‘TODO SE HA CUMPLIDO’

Hispanic Apostolate puts on moving performance of the Passion

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

The pain was all too real, the emotion of the moment overwhelming. Aristides Alvarez, a native of El Salvador who has been in Baton Rouge for the past 13 years, felt every lash of a Roman soldier’s whip, the ridicule of onlookers, every painful step of the walk to Calvary and the indignity of being placed on a cross to die. Alvarez had the difficult role of portraying Christ during a powerful reenactment of the Passion put on by the Hispanic Apostolate on Good Friday at St. Pius Church in Baton Rouge.

The performances were moving and amazingly realistic. During the reenactment, especially during the crucifixion, men and women among the nearly 500 people who had gathered on the sun-kissed church grounds wept openly. At other times, silence, emotions numbed by the suffering they were witnessing.

Even those who portrayed the Roman soldiers, wielding their whips to...
Behind the Collar

...with FATHER BRENT MAHER, pastor, St. Ann Church, Morganza

Q Tell us what items you like to make when woodworking and why they’re your favorite.

A I wanted to have a little chapel at the rectory, so my stepdad helped me build an altar, tabernacle and small bookshelves. I was impressed with my amateur effort and I enjoyed doing it so much that I decided to continue with other projects. We cleaned out a workspace here at the parish and I have spent the last few months buying the tools, setting up the workshop and learning about the art of woodworking. Now that Christmas and Easter have passed I am hoping to have a little more free time to get out there and begin working on a few small projects like bookshelves, a simple desk or table and such.

Q As a feline fan, tell us about your cats. Also, tell us about the stuffed white-and-black striped tiger that accompanied you to March for Life.

A I’ve always loved animals, especially cats. When I became pastor at St. Ann, I made the leap and adopted two adorable 5-month-old kittens: a male I named Dominic and a female I named Gemma. They have provided many hours of amusement for me in the last year—about a half, but even more interestingly they have often drawn my mind to contemplation of the spiritual life by their actions and responses. My parishioners can tell you I’ve been able to draw more than a few homilies out of reflecting on the Scriptures in the presence of my cats.

As for the big cat, Barnabas the Tiger, he’s quite the evangelizer! A friend and I bought him at a truck stop on the way up to Rome. What were the joys and challenges of participating in that race?

A I did, even though I still have trouble believing it. I ran a half-marathon when I was in the seminary but I decided to carry him with us everywhere we went. It was amazing how many people came up to talk with us about Barnabas and we were able to talk about Christ, the church, March for Life and much more. It’s neat how little things like a stuffed tiger can be used to spread the good news.

Q You recently participated in a Maratona Di Roma marathon in Rome. What were the joys and challenges of participating in that race?

A The thought of running a full marathon is daunting for a while until a friend told me about the annual marathon. The thought of running again made me nervous, but I figured if there was ever a place to run a marathon it would be through the Eternal City. It was an amazing experience because we were able to run by the Coliseum, St. Peter’s, the Spanish Steps, countless churches, and beautiful sights, which helped distract from the pain of running 26.2 miles. The better part was doing it with a group of friends and making some great memories along the way. It was also really great to come back home and seeprojectId}/files/3/15/0/3/19081/8297111-1.jpg?itok=4GQoR3ZM

TREASURES FROM THE DIOCESE

The Catholic Commentator  (ISSN 0746-0511; USPS 093-680)

Bishop Robert W. Muench Publisher
Father Tom Ranzino Assistant Publisher
Richard Meek Editor
Debbie Shelley Assistant Editor

The Catholic Commentator  (ISSN 0746-0511; USPS 093-680)
Published bi-weekly (every other week) by the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge, 1800 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70808; 225-387-0983 or 225-387-0561. Periodical Postage Paid at Baton Rouge, LA. Copy must reach the above address by Wednesday for use in the next week’s paper. Subscription rate: $14.00 per year. POSTMASTER, send address changes to The Catholic Commentator, P.O. Box 14746, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4746.
Mother Angelica remembered as visionary

By Rachele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

Her simple humor, knowledge of faith and incredible honesty made her a television icon. Yet, for the millions of people around the world who saw this 92-year-old nun as a source of inspiration, her death is not just a cause for sorrow, but also a realization that Sister Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, better known as Mother Angelica, is finally home in heaven.

Mother Angelica, who died on March 27, Easter Sunday, reflected God’s love and mercy in her ministry and was often the only faith presence to those shut-in or homebound.

“I have great admiration for Mother Angelica,” said Herbert Daigle, a parishioner of St. Ann Church in Napoleonville. “She accomplished much in this masculine world. She showed great strength and persistence in founding the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). Until she did it, I dare say that no one would have thought it possible, especially by a female religious.”

“I believe in her mission, her honesty and integrity, and most of all in her very evident sincerity,” explained Daigle, who added he first learned of the Chapel of Divine Mercy from watching Mother Angelica’s program.

A Poor Clare Nun, Mother Angelica, who established the Our Lady of the Annunciation Monastery in Irondale, Alabama in 1962, first began writing “mini-books” on a variety of religious and moral issues.

Later, she began recording a video series of her religious-themed talks at a local Birmingham television station. Recognizing the power of television, Mother Angelica started EWTN from a converted monastery garage with just $200. That was in 1981.

Today, according to the network, EWTN, which includes AM/FM radio affiliates, is the largest religious media network in the world, reaching 230 million homes in 144 countries and territories.

“Mother Angelica was a courageous Catholic in an era of frequent shortsightedness,” Father Miles Walsh, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge said.

“While many of her contemporaries were raising their index fingers to see which way the winds of political correctness were blowing, she simply depended on the Holy Spirit to give her the right words to speak, and as a result, she was able to ‘speak truth to power,’” he added, noting Mother Angelica modeled the “New Evangelization” in an extraordinary way.

“I admired her forthrightness even when I thought she might have done better to be silent,” said Father Walsh, noting how in 1997, Mother Angelica publicly criticized a pastoral letter on the sacred liturgy written by Cardinal Roger Mahony of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She later apologized, but years later, in 2013, the then-retired Cardinal Mahony was relieved of his public duties for protecting predatory behavior of priests in his area.

“Throughout the history of the church, God has raised up powerful, charismatic women to bring about needed spiritual renewal and reform, and Mother Angelica belongs to that tradition,” Father Walsh said, later comparing her to a modern-day Catherine of Siena.

Father Cleo Milano, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Baton Rouge, also applauded Mother Angelica’s ministry, noting how she served the homebound and allowed everyone the opportunity to enjoy live coverage of papal visits and other faithful programming without leaving their homes. He explained that even his own grandmother found comfort in watching Mother Angelica on television.

Sister Mary Angelica of the Annunciation

Bishop Mcuen announces appointments

Bishop Robert W. Mcuen has appointed Father Matthew McCaughhey pastor of St. James Church in St. James, St. Philip Church in Vacherie and Our Lady of Peace Church in Vacherie.

Bishop Mcuen also appointed Father Reuben Dykes parochial vicar at St. James Church in St. James, St. Philip Church in Vacherie and Our Lady of Peace Church in Vacherie, and Father Robert Halter CSSR parochial vicar at St. Gerard Majella Church in Baton Rouge.

Father McCaughhey graduated from Baton Rouge High School in 2000 and earned his bachelor’s degree from LSU in 2006. He was ordained by Bishop Mcuen on May 26, 2012 at St. Joseph Cathedral.

He has served as parochial vicar at Christ the King Church and Catholic Center at LSU and St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge. He is also serving as chaplain at St. Michael the Archangel Diocesan Regional High School.

Father Dykes was ordained by Bishop Mcuen on May 30 at St. Joseph Cathedral. He has served as parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in Port Allen.

Father McCaughhey’s and Father Dykes’ appointments are effective July 1.

Father Halter’s appointment was effective April 1.
Church leaders hail document’s mercy but caution against hurried reading

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Bishop Robert W. Muench encouraged Catholics to read Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” ("the Joy of Love") prayerfully, saying by only doing so can one digest the “full flavor” of the Holy Father’s pastoral spirit.

Bishop Muench said he was moved that the pope signed “Amoris Laetitia” on March 19, the feast day of St. Joseph, who is the patron of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Bishop Muench noted the lengthy document, which was released April 8, “reveals no changes in church doctrine, nor should any have been expected.”

“What does come through clearly is that the Holy Father views both doctrine and its application to the complex family situations in today’s society through the loving and merciful prism of a pastor’s heart, as Christ does, and urges all the faithful to do likewise,” Bishop Muench said in a statement. “The pope calls for prayerful and pastoral discernment in ministering to those who have been separated from the sacraments because of irregular situations, and he treats extensively the importance of forming a mature and enlightened conscience that is properly directed by the Word of God and the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.”

“I urge all the faithful to read this document slowly, carefully, prayerfully and reflectively, as I will also, and not to depend on what could be a litany of interpretations from the secular media as to what the Holy Father did or did not say, did or did not mean,” the bishop added. “Only by reading his words in proper context can one digest the full flavor and import of the Holy Father’s pastoral spirit and how we might emulate it during this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.”

The document encourages careful review of everything related to family ministry and, particularly, much greater attention to the language and attitude used when explaining church teaching and ministering to those who do not fully live that teaching.

“No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love,” Pope Francis wrote. People grow in holiness, and the church must be there to give them a helping hand rather than turn them away because they have not attained some degree of perfection.

The exhortation was Pope Francis’ reflection on the discussion, debate and suggestions raised during the 2014 and 2015 meetings of the Synod of Bishops on the family. Like synod members did, the pope insisted that God’s plan for the family is that it be built on the lifelong union of one man and one woman open to having children.

Pope Francis’ document touches on all the issues raised at the synods and gives practical advice on raising children, urges a revision of sex-education programs and decries the many ways the "disposable culture" has infiltrated family life and sexuality to the point that many people feel free to use and then walk away from others.

“Everyone uses and throws away, takes and breaks, exploits and squeezes to the last drop. Then, goodbye,” he wrote.

The synod issues that garnered the most headlines revolved around the question of Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried, as well as Catholic attitudes toward homosexuality.

“In no way must the church despise from proposing the full ideal of marriage, God’s plan in all its grandeur,” Pope Francis said.

He repeated his and the synod’s insistence that the church cannot consider same-sex unions to be a marriage, but also insisted, “every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity.”

On the question of families experiencing difficulties, separation or even divorce and remarriage, Pope Francis said responses to the questionnaires sent around the world before the synod “showed that most people in difficult or critical situations do not seek pastoral assistance, since they do not find it sympathetic, realistic or concerned for individual cases.”

The responses, he wrote, call on the church “to try to approach marriage crises with greater sensitivity to their burden of hurt and anxiety.”

Particularly in ministry to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, Pope Francis said, pastors must help each couple look at their actions and circumstances, recognize their share of responsibility for the breakup of their marriage, acknowledge church teaching that marriage is indissoluble and prayerfully discern what God is calling them to.

Pope Francis said it would be a “grave danger” to give people the impression that “any priest can quickly grant ‘exceptions’ or that some people can obtain sacramental privileges in exchange for favors.”

At the same time, he insisted, “the way of the church is not to condemn anyone forever; it is to pour out the balm of God’s mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart.”

Divorced and civilly remarried couples, especially those with children, must be welcomed in Catholic Churches and supported in efforts to raise their children in the faith.

Generally, without an annulment of their sacramental marriage, such a couple would not be able to receive Communion or absolution of their sins unless they promised to live as “brother and sister.” But every situation is different, the pope said, which is why the church does not need new rules, but a new commitment on the part of pastors to provide spiritual guidance and assistance with discernment.

Church leaders from around the world hailed the tone of mercy in Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation and, similar to Bishop Muench, cautioned against a hurried reading of the document.

“What is new about this exhortation is its tone,” Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of Durban, South Africa, told Catholic News Service. He said it calls on all ministers “to be warm and caring in the way they deal with people in difficult circumstances.”

“There is no one-size-fits-all” approach and “local churches are urged to adapt church teachings to the synod’s particular circumstances,” he said, noting, for example, that “different cultural understandings of marriage within South Africa would give the church here different challenges to those faced by churches in other parts of the world.”

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin called “Amoris Laetitia” an “encyclopedic document and, like all encyclopedic documents, much of its most valuable content runs the risk of being bypassed by a preoccupation with one or two of its aspects.”

“It is not just a collection of separated chapters,” Archbishop Martin said in a statement. “There is a unifying thread: The Gospel of the family is challenging and demanding, but ... with the grace of God and his mercy, is attainable and fulfilling, enriching and worthwhile.”

“Some people will be disappointed that it is not full of black-and-white solutions but, as Pope Francis says, every situation is different and needs to be approached with love, mercy and openness of heart,” Bishop Doyle said.

In the pope’s home country of Argentina, Bishop Pedro Maria Laxague of Zarate-Campana, president of the laity and families commission of the Argentine bishops’ conference and participant in the last synod, said the document embraced the papal vision of the church being a field hospital, treating the wounded and attending to those with needs.

“There is not a good family or a bad family,” he said. “All require pastoral attention.”

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.
At age 90, Sister Kathleen still dreaming, still leading

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Sister Kathleen Babin CSJ was a young professed sister living her dream of teaching children when God asked her to let that dream go.

