**WELCOME HOME**

**Teens reach out to refugees**

*By Debbie Shelley*  
*The Catholic Commentator*

“It is difficult to talk about it,” Adhra, 17, said with eyes briefly downcast when asked about her life in poverty-stricken Tanzania, which borders the notoriously violent Democratic Republic of Congo, before coming to the United States with nine relatives.

But on Feb. 5 she, like other young refugees from her area, Syria and Iraq who were resettled over the past year in the Baton Rouge area through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge (CCDBR), smiled and giggled as they did something teens normally do — hang out. Their new friends, youth from Baton Rouge Jewish congregations Beth Shalom Synagogue and B’nai Israel, eagerly

SEE REFUGEES ON PAGE 19

**Refugee teens recently resettled by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge and Jewish teens bonded over activities, such as making origami swans, and food at a meet-and-greet social at Beth Shalom Synagogue on Feb. 5. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator**

**God does speak to all but is best heard in the silence of our hearts**

*By Richard Meek*  
*The Catholic Commentator*

Katie Roettger was at a crossroads. Weary of spending lengthy commute times to the Catholic Life Center, where she is the young adult ministry coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, her frustration continued to mount, especially after the flooding when a normally 20-minute drive was tripled.

The tipping point came one morning when emotion took over and she cried out, “Why do I have to do this? Why are there so many other moms doing this?”

It was at that moment the idea was planted for Roettger to open a part-time care center for young children in the Brusly area. Rather than “getting a little angry” during her dreadful commute, she began using the time to ask for God’s guidance.

“I started praying if this is meant to be let there be no obstacles,” Roettger said.

Amazingly, the pieces quickly fell in place and she plans to open the center in August.

“I feel like it was all God,” she said, adding that she believes God spoke to her. “I don’t know how to explain it.”

Hearing God remains one of the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. Some say they hear God on a regular basis, while others are more skeptical.

So does God really communicate with his followers? “Yes, he does,” said Father Miles Walsh, pastor at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge. “I think it’s important to stress when the Lord made us he made us a unity of body and soul. There is a parallel between the nature of the body and the nature of soul.

“Just as we can see physically we can see spiritually, just as we can taste physically we can taste spiritually and see how good the Lord is,” he added. “Certainly the same is true with hearing. Hearing is one of the most important senses that we come to know.”

Dina Dow, director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the diocese, said she has “definitely” heard God speak to her through prayer, meditation and what some might label “coincidences.”

“I do hear God in my heart and I do hear God in my mind,” she said. “All of the time. Heart and mind go together because our conscious is God’s voice within us.”

If indeed God does talk to us, why do some say they are unable to hear? Does God really play favorites, communicating with only a select few?

Perhaps the answer is simply opening one’s ears and soul.

“In order to really hear something, we have to listen,” Father Walsh said. “We have to tune in. God speaks to us in different ways and that is according to him.”

He added that paying attention is important because God speaks to people in a variety of ways, including Scripture or a timely comment from a friend.

SEE SPEAKS ON PAGE 20
St. Polycarp’s life example of trust

As a second generation leader of the Catholic Church, St. Polycarp was one of those rare individuals who was actually able to mingle with the Apostles and hear firsthand their experiences of walking with Jesus.

St. Polycarp, a disciple of St. John the Evangelist, also faced his own challenges, specifically having to carry on the message of Christ after all of the eyewitnesses were gone. Once the Apostles had all died, St. Polycarp was left to answer previously unasked questions, relying on his own knowledge to carry on the teaching of Christ.

St. Polycarp, who was appointed the bishop of Smyrna and is considered one of the most important leaders of the early church, understood there was only way to answer questions of faith, and that was to imitate the life of Jesus through his own life.

He could be stern, but when faced with dissension among the Christian community he was a man of forgiveness and respect.

St. Polycarp had a vision of his own death, coming to him in a dream of his pillow turning to fire. After that dream, he told friends he would be burned alive.

The vision began to play out one day when Christians were being attacked by wild animals in the arena. An excited crowd became even more blood thirsty, and demanded that St. Polycarp be found.

St. Polycarp briefly went on the run before police located him in a farm. However, before being led away by his captors, he fed them and was able to spend two hours praying.

He was eventually brought to the arena and set on fire. But witnesses reported a miracle, seeing the fire form an arch around St. Polycarp. Instead of burning, witnesses reported a glow around him. When his captors saw he was not being burned, they stabbed him. Eventually, it was St. Polycarp’s own fire that extinguished the flame.

St. Polycarp’s life has become an example of how even in the most difficult of challenges we should all turn to Christ.

The feast of St. Polycarp, who died at the age of 86, is celebrated Feb. 23.

Behind the Collar

... with FATHER TODD LLOYD, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Lakeland

Q What is your favorite sport to participate in?
A The noble sport of table tennis, better known as “ping pong” to the philistine, is my favorite sport to play. It is a cross between the strategy of chess and the brutality of mixed martial arts. It requires the finesse of basketball and the endurance of cross country running. It is as artistic as figure skating and as fast as motor sports. It once played a critical role in the international relationship between the U.S. and China. Can that be said about any other sport?

Q What is your favorite LSU sport to follow? What is your prediction for the upcoming season?
A I love LSU baseball. My father has had season tickets since I was an infant. I have so many good memories of being at Alex Box with my dad and brother. The great thing about being a baseball fan is the friendships that are formed and the simple genius of the game itself. There are few things better than sitting outside on a nice day, enjoying peanuts and a cold drink, while talking with the people around you about any number of subjects, and watching the Tigers play ball.

Letting go of anxiety

By Dina Dow

So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Mt 5:48)

Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil. (Mt 6:34)

The Sunday liturgical readings for the next two weeks illuminate a deep perspective of the meaning of life-giving faith. Isaiah and St. Paul call God’s people to be holy as God is holy. We also see Jesus radically shifting instruction on how to respond to our enemies. He also reassures his followers that God remembers them, so let go of anxiety and trust in his care.

Call to Holiness

One may ask, “How can I be holy let alone perfect like God?” St. Thomas Aquinas said that holiness is a virtue “by which our mind applies itself, and all it thinks and does, to God.” St. Thomas’ sister asked him, “How does one become a saint.” St. Thomas simply said, “Desire it.” We must want to be holy.

What exactly does it mean to be holy? Holiness is when we become more like Jesus in all that we do. Our love for God and others is perfected in how we act and think. Thus, our center is on him, our choices are founded on him, and our lives are a light of him for others to see. This is where the notion of being “salt and light” comes to fruition. The more love we show, the holier we become. The more forgiving we are, the holier we become. The more mindful we are of God’s presence, the holier we become.

Fight or Flight

Hence, Jesus turns the notion of revenge on its side with a new way of responding to those who hurt us. Instead of “getting even” he teaches to refrain from attack and pray for them. Here we see the reality of the spiritual work of mercy “bear wrongs patiently.” A friend once told me, “Don’t add fuel to the fire; rather pour on the kindness and fight back without your fist.”

How many times do we want to set another straight because of a hurt they instilled upon us? Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles in his “Catholicism” series says there are two kinds of responses to harm: fight or flight. We can stand firm and fight with the love of God, or we can see

Q Who is your role model?
A Though he probably would rather I not say, Father Miles Walsh (pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Baton Rouge) is my role model. I admire his deep love for the Lord. His relationship with Christ is evident, and his desire for others to have a relationship with Christ is the driving force in his ministry. I admire his clarity in thought, his dedication to the truth and practices of the church, and his pastoral sensibility towards those in need. He has a gift of speaking the truth, when it is not popular to do so, in a very matter of fact way with ease, and yet with compassion and calm.

Q What is your favorite book and why?
A A book (really a collection of books) that I can read any time for fun is G.K. Chesterton’s Father Brown stories. These are mystery stories similar to Sherlock Holmes. The protagonist is a Catholic priest, Father Brown, who solves various crimes. Unlike Sherlock Holmes who uses science and logic to solve his mysteries, Father Brown uses his knowledge and understanding of human nature. They are entertaining and thoughtful stories that do not forget that criminals are human beings who are in need of redemption like anyone else. Father Brown even hears the confession of the perpetrator in some stories.
Serio’s marriage continues to sparkle after 75 years

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

It began with the simple gift of a box of sparklers. Nearly 75 years later, the spark shines brightly for Charles and Rita Serio of Morganza.

“I just love him to death,” gushed Rita while casting a loving glance at her husband as they sat in the house they built and have lived in since 1947.

The Serios, who have three children, four grandsons and a “bunch” of great grandchildren, are believed to be the oldest married couple in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. They were one of nearly 130 couples honored during a Mass on Feb. 12 at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Baton Rouge. The annual Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Robert W. Muench, honored couples married 25, 50 and 65 years and longer.

“What a beautiful view you make,” Bishop Muench said as he greeted the couples.

During his homily, the bishop said celebrating the anniversary Mass is one of the happiest days on his calendar because “I have the privilege of celebrating with all of you who are such icons of faith, and commitment within the church, within the family and within the church parishes in which you are members. It is a source of great joy.

“We are here to celebrate how God’s grace has been working in you and will continue to work in you. We honor you, we praise you, we pray for you and we pray with you.”

Rita Serio said it does not seem like that long she and Charles have been married, adding, “We have had some wonderful years.” She said even after three quarters of a century her husband continues to spoil her.

Their is a tale woven in the tiny Mississippi River village of Morganza, a place where Rita and Charles, who will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary in May, were raised and have never left. Charles said he first took notice of the young lady with whom he would spend a lifetime in the sixth grade. As a show of his affection, he even surprised her with a box of sparklers, but that gift may have been more of a dud than a preview of three quarters of a century of marital bliss.

“This boy in the sixth grade, I didn’t know who he was or where he was from, but I just thought, ‘This boy likes me,’” she said about receiving the gift.

But Charles would refuse to give up. Rita fondly remembered once when Charles was an altar boy and serving patin during Communion, “he got to me and touched my chin with the patin. I don’t guess the priest knew that.”

Admitting dating is “nothing like it is today,” Rita said the relationship was slowly nurtured. As Charles recalls, their first “serious date” was a dance “at the schoolhouse.”

“It must have been a date because I had to walk her home,” he said.

The first of what would be only two times the couple would ever spend time apart came when Charles attended LSU. By that time, Rita and her family had moved next door to Charles’ family, a forced relocation by the construction of the Morganza Spillway.

Charles was friends with Rita’s uncle and would frequently pepper him with questions regarding his niece. As time passed, Charles began writing notes to Rita, using her uncle as a courier.

Then, “along came the drafting business,” Charles said of being called to serve in World War II. He spent time at Camp Livingston in Alexandria and Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, which is where he was stationed when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

“So the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor,” he remembered thinking at the time. “What is Pearl Harbor? Where is Pearl Harbor? We didn’t know anything.”

Security was lax at Camp Shelby in those pre-Pearl Harbor days and Charles recalled he once walked guard duty with a broom stick.

“We didn’t have guns,” he said. “It was after that war stuff that things got serious.”

He was eventually reassigned to Fort Bragg in North Carolina but before shipping out to Europe, where he would spend 27 months serving in an artillery unit and be awarded the bronze and silver stars, Charles was granted a 10-day furlough.

Using his time wisely, Charles asked Rita to marry him and two days later the couple asked Rita’s father, who was on a boat operating his log towing business on the Mississippi River, for permission.

“He didn’t say anything against it so we decided we were going to go ahead and get married.”

“We got married on that furlough, and of course, the natural happened and she got pregnant,” he said.

Rita wrote to her husband every day while he was overseas, and Charles would write whenever possible. She cherished his every word and even today those letters are stored away in a closet.

Upon his return in 1945, Charles went to work for his father-in-law for several years before changing times caused the business to close. He then worked at a saw mill and later as a carpenter in the Baton Rouge area for 20 years before retiring in 1985.

Since then, the couple has traveled the world, having their passports punched in Africa, Asia, the Holy Land and throughout Europe.

Domestically, the Serios have traversed the country, from Alaska to New York and many points between. Even today the couple, their children and all of the grandchildren and great grandchildren, gather in July in Gulf Shores, Alabama for a family reunion.

“We have a good time together,” Rita said. “I know I love just being with him.”

