Seniors celebrate graduation

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

Group pictures, high-fives, hugs and laughter. It’s a list of ingredients that result in one thing during the month of May: high school graduation. The scene was repeated, over and over, from St. John the Evangelist High School in Plaquemine to Catholic of Pointe Coupee High School in New Roads and Assumption High School in Donaldsonville, even to downtown Baton Rouge, where the Raising Cane’s River Center played host to St. Michael the Archangel High School, Catholic High School and St. Joseph’s Academy graduations.

Before one ceremony, Bishop Robert
See Graduation Page 10

Eye on Special Session

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Catholic school officials will be keeping a keen eye on the current special session of the Louisiana Legislature, which convened May 22.

Up for grabs is $16 million traditionally allocated by legislators to Catholic schools, including $7.5 million to child nutrition services. The additional funding goes to required services as mandated by the state.

If the funding is slashed, and heading into the special session the revenue stream was tapped off under the current budget which was approved by both chambers of the legislature but vetoed by Gov. John Bel Edwards on May 19, the Child Nutrition Program of the Diocese of Baton Rouge will be forced to close, said director Lynda Carville.

Under that Doomsday scenario, more than 1,700 Catholic students in the diocese who are participants in the free or reduced free lunch programs will no longer be served.

“I am extremely fearful we will not get our funding,” Carville said. “And what will happen to the children of the Diocese of Baton Rouge for lunch? We will not be in existence.”

Currently, approximately 1,400 students receive free lunches, with another 248 on the reduced program, which charges students 40 cents a day for lunch and 30 cents for breakfast. Additionally, 769 students take advantage of a government program where they are served breakfast, lunch and dinner free of charge.

“Parents really depend on us to have a breakfast and lunch (for students). We are here to provide a service for them.”

Rob Tasman, executive director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic
See Legislature Page 19
By Dina Dow

Ordinary Time is upon us, as we conclude the Easter Season with Pentecost. The coming of the Holy Spirit sets in motion the missionary activity of the church, focusing first on the most holy trinity and second on the most holy body and blood of our Lord Jesus. These two solemnities point to who God is and how we are united by his real presence. Before embarking on this journey the faithful are to be rooted in a simple reality: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in one God

The name of God was revealed to Moses, as written in Exodus, “I AM WHO I AM.” The revelation of one’s name is a way of “expressing a person’s essence, identity and meaning, which leads to intimate accessibility and a personal relationship.” (CCC #203) God revealed himself to Moses precisely this way. The establishment of this relationship originating from God, in fact, moved Moses, despite his reluctance, to lead the Israelite’s out of slavery and into covenant with God.

Deuteronomy, Chapter 4, tells the account of Moses as he affirms the incredible greatness of God as creator, and calls the Israelites to “fix in their heart” gratitude for freedom and keep all the commandments for the sole purpose of unity, obedience and eternity. Thus, we can come to know God as truly alive, merciful and gracious. He is personal, intimate, accessible and trustworthy. He is creator, truth, love and he is one. He chose them as he chose us.

St. Paul’s letter to the Romans builds upon the reality of God as creator, adding to the intimacy an invitation of heirship. God is the father of all creation and he is our father. He protects, leads, guides and provides. Just as God led the Israelites out of Egypt by the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day, he leads us by the Holy Spirit in a present-day exodus away from worldly corruption toward new life in him through Jesus Christ, his son.

I believe in Jesus Christ

Catechism #275 explains, “God freely wills to communicate the glory of his blessed life. Such is the “plan of his loving kindness”... in his beloved son: “He destined us in love to be his sons” and “to be conformed to the image of his son,” through “the spirit of son-ship.” Baptism enables the spirit of adoption into the mystical body of Christ. This plan is a “grace (which) was given to us in Christ.”

Sacrifice

We read in Exodus, Chapter 2, 4 of the ratification of the first covenant by a ritual act of sacrificed animal blood on an altar in atonement for sins, then followed by the reading of the covenant out loud to the people. Thereafter, this annual Day of Atonement continued, where a Levitical priest would enter into the holy of holies, and sprinkle the blood of sacrificed animals offered to God upon the mercy seat situated on the Ark of the Covenant, God’s presence. (For more details read “Jesus & the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist,” by Dr. Brant Pitre, Doubleday, 2011).

Jesus fulfills this atonement “once and for all” as he offers himself as sacrifice on the cross for our sins by his love. His precious body and blood becomes our lifeline to eternity. The willing sacrifice of Jesus Christ far exceeds the unwilling nature of an animal. Thus, on the night he was betrayed, instead of eating the first covenant lamb, Jesus instituted the Eucharist by the words we hear during Mass, “take this all of you and eat it, for this is my body which will be given up for you... take this all of you and drink from it for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.” (Roman Missal, Eucharistic Prayer II).

St. John Paul II writes, “Jesus did not simply state what he was giving them to eat and drink was his body and his blood; he also expressed its sacrificial meaning and made sacramentally present his sacrifice which would soon be offered on the cross for the salvation of ALL” (Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 2003). “The power of the words and the action of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, make sacramentally present under the species of bread and wine Christ’s body and blood.”

See Gospel Page 19

CORRECTIONS

In the story “Jumping into the ‘Arms of God’” of the May 11 issue of The Catholic Commentator, the correct spelling of the confirmed youth’s name is Kyle Trantham.

DID YOU KNOW

Kateri Indian rosary

The Kateri Indian rosary is a chaplet associated with St. Kateri Tekakwitha, known as the “Lilly of the Mohawks,” and is promoted by the Tekakwitha League. The chaplet is traditionally used as a private devotion and made in two patterns, the first being a cross and the other with a medal of St. Kateri and three beads. The cross is made of staurolite, which is a mineral naturally formed in the shape of a cross.

According to Indian legend, on the day that Christ died the woodland animals wept, with their tears crystallizing into small crosses as they fell on the ground.

The main rosary has 24 beads, representing each of St. Kateri’s years on earth. The chaplet has three colors—crystal clear, red and brownish gold.

Also according to Indian legend, the crystal clear lakes and rivers are the teachers of the Great Spirit. The main rosary has 24 beads, and a Hail Mary prayed on the red beads. Red is used not only because it is the traditional color of love but also of the blood that flows in all mankind, transcending race and color.

St. Kateri (1656-1680) was the daughter of a Mohawk chief and a Catholic mother. She is the first Native American to be proposed for sainthood, was beatified by St. John Paul II in 1980 and canonized in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.

St. Kateri remained faithful in the face of overwhelming hostility and serious illnesses. She was known for her life of virtue and remains a role model for those and anyone looking to deepen their own prayer life.

Many consider her to be a shining example that God’s call to holiness is truly universal, open to all genders, ages and walks of life.

St. Kateri is the patron of environmentalists and orphans. Her feast day is celebrated July 14.

BISHOP MUNCH FLASHBACK

Although a native of Lexington, Kentucky, Bishop Robert W. Muench was raised in New Orleans and always enjoyed sharing his Mardi Gras spirit with students in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Above, he is shown several years ago participating in Carnival activities with students at St. John Interparochial School in Plaquemine with Father Cleo Milano, who was pastor at St. John the Evangelist church in Plaquemine from 2002-2013. Catholic Commentator file photo

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**St. Elizabeth continues Sodality tradition**

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

Seventh- and eighth-grade girls of St. Elizabeth School in Paincourtville, dressed in white uniform shirts and pale blue skirts, the color of blue often associated with the mantle worn by the Blessed Virgin Mary, made their way to the front pews of St. Elizabeth Church. They were followed by their male classmates, who were dressed in khaki pants, white dress shirts and pale blue ties. Some of the students were holding the hands of much younger students, guiding them to pews in the front rows. It was a special day for this group of older students. They were being inducted into Sodality, an organization devoted to Mary.

“I was a ‘Child of Mary,’” said religion teacher Jane Guillot, referring to the same group but with a different name in the 1960s. “We wore white uniforms and the blue beautiful cloth veil like Mary. That was 1965 and in public school, we could do that.”

The history of Sodality of Our Lady and similar lay ministry confraternities dates back to the Middle Ages. Over the years, those ministries spread throughout Europe, India and the Americas. The Children of Mary Sodalites were founded in France in the 1800s by St. Catherine Laboure, who was also a Marian visionary. Later, Carmelite nuns from France were sent to New Orleans to help establish schools. Eventually, the nuns ended up in the river parishes, bringing with them the tradition of the Children of Mary.

“The Carmelite nuns came and brought Sodality and instituted the rules (here),” said Guillot. “That’s how far back it’s been active and they gave the scapula of the Carmelite nuns.”

Among their duties, the group attends Mass every Friday dressed in their special uniforms and helps with the younger students. They also lead prayer services and devotions and organize the charity project for Catholic Schools Week. In addition to required service hours for their school, they must also perform five hours of community service every nine weeks and attend community events such as the Blue Mass honoring public safety employees.