“I had always pictured myself as a teacher; however, God had other plans,” mused Sister Kathleen, who at 24 years old was sent to minister in a community of novices. “It was a very difficult assignment. It was a matter of letting go of the dream of teaching in the classroom.”

Sister Kathleen, who celebrated her 90th birthday on March 16, gloved as she said releasing her plans to God allowed her to become involved in numerous ministries and leadership within her congregation.

Sister Kathleen grew up in Baton Rouge and attended Sacred Heart of Jesus School and St. Joseph’s Academy.

“I remember helping in the summer time with the move (from Florida Boulevard and Fourth Street to its current location on Broussard Street in 1941),” said Sister Kathleen.

While at SJA, Sister Kathleen said, “The works of the sisters and their availability to us really touched me. So I got to know them pretty well.”

She entered the congregation in 1943 and was happily teaching when a letter came on Aug. 15 announcing her new assignment.

“I had only been teaching six years. This was probably one of the most difficult moments of my life,” said Sister Kathleen, who, nevertheless, took the assignment.

“I couldn’t imagine myself doing that job. Every year for the first two or three years as school began and the kids were on the school ground it hurt,” said Sister Kathleen. “But I never hesitated about saying ‘Yes.’ I knew God was calling me. I didn’t know how or why.”

Obedience yielded blessings for Sister Kathleen.

“Those novices who became the best sisters remained good friends,” she said.

Several years later, God gave her another unexpected assignment of working in the congregation’s administration.

She served 16 years in leadership, including provincial and assistant to the president.

Sister Adele Lambert CSJ, who met Sister Kathleen when Sister Adele was in formation, said following Vatican II when the sisters were experiencing a change in lifestyle and ministry, Sister Kathleen provided a gentle, yet strong leadership in the spirit of the congregation’s founder Father Jean-Paul Mélville.

Sister Kathleen said about her years in leadership, “I learned through those years that I really preferred teaching adults. I find a great deal of satisfaction in that.”

She also worked with a consultant company that helps organizations foster Christian values.

“The thinking was that the business practices of most organizations are based on values that don’t always reflect our Christian values,” said Sister Kathleen.

The company particularly offered religious communities and dioceses training in this area.

Sister Kathleen also helped establish some vital ministries in the diocese.

In 1984, Sister Kathleen and Sister Lydia Champagne CSJ, now deceased, co-founded the St. Joseph Spirituality Center.

“It was started by a group of women who wanted a place to go to deepen their own spirituality and prayer life. We wanted to do whatever we could to help them develop a healthy spirituality,” said Sister Kathleen.

“The spirituality center was located in a house on Klienert Street. We started with no money, no space, just women who wanted the center. It has flourished, and we’ve been going ever since,” said Sister Kathleen.

“Sister Kathleen continues to influence lives and minister as a spiritual director. She has been conducting workshops on collaborative leadership with key leaders in our organization, building up our capacity to carry this knowledge forward long into the future.”

Sister Kathleen said her spiritual direction is edifying.

“My belief is that when two people get together to search for God, to try to be faithful to God and to be able to share it, God takes that conversation and does something with it,” she said.

In 1996, Sisters Kathleen and Lydia and Myria Andre Martin, who is deceased, co-founded Myria’s House, which provides transitional housing for women in need. Again, organizers started with nothing, but through a foundation grant in New Orleans the organization purchased a two-story building with 10 apartments. The program flourished and the sisters eventually turned over the program to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Michael Acaldo, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, said Myria’s House is a great example of how the Sisters of St. Joseph took their mission of helping “dear neighbor” to the public square.

He said he was amazed at how the sisters and Martin took an idea and turned it into a phenomenal program.

Sister Kathleen is also involved in promoting and developing the CSJ Lay Associate program, serving on the associates’ committee and meeting monthly with associates. She also meets monthly with a group of friends to discuss spiritual books and view DVDs.

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
Q I have often wondered about the difference between the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit immediately after the Resurrection “on the evening of that first day of the week” (Jn 20:19–23) and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them at Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4). Is it two different accounts of the same event, or did they receive the Holy Spirit in two different ways on two different occasions? (Vacherie, Louisiana)

A In general, Scripture scholars read this as two different events, with the gift of the Holy Spirit being offered for two different purposes. In the first incident (Jn 20), the Spirit comes to the specific group of disciples gathered on the night of the first Easter Sunday; the Spirit confers on them the power to forgive sins. Later, at the Ascension, the disciples are instructed to “stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Q Our diocesan regulations require that a couple give a parish nine months notice prior to a marriage ceremony. Is this an iron-clad Catholic Church rule? I am an 80-year-old widow, planning on marrying an 81-year-old widow. We don’t see the need for any premarital counseling, etc., since we have both been there before. (City of origin withheld)

A No, it is not an iron-clad rule of the church. In 2005, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops undertook a study of marriage preparation programs in the more than 100 dioceses around the country. It found that most dioceses had a six-month guideline for the initial meeting with a priest before the wedding date itself. A few were shorter (three or four months), and several were longer (eight to 12 months).

The Catholic Commentator

When did Holy Spirit come/Advance notice for wedding

Q I love long road trips. A friend and I once drove 14 hours to Fort Myers, Florida just to attend a concert. In 2014 I drove back-to-back 15-hour days to get to Combermere, Ontario to visit a little religious community I had heard about. I enjoy going new places and seeing new things, and long road trips are a great way to do it.

A Which of the LSU sports is your favorite and why?

Q Tell us something most people may not know about you.

A I love long road trips. A friend and I once drove 14 hours to Fort Myers, Florida just to attend a concert. In 2014 I drove back-to-back 15-hour days to get to Combermere, Ontario to visit a little religious community I had heard about. I enjoy going new places and seeing new things, and long road trips are a great way to do it.
People coming to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Michael Church in Convent on April 3 received a plenary indulgence by walking through the church’s Holy Door. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator

**MASS ▼**

From page 1

we who believe but have not seen. Blessed are we who trust and do not doubt. Jesus, I trust in you,” Father Blazek said.

The family of Anne and Andrew Miller, who are members of St. Anne Church in Sorrento, said they found it fascinating to experience the chaplet in song and to see the compassionate image of Jesus.

“There’s hope for all of us. No matter what you’ve been through or what you’ve done the doors are open for all of us,” said Anne Miller.

Their sons John Paul and Tucker were intrigued with the music of the chaplet.

“I liked the instruments. It kept going smoothly and not like a bumpy road,” said John Paul.

“I liked the way they made beautiful noises,” said Tucker.

Anne Miller said she and her husband have been teaching their sons about the saints, and it was a good way to introduce them to St. Faustina.

The sponsors of the celebration, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas courts of St. Michael, St. Joseph Church in Paulina and Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Gramercy, are happy with the growth of the event.

According to Debra Rouillier, regent of the St. Joseph and Most Sacred Heart Catholic Daughters, before Divine Mercy Sunday was brought to St. Michael, she and a group of neighbors gathered in the garden of her neighbor, Cheryl Louque, and prayed the chaplet. She had not heard of the chaplet before the gatherings, but after her introduction to the devotion she fell in love with it and learned as much as she could about it.

“When I was growing up, I was taught that God would have vengeance on us. But as becoming an adult, I learned that God is merciful,” said Rouillier.

Rouillier said Janet Small, who was then regent of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, suggested that the group meet in the grotto at St. Michael.

“It started at the grotto with a few people. The grotto got too small,” said Small.

Rouillier said the devotion is a "hidden jewel" that should be shared with all, especially children, the future of the church.

The celebration was a good opportunity for the children to experience their Catholic faith at a deeper level, according to Carol Rome, director of religious education for St. Michael.

“It exposed them not only to Divine Mercy chaplet, but to hear the Latin in the benediction, it brought back the tradition. The kids need to know about their roots,” said Rome.

Divine Mercy Sunday was also a chance for healing, as the church parish experienced challenges when an Eg tornado killed 2 people on Feb. 23 and destroyed homes in the Convent area. Father Blazek, in addition to the diocesan priests and deacons, was out in the community offering his prayers and assistance to people impacted by the storm.

“This is definitely a Divine Mercy of thanksgiving for the lives spared and a remembrance of those who lost their lives,” said Colette Chauvin, regent of the St. Michael Catholic court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. She lives on Schexnayder Street, on which several homes were severely damaged and which is located next to the trailer park where people were killed by the tornado.

What is Divine Mercy?

**By Rachele Smith**

The Catholic Commentator

The feast of Divine Mercy, which is celebrated on Divine Mercy Sunday or the first Sunday following Easter, calls to mind the loving message of God's mercy toward all of his children.

But while St. John Paul II established the feast in 2000, the idea of God's endless love and the recognition that his mercy is greater than any sin is certainly not new.

Both the Old and New Testaments reveal God’s mercy.

In Exodus, God’s kindness and love for his people abundantly flowed as he led the enslaved Israelites out of Egypt. God is described as “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth” (Ex 34:6) when he met Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the New Testament, Jesus revealed the extraordinary way God loves through his words and actions culminating in the gift of man’s eternal salvation.

Yet, despite centuries of biblical evidence, it took a humble, young nun, someone St. John Paul II would call the “first saint of the new millennium,” to remind the world of God’s Divine Mercy.

Born Helena Kowalska, Sister Faustina Kowalska grew up as one of 10 children in Poland. She had little formal schooling, and in the 1930’s joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Soon after entering the order, she received a message or revelation from God about his unending Mercy. As the messages continued, Sister Faustina was asked to share them with others and to encourage everyone to not only accept God’s mercy with loving arms, but to also show mercy to others.

Sister Faustina lived her life joyfully showing kindness and mercy to everyone she met. In obedience to her spiritual director, she wrote a diary of about 600 pages detailing the messages she received about God’s mercy.

She died in 1938, but even before her death, she was successful in starting a devotion to The Divine Mercy.

As pope, St. John Paul II had a particular interest in The Divine Mercy. He canonized Sister Faustina on the same day he established the feast of Divine Mercy.

Many Catholics throughout the world, including those in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, also feel a special devotion to The Divine Mercy and say special prayers for God’s merciful love. Through these devotional prayers, which include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Novena to The Divine Mercy, the faithful lovingly ask for God’s forgiveness while keeping in mind the Lord’s desire of showing love and mercy to others.

As St. Faustina demonstrated in her own life, The Divine Mercy is also an opportunity to have complete trust in God’s endless love and in his graces of mercy. It is why many images of The Divine Mercy also include the words, “Jesus, I trust in You.”
Diocese of Baton Rouge Seminary Scholarship Funds

What is a Seminary Scholarship fund?
A seminary scholarship fund is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men studying for the priesthood.

How do I contact to establish or contribute to a fund?
To create a fund or to make a contribution to an existing fund, please send it to the Vocations and Seminarians Department, P.O. Box 2028, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028. For information call 225-336-8778.

This is only a partial list of all Seminary Scholarship Funds.
Visit our website at www.diobr.org/vocations for a complete list of Seminary Scholarship Funds.

Contributions from November through March 2016

Archbishop Antoine Blanc
In Memory of: Riley Olinde
By: KC Council #8878 $20.00

Archbishop Antoine Blanc Assembly 2047
By: Charles Herman Patin $20.00 $20,428.31

Louis and Nita Bonfanti
In Memory of: Louis C. Bonfanti Sr.
By: Anita Bonfanti $25.00
Debra Bonfanti $50.00
Jason/Lisa Bonfanti $200.00 $2,065.00

Dietrich/Bourgeois Families
In Memory of: Janet Marie Bourgeois Dietrich
By: Stephen/Diane Diperro $400.00 $21,240.00

Father Matthew Faschan
By: M/M L. F. Aguillard $250.00 $3,807.89

Father Leo Guilot
In Memory of: Father Leo Guilot
By: Guilot Family $35,000.00
Lumina Newchurch $500.00 $35,500.00

Father Maynard “Tippy” Hurst
In Memory of: Carol Speyer
Jeanne Lorio
Angie Varborough
Medie Bennett
Harry Fitzgerald
Mitch Mix
Joseph Henderson
Kris Stevens
Marion Romano
Donald Landry
Corinne DeLeo
Huber Family
Camilla Sabella
Peter Palermo
Josephine Lapeze
Rose Marie Alfonse
Necia Waggenspack
Ruth Bergeron
Clare McCaull
Young David
Catherine Wilde
Winnie Oliver
Shirley Lambert
Audrey Johnson
Bob Furlow
Thelma Bailey
Mardel Williams
Michael Hebert
Felix Ollie
Contesse Wall

To benefit:
Mathew Dunn and Chase Rodrigue
by: Dr./Mrs. Carl J. Poche $2,000.00 $24,837.13

Afy Dee and Rezette Alleman Jenkins Family Living and Deceased
In Memory of: Afy Dee Jenkins, Jenkins and Alleman Family
By: Rezette A. Jenkins and Jenkins Family

Father Aubry Osborn
By: Constance Butler Chapter #9 – 4th Degree
Knights of Peter Claver Ladies of Grace Division

Bishop Stanley Ott
In Memory of: Msgr. Leo Guilot
By: James/Ramona Wilk $50.00 $26,589.50

Tomorrows Priest
By: Ethel Guidry $500.00
To benefit: Mathew Dunn and Chase Rodrigue
by: Dr./Mrs. Carl J. Poche $2,000.00 $24,837.13

Father Than Vu
By: Tuan D. Pham $2,000.00 $8,090.50

Deacon Francis A. Waguespack Jr.
By: Louije Waguespack $1,000.00 $5,575.00

Msgr. John A. Weber
By: Joyce Weber $500.00 $60,021.22

Additional Scholarship Funds

Monsignor Paul Landsman $20,000.00
Gerald T. Leblanc $19,475.00
Edith Louise Leonard $35,000.00

Madonna Chapel $15,711.12
Monsignor Louis E. Marionneaux $20,000.00
Monsignor Louis E. Marionneaux #2 $20,000.00
Fathers Martens & Perino $26,945.00
Thomas Beatty Mary $18,483.63
Dr. McCaa and Monsignor Marionneaux $20,000.00

Father Charles McConville $20,000.00
John McGinnis $6,238.46

Father Joseph E. McLaughlin $20,424.06
Deceased Members of KC Council #3298 $6,272.39

Deceased Members St. Alphonsus KC Council #3331 $20,000.00
Deceased Members of KC Council #4030 $20,000.00

Deceased Members of Pierre Part KC Council #5352 $1500.00

Two Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate golden jubilees

Sister Janine Beniger CSJ and Sister Janet Franklin CSJ will celebrate their golden jubilees on Sunday, April 17, at the 10 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Rosary Parish in New Orleans, with a reception to follow. Both sisters made their first vows in 1966 in a ceremony at the sisters chapel on Mirabeau Avenue in New Orleans, a convent lost during Hurricane Katrina.