The couple agreed that even after 75 years there have never been very many harsh words spoken or many disagreements.

“The secret is respect, and of course, loving,” Charles said. “I would not down her on anything and she did not down me on anything.”

Their relationship is one solidly rooted in their faith, which they believe has played a major role in their happiness. For nearly four decades, Rita would walk to nearby St. Ann Church to attend daily Mass. She and Charles attend the first Friday Mass of each month and are fixtures at the Saturday vigil Mass.

“We’ve never had problems (with their children),” Charles said. “They mostly understood this was a faith-filled house. They don’t talk against the Catholic Church or any of that.”

Although each remain active – Charles cuts his own grass and picks up to 500 pecans from his trees annually, and she takes in sewing work – their most cherished time is spent at night, each in their own chair and their own silence but still sharing their love.

“It is the comfort of knowing each other is there,” Rita said. “I tell him I want to die before him because I can’t live without him. And I mean that.

“But I want him to come right after me.”
St. Agnes plans special Mass to celebrate anniversary

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A bastion of Catholic traditionalism perched on the perimeter of downtown Baton Rouge is planning a series of events to celebrate its 100th anniversary, including a special Mass of Thanksgiving.

St. Agnes Church pastor Father Charbel Jamhoury said the Mass is scheduled for Feb. 26 at 11 a.m., with Bishop Robert W. Muench presiding. Also in the works, Father Jamhoury said, are a special concert of music honoring St. Teresa of Calcutta as well as a series of conferences focusing on mercy.

Father Jamhoury has even ordered a special statue of Mother Teresa from Rome that should be in place when the anniversary Mass is celebrated. The three-foot statue will sit outside of the convent where the Missionaries of Charity, whose founder was Mother Teresa, reside.

"Mother Teresa is a parishioner of St. Agnes," Father Jamhoury said with a palpable sense of pride. "When she was looking for a place for her (sisters) in Baton Rouge she said 'I want this place.'

"We feel blessed by (the sisters who reside at the convent) and they protect us." Father Jamhoury, who was assigned to the parish in February 2015, said his goal is to bring what he calls "the big family" of St. Agnes together for the Mass. He is hoping to attract former and current parishioners, staff members, organists, elementary school alumni or anybody else whose past was rooted in the popular parish, where Msgr. Robert Berggreen served as pastor for 16 years, from 1995-2001.

"I love St. Agnes," Msgr. Berggreen, currently the pastor at St. Mary of False River Church in New Roads, said.

"I have a lot of fond memories," he said, adding that he is planning to attend the Centennial Mass. "I love the parish. It's a wonderful church and the people there were wonderful.

"It was a very vibrant parish and had a large and active youth group."

Father Jamhoury said he immediately recognized there was something special spiritually about St. Agnes.

"You can feel a very strong presence of God here. I could feel it when I came." - Father Charbel Jamhoury
Pastor, St. Agnes Church

"You can feel a very strong presence of God here," he said. "I could feel it when I came.

"I don't know how I can explain it. It's nice and strong. "I've discovered people really love this place," he added. "They have wonderful memories of their classmates and the people."

Besides housing the Missionaries of Charity, who operate a weekly soup kitchen for the needy and homeless in and around downtown, the church is known as the only parish in the diocese to celebrate the Latin Mass, although there is no choir for the English Mass.

"We have some young priests starting to become interested in the Latin Mass," he added. "I pray not to lose this tradition."

As he points toward the 100th anniversary of the parish, Father Jamhoury looks back to the past two years and takes pride in the way the parish has coalesced spiritually, becoming one united family. He remains amazed at the love that pours in from those who reside outside of the church parish but still refer to St. Agnes as home.

"It is not a wealthy parish but a blessed parish for sure," he said. "The people love this place more and more."

ANSWERING THE CALL – Nearly 600 men attended A Call to Battle: Catholic Men’s Conference at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge on Feb. 11. Speakers included Brant Pitre, professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. The day included prayer as well as Mass.

Photo provided by Steve Lee | Catholic Life TV

Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office
Principal Opening
2017-18
St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Paincourtville, LA

St. Elizabeth Catholic School was founded in 1876 and currently serves 233 students in Grades PK3 – 8. With 15 professional staff members, the school operates as a Catholic Christian family devoted to spiritual growth and academic excellence in a caring and safe environment. The school recently completed the self-study process for district reaccreditation.

St. Elizabeth Catholic School is part of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, which has thirty schools in eight civil parishes. There is a strong Catholic identity focus in all schools. The district is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (AdvancED). All schools work together to

Evangelize Hearts, Educate Minds, Encourage Talent and Embrace the Future

Applicants who meet the following criteria:

1. Practicing Catholic
2. Minimum of 5 years of experience in education, preferably in Catholic schools
3. Demonstrated Leadership Ability
4. Qualifications to meet the Non Public certification requirements for Louisiana

Mail resume, copies of all college transcript(s) showing degrees and three letters of recommendation to
St. Elizabeth Catholic School Principal Search
Catholic Schools Office
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

Applications deadline is March 15, 2017

The schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.
Pro-life supporters encouraged

By Rachele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

A recent executive order as well as the passage of a House bill barring the use of any taxpayer money for abortions is receiving widespread support from church leaders and others involved in protecting human life from conception to natural death.

In a written statement released Jan. 30, Bishop Robert W. Muench described President Donald Trump’s executive order reinstating the so-called “Mexico-City policy” and the passage of House Bill HR 7 as actions that “signal positive changes in public policy designed to uphold the sanctity of human life.”

Bishop Muench added the executive order, which bans foreign aid to non-governmental organizations that promote or pay for abortion procedures, and the bill, which was approved by a House vote, mostly along party lines, of 238-183, were “particularly encouraging” since both came only days before the national March for Life event in Washington, D.C.

Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Danielle Van Haute, agreed that the recent actions in Washington were “definitely good steps” in recognizing and holding the sacredness of life at its most innocent and vulnerable stage.

Van Haute encouraged lawmakers and everyone supporting life to continue their efforts, explaining, “We must also work for the promotion of human dignity across the entire life spectrum.”

In addition, she stressed that HR 7 has only passed the House and still must win approval in the Senate before it can be signed into law.

If that happens, she said the bill would also allow more transparency on abortion coverage within health plans, meaning people would have better information when choosing health care plans.

In addition, the bill would make the Hyde Amendment permanent.

The Hyde Amendment, which has been regularly attached to annual funding bills since 1976 and must be passed each year, is a legislative provision banning federal funds from covering abortions except in the cases of rape, incest or when continuing the pregnancy endangers the life of the mother. The Hyde Amendment has long agitated those who support pro-abortion groups have made their stand against it, calling legislators and others supporting abortion.

In response, Tasman said, the USCCB has provided an opportunity for anyone who agrees with the action to speak out and make his or her views known.

Anyone interested in joining the effort or learning more about it should visit votervoice.net/USCCB/campaigns.

John Chirico / CNS – Vice President Mike Pence joins the long list of pro-life speakers at the national March for Life event held in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 27. Pence was the highest-ranking administration official ever to speak at the march. Photo provided by CNS
At Mass if you’re in confessional?/Martin Luther King Jr. ‘feast day’?

Growing up Catholic, I was taught that in order to fulfill your Sunday obligation, you were required to be present for three parts of the Mass: the Gospel, the offertory and Communion. Our parish just started hearing confessions at the very time the Sunday Mass is being celebrated (i.e., not just before or after Mass). So my question is this: If you are in the confessional during any of these three parts of the Mass, have you fulfilled your Sunday obligation? And what about receiving holy Communion? (Coon Rapids, Minnesota)

Your memory is two-thirds correct. Half a century ago, Catholics were taught that if you wanted the Mass to “count,” you needed to be present for the offertory, the consecration and Communion.

Now, though, the church views the Mass as an integrated whole, a single act of worship from the entrance rite through the dismissal prayers, and canon law simply says, “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass” (No. 1247).

If you happen to be in the confessional for part of that time, I would say that you are “morally present” at the Mass (your intent is certainly to be there) and that you are eligible to receive holy Communion.

Your question, though about a parish’s practice of hearing confessions during Mass deserves further comment. That practice is a source of some pastoral debate among priests.

Since the faithful are gathered in largest numbers during Mass times, some view this as the opportune moment to make the sacrament of penance available; others, though, feel that it easily distracts people from the eucharistic liturgy itself.

Strictly speaking, there is no universal prohibition of the practice. In fact, the Vatican has spoken directly to the point: In 2001, the church’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, while expressing a clear preference that confessions be heard outside of Mass, specifically allowed that they can be heard while Mass is being celebrated.

Some dioceses, though, have issued their own guidelines: The Archdiocese of Chicago, for example, says in its published sacramental policies that “the sacrament of penance shall not be celebrated while a Mass is being celebrated in the same place.”

The monsignor misspoke. Feast days are celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church for those who have been formally recognized as saints usually after a lengthy and rigorous process of examining their lives and the miracles credited to their intercession.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is, instead, a national holiday proclaimed as such by the U.S. government to honor King’s life and work. This year, on the date of the holiday Jan. 16, 2017, the church’s liturgical calendar calls for the celebration of the Mass of “Monday of the second week of ordinary time.”

I do think, though, that it’s appropriate that King be mentioned in Catholic churches at the time of the holiday.

Some 30 years ago, I served as the Catholic representative on a national committee planning the first King holiday, and I remember Coretta Scott King, Martin’s widow, saying at a meeting that she hoped the holiday would be used not so much to honor her deceased husband personally but to advance the cause he cherished.

I always include in the prayer of the faithful on the weekend prior to the holiday a petition that says, “As we recall the life and death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for an end to racism and for continued cooperation among those who stand against discrimination, we pray to the Lord.”

As for the people who walked out of your church at the monsignor’s misstatement, that strikes me as a bit extreme, and I have to wonder what underlying biases that reaction might indicate.

FATHER DOYLE is chancellor for public information and a pastor in the Diocese of Albany. New York. Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfkdherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, N.Y. 12203.

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Secular orders offer particular apostolic lifestyles for lay Catholics

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

(First of a series)

As Lent approaches, some Catholics may want to “go higher” in their spiritual life. One way to achieve a new level of intimacy with God is to make a permanent commitment to him by joining a third order or secular institute.

What are they?

“A secular institute or third order is an institute of consecrated life to which the Christian faithful, living in the world, strive for the perfection of charity and work for the sanctification of the world especially from within,” said Gerry Burton OFS, referring to paragraph 928ff under secularity. “People who are interested in being part of a lay institute would try another institute and see if you feel comfortable there. If you are not sure about it, and pray about it to see which vocation seems to be what you want.”

Some of the common misconceptions about the organizations are: you have to give up things you like, you pray all day and “the members are holy and I can never live up to that,” she added. “In reality we are all on a journey toward God and we are just trying to be closer to God than we have been in the past,” said Burton.

If one feels they may be called to join one of the organizations, Burton said, “I recommend that a person get information on the different institutes that will be covered in the future articles in The Catholic Commentator. Think about it, and pray about it to see which vocation seems to be what you want.”

Does one have to live radically different when joining a secular institute or order?

“Being in a secular institute or third order should, over time, help the person to grow in their prayer life and holiness. People in secular orders look like the other people in the pew next to you, but maybe they seem to be paying more attention at Mass,” Burton said. “They are probably growing in patience, kindness and are more joyful, happy and peaceful in nature. God has made us all different in likes and dislikes. He has given us many ways to come closer to him. Maybe he is calling you to consider one of the five lay groups that will be introduced to you in the following issues of The Catholic Commentator.”

Next Issue: A look at the Third Order of Mary
OLOL breaks ground on emergency room in north Baton Rouge

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center’s decision to open a free-standing emergency room in north Baton Rouge was greeted with enthusiasm by Father Rick Andrus SVD, one of that area’s most vocal supporters and community activists.

“It is worth celebrating that it is going to happen,” said Father Andrus, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Baton Rouge. “I think it’s incredibly important; it’s a life saver.”

Hospital, government, and civic officials gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony for the 8,000-square foot facility on Jan. 31. The clinic, which is scheduled to open in October, will be adjacent to the LSU Health Baton Rouge North Clinic at 5439 Airline Hwy.

