CLOSING DATES ANNOUNCED FOR SLKF SCHOOL, CHURCH

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

St. Louis King of France Church in Baton Rouge will close at the end of November and the school at the conclusion of the current school year, Father Michael Alello, pastor of SLKF announced.

Father Alello, on Sept. 22, announced the school would close June 30. Two days later, he announced the parish would cease to operate effective Nov. 26, which is the Feast of Christ the King as well as the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

SLKF will be amalgamated into St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, meaning STM will include the former boundaries of St. Louis King of France. Its registered parishioners, assets, liabilities and properties will be transferred to STM.

“I think it’s a beautiful time to finish the church year together and begin to journey as a new community during Advent, using Advent as a chance for us to come together, pray together,” Father Alello said following the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses on Sept. 24.

“When we get to Christmas we will have something beautiful to celebrate, the birth of something.”

He admitted that whenever there is change, struggles are certain to follow, but added he and parochial vicar Father Pat Broussard will work with the community and various ministries to explain the process.

“I know this is not an easy process and in some ways very difficult for some of you,” Father Alello who is the administrator of STM said. “I truly believe it is the Spirit leading us through this.”

He noted that the St. Louis King of France community, which has always had a fierce pride of its diversity since being founded in 1966, has unique gifts to bring to STM.

“And (the STM community) has a gift to give us,” Father Alello said.

“If your heart is heavy, just sit with the Lord,” he added. “We are still going to serve you, just making it beautiful.”

He noted that the St. Louis King of France community, which has always had a fierce pride of its diversity since being founded in 1966, has unique gifts to bring to STM.

Pornography, no private matter

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

It's quick and easy to access, seductive and secret – no one has to know. While many think viewing pornography is a private matter, the damage it causes in individual lives and society has sociologists doing studies that are uncovering what the industry tries to cover up, according to Dr. Sacasa, director of counseling services at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Sacasa presented a program on fighting the battle against pornography Sept. 13 at Christ the King Church and Student Center at LSU.

Sacasa said the root cause behind the violation of human dignity by pornography is best summed up by Saint John Paul II: “In short, the problem with pornography is not that it shows too much of the person, but that it shows far too little.”

Sacasa gave some sobering facts about pornography.

A popular YouTube site reports
Catholicism on campus

By Ann Bolton

In 1929, when Louisiana State University moved its campus from downtown to its current location, the administration offered temporary space for its Catholic students to congregate. Chaplain, Father Maurice Schexnayder, celebrated Mass at the Dodson Auditorium on Sundays for one-third of the student population.

In 1935, he established the Newman Club, a Catholic student organization named for John Henry Cardinal Newman. It was Cardinal Newman’s belief that a university education without God was an incomplete education. The Newman Club movement was first organized in the United States in 1915 and gained traction across the nation with the support of the Catholic bishops of the United States.

The LSU club was established in 1935 with another club at Southern University to follow several years later. Father Schexnayder quickly saw a need for a Catholic student center and began raising funds and awareness for this project. By 1939 the cornerstone was laid for Christ the King Catholic Student Center and was dedicated one year later. In 1966 a full-time chaplain, Father Rawlin B. Enette SSJ, was assigned to Southern University and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Catholic Student Center was dedicated in 1970.

At LSU, all Catholic students received automatic membership to the Newman Club, but to be considered in “good standing” they paid a membership fee of $2 per semester. Their activities ranged from parties and suppers, retreats, to religious study groups and community activism. The Newman club also had intramural sports teams and a popular radio program, the Catholic Student Forum.

Bolton is the director of the Archives Department for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Vineyard moments

By Dina Dow

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will remain. – John 15:16

The Scriptures for the 26th and 27th Sundays in Ordinary Time lead us into the vineyard. The reality of working in a vineyard is challenging. Planted in alignment within areas completely clear of stone, vineyards must be protected from predators by erecting thick hedges. Once established, the vineyard is to be meticulously tended by weeding, pruning and trimming. Left untreated, the grapes will grow wild.

God invites us into his vineyard through the waters of baptism. He chooses us to help cultivate, maintain and bear good fruit within the “hedges” of his love and mercy. The readings convey three aspects of how to bear lasting fruit resulting in the peace of God.

Repent and remember

The prophet Ezekiel writes, “Turn away from sin and live, else you shall die.” The fruit of sin is death, a separation from God. The fruit of holiness is life, union with God. Sin is a reality of life. We work hard to remain sinless, and this is good. But when we choose to sin, we choose to stop living. In the vineyard we are cleaved to Jesus (“I am the vine, you are the branches” (Jn 15:5)). Repentance begins when the “vine,” fertile with grace, awakens our conscious and allows us to taste the sour fruit, our sin. The moment this distaste is experienced is the moment we realize we need to stop, turn around and run, yes, run back to God.

This is a “vineyard moment”: the turning away from being a “wild grape” to becoming a fruitful grape. The Lord, from whom unfathomable mercy and love flows, restores the grace through our sorrowful heart and a good sacramental confession. Grace once again fortifies the branches and restores sweetness to our soul.

Remaining fruitful

We can remain fruitful if we remain in Jesus. The fruitfulness of our lives can be guided by an imitation of Christ. We hear in the Letter to the Philippians, “Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus …” (2:5). Paul reminds us to be unselfish, let go of anxiety, think positively and seek what is true, honorable, just, pure and gracious. All of these assist in living life as Jesus.

Thomas à Kempis writes in his book, “The Imitation of Christ,” “‘He that follows me shall not walk in darkness,’ says the Lord. These are the words of Christ; and they teach us how far we must imitate his life and character, if we seek true illumination, and deliverance from all blindness of heart. Let it be our most earnest study, therefore, to dwell upon the life of Jesus Christ.”

The more we imitate Christ, the more fruit we shall bear. As with Christ, this imitation is to be done with ultimate humility and complete obedience to God’s will. For just as Jesus “emptied himself” to the will of the father, we too should have as an end-in-mind the glory of God. We ask, “Is what I am doing for God’s glory or for mine?” As we hear St. Paul proclaim, “and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:11).

Bent But Unbroken

Those who choose to imitate Christ remain cleaved to the strength of his vine. Yet there will be times when wickedness will come along and attempt to break off the branches and destroy the fruit. As with Jesus’ passion, we may be bent, but we will remain unbroken. Recall the saints who have endured the battle in the vineyard. Some experienced martyrdom, while others died of natural causes. Either way, their fruit continues to glorify God to this day because of their commitment to the imitation of Christ. The Lord has chosen us to go and bear fruit that will last. Ask yourself, “Is what I am doing today, going to glorify God tomorrow? Am I producing life-giving fruit?”

Dow is the director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.
Longtime Catholic Commentator editor remembered

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Longtime Catholic Commentator editor Laura Gatz Deavers is being remembered for her dedication to her family, to her community and, perhaps most importantly, how she exemplified her deep commitment to her Catholic faith.

Deavers, who served as editor of The Catholic Commentator for 30 years, died of cancer Sept. 13 at the age of 69. Archbishop Alfred F. Hughes, retired archbishop for the Archdiocese of New Orleans who served as bishop in the Diocese of Baton Rouge from 1993-2001, celebrated a funeral Mass for Deavers at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Baton Rouge on Sept. 16.

“The (Deavers) lived her faith with conviction and fidelity,” Archbishop Hughes said in his eulogy.

“Laura Deavers applied her Catholic faith to everything she did,” Bishop Robert W. Muench said in a statement. “She was a superb editor of The Catholic Commentator and a highly qualified journalist and photographer who showed her love for the people of the Diocese of Baton Rouge by telling their stories so that all who read the paper might find deeper meaning in their lives. She was a model for all who aspire to excellence in life and in their chosen vocations. She was dearly loved, and will be dearly missed.”

Deavers, a graduate of St. Joseph’s Academy and LSU, was hired by Bishop Stanley J. Ott and then-vicear general Father John Carville to become editor of The Catholic Commentator. Father Carville said Deavers was hired because of the managerial skills she displayed in a previous position as well as her background in technology and print.