“This sodality has been going on close to 90 years,” said Father Matthew Graham, pastor of St. Elizabeth Church. “This is a wonderful tradition from the Carmelites who formed the school and so just kind of that idea of consecration to Christ through Mary and using that spiritual authority that the kids need to realize that they do have. They don’t always need (me) to lead things, you know, the beauty to see those kids leading those prayers, those activities truly tying them to Christ.”

Every year, the Sodality induction is held at St. Elizabeth during a Friday Mass in May, the month of Mary. Eighth-grade Sodality officers pass the gavel to the seventh-grade incoming officers, who also make a pledge of honor. During the Mass on May 11, Noah Deshotel, the new prefect of Sodality, accepted the gavel from outgoing prefect Alyse Walker.

“It’s kind of a big responsibility to me,” said Deshotel. “And, it means a lot to me to get more included in my faith. And, it just kind of tells me a lot more about myself.”

Father Graham said he sees both leadership and spirituality growing among the members of Sodality as the students take on bigger roles.

“Every Friday we have school Mass and there are certain Fridays I cannot be here and so now we’re trying to turn some of that leadership over to them,” he said. “I wasn’t here in September and I heard that it was absolutely beautiful. I always try to remind people of their role of leading the faith and embracing it.”

Because of schedule changes, Guillot will not teach religion next school year but plans to continue being the sponsor for Sodality as a tribute to her mother who died 11 years ago.

“My mother was a believer that Mary was an intercessor to Jesus,” said Guillot, “and she used to always say, ‘You know how you come to me to get to your daddy, well, that’s how Mary is and when we know we have our Blessed Mother being an intercessor for us for Jesus and God and the Holy Spirit. How can you be a loser?’”

Sodality members for the 2017-18 school year are eighth-grade students Alyssa Bailey, Haley Castro, Logan Falsetta, Lindsey Gros, Tyler Gros, Alex Hood, Sadie Jacobs, Kylie Klack, Abby Landry, Adley Mury, Emily Pilley, Safiya Prean, Darrius Thomas, Sherman Vernier and Alyse Walker. Seventh-grade members are Alexander Blanchard, Maddex Blanchard, Noah Deshotel, Candan Herbert, Sana’ja Horton, Annamarie Mable, Makayla McKinney, Khai Prean, Owen Rives, Breana Sanchez and Sara Solomon.
SLKF Knights council donates $75,000 to vocations

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A $75,000 donation to the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Baton Rouge highlighted the disbursement of funds from the former Knights of Columbus Father Maynard Hurst Council 9016 at St. Louis King of France Church in Baton Rouge.

A little more than $330,000 was remaining in the fund of Chalice, Inc., which was where the majority of the funds were invested, when the parish closed in 2017, resulting in thoughtful decisions as to how to disburse those funds. A series of meetings were held and members overwhelmingly supported the idea to make a donation in memory of Father Hurst to benefit seminarians.

“We all decided that we wanted Father Hurst’s name to be continued and this was a source for us to be able to do that,” said Joe Mannino, who was a long-standing member of the Hurst council. “We wanted to continue his legacy and we thought this would be the best way. That $75,000 will stay there for a lifetime.”

Vocations director Father Andrew Merrick called the KC gift a “tremendous blessing.”

“As we all know the formation of our future priests is a pressing need in our diocese that will bear great fruit for a long time to come,” Father Merrick said. “The generosity of the Knights will play a part in generations of Catholcics in the Diocese of Baton Rouge experiencing the graces from Masses celebrated, confessions heard, baptisms, anointing of the sick and all other priestly ministry.”

“The Knights of Columbus all over the world are great supporters of the church and of priests and seminarians in particular,” he added. “They continue to be a gift and great resource for our local church as well. Blessed be God for how he has used and will continue to use the Knights of Columbus in our church.”

A total of 13 organizations or funds received donations in varying amounts, including Metanoia Manor, which is a home for young victims of human trafficking; the diocesan Priests’ Retirement Fund; the Nuns’ Retirement Fund; the Formation Program for the Permanent Diaconate; St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict; Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans; Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital, which is under construction; the St. Jude’s Affiliate of the OLOL children’s hospital, one of only eight in the country; and the Bishop Greco Foundation which benefits seminarians in the Diocese of Alexandria.

Additionally two sonogram machines were donated to women’s pregnancy centers in Baton Rouge and one in Lake Charles, valued at $15,000 each.

Mannino said council members recently received word that the machines were already responsible for saving the lives of two unborn children. Research has shown once the mother of an unborn child, or even both parents, see the heart beating of their baby they are less likely to go through with an abortion.

“When we learned about two babies being saved, there was a silence by everyone (in the meeting) to think we did save two children,” Mannino said. “Everyone thought it was a total blessing that this occurred and were grateful we were able to do that.”

“We work and try to do things with other organizations but when you can save a life; my God it’s (an incredible) feeling you don’t have otherwise.”

Mannino said members also experienced a deep sense of reward to be able to assist Metanoia House with a $25,000 donation. Father Jeff Bayhi, pastor at St. John the Baptist Church in Zachary, has been the driving force behind the development, construction and eventual opening of the home, which is staffed by the Hospitalier Sisters of Mercy.

“They were wonderful,” Father Bayhi said of the council. “They very lovingly gave us (the funding) to join in the work of Metanoia Manor so that we could continue to take care of the girls (currently four) that we have.”

Added Mannino: “You can’t put into words what it means to spare a child from being born as a prostitute and being held as a victim of circumstances. With me, I felt like the work that was done in the past at bingo four nights a month has helped someone else who could not help themselves.”

Father Jamin David, director of deaconate formation, said the program has under gone much change in the past five to six years with the development of a continual formation program. The program also prepares candidates for specialized ministry while they are in formation.

“The generous donation from the St. Louis Knights of Columbus will help us to continue to develop this portion of the formation program that has never been a part of deacon formation in Baton Rouge,” Father David said. “Their gift will surely pay dividends in returning charitable service to the people of our diocese.”

Mannino explained that Chalice, Inc. was formed because a council is limited to the amount of funds it can have in its account. He said the original intention was to build a council home but church officials through the years allowed meetings and other events to be held in parish buildings, freeing up the funds raised from bingos and other events to be spent on charitable needs.

He estimated that the council spent from $30,000 to $45,000 on charitable events alone.

Additionally, in a nod of appreciation to the parish, council members manned a food booth during the annual fair, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to SLKF.

In later years, when the bingos were discontinued, Chalice was used to subsidize the council, Mannino said.

But when the parish, and thus the council, closed, decisions were needed as to what to do with the remaining funds.

“We are a charitable organization so we decided to split it among organizations that needed money, to give to other organizations,” he said.
Works of Mercy helping teen live her dream

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Kari Stephens’s early childhood memories remain a bit fuzzy, tucked away in a remote corner of her teenage mind. Perhaps that is not all bad.

Those early days were often spent in a hospital room with her mother, who was battling breast cancer, a disease that would ultimately claim her life. Because of life’s circumstances, Stephens and her mother would occasionally spend nights sleeping on a park bench, under a bridge or at a homeless shelter.

At the time of her mother’s death, Stephens was six-years-old, rescued from a homeless shelter by her aunt, Felicia Darenbourg, who would raise her.

From those incredibly difficult early days, an intelligent young woman has emerged, perched on the brink of a college career that she hopes will ultimately one day lead to a medical career.

“Growing up in hospitals at such a young age accustomed me to the importance of someone’s health,” said Stephens, who has received multiple scholarship offers and is awaiting word to see if one is offered from Davidson College. “Through (her days sitting with her mother in a hospital) I can see myself providing the same comfort that doctors provide, the comfort in knowing that you are healthy and safe.”

Stephens, who recently graduated from Baton Rouge High School armed with an armada of academic honors, began to blossom when she first became involved with the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition, which reaches out to some of the most needy and vulnerable young people in the community. During her senior year, she was able to participate in BRYC’s program, which pairs a mentor with a student with an adult volunteer, also plays a significant role in the sponsorship, which went to preserve and support the many good works started by Bishop Stanley J. Ott, recently awarded $5,000.

The Diocese of Baton Rouge’s Works of Mercy program was created in 1991 as a fundraising effort to continue the good works of Bishop Stanley J. Ott. Works of Mercy recently awarded $5,000 to the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition, which funded a senior sponsorship program of which Stephens was a participant. Pictured, from left, are Lucas Spielfogel of BRYC, Stephens’ aunt Felicia Darenbourg and Stephens. Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator

Abshire said the grants are based strictly off the earnings of the endowment and vary annually, depending on the performance of the investments. She stressed the endowment is never touched.

“To be able to help someone as worthy as (Stephens) is not only personally rewarding but speaks to the mission of the Catholic Church,” Abshire said. “As Catholics, as fellow human beings, we are called to help those most in need. The Works of Mercy program is living out our faith in the way God calls us to do.”

Lucas Spielfogel of BRYC said the Works of Mercy donation helped fund the senior sponsorship program and that none of the money to a student directly, but rather BRYC to help defray the costs of each sponsorship. This year, BRYC has more than 200 high school students in its program, with 85 seniors. Spielfogel said all of the senior sponsorships are from donations that have come from throughout the business community.