The emergency room will include a trauma center that will be used to treat a multitude of life-threatening injuries and illnesses, according to Dr. Shammi Kataria, Associate Medical Director of Emergency at OLOL.

North Baton Rouge has been without an emergency room facility since Baton Rouge General Hospital closed down its midcity ER in 2015. Consequently, EMTs transporting patients are saddled with dangerously long commutes to either OLOL or Baton Rouge General on Bluebonnet Drive.

Kataria said the safety of patients is one of the reasons OLOL elected to expand to north Baton Rouge. He also noted that Gov. John Bel Edwards was intent on bringing emergency care to that area and had the state chip in $5.5 million to help defray the startup costs.

“Time is of the essence,” Kataria said. “You can’t put a value on that. You not only want to save a life but you want to prevent the morbidity that occurs with delay of care (such as with a heart attack or stroke).”

Father Andrus has been working diligently behind the scenes to bring an emergency facility since Baton Rouge Generals announced its decision to close the midcity ER in February 2015. He said he immediately contacted Together Baton Rouge, advising officials the organization “needed to pick up and run with it because of how this is going to affect people in this community.”

Father Andrus related stories of how his parishioners told stories of relatives dying in the ambulance because of the lengthy commute. “The whole practical side of this is there is no easy access to OLOL or Baton Rouge General,” he said. “If you live on the north side or across the river it takes forever. The congestion is horrific.”

Father Andrus said once the facility opens simmering feelings among North Baton Rouge residents might be somewhat soothed. He said there was a genuine sense of anger and hopelessness when Baton Rouge General announced its intentions.

“People sensed that nobody cared about them and that their life was not important,” Father Andrus said. “And it certainly wasn’t as important as people who live in the areas of where the hospitals are.”

“(In) the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is calling us to constantly reach out to the poor, to the hungry. Rather than reaching out we were walking away from them, basically abandoning them.”

Kataria said the 24-hour, free-standing emergency room is expected to treat up to 11,000 patients annually.

“This fits in phenomenally well with the mission of the Francisca Sisters,” he added. “It reaches out to the needy wonderfully.”

7 Stupid Mistakes Men Make Leaving Wives Hanging at the Courthouse, IRS, and Nursing Home

Learn How to Protect the Ones You Love by Attending a Free Estate Planning Event

Attend A FREE Event And Discover How To:
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· Keep the government out of your estate;
· Start the five-year look back period for nursing homes;
· Enrich your family relationships;
· Avoid tax.

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, recently broke ground for a new emergency room in north Baton Rouge. Pictured holding the shovels, from left are Terrie Sterling, chief operating officer, Our Lady of the Lake; Dr. Shammi Kataria, associate medical director of emergency services, Our Lady of the Lake; Scott Wester; president and chief executive officer, Our Lady of the Lake; Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome, East Baton Rouge Parish; and Sister Barbara Arceneaux, provincial, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady. Photo provided by Lauren Davidson | Our Lady of the Lake

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About Your Speaker- Hi, I’m Laura Poché, an attorney with Rabalais Estate Planning, certified in Estate Planning and Administration by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization. I have spent my entire lifetime in Louisiana, where my husband, Jay, and I have raised our three sons. I’ll be sharing my newest facts about how to protect your life savings at my upcoming estate planning events.

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“Laura’s seminar was very informative and interesting. We had attended two other estate seminars that didn’t seem to meet our personal needs. Your plan did. We are grateful that your office was very efficient and timely in getting back with us and supplying the required materials.” - Robert & Essie Galloway, Boyce, LA

Register and attend an upcoming event to receive a copy of Laura Poche’s book, “Estate Planning Advice By A Woman For Louisiana Women, A Guide For Women And Those They Care For About: Wills, Trusts, Probate, Power of Attorney, Medicaid, Living Wills and Taxes.”

Hi, I'm Laura Poché, an attorney with Rabalais Estate Planning, LLC, 9191 Siegen Lane, Suite 5B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810

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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.

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Hospice is not about giving up
... it’s about taking control

The Catholic Commentator
Embrace your life*

By Rachele Smith

The Catholic Commentator

*God has a message for you.*

That’s what Bishop Robert W. Muench told students, teachers, administrators and guests as they celebrated Mass together for Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

“God created you in love, and he believes in you,” he said, offering a quick smile to the hundreds of people listening to his homily. The annual Mass, held this year at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge on Febr. 5, was one of many events and special activities scheduled throughout the week of Jan. 30 to Feb. 5, to recognize the good works of Catholic schools.

Before Mass, Dr. Melanie Verges, superintendent of Catholic Schools, welcomed representatives from every school in the diocese, commending each for collecting and donating gifts to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

“This year’s donations are the most ever for Catholic Schools Week,” she said.

Verges noted the idea of service is inherent in the model for Catholic schools, which are committed to building communities of faith, knowledge and service.

Catholic schools do not have to wait for students to graduate to live out their faith fully, she said, explaining, “Each week we celebrate the achievement of planting seeds of faith deep within the hearts of students alongside academic programs of rigor and relevance.”

During his homily, Bishop Muench also noted the excellent education offered by Catholic schools, but he emphasized Catholic schools do more than teach academic subjects.

He noted the Catholic Church was the first to offer formalized education and to do so in a way that showed the love of Jesus by sharing him with each other.

“We (Catholic schools) want to teach why you exist, where you came from, where you are headed and what does your life mean,” he said.

“When God created us, he gave us a purpose and a meaning. You are unique and God wants you to believe in yourself,” Bishop Muench said, adding that it is important to trust in God, be grateful and “embrace your life. Make it count now and in the future.”

Earlier in the week, Bishop Muench congratulated graduates of Catholic schools selected as distinguished graduates, saying he was grateful for “what you have learned and what you have contributed to the community” from a Catholic school education.

The 27 men and women, honored at a dinner on Jan. 30, have many accomplishments showcasing skills in leadership, faith and/or service.

All were recognized for their commitment to Catholic education and their desire to make their school, church and community a better place. The honorees included Paula Fabre, principal at St. Francis Xavier School in Baton Rouge, selected as the 2017 Distinguished Catholic School Administrator; Father Cayet Mangiaracina OP, pastor of Holy Ghost Church and chaplain of St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Hammond, chosen the 2017 Distinguished Catholic School Clergy; and Roslyn Landry, a third-grade teacher at Most Blessed Sacrament School in Baton Rouge, the 2017 Distinguished Graduates Dinner.

Award winners Isabella Acunzo, left, and Ethan Alston, eighth-grade peers, recognize a boy and a girl who exemplify the traits of a Christian student, including being considerate and inclusive to all, putting others first and always being willing to lend a helping hand.

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Baton Rouge lead the processional for the Catholic Schools Week Mass.


do, Sister Barbara Arceneaux FMOL, provincial with the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, Sister Helen Cahill FMOL and Justice Starks.

The sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady brought donuts and king cakes to celebrate Catholic Schools Week with students at Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School on Feb. 1.

Enjoying their visit (and the sweet stuff) are, from left, Taylor James, Angel Champagne, Meliyah Jefferson, Asia Mason, Sister Barbara Arceneaux FMOL, provincial with the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, Sister Helen Cahill FMOL and Justice Starks. Photo provided by Kendall Hebert | Cristo Rey Baton Rouge

By Rachele Smith

The Catholic Commentator

A brother and sister from Holy Ghost School in Hammond honored the recipients of the Brother-Sisterhood Award at the school’s annual Catholic Schools’ Week Mass on Jan. 30. Award winners Isabella Acunzo, left, and Ethan Alston are shown with principal Donna Wallette. This award, voted on by their eighth-grade peers, recognizes a boy and a girl who exemplify the traits of a Christian student, including being considerate and inclusive to all, putting others first and always being willing to lend a helping hand.

Photo provided by Cindy Wagner | Holy Ghost School
Moscona committed to the mission of Cristo Rey

By Rachele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

A nationwide search for a new president at Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School has led to the selection of a local educator.

Brian Moscona, who previously served as principal at Our Lady of Mercy School in Baton Rouge, hopes to expand the school’s unique blend of Catholic education and work experience for inner-city students.

Moscona replaced John Bennett, a longtime Catholic school administrator, who was tapped to fill the post as interim president when Dr. James Llorens stepped down from the position in early fall. Bennett will continue in his role as a Cristo Rey board member.

“The transition has been very smooth,” said Moscona, noting that Bennett was his mentor at one time.

“When I first returned to Baton Rouge five years ago to serve as principal at Our Lady of Mercy School, Dr. Melanie Verges (superintendent of Catholic Schools) assigned him (Bennett) to be my mentor in year one. We share a lot of the same educational philosophies and leadership style. And I think we share the same sense of humor. We both love to laugh and have fun and enjoy our work,” he added.

For Moscona, part of the excitement of his new job comes from the president-principal structure inherent in the Cristo Rey model. It’s one that gives him a new role to play.

“In this structure, there’s a principal who oversees the academic program and the daily operations of the school, and that’s Aimee Wiles. But the president has a different function. Of course, at the end of the day, I’m accountable for the academics, but my job is to go out into the community and develop work study relationships with our business partners, to help to provide good jobs for our students, and to engage the community, especially potential benefactors, who might want to be a part of the great work that we are doing,” he said.

Since assuming his new position in late January, Moscona has hit the ground running. His day begins at morning assembly with the school’s students then typically includes meetings with business and community leaders and others interested in helping Cristo Rey grow in Baton Rouge.

It’s work that has also allowed him to dip back into his days as a classroom teacher again.

“We’re also trying to educate the community as to who we are and what we offer. What we’re discovering is that a lot of people just don’t know how we can help them, and it’s important that we get that information out there so we can reach those students and their families,” Moscona said.

For Moscona, the Cristo Rey school model is not new. He first learned about it as an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. As a business major, he was invited to learn and see firsthand how the school worked at the first Cristo Rey School in Chicago.

The school’s mission of transforming underserved and impoverished inner-city youth by providing a Catholic education infused with work experience was inspiring to Moscona.

“I was excited when I first heard a Cristo Rey school was coming to Baton Rouge because I knew what kind of impact it could have,” he said.

After receiving his degree from Notre Dame, Moscona entered the Alliance for Catholic Education program at the university and served as a classroom teacher in a south Los Angeles Catholic school while earning a master’s degree.

His experience teaching in Los Angeles as well as in other urban cities before coming to Baton Rouge “had a profound impact on me,” said Moscona, adding that his years as both a student and educator in Catholic schools also contributed to his desire to make Cristo Rey in Baton Rouge a success.

“I’m excited to see what we can do here,” he said.

“This is an opportunity to help families and students,” Moscona noted, adding that in addition to providing education and real-world experiences, “this is an opportunity to share the love of Christ.”

NCEA leader says school choice support can help Catholic parents

SAN FRANCISCO – (CNS) The Trump administration’s apparent endorsement of parental school choice could present a “huge opportunity” for Catholic school parents, the president of the National Catholic Educational Association told a group of Catholic high school teachers in San Francisco.

“This could be a huge opportunity for parents wanting to choose the right school for their children,” Thomas Burnford, NCEA president, told participants at the Archdiocese of San Francisco’s annual high school teachers’ consortium Feb. 3.

“Whatever your politics, the current administration proclaims some understanding or belief in support of school choice,” Burnford said in his talk at Archbishop Riordan High School. In his remarks, he did not mention President Donald Trump directly, saying in later comments he did not want to politicize the subject of parental choice.

His speech was given four days before Betsy DeVos was confirmed by the Senate as the nation’s education secretary following a tiebreaking vote by Vice President Mike Pence in his capacity as president of the Senate. DeVos, former chairman of the American Federation for Children, a school choice advocacy group, has long been an advocate of school choice. She told the senators during her confirmation hearing: “Parents no longer believe that a one-size-fits-all model of learning fits the needs of every child.”

When he was running for president, Trump endorsed parental choice both in an October letter to the Catholic Leadership Conference and on his campaign website where he promised to “establish the national goal of providing school choice to every one of the 11 million school-age children living in poverty.”