“We got the right person for all of those tasks,” he said. “She worked well with me and learned quickly the ins and outs of publishing a newspaper that also represented all of the departments of the diocese.”

Father Carville noted the diocese was facing several challenges at the time of her hiring but was able to use the paper as a tool of unification. Deavers changed the paper’s content to focus more on local content, bringing to life the people in the pews.

“I always admired her faith, which was strong even after seeing all the inner workings of the diocese, wars and all,” Father Carville said.

Laura Deavers

Laura Deavers was also active in the Rotary Club and a Master Gardener.

Deavers is survived by her daughter, Margaret Deavers, son-in-law Charles Gatz, and granddaughter, Marga- ret. Laura is preceded in death by her husband Robert (Bob) Deavers and his family as Hurricane Harvey bore down on Lake Charles.

“The depth of Laura’s faith revealed itself in her final adventure in life,” Archbishop Hughes said, revealing that following her diagnosis of pancreatic cancer the two began to engage in periodic phone conversations.

“Laura approached her final journey, again, as a true adventure,” he said. “She found new ways to listen to the Word of God, approach the mystery of redemption in daily Mass, and then, as strength ebbed away, to make acts of faith, hope, love, contrition and abandonment.”

He said their last conversation was on Sept. 10 when they made plans for his visit the following Saturday.

“Neither of us anticipated at that time it would be for her funeral,” Archbishop Hughes said.

Deavers’ early career as editor of several publications took her to many cities including Atlanta, New York and Dallas, where she met her husband.

She and Bob were married in 1977 and returned to Baton Rouge to make their home. Following her 30 years as editor of The Catholic Commentator, Deavers retired and continued to enjoy her involvement and service in many civic and cultural organizations, her travels and her loyal support of LSU sports.

Deavers was also active in the Rotary Club and a Master Gardener.

Deavers is survived by her daughter Ann Margaret Deavers and partners Lee and Buz Norwood of Baltimore, Maryland, her sister Charlene Reis and husband John of Bethel, Connecticut, her brother Les Gatz and wife Jean of Baton Rouge, and numerous nieces and nephews, along with many wonderful friends. Laura is preceded in death by her husband Robert (Bob) Deavers and her parents Margaret and Charles Gatz.

Visitation was at Rabenhorst Funeral Home and interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting memorial donations be made to St. Joseph’s Academy, 3015 Broussard Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, The Hospice of Baton Rouge, 9063 Siegen Lane, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70810 or a charity of your choice.

Save the Date

SAINT JOSEPH SEMINARY COLLEGE
Save the Date
Deo Gratias
Benefit gala for Saint Joseph Seminary College
Saturday, October 28, 2017
Vespers begin at 6 p.m.
Reception to follow from 7-10 p.m.
Dining, entertainment and silent auction on the beautiful grounds of Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College.
Buy tickets online at www.sjasc.edu.
Sponsorships available

For more info, contact Kathy Nastasi at 985-867-2284 or knastasi@sjasc.edu or Christine Baglow at 985-867-2279 or cbaglow@sjasc.edu

“Abbey Reflections” by Frankie De Melo

September 29, 2017  The Catholic Commentator   3
WASHINGTON (CNS) – Authorities say it may take months for electricity to fully return to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria pummeled the island and its infrastructure as it made landfall Sept. 20.

When the hurricane hit the island with winds of up to 155 miles per hour, it tore out cables, roofs from homes and buildings, uprooted palm trees and even bent a cross anchored to a cement post at the entrance of a Jesuit school.

It has been difficult to communicate with those on the island, said Capuchin Franciscan Father Urbano Vasquez, of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, who studied in Puerto Rico and has vast ties to the island. He has been trying to communicate, to no avail, with a community of Poor Clares in Cidra, Puerto Rico, and others he knows on the island, but phone service is hit or miss.

Father Vasquez, however, was able to make contact with a group of seven Capuchin Franciscan friars after the hurricane passed. They took refuge from the storm in Trujillo Alto, about 10 minutes from Old San Juan.

“They were scared because it was the first time they’ve been through something like that,” said Father Vasquez. “They spent the time praying or near the Eucharist” as winds tore through part of the roof near a chapel in the building at Centro Capuchino. Some later sent him videos of the winds whistling through the streets, images taken from a cracked window in an arched entrance door.

“The entrance door to the friary caved in, he said, leaving no path for the friars to make their way to the main street. But even if they could get out to the street, authorities have put a curfew in place, afraid citizens could come in contact with fallen cables and other objects that could pose danger on the ground.

The friars told him of the devastation they could see from inside, he said, including fallen palm trees and blocked roads. A parishioner sent him photos of debris, such as torn and battered traffic lights left behind by Maria’s wrath.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Carlos Reyes, in a Sept. 21 phone interview with Catholic News Service, said he didn’t sleep through the harrowing night he spent listening to Hurricane Maria barrel through San Juan.

“I spent the night praying,” he said, and listening to the radio was the only way to hear what was happening in Puerto Rico and the world. He heard about the earthquake in Mexico and in the middle of his own experience with nature’s wrath, he prayed for the earthquake’s victims.

Water crept in at one point and the friars were doing their best to keep it out of the residence. The only way to live through such an experience is with faith and thinking about safety, he said. Authorities tried to drive the urgent message that Hurricane Maria was no joke and many listened, he said.

“The message was to save life, not the material,” he said. “You can reconstruct structures, but not life.”

Father Reyes, originally from El Salvador, said he has lived through strong earthquakes and their damage sometimes affects a centralized area, but Hurricane Maria tore through an entire island.

The Society of Jesus in Puerto Rico posted on a website a message and a photo of a cross bent by the hurricane’s wind, but which is still anchored to a tower at Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola in San Juan, a Jesuit, college-preparatory school that the order operates on the island’s capital city.

“With gratitude, we have learned that the Jesuits, faculty and staff are safe,” said the message from Father Flavio Bravo, Jesuit superior of his order’s Puerto Rico community. “Communication from the island remains limited, so we await news on our school families and members of our parish.”
App designed to address bullying in schools

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

“Anne” is a smart, interesting and brave young woman who embraces being different and loves to be challenged. But growing up, she just wanted to fit in and play with her young classmates.

Early on, though, Anne realized that was not going to happen. First came the words and laughter, all at her expense. That was followed by exclusion from playground activities, where classmates would run away or turn their backs on her.

“At the time, I didn't think it was that bad. I thought I could handle it, as you would when you're 10 or 11,” she recalled.

Eventually, she spent recess in the library reading because no one went there. But the bullying continued until eighth grade. At one point, a confrontation with her main taunter landed Anne in trouble.

“I was upset because I finally did something about it but I got in trouble. I told my counselor they'd been tormenting me and she told me I was making myself too much of a target,” said Anne.

On Oct. 3, students attending Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge will have the tool to report bullies and stop their behavior thanks to the app STOPit. The app allows for anonymous reporting of incidences of bullying whether on school grounds or online. It features a tool that can capture a screen of social media and cyber bullying and it documents when incidents are reported and addressed.

“It was something we thought was important and you want to use the tools of the time,” said Michael Miller, assistant superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese. “This was a tool that they could utilize and recognize. We literally bought a license for every student from pre-k to 12th grade in the entire diocese. We’re talking about 15,000 students.”

Miller said the reason the schools office began looking into the program is because part of the mission of Catholic schools is “evangelizing hearts, along with rigor, relevance and relationship.”

“We thought this would be a great tool to help create those healthy relationships,” he said. “The one thing that I can’t emphasize enough is we didn’t do this because we are reacting to a problem. We wanted to be out front with something and say, ‘You know what, we have something in place.’”

Based on her own experience in middle school, Anne said this app would be a big help in combating bullies and those who help perpetuate the problem.

“Any tool you can give a child is 100 percent necessary. Some teachers just don’t know,” Anne said. “Sometimes things that don’t seem big can be really big because the roots run deep. You don’t see how far down it goes. Mine went on for six years and it took me six or seven years to get over it.”
Need for annulment?/ Mass without singing?