Sister Janet Franklin, who is currently living in New Roads and giving retreats and spirituality seminars nationally, was raised in New Orleans, where she attended St. Raphael Parochial School and St. Joseph Academy. After earning a degree in English from St. Mary’s Dominican College, she began her ministry as a high school English and religion teacher and earned a master’s degree in African-American Literature from LSU.

Sister Janet’s path led to varied ministries — serving on the congregation’s Formation Team, ministering at a house of prayer in upstate New York and receiving certification in spiritual direction and pastoral care. She served as vicar for religious in the Archdiocese of New Orleans from 1982 to 1996 and as chaplain in Wisconsin at an assisted living residence belonging to the Holy Cross Sisters.

Sister Janine, a native New Orleanian, attended St. Rose de Lima School and St. Joseph Academy. She earned a bachelor’s in education at Dominican College, a masters in pastoral studies at the Loyola Institute for Ministry and certification in spiritual direction from the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center in New Orleans. She has spent her life ministering in various aspects of education and faith formation on many different levels.
Two pro-life bills easily sail through House

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A pair of pro-life bills easily passed through the Louisiana House of Representatives on April 7 and are on their way to the Senate for final approval.

HB 386, authored by Rep. Frank Hoffmann of West Monroe and which would expand the mandatory waiting period between certain pre-abortion procedures and the actual abortion, was approved 89-6. HB 488, authored by Rep. Katrina Jackson of Monroe that would require abortion providers be certified or board eligible in order to be qualified to perform an abortion was unanimously approved.

“We are thrilled (HB 386) passed the House floor in a strong bipartisan manner,” said Deanna Wallace, legislative director for Louisiana Right to Life. “This important bill empowers women considering abortion with additional reflection time before an abortion so women can consider their options more effectively.

“Not only would this protect women from future emotional and psychological harm, but it would give victims of coercion and violence more time to reach out for help before being forced into an abortion they do not want.”

The bills were heard by the House Committee on Health and Welfare on March 30 and passed with no opposition, Hoffmann’s bill expands the mandatory waiting period from the current 24 hours to 72 hours.

“In Louisiana you have to wait 72 hours after getting your marriage license before you can marry,” Wallace told committee members. “In Louisiana you have to wait 72 hours after getting an initial offer before you can sign a mortgage. You have to wait 72 hours after giving birth before you can sign a surrender that will place your child in a loving, adoptive home.”

She added that a woman has to wait only 24 hours “before you allow an abortionist to end the life of your unborn child.”

She pointed to a 2004 study that found more than 50 percent of women felt rushed or uncertain about their choice of an abortion, and 89 percent believed they received inadequate counseling.

“The extended reflection time gives women more time to talk to their families and partners about parenting and adoption and to gain the support and resources they need to pursue those alternatives,” Wallace said. “In addition to allowing women more time to consider their options, we also have to acknowledge that there are women being coerced into abortion.”

She noted that 64 percent of women said they felt pressured to abort their child.

Committee members also heard from a woman who had an abortion as a teenager and the impact it had on her life. She said if she had been provided adequate information about adoption or had heard her baby’s heartbeat her decision might have turned out differently.

Wallace said HB 386 is a common sense bill that would protect women and their unborn children. She said approximately 10,000 abortions are performed annually in Louisiana and 1.2 million nationally.

“Buying a house, getting married and placing a child with an adoptive family are all important decisions,” she said. “Shouldn’t the life changing and life ending choice of abortion be given at least as much reflection as those decisions?”

Wallace and Hoffmann pointed out that five other states have adopted the 72-hour waiting period.

In presenting her bill, Jackson said the health of women is first and of paramount importance. She said those women should have the same right as any woman when it comes to having a surgical procedure.

Louisiana Right to Life associate director Ryan Verret said board certification for abortion providers is important because it keeps the physician’s specialty current and upholds an important standard that helps to protect patients during what he called “some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.”

He said the bill would prevent anyone without specialized training from performing an abortion and potentially endangering the health of the woman.

A bill requiring hospitals to inform patients whose baby died through a miscarriage that they have a right to bury or cremate their child was easily passed by the House Health and Welfare Committee on April 6. It now goes to the House floor for approval.

Wallace said the bill would allow parents to properly grieve the loss of miscarriage and facilitate the healing process for the family.

OBITUARY

Sister Joselia Kleinpeter dies

Sister Joselia Kleinpeter SSND died on Thursday, March 17 at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi.

Mary Mildred Kleinpeter was born April 28, 1916, the oldest of the 10 children born to Mary (Cresap) and Francis Joseph Kleinpeter. The family homestead was in Kleinpeter, which still boasts the Kleinpeter Dairy.

Mildred attended Sacred Heart Elementary and secondary schools in New Orleans and entered the Congregation of School Sisters of Notre Dame in St. Louis, in 1933. She professed her vows as Sister Mary Joselia 1936.

For nearly half a century Sister Joselia taught young children in the primary grades. Her teaching journey took her to California, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. She was so successful as a teacher of the primary child that she was regularly secured as the master teacher for intern teachers.

In 1979, Sister Joselia came to St. Mary of the Pines to serve as a part-time staff member until later years when physical infirmities limited her activity to being welcoming and grateful to all who visited her.

Sister Joselia was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and three brothers. She is survived by one brother, Raymond and three sisters: Beverly Cyrus, Ruth Pollet and Frankie Landry.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 22 and interment was in the Chatawa Cemetery.
7 Estate Planning Mistakes You Should Avoid In 2016

How Rabalais Law Is Introducing A Whole New Kind Of Estate Planning Program Exclusively For Louisiana Residents

If you’ve ever wanted to eliminate worry because you don’t have a program in place to protect your estate and your family, without a slew of untimely legal and tax problems, then this will be the most important seminar you ever attend. I am going to show you how you can protect what you have today, and what you leave your kids tomorrow. You’ll be able to take advantage of my estate planning legal strategies without you or your loved ones having to deal with Succession Courts, long estate settlement delays, Medicaid liens, nursing home poverty, and death tax. But before I do that, let me tell you a story of how we helped Dorothy.

Dorothy’s Story

“As a couple with an only child, we thought a Will was all we needed. WRONG! My husband died, and I had to go through Probate- a nightmare, and very costly, and it also took over 9 months. I didn’t want our child to go through that, so I gave her an ad to a Rabalais seminar, and she and her husband were impressed. They had Rabalais Law set up a Trust that took care of their estate planning; but what about me? They gave me a copy of Laura’s book which I went over. I decided to go to a seminar, and made an appointment. They answered ALL of my questions, and even got my financial advisor in on a conference call. I could not be more pleased and relieved that my estate plan is now in order. Kudos Rabalais Law and their professional staff. Wow, and all of this accomplished in just one visit. I highly recommend Rabalais Law for all estate planning.” Dorothy McIntosh, Baton Rouge, LA

Estate Planning Made Simple

So after we were able to help Dorothy erase anxiety and have peace of mind, I decided to combine all of my research…all the hours I’ve spent helping people eliminate worry and stress, and I decided…WHY NOT MAKE THE ABILITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROVEN ESTATE STRATEGIES AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE!

Reviews Of Laura Poché

“Laura made the whole process too easy. After hearing the benefits of a family trust, doing it is a no brainer.” Howard & Brenda Tull, Baton Rouge, LA

“Laura was an informative and delightful experience. Her level of expertise was important to us and she explained all facts of estate planning in terms that were understandable to a layman. She covered areas that we would have never thought of, and we were grateful for that. The group presentations help to set the ground work for the need for such planning. We are pleased with the finished product and now have less to concern ourselves with as we enjoy the next phase of life. We especially appreciated the time Laura took with us and patiently answered our questions. We have recommended her to friends and family.” Lionel & Susan Lambert, Baton Rouge, LA

Call 225-282-0612 To Register!
Rabalais Law, 9191 Siegen Lane, Suite 5B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Washing of the feet, Passion highlight Easter activities

Father Jason Palermo washes the feet of his mother, Yvonne Palermo, during the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Also taking part in this symbolic ritual were, from left, Jamie Lobell, Joshua Lobell, Christine Simmons, Don Simmons, Esparanza Simmons, Dexter Authement, Yvonne Palermo and Cheri Lewis. Father Palermo is assisted by Deacons Leon Murphy and Jimmy Little. Photo by Rachele Smith | The Catholic Commentator

By Rachele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

“He is not here; for he is risen as he said.” (Mt 28:6)

The Easter season is finally here. For Catholics worldwide, it is a time of celebration, a time to rejoice in the glorious resurrection of Christ and his triumph over death.

The 50-day Easter season formally begins following the celebration of the sacred paschal Triduum, a three-day faith-filled time that begins immediately after Lent with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday.

For many Catholics, Holy Thursday is most often associated with its symbolic act of washing of the feet. But while that act reminds the faithful of the servant-leader role that Jesus played and his establishment of the priesthood, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper reveals something so much more.

The holy Eucharist is instituted on this day, explained Father Jason Palermo, pastor of St. Joseph Church in French Settlement.

“Jesus is saying clearly he wants to be close to us,” he said during his homily at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper.

Following Mass at St. Joseph Church, as in other churches throughout the diocese, many parishioners stayed for eucharistic adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

On the second day of the Triduum, many events were held worldwide to commemorate Good Friday and the passion of Christ.

In the Diocese of Baton Rouge, many Catholics attended a morning “Stations of the Cross” that led participants around downtown Baton Rouge. The event, sponsored by St. Joseph Cathedral, Catholic Charities of Assumption Civil Parish, helped many of the faithful connect to the suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On Holy Saturday, a fire, which represents Christ’s resurrection, began the liturgy of the Easter Vigil at many churches throughout the diocese. Made of dry wood, the fire symbolically shares the light of Jesus’ glory as it inflames the faithful with new hope.

Nearly 300 people turned out for the annual Good Friday procession that began at St. Joseph Cathedral, wound its way through the Capital grounds before returning to the cathedral. Worshippers prayed the Stations of the Cross along the route. Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator

Parishioners at Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Tickfaw perform a live dramatization of the Last Supper using Leonardo da Vinci’s famous painting as their inspiration. The performance, held each year on Palm Sunday since 1999, also revealed thoughts and feelings of each apostle, specifically after Jesus told them one of the 12 would soon betray him. Virginia Muscarello Patecek directed the dramatization. Photo provided by Bob Wegmann
PASSION ▲

From page 1

The idea of the dramatization originated with Felix Gonzalez, who is moving to Texas in August, said he was searching for a way to share with others the joy he has felt since his “encounter with Jesus” 12 years ago. “I was always thinking how to convey the message of Jesus, especially salvation,” Gonzalez, who has served as director for the past five years and had the final say in who would portray Jesus after consulting with Father Montanez-Grimaldos, added. “My first thought was that (the idea) came from God,” Father Montanez-Grimaldos said. “I come from a country (Colombia) that had the dramatization of Good Friday and the crucifixion.”

“It’s something we received from our traditions,” he added. “It’s a consolation for the Hispanic community to realize where we come from. In some of the Latin America and Central America countries it’s a tradition to do the dramatization.”

Passing in January and eight rehearsals were held leading up to Good Friday.

For Alvarez, the physicality of the role extracted a toll on his body and soul. Even a week after the dramatization, he admitted to some residual pain but admitted it was all part of his desire to portray Christ as realistically as possible. “I had asked the soldiers to really whip me so people would know what Jesus went through,” he said. At one point, the whipping was so intense the crown of thorns that had been placed on Alvarez’s head broke. “That did not really hurt but I just got scared,” he said, adding that he wore no padding to absorb the lashes.

“I felt bad when I did that,” said Romero, the soldier whose lash broke the crown of thorns, with a sheepish grin. “I didn’t want to hit him but I had to do it.”