Currently, at least 27 states, including Louisiana, have some form of parental school choice.
TURN UP THE BASS – Sacred Heart of Jesus School sixth-graders, from left, Luke Broussard, Cooper Bethea and Charles Tramonte, get a first-hand look as alumnus Robert Kling plays his upright bass as part of a science lesson on January 25. Kling is a 2005 graduate of Sacred Heart and is a member of several local bands, including Captain Green.

Photo provided by Lisa Black Cossé | Sacred Heart of Jesus School

MUSIC HONORS – Five students from St. Jean Vianney School in Baton Rouge were selected to perform with other top musicians in sixth through eighth grades from East Baton Rouge Parish. The students were chosen following auditions. They are, from left, Antonio Barazza on alto sax, Ben Messina on trumpet, Hector Barazza on trombone, Steven Reed on French horn and Carolos Suadi on trumpet. Reed placed third overall following his audition and will play principal horn in the concert band. Messina and Hector Barazza were selected for the top scoring symphonic band.

Photo provided by Bridgette DiGerolamo | St. Jean Vianney School

QUIZ BOWL WINNERS – Students in many Catholic elementary schools participated in the diocese’s annual Quiz Bowl tournament recently. In the fifth- and sixth-grade division, the team from St. Jean Vianney School in Baton Rouge finished third. Holy Family School in Port Allen came in second and students from St. Jude the Apostle School in Baton Rouge captured first place. Pictured above, Dr. Melanie Verges, left, superintendent of Catholic Schools, congratulates St. Jude team members, second from left, Alex Brown, Kyle Oubre, Maria Hargrave, Susanna Shields, Madeline Cannon, Ethan Vu and Lisa Hargrave, team coach.

Photo provided by Christy Haldane | Our Lady of Mercy School

QUIZ BOWL WINNERS – Students from St. Aloysius School in Baton Rouge, the school’s Quiz Bowl team composed of Anthony Raemsch, Regina Raemsch, Andrew Underwood, Delaney Poienicot, Parker Owenby, Caleb Woods and coach Kristy Monsour took second place. Third place went to students from Our Lady of Mercy School in Baton Rouge. Team members, from left, Anna Camille Eagleton, Mary Stucky, Jensen Holliday, Jack Appleton, Brennan Campesi and coach Annette Rateman (not pictured) captured first place at the recent diocesan Quiz Bowl tournament. Also earning honors at the event were students from Our Lady of Mercy School in Baton Rouge. The school’s Quiz Bowl team composed of Anthony Raemsch, Regina Raemsch, Andrew Underwood, Delaney Poienicot, Parker Owenby, Caleb Woods and coach Kristy Monsour took second place. Third place went to students at St. Jude the Apostle School in Baton Rouge. Team members at St. Jude include Anthony Chiasson, Estelle Mensman, Ava Dunn, Haley Marcotte, Tristen Rigby, George Wilson and coach Laurie Chiasson.

Photo provided by Christy Haldane | Our Lady of Mercy School

JUNIOR HIGH CHAMPS – Dr. Melanie Verges, left, superintendent of the diocese’s Catholic Schools Office, recognizes Quiz Bowl team members from St. Aloysius School in Baton Rouge. Team members, second from left, Anna Camille Eagleton, Mary Stucky, Jensen Holliday, Jack Appleton, Brennan Campesi and coach Annette Rateman (not pictured) captured first place at the recent diocesan Quiz Bowl tournament. Also earning honors at the event were students from Our Lady of Mercy School in Baton Rouge. The school’s Quiz Bowl team composed of Anthony Raemsch, Regina Raemsch, Andrew Underwood, Delaney Poienicot, Parker Owenby, Caleb Woods and coach Kristy Monsour took second place. Third place went to students at St. Jude the Apostle School in Baton Rouge. Team members at St. Jude include Anthony Chiasson, Estelle Mensman, Ava Dunn, Haley Marcotte, Tristen Rigby, George Wilson and coach Laurie Chiasson.

Photo provided by Christy Haldane | Our Lady of Mercy School

Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office Principal Opening 2016-17 School Year

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School

Hammond, Louisiana

Founded in 1986 on 48 acres in Hammond, Louisiana, St. Thomas Aquinas High (STA) provides outstanding Catholic education based on the Dominican philosophy of Veritas to families in Tangipahoa Parish. With a student population of approximately 310 students in Grades 9 – 12, STA has expanded and upgraded the physical plant over the years to accommodate advancements in instruction and programming. The one-to-one iPad program is embraced across the curriculum as academic accomplishment continues to rise, and the recent capital campaign supported establishment of a second school building and athletic stadiums and tracks. Professional staff and supportive board members engage to fulfill the mission to teach Gospel values in an environment of academic excellence that fosters the development of the whole person in a Catholic-Christian community.

St. Thomas High is a diocesan school within the Diocese of Baton Rouge, which has thirty schools in eight civil parishes. There is a strong Catholic identity focus in all schools, and the district is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (AdvancED). All schools work together to Evangelize Hearts, Educate Minds, Encourage Talent and Embrace the Future.

Applicants who meet the following criteria will be considered:

• Practicing Catholic
• Minimum of five years of experience in education, preferably in Catholic high schools
• Demonstrated Effective Leadership Ability
• Qualifications to meet the Non-Public certification requirements for State of Louisiana

Mail resume*, copies of all college transcript(s) showing degrees and three letters of recommendation to:

St. Thomas Aquinas Principal Search
Catholic Schools Office
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

Deadline: March 1, 2017

*Students must be a practicing Catholic to apply.

The schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, admit students of any race, color, and/or, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.
A Dog’s Purpose Universal

Pet lovers will revel in this slight but charming tale of a clever canine (voice of Josh Gad) and his adventures over a series of lifetimes as he is repeatedly reincarnated. His most significant bond is with a little boy (Bryce Gheisar) who grows into a high school football star (K.J. Apa). Through it all, he finds support in the love of his mother (Juliet Rylance) and, later, that of his girlfriend (Britt Robertson), the athlete’s life is increasingly darkened by his father’s (Luke Kirby) worsening alcoholism. During other intervals the pooch serves as a police dog (trained by John Ortiz) and brightens the life of a lonely single gal (Kirby Howell-Baptiste). While free of anything genuinely objectionable, director Lasse Hallstrom’s screen version of W. Bruce Cameron’s best-selling 2010 novel is too potentially frightening for the smallest pups. And some grown viewers may find the four-legged protagonist’s New Age-style philosophizing a bore. Still, a good-hearted romantic wrap-up matching characters played by Dennis Quaid and Peggy Lipton as well as some droll humor throughout keep things cuddly. Mature themes, including alcohol addiction, possible cohabitation, some stylized violence with brief gore, scenes of peril, light scatological humor. A-II; PG-13

The Founder Weinstein

In chronicling the early history of McDonald’s, director John Lee Hancock’s drama makes compelling food for thought, if not exactly a happy meal. Michael Keaton plays Ray Kroc, a down-on-his-luck milkshake machine sales salesman in 1950s Illinois whose life is transformed when he travels to Southern California to meet with two of his clients, brothers Richard (Nick Offerman) and Maurice (John Carroll Lynch) McDonal. Their hamburger restaurant, he discovers, is a model of efficiency, where orders are fulfilled in just 30 seconds. Kroc partners with the siblings to franchise their operation coast to coast, but eventually schemes to take over the business. What follows is a cautionary tale about capitalism, greed and the American dream. Probably acceptable for older teens. Mature themes, including divorce, brief profane and crude language. A-III; PG-13

XXX: Return of Xander Cage Paramount

Macho posturing predominates in this action sequel, the third in a series that began with 2002’s “XXX.” At the behest of the CIA (represented by Toni Collette), a former secret operative (Vin Diesel) comes out of retirement to chase down a device capable of turning every satellite in the sky into a destructive earthbound missile. Diesel shoots, skateboards and smart-mouths his way through director D.J. Caruso’s pedestrian film, pausing occasionally to have meaningless sex. Much action violence, some of it harsh, brief gore, strong sexual content, including semi-graphic nonmarital activity and offering group sex, as well as references to aberrant behavior, a couple of profanities, a few milder oaths, a single rough term, frequent crude and crass language. L; PG-13

Gold Weinstein

A strong performance from Matthew McConaughey fails to dispel the sour taste of this loosely fact-based story, set in the late 1980s, about the zigzagging fortunes of the scrappy Nevada prospector he plays. Joining forces with a more sophisticated geologist (Edgar Ramirez), the miner braves the jungles of Indonesia to claim the largest gold strike of the decade. But all, of course, is not as it appears. A seedy atmosphere and a low moral tone in the boardroom are matched by an ongoing but unhandled bedroom relationship between the protagonist and his live-in girlfriend (Bryce Dallas Howard). Additionally, screenwriters Patrick Massett and John Zinman embed their script with a motherlode of vulgarity, making director Stephen Gaghan’s salute to entrepreneurial grit unfit for most. Cobulation, nonnographic nonmarital sexual activity, rear and partial nudity, frequent use of profanity, pervasive rough and crude language, a couple of obscene gestures. L; R

Resident Evil: The Final Chapter Screen Gems

This sixth and presumably last installment in a series of video game-based films that began in 2002 follows the lead of its predecessors by keeping its connection to the console on open display. So it’s ideal for those who like their zombies and shootouts served up with a minimum of story line or dialogue. For anyone beyond the fan base, though, frustration — and a possible headache — awaits as Milla Jovovich squeezes into her famous black bats to battle a variety of villains (including Iain Glen). Occasionally aided by a sidekick (Ali Larter), she has 48 hours to find the airborne antidote to the pandemic malady that has turned the planet into a dystopian moonscape. Writer-director Paul W. S. Anderson provides not so much a plot as a game. Probably acceptable for older teens. Mature themes, including divorce, brief profane and crude language. A-III; PG-13

The Space Between Us STX

Moral blemishes mar this science fiction tinged romance, making it unsuitable for youngsters and teens. Dramatically, director Peter Chelsom and screenwriter Allan Loeb waste a promising premise as they imagine the life story of the first human (Asa Butterfield) born on Mars. The product of an unplanned pregnancy, the lad’s existence is kept a secret from the world after his astronaut mother (Janel Montogmery) dies in childbirth. The founder (Gary Oldman) of the company entrusted with colonizing the red planet fears a financially ruinous scandal. But an online relationship with a rebellious high school student (Brett Robertson) along with the desire to locate his father motivate the lonely 16-year-old to journey to Earth, despite the fact that the trip poses serious medical risks since his body is unused to the home orbs atmosphere. The young people hit the road together in search of Dad, but their initially innocent bond eventually finds them hitting the sack as well. And their picturesque odyssey across the Southwest is punctuated by shoplifting and serial car theft. A benign view of theft, nonnographic but romanticized underage premarital sexual activity, at least one mild oath, a single crude and several crude terms. A-III; R

The Resurrection of Gavin Stone Bill Tilt/High Top

The parable of the Prodigal Son gets a soap opera update in this faith based comedy-drama, directed by Dallas Jenkins. A washed-up former child star (Brett Dalton) lands in trouble in his hometown, moves back in with his estranged father (Neil Flynn), and must complete 200 hours of community service at a Christian megachurch run by an evangelical pastor (D.B. Sweeney). Despite the initial resistance of his comely director (Anjelah Johnson-Reyes), the actor finds an outlet for his talent and eventually sees the light through his participation in the church’s passion play. Andrea Geyerston Naselli’s script is predictable but sincere, and offers lessons in forgiveness and redemption suitable for all ages. A nongraph ic portrayal of the Crucifixion. A-I; PG

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

February 17, 2017

ENTERTAINMENT

Motion Picture Association of America ratings:
G – General audiences; all ages admitted
PG – Parental guidance suggested; some material may not be suitable for children
PG-13 – Parents are strongly cautioned to give special guidance for attendance of children under 13; some material may be inappropriate for young children
R – Restricted; under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
NC-17 – No one under 17 admitted
**February 17, 2017**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**The Catholic Commentator**

**15**

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**Keeper of the Flame**

*I'm walking in their footsteps*
*I'm singing their old songs*
*Somebody blazed this trail*
*I'm treading on*
*I'm bent but I'm not broken*
*I'm stronger than I feel*
*I'm made of flesh and bone*
*Not made of steel*

**Refrain:**
*I'm the keeper of the flame*
*The teller of the story*
*Keeper of the flame*
*For the ones that came before me*
*For the little pilot lights waiting to ignite*

Like fireflies in the rain*
Keeper of the flame*
*I've been burned down to ashes*
Waiting for the wind*
To carry me and start a fire again*
Sometimes I'm just a flicker*
A candle in your eye*
But I swear to God*
*I'll never let it die*

(Repeat refrain.)