Q I had been away from the Catholic Church for a very long time, but I recently returned and I have a question. I was married in the Catholic Church and got a divorce, but I did not get a church annulment. Later, I married a different man (not a Catholic) and divorced him as well. My question is: What do I need to do now in order to go to confession and receive the Eucharist?

A I agree with the second priest. You may, and should, return to full participation in the sacraments by going to confession and holy Communion right away. Many Catholics are under the misimpression that a divorce alone renders them ineligible for the sacraments, but that is not so. It is the second marriage outside the church that, according to the traditional teaching of the church, would do that, but you are no longer living in that second marriage. I am assuming since you make no mention of it that you are not planning on remarrying. If you were, you would first need to go through the church’s annulment process with regard to your first marriage, since that one is still considered a valid marriage in the eyes of the church.

And while you were at it, you would also take another step, this one, simpler and shorter, to have your second marriage declared null because that marriage was done without church approval.

Q Will we ever get the low Mass back? I miss its reverence and simplicity, when I could actually follow along with the priest instead of singing. I would especially appreciate a period of quiet after Communion instead of quickly hearing, “Please turn to page xxx.”

A I know that you will tell me to go to a weekday Mass, but if you work or babysit, you can’t. It would be nice to have a choice on the weekends. (Altoona, Pennsylvania)

A Whether singing is required at every parish Mass on a Sunday is not a simple question. Even the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the church’s “rule book” on liturgy) seems to offer two different answers. No. 40 says that “every care should be taken” that singing should “not be absent” during Sunday celebrations; but No. 115, while noting that singing on Sundays is especially appropriate “in so far as possible,” admits that such a Mass “may, however, take place even without singing.”

My conclusion is that, while singing is clearly the preferred choice of the church for a Sunday Mass, the directive is not absolute. I know, in fact, of Catholic parishes that celebrate one “quiet” Mass early on Sunday mornings, particularly for people who might be on their way to work. You might look for such a Mass in your area.

And with regard to “a period of quiet after Communion,” you are right on target. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal instructs that “sacred silence” is to be observed at designated periods throughout the liturgy, and it mentions in particular “after Communion,” when people “praise God in their hearts and pray to him” (No. 45).

FATHER DOYLE is a pastor in the Diocese of Albany, New York. Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, NY 12203.

Question Corner
Father Kenneth Doyle

Look for
The Catholic Commentator
at your local outlets including:

- Affinity Nursing Home, Baton Rouge
- Anthony’s Deli, Baton Rouge
- Albertsons, Baton Rouge
- Alexander’s Highland Market, Baton Rouge
- Ascension Books & Gifts, Gonzales
- Baton Rouge General Hospital, Baton Rouge
- Baton Rouge Healthcare, Baker
- Benedetto’s Market, Addis
- Bohning Supermarket, Ponchatoula
- Calandro’s Supermarkets, Baton Rouge
- Catholic Art and Gifts, Baton Rouge
- Daigle’s Supermarket, White Castle
- Grace Healthcare, Slaughter
- Hi Nabor Supermarkets, Baton Rouge
- Hubbins Grocery, Port Allen
- Lane Regional Hospital, Zachary
- LeBlanc’s Food Stores, Baton Rouge, Gonzales, Donaldsonville, Hammond, Plaquemine, Prairieville and Zachary
- Louisiana Vet Home, Jackson
- Matherne’s Supermarkets, Baton Rouge
- Magnuson Hotel, St. Francisville
- North Ridgely Healthcare, Baker
- Oak Point Supermarket, Central
- Oak Wood Nursing Home, Zachary
- Old Jefferson Community Care, Baton Rouge
- Our Lady of the Lake College, Baton Rouge
- Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge and Walker
- Our Lady of the Lake Physicians Group, offices with locations throughout the diocese
- Reeve’s Supermarket, Baton Rouge
- St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales
- St. Mary’s Books & Gifts, Baton Rouge
- St. Vincent dePaul Stores throughout the diocese
- Schexnayder Supermarket, Vacherie
- Southside Produce, Baton Rouge
- Tony’s Seafood, Baton Rouge
- UPS Store, Coursey Blvd., Baton Rouge
- Whole Foods Market, Baton Rouge
- Winn Dixie in Hammond, New Roads and Ponchatoula

as well as your local church parish

THE CATHOLIC COMMENTATOR

STOP Missing Out!!

Do you always remember to pick up your copy of The Catholic Commentator?

If not you could be missing:

- Your church or school news
- Personal profiles
- Upcoming events
- The Annual Mass Schedule
- Spiritual opportunities
- Movie ratings and so much more!

For only $1.17 per month, that’s $14 per year, you will NEVER MISS another issue!

Just fill out the form below, send to us with a check or money order to: PO Box 3316, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3316 or call 225-387-0983 with your credit card number.

Name
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

City  State  Zip___________________________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________

Your phone number (for use only if clarification is needed)

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

40 Days for Life resumes annual campaign

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

The 2016 flood temporarily silenced 40 Days for Life Baton Rouge, but the annual campaign has regained its voice for the unborn as it resumed Sept. 27 and will go through Nov. 5, said Danielle Van Haute, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. She is co-chair of the event along with Clelic and Charles Carpenter.

“People are definitely happy that the effort is going to continue,” said Van Haute. Many people have asked her, “When are we going to start again?”

Local participants will join in a worldwide 40 Days for Life campaign of prayer and fasting to help save the lives of the unborn that are in danger of being aborted.

Church groups, organizations, schools and individuals from around the area will hold a peaceful vigil daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. outside of Delta Women’s Clinic in Baton Rouge, where nearly 2,000 babies are aborted annually, according to Van Haute.

She said the 2015 campaign was successful, with more than 1,400 individuals coming out to pray and 13 women confirming they were choosing to give life to their babies.

There are three ways people can participate in 40 Days for Life, according to Van Haute. One way is to commit to fasting and prayer. Fasting includes abstaining from food or some activity they enjoy, such as time visiting social media sites or watching television.

People can also sign up for the prayer vigil outside of Delta by visiting the 40 Days for Life website at 40daysforlifebfr.com or, thirdly, promote the event by referring people to the website or printing the information out from it and giving it to people.

Van Haute acknowledged some people might be hesitant to pray outside an abortion clinic.

“Before people come to Delta for the first time during 40 Days for Life, they imagine chaos and people yelling – a very somber environment. Once they see that it is very peaceful, it gives them a different perspective – it makes it real for them.

“We can hear about the issue and read about it, but until we see it in a personal way it is only an abstract idea,” said Van Haute.

She pointed out that through 40 Days for Life, participants have been able to direct women with crisis pregnancies to Women’s New Life Center, which is next door to Delta, to receive important resources they need to help them as they give life to their babies.

Women and men who have experienced abortion can also receive information about resources available to help them heal from its effects, such as Project Rachel.

Participants also pray for the conversion of the abortion workers at the facility, said Van Haute.

Sam Mistretta, a member of St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge and Knight of Columbus Culture of Life Chair for the State of Louisiana, and his wife, Arline, participated for the first time in 40 Days for Life Baton Rouge in 2011 through their involvement with the Knights of Columbus council at St. Aloysius.

Like many, he and his wife were nervous before going to their first event, because they had seen news reports about angry confrontations at abortion facilities. They were relieved that it was a comfortable atmosphere and they prayed the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet with others.

“It is simply good to spend time in prayer with so many of my fellow Catholics,” said Mistretta.

And he had memorable experiences there.

“One day, we were sitting and visiting before we started to pray the rosary when we heard raised voices coming from the parking lot,” he said. “We immediately went over to pray nearby. We saw what appeared to be a woman and her daughter arguing near a car. We could not tell exactly what was going on, but it seemed to us that the woman was trying to get the daughter to go into the clinic.

“One of us called out to her and asked that she please not force her daughter to have an abortion. She responded to us that she wasn’t going to allow her daughter to abort the twins she was carrying. Apparently the father of the babies had brought the mother to the clinic to have the abortion, and she began to have second thoughts. He left her there, so she called her mother to pick her up … Once they left, the security guard came over to us. She said that after the woman left she saw something on the ground near where the car had been. It was a St. Michael medal, which she immediately picked up and put it on her key chain.”