Portraying Jesus, however, also turned out to be life changing for Alvarez, who said it was his responsibility to take “ownership of the role.” Alvarez seized the opportunity to grow closer to Christ and to make necessary changes in his own personal life, including going to confession. “I had to do some things in my life,” he said. “I had some personal problems. I worked on it because of playing the role of Jesus. I asked Jesus to give me the strength to play your role and through my role people will meet you.”

Alvarez conceded carrying the cross across the parking lot to portray the walk to Calvary was burdensome but weight was not what weighed on his mind. Rather, he said, he was just thinking that the cast “has to do it right.” Knowing at some point he would meet Simon and get some relief.

For the crucifixion, Alvarez, as well as the two men who were portraying the sinners crucified next to Christ, had their hands tied to the cross. Once raised, all eyes were on Alvarez.

“I saw the people and thought, ‘I think we are going to make them see the real thing.’ It was a beautiful experience. There are parts I can’t explain.”

After being taken down from the cross and being wrapped in clothes by those who would take him to the makeshift grave, Alvarez had one thought: “Thank God this is finished.”

Alvarez admitted the cross he carried during the actual reenactment was heavier than the one used during rehearsals but was more focused on the thought that the cast “had to do it.”

“I worked on it because I wanted to do it. I asked Jesus to give me the strength to play your role and through my role people will meet you.”

Alvarez’s portrayal of Christ was powerful and quite realistic, to the point where he wore no padding while being whipped by Roman soldiers. A week later, he said he still had some effects of the lashes.

Chris Velez portrayed St. Peter during the reenactment of the Passion. He is shown anguishing after Jesus’ prophecy during the Last Supper that St. Peter would deny Christ three times before the cock crowed.

“I asked Jesus to give me the strength to play your role and through my role people will meet you.”

For Alvarez, the physicality of the role extracted a toll on his body and soul. Even a week after the dramatization, he admitted to some residual pain but admitted it was all part of his desire to portray Christ as realistically as possible. “I had asked the soldiers to really whip me so people would know what Jesus went through,” he said. At one point, the whipping was so intense the crown of thorns that had been placed on Alvarez’s head broke. “That did not really hurt but I just got scared,” he said, adding that he wore no padding to absorb the lashes.

“I felt bad when I did that,” said Romero, the soldier whose lash broke the crown of thorns, with a sheepish grin. “I didn’t want to hit him but I had to do it.”

Portraying Jesus, however, also turned out to be life changing for Alvarez, who said it was his responsibility to take “ownership of the role.” Alvarez seized the opportunity to grow closer to Christ and to make necessary changes in his own personal life, including going to confession. “I had to do some things in my life,” he said. “I had some personal problems. I worked on it because of playing the role of Jesus. I asked Jesus to give me the strength to play your role and through my role people will meet you.”

Alvarez conceded carrying the cross across the parking lot to portray the walk to Calvary was burdensome but weight was not what weighed on his mind. Rather, he said, he was just thinking that the cast “has to do it right.” Knowing at some point he would meet Simon and get some relief.

For the crucifixion, Alvarez, as well as the two men who were portraying the sinners crucified next to Christ, had their hands tied to the cross. Once raised, all eyes were on Alvarez.

“I saw the people and thought, ‘I think we are going to make them see the real thing.’” he said. “It was a beautiful experience. There are parts I can’t explain.”

After being taken down from the cross and being wrapped in clothes by those who would take him to the makeshift grave, Alvarez had one thought: “Thank God this is finished.” Or was it just the beginning? Alvarez said the changes he made to prayer while preparing to play the role of Christ have defined his new routine, including a greater commitment to daily prayer. He is also abstaining but not only from food but also from distractions and other bad habits.

Roman soldiers lead Jesus up in chains to see Pontius Pilate. Members of the Hispanic community portrayed all of the roles, including the Roman soldiers.

Carla Vinuela portrayed the Blessed Virgin Mary during the dramatization. Left, she is with Jesus during his walk to Calvary, which was carried out in the parking lot at St. Pius.
Los soldados romanos observan mientras Aristides Álvarez, quien interpretó a Cristo durante una poderosa dramatización de la pasión puesta por el Apostolado Hispano el Viernes Santo, luchando para llevar la cruz en la caminata al Calvario. Fotos de Richard Meek | El comentarista católico

Poncio Pilatos se dirige a la multitud, pidiendo a quien deben de dejar en libertad, a Jesús o Barrabás. Los escenarios separados fueron construidos por voluntarios del Apostolado Hispano para dramatizar la aparición de Jesús ante Poncio Pilatos y Herodes, añadiendo al realismo.

‘Todo se ha cumplido’

Por Richard Meek
El comentarista católico

El dolor era demasiado real, la emoción del momento abrumadora. Aristides Álvarez, originario de El Salvador quien ha vivido en Baton Rouge desde hace 13 años, sintió cada latigazo del látigo de un soldado romano, la burla de los espectadores, cada paso doloroso de la caminata al Calvario y la indignidad de ser colocado en una cruz para morir. Álvarez tuvo el difícil papel de representar a Cristo durante una poderosa dramatización de la pasión llevado a cabo por el Apostolado Hispano el Viernes Santo en la Iglesia de San Pío en Baton Rouge.:

Las actuaciones fueron emotivas y sorprendentemente realísticas. Durante la dramatización, especialmente durante la crucifixión, hombres y mujeres entre cerca de 500 personas que se habían reunido en los terrenos de la iglesia bañadas por el sol lloraron abiertamente. En otras ocasiones, sólo hubo silencio, las emociones entumecidas por el sufrimiento que estaban presenciando.

Incluso aquellos quienes representaban a los soldados romanos, empuñando sus látigos para desatar su furia sobre Cristo como sucedió hace más de 2.000 años, sintieron cada latigazo del látigo de un soldado romano mientras se sometía a la crucifixión, hombres y mujeres entre cerca de 500 personas que se habían reunido en los terrenos de la iglesia bañadas por el sol lloraron abiertamente. En otras ocasiones, sólo hubo silencio, las emociones entumecidas por el sufrimiento que estaban presenciando.

El Padre Montañez-Grimaldos con esta idea “Y o los exhorté a que cada uno de ellos tenían que asumir cada uno de los papeles”, dijo el Padre Montañez-Grimaldos. “Y que en el Viernes Santo cada uno debe mirar su propia vida pecaminosa y que al hacer este papel sienten como que Dios los perdonaba por lo que hicieron. "Al final de la dramatización muchas personas me lo agradecieron porque sintieron por lo que Jesús tuvo que pasar."

La idea de la dramatización fue de Félix González, quien trajo la idea a San Pío después de haber participado en un evento similar en Phoenix por varios años. González, quien ha vivido en los Estados Unidos desde hace 16 años y en Baton Rouge desde hace siete años, se acercó al Padre Montañez-Grimaldos con esta idea hace cinco años.

González dice que él estaba buscando una manera de compartir con otros la alegría que el sintió desde su “encuentro con Jesús” hace 12 años.

“Mi primer pensamiento fue que (la idea) vino de Dios” dijo el Padre Montañez-Grimaldos. “Vengo de un país (Colombia) que tiene la dramatización y la crucifixión el Viernes Santo.”

“Es algo que nosotros rescatamos de nuestras tradiciones”, él añadió. “Es una consolación para la comunidad Hispánica para recordarles de dónde venimos. En algunos países de Latino América y Centro América es una tradición hacer la dramatización”. La planeación inicio en enero y se llevaron a cabo 8 ensayos antes del Viernes Santo.

Para Álvarez, de empezar un evento de dramatización de la pasión de Cristo no era fácil si no lo hiciera adecuadamente. Después de la liberación de Barrabás a la multitud, Poncio Pilatos se lavó simbólicamente las manos.
Cristo fue levantado en la cruz después de que sus manos estaban atadas. Álvarez dijo que después de haber sido levantado y ver la multitud de cerca de 500 espectadores que se habían reunido en los terrenos de la iglesia de San Pío en Baton Rouge, su pensamiento fue: “Creo que vamos a hacerles ver la cosa real.”

Después de haber sido bajado de la cruz y envuelto en unas sábanas, Álvarez se dijo a sí mismo, “Gracias a Dios esto se ha terminado.”

Muchos espectadores, incluso aquellos que juegan el papel de los soldados romanos que participaron en la flagelación de Cristo, lloraron durante la crucifixión. Los actores hicieron una dramatización increíblemente realista de la pasión.

A partir de la página 14

PASIÓN

guna almohadilla que mitigara los latigazos. “Yo me sentí mal por hacer eso” dijo Romero, el soldado cuyo latigazo quebró la corona de espinas dijo con una sonrisa tímidia. “Yo no quería golpearlo, pero tuve que hacerlo”.

Representar a Jesús, sin embargo, también resultó ser un cambio de vida para Álvarez, quien dijo que era su responsabilidad tomar la “propiedad del papel.” Álvarez utilizó la oportunidad de crecer más cerca de Cristo y hacer los cambios necesarios en su propia vida personal, incluyendo ir a confesión.

“Tenía que arreglar ciertas cosas en mi vida”, él dijo. “Tenía algunos problemas personales”.

“Yo trabajé en esto por representar el papel de Jesús. Yo le pedí a Jesús que me diera la fuerza de hacer este papel ‘tu papel y a través de mi papel la gente te conocerá’”. Álvarez admitió que llevando la cruz de ida y vuelta a través del estacionamiento para representar la flagelación al Calvario fue molesto pero el peso no era lo que estaba pasando por su mente. Más bien, dijo, que sólo estaba pensando que el elenco “tiene que hacerlo bien,” sabiendo que en algún momento se encontraría con Simón e iba a conseguir algo de alivio.

Para la crucifixión, Álvarez, así como los dos hombres quienes hicieron el papel de los pecadores crucificados junto a Cristo, tenían las manos atadas a la cruz. Una vez subidos, todos los ojos estaban en Álvarez.

“Vi a la gente y pensé ‘creo que vamos a hacerles ver lo real.’” dijo él. “Fue una bella experiencia. Hay partes que no puedo explicar.”

Después de haber sido bajado de la cruz y envuelto en las sábanas por los que lo llevarían a la tumba, Álvarez tuvo un pensamiento: “Gracias a Dios hemos terminado”.

O ¿fue sólo el comienzo? Álvarez dijo que los cambios que hizo para orar mientras se preparaba su papel de representar a Cristo definieron su nueva rutina, incluyendo un compromiso más grande para su oración diaria. El también estaba ayunando pero no solamente de la comida sino de otras cosas que podrían tener efectos negativos para su vida también.

“(El papel) hizo que me diera cuenta de que tengo que cambiar por todo el sufrimiento que Jesús tuvo que pasar,” dijo él. “Ha sido un cambio de vida.”

“Me ha estado ayudando a no hacer cosas malas, sino cosas buenas”.

Después de haber sido bajado de la cruz y envuelto en unas sábanas, Álvarez se dijo a sí mismo, “Gracias a Dios esto se ha terminado.”
SJA receives computer grant based on student’s application

By Debbie Shelley  
The Catholic Commentator

Good things can come by accident. Sophie Landry, a junior at St. Joseph’s Academy, found this to be true when by “accident” she wound up in an independent study course because her class schedule was not working out. During the course of the class, she became the lead writer for a grant from New Matter Educate and Inspire to recognize and reward schools, universities and school districts with innovative plans for integrating MOD-t 3D printers into the classroom. SJA was one of 100 schools awarded the grant by the company. The school will receive three MOD-t 3D printers, 15 spools of filament and five packs of replacement print surfaces plates. The school currently has 16 3D printers.

Landry was in the second-hour class by herself learning about 3D printers. “(3D technology) is growing on campus. I thought it would be cool to make a model from start to finish from scratch,” Landry said.

Her instructor, John Richardson, co-director of technology at SJA and a member of the technology faculty, learned of the grant while attending the Computer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas in January.

Returning to SJA for the start of the spring semester, Richardson approached Landry about writing the grant. “I like to think that students can do anything if you don’t tell them they can’t do it,” said Richardson, who has been teaching for 17 years.

Landry said, “I first looked at it like an assignment and said, ‘I’ll look at it.’ We talked about all the possibilities and what we could write about, what programs they could do for the printing.”

Landry said she loves children, and she and Richardson decided when she wrote the grant she would highlight the fact that the printers would benefit the students at THRIVE Academy, a charter boarding school for at-risk students in East Baton Rouge Civil Parish. THRIVE students come to SJA on designated afternoons to enjoy a variety of educational opportunities, including 3D printing.

“I researched the THRIVE program. We looked at their mission statement and how it all got started,” said Landry. “We looked at what THRIVE would want for their students. I also talked to Ms. (Claire) Luikart, (director of the school’s STEM lab) about the history of the STEM program and the STEM lab and how 3D printing came about so I could get a better idea of what that means for the school. After that it was coming up with the logistics of the program we wanted to start.”

There was a tight deadline for the grant, but Landry was undaunted. “The more I researched THRIVE, the more excited I got. Some days I came into the classroom and he (Richardson) came to me and said, ‘Would you like to work on the grant or with the printers? I said, ‘I would like to write a little bit and research the grant.’”