When I'm drowning*
When I'm fighting*
When I'm screaming*
*I'm the keeper of the flame*

Sung by Miranda Lambert | Copyright © 2016, Vanner Records

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**‘Keeper of the flame’**

Miranda Lambert’s latest release is the double disc “The Weight of These Wings.” Lambert is a well-established country star, but she also gets airplay on pop stations. This latest work is her effort to reflect on the losses and triumphs in her personal life.

The single “Keeper of the Flame” off this disc aptly describes Lambert’s effect to describe how Lambert needed to find her emotional and spiritual resilience to move ahead with her life. The song’s character speaks about how she “I’ve been burned down to ashes.”

Yet, she finds herself “waiting for the wind to carry me and start a fire again.” She sees herself as “the keeper of the flame,” a protector of the power and energy of life that each of us carries within our souls.

Both her insight and her emotional stamina are commendable. As we all know, life can bring times of hurt, disappointment, even despair. Discovering ways to keep the “flame” alive, even if it just seems only to be flickering, is the spiritual power of resilience.

So how do we access this power when we need it? What generates the inner quality of resilience that can keep us going when the future looks far different from what we wanted?

Tapping into this spiritual power is a process. The first step is to accept your feelings, not run away from them. Hurt, anger, disappointment and grief are normal responses to loss. In fact, they are the first part of healing, for no healing occurs without feeling.

This first step is difficult. Facing one’s emotional and spiritual pain means telling the truth and allowing such feelings to move through you.

This step requires both understanding and support from others. We need to understand that emotions, no matter what we are feeling, is energy in motion. Thus, no emotional experience will last, for all feeling is a wave of energy that, like any type of wave, eventually passes.

The passing of the wave is helped along by compassionate support of others. Facing emotional pain alone tends to prolong it. When we share the feelings in our heart with those we trust, we create a space for additional feelings, for example, a sense of being cared about and connection with others. Such loved support does not “fix” the emotional hurt, but when we feel understood and accepted, the waves of emotional energy pass more quickly. We see again that we are more than the current loss, and life does continue to hold promise.

What also helps to activate resilience is an ongoing connection with God. Make God an ally for healing as you face difficult feelings, and, eventually, for letting new hopes and dreams emerge.

Even when the road to healing and renewal seems long and uncertain, we can invite God to be our constant companion. Find times of quiet to tell God whatever you are feeling, for his presence and love is always stronger than any feeling. Ask God to help you to recognize those choices and attitudes that can most empower your resilience.

The truth is that each of us is a “keeper of the flame.” We will be challenged to see just how enduring this flame can be. Yet, resilience is real in each of us as God planted it in you soul. Even when the flame of hope seems dim, look for this light within you. God will always lead you to it.

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

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**On The Record**

**Charlie Martin**

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**ACROSS**

1 Religious ceremony
2 David married his widow
3 Hall with trays
4 Type of orchid
5 15 Mission to remember
6 16 Not pro
7 17 August 15
8 19 Score
9 20 Vegas introduction
10 21 Israel’s airline
11 22 Extremely small
12 23 Frankfort’s river
13 24 Flares
14 26 Illegal acts
15 27 Actress Russo
16 28 Taverns
17 29 Takes out the center
18 30 Demeanor
19 31 This king allowed the Jews to re-
20 32 Black of country music
21 33 Florida town near Ave Maria
22 34 One of Paul’s epistles
23 35 Differ ending
24 36 Potent ending
25 37 Thing in law
26 38 Gregorian ___
27 39 Of the highest quality
28 40 Exhort
29 41 Of the highest quality
30 42 Of the highest quality
31 43 Jacob and Rachel, to Joseph
32 44 One of the seven deadly sins
33 45 Wedding ring
34 46 Kangaroo jump
35 47 “I have finished the ___” (2 Tim...
36 48 Greek goddess of strife
37 49 Thing in law
38 50 Differ ending
39 51 Former JFK arrivals
40 52 Differ ending
41 53 Differ ending
42 54 “I have finished the ___” (2 Tim...
43 55 Potent ending
44 56 Hoist
45 57 God whatever you are
46 58 Differ ending
47 59 Differ ending
50 60 Differ ending
51 61 Differ ending

**DOWN**

1 “For my flesh is ___ food…” (Jn...
2 Casablanca role

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Splitting hairs**

As a member of St. Ann’s RCIA team, I was dismayed and confused to read the opinion article by Father Rolheiser in the Jan. 20 issue of The Catholic Commentator.

At best, I believe Father Rolheiser is splitting hairs and at worst, giving rein to a personal opinion which could negatively influence a reader’s behavior to the detriment of their soul. Sections 2180-2183 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are explicit that Mass attendance is obligatory, unless excused for a serious reason and that those who “deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.” Section 1861 states “exclusion from Christ’s kingdom and the eternal death of hell” as the penalty for (grave sin) unless one obtains the sacrament of reconciliation. It seems pretty clear to me that if I wake up Sunday morning and decide I don’t feel like attending Mass and fail to attend, I am committing mortal sin. I have failed my obligation with full knowledge and intent and I will remain outside union with Christ and the church unless or until I go to confession.

I would not presume to judge someone who missed Mass, or their motives or reasons for doing so. It is impossible for me to know their state of mind, depth of knowledge, etc. and besides, the purview of sin and judgement belongs to God, not me. I believe, however, that it is disingenuous to make a blanket statement such as Father Rolheiser has done without further clarifying exactly what the teaching of the church is on the matter and why it might or might not be a mortal sin to miss Mass, so that no one is given an erroneous impression. I can see where someone could read his article and think, “Hey, it’s okay to play golf (sleep in, go shopping, etc.) once in a while instead of going to Mass!”

Pam Brown Morganza

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**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US**

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

- **February 22**
  - Rev. Mark B. Beard
  - Dcn. Ricky A. Patterson
  - Br. Harold Harris SC

- **February 23**
  - Rev. Gary Belsome
  - Dcn. Curles Reeson Jr.
  - Sr. Geraldine Riedenau CSJ

- **February 24**
  - Rev. Robert H. Berggreen
  - Dcn. Frank W. Rhodes Jr.
  - Br. Ronald Hingle SC

- **February 25**
  - Rev. Donald Blanchard
  - Dcn. Alfred J. Ricard Jr.
  - Sr. Brendan Mary Ronayne FMOL
  - Rev. William Blazek SJ
  - Dcn. Thomas M. Robinson
  - Br. Noel Lemmon SC

- **February 26**
  - Rev. Jules A. Brunet
  - Dcn. Mauricio Salazar
  - Sr. Guadalupe Rosales HMSS
  - Rev. Gerald H. Burns
  - Dcn. Eliazar Salina, Jr.
  - Br. Roger Lemoyne SC

- **February 27**
  - Rev. John J. Callahan SJ
  - Dcn. Mario (Sam) Sammartino
  - Sr. Eileen Rowe FMOL
  - Dcn. Thomas M. Robinson
  - Br. Noel Lemmon SC

- **February 28**
  - Rev. Peter J. Callery SF
  - Dcn. Milton J. Schanzbach
  - Br. Malcolm Melcher SC
  - Rev. Joseph M. Camilleri
  - Dcn. Peter Schlette
  - Sr. Cynthia Sabathier CSJ

- **March 1**
  - Rev. Chung Cao CSSR
  - Dcn. Joseph M. Scimeca
  - Br. Paul Montero SC

- **March 2**
  - Rev. Peter J. Callery SF
  - Dcn. Milton J. Schanzbach
  - Br. Malcolm Melcher SC

- **March 3**
  - Rev. Joseph M. Camilleri
  - Dcn. Peter Schlette
  - Sr. Cynthia Sabathier CSJ

- **March 4**
  - Rev. Chung Cao CSSR
  - Dcn. Joseph M. Scimeca
  - Br. Paul Montero SC

- **March 5**
  - Rev. John Carville
  - Dcn. Rudolph W. Stahl
  - Sr. Lucy Silvio CSJ

- **March 6**
  - Rev. Edward Chiffrieller SJ
  - Dcn. Michael F. Thompson
  - Br. Marcus turcotte SC

- **March 7**
  - Rev. Charles Chukwuani
  - Dcn. J. Thomas Traylor
  - Sr. Camille Simonceaux CSJ
Living Well

Maureen Pratt

A funny thing happened on the way to confession

Confession is good for the soul,” they say. I agree. I also find that it helps us to live well no matter what our station or situation in life, especially if we make it a time to move fully out of our comfort zone.

During Lent and Advent, nearby parishes regularly have reconciliation services that allow us to reflect and prepare for these holy seasons. Often, before our regular parish Saturday evening Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation is offered, making it convenient to go to confession and Mass in one trip.

This year, I want to make a robust effort to revisit the sacrament of reconciliation when it might not be at the forefront of my schedule or mind, or even be convenient. This decision has led already to humor and grace and a tale to tell.

Saturday ended a week punctuated by heavy rain, wind and very cool temperatures. I was snug inside, but decided to un-wrap myself from the comfort of home and go to confession. The church I selected was in a very heavily trafficked area of the city. On a Saturday afternoon after a blustery, stormy week, I realized it would be next to impossible to find a nearby parking space.

This got my mind a-worrying: Over Christmas, my car had been burgled, and since then I’d been especially vigilant about keeping it close no matter where I parked. But even with the rawness of my recent experience, I still went forth (though I did faintly promise myself that if parking was a problem, I’d try another church another time).

True to my hunch, traffic was thick and spaces all along the way were full ... except as I turned the corner in the last block. Right in front of the church was an empty parking space! I have to admit I was a little anxious about what God had in store that it was so easy to park my car and save me a long walk in the chill. But I had no excuse now!

This particular church had two confessionsals at opposite sides of the nave. I approached a gentleman sorting stacks of bulletins and asked him if he knew on which side confession would be heard.

“Sometimes it’s one, sometimes the other,” he replied. He glanced at me. “Sometimes both.”

Was he being funny, or seeing something I didn’t realize? I laughed, nervously. “Oh, I only need one,” I said.

Deadpan, he said, “I meant, sometimes there are two priests.”

It varies.” And he went back to sorting the bulletins.

I noticed there were others entering, so I sat in a pew and read a page from the devotional I’d brought with me. Gradually, my breathing slowed and my heart was filled with hope.

During Lent and Advent, two priests. This got my mind a-worrying: What is it I need to make a robust effort to do? Is it making a sacrifice? Is it offering, making reconciliation a priority? What might this be saying about me? Is the heart of my prayer today to seek the Father’s love and blessing?

We have to mourn, she says, until our very foundations shake otherwise our ungraced wounds will forever leave us prone to bitterness, anger and cold judgments.

At the end of the day there is only one remaining spiritual and temperamental: We are not meant to die in anger and bitterness. And so, as we age, we can progressively slim our spiritual vocabulary down to one word: forgive, forgive, forgive. Only forgiveness can save us from bitterness and anger.

Indeed, there are few Gospel texts as sobering as the Gospel story of the Prodigal Son. As good commentaries on this text are quick to point out, the central character of this story is not the prodigal son, but the father, and the central message of the text is his over-generous mercy. He is a father who is trying to get his two sons into his house (his house being an image for heaven). But the younger son is, for a long time, out of the house through weakness, while the older son is just as effectively outside the house through a bitterness and an anger that have soured his fidelity. Unlike the father who is grateful and joyous because his wayward son has come home, the older brother is angry and bitter that the father has not been more merciful and that his errant brother was not first punished and made to meet certain conditions before he was welcomed back home.

Now there’s an older brother of this sort in all of us. We see it, for instance, in the fierce resistance many, wonderfully faithful, church-going, Christians express as they do when certain others going to Communion should still ask ourselves: Why is it that this anger is still there? Why am I angry about someone else going to Communion? What’s really the basis for my resistance? What might this be saying about me? Is my heart wide and mellow enough right now to go to heaven, to sit down at the banquet table with everyone?