Mistretta added, “On another day, a young woman was getting out of a car, and one of the sidewalk counselors called out to her and began to talk to her. She agreed to go over to Woman’s New Life Center. Once inside, an older man got out of the car, went over to the Woman’s New Life Center, physically pulled her out of the building and brought her over to the abortion facility. She had told the sidewalk counselor that she did not want the abortion, but she was being forced into it by this man believed to be her father. The counselor told the security guard about this, and she went inside to tell the abortion workers about the situation. He was insisting that she have the abortion, but they are not allowed by law to perform abortions on women who are being coerced.”

Mistretta said he and his wife continue to come back because they see the impact the vigil is having on the community.

“St. Mother Teresa said, ‘The greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.’ Once you understand the grave evil of abortion, there is a strong desire to pray,” said Mistretta. “After we experienced 40 Days for Life that first time, I knew that we would return the next year and we have ever since,” he said.

SEE LIFE PAGE 15
MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican church leaders offered prayers and urged generosity after an earthquake struck the national capital and its environs, claiming more than 240 lives — including at least 20 children trapped in a collapsed school.

“we join the pain and grief of the victims of the earthquake, which occurred today ... in various parts of our country,” the Mexican bishops’ conference said in a Sept. 19 statement. “Today, more than ever, we invite the community of God to join in solidarity for our brothers who are suffering various calamities that have struck our country.”

Mexicans have responded to the earthquake with acts of solidarity. The telephone system was overwhelmed and traffic snarled as power outages affected traffic lights. In hard-hit neighborhoods, people poured in, armed with buckets and shovels to help clear rubble from collapsed buildings, where people were trapped. Others were quick to donate food and drink to those assisting.

“Once again we are witnesses to the people of Mexico’s solidarity,” the bishops’ statement said. “Thousands of hands have formed chains of life to rescue, feed or do their small part in the face of these emergencies.”

Caritas chapters across the country opened collection centers to help those harmed by the earthquake. In Mexico City, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera asked all parishes in the impacted areas, along with priests, religious and laity to “collaborate with the authorities in order to assist people that have been affected and show Christian solidarity,” said an article published in archdiocesan newspaper Desde la Fe.

Dioceses in Puebla and Morelos, south of the capital, reported widespread damage to churches. Caritas Mexico, the church’s aid organization, reported at least 42 people dead in Morelos and 13 deaths in Puebla, where a dozen churches also collapsed.

Damage was widespread in parts of Mexico City, where at least 27 buildings collapsed, said President Enrique Pena Nieto.

A private school collapsed in Mexico City, trapping students ranging from kindergarten to junior high school. The Associated Press reported at least 25 students and teachers died, with others remaining unaccounted for.

As often happens in disasters, authorities expected the death toll to rise, because people could have been trapped in buildings when they collapsed.

At his general audience Sept. 20, Pope Francis prayed for victims and rescue personnel, invoking Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico.

“In this moment of suffering,” he said, “I want to express my closeness and prayers to the entire Mexican population.”

Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City expressed his sympathy to the relatives of those who had lost loved ones in the earthquake. He urged parishes, religious and the lay faithful to work with government authorities to “aid people who have been affected and demonstrate Christian solidarity.”

The quake epicenter was in Puebla, southeast of Mexico City. Earthquakes usually affect Mexico City as much of it is built on a former lake bed and buildings sway in the soft soil, even though the epicenters are in distant states. That phenomenon allows an earthquake warning to sound, giving people approximately a minute to evacuate their buildings. The alarm did not sound Sept. 19, however.

“It totally frightened me,” said Pedro Anaya, a small-business owner.

He decided to help, joining the hundreds of people hauling away debris from a collapsed apartment building in the trendy Condesa neighborhood.

“I saw that my family was OK so I came to help,” he said.
Cardinal Dolan challenging, endearing during talk

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Preserving the unity of Christ and his church in an increasing secularized society is the most significant challenge priests are facing today.

That was the cornerstone of the message Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York delivered to his fellow clergy members during his keynote address at the Louisiana Priests Convention, held Sept. 19-21 in New Orleans.

In his own idiomatic style that consisted of healthy doses of humor, spirituality and thought-provoking ideas, Cardinal Dolan told more than 400 priests that they are on the front line tussling with modern sentiments and opinions that range from the church is too old fashioned to she is forgetting its roots to comply with progressive standards set by modern society.

The cardinal also senses a growing disconnect between Christ and the church.

“The sentiment we face today is ‘we want Christ, we want nothing to do with that stupid church,’” Cardinal Dolan said. “Such is the popular and successful (ruse) now to annul the spousal bond between Christ and his bride, the church.”

“We hear this all the time: ‘I want Christ as my king in a kingdom of one. God is my father, I’m the only one there. I want Christ as my king in a kingdom of one. God is my father, I’m the only child,’ he added. “They want Christ without his church.”

“We believe that’s impossible, that’s contrary to what Jesus wants. As priests we know because we signify, we image it. Jesus and his church are one.”

Cardinal Dolan, in one of his more reflective moments, posed the question as how do priests unite with the church and how do they initiate renewing the equation of Christ with his church? He said the world today considers belief in God a private hobby, at best, a dangerous ideology at worst.

“So what do we do my fellow museum pieces?” Cardinal Dolan said, emitting laughter from his fellow clergy members. He said the church must be portrayed as God’s family, and the Holy Spirit is the bond of love holding “us as a spiritual family together. Mary is our mother, the saints are our ancestors, in the household of the faith. Other Catholics are brothers and sisters, the Eucharist our family meal.”

He noted that Jesus “chooses us as belonging to him and his church, we don’t choose him.”

“We are Catholic, it’s in our DNA, we breathe it,” the cardinal added. “Profound as it is to be Catholic, it’s like a birthmark. We’re baptized into it, born into it, the church is our family.”

He expounded on that thought, saying that individuals do not choose what earthly family they are born into. He admitted “we are stuck with that, we can’t leave if even at (some) time we get fed up with it. We do drift for a while. We end up back.”

In the same way, some Catholics might fall away from the faith, but they continue to self-identify as Catholics.

“We’re all just one chest pain away from going back,” the cardinal joked.

He stressed the urgency of reclaiming the image of church as family, adding that Pope Francis is working hard to portray that image, and to restore the heart of the church to rekindle a sense of tenderness, belonging and welcome.

Cardinal Dolan said sensitivity to those who feel excluded is imperative and added that priests must acknowledge the

---

Hospice is not about giving up … It’s about taking control

- We rely upon the intercession of our Blessed Mother to assist us in imitating the healing ministry of Jesus Christ as we care for terminally ill patients and their families.
- We call forth the compassion and kindness of our staff, who serve in this health care ministry, to respond to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of our patients and their families.
- We believe in the sacredness of life from conception to natural death, and we devote ourselves to supporting patients and families through the dying process at the end of life’s journey on this earth and new life in eternity.

The Right People, Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reason.

Visit www.NotreDameHospice-NO.org or (225) 243-7358

Notre Dame Hospice does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age or sex in admission, treatment, ability to pay, participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.
By Bonny Van

The Catholic Commentator

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for vic-
tims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giv-
ing. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in
Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to
give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and
spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy.
Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

August 29 will forever be marked as an historic day for residents of southeast Texas much like Aug. 25 is for Baton Rouge. Flood victims and Aug. 29 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. But, what Hurricane Harvey did not was turn residents of southeast Texas much into a lesson of charity and giving. Cheryl Santangelo, principal of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, wanted to teach her students “how important it is to give from the heart.” The school principal visited classrooms and spoke to the students “about the impact of flooding,” said Mindy. Mater Dolorosa School students donated school supplies and other items to help with hurricane relief efforts in Texas.
FOCUS hopes to spark fire of faith at LSU

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

When it comes to reaching the 30,000 students at LSU with the Gospel, “the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few,” according to Father Andrew Merrick, pastor of Christ the King Church and Student Center in Baton Rouge. CTK is sending out more workers into the vineyard and expanding its outreach through working with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), which sends out missionaries on college campuses to invite students into a relationship with Jesus and the Catholic faith so they can make disciples of others.

