE AAU
LILIE STICK CSSR
CEO SPINE FOSSE
KEN HINTS III
TANG SUBROSA
STRAW SIPS NED
IRON SHOOS EIRE
GIBE TONNE RSVP
NOSY ANGST STEE

CITY/STATE/ZIP PHONE

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com
being repaired.

The flooring was replaced and walls were repainted in the adoration chapel, which was the first part of the church to flood. The chapel opened after the 4 p.m. vigil Mass on Sept. 25 with a blessing given by Father Moroney.

The church building, its offices and meeting rooms are also in various stages of repair, said Father Moroney. The church pews were saved because they were raised from the wet surface as quickly as possible after flooding, but the floor tiling had to be replaced and other problems fixed, he said. While the church is being repaired, Masses are being held at the church’s family center. There was not an estimated date for when Mass would resume in the church. The rectory is also being repaired.

Faith formation and PSR classes are being held at St. Louis King of France Church Parish Activity Center in Baton Rouge until the facilities are available to them. The youth group nights also went mobile, meeting at favorite restaurants or having a movie night.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is handling all supplies from its food pantry.

“Right now I am most grateful to all who have volunteered with food, clothing and all types of supplies,” said Father Moroney.

Because the flooding has affected so many St. Alphonsus families, the following church and school events were canceled for this year only: Hall of Fame, Living Giving Tree, Kids in Ministry Halloween, and for 2017 the parish cruise and auction taste fair.

Mass attendance has been stable as the church is being restored, and Father Moroney said there has been good cooperative spirit of patience and working together as the church and school community work to become fully operational again.

“It is a very difficult time for us and the people here have been very positive in helping each other,” said Father Moroney.

He said it’s also been nice to see people coming from outside of the community and even the state with supplies, food and willingness to work.

**St. Jean Vianney – Baton Rouge**

Some six weeks after floodwaters inundated Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas, recovery and rebuilding is well underway at St. Jean Vianney Church and School.

Like many homes in southeast Baton Rouge, SJV was heavily impacted, losing the use of its preschool, kindergarten classrooms, library, rectory and gym.

In addition, the parish hall sustained flooding, but only its bathrooms were closed due to damage.

Construction crews, however, have been working diligently, and Father Tom Ranzino, pastor at St. Jean Vianney Church, has been pleased with
the progress on campus.

He reported that as scheduled, the parish’s preschool reopened on Sept. 6 followed by the two kindergarten classrooms, bringing “great vitality” to the campus.

“It was a real shot in the arm to have the elementary school reopen the Friday after the flooding,” he said, adding that a similar feeling prevailed when the preschool opened.

“We worked so hard for the two weeks to get the preschool up and running. St. Patrick Parish partnered with our preschool and allowed us to teach some of the kids at their place. That was a wonderful gift,” he said.

Patti Clement, a kindergarten teacher at SJV, said the kids were “very excited" to move into their newly reconstructed rooms.

Clement noted that the children quickly adjusted to their temporary classrooms while they were waiting for the green light to move back to the kindergarten rooms.

The school’s library is also expected to be back in business soon with new shelving and carpet already in place.

“The books that we lost will be replaced,” said Father Ranzino, noting that the school is accepting book donations as well as monetary donations on the school website to buy books, too.

Father Ranzino also explained that the parish hall, which now sports renovated bathrooms, passed the State Health Inspection criteria on Sept. 16, meaning hot food can now be served in the building, a plus for SJV students who use it as a cafeteria during the school day.

One building update that many parishioners are following is the gym. Opened only 10 months ago, it sustained heavy damage, but Father Ranzino said reconstruction is going well. He noted that installation of the new gym floor is underway and added they even enjoyed a little ironic humor when the new floor was delivered during, of all things, a rainstorm.

“It was a ridiculous moment. Here I was standing in the rain, watching the guy trying to wrestle a tarp over the wood for the floor, and I watched him lose the battle. It was a comedy of errors,” he said.

Of course, since arriving, the wood has been properly cared for, and installation is expected to take at least four weeks. In the meantime, the SJV Gators are still enjoying school athletics, with cross country, football and girls’ basketball already in full league play.

In addition to the gym, reconstruction is also on schedule at the parish rectory, with the expectation that it will meet its October completion date.

As recovery continues both at SJV and for many of its parishioners affected by the flooding, the parish received a $25,000 check from the Knights of Columbus in Hartford, Connecticut.

“I have been so uplifted and inspired by the many, many people from across the country who have offered our schools and parish help in recovery. Colleagues of mine and complete strangers all have been so generous,” said Father Ranzino.

“One priest in New York wrote the parish about how after four years since Superstorm Sandy they are still dealing with the effects. He told us to hang in there because God’s grace is unfailling,” he added.