“Sponsors know who they are funding,” Spielfogel said. “They can see amazing results. Forever Kari will be connected to the church to some extent.”

Although the ACT prep resources the students receive at no cost would likely cost thousands of dollars in the private sector, perhaps even more valuable is the mentorship program. Stephens said she and her mentor, Laura Hawkes, have forged a close relationship, to the point where Stephens thinks of Hawkes as her big sister.

“She devotes a lot of time to helping me and making sure I am succeeding as I need to be as a senior,” said Stephens, who meets with Hawkes twice a week for about 90 minutes. Hawkes will also spend more casual time with Stephens.

“I need that responsible voice to keep me organized in this hectic time,” said Stephens, who has had to balance the academics of her final year of high school with filling out scholarship applications, which often require mounds of paperwork. “You need someone who can give you an outside perspective as to what you are doing so you are not all caught up in school and extracurriculars.

“There are things children don’t tell their parents but will (tell) the mentors,” Darenbourg said of the relationship she has witnessed being formed with her niece and Hawkes. “It gives her that extra boost of confidence.”

“For me as a parent, BRYC has been amazing,” she added. “There are students, a lot of them that are expected to fail, not expected to succeed. BRYC is a lifesaver. It saved (Stephens). I could not do it alone.”

Abshire said Baton Rouge area nonprofit agencies are either recommended through word of mouth or invited to apply each year and put through a comprehensive vetting process by a small committee. She said none of the proposals are allowed to conflict with Catholic doctrine.

Each organization is required to submit a detailed proposal and the criteria must include a tie-in to corporal or spiritual works of mercy, such as helping the poor, the downtrodden and people who are unable to help themselves. Additionally, the services must be provided within the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Also receiving grants were Life of a Single Mom, the St. Joseph Hospice Foundation, Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries, the Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation and Women’s Community Rehabilitation Center.

2018-19 Diocesan Directory for the Diocese of Baton Rouge is in Production


This directory is published once a year with the most current information for church parishes, clergy, schools, diocesan departments, religious, retreat centers, deaneries, institutions and more!

Available in August 2018, this book is essential to Catholic offices, and is available to the public for purchase so they can have a handy tool for reaching individuals in our diocese.

Limited advertising space available!

To get more information about the Diocese of Baton Rouge Directory 2018-2019 contact Wanda Koch at 225-387-0983 or email to wkoch@diobr.org.
Q  In 1995, I was godmother at the baptism of my brother’s daughter. A few years later, it turned out that I adopted her and have raised her as my own. (She is now 27.) Then, in 2010, I served as godmother for my sister’s daughter and, the following year, wound up taking custody of her as well and eventually adopting her. (She is making her first Communion this month.)

I took my role as godmother very seriously, sending both girls to Catholic schools, but it seems they’ve been “cheated” out of having godmothers. I just “Mom” them to now, and it would be nice to have someone else take an interest in their Catholic upbringing. (Sometimes a mom’s voice just becomes “white noise.”) Actually, they are both fine, but I’ve always wondered about this and would appreciate your suggestions. (Frederick, Maryland)

A  There is wisdom in the church’s rule that parents may not serve as baptismal godparents for their own children. This ensures that someone else will serve as a proxy, looking out for the child’s religious and spiritual development if the parents fail or are unable to do so.

But a godparent is much more than a “fallback” and more than a ceremonial accessory on the day of baptism. Being a godparent involves a lifelong commitment to spiritual support, encouragement and mentoring.

For this reason, it is required in canon law that the godparent be “a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on” (Code of Canon Law 874.3). A godparent, then, should not be selected simply to placate family members or to honor a friend who may not be religiously committed.

There is no provision in canon law for the formal replacement of a godparent. The godparent’s name has been inscribed in the parish’s baptismal registry, and history cannot be undone. But in the letter-writer’s situation and I admire her concern for her children’s continued guidance – why not do this?

Choose a trusted friend or family member who is an example of religious fidelity and might be willing to step in and help guide your daughter’s growth as Catholics.

Additionally, when it comes time for your younger daughter to be confirmed, that same person might well be an ideal confirmation sponsor.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Recently, a reader asked whether motorists should stop to give money to those begging on street corners. While acknowledging the traffic safety concerns, I confessed that I myself find it difficult, especially as a priest, to pass someone by and so I regularly offer a few dollars. Responses to the column arrived immediately and varied widely, as seen in the sampling below.

... I disagree with your willingness to give out of “kindness.” Public safety is of foremost importance and should be the priority. I consider myself a generous person, but I try to find other ways to help the homeless and the needy. (City of origin withheld)

... I could not agree with you more. Even minor help could mean the difference between life and death, especially in adverse weather. (I cannot obsess over how the recipient chooses to use the donation.) (Albany, New York)

... I disagree vehemently with your answer. My family had firsthand knowledge of a drug-addicted friend who used this method to support his habit. (He would stand on the highway median with a cardboard sign and collect hundreds of dollars each day.) I, as you say, you would prefer to err on the side of kindness, you could do what we do and carry granola bars and bottled water in your car. (Elinkton, Virginia)

... In a recent column, you were asked about panhandlers. Our pastor has suggested giving out gift cards for Subway. No cash, but a nourishing meal. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

... I think a more appropriate way to help panhandlers is to give dollar gift certificates to McDonald’s instead of cash. I have read that Cardinal Dolan keeps several of those with him when he takes his walks in New York City parks. Cash is usually used for illegal purposes – or items other than food. (Newark, Ohio)

A  One of the aims of this column is to generate ideas. I’m grateful for the response, and I hope readers have learned from the suggestion of food vouchers. (I know I have.)

FATHER DOYLE is a retired priest 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.
By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis of the Diocese of Baton Rouge provided a “getaway” for directors of religious education who spent a busy year overseeing first Communions, confirmation and Parish School of Religion classes at a Renewing Energy in Spirit Time (R.E.S.T.) retreat May 2 at Rosaryville Spirit Life Center in Ponchatoula.

“I think others are surprised just as I was in how much work goes on behind the scenes of running a church. Our job entails a lot of nights and weekends,” said Peggy Champagne, director of religious education for the parish cluster of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Maringouin, St. Joseph Church in Grosse Tete and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Church in Livonia.

“I have had some friends and even members of my family tell me that I needed to get another job because I put in so much time and don’t get paid a whole lot. I love my job, I love the youth and I love working for the Lord,” she said.

The role of a DRE continually grows, according to Lucie Hanewinkel, DRE at St. Margaret Queen of Scotland Church in Springfield.

“My role as DRE expands almost daily to meet many different needs of our parish office staff. We have to be ready to step up and be willing to assist our pastor in many capacities,” she said.

For Champagne, Hanewinkel and other DREs, their “pay” includes nurturing children’s faith.

“I remember a little girl in third grade about five years ago asked me, ‘How come we always say Amen?’ Why can’t we say ‘A woman sometime?’ Got to love the children,” said Champagne.

“Is it beautiful to know how they learn to see God in everyone they pass in the day?”

June Hebert, DRE at St. John Baptist Church in Brusly said, “The smiling faces of God’s precious children each week as they come to Parish School of Religion classes is heartwarming and increases my own personal relationship with God. The children are so willing to share their love for Jesus through their enthusiasm, laughter and thoughts about God.”

DREs show the children that someone cares about them, said Monice Oliphant, DRE for St. Isidore Church in Baker.

“This may not be in the job description, but it’s certainly part of the job – listening to children talk about their day, and sometimes caring for their boo-boos,” said Oliphant.

As the children mature they focus on “making their faith their own.” And there’s joy when they “get it” about their faith.

“At our youth Bible study one of our youth talked about spending the weekend with her friends and going to a Protestant church with them,” said Oliphant. “She said she walked away feeling empty because she didn’t receive Jesus in the Eucharist.”

Working with families also brings great joys and challenges for DREs.

“My biggest challenge is getting the families to understand the importance of being consistent in attending Mass as a family and bringing their children to class weekly,” said Hanewinkel.

“Since I have only been a DRE for three years, I see more clearly how our family life should be more integrated in our parish life. There are many ways we can be involved in our parish and this sets a good example for our children.”

Said Hebert: “The youngest youth of the parish are the most enthusiastic while the middle school aged youth need more encouragement to participate and engage in an activity. Although we have many parents who volunteer to share their gifts and talents with our Parish School of Religion it would be wonderful to have every parent participate in some capacity in this very important ministry.”

The DREs see how parish life is like family life.

“Parish life is chaotic just like any family. Everything you can think of about family life exists within a parish, the good and the bad,” said Sarah Neau, director of religious education at St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge. “There is jealousy, anger, sorrow, laughter, love, joy, disagreement, defiance, depression, death, illness, recovery, competition and tolerance. But the biggest thing I appreciate about parish life is how quickly people are willing to set aside the pettiness, the bad and the negative to pitch in to help their fellow parishioners, especially in times of tragedy.”

Like a family, there is joy in welcoming new members, such as when people join the church through RCIA.

“We had a couple go through RCIA this year,” said Champagne. “They were so excited, so on fire to learn about the Catholic faith that they set me on fire again... As cradle Catholics we don’t think about what we do. Why do we genuflect, why do priest wear black, what is the reason for the Roman Collar, where do our responses come from for Mass, what is the main focus of our Mass, why do we pray to Mary, how do we know our sins are forgiven, what if we keep committing the same sin over and over again. What if we confess a sin but know we will commit it again? Will God forgive us? So many questions, but every one is beautiful in it’s own way.”

Neau said, “I work with our RCIA process so every year there is an abundance of thought provoking questions or comments that come out through our weekly discussions. A recent one came from one of our latest group of neophytes. We gathered two weeks after Easter and the group was asked to share their thoughts and experiences of the Triduum and Easter Vigil but also their second week of being able to fully participate in Mass. One gentleman made the comment of how he has decided to sit near the front of the church to help him stay focused but that it also allowed him to observe others as they came forward to receive Communion. He said that he could see a difference in people as they approached the body of Christ and when they walked away after receiving. He noticed that some people approached with and left with indifference but others were transformed by receiving the body of Christ – despair became hope, tiredness became relief, sadness became joy, or anxiety became peace.”

Oliphant said witnessing people’s faith journey is a gift. In a general question and answer session about the faith a person asked her if someone is sad, do they lack faith in God.

“It’s these kinds of questions, comments and experiences – both from youth and adults – that helps me to care for my faith like the gift it truly is. We shouldn’t take our faith for granted. It is the church established by Jesus, and he trusts, and indeed, directs us mere mortals to join him in spreading his good news and building his kingdom here on earth. What could possibly be more frightening, humbling and wonderful?” she said.

The DRE retreat at Rosaryville included a game in which a person had to guess a catechetical-related word they were not able to look at through clues given by their partner. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator

We make it personal.®
By Richard Meek  
The Catholic Commentator

By his own account, Buster Matthews figures he has run close to 82,000 miles since taking up the sport in 1979. But perhaps few were as special as the brief mile he put in on May 12 when he was one of nearly 100 participants in the 5th Annual Nun Run benefitting Camp Kateri and Kateri Hall at Rosaryville Spirit Life Center in Ponchatoula.

“I may have missed one year,” Matthews, a resident of Ponchatoula, said as sweat dripped from his slender frame. “It’s really a fun race, and I like to support local races when I can. Last year it was the only race I ran.”

Matthews, who still runs 50 miles a week at the age of 76, admitted he was participating “for the nuns.”

“It’s always enjoyable,” he said.

The morning, with its mugginess providing an early preview of what turned out to be a record-setting week of heat, not only included a 1-mile fun run, in which Matthews participated, but also a 5-K race. For the Dembrun family of Covington, it was also the first race they ran together as a family.

Joseph Dembrun, his wife Angela, son Lucas, 5, and daughter Isabella, 7, started the race together and finished in unity.

“It was great, especially being the first time we were able to do it as a family,” said Joseph Dembrun, who only learned of the race when he was on retreat at Rosaryville earlier this year.

“It’s good to be able to give something back,” Dembrun added.

Rosaryville special events coordinator Marie Arnone said she and others launched the race five years ago as a fundraiser to support Camp Kateri and Kateri Hall, as well as maintain the mammoth grounds surrounding the retreat center.

“I have a background in fitness and thought the nun run would be a great way to bring out families, campers and members of the community,” Arnone said.

She enlisted the assistance of local business owners as well as an army of volunteers to assist. Following the race is the annual Anything Goes Cook-off, where organizations cook anything from pulled pork sliders to meatballs and spaghetti, tacos and seafood specialty dishes that are judged.

A band plays throughout the majority of the event, and families spend the day relaxing on the grounds.

This year a Kids Corner was added that helped entertain the younger generation.

“The parents loved it,” Arnone said of the most recent addition. “It gave their kids a place to play in a fun and safe environment.”

Usually, many of the female runners are dressed in traditional habits worn by women religious, but because of scheduling conflicts and other reasons there were none this year. But next year Arnone is hoping to reintroduce the one element that makes the race so unique.

Funds raised during the race have paid for new bathrooms, painting and several other improvements throughout the serene Rosaryville grounds.
First Communion full of grace

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

James Gary received his first Communion at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Baton Rouge on April 28, his family treasured the moment as a milestone in a journey filled with moments of “Grace” since their daughter lost her life while on the verge of receiving her first Communion.

In April 2008 Grace “Gracie” Gary was set to receive the sacrament in April and had participated in a “first Eucharist meal,” which at that time families hosted in their homes for eight to 10 children and their families.

“She loved it, and actually wrote a note (to David Planche, MBS director of Christian formation) about exactly how much she loved it,” said Gracie’s father, Jimmy. Planche has that note framed in his office.

March 16, 2008, Palm Sunday, started out as a celebration for the Gary Family and their families.

“Gracie was buried in her first Communion dress holding her rosary. The crash moved the Garys to do life-giving things for society as well as their family. Their efforts, which they call GRACE (guard rails alleviate crossover incidents). From that spawned what they call the three p’s initiative (protection, prosecution and prevention) concerning such incidents.

The Garys were returning from New Orleans after visiting up her mother Mo and their families.

“We all said our ‘I love yous’ and said a prayer as we always do,” said Jimmy. The Gary Family prayer was written by Gracie and Emma: “Dear Jesus, Thank you for our day. Thank you for our friends and family. Keep us safe and protect us. We love you Jesus. Amen.”

At mile marker 206 in LaPlace, a driver, whose toxicology tests showed he was legally drunk and had three different drugs in his system, was driving east on I-10 when he crossed the median and entered the westbound lanes and struck the Gary’s vehicle in the driver’s side back door. Gracie was instantly killed.

As they prepared to go home, Gracie asked her sister Emma, then 5, to switch seats with her, and Emma agreed. Gracie then sat behind her mother, who was driving, and Emma sat behind her father.

“We all said our ‘I love yous’ and said a prayer as we always do,” said Jimmy. The Gary Family prayer was written by Gracie and Emma: “Dear Jesus, Thank you for our day. Thank you for our friends and family. Keep us safe and protect us. We love you Jesus. Amen.”

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March 16, 2008, Palm Sunday, started out as a celebration for the Gary Family but ended tragically when Gracie was killed in a car crash on I-10.

The Garys were returning from New Orleans after visiting up her mother Mo

“Gracie had the invitation because they knew “Gracie had made it. She was in heaven.”

“You saw it in her first Communion prep,” said Jimmy. “She loved to go to school and she loved Jesus and loved that there was this major force called Jesus.”
Well Done!

GRADUATION

From page 10:

W. Muench walked through the lines of excited students, visiting with them and even cracking jokes. When he saw one student using a miniature fan to cool off from the mixture of nerves, crowded area and bright sunshine coming through a wall of windows, the bishop said, “I see you have at least one fan here for graduation!”

Following a burst of laughter, Bishop Muench launched another joke, “See? Graduation is a BREEZE!”

After the processions of students, there were greetings and speeches from salutatorians and valedictorians, respectively.

“What a joy to be with all of you and congratulations to our wonderful recipients of your diploma!” said Bishop Muench to the seniors. “You deserve it! God bless you!”

“You are more than a group of individuals. You are a class with class, except for the fact that you don’t have to come back to this school for class anymore,” Bishop Muench told graduates, which was followed by cheers and applause. “I invite you to use these last moments to remember where you have been, to savor with whom you have been, to hold dear the values that you have learned and to thank God for the gift of everyone in your class and in your school. And I challenge you, for the course of your lives, to be available to any of your classmates who might need a word of support or encouragement or assistance, especially during times of trial and difficulty. Young people, you have bonded with one another and with your school, and as you leave, that bond is not severed but it’s fortified and it’s strengthened.”

“We congratulate families on the graduation of their seniors,” said Dr. Melanie Verges, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. “I personally like to participate in that celebration. It’s such a great occasion.”
Students head to college with spiritual tools

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Bedding sets, mini fridges, microwaves, cleaning supplies, snacks, utensils, message board, computers and even stuffed animals are on the checklist for many recent high school graduates to pack for college. Add to that digital and printed reference materials and it seems they are ready for a fun, successful journey at college.

But before “sealing the box shut,” graduates from the Diocese of Baton Rouge shared what they will bring to thrive spiritually in their new chapter in life.

Prayer is at the top of the list for Emily Lafleur, a graduate of St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge.

“Prayer doesn’t have to be perfect, just keep going and surround yourself with it,” said Lafleur. “God will give you graces and make your prayers stronger and easier if you let him.

“I used to be so hesitant to take time to pray because I wasn’t sure what to say, but became the strongest foundation. The times, confession times, youth group events, praise and worship music, and a variety of other resources making prayer and worship easier. It takes just a few seconds to find traditional prayers, updates on Pope Francis and to reach out to friends from church,” said Lafleur, who will attend LSU.

Among the spiritual “tools” Lafleur will bring with her include Bible(s); devotionals, including her favorite “I Choose the Sky,” by Emily Wilson written for women; rosaries; saint cards, with her favorite being a third class relic of Pope St. John Paul II; and, her saint medals, including her favorite, a miraculous medal blessed by Pope Francis.