The idea for inviting FOCUS ministry to come to LSU began several years ago, according to Father Merrick. Through prayers, financial support and the approval and support of Bishop Robert W. Muench, CTK reached out to FOCUS, which accepted the invitation.

“They saw that LSU was a good fit, that we have so many students, 12,000 of whom are Catholic, but many of whom are not actively involved in the church,” said Father Merrick.

“They saw that LSU was a good fit, that they (FOCUS missionaries) are on the front line in evangelizing the campus,” said Father Merrick. “They are out among the students.”

One of the main reasons given by FOCUS for making college campuses its mission field is because “a generation is at stake.”

FOCUS cites a U.S. Religious Landscape Survey in which the fastest growing religious demographic in the United States are young people who list their faith as “unaffiliated.” Additionally, only 30 percent of Americans who were raised Catholic are still practicing. A 2009 Pew Faith study also showed that 80 percent of those who leave the Catholic faith do so by the age of 25.

The missionaries intentionally build a relationship of trust with the students. When the freshmen moved on campus, FOCUS ministers helped the students move in and helped them to get familiar with the campus and shared a little about what college life is like. They walk the campus, attend tailgate parties and other LSU activities and are at CTK events.

“CTK has already been blossoming. It (FOCUS) is a great addition that was grafted into what was already going on at CTK,” said Father Merrick.

FOCUS will also work within the Greek system, said Father Merrick, noting that works well within the scope of CTK’s ministry, as some of the leaders at CTK are Greek members.

As the disciples befriend students, they invite them to Bible studies and other CTK-sponsored events.

Madelin West, FOCUS missionary team director at LSU, arrived at LSU on Aug. 5.

She knows the power of an invitation to a relationship with Christ, because it is through a friendship initiated by a FOCUS missionary that she became one herself.

“I began college at the University of Kansas as a strong Catholic with a solid faith base. But as many college students do, I fell away from the faith. After a year of living out the typical college lifestyle, I was left feeling empty and unfulfilled,” said West.

The struggle of being a missionary at LSU is that “there is so much to be done,” said West. “You see the brokenness, the hook-up culture,” said West. “You look around the campus and see there are so many that don’t know Jesus.”

But with determination in her voice, West said, “Jesus invested in 12 men and we still have the church today.”

The ministers start each day praying the rosary and liturgy of the hours, spending time before the Blessed Sacrament and attending Mass.

“There’s no way we could do what we do without it,” said West.

She said their success is more than evangelizing young people, but in helping them to become evangelizers.

“My goal is to get them in the pews, then out of the pews,” said West.

According to FOCUS missionary Jacob Rigmaiden, a 2015 graduate of McNeese University in Lake Charles, FOCUS brings the faith to the people.

“There are a lot of people who won’t walk through the door (of the church), so we reach out to them,” said Rigmaiden.

He believes college campuses could be “set ablaze with faith” if people understood that God is calling everyone to be in relationship with him.

Imagine what would happen if all the students did it. It would transform the campus,” said Rigmaiden.

Even as they aspire to spark a fire of faith in students, CTK and FOCUS also apply the balm of peace and healing in difficult circumstances. This was particularly the case after Max Gruver, a newly arrived freshman fraternity pledge at LSU, died Sept. 14 after leaving Phi Delta Theta fraternity house. University officials referred to his death as a possible hazing incident and police investigations continue.

CTK was full when a memorial Mass was celebrated Sept. 18 for Gruver, who was Catholic.

“We are continuing to reach out to the Greek students and we’re making sure to be even more intentional about that during this time,” said Father Merrick. “We also have informed them of counseling services through Christ the King. We’re blessed to have two counselors come once a week to meet with students.”

“The FOCUS missionaries are being especially attentive to the Greek students at this time. We ask that everyone pray for the healing and transformation of the entire campus,” said Father Merrick.

“We are trusting in the promise of the Lord from Sacred Scripture: ‘The light (of Christ) shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it’” (Jn 1:5).
FIRST RESPONDER MASS – St. Jean Vianney School in Baton Rouge honored all first responders during its first First Responder Mass followed by a reception Sept. 8. Photo provided by Adele Kleinpeter | St. Jean Vianney School

MSS ON THE LAWN – Students, faculty and staff of Mater Dolorosa School in Independence celebrated the Feast Day of Our Lady of Sorrows, the Mater Dolorosa. The day began with Mass followed by Our Lady of Sorrows’ mysteries of the rosary on the front lawn of the school grounds. Photo provided by Erin Mendez

ALL DADS ON DECK – The Dad’s Club of Holy Ghost School in Hammond works to help Holy Ghost with projects designed to enrich the school experience of its students. From scholarships to beautification of the campus, these projects are made possible through various fundraisers throughout the year. The money raised by the Holy Ghost Dad’s Club from the previous school year, along with generous contributions, was used to rebuild the wooden deck used by the middle school and junior high students. Standing with pride on their finished project are, from left, front row, Ernie Thibodeaux, Rick Sedberry, and Charley Cormier; middle row, Bill Fritz, Travis Ridgel, Mark Eason and Daniel Mercante; and, back row, Kevin Wade, Scott Street, Philip McCrory, Todd Yenni, Clay Revere and Kyle Hamel. Photo provided by Cindy Wagner | Holy Ghost School

Send your school and youth news, and story ideas to Bonny Van at bvan@diobr.org

Anthony’s Italian Deli

Great for Tailgating!

5575 GOVERNMENT ST., JUST WEST OF JEFFERSON HWY.
PHONE ORDERS WELCOME! 225-272-6817 OPEN MON.-SAT. 9:30 - 6:00 PM
Baton Rouge’s only TRUE ITALIAN DELI Since 1978

http://www.bumbabella.com

First Communion Dresses

2415 Dogwood Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-2123

(225) 284-1098

OCTOBER 29, 2017 | 12-6PM
WORLD YOUTH DAY
ST. JEAN VIANNEY

HUMBLE AND HUMAN

At WYD R, may His Do Great Things For Me And How’s His Name Live Tdy

WYD 2017 • Diocese of Baton Rouge

Go to diobryouth.org for registration information!
Contact your parish to register! Registration due by October 16.
American Assassin  
CBS Films
This adaptation of the 2010 novel by Vince Flynn, directed by Michael Cuesta, is a gory revenge fantasy that opens with a bang and proceeds at a breakneck pace, unleashing a veritable tsunami of bullets, bodies and blood as it goes. When his fiancée (Charlotte Vega) is gunned down by terrorists, a young man (Dylan O’Brien) seeks to avenge her death by transforming into a lean, mean, fighting machine. Recruited by a Turkish agent (Shiva Negar), mentor and protege seek to infiltrate a terrorist cell determined to wage nuclear war (Taylor Kitsch plays its mysterious leader). A strong stomach and extreme patience are required until the film finally comes to its senses, and good triumphs over evil. A vengeful theme, constant bloody violence, including torture and gunplay, brief upper female nudity, several uses of profanity, pervasive rough and much crude language. L; R

Mother!  
Paramount
Chaotic, exhausting, genre-blending allegory about a poet (Javier Bardem) and his wife (Jennifer Lawrence) living a solitary life in an isolated house in the countryside. As she works to rehabilitate the dwelling after a disastrous fire, and he struggles with writer’s block, a series of intruders (most significantly, Michelle Pfeiffer and Ed Harris) distress her with their bizarre behavior, but receive a mysteriously motivated endlessly patient welcome from her husband. Writer-director Darren Aronofsky’s enigmatic drama, which incorporates Gothic and horror elements as it unfolds, seems designed to comment on a broad range of topics including creativity, compassion, marital relationships and, especially, religion. The film touches on biblical themes but portrays faith as essentially misguided. Its depiction of the Passion and the Eucharist is grotesque. Blasphemous images, a negative portrayal of religion, much strong and sometimes gory violence, semi-graphic marital lovemaking, a glimpse of full nudity, occasional profanity and rough language. O; R