There was a lot of writing and reviewing, for which Landry credits Richardson, Luikart, Amy Perrin and Colette Burke and others for helping her to complete it. “I was excited to finish, but at the same time, I was like, ‘Oooh, it’s over. I have it submitted and I’m done with this part.’”

Then Richardson came home from an out of town trip with some news. “He said, ‘I’ve got the most exciting email of the whole trip.’ I had no idea what this was about. I thought, ‘He had been around the country doing all kinds of things. I’m sure it was something cool.’ He started reading it and I knew in the middle of the email, I said, ‘Oh, we got this thing.’ We kept high-fiving. We were so excited. It was such a huge thing.”

Richardson and Landry celebrated her success with a pizza party for her and her “lunch bunch.”

Landry, who is excited to provide more students an opportunity to develop skills on printers that are playing a big role in technology advancements, said she will work with the kids when they come to SJA.

Richardson said he is proud of the way Landry took to the grant-writing project, which can be intimidating for adults.

“I think she was nervous when she found out she would be doing more than printing cute things,” Richardson said. “I think she found out quickly that it was not a fluff course. But I thought she would knock it out of the ballpark, and she did.”

St. Michael High School names new AD

Rob Smith has been selected as the new athletic director at St. Michael High School. He will begin his new post in the 2016-17 school year.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the athletic program in its continued success. St. Michael High School has an excellent coaching staff and great young athletes,” Smith said.

A faculty member at St. Michael High School since 2004, Smith is currently the assistant athletic director and the head volleyball coach. Previously, he served as an assistant coach for softball and boys soccer.

Smith will replace Tami Reynolds-McClure, who is stepping back with plans to increase her focus on basketball and golf for the Lady Warriors. She has served as the athletic director at St. Michael High School for the past eight years.

“On behalf of St. Michael High School, we are extremely grateful for the job Tami Reynolds-McClure has done as athletic director. We look forward to Rob Smith taking over this important role as he builds upon our successful athletic program,” said Ellen Lee, principal at St. Michael High School.
DEATH IS DEFEATED – Eighth-grade students at St. George School portrayed the living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. The students were led by eighth-grade religion teacher Karen Gautreaux. Photo provided by Charlene Lauman

A MOTHER’S LOVE – Schyler Lee, a student at St. Michael High School, portrays Mary as she embraces her son Jesus following his death on the cross. St. Michael student Matthew Miller depicts the role of Jesus in the school’s annual presentation of the Passion play. Lee and Miller were chosen by the faculty and staff to portray Mary and Jesus respectively based on their faithfulness and witness to the love of Christ. Photo provided by Kristi Watts | St. Michael High School

IN THE STEPS OF CHRIST – Landon DeMarco, a pre-K-4 student at Holy Ghost School, watches as his feet are washed by his “buddy,” fourth-grader Drew Schillage, while Therese Adams assists. As a Catholic tradition on Holy Thursday, students at Holy Ghost wash the feet of their buddies, just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Photo by Cindy Wagner | Holy Ghost School

THE PASSION OF JESUS – Gavin Landry, a senior at St. John Interparochial School, portrays Jesus during a Living Way of the Cross presentation. The March 24 reenactment by Landry and other members of the senior class was attended by students in grades 4-11 at the school before Easter holiday dismissal. Photo by April Hedges

Spreading the Good News! Since 1963

Never miss a single issue!

Have The Catholic Commentator mailed directly to your mailbox for a little more than $1 a month.

Send a $14 check or money order with your name and mailing address to The Catholic Commentator, P.O. Box 3316, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3316 or call 225-387-0983 to pay by credit card.

Name

Address

City     State   Zip+4

Phone (for use only if clarification is needed)
does contain several scenes which may be intentions are unclear. While the film is City experiment gone wrong, but his true leader (Jeff Daniels) oversees the Windy ley) and her mentor-lover (Theo James) which divided families in post-apocalyp brought down the wicked faction system.ter Dan Trachtenberg is also refreshingly-10 Cloverfield Lane ParamountAudacious, witty, intelligent and skillfully-made, this bracing combination of suspense and science fiction from direc-tor Dan Trachtenberg is also refreshingly free of vulgarity. Held captive in an under-ground bunker by a paranoid and possibly murderous survivor (John Good-son) who insists he saved her from an apocalyptic event in the wider world, a lone traveler (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) must decide between the claustrophobic evil currently confronting her and the unidentified dangers that may be lurking outside. Probably acceptable for mature viewers. Intense violence and action, brief rear female nudity, and some crude language. A-III; PG-13

The Divergent Series: Allegiant SummitThird time's not a charm with this ponderous adaptation of the final book of the futuristic trilogy by Veronica Roth, the sequel to “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” directed by Robert Schwentke. Having brought down the wrecked faction system which divided families in post-apocalyptic Chicago, our heroine (Shailene Woodley) and her mentor-lover (Theo James) venture beyond the city wall to discover who is really behind the city's troubles. There in a gleaming city a charismatic leader (Jeff Daniels) oversees the Windy City experiment gone wrong, but his true intentions are unclear. While the film is not nearly as violent as its predecessor, it does contain several scenes which may be too strong for younger viewers. Intense violence and action, brief rear female nudity, and some crude language. A-III; PG-13

10 Cloverfield Lane ParamountAudacious, witty, intelligent and skillfully-made, this bracing combination of suspense and science fiction from director Dan Trachtenberg is also refreshingly free of vulgarity. Held captive in an underground bunker by a paranoid and possibly murderous survivor (John Goodson) who insists he saved her from an apocalyptic event in the wider world, a lone traveler (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) must decide between the claustrophobic evil currently confronting her and the unidentified dangers that may be lurking outside. Probably acceptable for mature viewers. Intense violence and action, brief rear female nudity, and some crude language. A-III; PG-13

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice Warner BrosThe titans of the DC Comics universe battle it out in this follow-up to 2013's Superman reboot, "Man of Steel," once again directed by Zack Snyder. The Dark Knight (Ben Affleck) grows to resent the death and destruction wrought as collateral damage in the clash between Krypton's favorite son (Henry Cavill) and his archenemy, Gen. Zod (Michael Shannon). So he joins in a rising chorus of voices questioning the mighty alien's true intentions. From the sidelines, megalomaniac Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg) aggravates the conflict for his own purposes. All of this threatens the stacked-up domesticity charted by Superman's alter ego, Clark Kent, and his Daily Planet newspaper colleague, Lois Lane (Amy Adams). But help is on the way with the unexpect-ingly appearing appearance of 5,000-year-old Amazon princess Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot). Snyder's film is at once thoroughly enter-taining and thought provoking, even if its operatic scale comes at the cost of endless mayhem and an ear-splitting score. The roller-coaster ride into which he straps viewers is often thrilling and ulti-mately exhausting and much too intense for the younger set. Relentless and intense action violence, cohabitation, brief partial nudity, occasional profanity and crude language. A-III; PG-13

God's Not Dead 2 Pure FlixFlawed religious drama in which a his-tory teacher (Melissa Joan Hart) at a pub-lic high school, who also is a committed evangelical believer, gets in hot water for quoting the New Testament in class. With her job on the line, she heads into a court battle backed by an untried but good-hearted lawyer (Jesse Metcalfe) and with the emotional and spiritual support of her kindly grandfather (Pat Boone). Leading the charge against her is a serpentine at-orney (Ray Wise) for the American Civil Liberties Union. While the legal debate showcases the evidence for the historical existence of Jesus, the very real threats to religious freedom in contemporary society are blurred by a fictional premise that feels implausible. This gives rise to an off-key tone throughout director Har-old Cronk's follow-up to his 2014 original. Though appropriate for most moviegoers, the film also suffers from a ho-hum script. Whether exposing her backside to a few pithy quotes interspersed with half-hearted physical comedy that has the taste of stale moussaka. Sexual references and light banter. A-III; PG-13

The Boss UniversalAfter a prison stint for insider trad-ing, a disgraced businesswoman (Mel-lissa McCarthy) who co-wrote the (script) moves in with her former assistant (Kristen Bell) and the secretary's preteen daughter (Ella Anderson). While mind-ing the youngster, she strikes on the idea of staging a comeback by starting a for-profit version of the Girl Scouts to market her long-suffering hostess' outstanding brownies. But her plan is threatened by the ex-lover-turned-rival (Peter Dinklage) whose tip to the authorities brings about her downfall. The blue and trashy humor alternate with failed attempts at a more serious tone in direc-tor and co-writer Ben Falcone's dim star vehicle. Whether exposing her backside to her roommates or working through the emotional problems bred during her childhood in an orphanage, McCarthy's character makes a thorough nausea of herself, inspiring groans rather than giggles. Almost slapstick violence, pervasive vulgar humor, drug use, an implied pre-marital encounter, relentless rough and crude language. O; R

Meet the Blacks FreestyleA sloppy assemblage of tasteless jokes, rampant profanity and lewd sexual be-havior comprises this wretched comedy, directed and co-written by Deon Taylor. An African-American family relocates from Chicago to an all-white gated community in Beverly Hills, California. The patriarch (Mike Epps) hopes for a better life for his wife (Zulay Henao) and kids (Bresha Webb, Alex Henderson). But, unbeknownst to them, he's also running away from a string of unpaid debts and spurned lovers in the Windy City. In a comic take on the horror franchise that began with 2003's "The Purge," the clan is soon under siege from gun-toting neighbors and angry creditors, all taking ad-vantage of an annual 12-hour event during which any crime may be committed with impunity. Bloody violence, strong sexual content, including scenes of mas-turbation, drug use, pervasive profane, rough and crude language. O; R
Saying sorry starts by looking within

Music critics’ comments about Justin Bieber’s latest release “Sorry” call the song “a chill number marked by warm island rhythms” that has “made fans out of haters with an unforgettably good single.” Given those glowing remarks, maybe Bieber should try apologizing more often!

The song’s character says that “I made those mistakes maybe once or twice.” However, being more honest, he admits that “by once or twice I mean maybe a couple of hundred of times.”

He recognizes that “I know that I let you down,” and asks, “Is it too late now to say sorry?” Well, it’s not too late, but given his attitude, he first says that “I made those mistakes because of rep- ”

This begins by identifying the inappropriate behaviors. For example, does he use words to put her down or ridicule her? Or is it more a behavior where he flirts with other women and carries on secret relationships? Or maybe he has a problem with alcohol or some other addictive substance.

Rather than ask for forgiveness, he first should thoroughly examine what is going on within himself that he continually hurts another.

This begins by identifying the inappropriate behaviors. For example, does he use words to put her down or ridicule her? Or is it more a behavior where he flirts with other women and carries on secret relationships? Or maybe he has a problem with alcohol or some other addictive substance.

Whatever is causing him to hurt another, he needs to avoid giving excuses for his behavior. Rather, he can name it precisely for whatever it is.

Next comes looking deeper. What lies below the behavior? What feelings does this behavior cover up? To change his behaviors, he will need to understand what fuels his actions, and most likely, this relates to feelings that he has not faced.

Since no one can change instantly, he will also need a thorough plan. Behaviors tend to remain fixed because of repetition, especially when we feel stressed or when underlying feelings are triggered by outer circumstances.

Consequently, when he senses that he is at the verge of such repetition, even when he wants to do differently, he needs a way of changing his focus until the old pattern subsides. Given all of this work, now he is ready to apologize. He can tell the other person what he has learned about himself, express what feelings lie hidden within him, and outline how he has a clear plan for treating her differently.

When he shares this information, his apology is not based solely in words but in a plan for change that can safeguard her from his previous behavior.

Such a plan cannot give her perfect assurance that his former behavior will never again hurt her, but now she will know that he is much more serious about changing those behaviors.

He should also ask God to help him. No one changes easily, but the power and healing of God is much stronger than any pattern of hurt. Given this combination of insight, humility and commitment for change, he can grow to be a person that loves more genuinely and minimizes how he hurts others.

MARTIN is an Indiana pastoral counselor who reviews current music for Catholic News Service. Write to: chmartin@hughes.net or at: 7125 West CR 200 South, Rockport, IN 47635, or like this column on Facebook at “Charlie Martin’s Today’s Music Columns” and post a comment or suggestion.

Show your support to the advertisers of The Catholic Commentator. They make your Catholic newspaper possible!
Why was Jesus crucified?

Are we in the Easter season. We should be singing alleluias and thanking God that we will rise with Christ. Yet, our world is still stuck in the senseless slaughter of innocent people in Paris and Brussels, thanks to ISIS

We live in a sick world. As the archbishop of Paris, Andre Vingt-Trois, asked in his homily at a Mass for the terrorist victims in Notre Dame Cathedral, “How is it possible that young people formed in our schools and our neighborhoods could have known such distress that the violence of the caliphate came to represent some sort of driving ideal?” In Brussels the radicalized Muslims, reputedly from a Muslim ghetto that was poor and without work for its young people. Bat and in Paris the terrorists were not impoverished immigrants. According to Father John J. Conley SJ, writing in the Jesuit publication, “America,” most were French citizens who had enjoyed the middle-class benefits of the republic. Yet, they were swiftly radicalized by professional jihadists from ISIS.