“These are so important to me because they are support in good times and bad. They are physical representations of my faith in God and all he has done for me,” said Lafleur.

Technology also plays a role in Lafleur’s relationship with God.

“I turn to my phone or laptop for Mass times, confession times, youth group events, praise and worship music, and a variety of other resources making prayer and worship easier. It takes just a few seconds to find traditional prayers, updates on Pope Francis and to reach out to friends from church,” said Lafleur, who will attend LSU.

Emily Shore, also of SJA, said she will take perseverance in faith with her.

“One of the most crucial skills I’ve learned as I have been able to dive deeper and truly develop my relationship with Christ in these last few years is that if I only tried to pray or discover more about it when I had time, then I would have never gotten anywhere,” said Shore, who will attend Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. “Putting aside time for Bible study, or the occasional daily Mass or time in a chapel were the smallest actions but became the strongest foundation. The small things that I gave up 30-45 minutes of my day for were the most instrumental in getting my relationship with my faith where it is.”

Shore noted, “The Bible has become my shield, it has seen me at every single point, along with the notes I’ve scribbled in the margins and the highlighted verses that became my safe place to land.”

She also has a rosary in her car that was given to her by a mentor in her faith.

“I can’t remember how many times my knuckles have turned white from gripping it so hard,” said Shore, who also has Tiny Saints charms.

She will also stay connected to God via technology.

“I am subscribed to a few daily devotionals that go straight to my inbox every morning, so they are always the first thing I read when I wake up, but my favorite of them all is ‘Blessed is She,’ which is a devotional catered to young Catholic women. I also have a few apps that I use quite often, such as the Breviary or one from the USCCB that provides the readings of the day,” said Shore.

Victoria, Catherine and Whitney Eure, Ascension Catholic High School’s first known triplets to graduate from the Donaldson school, do everything together, so continuing their faith journey in college will be natural.

“Going to the school helped us to develop a relationship with the parish,” said Catherine.

The siblings played the same sports including basketball and even played a year of travel volleyball. But the sports they stuck with through the years were cross-country and track. ACHS won the cross-country state championship three times and track title three times.

At school they picked up spiritual wisdom from religion instructor Carol Pearce, whom they spoke of glowingly.

“There may have been people you or I may have not gotten along with, but Ms. Carol told us God wants us to love everyone,” said Whitney.

Victoria said she learned from Pearce that “God comes through in the end.”

“It may not seem like it, but if we have faith, he will always come through,” said Victoria.

Their faith has also influenced their career choices. Whitney and Victoria, who want to be medical doctors, will room together in college. Catherine, who will room with a friend, would like to be a psychiatric nurse practitioner.

The graduates said some think people of science don’t believe in God, but they believe that science strengthens their relationship with God.

“How can you look at the human body and how perfectly it works together and how beautifully it’s made and not believe in God?” asked Victoria.

In reaching out to the community, the sisters served on the Donaldsonville Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council.

One of the top spiritual tools the siblings will bring with them is The Divine Mercy Chaplet, as well as the Bible. Whi- ney used a Catholic Bible app and Catherine prefers a “real Bible.” Additionally, Victoria has Catholic music on her phone.

They will also bring the love and support of their Ascension Catholic family, saying, “It takes a whole parish to raise a child.”

“We’ll definitely come back to visit,” said Victoria.

Faith Formation of Laity

The Diocese of Baton Rouge in collaboration with Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University

WHO: As part of its mission to serve the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University offers programs in collaboration with various diocesan offices for deacon candidates, lay persons, college and high school students.

WHAT: Courses for laypersons and the proposed undergraduate major will begin in the Fall semester.

WHERE: Most courses will be taught on nights and weekends.

AREAS OF SPECIALTY: Church Administration, Liturgy and Catechesis & Faith Formation

Theology for Lay Leaders

Lay Leaders will take two courses for college credit each semester. After completing the 60 credit hours of coursework, the Diocese of Baton Rouge will award students a Certificate of Completion.

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For More Information Contact:
Dr. David Whidden
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They will also bring the love and support of their Ascension Catholic family, saying, “It takes a whole parish to raise a child.”

“We’ll definitely come back to visit,” said Victoria.
• 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.
Super Troopers 2
Fox Searchlight
Obnoxious ensemble comedy in which a shift in the border between the U.S. and Canada leads to an exchange of sophomoric practical jokes between a band of Vermont state troopers (Jay Chandrasekhar, who also directed, Kevin Heffernan, Steve Lemme, Paul Soter and Erik Stolhanske) and their Mountie counterparts (Will Sasso, Tyler Labine, and Hayes MacArthur). Presumably designed to make adolescent boys of all ages snick and strip club owned by the local mayor Americas, crosses the line from crude to original, which he wrote in collaboration to make adolescent boys of all ages snick-

Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: The Flash
Warner Brothers Home Entertainment
Delightful animated direct-to-video feature in which the speedy superhero of the title (voice of James Arnold Taylor) battles his evil counterpart, Reverse-Flash (voice of Dwight Schultz). Lured into a time loop by his opponent, the crime fighter is forced to relive the same day over and over, an experience that eventually teaches him (and youthful viewers) to slow down, form a plan and take note of the surrounding environment. Along with its positive messages, director Ethan Spaulding’s film, which is suitable for the entire family, offers beautiful animation and a fun, funny

Overboard
MGM
Director and co-writer Rob Greenberg’s surprisingly buoyant remake of the 1987 romantic comedy offers a fresh take on the original’s zany forgotten-identity plot while also avoiding its frivolous treatment of adultery. The spoiled scion (Eugenio Derbez) of one of Mexico’s richest families whiles away his days on a luxury yacht, awash in booze and surrounded by lovelies. He clashes with a sensible but cash-stripped single mother of three (Anna Faris) when she comes to clean the vessel’s carpets. When he subsequently falls overboard and awakens with amnesia, she sees press coverage of the situation and, with the encouragement of her boss (Eva Longoria), decides to take advantage of it by posing as his wife and taking him home. As the wife (though he insists to his newfound impoverished lifestyle, a transformation is in store. Taken strictly as a comic fantasy, the abduction and deception are not to be condoned, though viewers are hardly likely to imitate the heroine’s actions, the film offers an entertaining parable about redemption. Implicated premartial sexual activity, fleeting male rear nudity, some sexual banter, occasional crude language, an obscene gesture. A-III; PG-13

Tully
Focus
Though it winds up strongly affirming marriage and family life, this comedy takes a path to that positive outcome that most viewers may not wish to follow. As a baby present to mark the arrival of her third child, an already overworked and exhausted mother (Charlize Theron) is offered the free services of a night nanny (Mackenzie Davis) by her prosperous brother (Mark Duplass). Though she hesitates to accept the gift at first, once she relents, she finds that the relief provided by the remarkably gifted, free-spirited young caregiver revitalizes her relationship with her husband (Ron Livingston) and with their two older kids (Lia Frankland and Asher Miles Fallica). Yet all is not as it seems. Some of the moral difficulties inherent in director Jason Reitman’s film, as scripted by Diablo Cody, are offset by its ultimate point. Others are resolved by unforeseen plot development. Still others, however, remain, though mostly in the background. Some misguided values, including implicit acceptance of promiscuity and homosexual acts, strong sexual content involving pornographic images, nudity, marital infidelity and a problematic scene of childhood sexuality, a couple of uses of profanity, numerous rough and crude terms. L; R

Bad Samaritan
Electric Entertainment
Intriguing but seamy thriller in which two valet parking attendants (Robert Sheehan and Carlito Olivero) at a Portland, Oregon, restaurant who use their jobs as a cover for burglarizing some of their clients’ homes while the car owners are busy dining get more than they bargained for. When Sheehan’s character breaks into the swanky residence of a wealthy businessman (David Tennant) only to discover that the tycoon is a brutal deviant and is holding a woman (Kerry Condon) captive as his sex slave. Too frightened to free her on the spot, the remorseful lad risks his own freedom by alerting the authorities. But the pervert manages to stay one step ahead of him in what becomes an elaborate game of cat and mouse. Writer Brandon Boyce and director Dean Devlin create an intricate moral maze by initially establishing the thieves duo’s greed-driven indifference to the consequences of their illegal activities, then presenting them with the challenge of a much deeper form of evildoing. As the plot unfolds, this generally taut nail-biter is not suitable fare for a family outing to the movies. Much harsh violence with momentary but vivid gore, drug use, a premarital bedroom scene, glimpses of upper female nudity, some gruesome images, a blasphemous expression, several uses of profanity, an irreverent joke, pervasive rough and crude language. L; R

Pope Francis: A Man of His Word
Focus
Well-crafted, sometimes moving documentary in which the pontiff largely speaks for himself, touching on a wide variety of topics of interest to believers and nonbelievers alike and setting out his vision for the future of the church. Film-maker Wim Wenders, who also narrates, offers the pope as well as footage of his worldwide travels to give viewers an insight into his personality, thinking and influence. The result is a work of high quality that can be recommended for a wide range of age groups. Mature themes, some potentially upsetting images. A-II; PG

Breaking In
Universal
Visiting her recently deceased father’s isolated country estate to prepare it for sale, a Midwestern mom (Gabrielle Union) finds her maternal instincts put to the test when a group of gangsters (led by Billy Burke) out to purloin the vast sum of cash stored in the fortress-like house’s hidden safe, take her teen daughter (Ajiona Alexis) and preteen son (Seth Carr) hostage inside the home and lock her out of it. What ensues, under James McTeigue’s direction, is a less-than-credible product of wills that becomes increasingly nasty as it approaches a conclusion calculated to appeal to viewers’ worst instincts. Much harsh, gory violence, including the preliminaries of a sexual assault, a few uses of profanity, at least one milder oath, a single rough and numerous crude terms, mature references. L; PG-13
May 25, 2018

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Every bishop in Chile offered his resignation to Pope Francis after a three-day meeting at the Vatican to discuss the clerical sexual abuse scandal.

“We want to announce that all bishops present in Rome, in writing, have placed our positions in the Holy Father’s hands so that he may freely decide regarding each one of us,” Bishop Juan Ignacio Gonzalez Errazuriz of San Bernando said May 18 in a statement on behalf of the country’s bishops.

The unprecedented decision was made on the final day of their meeting May 15-17 with Pope Francis.

Auxiliary Bishop Fernando Ramos Perez of Santiago, secretary-general of the Chilean bishops’ conference, said the pope had read to the 34 bishops a document in which he “expressed his conclusions and reflections” on the two, 2,900-page report compiled by Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta and his aide, Father Jordi Bertomeu, during a visit to Chile to investigate the scandal.

“The pope’s text clearly showed a series of absolutely reprehensible acts that have occurred in the Chilean church in relation to those unacceptable abuses of power, of conscience and sexual abuse that have resulted in the lessening of the prophetic vigor that characterized her,” Bishop Ramos said.

After reflecting on the pope’s assessment, he added, the bishops decided to hand in their resignations “to be in greater harmony with the will of the Holy Father.”

“In this way, we could make a collegial gesture in solidarity to assume responsibility not without pain for the serious acts that have occurred and so that the Holy Father can, freely, have us at his disposal,” Bishop Ramos said.

Shortly after the announcement, Juan Carlos Cruz, one of three survivors who met privately with Pope Francis in April, tweeted, “All Chilean bishops have resigned. Unprecedented and good. This will change things forever.”

The bishops will continue in office unless or until the pope accepts their resignations.

The document in which Pope Francis gave his evaluation of the situation of the church in Chile was leaked May 17 by Chilean news channel Tele 13. The Associated Press reported that the Vatican confirmed the document’s authenticity.

The pope wrote in the document that removing some church leaders from office “must be done,” but that “it is not enough; we must go further. It would be irresponsibility of us not to go deep in looking for the roots and structures that allowed these concrete events to happen and carry on.”

In it, the pope said that “the painful situations that have happened are indications that something is wrong with the ecclesial body.”

The wound of sexual abuse, he said, “has been treated recently with a medicine that, far from healing, seems to have worsened its depth and pain.”

Reminding the bishops that “the disciple is not greater than his master,” Pope Francis warned them of a “psychology of the elite” that ignores the suffering of the faithful.

He also said he was concerned by reports regarding “the attitude with which some of you bishops have reacted in the face of present and past events.”

This attitude, the pope said, was guided by the belief that instead of addressing the issue of sexual abuses, bishops thought that “just the removal of people would solve the problem.”

The pope said the report confirmed that, in some instances, the bishops deemed accusations of abuse as “implausible.”

But Pope Francis said he was “perplexed and ashamed” after he received confirmation that undue pressure by church officials was placed on “those who carry out criminal proceedings” and that church officials had destroyed compromising documents.

Those actions, he said, “give evidence to an absolute lack of respect for the canonical procedure and, even more so, are reprehensible practices that must be avoided in the future.”

Following the document’s release, Cruz applauded the pope’s evaluation of the abuse crisis and of the bishops’ behavior toward survivors of sexual abuse.

“This is the pope that I met during my conversations in the Vatican,” Cruz told Chilean news site, Emol, May 17. “I hope all (the bishops) resign and that the church in Chile begins to rebuild with true shepherds.”
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

On Pentecost Sunday we sing, “Come Holy Spirit, Come,” sometimes in Latin (Veni, Creator Spiritus), asking God to send us his Spirit as he sent it upon the apostles and disciples. The first reading from the Mass says, “All were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamation as the Spirit prompted them.” This is the culmination of the Christ event, the fulfillment of Jesus’ mission on earth. He promised us that he would be with us until the end of the ages, and this is how he is with us. In the second reading for Pentecost Sunday, St. Paul says, “No one can say Jesus is Lord, except in the Holy Spirit. There are different gifts but the same Spirit, different ministries but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the “forgotten person of the Blessed Trinity.” God the Father is the creator of the universe. Jesus is the son of God made man who died for us and rose from the dead to show us our final destiny; but the Holy Spirit seems more difficult to understand. One person? This Spirit is around at creation, hovering over the waters as the land is separated from them. The same Spirit is somehow responsible for the Virgin Mary’s conception of Jesus: “Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the power of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 1:18-25).

We believe in God who is a Trinity, but who is this Spirit? What exactly does this Holy Spirit do? We commonly speak of our “spiritual life.” It is helpful to start our search for the Spirit there. True prayer is a longing for God to fill our emptiness. Nothing on earth can completely satisfy us, not work, not success, not wealth, not recreation, not hobbies, not even the love of friends, parents, spouse or children. As St. Augustine noted, God created us in such a way that our hearts are restless, and they cannot find rest except in God. To satisfy that longing, Jesus left us the gift of God’s Spirit. It sounds presumptuous to say that we are in touch with God’s Spirit, yet that is exactly the way St. Paul describes prayer. “The Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit” (Rom 8:26-27).

Personal prayer, like every spiritual activity, is a response to the Spirit. Prayer is a movement of the heart and mind which occurs only under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is always present to us, though unfortunately, we are not always in touch with that presence. Prayer puts us in touch with God’s Spirit. We often assume that we pray only to ask special favors from God. Actually, our deepest need is for God’s presence and support. What we are really seeking is a confirmation of God’s love for us. Like Jesus in the garden, we pray to be delivered from this difficulty, this illness, this difficult relationship. But whatever happens, God had better be with us. And he is. Prayer is simply listening for that presence.

The Spirit is a power within us to act as Jesus did. While he was with them, it was Jesus who was filled with the Spirit, and it was Jesus who glorified God in his actions while the Apostles stumbled and failed. After Pentecost, the Apostles were no longer afraid or hesitant. They boldly fulfilled their mission. They passed on the gift that Jesus had won for them. In his first sermon, Peter proclaimed on the day of Pentecost: “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

Each of us has his or her own mission. We must be Christ to others in the daily circumstances of our lives. The power of our lives to inspire, support, encourage and help others is a result of Christ’s spirit working within us. St. Athanasius speaks of the Holy Spirit as the “living sanctifying and illuminating effectiveness” of Jesus who is given to us. St. Augustine says that “this pleasure, this felicity, this happiness” that we experience in helping others “is the Holy Spirit’s working in us. Grace is another term for the presence of that Spirit within us.

We must remember constantly that God is giving us this gift. If we don’t allow ourselves to be led by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we easily shift our gaze from God to ourselves. This is not good and is dangerous. If we are doing something because we think that no one else can, or, at least not as well as us, then we are just doing a job. If we are doing it to serve the one God who is responsible for it all, and whose Spirit motivates us and sustains us, then it is a ministry continuing the work of Jesus.

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 johnncarville@gmail.com.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US

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Once again, we watch in horror as we listen to the heartbreaking details of another school shooting in Santa Fe, Texas (May 19). Long before the victims of this tragedy will be laid to rest, the theories of what the solution will be emerge, and the blame game will surface. The first will obviously be the legality of guns, the second will be ideas of providing school safety and the problem of mental illness will also be in the mix.

Unfortunately, the reality that the lack of a safe environment exists long before our children leave home for school will not be part of the solution. Unfortunately, many children come to school seeking the only stability they will have that day. I am not wise enough to present a definitive solution, but we can not ignore the home life that prevents so many children from living healthy lives that enable them to live in a world which contains both good and evil as it has existed from the beginning of time.

We wonder why our children are so disturbed and violent. How many of our children live in homes in which parental abuse is part of their daily lives and violence and anger are daily occurrences? How many of our children live with parental symptoms that accompany drug and alcohol abuse? How many children live in homes in which multiple partners of one or both parents are a regular occurrence? We wonder why our kids lack stability. How many of our children live in the midst of domestic violence and come to believe that this is normal behavior? Even amid so-called intact families do we find well meaning, but misdirected parents who try to rescue, and prevent children from the ways of the world. Protecting your children is an admirable virtue; allowing your children to believe everyone else is wrong and they are always right is a handicap, not a virtue. Every time there is a situation and the parents blame the school, the teacher, the coach or the police, the child suffers and never comes to realize that acts have consequences. In that protected world a newly elected candidate can cause an eruption in their sense of security, and an opposing view will need to be shouted down and not allowed to speak.