Do I have the courage and humility to ask myself this question: Am I not akin to the older brother standing outside the house, bitter that someone who seems undeserving is receiving the Father’s love and blessing?

But we need to ask ourselves that with sympathy. We aren’t bad persons; it’s just that a certain bitter moralizing is an occupational hazard for us. Still we need to ask ourselves these hard questions, for our own sake, lest blind to ourselves, we become the older brother of the prodigal son.

Aging without bitterness and anger is in fact the central message of the Prodigal Son. Paradoxical, ironic, strange, but we can be faithful, uprightly morally, duty-bound, church-going Christians, preaching the Gospel to others and, at the same time, carry inside of ourselves an anger, a bitterness and an unconscious envy of the amoral which has us standing outside the house of celebration, blocked from entry because we are angry at how wide and indiscriminating is our own God’s embrace.

But that weakness and bipolarity have already been taken into account. The story of the Prodigal Son, not with the father’s joy at the return of his sinful son, but with the father at the door of the house, gently pleading with his older son to give up his bitterness and enter the dance. We don’t know how that story ends, but, given God’s jealous love and infinite patience, there’s little reason to doubt that eventually the older brother entered the house and sat down at the table with his prodigal brother.

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

Obedient, reverent, faithful, Maureen Pratt writes on issues of spirituality for today’s Catholic for Catholic News Service.

Embittered moralizing

One of the dangers inherent in trying to live out a life of Christian fidelity is that we are prone to become embittered moralizers, older brothers of the prodigal son, angry and jealous at God’s over-generous mercy, bitter because persons who wander and stray can so easily access the heavenly banquet table.

But this isn’t unique to faithful church-goers. It’s part of the universal struggle to age without bitterness and anger. We spend the first half of our lives wrestling with the sixth commandment and spend the last half of our lives wrestling with the fifth commandment: Thou shalt not kill! Long before anyone is shot by a gun, he is shot by a word, and before he is shot by a word, he is shot by a thought. We all think murderous thoughts: Who does he think he is? And it becomes harder and harder not to think that as we age.

Aging without bitterness and anger is in fact our final struggle, psychologically and spiritually. The great Swiss psychologist, Alice Miller, suggests that the primary task of the second-half of life is that of mourning, mourning our wounds so as not to become bitter and angry. We have to mourn, she says, until our very foundations shake otherwise our ungraced wounds will forever leave us prone to bitterness, anger and cold judgments.

At the end of the day there is only one remaining spiritual and temperamental: We are not meant to die in anger and bitterness. And so, as we age, we can progressively slim our spiritual vocabulary down to one word: forgive, forgive, forgive. Only forgiveness can save us from bitterness and anger.

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In Exile

Father Ron Rolheiser

Father Ron Rolheiser with certain others going to Communion should still ask ourselves: Why is this bothering me? Why am I angry about someone else going to Communion? What’s really the basis for my resistance? What might this be saying about me? Is my heart wide and mellow enough right now to go to heaven, to sit down at the banquet table with everyone?

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**COMING EVENTS**

Februray 17, 2017

**Women in Spirit Meeting** – Donna Hutto Edwards, wife of Gov. John Bel Edwards, will speak on the topic, “A Childlike Faith,” at the meeting of Women in Spirit Thursday, Feb. 23, noon, at the St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Hall, Fourth and Main streets, Baton Rouge. Women in Faith is an interfaith gathering of women seeking spiritual growth and an opportunity to network. To RSVP email sjwowomeninspirit@aol.com or call the cathedral office at 225-387-5928.

**Pre-Lenten Mission** – Father Philip Chircop SJ will present a pre-Lenten mission, “Go Build My Church” at Immaculate Conception Church, Denham Springs, 865 Hatchell Lane, Denham Springs. Father Chircop will preach at the weekend Masses, Feb. 18–19, and present the mission Monday, Feb. 20 – Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. For more information, call 225-665-5359.

**St. Alphonsus Presentation** – Shannon O’Neal, adult formation director at St. Alphonsus Church, 14040 Greenwell Springs Rd, Greenwell Springs, will present a program, “Effectively Speaking the Truth,” Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 – 8 p.m., in the church’s St. Francis Room. For more information, call 225-261-4644.

**Eucharistic Adoration Talk** – Sister Tracey Dugas FSP will speak on “Devotional Prayer: The Gift of Eucharistic Adoration.” Thursday, March 9, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Holy Family Church’s Marian Hall, 474 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen. For more information, call 225-383-8188.

**Louisiana Chesterton Conference** – The third annual Louisiana Chesterton Conference, which celebrates the writings and life of G.K. Chesterton, will be held Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Chesterton Hall, 143 N.W. Railroad Ave., Ponchatoula. Register at chesconf.eventbrite.com or call 225-898-8188.
‘Angels’ from Baton Rouge welcome Iraqi family

By Rachiele Smith
The Catholic Commentator

Meghan Matt didn’t plan to go to the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport when she woke up on Feb. 11. However, after striking up a conversation with a woman buying flowers at Trader Joe’s earlier that morning, she knew she and her family had to go.

“I’m here because I met this woman from St. Aloysius (Church in Baton Rouge), and when I found out she was coming to welcome a refugee family, I felt it was important to be here,” Matt said, balancing her one-year-old daughter on her hip while her husband and three other daughters looked on.

Matt and her family were part of a welcoming committee, which swelled to about 50 people, many carrying homemade signs, flowers, food and gifts, as they prepared to greet a refugee family from Iraq.

While specific details about the Iraqi family of five are confidential, officials with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge said in a statement the family fled their native country because they were receiving death threats and had no other choice.

“They lived and the lives of their children were in danger. They acted to seek safety for their family, just as any good parent would do,” said David Aguilard, executive director of CCDBR.

The Iraqi family was living in Turkey before finally completing a two-year vetting process, which included rigorous scrutiny from the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Defense and other agencies, according to CCDBR, which has been assisting the family in joining other relatives who resettled here last year.

“The Catholic Church has a long-standing tradition of helping refugees and immigrants as a matter of human rights,” Aguillard noted.

Aguillard, who was also part of the welcoming committee, shared his excitement with others, including many from St. Aloysius, as they waited for the family to arrive.

As the time grew close for the Iraqi family to enter the airport, Mohammed Kamil and his family, holding “Welcome” signs and flowers, smiled with excitement and anticipation against a background of music and conversation. He was waiting to see his sister and her family for the first time in 11 months.

“I am so happy,” he said, adding that his native country has become very dangerous and he is glad to know that his sister and her family will now be safe.

He added that he is grateful to have the support of so many people in Baton Rouge since he resettled here almost a year ago.

“The people in Baton Rouge are angels,” he said.

Gentle Hands Retreat — Gentle Hands Ministry of St. Aloysius Church, 2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge, will host a retreat for those who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or the loss of a child of any age Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m. — noon, at the St. Aloysius Church administration building and chapel.

The retreat is open to people of all denominations and faith and married couples are encouraged to attend together. There will be a light breakfast, speakers and fellowship. To register by email and for more information, email 4Gentlehands@gmail.com.

Events ▪

From page 18

tertonbr.com. For more information, email karen@kjhornsby.com, or call 225-312-5824.

Refugees ▪

From page 1

helped them adjust to life in their new country in a “meet and greet” social at Beth Shalom.

Though the young refugees did not speak English, the teens quickly overcame language barriers. They used language translators and game apps on their smartphones, facial expressions and other creative means of getting their messages across.

Nina Jalenak, a youth from the Congregation of B’Nai Iserael, who made with Adhra origami swans, said their shared interest in paper crafts was not the only thing they had in common.

Jalenak, a board member of the Southern Tropical Region of the North American Federation of Temple Youth, is a senior at Episcopal.

“Because I’m a Jewish person at Episcopal I’m different meeting other people who are different ... Being so different I support other people who are,” said Jalenak.

Because she and Adhra made a stake in common ground, Jalenak said she plans to keep in touch with her new friend.

“I will definitely be using Google translate,” said Jalenak.

She noted Adhra made the dress she was wearing herself. Adhra, who stated she loves “everything” about America, beamed and said her mother taught her to sew.

Making sure her own children are safe and secure and have an opportunity for a better life was the reason “Hafa” and her family left Syria and came to the United States from a refugee camp in Jordan.

“Because of the war I thought it was safer to be here with the children,” said Hafa, who seemed to contently watch her children mingle with their peers. Her son, “Yaman,” acknowledged life in the refugee camp was hard.

“It was in the desert and we were (living in) in a tent,” said Yaman.

He and his young brother, “Joram,” though, appeared to be acclimating as they kicked around a soccer ball outside and later lofted beanbags toward a hole in a game board.

CCDBR Executive Director David Aguilard said helping refugees is a long-standing Catholic tradition. He said the Catholic Church’s mission has been to uphold the fundamental right to take care of family.

He noted that Catholic Charities is one of the forefront agencies in assisting refugees rebuild a new life.

Many of the refugees resettled by Catholic Charities have been through much tribulation, fleeing political and religious persecution, famine and poverty, before finding a home in America, according to Aguilard.

“Some of these people have had horrendous journeys,” Aguilard said. “Some have seen violence and their own relatives tortured or killed.”

The Jewish youth group’s meet and greet is not something that was scheduled by recent events but had been something planned for some time, according to Aguilard and Father Alec Sheldon, board member of CCD- BR. The congregations had been collecting items for over a year and the Jewish youth wanted to meet the refugees.

“It’s exciting to us that young people will show such an adult attitude toward welcoming the stranger,” said Father Sheldon. “They are setting a good example for the rest of us and showing us what’s possible when we’re willing to look beyond perceived differences with others.

Everybody needs friends. It’s unusual for people to open up their circles of friendship specifically to people they don’t know. In doing so, these teenagers have not only made new friends themselves, but by opening their doors, by making time on a weekend, they helped these recently arrived refugee children develop friendships that are absolutely crucial to their integration in our society.”

Father Sheldon noted the importance of having a friend when moving to a new country.

“They’ve come here and are across the world from their other friends. I know that when I was a teenager, making friends was awkward sometimes,” said Father Sheldon. “I can’t imagine how awkward it must be for people who have different languages, who have different cultural backgrounds. So we are proud of the teens of the two synagogues for befriending the refugees.”

Aguillard and Father Sheldon said what they were seeing at the event were teens having a good time doing things they normally do — playing soccer and other games, eating snacks and spending time getting to know each other.

“Kids are kids the world over, there’s nothing to be afraid of,” Aguilard said.

This was evident from the ease with which “Jasmine,” 12, made friends at a table of girls who were making friendship bracelets and painting each other’s fingernails. She shared with the girls that her favorite subject at Southeast Middle School was English and one of the things she likes the most since coming to the United States is Chuck E. Cheese’s.

“I love America because it has changed my life,” said Jasmine.
Dow said on occasion God might reveal himself to an individual through visions or apparitions, although those are mostly private revelations.

“How do you hear with your heart?” she asked. “For me, it is a rational emotion. It comes with discernment. Is what you are hearing motivating you? Is it coming from God or coming from your own thoughts? That is when discernment comes into play.”

For those who yearn to hear God’s voice but are uncertain how to listen, Father Walsh and Dow agree the first step should be relatively easy: silence. But because of the distractions of modern technology becoming disconnected for any length of time can be challenging.

“God is not going to call us on our cell phone,” Father Walsh said. “We have to seek silence and by that I mean not only physical silence but spiritual silence.”

Dow agreed, saying technology allows for too many distractions and that the voice of God is often lost in the static of technology. She said a person might be trying to take in all of the information, but by not being centered on Christ and his message that person is lost as to what direction to take.

“We can’t hear God unless we take the time to stop, put the phone away, turn the computer off, then turn the TV off,” she said. “There is nothing more powerful than sitting in the silence of your house.”

For those who might find such a concept difficult, Dow recommended starting with one minute the first day and adding a minute every day. She said by the end of Lent a person will be spending 40 minutes a day in silence with the Lord.

Father Walsh presented a simple format to follow, which is helpful for those as to how to structure their prayers. Once the electronic devices are silenced, he advised spending the first five minutes settling one’s thoughts, thanking God for the gift of his presence, and revealing to him what is one’s mind and heart.