And the same was true in the San Bernardino, California and Boston bombings where the terrorists were American citizens. When people follow an ideal that leads to the killing of innocent people and the destruction of the treasures of civilization, we call that an ideal, and that way of thinking a false idol. Their god is a man-made evil goal, their religion, it becomes the greatest of evils, a true ideology. Their god is a man-made evil goal, an idol, and that way of thinking a false idol.

Another Perspective

Father John Carville

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US

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

1 Apr. 20 Rev. Peter Al Dang
Dcn. H. John Ferguson III
Br. Eldon Cirifs SC

2 Apr. 21 Rev. Jamir S. David
Dcn. Natalie (Nat) J. Garofalo
Sr. Cielo Pesigan DM

3 Apr. 22 Rev. Al M. Davidson
Dcn. Edward J. Gauthreaux
Br. Ramon Daunis SC

4 Apr. 23 Rev. Christopher J. Decker
Dcn. Steven C. Gonzales
Sr. Anh-Tuyet Pham ICM

5 Apr. 24 Rev. Bradley A. Doyle
Dcn. Richard H. Grant
Br. Carl Evans SC

6 Apr. 25 Rev. Vincent J. Dufresne
Dcn. Ronald J. Hebert
Sr. Christine Pologa CSJ

7 Apr. 26 Rev. Thomas P. Duhe
Dcn. Clayton A. Hollier
Br. Clement Furno CSSp

8 Apr. 27 Rev. Matthew C. Dupre
Dcn. William H. Holtman
Sr. M. Rose Prisca MC

9 Apr. 28 Rev. Reuben C. Dykes
Dcn. Micheal J. (Shelley) Joseph
Br. Harold Harris SC

10 Apr. 29 Rev. Philip V. Eapen CMI
Sr. Penny Prophit FMOL

11 Apr. 30 Rev. Denis O. Edwugha
Dcn. Robert J. Kusch
Br. Ronald Hingle SC

12 May 1 Rev. Michael A. Galea
Dcn. Thomas E. Labat Sr.
Sr. Maria Labaisis CSJ

13 May 2 Rev. Henry W. Gaultreau Jr.
Dcn. Ronald D. LeGrangre
†Br. Warren Laidumey SC

14 May 3 Rev. Matthew J. Graham
Dcn. Albert Levy III
Sr. Anne Michelle
Ramagos CSJ

Johnnycarville@gmail.com.
The triumph of goodness

The stone which rolled away from the tomb of Jesus continues to roll away from every sort of grave. Goodness cannot be held, captured or put to death. It evades its pursuers, escapes capture, slips away, hides out, even leaves the churches sometimes, but forever rises, again and again, all over the world. Such is the meaning of the resurrection. Goodness cannot be captured or killed. We see this already in the earthly life of Jesus. There are a number of passages in the Gospels which give the impression that Jesus was somehow highly elusive and difficult to capture. It seems that until Jesus consents to his own capture, nobody can lay a hand on him.

We see this played out a number of times: Early on in his ministry, when his own townsfolk get upset with his message and lead him to the brow of a hill to hurl him to his death, we are told that “he slipped through the crowd and went away.” Later when the authorities try to arrest him we are told simply that “he slipped away.” And, in yet another incident when he is in the temple area and they try to arrest him, the text simply says that he left the temple area and “no one laid a hand upon him because his hour had not yet come.” Why the inability to take him captive? Was Jesus so physically adept and elusive that no one could imprison him?

These stories of his “slipping away” are highly symbolic. The lesson is not that Jesus was physically deft and elusive, but rather that the word of God, the grace of God, the goodness of God and power of God can never be captured, held captive or ultimately killed. They are adept. They can never be held captive, can never be killed, and even when seemingly they are killed, the stone that entombs them always eventually rolls back and releases them. Goodness continues to resurrect from every sort of grave.

And it is this, the constant resurrection of goodness, not that of viciousness and evil, which speaks the deepest truth about our world and our lives. The Jewish-Hungarian writer, Imre Kertesz, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2002, gives a poignant testimony of this. He had as a young boy been in a Nazi death camp, but what he remembered most afterwards from this experience was not the injustice, cruelty and death that he saw there, but rather some acts of goodness, kindness and altruism he witnessed amidst that evil. After the war, it left him wanting to read the lives of saints rather than biographies of war.

And, so, we are in safe hands. No matter how bad the news on a given day, no matter how threatened our lives are on a given day, no matter how intimidating the neighborhood or global bully, no matter how unjust and cruel a situation, and no matter how omnipotent are anger and hatred, love and goodness will reappear and ultimately triumph.

Jesus taught that the source of all life and being is benign and loving. He promised, too, that our end will be benign and loving.

Jesus taught that the source of all life and being is benign and loving. He promised, too, that our end will be benign and loving.

The Human Side

Father Eugene Hemrick

Mary’s example in fighting terrorism

In Belgium, government officials advised people after the attacks to avoid crowds and stay home, bringing their lives to a halt. Some ignored it. Both incidents reflected terrorism’s attempt to paralyze life through fear, yet others finding a way to keep going.

In the workplace, fear-provoking situations are often responsible for people having no desire for being efficient, taking pride in their work or being a team member. The list of terror’s destruction is endless. Mary is a beautiful example of looking for Christ, even as others want us to bring life to a halt or make us fearful and suspicious of one another. To look for Christ in our life is to look for opportunities to practice civility at its best and make others feel at home and being free from paralyzing fears.

It is living like Mary, not frozen by fear, and treating others as we would want them to treat us that can ultimately help us to live Christ’s love – the perfect way to counter all forms of terrorism.

Mission Statement

The mission of The Catholic Commentator is to provide news, information and commentary to the people of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholics and their neighbors alike. In doing so, The Catholic Commentator strives to further the wider mission of the Church: to evangelize, to communicate, to educate and to give the Catholic viewpoint on important issues of the present day.
Holy Family Bear Fair – Holy Family School, 335 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen, will hold its Bear Fair Friday, April 15, 5 – 11 p.m. Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. and Sunday, April 17, 8:30 a.m. – noon. There will be food, rides, a 1K and 5K run, live entertainment, games and a silent and live auction. For information, call 225-344-4100.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Events – Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 11140 Hwy. 77, Maringouin, will host its annual bingo Friday, April 22, 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall. The church’s family festival will be held Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Dinners will be sold for $7 each during that time. There will also be face painting for children and a raffle for $1,000. For information, call 225-625-2438.

Festival of Two Rivers – St. Alphonsus Church, 14040 Greenwell Springs Road, Greenwell Springs, will hold its Festival of Two Rivers Friday, April 29 – Sunday, May 1. There will be food, rides, games, bingo, entertainment and a cash raffle. A spaghetti dinner will be served on Saturday, April 30 at 5 p.m., and barbecue chicken dinners will be sold Sunday beginning at 11 a.m. There will be a “Kiss the Goat” event as well. For information, call 225-261-4650.

Classifieds

BUSINESS SERVICE

LEBLANC’S TREE & STUMP REMOVAL, INC.
Prompt service - Free estimates
FULLY INSURED
E. H. “Eddie” LeBlanc
Phone 383-7316
Dave’s Bicycle Repair and Sales. Free pickup and delivery, free estimates, expert economical repair on all brands.
St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of a Peaceful Death. St. Joseph Hospice is available to support families as they face end-of-life decisions. Peace, comfort, dignity and support can make every day “a good day.” Call 225-368-3100 for more information.
Baton Rouge Care Service. Serving Baton Rouge and surrounding areas since 1960. Registered sitters, nurses, and nurses aides for the sick and elderly in the home, nursing homes and hospitals. Licensed and bonded for private duty care.
Anthony’s Furniture Specialties. We restore hurricane damaged furniture. If it’s furniture we do it all: Refinishing, re-upholstery, pick up and delivery, etc. 2263 Florida Blvd., BR. 225-413-2607.
Ours O Designs
225-291-6588
Kitchen & Bath Designs.
Space Planning & Product Selection.
www.oursodesigns.com
Mr. D’s Tree Service
3 Licensed Arborists
Free Estimates
Fully Insured
Don Decell & Carl Babin, owners
225-292-6756
Brousseau’s Painting
Donnie’s Furniture Repair & Upholstery. We do refreshing, repairs, caning, painting of furniture and upholstery. In business 43 yrs. 34 yrs. painting of furniture. 10876 Greenwell Springs Rd. 225-272-2777. See our showroom.

BUSINESS SERVICE

Pennington Lawn and Landscape
225-806-0008
Lawn & bed maintenance. Clean-up Neglect. Call for your free estimate.
225 PAINTING
Interior and Exterior Residential and Commercial 30 years experience. For coupons go to: www.225painting.com
Call 225-205-1027
Free estimates
THOMAS LUNDIN, CPA
Accounting and taxes for businesses, non-profits and individuals; business, computer, financial and management services.
30 years experience; professional, prompt and personal attention.
225-296-0404.

BUSINESS SERVICE

HOUSEKEEPER
POWER WASHING
Patios, driveways, walls, carports, etc. Call 225-276-1841.
FOR SALE
Resthaven Garden of Last Supper. 2 plots together for $5840 both. 2 burial vaults $1720 both. Call 225-272-6708.
Beautiful Gardens Hillcrest Cemetery on Groom Road, Baker LA. Two spaces at $1000 each. Great Price! Call 225-791-5419.

HELP WANTED

St. George School
Principal
St. George Catholic School is currently seeking qualified candidates for a K-8 Assistant Principal for the 2016-17 school year. Our school offers a diverse array of experiences for our students to grow in faith, excel academically, and develop their physical and artistic talents. The ideal candidate will have experience working in a Catholic School with demonstrated leadership experience.

Responsibilities:
• Support and uphold the philosophy of Catholic education and the mission of the school.
• Model Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
• Maintain confidentiality regarding school matters.
• Support and assists with the responsibilities of the principal.
• Works as a member of the administration team.
• Assists in planning for curriculum, educational textbooks and materials, student testing.
• Assists the principal in supervision of employees serving as an instructional leader.
• Monitor professional development in the classroom and grade level/content area meetings.
• Other duties as assigned by the principal.

Qualifications:
• Must be certified administrator in Louisiana.
• Strong written and verbal skills.
• Excellent interpersonal and problem solving skills.
• Ability to develop and maintain a collegial environment among all staff.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to: Mr. Jack Nelson at jack.nelson@sgschoolbr.org.

Catholic High School
A Brother of the Sacred Heart School Since 1894
Catholic High School is accepting applications for the following positions:

Assistant Band Director
Part-time Librarian
English Faculty
Math Faculty
Science Faculty
Social Studies Faculty

For more information contact
Tom W. Eldringhoff, Ph.D.
Academic Assistant Principal
225-383-0397
Teldringhoff@catholichigh.org
www.catholichigh.org

Print Your Ad Here

BOAZ SUMMA BATH
RUNE ESBAT ECHO
ETTE DEALT LEON
ADE VERSE CLARK
DODER DIOS
ORS WISE NAB
STUDY ACID OSE
OHS O GIFTS MUS S
UAE CODE BANNS
LID BOER AUG
LEDA TRIBES
WATER LAITY AMO
ALUI MISSA TUBA
SUNG ASTIR RIEK
AMAH OMTS ERRS

MAIL TO: The Catholic Commentator, P.O. Box 3316, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3316

DATES TO RUN:
Circle Category: Announcements—Business Services—Cards of Thanks—For Rent—For Sale—Help Wanted—Positions Wanted—Legal Notices (other)
Mail to: The Catholic Commentator, P.O. Box 3316, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3316

Enclosed is $9.50 for the first 15 words + 15¢ for each word thereafter + 25¢ per line for each special effect (all caps, centered line, bold lettering); for a total of $___________for each issue. Call for charging on your credit card.

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY
PHONE

Advertisements will not be published without full payment in advance.

More information on www.advertisementsforcatholicchurch.com
Pro-life advocates oppose new FDA guidelines for RU-486 use

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life advocates expressed dismay with new Food and Drug Administration guidelines that effectively expand how pregnant women can use RU-486, a drug that induces abortion.

The new rules, announced March 30, allow a woman to use RU-486, known generically as mifepristone and by its brand name Mifeprex, later into pregnancy and with fewer visits to a doctor. “People need to know this is a very, very serious expansion of the use of RU-486,” Deirdre McQuade, spokeswoman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Pro Life Activities, told Catholic News Service March 31.

“Clearly the loosening of the FDA guidelines puts more women, girls and unborn children at risk,” McQuade said, while expressing concern that women and girls will be faced with the possibility of delivering a “recognizably human child” at home with no one in attendance.

“Women panic. They don’t know what to do. Who’s there to care for them?” she said.

McQuade also expressed concern that the new guidelines allow non-physicians to dispense or prescribe the drug. “This raises a huge question. Do we want nurses, physicians, their assistants, non-MDs overseeing the prescription of a drug that has very serious consequences for women?”

Dr. Grazie Pozo Christie, an advisory board member with the Catholic Association, in a March 31 statement called the extension of time that RU-486 can be used “substantial.” She said women “will feel the deplorable effects of this change” when they will return home “to endure a painful and shocking process by themselves and of course their babies.”

“Another issue is the psychological and physical impact on a woman, sent home to experience the very painful cramps of a chemical abortion of a fetus that size,” she added. “Besides the considerable blood loss and pain, there is every chance of a woman recognizing a fully formed fetus amongst the expelled products of conception.”

The new FDA guidelines for RU-486 brings the regimen for taking the drug in line with what has become standard medical practice:

• Extending the period when a woman can take the drug to 70 days of pregnancy from 49 days.
• Lowering the dosage to 200 milligrams from 600 milligrams.
• Reducing the number of visits to a doctor by a woman to two from three.

RU-486 is used with another drug called misoprostol, a prostaglandin, to induce a chemical abortion by blocking the hormone progesterone needed to sustain a pregnancy. The FDA said it changed the guidelines governing RU-486 “based on data and information submitted by the drug manufacturer.”

Help Wanted

Regina Caeli Academy, a hybrid academy, serving students in Preschool – 12th grade in the Catholic tradition, is working to bring a satellite center to the Baton Rouge area. RCA provides fully accredited academic and extracurricular classes for homeschoolers. Students attend classes using the Socratic method two days per week and are home schooled the remaining days. For more information visit www.natchezbrc.org or call Greta McDonough at 470-315-0539.

Healing of Families Seminar 4/30/16. Based on Father Ssemakula’s book. Details/registration please contact claudia.ccc@cox.net.

Help Wanted

ASSOCIATE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY POSITION AVAILABLE

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

The Office of Religious Education serves the catechetical needs of all people in the Archdiocese of New Orleans by providing lifelong formation centered in the person of Jesus Christ that echoes Christ, his teachings, and his invitation to discipleship.

Who May Apply:

Anyone who meets the following qualifications:

Qualifications:

• Master degree or higher in theology or related field
• 5+ years’ experience in parish as a DRE
• Proficient with MS Office Suite and Social Media
• Able to multitask with extraordinary attention to detail and organization, possess secretarial skills, and be both a self-starter and problem solver

Responsibilities include:

• Coordinate the goals and mission of the Office of Religious Education and Archdiocese of New Orleans with the priorities and goals of the Synod that specifically relate to the ORE. Craft procedures to implement these goals in parishes. Synch goals with GCFPC goals and help plan the conference.
• Work in collaboration with other diocesan offices.
• Supervise parish catechetical programs.
• Promote innovative techniques to revise Parish School of Religion programs.
• Use social media to inform the parishes of resources, events, classes, etc. offered by ORE.
• Teach classes for ACCP courses.
• Provide resources and classes for the Hispanic and Vietnamese communities.
• Maintain weekly calendar and monthly.

Salary: Based on qualifications and experience

Closing Date: April 29th, 2016

How to apply:

Submit a cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation

Where to apply:

Archdiocese of New Orleans, Office of Religious Education
7887 Waltham Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125
Attention: Dianne Condill-Higgins
Registrar/Office Manager

ASSOCIATE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY POSITION AVAILABLE

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

The Office of Religious Education serves the catechetical needs of all people in the Archdiocese of New Orleans by providing lifelong formation centered in the person of Jesus Christ that echoes Christ, his teachings, and his invitation to discipleship.

Who May Apply:

Anyone who meets the following qualifications:

Qualifications:

• Master degree or higher in theology or related field
• 5+ years’ experience in parish as a DRE
• Able to communicate effectively with priests, deacons and lay ministers
• Proficient with MS Office Suite and Social Media
• Proficient with Social Media and Organize communication, scheduling and priorities for the ORE
• Use social media to inform parishes of events sponsored offered by ORE
• Create and publish monthly newsletter Work with regional diocesan directors of Religious Education and Planning committee in order to produce a successful Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference
• Support the planning, coordination and execution of the goals for the ORE

Salary: Based on qualifications and experience

Closing Date: April 29th, 2016

How to apply:

Submit a cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation

Where to apply:

Archdiocese of New Orleans, Office of Religious Education
7887 Waltham Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125
Attention: Dianne Condill-Higgins
Registrar/Office Manager

Regina Caeli Academy, a hybrid academy, serving students in Preschool – 12th grade in the Catholic tradition, is working to bring a satellite center to the Baton Rouge area. RCA provides fully accredited academic and extracurricular classes for homeschoolers. Students attend classes using the Socratic method two days per week and are home schooled the remaining days. For more information visit www.natchezbrc.org or call Greta McDonough at 470-239-0259.

Healing of Families Seminar 4/30/16. Based on Father Ssemakula’s book. Details/registration please contact claudia.ccc@cox.net.

For help placing your classified ad, call 225-387-0983. All classified ads are prepaid. Credit cards are now accepted.
The Catholic Commentator  April 15, 2016

Diocese of Baton Rouge
Catholic Schools Office
2016-17 School Year
Principal Openings
The Diocese of Baton Rouge has thirty schools in eight civil parishes, with strong Catholic identity the focus in all schools. The district is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and standardized test scores are above state and national averages.
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge
*Evangelize Hearts, Educate Minds, Encourage Talent and Embrace the Future*

Ascension Catholic School
Donaldsonville, LA

St. Louis King of France
Baton Rouge, LA

St Jude the Apostle School
Baton Rouge, LA

For more information, go to www.csobr.org.

Mississippi diocese supports exemption

JACKSON, Miss. (CNS) — The Diocese of Jackson would like to continue to provide education and social services "while remaining faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church," Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz said.

He said the diocese supported "and would continue to support" a religious exemption in Mississippi law "on behalf of the mission of the Catholic Church" with regard to those ministries.

He issued the statement after Republican Gov. Phil Bryant April 5 signed into law the Religious Accommodations Act, passed by the state Senate March 30.

It says the government cannot prevent churches from refusing to marry a same-sex couple, faith-based employers from firing an individual whose "conduct or religious beliefs are inconsistent with those of the religious organization," or a private agency from blocking the adoption of a child because of religious beliefs.

Democrats and other opponents of the legislation had called for Bryant to veto the measure, calling it a "hateful bill" that they say allows outright discrimination of members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

In his statement, Bishop Kopacz said the diocese "had no involvement" in provisions of the bill "that addressed business and government operations."

"The church will continue to work to protect its First Amendment right to worship, to educate and to serve in the public domain while respecting the dignity of all citizens," he said.

Bryant said in a statement on Twitter the legislation "is designed in the most targeted manner possible" and he signed it "to protect sincerely held religious beliefs and moral convictions ... from discriminatory action by state government."

He said it does not limit any constitutionally protected rights or actions and does not challenge federal anti-discrimination law.

Some of the biggest employers in the state, such as Tyson Foods, MGM Resorts International, Nissan and Toyota, have all raised objections to the bill.

Similar bills have been passed in other states, including in North Carolina, where Gov. Pat McCrory is being sued after he signed a bill into law March 23 to block local jurisdictions from extending their own protections for the LGBT community, such as allowing transgender people to use the public bathroom of their choice.

PayPal canceled plans to open a new global operations center in Charlotte, North Carolina, where the online payment corporation would have employed more than 400 people.

In Virginia, Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe March 30 vetoed a similar measure backed by a majority of Republican lawmakers. Supporters of the bill said it would have prohibited state agencies from punishing religious groups that oppose the legalization of same-sex marriage. But gay rights advocates and Democratic lawmakers said it would have allowed discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The Virginia Catholic Conference in a statement said it was "deeply dismayed" by McAuliffe's veto, because the measure "merely sought to preserve fair access to state resources for clergy and religious organizations — including charities serving the poor and vulnerable throughout the state and schools educating tens of thousands of Virginia children — that act according to their belief that marriage is between a man and a woman."

In Georgia, Gov. Nathan Deal, a Republican, vetoed a religious exemptions bill under pressure from businesses.

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta and Bishop Gregory J. Hartmayer of Savannah, Georgia, said in a March 29 statement that like all of the U.S. Catholic bishops, they support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act but "do not support any implementation of RFRA in a way that will discriminate against any individual."

"Indeed, the dignity of each individual is the basis for religious liberty," they said.

On April 6, the Tennessee House of Representatives passed a bill that would allow counselors and therapists to deny service to a patient if doing so were to conflict with the counselor's "sincerely held religious beliefs." The state Senate has passed a similar measure.
“For the Lord does not reject forever; though he brings grief, he takes pity, according to the abundance of his mercy; he does not willingly afflict or bring grief to human beings.”

Lam 3:31-33
Father Gerald Burns empathizes with individuals suffering from chronic pain. As someone who survived a tormenting 18-month bout with polymyalgia rheumatica, an autoimmune disease that causes inflammation throughout the entire body, Father Burns understands what it’s like to live in pain, to the point where leaning over and picking up a piece of paper from the floor can be excruciating.

Because of his own experience, Father Burns developed sensitivity to those in similar circumstances. But it wasn’t until he heard through vicar general Father Tom Ranzino about a retreat being offered in another area of the country for individuals suffering with chronic conditions or terminal illness that he saw an opportunity to get involved.

Father Burns said that Father Ranzino mentioned the retreat in August during one of their monthly clergy support group meetings. Father Ranzino had learned of the retreat when attending a funeral for a clergy friend in Indiana.

“When I heard about it, instantly there was a draw to it,” said Father Burns, who was diagnosed with polymyalgia rheumatica in 2012 after experiencing several months of increasing pain and numerous consultations with his personal trainer and physician.

“I was sensitive to the fact of what it’s like to have a disease that limits you,” added Father Burns, who today remains active and does Pilates, stretching and other forms of exercise, always aware of the possibility of the disease returning. “And I wasn’t used to being limited in any way. So that’s why I was drawn to it.”

As an avid reader of renowned Catholic author Father Thomas Merton, Father Burns’ anticipation heightened when he learned a retreat was going to be held this past October in Gethsemani, Kentucky, where in 1941 Father Merton entered the monastic community of the Abbey of Gethsemani at Trappist.

Accompanied by Father Donald Blanchard, Father Burns, who retired in 2011, attended the retreat, which is limited to 15 people. He said the retreat was emotionally stirring, with many people sharing their own personal stories regarding their various conditions.

He recalled in the opening session, even before the opening prayer, a gentlemen with terminal cancer shared that after receiving his initial diagnosis he was angry with everyone, but most of all God. But after coming across a horrific car accident, Father Burns said the man realized the fragility of life and how death can be so sudden.

“Right then and there he began to say (his illness) is not a great curse; it’s really a gift,” said Father Burns, adding that the gentlemen went on to say he had the chance, which so many others do not, to put his life in order and to make peace with God.

“You could feel the emotion in the room,” he added.

Upon leaving, Father Burns immediately began researching the feasibility of hosting a similar treat in Baton Rouge. The first one is tentatively scheduled at the Bishop Tracy Center in the spring of 2017.

After searching several retreat centers, Father Burns concluded the best location was in the heart of Baton Rouge, at the Tracy Center, which he said is a “wonderful facility, everything you need for a great retreat.”

One challenge is converting five bathrooms to be handicap accessible at the cost of $10,000 per bathroom, but he said an individual has committed to providing the necessary funding.

He already has several volunteers committed for what will be a 25-person hospitality team, as well as a nurse and a commitment from Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center for a physician should an emergency arise.

Similar to Kentucky, the first retreat will be limited to 15 people, with each person being interviewed by Father Burns or someone else, and a nurse to determine each person’s medical condition.

“There are a lot of other conditions that people have that are not visible,” he said.

The retreat, which will be held from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, will include two conferences on Friday night, three on Saturday, and one Sunday, daily Mass, morning and evening prayer and free time where those attending will be able to be on their own with suggested prayer.

SEE RETREAT PAGE 3B
Columnist offers insight on navigating life after death of spouse

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Coping with the death of a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ recurring theme during his papacy has urged Christians to walk alongside one another. CNS photo

Saying goodbye to a spouse is a new journey, complete with bumps and detours along the route. Pope Francis’ message urging Christians to walk alongside one another.
Lay ministry formed to help complete burial rite

By Christina Gray
Catholic News Service

Sometimes when Catholic remains arrive at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, Calif., for burial without an accompanying member of clergy or anyone at all—the cemetery’s longtime director would grab her own prayer book and offer the prayers of committal at the burial site.

“I brought the urn to the grave and said the committal prayers myself, along with one of our gravediggers,” said Monica Williams, who oversees all six San Francisco archdiocesan Catholic cemeteries. She was describing the recent burial of an indigent man with no family except a brother too ill to travel to the cemetery.

Sadly, she said, remains arriving at the cemetery without family members, friends or clergy to attend the committal—the third and final part of the rite of Christian burial—have increased over the years. The rite includes the vigil, funeral and burial.

“I was heartbroken to think that there were people being buried in our own cemeteries without the prayers of the church being said and without another Christian there as they were laid to rest,” said Laura Bertone, director of the San Francisco Archdiocese’s Office of Worship.

Williams turned to Bertone in early 2015 to address the trend and together they came up with a plan to ensure that no one would ever be buried without the witness of other Christians or completion of the full rite: a lay committal ministry.

“The rite of Christian burial is so beautifully written by the church,” Bertone said. “The deceased passes with the farewell prayers of the community of believers into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer but see God face to face,” she said.

Bertone and Williams agreed the problem presented a wonderful opportunity to laypeople to serve their fellow Christians. The church allows for laypeople to preside at the committal.

“The rites specifically say that in the absence of a parish minister, a friend or member of the family should lead those present in the rite of committal,” Bertone said.

In the spring of 2015, 28 deacons and laypeople from San Francisco church parishes took part in a daylong training at Holy Cross Cemetery led by Mercy Sister Toni Lynn Gallagher, the ministry of consolation coordinator for the archdiocese, along with Bertone and Williams. The training prepares laypeople to officiate at burials when a group arrives without a member of clergy or when unaccompanied remains are delivered to the cemetery.

...remains arriving at the cemetery without family members, friends or clergy to attend the committal—the third and final part of the rite of Christian burial—have increased over the years.

Cemetery traditions have been impacted by a number of different factors, Williams explained, including the difficulty some parish priests have fitting travel to and from the archdiocese’s cemeteries into their pastoral duties.

But inactive Catholics separated from their faith communities and a general lack of understanding about Catholic burial rites are major factors, she said.

Sometimes families choose to conclude funeral services at a church or funeral home and do not or cannot come to the cemetery for burial. Other times the remains are shipped from out of the area where no local friends or family reside. And some people die without family or friends or parish communities and their remains are sent to the cemetery by local agencies.

There are many possible scenarios, said Williams.

“The deceased may have moved out of the area and no sons, but still want to be interred at the cemetery where their family is placed.”

At the committal ministry training, participants discussed what to say (and not say) to those in mourning. They also shared their own personal stories of grief and loss. Williams gave participants a tour of the cemetery and a lesson in its terminology and the day concluded with instruction on the actual rites, including the structure of the prayers and how to preside at a committal.

She said that church needs to do a better job of educating people about the richness of Catholic traditions and the values of its rites, and she hopes the new ministry can help in this way.

“A Christian burial can be a tremendous moment of evangelization, in some cases an introduction of our faith for visitors,” Williams said. “In other cases, it’s a reminder to those who have drifted away from the church of the ministry we offer and the great hope of our faith.”
Through story of his own loss, Anglican priest helps others heal

By Nancy Wiehec
Catholic News Service

The Rev. Michael Lapsley knows a lot about loss and redemption.

The Anglican priest and missionary to South Africa was critically wounded by a letter bomb while opening his mail in Zimbabwe in 1990. The blast severed both his hands. He lost an eye, his eardrums were shattered and shrapnel was embedded in his chest.

In the trauma he said he felt God’s presence. And with support, he began his journey of healing.

“For the first four months, I was as helpless as a newborn baby. I could do nothing for myself,” he recalled. “But the prayer, the love, the support from people across the world helped me to make my bombing redemptive ... to bring life out of death, good out of evil.

“My own story was acknowledged, revered, recognized by people across the world. And I realized if I was filled with hatred and bitterness and desire for revenge, that I would be a victim forever.”

The priest said he was attacked because of his dedication to a fully integrated South Africa, where he had been a university chaplain.

“Whether a war has been a totally unjust war, or a justified war, war damages human beings,”

Rev. Michael Lapsley

He also came to realize that people say they can trust me because I know pain,” he wrote. “In the end, though, what matters most is whether we are able to transform pain into life-giving force.”

In the U.S., Healing of Memories workshops are held for veterans of war in at least five states: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Minnesota and New York. Several churches are also involved in the program.

The Franciscan Renewal Center, located in the Phoenix area, offers space and resources to host the workshops. Veterans come twice a year to attend them and the center has secured funding for the program so that veterans can attend for free.

“Whether a war has been a totally unjust war, or a justified war, war damages human beings,” Rev. Lapsley said. “And the fact that people get ill because of what they’ve been part of is not a sign that they’re crazy. It’s a sign of the fullness of their humanity.”

For additional information on the Institute for Healing of Memories in North America, visit healing-memories.org.

Rev. Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest and missionary to South Africa, was critically wounded by a letter bomb in Zimbabwe. However, Rev. Lapsley said in his trauma he felt God’s presence and with the support of others began his journey of healing. OK photo

What side we were on.

To help people with their suffering, he created “safe and sacred spaces” where people could begin to deal with hurts by sharing their stories with others who had first-hand understanding of the circumstances.

He called the process the “healing of memories.” The aim was to discover and celebrate what is life giving and put aside what is destructive.

Since forming the Institute for Healing of Memories, Rev. Lapsley’s work has gained worldwide attention.

In 2012 Orbis Books published his memoir, “Redeeming the Past: My Journey From Freedom Fighter to Healer.”

“Pain unites human beings,” the priest said in the forward of his book.

“In my work as a healer, many people say they can trust me because I know pain,” he wrote. “In the end, though, what matters most is whether we are able to transform pain into a life-giving force.”

For the right reason.

We rely upon the intercession of our Blessed Mother to assist us in imitating the healing ministry of Jesus Christ as we care for terminally ill patients and their families.

We call forth the compassion and kindness of our staff, who serve in this health care ministry, to respond to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of our patients and their families.

We believe in the sacredness of life from conception to natural death, and we devote ourselves to supporting patients and families through the dying process at the end of life’s journey on this earth and new life in eternity.

NOTRE DAME HOSPICE
A Catholic Healthcare Ministry
SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS

www.NotreDameHospice-NO.org • (225) 243-7358

Notre Dame Hospice does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability or a pre-existing condition, treatment, ability to pay, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.
Why we pray for the dead

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Praying for the dead might not make sense to nonbelievers but for Catholics it is part and parcel of the faith tradition, rooted in Old Testament readings and supported by the Catechism and the church’s funeral liturgy.

“Our faith teaches us to pray for the dead,” said Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Illinois, in a 2015 All Saints’ Day reflection, stressing that although people hope that those who die are with God and the angels and saints, it is not necessarily a guarantee.

“Scripture teaches that all of the dead shall be raised. However, only the just are destined for the kingdom of God,” the bishop wrote.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the clearest Bible reference about prayers for the dead is from the Second Book of Maccabees. When soldiers were preparing the bodies of their slain comrades for burial they discovered they were wearing amulets taken from a pagan temple which violated the law of Deuteronomy so they prayed that God would forgive the sin these men had committed.

The New Testament echoes this notion in the second letter of Timothy when St. Paul prays for someone who died, named Onesiphorus, saying: “May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church also has something to say about prayers for the dead stating: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.” (No. 1030)

The Roman catacombs where early Christians were buried also were places of prayer.

Today, prayers for the dead begin at the moment of death, often when family members are gathered around the bedside of the person who has died.

Prayers for death and grieving are among the “Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers,” published in 2007 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops which includes prayers immediately after death, prayers for mourners, prayers at graveside and a more general prayer for the dead.

Of course these prayers continue in the funeral liturgy, which is the “central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased,” according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ overview of Catholic funeral rites: usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/overview-of-catholic-funeral-rites.cfm.

The funeral liturgy, the website points out, is “an act of worship, and not merely an expression of grief.”

It is a time when the church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased “to give praise and thanks to God for Christ’s victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God’s tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the paschal mystery,” it adds.

The prayers in the funeral liturgy express hope that God will free the person who has died from any burden of sin and prepare a place for him or her in heaven.

“The funeral rite is a prayer for the dead, designated by the church as the liturgy of Christian burial,” wrote Bishop Braxton in his reflection.

He noted that many parishes “regularly disregard” the emphasis of this liturgy by printing funeral programs which say: “The Mass of the Resurrection: A Celebration of Life,’ even though the person has obviously not yet been raised from the dead.”

According to the Catechism, most Catholics who don’t merit hell still need purification before entering heaven and pass through a state when they die that the church describes as purgatory.

In a question and answer page on Busted Halo, a Paulist-run website at bustedhalo.com, Father Joe Scott CSP said praying for the dead has “further origins in our belief in the communion of saints.”

The priest, an associate pastor at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community in Los Angeles, added that living members of this communion can “assist each other in faith by prayers and other forms of spiritual support.”

“Christians who have died continue to be members of the communion of saints,” he wrote. “We believe that we can assist them by our prayers, and they can assist us by theirs.”

The final peace for a life well-lived.

In 1921, Roselawn Memorial Park’s goal was that their design plan reflect an atmosphere that would only grow more peaceful and beautiful with time.

Roselawn’s Perpetual Care plan has assured that this tradition, beauty and historical character will be preserved, well into the future.

Today, Roselawn provides at-need assistance and advice, pre-planning financing, Family Plot discounts, a mausoleum, columbarian, and other disposition options.

Call us during regular working hours and an understanding consultant will answer all of your questions.

ROSELAWN MEMORIAL PARK

4045 North Street  |  225-344-0186  |  RoselawnBatonRouge.com

Distributing some 40,000 copies every other week.
In genealogy research Catholic cemeteries can provide some help

By Mike Nelson
Catholic News Service

As interest in genealogical research increases, some Catholics have found that their relatives’ final earthly addresses can be helpful, even valuable resources.

“Catholic cemeteries represent a living archive of our faith community,” said Richard Peterson, director of Associated Catholic Cemeteries in the Archdiocese of Seattle, and treasurer of the Catholic Cemetery Conference.

“We’re fortunate to have these resting places for those who built our faith communities,” he said. “It offers a valuable link to those of us who serve the church today, and it makes sense that people want to know more about their past. And assisting people in their genealogical research is part of the mission and ministry of Catholic cemetery staff.”

But he and other cemetery officials acknowledged that this increased interest in family history research has required diocesan offices and individual Catholic cemeteries to institute policies designed to assist the inquiring researchers, but also to protect historic records and limited resources.

Moreover, those seeking information on Grandma Jones or great Uncle Pete should be advised that the process may not be as rapid as they would hope, nor will it likely yield much more information than the date of burial and gravesite location.

“Cemetery records were never set up with the expectation that they would also provide extensive data for genealogical research,” the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Catholic Cemeteries Office points out on its website.

Thus, while some burial records may contain additional sacramental information, perhaps even a newspaper obituary attached, those are exceptions.

“If we can locate the site, we can provide a copy of the original burial record,” said LuAnne Baron, records office manager for the Catholic Cemeteries Association of Boston, which oversees 25 cemeteries in the archdiocese. “That record would include the name of the deceased, date of burial, the exact gravesite number and location, and possibly other information – like the date of death, or the person’s age at the time of death.”

For those who inquire, Catholic Cemeteries of Boston provides the deceased’s gravesite location at no charge. For additional information, a nominal fee is requested with the proviso that it will be returned if a search is unsuccessful.

But that sort of research takes staff time, Baron said, “and genealogical research is not our first priority.” Nor are all burial or entombment records recorded in a centrally located database; in the case of “older lots,” or burial locations, “chances are they won’t be in our database,” Baron said.

Like most diocesan cemetery offices, Boston’s requests for family history information must be made by email or in writing, and records for information must be made by email or in writing, and records are not available for the public to walk in and peruse. “Most of those records are very fragile and irreplaceable,” Sanchez said.

There also are privacy concerns, said Peterson of Seattle. “You need to strike the balance between offering information that is a matter of public record and respecting the privacy of a family,” he said. “So we are careful with what we provide.”

He and other cemetery officials find it remarkable that, on occasion, someone will request information on “my grandfather,” but not know their grandfather’s name. Or they will ask about someone with a common name.

“We have 436 Murphys in our records which aren’t in our records, especially those old or older dioceses have older parishes with their own cemeteries. The first parish of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles – San Gabriel Mission, founded by St. Junipero Serra in 1771 – has (like many California missions) an on-site cemetery, with burials dating to the early 1800s. “And we do get quite a few requests for family history information,” said Al Sanchez, parish business manager, who oversees cemetery operations. “But we’re at the mercy of those who record the information, especially in those early times. Some records will show next of kin; others will show the parents’ names, or who provided the information on the deceased; and others, hardly anything.”

But the policies of San Gabriel Mission Cemetery are very much the same as diocesan cemetery offices around the U.S. Requests for information must be made by email or in writing, and records are not available for the public to walk in and peruse. “Most of those records are very fragile and irreplaceable,” Sanchez said.

Genealogy has helped Catholics find their relatives’ graveside sites and other valuable information. But Catholic cemetery officials acknowledge that the increase in family history research has required them to institute several new policies protecting historic records.

Saint Joseph WOODWORKS

Caskets and cremation urns are once again available following the March 11th flood at Saint Joseph Abbey.

Woodworks is still in need of help to cover the cost of equipment repair.

Visit helptheabbey.com to find out how you can support Woodworks and the Abbey flood relief efforts.
saintjosephabbey.com/woodworks
(985) 867-5161

American Cemetery Consultants, LLC
MAUSOLEUM

ACC offers Design, Consumer Sales and Construction of beautiful structured garden mausoleums in the owner’s cemetery.

P.O. Box 23772
New Orleans, LA 70183-0772
Call Toll Free 1-877-360-0074 or 504-336-2542 to speak to a representative today!
St. Joseph hospice is the only provider in Louisiana offering a new model that gives you more treatment options.

The St. Joseph Palliative Care Choices Model helps you manage pain and other symptoms at the same time you undergo treatment for your disease.

It's the first time Medicare is covering both.

Under the model, you also get help with:

- Managing treatments and appointments
- Coordinating information among your doctors
- Getting treatment in your own home
- Receiving extra support so you can focus on feeling better

There are no copays or deductibles for St. Joseph Palliative Care Choices Model.

If you or a loved one is on Medicare and suffering with cancer, heart failure, COPD or HIV/AIDS, contact St. Joseph Hospice.

(225) 769-4810
StJosephHospice.com