Having worked in prisons I have experienced an inmate who wanted me to meet his two brothers as well as his stepfather, all of whom were incarcerated. There was a problem there long before someone got hold of a gun. Has anyone stopped to ask why these people are so angry? Has anyone sought to find out why so many are so disconnected and disenfranchised children?

Also having worked with juvenile victims of human trafficking, and with mentally disordered sex offenders, the tragedy has always begun in the home, and they were at risk before they ever left their homes. Eighty percent of the pedophiles who are incarcerated had sex forced on them before the age of 12 by a legal adult. In our state 40 percent of our juveniles were trafficked by their primary care giver mother, father, uncle, aunt or mother’s boyfriend. Of those children trafficked, the average age that they began to experience sexual violence was five years of age.

These sad realities are not the ones that will be examined in light of this most recent tragedy. The symptoms that are affecting our society seek a simple answer or long for a corrective law. There is none to be had, even our strictest cities with gun control have not been able to protect the innocent. The violence among our youth is a cry for help, someone to protect them, teach them and let them have something to believe in.

Children need to have a sense of security. They need to know they are safe and loved within their homes. Not that they are perfect, but they are loved and protected. Working to ensure that children are born to parents who love them and which means grownups have to begin with their own self control before we try to pass it on to the next generation. When adults feel their needs are not met, and they seek their own fulfillment, the ones who pay the price for their pleasure seeking are the children. Children have to have the opportunity to believe in something other and greater than themselves. When I am the only one who I have to answer to, many people will fall in the wake of my inborn selfish human nature. Please expose your child to the God that you have come to know. As adults they will make their own decision but give them the awareness to make an informed decision.

I hope and pray that the leaders among us will not resort to simplistic solutions and allow us to full ourselves into a false sense of security. Unfortunately, many of our children are in need, not just the victims of this senseless violence. When we address the needs of ALL of our children at risk, and provide the security and guidance that they need, and then only can we start the path to a brighter, safer future.

FATHER BAYHI is pastor at St. John the Baptist in Zachary.
The Catholic Commentator
PO Box 3316
Baton Rouge LA 70821-3316

COMING EVENTS
May 25, 2018

Neighborhood Fest – A Neighborhood Fest will be held Saturday, June 2, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Owens Grocery and Market, 2445 Belis Dr., Baton Rouge. There will be food, drinks and games. Bring your lawn chair. The event is sponsored by St. Aloysius Church in collaboration with Owens Grocery, the East Baton Rouge District Attorney’s Office, Sheriff’s Office, Baton Rouge Police Department, House of God Ministry, New Gideon Baptist Church and New Morning Star Baptist Church. For more information, call 225-343-6657.

Dameans Concert – The Dameans, a Catholic musical group formed in 1968 while students at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans will hold a 50th year reunion concert Sunday, June 3, 3 p.m., at Ursuline Auditorium, 2635 State Street, New Orleans. Register online at retreats.arch-no.edu. Call 225-387-0983. All classified ads are prepaid. For help placing your classified ad, call 225-387-0983. All classified ads are prepaid. Credit cards are now accepted.

ITALY

Faith and Marriage.org or call 504-890-3716.

OLOM Class Reunion – Our Lady of Mercy School in Baton Rouge’s first eighth-grade graduating class of 1958 will hold a 60th reunion on Sunday, May 27, 3 p.m., at the OLOM Parish Activity Center, 445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge. All classmates and guests are invited to attend. For more information, call Johnny Hubbs at 225-588-9022 or jwhubbs@cox.net.

Playground – Rosaryville Spirit Life Center, 39003 Rosaryville Road, Ponchatoula, will offer a playground service Sunday, June 3, 5 p.m. The playground service will focus on God’s love for and gifts for us. It will be followed by a reception for Sister Mary Noell OP, who will be moving to Akron, Ohio. All are invited. For more information, call 225-294-5039.

Blessings Mission – St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge will host its first Blessings Mission, formerly Blessings on the Bayou, Wednesday, June 13 – Sunday, June 17. The event is open to all high school youth of the diocese. Participants will assist with rebuilding efforts of area homes damaged by the flood of 2016. For more information, visit blessingsmission.org or call 225-660-1557.

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HELP WANTED

Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office
Principal Opening
2018-19 School Year
St. Francis Xavier School
Baton Rouge, LA

St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, founded by the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1920 and currently serving 168 students in Grades K-6, seeks a principal with a commitment to growth, collaborative spirit, and strategic vision. With approximately 18 professional staff members, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School strives to create a holistic Catholic environment to encourage students to develop their unique talents and skills to achieve academic excellence. The Diocese of Baton Rouge has thirty schools in eight civil parishes, with strong Catholic identity the focus in all schools. The district is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and standardized test scores are above state and national averages. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge

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

Applicants must meet the following criteria:
1. Practicing Catholic
2. Master's Degree, Meeting Louisiana Requirements as NonPublic Administrator
3. Five Years Minimum Experience in Education, Catholic Schools Preferred
4. Demonstrated Leadership Ability, Catholic Education Preferred
5. Must be Available on or before July 1, 2018

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

Deadline for application: June 15, 2018

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GOSPEL ▼

From page 2

Bishops, said although legislators understand the importance of the services provided by Catholic schools, he remains “extremely concerned” about the funding. He has admittedly been through similar scenarios, with the funding coming late in the budgetary process, but admitted he has “never faced it quite this way.”

“The difference this time around is we go into a special session and no portions (of the funding) have been allocated and you add to that is there uncertainty surrounding what the (House of Representatives) is willing to do in terms of revenue.”

“And that uncertainty applies both to how much revenue to raise as well as the means in which to raise it.”

A special session earlier this year to resolve the budget crunch produced no results, and revenue-raising measures. After that number has been determined, the chamber will craft a bill that will then be sent to the Senate.

Lynda Carville
Director of Child Nutrition Program of the Diocese of Baton Rouge

That is obviously out of our control. That’s where we have to stand back and wait and that’s the hardest part for me.”

Meanwhile, Carville also waits, not only concerned about the students in her program, which is self-sufficient, feeds daily but the fate of her job along with that of her 180 employees.

“I feel the pressure every single day because I am responsible for every one in this office and outside of this office,” she said. “We are moving forward as if we have a job because we don’t know.”

“I have never been in a situation like this and it’s very, very scary,” Carville said. “And who wants to think about that at this point?”

And that uncertainty applies both to how much revenue to raise as well as the means in which to raise it.

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COMMUNION ▼

From page 9

who loved her and she loved him back in a big way.”

“She had made First Communion in a special way that Palm Sunday,” said Mona.

The Garrys said the MBS family is supportive and continues to remember Gracie. There is a chalice in memory of her used at every school Mass and First Communions, a tree planted in the playground with a plaque with her name on it and they honored her at every milestone for her peers.

And Gracie continues to move along with the family as they focus on the present. Emma’s first Communion was special because it was the first time they experienced the family cluster for themselves. Mona fondly remembers that she was seven months pregnant with James.

While James was not even born at the time Gracie died, he has a connection with her.

“I know my Sissy is always with me. She is in my heart,” said James, who has a picture of his sister at the head of his bed.

And James’ First Communion was a healing balm for the Gary family.

James said, “I feel like I am entering a group (church family) and feel a lot closer to them,” said James. “I feel like I belong.”

“Wow, we’ve made it in a huge way.” It’s been 10 years.

“Holy Spirit for whatever reason, is so crucial. For to pass up the opportunity to build the kingdom of God and embrace the future!” said James. “I feel like I belong.”

Yet, “for in him we live and move and have our being ...” (Acts 17:28).

I believe in the Holy Spirit

The Lord, the giver of life ... “Through his grace, the Holy Spirit is the first to awaken faith in us and to communicate to us the new life, which is to “know the father and the one whom he has sent, Jesus Christ” (CCC #684). We know the Holy Spirit by the movement of the Holy Spirit. It is something “unseen” but rather enabled by “to do.” This movement readies us for intentional discipleship.

As God sends his son, the word, he also sends his breath, the Holy Spirit. Their mission is manifest in Scripture, tradition, liturgy, prayer, ministers, mission and the saints. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost enables the disciples, as well as the faithful here-present, to be living missionary disciples, united in a personal, intimate relationship with the Holy Trinity and strengthened by the Eucharist.

We once again read the Great Commission but this time taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew. Jesus gave the apostles the authority to preach, administer the sacraments and transmit the faith, assuring them by saying, “I am with you always.” We hear the same two words, as Moses’ experienced, “I AM.” In Hebrew it is “Emmanuel” which means God is with us. Let me repeat this line for the purpose of clarity, “God IS WITH US!” Truly, he is with us. The Holy Spirit prepares us for mission, to bring others to Christ, most substantially in the Eucharist, so we may “be reminded” (Jn 15:16) in order to build the kingdom of God.

And so we pray, “Glory be to the father, and to the son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Dow is the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.
Multicultural service planned

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

On June 3, the feast of Corpus Christi, faithful from throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge will come together as one body, one church in prayer and song for a multicultural prayer service, coordinated by the diocesan Racial Harmony Commission. The feast day, which celebrates Racial Harmony Commission.

Dunbar said was greeted with great enthusiasm. "The Hispanic Apostolate will perform a six-week program with the Dialogue on Race in Louisiana, public lectures and the performance of "Tolton," a one-man play about the life of Father Augustus Tolton, a former slave who became the first African-American priest in the U.S.

“We're hoping to draw people closer together in the body of the church so that we can truly see each other as a brother and a sister ...”

Father Rick Andrus
Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church

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Calling All Cars

Don’t trade it or sell it, donate it! The Society of St. Vincent de Paul needs car, motorcycle, jet ski, boat, riding lawn mower, camper and motor-home donations. Proceeds benefit the poor and homeless served by the Bishop Ott Shelter Program, St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room, St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy and Myriam’s House. Call (225) 383-7837, ext. 0 to make your donation or online at svdbr.org.

The multicultural prayer service will be held Sunday, June 3 at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge.
More than 150 Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University students were conferred masters, bachelors or associate degrees during the university’s commencement exercises on May 21 at the Raising Cane’s River Center in Baton Rouge.

The commencement keynote speaker was Sister Marie Morgan OSF, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, Indiana. She currently teaches theology and chairs the Theology department at Marian High School in Mishawaka, Indiana.

The schools and their graduates:

Marian University

- Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy
  - Jennifer Endres, Linisha Every, Danielle Lambert, Tramalisha Monroe
- Associate of Science in Arts and Sciences
  - Rachel Buford, Rachel Butler
- Associate of Science in Physical Therapy
  - Lauren Dupuis, Renee Falgout

List provided is accurate as of May 11, 2018.
St. Thomas Aquinas Regional High School 2018 graduates

St. Thomas Aquinas Dicoesan Regional High School in Hammond held its commencement on May 17 at Holy Ghost Church in Hammond. William Daley was named valedictorian and Alex Wisecarver salutatorian.


- Also, Victoria Ann Reid, Jake Clayton Richardson, Kade Alex Ridgeted, Tristan Scott Robertson, Tyler Morton Silbernagel, Brandon Anthony Tallo, Cole Austin Tallo, Brianna Lynn Templet, Hailey Elizabeth Theard, Alexandre Theriot IV, Avry Joseph Townsend, Chandler Tillman Vacarro, Jade Veronica Vappie, Rebekah Nacole Vasquez, Jude Ashton Vitro, Lochlann Nicholas Werling and Che’Lexus Elaina Williams.

Ascension Catholic 2018 graduating class

Ascension Catholic Diocesan Regional High School in Donaldsonville celebrated commencement exercises May 12 at Ascension of Our Lord Church in Donaldsonville.

Leading the Class of 2018 were valedictorian Bailey Elizabeth Acosta and salutatorian Victoria Elizabeth Eure.


检测结果：该文档包含多个人名和地名，内容涉及毕业典礼。文档中提到的学生和学校名称包括：St. Thomas Aquinas Dicoesan Regional High School、Ascension Catholic Diocesan Regional High School等。此外，还提到了几位毕业生的名字，如William Daley、Alex Wisecarver等。
CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE ST. JOSEPH’S ACADEMY CLASS OF 2018

The Class of 2018 was offered admission to 125 colleges and universities. 94 seniors dedicated 50 or more hours to service during each of their four years.

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Southern Methodist University Honors Program
Southern Methodist University Hilltop Scholars Program
Southern Methodist University Honors Program
Southern University at Shreveport
Spring Hill College
Spring Hill College Honors Program
St. Edward’s University
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook University Honors College
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
Texas Christian University John V. Roach Honors College
Texas State University
The King’s College
The Ohio State University
Trinity University
Tulane University
Tulane University Honors Program
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Alabama at Birmingham Honors College
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Honors College
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Davis Honors Program
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Boulder Honors Program
University of Connecticut
University of Connecticut Honors Program

$24.1 million in scholarship money was offered to 72 percent of the Class of 2018 (does not include TOPS information. TOPS data is not yet available for the Class of 2018).

University of Denver
University of Georgia
University of Georgia Honors Program
University of Holy Cross
University of Houston
University of Houston Honors College
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
University of Louisiana Monroe
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Nevada Las Vegas
University of New Orleans
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Southern California McCarthy Honors College
University of Southern Mississippi
University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Austin
University of Utah
Villanova University
Wartburg College
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia Wesleyan College
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Yale University

One of only nine schools in the country to be recognized four times as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. SJA has a non-discriminatory admissions policy.
St. Michael the Archangel High School Class of 2018

St. Michael the Archangel Diocesan Regional High School in Baton Rouge held its graduation ceremony May 18 at the Raising Cane’s River Center in Baton Rouge.

Brenden Thomas Larson was valedictorian and co-salutatorians were Audrey Elizabeth Aitken, Molly Elizabeth Armstrong and Lukas Michael Kim.


Also, Alexander James Macias, Rachel Nicole Malmberg, Ana Maria Martinez, John Edward Mascagni, Hunter Michael McCann, Cole Michael McCullough, Sarah Nicole McGee, Coleman Dean

St. John High School graduation

St. John Interparochial School in Plaquemine held its graduation ceremony May 10 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine.

Named valedictorian was Samantha Kay Fleniken and salutatorian was Sarah Claire Caballero.

Also included in the St. John High School Class of 2018 were Baily Paul Albarado, Reese Adam Barrilleaux, Zoë Catherine Bertrand, Devin Dwain Brock, Elizabeth Ayres Bueche, Joshua Miquel Christopher Carbo Jr., Grant Daniel Cedotal, Margo Alyse Crockett, Sydney Rose David, Amanda Renee Distefano, Stephen Orup DuPuy III, Carolyne Marie Glaser, Hannah Elizabeth Hargrove, Landon Bennett Himel, Michael Wayne Kauffman Jr. and Kase Michael Kolder.


Brenden Thomas Larson Valedictorian
Audrey Elizabeth Aitken Co-Salutatorian
Molly Elizabeth Armstrong Co-Salutatorian
Lukas Michael Kim Co-Salutatorian

Congratuations 2018 Graduates

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St. Joseph’s Academy holds graduation

St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge held its commencement May 20 at the Raising Cane’s River Center in Baton Rouge.

Lauren Claire Chauvin was named valedictorian and Emrey Elizabeth Broyles salutatorian.

The Class of 2018 also included Abigail Claire Acosta, Annaclaire Elizabeth Acosta, Helen Trask Alford, Juliet Irene Alise, Emma Courtney Allemond, Portia Camille Austin, Hannah Grace Babin, Chelsea-Rose Michele Bagnerise, Anna Cadon Klein Ardoin, Aidan Grace Aspillaga, Helen Anderson, Emily Anne Annaloro, Alise, Emma Courtney Allemond, Mary gail Claire Acosta, Annaclaire Elizabeth Ardoin, Aidan Grace Aspillaga, Helen Anderson, Emily Anne Annaloro, Alise, Emma Courtney Allemond, Mary gail Claire Acosta, Annaclaire Elizabeth Ardoin, Aidan Grace Aspillaga, Helen Anderson, Emily Anne Annaloro, Alise, Emma Courtney Allemond, Mary gail Claire Acosta, Annaclaire Elizabeth Ardoin, Aidan Grace Aspillaga, Helen Anderson, Emily Anne Annaloro, Alise, Emma Courtney Allemond, Mary gail Claire Acosta, Annaclaire Elizabeth Ardoin, Aidan Grace Aspillaga, Helen Anderson, Emily Anne Annaloro, Alise, Emma Courtney Allemond, Mary gail Claire Acosta, Annaclaire Elizabeth Ardoin, Aidan Grace Aspillaga, 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Catholic High School in Baton Rouge held its graduation ceremonies May 19 at the Raising Cane’s River Center in Baton Rouge.

Ryan David Aultman was named valedictorian and Adam Joseph Langlois salutatorian.


And, Miles Henri San Soucie, Roberto Pablo Sanchez, Douglas Atlee Sauci,er, John Dale Scalise, Joseph Kirk Scallan, Ryan Matthew Schexnayder, Dean Francis Schexnaydre, Benjamin Dalton Schroeder, Michael Wesley Scroggins, Grant James Segar, Lonnie Preston Shelton III, Michael Brennan Sills, Noah Parker Smith, Ollie Caswell Smith IV, William Cameron Southwick, Michael Patrick Sparks, Preston Reid Stafford, Robert William Stockstill III, Marc Stuart Taylor Jr., Grant Richard Telhiard, Caleb Michael Thibodaux, Ian Connor Thompson, Joseph Edward Thompson, William Ferguson Thompson III, Clayton Alexander Torres, Andrew Charles Trammell and Tyler David Turner.

Also, Joshua Brodie Vance, William Maxwell Vaughan, Adam Joseph Langlois

The graduating Class of 2018 at Ascension Catholic Diocesan Regional School had 38 members.

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