Kingsman: The Golden Circle
For Director and co-writer Matthew Vaughn goes over the top with cartoonish but gruesome mayhem and a distasteful bedroom sequence in this follow-up to his 2015 feature, “Kingsman: The Secret Service.” Now an established agent of the independent espionage service from which the films derive the shared portion of their titles, the working-class London lad (Taron Egerton) whose transformation into a skilled operative was charted in the original takes on a psychopathic international drug trafficker (Julianne Moore) intent on blackmailing the U.S. government into legalizing all narcotics. Staggered by her murderous assault on their headquarters and several of their colleagues, the spy and the group’s tech guru (Mark Strong) turn to the Kentucky-based American counterpart of their organization (led by Jeff Bridges) for help in vanquishing the villain and the rejected Kingsman applicant (Edward Holcroft) aiding her scheme. Vaughn’s stylish actioner, penned once again with Jane Goldman, and based, like its predecessor, on a comic book series by Matt Millar and Dave Gibbons, edges its protagonist toward a more committed relationship with his live-in girlfriend (Hanna Alstrom), a Swedish princess, and dwells on his ties to his mentor (Colin Firth) from the first outing. But, in just one instance of its excesses, it also finds characters being pushed into a meat grinder. Persistent, sometimes shocking, bloody violence, a scene of cannibalism, a drug theme, cohabitation, frivolously portrayed casual sex, some sexual humor, a couple of uses of profanity, pervasive rough and much crude language. O; R

Life Festival set Oct. 7

By Benny Van
The Catholic Commentator

“Proclaiming the Gospel of Life” is the theme of this year’s Life Fest being held at the Catholic Life Center, Sat. Oct. 7. This is the third year for the event, which focuses on life.

Danielle Van Haute, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, said the daylong event is following where the pope is focused on “reaching out to people.”

The keynote speaker is Brian Predaza, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University. He will discuss what is happening in our culture that could be leading to an increase in suicide and how to look at it from the perspective of faith.

Breakout sessions will include topics such as depression and suicidal thoughts; end of life issues; seeking hope and healing after abortion; experiencing an unplanned pregnancy; and understanding human trafficking.

The Catholic Commentator

Life Fest set Oct. 7

By Benny Van  
The Catholic Commentator

“Proclaiming the Gospel of Life” is the theme of this year’s Life Fest being held at the Catholic Life Center, Sat. Oct. 7. This is the third year for the event, which focuses on life.

Danielle Van Haute, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, said the daylong event is following where the pope focused on “reaching out to people.”

The keynote speaker is Brian Predaza, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University. He will discuss what is happening in our culture that could be leading to an increase in suicide and how to look at it from the perspective of faith.

Breakout sessions will include topics such as depression and suicidal thoughts; end of life issues; seeking hope and healing after abortion; experiencing an unplanned pregnancy; and understanding human trafficking.

The Catholic Commentator

Life Fest set Oct. 7

By Benny Van  
The Catholic Commentator

“Proclaiming the Gospel of Life” is the theme of this year’s Life Fest being held at the Catholic Life Center, Sat. Oct. 7. This is the third year for the event, which focuses on life.

Danielle Van Haute, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, said the daylong event is following where the pope is focused on “reaching out to people.”

The keynote speaker is Brian Predaza, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University. He will discuss what is happening in our culture that could be leading to an increase in suicide and how to look at it from the perspective of faith.

Breakout sessions will include topics such as depression and suicidal thoughts; end of life issues; seeking hope and healing after abortion; experiencing an unplanned pregnancy; and understanding human trafficking.

The Catholic Commentator

Life Fest set Oct. 7

By Benny Van  
The Catholic Commentator

“Proclaiming the Gospel of Life” is the theme of this year’s Life Fest being held at the Catholic Life Center, Sat. Oct. 7. This is the third year for the event, which focuses on life.

Danielle Van Haute, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, said the daylong event is following where the pope is focused on “reaching out to people.”

The keynote speaker is Brian Predaza, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University. He will discuss what is happening in our culture that could be leading to an increase in suicide and how to look at it from the perspective of faith.

Breakout sessions will include topics such as depression and suicidal thoughts; end of life issues; seeking hope and healing after abortion; experiencing an unplanned pregnancy; and understanding human trafficking.

The Catholic Commentator
CONVENTION ▼

From page 9

“flaws, the failings, the mistakes, the dysfunction in our personal family. I sure don’t have any problem admitting that at times it can be tough to love the church because of its imperfections. The mystical body of Christ has lots of warts.”

But by admitting and not shying away from those warts, Cardinal Dolan said the world, which is ever ready to headline those faults, would be willing to take a second look.

“You, this is where as priests we are called to show our fidelity,” he said. “She (remains) our holy mother, our family. Like our earthly family can irritate and hurt us, so can our heavenly family, yet we love her and cling to her all the more.”

Cardinal Dolan admitted to a chasm between those who reject the church for being “old and wrinkled and irrelevant, in need of radical surgery that could change her stalwart tradition of faith and morals,” and others who complain the church is becoming too “brash, wavering on faith and morals,” and others who complain the church is too “brash, wavering on faith and morals.”

“Yet, this is where as priests we are called to show our wounds. The wounds of the church, the wounds of our families, maybe the other wounded will come back.”

“In the end, our spiritual family, the church is all we got,” he added. “She’s worth dying for, this love for Jesus and the church is the passion of our lives. Our priesthood, our love for Jesus and his church must be the passion of our priesthood.”

The convention, which is held every four years, drew a record 439 priests. Clergy members attended various workshops and included an afternoon Mass at St. Louis Cathedral.

TREES ARE NOT TREES - THEY ARE LIVING ART

We work on all types of trees including:
- Large Trees
- Stumps
- Shrubs
- Skeletal Trees

Call 225-383-7316 for a Free Estimate

LeBlanc Tree Care By...

Tree & Stump Removal, Inc.
Licensed Arborist

2920 Myrtle Ave. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806
225-383-7316

Fully Insured

LeBlanc's

LIFE ▼

From page 7

Kyle Balkum, a member of St. Jude Church in Baton Rouge, has been involved with 40 Days for Life Baton Rouge since it began in 2011.

“Although I was hesitant, maybe even a bit frightened, to pray outside of an abortion facility I felt a responsibility to do so,” said Balkum. “I wanted to bring a little peace and prayer to that sad place. I honestly believe the Holy Spirit was tugging at my heart.”

Balkum said his most memorable experience is not one single defining moment, but of the over-all prayerful nature of the vigil.

“It’s arriving in the early morning hours before the facility opens. The fall mornings are quiet and the weather is cool. The sun is rising. It’s really beautiful,” said Balkum. “And even in this beautiful and peaceful setting, you’re just steps away from such a tragic and sad building. The contrast is so powerful. In this place I feel especially close to our Lord Jesus.”

For more information about 40 Days for Life Baton Rouge, visit 40daysforlifebr.com or call Van Haute at 225-242-0164.

Rosary Rallies on October 14

There will be several rosary rallies on Saturday, Oct. 14, noon, at the following locations:

East Baton Rouge Civil Parish
St. Jude Church in Baton Rouge (corner of Gardere Lane and Highland Road). For more information, call Jennie Murphy at 225-223-1575.

New St. John the Baptist Church in Zachary, 4727 McHugh Drive following a morning of reflection from 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the church’s activity center. Father Michael Semana of the World of Hope Foundation will be the guest speaker. For more information, call 225-654-5778.

Catholic Life Center, 1800 S. Acadian Thwy., at Hundred Oaks Ave., Baton Rouge.

The Steps of the Louisiana State Capitol, hosted by St. Gerard Majella Church, in Baton Rouge. A gathering will begin at 11 a.m., followed by the rosary at noon.

St. James Civil Parish:
St. Michael Church, 6490 Hwy. 44, Convent; 1255 N. Airline Rd. at Highland Road. For more information, call 225-869-5751.