Once the calmness settles in, Father Walsh highly recommended praying the rosary.

“The rosary was given to us by God himself through Holy Mother Church, “he said. “The repetition of that kind of formal prayer leads us to that interior quiet that helps us to hear God. The repetitive prayer calms your spirit down so that you can listen.”

“The most important part of prayer is hearing God, what God has to say to us.”

When we don’t hear God in these extraordinary ways, we should never lose faith that God is not speaking to us because he speaks to us in the ordinary ways every single day. We have to ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of prayer.”

Father Walsh said one major impediment to hearing God is mortal sin, which he likened to inclusion in a human’s artery system. He noted that if an artery system is blocked, less and less blood is going to flow, and the heart will cease to function, and the body will die.

Jesus said the sacrament of confession is a “tremendous blessing” that will help break through the intrusion of mortal sin.

“It doesn’t mean you are not going to be tempted by the same sin, but Jesus, the divine physician, has dissolved the clot,” added Father Walsh, who recommends Catholics go to confession once a month.

And dissolving what is clogging the heart can open the ears, allowing for God’s voice to be heard. (Next: Using Lent as a way to prepare to hear the voice of God)
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is the season of penance, reflection and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.
March 1, Ash Wednesday services in the Diocese of Baton Rouge

Café Américain

Join us this Lent!

- For Starters: Fried Green Tomatoes with Grilled Shrimp or Jumbo Lump Crabmeat
- Surf-n-Turf with Grilled/Blackened/Fried Shrimp
- 20-oz Angus Handcut Ribeye
- 8-oz. Filet topped with Lump Crabmeat
- Trout Almondine
- Pecan Redfish
- Crawfish Eggplant Caroline
- Café Redfish topped with Crabmeat
- Grilled or Blackened Salmon
- Louisiana Seafood Platter, Broiled or Fried
- Desserts: Bailey’s White Chocolate Bread Pudding or choose one of our 40 Homemade Cheesecakes

Look for our Lenten Special coming Ash Wednesday, March 1

Boiled Crawfish Thursday-Saturday 4:30 p.m. til

Cooking Authentic Family Recipes for Over 25 Years!

7521 Jefferson Hwy. (Jefferson Plaza)
Mon.-Thurs. 11am-9:30pm; Fri.-Sat. 11am-10pm; Sunday 11am-8pm
225-924-9841 • 225-927-1626

Lenten regulations for the Diocese of Baton Rouge

As per the Pagella Policies of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, as in the rest of the church in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound by a grave obligation to observe a solemn fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Since 2004, this obligation to observe a solemn fast on Ash Wednesday has been extended to Holy Saturday. The payment of alms, a well provided for in Canon Law, is recommended to all the faithful.

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Spiritual renewal opportunities of the Lenten season

Feb. 16, 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 20
Divine Mercy Mass, Benediction and Novena
St. Thomas More Church 11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Church office 225-275-3940
Feb. 20 – 23
Parish Mission
St. Aloysius Church 2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Led by Fr. Simeon Gallagher OFM Cap
Feb. 21 – 22
Parish Mission
Immaculate Conception Church 865 Hatchell Lane, Denham Springs 7 p.m.
Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18
Divine Mercy Novena
St. John the Evangelist Church 57805 Main St., Plaquemine 6 p.m. chaplet immediately following Mass
Marsha Dupont 225-687-2402
Divine Mercy Mass and Chaplet sung
Ascension of Our Lord Church 716 Mississippi St., Donaldsonville 6 – 7 p.m.
Dana Schexnayder 225-473-3176
Divine Mercy Novena
St. Mark Church Chapel of Adoration 42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales 6 p.m. Mass followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Robin Richardson 225-647-8461
Divine Mercy Novena
Immaculate Conception Church 12369 LA Hwy. 416, Lakeland 5 p.m. confessions followed by 6 p.m. Mass and singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Church office 225-627-5124
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Most Blessed Sacrament Church 15615 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge 6:30 p.m.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the chaplet and Benediction
Divine Mercy Novena
Our Lady of Mercy Church 445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge 6 – 7 p.m.
Deacon Richard Grant 225-926-1883
March 1
Ash Wednesday Retreat
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church 14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$30.00
Limited to 100 participants. Lenten lunch provided. Pre-register by Feb. 20.
Make checks payable to CoffeeBreak and include name, phone number and email address and mail to church.
Marianne Kulino 225-933-0270
March 1 – 3, 8 – 10, 15 – 17, 22 – 24, 29 – 31, April 5 – 7, 12 – 13
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St. Patrick Church 12424 Brodgon Lane, Baton Rouge Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Fridays, 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Church office 225-753-5750
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St. Joseph Church (Old church) 15710 LA Hwy. 16, French Settlement 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Church office 225-698-3110
Mass, Novena, Rosary
St. Joseph Church 15710 LA Hwy. 16, French Settlement 8 a.m.
Church office 225-698-3110
March 1 – 3, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12
Divine Mercy Novena
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church 14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs 6 – 7:30 p.m.
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Mass, Novena, Rosary
St. Joseph Church 15710 LA Hwy. 16, French Settlement 8 a.m.
Church office 225-698-3110
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12
Eucharistic Adoration
St. George Church
In the chapel 7808 St. George Drive, Baton Rouge 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Church office 225-293-2212
Mass and Stations of the Cross
St. Joseph Church 76940 Gum St., Grosse Tete 6 p.m.
Akeish Williams 225-625-4063
March 3 & April 7
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of Pompeii Church 14500 Hwy. 442 N, Tickfaw 8 – 9:30 a.m.
Deacon Al Levy 985-345-9857
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7
Stations of the Cross
St. Joseph Cathedral
Main at Fourth St., Baton Rouge 11:30 a.m.
Sheila G. Juneau 225-387-5928
Stations of the Cross
St. Gabriel Church 3625 Hwy. 75, St. Gabriel 6 p.m.
Fr. Charlie Landry 225-642-8441
Stations of the Cross
Immaculate Conception Church 865 Hatchell Lane, Denham Springs
After 6 p.m. Mass, except on March 17 – before 7 p.m. Mass
Stations of the Cross
Our Lady of Pompeii Church 14500 Hwy. 442 N, Tickfaw 6 p.m.
Deacon Al Levy 985-345-9857
Stations of the Cross
St. Thomas More Church 11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge 1:30 & 6 p.m.
The 1:30 p.m. will be presented by school children
Church office 225-275-3940
Stations of the Cross and light Lenten meal
St. Francis of Assisi Church 818 W. 10th St., Donaldsonville 6 – 7 p.m.
Free-will offering for the poor at meal
Dana Schexnayder 225-473-3176
Stations of the Cross
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church 11485 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville 5:30 p.m.
Church office 225-635-2344
Stations of the Cross
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church 14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Parish office 225-261-4650
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church 32615 Bowie St., White Castle 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Dianne Hebert 225-545-3532
Stations of the Cross
Immaculate Conception Church

-coming March 3-

**Spiritual Retreats**

A special section of The Catholic Commentator

The Spiritual Retreats special section will list retreat centers, in and outside of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and serve as a guide for those seeking places and programs during Lent and throughout the year for spiritual renewal and continuing spiritual education in the Catholic faith.

The deadline to be included is February 21. For more information call 225-387-0983.
SPIRITUALITY ▼

From page 3B

601 North Oak St., Hammond
Daily Mass Chapel
Holy Ghost Church
Morning Prayer
Church office 225-753-7950

445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
Our Lady of Mercy Church
Deacon John Veron 225-647-5321
6 p.m.

44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant
Holy Rosary Church
Stations of the Cross
Dianne Hebert 225-545-3532
5 – 6 p.m.

32615 Bowie St., White Castle
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church
Stations of the Cross
Church office 225-753-7950
6 – 6:30 p.m.

16166 S. Harrells Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge
Stations of the Cross
Veronica L. Williams 225-537-4800
6 p.m.

2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge
LeVan Phung Church
Sts. Anthony of Paua and St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland
Lea Smith 985-345-3360
6 p.m.

44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant
Holy Rosary Church
Stations of the Cross
Akeish Williams 225-625-4063
6 p.m.

3523 LA Hwy. 78, Livingston
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church
Mass and Stations of the Cross
Church office 225-698-3110
6 p.m.

7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge
St. George Church
Stations of the Cross
Akeish Williams 225-625-4063
6 p.m.

474 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
Holy Family Church
Stations of the Cross
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573
6 p.m.

16166 S. Harrell’s Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge
St. Jean Vianney Church
Parish Lenten Day of Reflection
Terri Albert 985-386-3749
Noon and 3 p.m. April 14
1:45 – 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

57805 Main St., Plaquemine
St. John the Evangelist Church
Stations of the Cross
Church office 225-383-2537
3 p.m. April 14 followed by the reading of the Passion
6 p.m.

255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula
St. Joseph Church
Stations of the Cross
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573
3 p.m. April 14, no Mass
6 p.m.

12424 Brogdon Lane, Baton Rouge
St. Patrick Church
12:42 Mass and Stations of the Cross
Noon and following 6 p.m. Mass
Church office 225-753-5750
3 p.m. April 14, no Mass
6 p.m.

5479 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
St. Benedict the Moor Church
Lenten Revival
Akeish Williams 225-625-4063
6 p.m.

3674 LA Hwy. 78, Plaquemine
St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church
Lenten Vespers
Marsha Dupont 225-687-2402
Noon and following 6 p.m. Mass
Church office 225-753-5750
3 p.m. April 14, no Mass
6 p.m.

22494 LA Hwy. 22, Maurepas
St. Stephen the Martyr Church
Mass and Stations of the Cross
Church office 225-608-3110
Noon and following 6 p.m. Mass
Church office 225-608-3110
3 p.m. April 14, no Mass
6 p.m.

3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
St. Paul the Apostle Church
Benediction, Mass, Stations of the Cross
Church office 225-383-1838
Noon April 14
7 a.m., 5 p.m.

3732 LA Hwy. 78, Port Allen
St. Joseph Church
Stations of the Cross
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573
3 p.m. April 14 followed by the reading of the Passion
6 p.m.

474 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
Holy Family Church
Stations of the Cross
Church office 225-383-1838
5 p.m.

5479 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
St. Benedict the Moor Church
Lenten Revival
Akeish Williams 225-625-4063
6 p.m.