Livingston Civil Parish
St. Joseph Church, 15710 Hwy. 16, French Settlement
St. Stephen the Martyr Church, 22512 Hwy. 22, Maurepas

SJA announces new principal

St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge announced a change in leadership effective Sept. 25. Stacia Andricain replaced Dr. Michele Lambert, who served as principal since June 2015. Adricain has worked at the school since 1996.
Mass, a ritual prayer with Jesus

Father John Carville

Today (Sept. 9) is the first home game of the LSU football 2017 season. As I prepare to attend the game, I check the schedule on an email from Tiger Sports: 4 p.m.: Gates Open; 4:25 p.m.: Team walks down Victory Hill; 4:40 p.m.: Band marches down Victory Hill; 6:30 p.m.: Kickoff. The game times change, but the ritual, never. It is far more consistent and reliable, year after year, than the announcer’s promise of no rain in Tiger Stadium. “NEVER!” That ritual sends a good feeling through me, a new hope for a great season to be shared with relatives and friends at wonderful tailgates. It also brings a funny memory of a season long past in 1984 when Father Donald Blanchard and I were stationed together at Christ the King Church on the LSU campus.

The football season was well underway one Saturday, when I was struggling to find something to say at Sunday’s Masses. Father Donald had the pre-game vigil Mass that Saturday afternoon. He is an excellent and imaginative homilist, so I decided to walk over to the chapel and see if I could pick up an idea from him. Sure enough, he had the congregation’s attention, saying that he was wasting his time if I could pick up an idea from him. As you listen to the cheers and groans that ac-
dominate every play in Tiger Stadium, it feels like every fan is actually on the field playing the game. In the row in front of me the seats are usually filled with fairly young married couples. The husbands are all tall. Some games, those seats are seldom used for sitting. Everyone is on his or her feet all the time. If you want to see, you have to stand to do your yelling. There’s no doubt that a bond between fans and team exists.

Mass is meant to create the same bond between the congregation, Jesus and each other. In the sixth chapter of St. John’s Gospel, after some disciples were turned off by the strangeness of Jesus’ command that they would have to eat his flesh and drink his blood to have eternal life, some of them left him saying, “This saying is hard, who can accept it?” Jesus didn’t back down, he asked his 12 apostles, “Do you also want to leave?” St. Peter answered for them, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” They not only were convinced that he was the Messiah, but they also hoped in the promise that he had made to them, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” This is what we celebrate in Mass through Communion, the real presence of Jesus in us.

Jesus, later at the Last Supper, would give those faithful disciples a clearer mandate concerning the Holy Eucharist. He would replace the Jews’ sacramental meal of the Passover with a new sacrament which we call the Eucharist. “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” This is St. Matthew’s account. It is almost the exact words of our Mass text. The command, “do this in memory of me,” is added from St. Luke’s Gospel account of the Last Supper.

For 2,000 years our church has observed those commands to take and eat, and drink, in memory of how Jesus gave his life, his body and his blood, for us. In return, we are united to him in a real and true way. Other sacraments commemorate significant deeds and actions of Jesus that are continued through the church’s ministry: healing, forgiving, strengthening, blessing. Only the Eucharist gives us the real presence of the risen Christ.

The seasons pass, the ritual remains the same. That is true for football and, for much longer in history, for the Mass. But one ritual will end for us with our death. (Unless the “Touchdown Jesus” that overlooks the playing field at Notre Dame University has a surprise for us in heaven). Our celebration in the Mass, however, will continue into eternity. As the priest prays at Communion time in Mass, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen” (Rev 1:7).

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

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US

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

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Catholic Commentator is to provide news, information and commentary to the people of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholics and their neighbors alike. In doing so, The Catholic Commentator strives to further the wider mission of the Church: to evangelize, to communicate, to educate and to give the Catholic viewpoint on important issues of the present day.

October


September 29, 2017
A number of years ago I attended a funeral. The man to whom we were saying goodbye had enjoyed a full and rich life. He’d reached the age of 90 and was respected for having been both successful and honest. But he’d always been a strong man, a natural leader, a man who took charge of things. He’d had a good marriage, raised a large family, been successful in business and held leadership roles in various civic and church organizations. He was a man who commanded respect although he was sometimes feared for his strength.

His son, a priest, was presiding at his funeral. He began his homily this way: “Scripture tells us that 70 is the sum of a man’s years, 80 for those who are strong. Now, our dad lived for 90 years. Why the extra 10 years? Well, it’s no mystery really. It took God an extra 10 years to mellow him out! He was too strong and cantankerous to die at 80! But during the last 10 years of his life he suffered a series of massive diminishments. His wife died, he never got over that. He had a stroke, he never got over that. He had to be moved into an assisted living complex, he never got over that. All these diminishments did their work. By the time he died, he could take your hand and say: ‘Help me.’ He couldn’t say that from the time he could tie his own shoelaces until those last years. He was finally ready for heaven. Now when he met St. Peter at the gates of heaven he could say: ‘Help me!’ rather than tell St. Peter how he might better organize things.”

This story can help us understand Jesus’ teaching that the rich find it difficult to enter the kingdom of heaven while little children enter it quite naturally. We tend to misunderstand both why the rich find it hard to enter the kingdom and why little children enter it more easily.

Why do little children enter the kingdom quite naturally? In answering this we tend to idealize the innocence of little children, which can indeed be striking. But that’s not what Jesus is holding up as an ideal here, an ideal of innocence which for us adults is impossible in any case. It’s not the innocence of children that Jesus praises; rather it’s the fact that children have no illusion of self-sufficiency. Children have no choice but to know their dependence. They’re not self-sufficient and know that they cannot provide for themselves. If someone doesn’t feed them they go hungry. They need to say, and to say it often: “Help me!”

It’s generally the opposite for adults, especially if we’re strong, talented and blessed with sufficient wealth. We easily nurse the illusion of self-sufficiency. In our strength we more naturally forget that we need others, that we’re not self-reliant.

The lesson here isn’t that riches are bad. Riches, be that money, talent, intelligence, health, good looks, leadership skills or flat-out strength, are gifts from God. They’re good. It’s not riches that block us from entering the kingdom. Rather it’s the danger that, having them, we will more easily also have the illusion that we’re self-sufficient. We aren’t. As Thomas Aquinas points out by the very way he defines God (as Esse Subsistens – Self-sufficient Being) only God does not need anyone or anything else. The rest of us do, and little children more easily grasp this than do adults, especially strong and gifted adults.

Moreover the illusion of self-sufficiency often spawns another danger. Riches and the comfort they bring, as we see in the parable of the rich man who has a beggar at his door, can make us blind to the plight and hunger of the poor. That’s one of the dangers in not being hungry ourselves. In our comfort, we tend not to see the poor.

And so it’s not riches themselves that are bad. The moral danger in being rich is rather the illusion of self-sufficiency that seems to forever accompany riches. Little children don’t suffer this illusion, but the strong do. That’s the danger in being rich, money-wise or otherwise.

How do we minimize that danger? By being generous with our riches. Luke’s Gospel, while being the Gospel that’s hardest on the rich is also the Gospel that makes most clear that riches aren’t bad in themselves. God is rich. But God is prodigiously generous with that richness. God’s generosity, as we learn from the parables of Jesus, is so excessive that it’s scandalous. It upsets our measured sense of fairness. Riches are good, but only if they’re shared. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus praises the generous rich but warns the hoarding rich. Generosity is God-like, hoarding is antithetical to heaven.

And so from the time we learn to tie our own shoelaces until the various diminishments of life begin to strip away the illusion of self-sufficiency, riches of all kinds constitute a danger. We must never unlearn the words: “Help me!”

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 through his website ronrolheiser.com; facebook.com/ronrolheiser.
COMING EVENTS

13 Day Movie – The Adult Formation Advisory Team of St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge is sponsoring a showing of the movie, “13 Days” at St. Aloysius Parish Hall, 2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge. Pizza will be served immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Mass, and the movie begins at 7 p.m. An offering will be accepted for the pizza. Email stalosiusformation@gmail.com to sign up. Sign up is encouraged, but not necessary.

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites – The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites welcomes all who are interested in developing their prayer life according to the Carmelite saints. The next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 8, 1:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center in St. Gabriel’s Room, 444 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge. For more information, call 225-343-3181 or 225-803-3391, or email robert-white456@att.net.

Rosary Rallies – There will be rosary rallies around the Diocese of Baton Rouge as part of a national America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally Campaign. One will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m., at the St. Jean Vianney Parish Hall, 16111 S. Harrells Ferry Road, Baton Rouge. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 9247 and tickets are $20 each. Proceeds benefit the pro-life activities of the council. For more information, call 225-753-7950.

Dr. Brant Pitre – Dr. Brant Pitre, professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will talk about “The Case for Christ,” based on the book on Thursday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m., at Christ the King Church and Student Center at LSU. For more information, call 225-344-8959.

Morning of Prayer – The Marian Servants of the Eucharist will host a Morning of Prayer for the Community Saturday, Oct. 14, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at St. George Church, 7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge. The morning will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. celebrated by Father Paul Gros, parochial vicar at St. George. The program then will move into a mini-retreat at the activity center to own over the St. Jean Vianney Parish with the theme of “Preparing for Christ.” Although there is no charge for the program, registration is requested. To register, email ms@marian servants.com. Bring a Bible and a journal.

Pro-Life Breakfast – A monthly pro-life Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 10, 5:30 p.m., at St. Agnes Church, 749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge. All are invited to attend. For more information, call 225-383-4237.

Women’s Day of Reflection – The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis will sponsor a women’s day of reflection, “Who is the Author of Your Life?” facilitated by Becky Eldredge and Stephanie Clouatre Davis, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Catholic Life Center, 1800 S. Acadia Thwy., Baton Rouge. Cost is $40 and includes lunch. For more information and to register, visit beckyeldredge.com.

Lessons from Reformation – The Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge will present a program, “Reformation: 500 Years Later – Lessons Learned,” on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 10 – 11:30 a.m. at St. George Church, 7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge. Speakers will be retired Archbishop Alfred Hughes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and Bishop Michael Rinehart of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. RSVP by calling the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge at 225-267-5600 or visit ifedgrbr.com.

Pro-Life Mass – A monthly pro-life Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 10, 5:30 p.m., at St. Agnes Church, 749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge. All are invited to attend. For more information, call 225-383-4237.

CLASSIFIEDS

For help placing your classified ad, call 225-387-0983. All classified ads are prepaid. Credit cards are now accepted.

Print Your Ad Here

CLASSIFIEDS


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

Enclosed is $9.50 for the first 15 words + 15¢ for each word thereafter + 25¢ per line for each special effect (all caps, centered)

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY
PHONE

DATES TO RUN:

Help Wanted

In sales employment advertisements, the advertiser must name the product or service to be sold. Ads must state how wages will be paid (salary, commissions, etc.) if money is mentioned. The ad must also state if there is an investment required.

Director of Christian Formation Position

St. Jude the Apostle is seeking a faith-filled Director of Christian Formation who will assist us as we continue growing our religious education, sacramental preparation and youth ministry programs. Religious studies and formation or related work experience is preferred. The position is full time, and requires some evening and weekend hours.

We are seeking an energetic individual who will work closely with the pastor, director of administration, parish staff, and parish volunteers in the mission of formulating and implementing a vision of parish religious education. This vision must be committed to handing on the gift of the Catholic faith to future generations, and to providing all parishioners the opportunity to become fully engaged in the life of the Church.

The candidate must be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church.

Please send cover letter, resume and list of references to deaconmorrissey@gmail.com to apply.

The Catholic Commentator
PO Box 3316
Baton Rouge LA 70821-3316
more sustainable.”

The closing was one of many recommendations of the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Task Force, which was established in 2015 to address issues of long-term renewal within the Diocese of Baton Rouge. In 2016, the Task Force recommended to create a “shared pastorate” with SLKF and STM because of the changing demographics and a lack of clergy to serve both communities. It was recommended the parishes be amalgamated no later than June 30, 2018.

Bishop Robert W. Muench, after much prayer and reflection, said he accepted the recommendation and made the final decision the week of Sept. 18.

“We are attempting to best serve the people with the resources that we have so that’s why these decisions are being made.”

Father Michael Alello
St. Louis King of France Church

Orthodox Church in America Bishop Robert W. Tracy established SLKF Church on Oct. 1, 1966, appointing Father John McNamara as its first pastor. Prior to the construction of the parish family center, Sunday Mass was celebrated at Red Oak elementary School and daily Masses celebrated at the priests’ residence.

Construction of the church began in January 1972 and the first Mass celebrated Dec. 3 of the same year. Local artist Frank Haydn designed statues of St. Louis and the Risen Christ as well as the Stations of the Cross.

The school was completed in 1982 and the gym and activity center completed in 1998.
BATTLE ▼
From page 1

that in 2016, people watched 4.6 billion hours of pornography on its site alone; 61 percent of visits occurred via smartphone. Eleven pornography sites are among the world’s top 300 most popular Internet sites. The most popular such site, at number 18, outranks ones such as eBay, MSN and Netflix.

Another disturbing fact concerns the young age in which people first consume pornography.

A research summary on pornography and public health prepared by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation noted that a study of university students found that 93 percent of males and 62 percent of females had seen Internet pornography during adolescence. Another sample has shown that among college males, nearly 49 percent first encountered pornography before age 13.

A national survey found that 64 percent of young people ages 13-24 actively seek out pornography weekly or more often.

Many people come into contact with pornography through “piddling” on their smartphone, tablet or computer, according to Sacasa. He said while men tend to be attracted to visual images, women are more attracted to something that proposes to be relationship based, noting that the audience for “50 Shades of Grey” was predominately women, and women are more likely to have sexual discussions in chat rooms.

“(It’s) Let me go to Facebook, or do a Google search, etc., let’s see if something comes up,” said Sacasa.

From there, the habit of pornography demands to be fed, Sacasa said.

In the same way that people typically eat three meals a day and the body signals a person “I’m hungry” at certain times of the day, if a person watches pornography at certain times of the week, the brain may signal “It’s Monday night, I’m hungry for porn,” said Sacasa.

He talked about the different levels of use in pornography: curiosity (such as a boy of age 12); compulsion, in which their will has been compromised; and addiction. Addictions also have a progressive state. The first sign of addiction includes unmanageability. The object of their addiction interferes with their work and family life. The next is progression/tolerance, which manifests itself in two ways. The first is when the brain has the upper level of the pleasure hormone dopamine, the body wants more – one hour of viewing pornography, for example, turns into 3-4 hours. Progression also manifests itself in what the person is looking at online. They may start with looking at “soft porn” still shot photos and move on to hardcore, violent materials. This leads to mood alterations, and finally the inability to stop even with consequences.

“People who watch child pornography don’t just wake up one day and say, ‘I want to watch child pornography.’ They stumble into it,” Sacasa said.

People may often think of pornography as alluring, and the glamorization of sex in ways not intended by God in entertainment may even be reflected in their dress.

“It’s the more explicit the better, the more revealing the better,” said Sacasa.

He pointed out if there is not a need for pornography, it would not be filled.

“Let’s get rid of the need,” said Sacasa.

He said that evils of the pornography industry, which it tries to hide, are that it is linked to sex trafficking and sex slavery; it encourages sexual violence against women; it lowers sexual satisfaction in marriage; it leads to poor body image, particularly for women; and, a higher rate of porn-induced sexual function disorder.

Sacasa said despite all these problems, people return to such illicit materials because “porn hijacks the brain.” The rewards center of the brain releases “feel good” hormones throughout the body – similar to the way people think, in a three-year-old mind-set, “ice cream tastes good” while consuming it. But after consuming a lot of it, the body sends a message, “Ice cream is not so good. My tummy hurts.”

It’s similar to pornography, said Sacasa. While, particularly for males, there’s an initial “rush” which is enhanced by testoster-

Next: A look at the impact of pornography on the sex trafficking industry and efforts within the Baton Rouge area to combat that.