22494 LA Hwy. 22, Maurepas
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Church office 225-608-3110
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6 p.m.
SPIRITUALITY ▼
from page 48

March 9
Devotional Prayer: The Gift of Eucharistic Adoration
Holy Family Church
Marian Hall
474 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Talk given by Sr. Tracey Dugas FSP from New Orleans Church office 225-383-1838

Day of Reflection by the Rosary Altar Society
Holy Ghost Church
601 North Oak St., Hammond 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
$17.50
Speaker will be Fr. Mark Beard, pastor of St. Helena Church
Bridge Fugurino 985-320-8498

March 10, April 7
Stations of the Cross
St. Thomas More Church
11441 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Church office 225-275-3940

March 12
Full of Grace – The Story of Mary the Mother of Jesus
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs 5:30 p.m.
Film with a reflection facilitated by Eric Growth, Outside de Box
Olga Johnson 225-261-4644

March 12 – 14
Parish Mission
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales 7 – 8 p.m.
Robin Richardson or Cecile Haley 225-647-8461

March 13, 14, 15,
Parish Mission
St. George Church
7808 St. George Drive, Baton Rouge 7 p.m.
Given by Fr. Michael Al leo
Church office 225-293-2212

March 14
Lenten Evening of Prayer
St. Jean Vianney Church
16166 S. Harrell’s Ferry Rd.
Baton Rouge 7 – 8 p.m.
Parish office 225-753-7950

March 16
Taize Prayer Service
Holy Rosary Church

April 2 - 4
Parish Mission
St. John the Baptist Church
4727 McHugh Dr., Zachary 5 – 7 p.m.
April 2
6 – 8 p.m. April 3 & 4
Led by Katie Prejean McGrady and Tommy McGrady
Suzanne Payne 225-654-5776

April 6
Living Way of the Cross
St. Jean Vianney Church
16266 S. Harrell’s Ferry Rd.
Baton Rouge 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Presented by 8th grade class
Elisha Dumas 225-751-1831

April 7
Living Stations of the Cross
St. Elizabeth School
119 Hwy. 403, Paincourtville 7:40 a.m.
Mass
Paula Simonneaux 985-369-7402

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of Pompeii Church
14500 Hwy. 442, Tickfaw 7 p.m.
Deacon Al Levy 985-345-8957

April 9
18th Annual Performance Leonardo DaVinci’s Painting The Last Supper
Our Lady of Pompeii Church
14500 Hwy. 442, Tickfaw 7 p.m.
Followed by light meal
Virginia Patecek 985-345-2856

April 10
Taize Prayer Service
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales 7 p.m.
Robin Richardson or Cecile Haley 225-647-8461

April 14
Good Friday Pilgrimage Walk
Our Lady of Sorrows Church
44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant 3:45 p.m.
Meet at Holy Rosary Church where a bus will take participants to St. Mary’s Chapel in Union to begin the walk back.
Lunch is included
Donovan Scioneaux
e-mail doncno@eatel.net

April 14 – April 22
Divine Mercy Novena
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy., 621, Gonzales 7 p.m.
For times: visit stmargonzales.org
Robin Richardson 225-647-8461

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.
– Pope Francis

SHRIMP!
Fridays in Lent
Shrimp Spaghetti and Italian-Style Marinated Shrimp PoBoy

Host families wanted for students attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School
(Hammond, LA)

For information contact Stephanie Burleson at 407-404-3311 or stephanie.burleson@educatius.org

www.educatius.org

Journey Through Lent with Our Lady of Sorrows

NEW! Deliverance Prayers for the Laity by Fr. Chad Ripperger, FSSP, PhD, Society of the Sorrowful Mother

Catholic Art & Gifts
6184 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge 225.926.1216 • www.zieglers.com
Hours: M-F 9am-5pm; Sat. 9:30am-4:30pm

5B

February 17, 2017

The Catholic Commentator

5B

TR-136678
Lenten fundraisers throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge

**March 3**  
**Fried Fish Dinners**  
Knight of Peter Claver #119  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
Church Hall  
11140 Hwy. 77, Maringouin  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
$7 plate includes fried fish, peas, potatoes, roll and dessert  
See member of KPC for dinner tickets.

**March 3, 31**  
**Fish Fry**  
KC Fr. Vander Heyden  
Council #4874  
KC Hall  
1701 E. Pecan St., Ponchatoula  
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
1701 E. Pecan St., Ponchatoula  
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
$7 plate includes fried fish, peas, potatoes, roll and dessert  
$1 drinks  
Major credit cards accepted  
Maria Danos 225-753-5750

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7**  
**KC Seafood Supper**  
Holy Family Church  
KC Hall  
679 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen  
5 – 7 p.m.  
$7 plate includes fried fish, potato salad, bread and dessert  
$12 plate includes crawfish bisque, corn, macque choux, bread and dessert  
Adrian Genre 225-387-9667

**March 3, 17, 24, 31, April 7**  
**KC Fish Fry**  
Our Lady of Mercy Church  
Parish Activity Center  
400 Marquette Ave.  
Baton Rouge  
5 – 7 p.m.  
$7 plate, includes fish, coleslaw, fries and bread  
Parish office 225-926-3883

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7**  
**Fish Fry**  
St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church  
Albany 1-12 exit at the interstate  
4 – 7 p.m.  
$8 plate, includes fried fish, potato salad, coleslaw, bread and dessert  
Mary E. Herbert 225-357-3573

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7**  
**KC Suppers**  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Main Hall  
865 Hatchell Lane  
Denham Springs  
5 – 7:30 p.m. dine in or take out  
$8 plate, tickets available at church office or at the door  
Mar. 3 – fried catfish, potato salad, dessert, bread  
Mar. 10 – crawfish etouffee, salad, dessert, bread  
Mar. 24 – fried shrimp po-boy, potato salad, pickle, dessert  
Mar. 31 – TBA  
Apr. 7 – fried catfish, potato salad, dessert, bread  
Sponsored by KC, CDA, ISM  
Youth Ministry and Men’s Club  
Baton Rouge  
5 – 7:30 p.m. dining in or to go  
$7 plate includes fried fish or fried shrimp  
Chad Rossi 225-413-2553  
Visit Men’s Club mbmensclub.org for weekly specials

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7**  
**Fish Fry**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church  
Parish Hall  
3912 Gus Young Ave.  
Baton Rouge  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
$9 plate includes fried catfish or fried shrimp, potato salad, sweet peas, bread and dessert  
Ernest Hebert 225-387-9506

**KC Fish Fry**  
St. Joseph Church  
15710 LA Hwy. 16  
French Settlement  
4 – 7 p.m.  
$8 plate  
Church office 225-698-3110

**March 9**  
**Lenten Dinners**  
Immaculate Conception Church  
St. Joseph Church  
Fr. Engels Hall  
Due to COVID-19 – Changes had been made.  
Please call 225-388-7196 for more information.

**March 10**  
**2017 Count Your Blessings Supper**  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Our Lady of Mercy Church  
Parish Activity Center  
445 Marquette Av., Baton Rouge  
7 p.m.  
$10 per person; tickets available at St. Vincent de Paul by calling 225-387-8877 ext. 0 or mailing to P.O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127

**March 10**  
**KC Fish Fry**  
St. Joseph Church  
15710 LA Hwy. 16  
French Settlement  
4 – 7 p.m.  
$8 plate  
Church office 225-698-3110

**March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7**  
**Men’s Club Lenten Fish Fry**  
St. George Church  
7880 St. George Drive  
Baton Rouge  
5 – 7 p.m.  
$9 - $10 plate choice of fried or baked fish with two sides potato salad, coleslaw, or french fries and a roll  
Lynn Schroeder 225-293-2212

**March 10, 17, 24, April 7**  
**Lenten Dinner by Holy Ghost Dad’s Club**  
Holy Ghost Church  
601 N. Oak St., Hammond, earpool area  
5 – 7 p.m.  
$7 - $8 depending on meal served, includes fried fish and different seafood dishes  
Funds will be used for Holy Ghost School  
Charlie Cormier 985-507-7742

**March 10, 24, April 10**  
**Lent Fish Fry**  
St. Thomas More Church  
11441 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge  
Activity Center, school cafeteria entrance on Dartmoor  
5 – 5:30 p.m. drive thru only  
5 – 8 p.m. dine in or drive thru  
$8 plate  
Sweets and drinks available for purchase  
Benefits St. Thomas More Youth and Baton Rouge Food Bank; bring a canned good for donation  
Church office 225-275-3940

**March 31**  
**Seafood Supper**  
St. Joseph’s Academy  
Dining Hall  
3015 Broussard St., Baton Rouge  
5 – 7:30 p.m.  
$8 plate includes seafood etouffee, salad, bread  
Dorinda Beaumont 225-388-2290

**KC Seafood Supper**  
Holy Family Church  
Parish Hall  
368 N. Jefferson Ave.  
Port Allen  
5 – 7 p.m.  
$7 plate includes fried fish, potato salad, bread and dessert  
$12 plate includes crawfish bisque, corn, macque choux, bread and dessert  
Adrian Genre 225-387-9667

**April 7**  
**Knights of Columbus Seafood Gumbo**  
Our Lady of Pompeii Church  
Parish Hall  
14500 Hwy. 442, Tickfaw  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
5 – 7 p.m. eat in or take out  
$8 includes a 20 oz. bowl  
Perry McMenamin 504-220-4119

**Men’s Club Fish Fry Dinner**  
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church  
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.  
Greenwell Springs  
4 – 6 p.m. Take out only  
$7 plate includes fish, fries, coleslaw, roll  
Pick up dinners in the church parking lot on Greenwell Springs Road.  
Billy Harris 225-936-8036
The Light is ON for You and penance times scheduled

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church
32615 Bowie St., White Castle
4 – 5 p.m.
Dianne Hebert 225-545-3532

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
5:30 p.m. prior to Stations of the Cross
Church office 225-383-2537

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8
St. Gerard Majella Church
5354 Plank Rd., Baton Rouge
3–3:45 p.m.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 10
St. Jean Vianney Church
16166 S. Harrell's Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge
6 – 7 p.m.
Parish office 225-753-7950

March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10
St. Joan of Arc Church
39315 Hwy. 75, Plaquemine
5 – 6 p.m.
Alice Dutsch 225-545-8824

March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
8 a.m.
Parish office 225-261-4650

March 8
St. Joseph Church
7808 St. George Drive, Baton Rouge
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Church office 225-293-2212

March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5
Holy Family Church
369 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
6 – 6:45 p.m.
Church office 225-383-1838

March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12
St. George Church
7808 St. George Drive, Baton Rouge
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Church office 225-293-2212

March 8
Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
6 p.m.
Church office 225-383-1838

March 8
Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
6 p.m.
Church office 225-926-3983

Holy Hours and Reconciliation
St. Joseph Cathedral
Main at Fourth streets, Baton Rouge
5 p.m.
Sheila G. Juneau 225-387-3928

March 15
St. Joseph Church
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Terri Albert 985-386-3749

March 21
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
7 p.m.
Robin Richardson 225-647-8461

March 22
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
7 p.m.
Church office 225-261-4650

March 23
St. Joseph Church
15710 LA Hwy. 16, French Settlement
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Church office 225-698-3110

March 29
Mater Dolorosa Church
609 Third St., Independence
6 – 7:30 p.m.

April 4
St. Jean Vianney Church
16166 S. Harrell's Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge
7 – 8 p.m.
Office 225-753-7950

Our Lady of Pompeii Church
14500 Hwy. 442 N, Tickfaw
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Deacon Al Levy 985-345-8957

April 5
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
7 p.m.
Church office 225-261-4650

St. Gabriel Church
3625 Hwy. 75, St. Gabriel
6 p.m.
Fr. Charlie Landry 225-642-8441

April 4 – 5
Sts. Anthony of Padua and
LeVan Phung Church
2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge
7 – 9 p.m.
Veronica L. Williams 225-357-4800

April 10
St. Jean Vianney Church
16166 S. Harrell's Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge
6 – 7 p.m.
Parish office 225-753-7950

For daily Mass schedules and confessions look in the Annual Mass Schedule which was inserted in the Dec. 23 issue of The Catholic Commentator. If you didn’t receive the Mass Schedule call 225-387-0983.

Support the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Please give generously in your parish collection on Ash Wednesday

RESTORE THE CHURCH
BUILD THE FUTURE
Readers and restaurants share Lent favorites

Speckled Trout Fish Tacos with Spicy Cabbage Slaw
Michael Casio
Heads and Tails Seafood
Spicy Cabbage Slaw
10 oz. pre-shredded cabbage
1/2 c. mayonnaise
1/4 c. pickled jalapeños, diced
2 Tbsp. onion, minced (or more to taste)
1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar, lemon or lime juice, plus more to taste if desired
1 Tbsp. Sriracha, optional or any hot sauce
1 Tbsp. honey or a few drops of liquid stevia

We are seeing more people who are breaking tablets in half and skipping doses of life-sustaining medicines in a desperate attempt to meet ends meet. For more details on how you can save someone’s life by filling a prescription, visit our website at www.svdpbr.org.

St. Louis King of France Church
8 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded
1 stick margarine, melted
1/2 c. mayonnaise
1/2 bunch chopped green onions
4 oz. can black olives, chopped
3 coves garlic, pressed
1 bag (12 in bag) of pistolettes

Mix ingredients in bowl. Can be done the day before and refrigerated.

When ready spread on pistolettes and put in 350 degrees oven and bake until cheese has melted.

Squash or Eggplant Casserole
Teenie Bajan
St. Louis King of France Church
1/4 lbs. fresh yellow squash (approx. 8)
1 Tbsp. sugar
1/4 c. onions, chopped
1 c. med. cheddar cheese, grated
1 c. bread or cracker crumbs, toasted
2 eggs
1 can mushroom soup

Cook squash or eggplant in salted water until tender. Mix with soup, eggs, onions, cheese, sugar and crumbs. Bake in oblong casserole dish for 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees.