Confession offers healing

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Weeds compete with flowers, grasses and plants for water, sunlight and nutrients and weaken non-weed plants, leaving them prone to insects and disease. In the same way, sin damages the soul and leaves it prone to the destructive forces of evil, according to priests in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Lent, “The Springtime of the Soul,” is a time for Catholics to receive the sacrament of penance and reconciliation and root out sins and restore their relationship with God, according to Father Cayet Mangiaracina OP, parochial vicar at Holy Ghost Church in Hammond.

“They may have cut off their relationship with God. They may have given up on praying, going to church, maybe they’re envious or jealous. In some ways they may not have been able to forgive someone and they have turned away from God. They can take a look at what has turned them away from God,” said Father Mangiaracina.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, conversion is the first step in reconciling with God.

“St. Peter’s conversion after he had denied his master three times bears witness to this. Jesus’ look of infinite mercy drew tears of repentance from Peter and, after the Lord’s resurrection, a threefold affirmation of love for him.” (1429)

SEE CONFESSION PAGE 19
Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, time repetition of “Holy God, Holy whole world.”

Sion, have mercy on us and on the world and empty Yourself, and come not be despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is love and mercy itself.

The Divine Mercy chaplet is a versatile devotion that can be prayed any day at “The Hour of Great Mercy” – 3 p.m.

During Lent, many churches in the Baton Rouge Diocese pray a nine-day Divine Mercy Novena that concludes on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. This is the “spreading out” of a nine-day Divine Mercy novena, which begins on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Faustina’s diary contained Jesus’ promise to repentant sinners who seek his mercy.

“Once, as I was going down the hall to the kitchen, I heard these words in my soul: Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever recites it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy” (Diary, 689).

The Divine Mercy chaplet and novena is a good way to stay refreshed while “staying the course” with Jesus and crossing the finish line of Lent to a continual celebration.

As St. Faustina wrote: “O human souls, where are you going to hide on the day of God’s anger? Take refuge now in the font of God’s mercy. O what a great multitude of souls I see! They worshipped the Divine Mercy and will be singing the hymn of praise for all eternity” (Diary, 848).

After Mardi Gras is over, and the streets have been cleaned of – well most – signs of revelry, as trees continue to harbor beaded jewels, many Catholics will “get their ashes” and look grimly ahead and groan over the sacrifices they will have to make during Lent. From dessert to desert.

Yes, Jesus, we are ready to walk with you “to the end” to that black, grisly Good Friday. Can you make your crosses a little lighter though?

But in the midst of the arid wasteland, Jesus does more than give us “oasis moments.” He provides us an “ocean of mercy” through praying the Divine Mercy chaplet.

Through the Polish nun St. Faustina, Jesus not only left a chaplet to pray for sinners and for the world, he commissioned that a painting be made that portrayed his divine image.

Refreshing moments are found in the opening prayer of the chaplet: “You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.”

The chaplet ends with a three-time repetition of “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

The optional concluding prayer is “Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is love and mercy itself.”

The Mass readings of the 5th Sunday of Lent prepare the faithful for the following Sunday, known as Passion (Palm) Sunday. There are great riches and depths in these readings, too plentiful for this space. For now, the focus will be on the Holy Spirit and the humility of Jesus.

Life in the Spirit

With baptism comes an infusion of the Holy Spirit, where the grace of faith is planted deep within. The power of the Holy Spirit enables the baptized to live in the fullness of Jesus. That being said, the faithful are baptized into the body of Christ, a life of joy and suffering. By the power of the Holy Spirit faith, healing, restoration and transformation occur. St. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, “If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his spiritual dwelling in you” (Rom 8:11). Life begins in the Spirit. Life is to be an imitation of Jesus’. Life is destined for eternity with the father.

The prophet Ezekiel writes, “I (Yahweh) will open your graves and have you rise from them.” This is God’s plan for salvation. Jesus in turn reveals the concreteness of this when he raises Jarius’ daughter ( Mk 5:21-43), the widow’s son (Lk 7:11-17) and Lazarus (Jn 11:1-44), which we hear about on the 5th Sunday of Lent. Even though mortal bodies are subject to decay, those who believe (faith) and act on that belief will realize eternal life as the body and soul are raised on the last day. Ask yourself, am I living life according to the Spirit, in imitating Jesus, with the my compassion guiding me to God? Am I making choices that align with Jesus’ life? How can I call upon the power of the Holy Spirit for assistance to turn away from sin and decay? Do I believe?

CORRECTIONS

There are eight African American Catholic Church parishes in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. They are: St. Paul the Apostle Church in Baton Rouge; St. Francis Xavier Church in Baton Rouge; Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Baton Rouge; St. Joseph Chapel, Martin Luther King Student Center in Baton Rouge; St. Catherine of Siena Church in Donaldsonville; St. Augustine Church in New Roads; St. Benedict the Moor Church in Bertrandville; and, St. James Church in St. James.

Rather, he emptied himself... (Phil 2:7)

The loving obedience of Jesus is an act of divine revelation, showing the world the life-giving love that flows from person to person in the Trinity. (Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, 2010). Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king entering his court: people joyfully waving palms, shouting “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” Days later some of the same people shouted, “Crucify Him.” Today’s glory is tomorrow’s rejection. Yet, the prophet Isaiah explains, “The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame” (Is 50:7).

Humility is when we turn everything over to the will of God for the sake of his glory. Jesus not only humbled himself, he emptied himself (the appropriate Greek term is “kenosis”) and submitted to the will of the father. He was betrayed, arrested, spit upon, misunderstood, denied, accused, tried, beaten, mocked, crowned with thorns, crucified with nails driven into his hands and feet, bled, suffocated and died.

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It is here we kneel at the foot of the cross, recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah which are now fulfilled in Christ: “Through his stripes we are healed.”

As the darkness covered the land that hour, so too are we covered in darkness of our sins. But our redeemer has opened the way from death to life. Hope has risen. But for now, we kneel in silence and meditate on why Jesus did this. The purpose of his death was to obtain the salvation of all mankind and to teach us how to love, for greater love than this no man has, than to lay down his life for his friends. This man is Christ on the cross. He did it for all, and he did it for you.

(Nota: Meditating on the Stations of the Cross is a good way to prepare for Holy Week.)

Dow is the director of the Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.
‘Symbol of oppression’ removed from CLC

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

As an impressionable young seminarian, Father Joshua Johnson said that on one of his first visits to the Catholic Life Center he was taken aback by a large mural dominating a wall in the lower level of the CLC.

Titled “Religious History of the Diocese of Baton Rouge,” the mural, completed in 1970 and painted by Adalie Brent, who was commissioned and paid $5,400 by Bishop Robert E. Tracy, features several scenes depicting African-Americans and whites portrayed in various ways. But what Father Johnson and many others, both white and black, have found most offensive through the years is the portrayal of a priest blessing the Confederate flag.

“Artwork has the capacity to draw people to Jesus, draw us to become disciples of the Lord,” said Father Johnson, pastor of Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant and the only African-American priest in the diocese. “But artwork has the capacity to push us away and be a barrier.”

The priest is a representation of French priest Father Francis Mittlebronn, who served Pointe Coupee civil parish during the Civil War. Father Mittlebronn was a slave owner and reported to be a Confederate supporter.

According to reports from that time, he blessed the flag in spite of a warning by Union troops and was ultimately arrested and imprisoned.

“All I know is every time I came to the Catholic Life Center I was repulsed by that painting,” Father Johnson said. “Was it a part of historical reality? Yes, but why was it in the diocese?

“That flag is a symbol of oppression to so many of us. It’s pretty disgusting.”

Shortly after the Alton Sterling shooting in 2016 and the racial unrest that followed, Father Johnson approached then-Bishop Robert W. Muench, about removing the painting. This came at a time when the bishop was forming the Racial Harmony Commission, of which Father Johnson and Father Tom Clark SJ, pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Baton Rouge, are co-chairs.

Bishop Muench agreed, and after he retired, Bishop Michael G. Duca concurred the painting should come down.

The dream of Father Johnson and many others became reality on the morning of Feb. 21 when a crew from the CLC carefully removed the mural. Although there are no definite plans, the artwork will likely be displayed in the archives building.

“It is a part of our history,” said Ann Bolton, archivist for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Dr. Marchita Mauck, a retired professor of art history at LSU who helped guide the diocese through the removal process, believes that even without the flag the painting would still have racial elements. She said the painting has what she calls a “primitive side” and a “so-see SYMBOL PAGE 19”.

Clergy abuse list updated

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Two individuals identified below served in the Diocese of Baton Rouge without any credible allegations having been made against them related to that service, but they have been publicly identified by other dioceses or institutes of consecrated life on reports for reasons unrelated to the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Father Barry Finbar Coyle OFM and Father John Hardman SSJ are the individuals who have been publicly identified by other dioceses or institutes of consecrated life.

Father Coyle, who was ordained in 1958 and is now deceased, had allegations reported against him in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

He served at St. Jean Vianney Church in Baton Rouge, was in residence at St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge and served as chaplain at Doctors Memorial Hospital, Earl K. Long Hospital and Parkland Pavilion, all in Baton Rouge.

Father Hardman, who is deceased, was ordained in 1944 and had allegations reported against him in the Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama.

He was in residence at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Donaldsonville.

Report known or suspected child abuse immediately to law enforcement or to the Department of Children and Family Services at 855-452-5437. Any allegation of child or vulnerable adult sexual abuse involving clergy or a representative of the church, should then be reported to Amy Cordon, the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 225-242-0250. For a complete list, visit diobr.org.

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Two inmates pushed large carts into the cell block corridors, known as tiers, and helped distribute the items.

“Bananas are a real treat for the men; they don’t get much fresh fruit,” said Fjeldsjo, who picked up 150 pounds of bananas before heading up to the maximum security prison.

Bishop Duca wore a large cross, given to him by Bishop Emeritus Robert W. Muench, made by inmates at Angola using old cell keys.

“Hi, I’m the new bishop,” smiled Bishop Duca as he introduced himself to the inmates before beginning a short conversation, which often ended in prayer. Topics ranged from where the men were from to family, food, sports, the weather and, for many of the men, their relationship with God.

“One of them asked for prayers for themselves and for the victims of their crime,” recalled the bishop, who gave more than a few special blessings during the visit, including one for a rosary sent to an inmate from Pope Francis.

Most of the men were in a gregarious mood as they stood or sat in their cells waiting for the bishop and the other visitors to stop for a short chat. Many shook hands and appreciated the few moments of social interaction.

One of the men spoke excitedly at length with Jackson about the weekly Kairos Prison Ministry Prayer and Share program that Jackson oversees. The group, started a year ago, includes 10 men, selected by wardens based on compatibility, who meet for two hours every Monday. The program consists of Scripture verses, reading assignments and introspective questions.

“One of the things that I’ve noticed more than anything is their willingness to share and to trust each other,” said Jackson. “They weren’t really that familiar with each other when they first got into the program and being able to be introspective and talk about themselves, what they were like on the streets before they ever got to Angola. They’ve developed a very sincere bond of trust with each other and they’ve really opened up over the past year. This didn’t happen overnight.”

According to Jackson, even security offices have noticed a change in attitude and behavior since the Prayer and Share program started. And, the men are sharing the good news with their cellblock neighbors on their own tiers.

“They’re evangelizing themselves now,” said Jackson. “They guys on the tier are able to get out of the cellblock for a few hours each day and they can mingle with each other, so they can talk about it. During this visit, I had names of people wanting to get in on the next program, whenever it’s introduced at death row, possibly in April.”

The visit wrapped up after a stop to deliver more treats to the five women prisoners housed at Angola. Then, Bishop Duca, Fjeldsjo and Jackson joined Warden Darrel Vannoy for dinner and more discussions about the prison, its programs and prison ministry. The bishop concluded the day by celebrating Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel on the prison grounds.

ANGOLA ▼

From page 1

Bishop Duca holds up a cross made by inmates at the prison using old cell keys. The cross was given to Bishop Emeritus Robert W. Muench, who passed it on to Bishop Duca.
Catholic men called to pick up daily crosses

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A sold out crowd of 1,200 is expected to fill St. George Church in Baton Rouge for the third annual A Call to Battle: Catholic Men’s Conference presented by the Men of the Immaculata scheduled March 9.

The theme of this year’s conference is “A Call to Battle: Consecration.”

Among the large turnout are expected to be nearly 100 priests and deacons, with 20 priests committed to hearing confessions throughout the day.

For the second consecutive year, the conference will be held at St. George. A year ago, the event drew about 1,000 men representing every corner of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, up from 800 in the inaugural year at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge.

Founding conference chairman Hunter Hardin, who stepped aside this year and turned the reins over to Baton Rouge resident Mark Hermann, said the mission statement of the organization is to bring Catholic men together and for them to strive daily to be better leaders in their homes, communities and families in trying to walk the journey and leading everyone, including self and family, to heaven.

“That’s our end game,” Hardin said. “This is not our home. Our prayer for this conference is that the Holy Spirit, this one day, crowns everyone in the Catholic faith and reminds us of the great virtue available to us through reconciliation in union with Christ. And the sacramental life we are called to.

“A high profile lineup of speakers have been enlisted, headed by Father Don Calloway MIC, who will speak about the consecration to Mary and the application of authentic Catholic manhood. He is the author of “Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon.”

“(Father Calloway) is incredible and a kind of a hot topic right now,” Hardin said. “He’s really impressive.”

Also in the lineup are Tim Staples, Sister Tracy Dugan and Father Josh Johnson, pastor at Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant.

Staples, Director of Apologetics and Evangelization at Catholic Answers, is a noted author and Catholic convert who once did evangelization work at Jimmy Swaggart Bible College in Baton Rouge. He later converted to Catholicism and spent six years studying for the priesthood before realizing that was not his calling.

Father Johnson will give the final address to close out the event, which is scheduled from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

“It’s kind of a homecoming for (Staples) but he’s in a much different place in his faith, obviously,” Hardin said. “(Calloway and Staples) are both big time. The average guy not spending much time in formation may not recognize the names but they are both very well established in the speaker world.”

Bishop Michael G. Duca will celebrate Mass, and Chef John Folse will prepare lunch, as well as sharing stories from his distinguished career.

Benediction of the Eucharist will begin the day.

“The fact that we have the Eucharist is incredible,” Hardin said. “How can your day go wrong when you begin with Jesus at benediction?”

He explained that Catholics have incredible resources available on a day-to-day basis but many do not take advantage of what’s available, which is what he hopes changes during the conference.

“We’re trying to awaken the men into the breach, the call to battle,” he said. “We live in a world culture of consumerism. When in reality we are at war. We’re not supposed to settle in and be excited about this earth and the pleasures it will throw before us.

“We are supposed to be thinking about how to get ourselves and everyone we know and care about to heaven. And that requires virtue and the church is there to support us with sacraments instituted by Christ.”

Hardin said one of the messages is to remind the men of St. Matthew’s Gospel where he writes that people should deny themselves and pick up their crosses daily. He said the way to do this is through the sacramental life.

At least 12 vendors and ministries are scheduled to be present, offering everyone an opportunity to perhaps get involved with one and “assist them on the journey,” Hardin said.

“Hopefully guys will pick up this challenge and follow through on the consecration and be that much closer to a genuine encounter with God,” he added. “We are hoping for meaningful encounters, greater holiness for men of virtue that are active in their faith. That’s what we need, that’s what this community needs, that’s what our homes, our domestic church needs, to produce another generation that is hungry for the Spirit.”

Hardin said the rapid growth from 800 men three years ago to an expected 1,200 this year is evidence to the spiritual hunger for men in southeast Louisiana. He said the board of the Men of the Immaculata pray about that daily, as well as do weekly fasts and a daily prayer.

“This is the fruit of that intercession,” he said. “This is Our Lady’s blessing. This is about evangelization, catechesis and formation. If we can accomplish that, what a fruitful blessing.”

Hardin is also asking that those not in attendance pray that everyone present will be vulnerable, their hearts fertile soil for the word and that they leave as energized leaders. He said the public’s intercession “will be crucial to the success of this conference, and we need the people who will not be there to pray for us.”

“What we need from the community is intercession, that everyone present will be vulnerable, our hearts will be fertile soil for the Word today and that they go forth energized leaders that they are made out to be by God. Their intercession is crucial to the success of this conference. We need the people who will not be there to pray for us,” said Hardin.
Funeral Mass on Sunday?/ Say rosary during Mass?

Recently a funeral Mass was offered on a Sunday afternoon in our parish for a longtime parishioner. I believe I remember as a child being taught by the sisters in our Catholic school that funerals were never held on Sundays (except possibly in time of war or during the Middle Ages when the plague was rampant). Have things changed? (Indiana)

Canonically and theoretically a Catholic funeral Mass may be offered on most Sundays during the year. The church’s General Instruction of the Roman Missal provides that a funeral Mass “may be celebrated on any day except for solemnities that are holy days of obligation, Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday), the paschal triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter” (No. 380).

Some might point out that the sadness of a Sunday funeral clashes with the joy of celebrating the Lord’s Day, but one could argue just as convincingly that nothing lifts the spirits of mourners more than recalling the resurrection of Jesus and his promise of our own.

Practically speaking, though, many parishes (I would even say most) do not hold funeral Masses on Sundays, the reason being that, with the shortage of clergy, most priests have all they can do to offer the number of Sunday Masses needed for their parish congregations. (Additionally, many cemeteries are not open on Sundays, or, if they are, there are additional fees for crew members’ overtime.)

I attend church on a regular basis. When I do, I recite the rosary throughout the Mass. (I pause for certain rituals like the consecration of the holy Eucharist and the prayers that the congregation recites together.) I’ve been told, though, that it is not proper to pray the rosary during the Mass.

Whenever I am in church during Masses or just visiting at other times praying the rosary for me is a spiritual communication with the Blessed Virgin Mary and with God, which I find comfort and peace in doing. What is your advice to me? (Honolulu)

A

Years ago, when the Mass was in Latin (a language foreign to nearly every parishioner) it made sense to turn to private devotions during Mass to foster what you refer to as “spiritual communication” with the divine. But with the arrival of the vernacular, the church’s efforts turned toward helping parishioners follow the prayers of the priest.

The Second Vatican Council had put the focus on active, conscious and full participation of the congregation; when the priest prays, as the eucharistic prayer is about to begin, that “my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable,” he indicates that the Mass is meant to unite the minds of all those present, fully engaged in one single offering.

We see this transformation in papal writings themselves. When, in 1947, Pope Pius XII wrote the encyclical “Mediator Dei,” he said that during the Mass, the congregation “can lovingly meditate on the mysteries of Jesus Christ or perform other exercises of piety or recite prayers which, though they differ from the sacred rites, are still essentially in harmony with them” (No. 108).

But in 1974, when Pope Paul VI issued the apostolic exhortation “Marialis Cultus” encouraging the recitation of the rosary both privately and in groups and as a preparation for the liturgy he did not feel the practice necessarily needed for their parish attendance. (Additionally, many cemeteries are not open on Sundays or, if they are, there are additional fees for crew members’ overtime.)

I would say that you are best off at Mass following what the priest is saying, perhaps with the help of a missal or missalette. I am not, though, a zealot on this, and if a parishioner told me that he had made his best effort to do that but still felt the rosary “connected” him best with God while at Mass, I would be reluctant to insist on a change.

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.

Question Corner
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- UPS Store, Coursey Blvd., Baton Rouge
- Whole Foods Market, Baton Rouge
- Winn Dixie in Hammond, New Roads

as well as your local church parish
Through the lens of Fr. Burns

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Father Gerald Burns captures adventurous moments in his life through photography. With liveliness and awe of nature reflected in his eyes and voice, he talked about an Alaskan photo expedition in which he captured a group of 25-30 humpback whales blowing bubbles in giant circles around herring to herd them into tightly grouped schools that can be swallowed whole. On another Alaskan expedition he was with a group of photographers taking photos of grizzly bears when, as captured on another person’s video, he found himself between a mamma grizzly bear and her two cubs – and he’s happy he is alive to tell about it.

But as Father Burns marks his 50th anniversary to the priesthood, which was celebrated with a Mass at St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge on Feb. 17, it is a slightly out of focus picture of him as a young boy with his two brothers with his mother at St. Joseph Seminary and College in St. Benedict that clearly captures the family influences behind his greatest adventure in life – his priestly vocation.

In the photo, Father Burns was on his mother’s left and she was holding his hand.

Reflecting on the photograph before his anniversary he said, “Where are my sisters?”

Musing that she could have been holding his hand “to keep him from investigating everything,” he thought, “Was my mother there at the seminary hoping that one of us would become a priest?”

He added, “From very early I had the idea of becoming a priest and I became an altar server and I was very active at Sacred Heart (Church in Baton Rouge). Getting up early to serve at Mass and that kind of thing. From my earliest memory I wanted to be a priest so maybe my mother whispered that in my ear.”

Father Burns, now retired, grew up in a devout Catholic family.

“My mother was one of 11 and my dad was one of 12. And I had 22 uncles and 21 aunts who are very devout in their faith. And they were in a pool of faith, first in our families, and they chose church communities that influenced them to have a good faith that goes way back in our family heritage to the heritage in the Canary Islands,” he said.

Father Burns entered the seminary when he was 14 and was ordained a priest at 25 by Bishop Robert E. Tracy at St. Joseph Cathedral in 1969. He’s served as pastor at St. Aloysius Church, Baton Rouge; St. Anne Church, Napoleonville; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Plattenville; St. John the Evangelist Church, Prairieville; and St. Francis of Assisi Church, Smoke Bend. He’s also served as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Baton Rouge; St. Louis King of France Church, Baton Rouge; and St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine.

Additionally, Father Burns has served as a member of the Presbyteral Council, Defender of the Bond and dean of the southwest, southcentral and south suburban deaneries.

He has been actively involved for many years in a diocesan priests support group.

“That’s been a huge influence where we encourage one another to take care of themselves whether it’s physically, spiritually, socially, psychologically, in whatever way a person needs care,” said Father Burns.

While he has had good mentor priests, he said the people he ministered to taught him the most about being a priest.

“What shaped my ministry the most is holy parishioners,” said Father Burns. “It was the prayer life of parishioners because I was in a seminary 12 years and it was under very strict observance and scrutiny and we had very rigid rules. And when I finished the seminary I was an athlete who was very good in sports. I wanted to play sports and see sports. And so it took me a while to really begin to pursue it in a serious way a spiritual life learning, how do people become holy? How do you remain holy?”

Father Burns continues to celebrate Masses when priests are absent or sick.

He said one thing he hopes people “take home with them” when they meet him or hear his homilies is a burning desire to know God and “to reveal themselves to God and to allow God to reveal himself to them.”

“Another thing, I used to think that the most important thing to prepare a homily was study your exegesis – study the Scriptures, know the Scriptures reflect on the Scriptures. Yes, that is very important, but the most important thing when you prepare a homily is first pray for the people that are going to hear the homily and then do you your homework.”

And it’s important to him that people can detect not only by his words, but his actions and interactions with people his love for God and others.

He recalled on the grizzly bear photo expedition meeting a woman from East Germany who was agnostic.

“From the moment she learned I was priest she said, ‘I don’t know what to believe. I don’t know there is a God and I don’t believe all this stuff,’” said Father Burns. “One morning we were having coffee, and all of the sudden the woman said, ‘I have...”

SEE BURNS PAGE 20
St. Joseph Spirituality Center closing in June

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

The trustees of St. Joseph Spirituality Center and the Sisters of St. Joseph who sponsor the center announced it will cease operations June 30.

The center was opened 35 years ago out of the need for spiritual opportunities that were not being provided by anyone else, executive director Dianne Hanley said in a letter. She added that need changed as parishes and other organizations began providing more spiritual programs and opportunities, and because of that shift, the main work of the center became spiritual direction.

Hanley said the board realizes that some things, like the ministry of spiritual direction, can, and will likely, continue although in a different way, including center staff spiritual directors seeing their current and future directees in private practice.

“We all hold in our hearts deep gratitude for the Spirituality Center which has provided precious and wonderful ministries that have touched and changed thousands of people during these past 35 years,” said Hanley, expressing appreciation for founder Sister Lynda Champagne CSJ and all who helped make the center grow. “We look forward with hope to the way that you will continue to grow in and share God’s love with others.

“The rich and extensive heritage of the center will be honored and celebrated when it concludes.”

Programs planned through June will go on as scheduled.

Visit stjocenter.org to learn more about those programs.

VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR – Bishop Michael G. Duca joins Father Peter Tan Viet Nguyen, pastor of Sts. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church in Baton Rouge, to celebrate Mass on Sunday, Feb. 3, commemorating the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. Photo by Bonny Van | The Catholic Commentator

TUITION ASSISTANCE – The Knights of Columbus of the Louisiana Council have initiated a new program designed to give Catholic school tuition assistance to children of Knights of Columbus members. Winners from a lottery drawing receive $500 towards Catholic school tuition. Winner Dalton Brockhoeft, pictured front row left, attends Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Baton Rouge. His brother, Konner, also attends Sacred Heart School. Also pictured, from left, are Eric Miller, state advocate; Brandon Brockhoeft, Dalton’s father and a member of the Robert E. Tracy Council in Zachary; Paige Brockhoeft, Dalton’s mother; Harper Brockhoeft, Dalton’s sister; Delmas Forbes, state youth chairman; and, Randy Albarez, Grand Knight of the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Council. Photo provided by Delmas Forbes

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HONOREES – On Feb. 13, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge staff, volunteers and board members celebrated the agency’s accomplishments of the past year and highlighted plans for the future. At the meeting, Jeff Smith was presented with the David Hamilton Volunteer of the Year Award and Ashley Bennett received the Gene Domingue Co-worker of the Year Award. Pictured, from left, are, CCDBR Executive Director David Aguillard, Smith, Bishop Michael G. Duca, Bennett and Gerri Hobdy, CCDBR Advisory Board Chair. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator

HELP Jesus IN DISGUISE

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

Please give generously the weekend of March 16th and 17th.

www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's retail outlet in Baton Rouge closed its doors in January after the property was sold to a new owner, according to executive director Michael Acaldo.

The store has been a fixture on Government Street since 2003 but St. Vincent de Paul director Michael Acaldo said the store lost its lease when the site was sold to new owners. Preliminary plans call for the site to be transformed into a bar and restaurant along a corridor that is increasingly becoming a popular entertainment district.

Two other tenants in the shopping center, both professional offices, are also going to be moving, Acaldo said.

“It was a great location,” he added. “It’s important to realize there’s a lot of changes in the traffic patterns that are going to be going through Government, down to one lane right at major part of Government, right there. So, things are kind of changing and with those changes, I think, it made a lot of the Government property in that area a lot more attractive for things other than retail.”

Acaldo said he will be looking for another location in the same area because of the support people provided to that store since 2003. He said the organization was able to take that support and distribute many items free of charge.

Although hopeful to get another location as soon as possible, Acaldo said, just like 16 years ago, “we are going to take our time to make sure we find another good location.

In Baton Rouge, store locations where items can be donated are Plank Road and Staring Lane. There are also stores in Gonzales, New Roads and Hammond.
A small statue looks out over a beautiful vista in Assisi. The spot was believed to be a favorite of St. Francis of Assisi. In the inset are chains that were used to chain St. Peter while he was imprisoned.

A view of St. Peter’s Square is shown from the steps of the Vatican. The insert shows the balcony where Pope Francis delivers his weekly address and was also where he made his first appearance to the world as pontiff.

The halls of the Vatican Museum and even the ceilings are highlighted with stunning frescos and paintings.

Pilgrims enjoyed what was a rather intimate audience of an estimated 2,500 people with Pope Francis for his weekly audience inside the Vatican. Typically the pontiff’s audience is held in St. Peter’s Square and can draw anywhere from 60,000 people and above.

A Spiritual Journey

Wandering Catholic
Richard Meek

I

nitial excitement was quickly doused with a healthy dose of doubt when presented with an idea that would certainly remove me from my comfort zone. Nearly a year ago, a reporter suggested I go on a pilgrimage to Italy that was being organized at the time. Naturally, I understood her motive: let’s get the old curmudgeon out of the office for 10 days. And who could blame her? I sometimes wish I could take a week off from me.

But a pilgrimage?

I have certainly had friends or written stories about people who hopscotch around the world on pilgrimages, from the Holy Land to Italy to Fatima. And their experiences, although positive, always left me questioning if I would be comfortable on such a venture.

I've previously been on vacation with priest friends but those would not qualify as a pilgrimage. And my idea of a pilgrimage is playing golf at St. Andrew's or Carnoustie during the day and sharing a pint in an English pub at night.

So uncertainty was like a vice in the decision-making process but who could resist a trip that promises pasta at every meal? Armed with a suitcase full of trepidation and a pocketful of something called Euros (which were rejected at my local pub upon return), I recently boarded a plane for the first step of a long journey that would include nearly 10 hours cramped in a steel cylinder at 35,000 feet.

But I knew I was in for something special when near the end of the flight I glanced out of the window and saw the Alps, their peaks proudly beaming with a winter snow.

Even cramped in my tiny seat, I knew such a beautiful sight was an early morning gift from God, a token to allay my own fears even as my cramping legs bellowed their complaints.

Upon arrival in Rome, myself and 60 pilgrims boarded a bus and went straight to Assisi, with a short stop for lunch where a ham po-boy took on a different meaning. And forget about asking for the sandwich to be “dressed,” but we already know not to make that request north of I-10 anyway.

We first toured Assisi, learning about St. Francis of Assisi and visiting historic sites where he lived, ate, prayed and even slept, using a rock for a pillow. His simplicity of life, his disdain for material possessions, his giving away his own fortunes was inspirational and caused uncomfortable self-evaluations barely 36 hours into the trip.

SEE STORY PAGE 17

The group poses for a photo in front of the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. Although the majority of the pilgrims were from the Diocese of Baton Rouge, some came from as far away as Lafitte, Maryland and Florida.

The dome of the Vatican Museum and even the ceilings are highlighted with stunning frescos and paintings.
Eighth-grade students at Redemptorist St. Gerard School in Baton Rouge portray historical figures during their Black History Month program on Friday, Feb. 22. Photos by Bonny Van | The Catholic Commentator

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

Through song, dance, artwork, display boards, costumes and recitations, students at Redemptorist St. Gerard School in Baton Rouge celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 22. The theme was “Rooted in Faith, Anchored in Hope.”

After prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and the school creed, students, faculty, parents and visitors joined in singing the Negro National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Many members of the faculty wore traditional African dress or scarves and jewelry commemorating Africa.

“This year, many of the students are representing some of the prominent contributions of African Americans throughout our history,” said Catherel Barber, who teaches English and social studies. “Some are police officers, and representing ‘no more police brutality,’ some are going back in history and presenting someone who has long been forgotten.”

Singer Ella Fitzgerald, NBA star Bill Russell, baseball legend Jackie Robinson, former President Barack Obama and Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens were among the many historical figures represented by students.

Eighth-grader Zawaskie Myles, who represented Owens, said learning about Owens and his challenges has been inspirational.

“I ran track already,” said Myles. “But it made me actually want to change the world while I’m doing it.”

Historian Carter G. Woodson is credited with starting “Negro History Week” in 1926 during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, an author, abolitionist and diplomat. The week-long celebration was expanded to Black History Month, which is observed in February in the United States and Canada; and, in October by Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

“(Participating in the program) inspired me to go learn more about my history and see what all the people did,” said eighth-grader Glen Cage, who portrayed Woodson.

“Many of them were very proud this morning in assembly by the people they were representing,” said Barber. “Some (students) are representing NASA; some are wearing the colors of Africa – it’s just cultural awareness and consciousness that we’re bringing forth.”

During a fiery speech, guest speaker Judge John Guidry of the Louisiana Court of Appeal for the First Circuit, Second District, talked about contributions of African Americans “from slave ships to space ships.”

“Today, as we celebrate Black History Month, to God be the glory for what he has done,” Guidry said. “He’s allowed us to achieve in every walk of life.”

From there, Guidry mentioned numerous people who helped advance civil rights, government, technology, science, medicine, law, education, space exploration, entertainment and sports.

“It’s not enough to look back at the past, but you and I must serve your present age,” said Guidry. “It’s time to pull up our pants, put our guns down, get off Facebook and put our face in a book and start doing things now … you too can be inventors; you too can be engineers; you, too, can be teachers; you can be the leaders of our community. But, it’s going to be hard work … but you can do all things through Christ.”

Planning a St. Joseph Altar?

The Catholic Commentator will be publishing a list of St. Joseph Altars in the Diocese of Baton Rouge in our March 15 issue.

The deadline to be included is March 6.

If you would like to submit a listing, include:
• Date and time(s)
• Place of viewing including street address
• Contact name and phone number

and send to email wkoch@diobr.org; or FAX to 225-336-8710.

The St. Joseph Altar form is on our website thecatholiccommentator.org

Students sing a song to kick-off the program at Redemptorist St. Gerard School in Baton Rouge celebrating Black History Month.
SPECIAL VISIT – Students in first, second and third grades at Mater Dolorosa School in Independence visited with Kathy Stuart, Southeast Field Representative for U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, R-LA. Her visit was to enhance the learning of the United States government. She explained Sen. Cassidy’s roles and responsibilities to the citizens of Louisiana. Photo provided by Erin Mendez | Mater Dolorosa School

STEM ACTION! - STEM Club members from Catholic Elementary School of Pointe Coupee in New Roads collaborated and built motorized roller coasters to learn about motion, force, gravity, inertia, acceleration and momentum. Pictured, from left, are Alayna Knight, Foston Guidry, Alex Beatty and Tyler Dowden. Photo provided by Megan Girlinghouse | CESPC

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER – Addie Schempf, a seventh-grader at Most Blessed Sacrament School in Baton Rouge, was chosen by teachers as the recipient of the Jill Peno Scholarship Award, worth $1,700. Peno, a student at MBS, died in 1984 after she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Her family set up the scholarship in her memory. It is funded with proceeds from a school event called “PJs for Jill.” MBS principal Cheryl Gieoe presented the award to Schempf. Photo by Bonny Van | The Catholic Commentator

SPECIAL GUESTS – Political strategists James Carville, pictured far right, joins his wife Mary Matalin, center, and his sister, Pat Carville Hoffman, far left, to wrap up the special speaker series at St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge as part of the school’s 150th anniversary celebration. Hoffman is a 1973 graduate of SJA. Photo by Bonn Van | The Catholic Commentator

The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful just like you who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

- **Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis**
  Grant funds from the BIMC enables us to support parish-based catechetical programs.

- **Helping Educators Reach Kids**
  In 2016, your generous donations reached over 4,000 African-American and Native American students in more than 250 schools and parishes across the U.S.

- **Empowering Evangelizers**
  BIMC grant funds help African-American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation to encourage the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways.

- **Encouraging Vocations**
  We need men and women living the consecrated life to give witness to a radical Christian life.

Please give generously in your parish collection on March 9 & 10.
Cold Pursuit
Summit

A grieving father (Liam Neeson) embarks on a murderous rampage to avenge the death of his son (Michael Richardson) in this bloodthirsty crime thriller, directed by Hans Petter Moland. As the father wades into the seedy underbelly of the town and dispose of accomplices, he inches closer to the drug kingpin (Tom Jackson). Local police officers (Emmy Rossum, John Doman) take an awfully long time to notice that something is amiss. As sympathetic as Christian viewers may be of the father's loss, it is impossible to ignore the Gospel connections, bridging the gaps among family-friendly film offers positive messages. R; O

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part
Warner Bros.

Everything is (still) awesome in this spirited and amusing animated sequel to 2014's "The Lego Movie," directed by Mike Mitchell. A mild-mannered construction worker (voice of Chris Pratt) is called again to save the day when the queen (voice of Tiffany Haddish) of a far-off galaxy kidnaps his lady love (voice of Elizabeth Banks), Batman (voice of Will Arnett) and other friends. An unexpected ally is found in a rugged space cowboy (also voiced by Pratt) as the rescue mission begins. This family-friendly film offers positive messages about (no puns intended) making connections, bridging the gaps among friends and family members, and constructing a world where people respect each other, no matter their differences. Cartoon mayhem, some peril and mild rude humor. A-IV; PG

Miss Bala
Columbia

While visiting her best friend (Cristina Rodlo) in Mexico, a Los Angeles makeup artist (Gina Rodriguez) is abducted by the leader (Ismael Cruz Cordova) of a drug cartel and finds herself caught between the gangster and a DEA agent (Matt Lauria) with both intent on blackmailing her into cooperating with them. Though the basic values are sound, gory moments and some vulgar content restrict the movie's appeal still further. Scenes of bloody violence, suicide, an adultery theme, cohabitation, mature references, including homosexuality, a couple of profanities and a mild oath, at least one rough and numerous crude gestures. L; PG-13

Isn't It Romantic
Warner Bros.

In this clever send-up of romantic comedies, an architect (Rebel Wilson) who's a cynical critic of the genre gets a blow to the head and wakes up in a transformed version of her world, one filled with all the cliches of the films she disdains. One of her potential clients (Liam Hemsworth), a dashing billionaire who had previously ignored her now courts her assiduously, but she still feels drawn to her co-worker and best friend (Adam Devine), a down-to-earth guy who has long been her secret admirer. Though the laughs are plentiful, and the essential message about the need to appreciate yourself before you can be open to receiving love is valid enough, other material makes director Todd Strauss-Schulson's upbeat satire strictly grown-up fare. Maturing viewers will appreciate the genre function simultaneously as a slasher flick, a comedy and a message-bearing drama. Parents can judge for themselves whether her clashes represent female empowerment or male wish fulfillment. Either way, the suggestion in the dialogue that she has an inherent appetite for mayhem makes this inappropriate fare for impressionable youngsters. Much violence, some of it gory, partial nudity, references to narcotics, a mild oath, a couple of rough terms, several crude and crass expressions. A-III; PG-13

Alicia: Battle Angel
Fox

Adapted from a series of graphic novels by Yukito Kishiro by screenwriter James Cameron and director Robert Rodriguez, this futuristic action adventure follows the romantic and crusading exploits of the titular cyborg (Rosa Salazar). After a specialist in human-mechanical fusion (Christoph Waltz) finds her in a garbage dump and restores her to life, she falls for a lad with a motorbike (Keean Johnson) and discovers her inner toughness. But an inherent appetite for mayhem makes some weak feints in the direction of pondering the divide between its big-eyed heroine's two natures, Cameron's script is primarily focused on having its angel do battle at every opportunity. Viewers can judge for themselves whether her clashes represent female empowerment or male wish fulfillment. Either way, the suggestion in the dialogue that she has an inherent appetite for mayhem makes this inappropriate fare for impressionable youngsters. Much violence, some of it gory, partial nudity, references to narcotics, a mild oath, a couple of rough terms, several crude and crass expressions. A-III; PG-13

Happy Death Day 2U
Universal

A science experiment gone awry once again traps the college student protagonist (Jessica Rothe) of the 2017 original in a time warp, dooming her to relive her birthday, and her murder at the hands of a masked killer during it, over and over again until she, her boyfriend (Israel Broussard) and his roommate (Phi Vu), the creator of the device that caused the problem, can figure out how to break the cycle. A confusing plot involving parallel universes, an assumption that viewers remember in detail the relationships of the first film and an effort to have the picture function simultaneously as a slasher flick, a comedy and a message-bearing drama keep writer and directing director Christopher Landon's follow-up up off killer. Though the basic values are sound, gory moments and some vulgar content restrict the movie's appeal still further. Scenes of bloody violence, suicide, an adultery theme, cohabitation, mature references, including homosexuality, a couple of profanities and a mild oath, at least one rough and numerous crude gestures. L; PG-13

The Prodigy
Oren

Edgy creepy-kid tale in which a gifted 8-year-old (Jackson Robert Scott) born on the same day that a serial killer (Paul-Fauveaux) was gunned down by police shows signs of having a split personality, the darker side of which disturbs and bewilders his caring parents (Taylor Schilling and Peter Mooney). Though it reaches a bloody climax, director Nicholas McCarthy's chiller is mostly restrained in its depiction of aggression but effective in unsettling viewers. The reincarnation theory underlying the plot, improbably peddled by a psychiatrist (Paula Boudreau) and an academic (Colm Feore), will be easily dismissed by grown moviegoers. Occult themes, some graphic gory violence, gruesome images, partial male nudity, at least one use of profanity, a couple of rough terms, a few crude expressions. L; R
Bringing mercy to Guatemala

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Looking into the grinning, giggling faces of Guatemalan orphans wrapped in their outstretched arms, four area missionaries experienced the tangible rewards Christ promises in Matthew 25:40. “Amen I say to you, whatever you do for these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:40 is the motto of La Misión Encordamonde con Cristo Guatemalan Mission, founded by Father Robert-Alois Cruz, priest of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. The mission provides equipment to help provide clean drinking water, to help the villagers who would walk for miles down the mountain to get water from a running stream. The equipment also included solar panels, stoves, sinks, dry goods, live stock, citrus, trees as well as educational scholarships for children to continue their education.

Three missionaries from the Diocese of Baton Rouge have participated in summer missions and a fall “mission prep” to prepare for the following summer’s mission: Emily Chauvin, a member of Mater Dolorosa Church in Independence; Jennifer Giambrone, a member of St. Anne Church in Napoleonville; and Eve Carmena, a member of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Baton Rouge. Serving alongside them was Brenda Bonvillain from the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese.

The missionaries spoke about their experiences at a Magnificent Morning of Prayer on Feb. 7 at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Baton Rouge.

The women stayed at a girls’ orphanage, Hogar de Niños, in Jalapa. They spent time with the girls and taught English to the Sisters of Martha and Mary, who took care of them.

“They (girls) were dropped off at the orphanages. They might be abused by a family member and then thrown out of the house,” said Bonvillain.

She encountered an 11-year-old girl who was pregnant and had a baby boy in December.

But the “light” in the situation came from the girls and the Sisters of Martha and Mary, according to Giambrone. “It seems like everyone whom we came into contact with was filled with unexplainable joy,” said Giambrone. “I say unexplainable joy based on the dire circumstances (they faced). Many of us were perhaps too attached to our worldly possessions would wonder what they have to be joyful about.

Yet the children at the orphanage and the sisters that cared for them – the children and adults in a remote village were in fact joyful.”


“Giggling and laughter were part of the sites and sounds we would hear throughout the day. Even when everyone was attending daily chores, which included washing clothes by hand. It didn’t take long to fall in love with the simplicity of life there.”

And the missionaries learned to embrace what would have upset them at home, such as “the whimsical water game” of an unreliable water system that would turn off at any time – such as in the middle of a shower.

“We washed our clothes on the morning we were able to go and pray with them. And we’d walk in and hear the guitar strumming and we’d hear the voices in Spanish. We didn’t know what they were singing, but it was beautiful. And it always spoke to our hearts. And we were praying to ourselves in English and they were praying out loud in Spanish. There was a unity in prayer we had,” Carmena said.

She was also struck by the reverence shown in eucharistic adoration, when a man would shoulder a heavy cross by herself.

“She didn’t let it drop so that she was only holding up the top part of it. She was holding the entire cross. She stood there and it gave me such a great knowledge that she understood the cross of Jesus and how he carried it. The depth of that,” Carmena said.

She said the nuns and children were exuberant when Cardinal Angelo Bardyles, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, came to the orphanage during a visit to the country to examine the cause for sainthood of two missionaries who had been martyred.

SEE GUATEMALA PAGE 20
The Catholic Commentator

VIEWPOINT

March 1, 2019

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stop the insanity

After reading this past week of the law enacted in the state of New York expanding abortion “rights,” I first felt shock, then disgust, then sadness. Many of the legislators in this country have hardened hearts. Many of these legislators claim to be Catholic, but their behavior says otherwise. Even one of the Supreme Court justices that ruled abortion was a constitutional right, William Brennan, claimed to be Catholic.

My fear is other states will create laws like New York’s. We were not created to destroy life. The smile on the face of a baby expresses how much it enjoys being alive. It is the natural state that God smile on the face of a baby expresses how much it

Even one of the Supreme Court justices that ruled abortion was a constitutional right, William Brennan, claimed to be Catholic.

enjoys being alive. It is the natural state that God

smile on the face of a baby expresses how much it enjoys being alive. It is the natural state that God

was not Catholic. It seems to me the bishops in this country are fearful of agitating politicians.

Something must be done to stop this insanity. The most sensible method is an amendment to the United States Constitution. This is probably a longshot, but with prayer and persistence it can happen. Amendments XIII and XIV were created to end slavery and reverse the Supreme Court’s Sanford vs Dred Scott decision. Unfortunately, this was done after the Civil War which killed over 600,000. Abortion has already killed 100 times that many in this country.

Another step that must be done is to excommunicate the “Catholic” lawmakers, governors, and court judges that allow these types of laws to be created. Their public actions demonstrate they are not Catholic. It seems to me the bishops in this country are fearful of agitating politicians.

Please write, call or visit your legislators and let them know of your desire for a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion. Pressure must be put on our bishops to deal with Catholics that continue to let legalized abortion exist in this country. Purposefully killing an infant cannot be condoned or encouraged. You would think this was common sense. But in our upside-down world it has become normal.

Patti Mansfield

Prairieville

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be typed and limited to 350 words and should contain the name and address of the writer, though the address will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Catholic Commentator, P.O. Box 3316, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3316, or to tcc@diobr.org.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US

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

Mar. 7
Rev. Robert H Berggreen
Dcn. Alfred J. Ricard Jr.
Br. Dwight Kenney SC

Mar. 8
Rev. Donald V. Blanchard
Dcn. Thomas M. Robinson
Sr. Betty Lyons FMOL

Mar. 9
Rev. Patrick Broussard
Dcn. Mauricio Salazar OP
Br. Clifford King SC

Mar. 10
Rev. Jules A. Brunet
Dcn. Eliazar Salinas Jr.

Mar. 11
Sr. Joan Manuel CSJ
Richard O. Buhrer SJ
Dcn. Mario (Sam) Sammartino
Br. Noel Lemmons SC

Mar. 12
Rev. Gerald H. Burns
Dcn. Joseph M. Scimeca
Sr. Ann Maria Mathew SOM

Mar. 13
Rev. Peter J. Gallery SJ
Dcn. Rudolph W. Stahl
Br. Roger LeMoyna SC

Mar. 14
Rev. Joseph M. Camilleri

Mar. 15
Dcn. Michael F. Thompson
Sr. Carmen Medina HWS

Mar. 16
Rev. Chuong Cao CSM
Dcn. J. Thomas Traylor
Br. Malcolm Melcher SC

Mar. 17
Rev. John Carville
Dcn. John W. Veron
Sr. Evelyn Mee CSJ

Mar. 18
Rev. Thomas F. Clark SJ
Dcn. James E. Wax
Br. Dwight Kenney SC

Mar. 19
Rev. Paul D. Counce
Dcn. P. Chauvin Wilkinson Jr.
Br. Marcus Turcotte SC

Mar. 20
Rev. Randy M. Cuevas
Dcn. Alfred Adams Sr.
Sr. Ann Catherine Nguyen FMOL

The spiritual meaning of Lent

To the extent that we have been taught our Catholic faith and have experienced God’s revealed word made flesh in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we should see God acting in our everyday world. Those without faith may have our same experiences and see only the continuous beginning and ending of material things. In our Catholic culture we set aside a special time of the year, Lent, to try to see our human everyday life through the teachings and life experiences of Jesus.

Around the time of the Second Vatican Council, a German theologian named Karl Rahner coined a phrase which became famous, although somewhat misunderstood. He spoke of the “anonymous Christian.” The public found it catchy and thought it meant that you didn’t have to be Christian to be good. While that is true, since God’s spirit can work in all human beings according to his divine providence, Rahner was talking primarily about the ordinary life of Christians. As he wrote in 1975, “Today Christianity is slowly learning that it can and must live and understand everything in profane (worldly) life as a process of salvation.”

As an example: One day I was making visits at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. I found it that is on the children’s floor. In an isolation room was a beautiful little two-year-old girl with leukemia. From her father I learned that she had just begun a lengthy program of chemotherapy. What sacrifices life can demand from suffering children and loving young parents! This family can be understood as a medical statistic in the so-called cancer corridor of Louisiana or as a journey with Christ in his life, passion, death and resurrection. The love that keeps those parents caring for that child can be just an instinctive parental reaction, or it can be a walk in faith that teaches them to love all the more.

Jesus, the son of God, became man and lived our life and died our death in perfect obedience to his heavenly father. God sent him to show us the true, spiritual meaning of life’s blessings and its trials. Everything we experience shares “anonymously” in the life, passion and death of Jesus, and one day if we are faithful, also in his resurrection. When, through reflection and prayer we realize the connection between our lives and that of Jesus, then through faith and hope and love we can join our lives to his. Another way of putting this is to say that much of our following of Christ is anonymous to ourselves until we reflect upon it. As St. Paul says in 2 Corinthians, and we often sing in a Catholic hymn, “We walk by faith and not by sight.” We just don’t realize how much. We need a period like Lent to become aware of the Christ who promised to be always with us in good times and in bad.

Another Perspective

Father John Carville

“We just don’t realize how much. We need a period like Lent to become aware of the Christ who promised to be always with us in good times and in bad.”
Ecumenism – the path forward

I was very blessed during my theological formation to have had the privilege of taking classes from two very renowned Catholic scholars, Avery Dulles and Raymond E. Brown. The former was an ecclesiologist whose books often became textbooks which were prescribed reading in seminaries and theology schools. The latter was a Scripture scholar whose scholarship stands out, almost singularly, still nearly 30 years after his death. Neither questions the scholarship, personal integrity or the faith-commitment of these men.

They were in different theological disciplines but what they shared, beyond the high respect of scholars and church persons everywhere, was a passion for ecumenism and a capacity to form deep friendships and invite warm dialogue across every kind of denominational and inter-religious line. Their books are studied not just in Roman Catholic circles, but in theological schools and seminaries in Protestant, Evangelical, Mormon and Jewish seminaries as well. Both were deeply respected for their openness, friendship and graciousness towards those who held religious views different than their own. Indeed, Raymond Brown’s work to be, as Dulles puts it, the path of “progressive convergence.” What is this path?

It begins with the honest admission by each of us that none of us, no one denomination, has the full truth, incarnates the full expression of church, and is fully faithful to the Gospel. We are all deficient in some ways and each of us in some ways is selective in terms of which parts of the Gospel we value and incarnate which parts we ignore. And so the path forward is the path of conversion, personal and ecclesial, of admitting our selectiveness, of recognizing and valuing what other churches have incarnated, of reading Scripture more deeply in search of what we have ignored and absented ourselves from, and of individually and collectively trying to live lives that are truer to Jesus Christ. By doing this, by each of us and each church living the Gospel more fully, we will “progressively converge,” that is, as we grow closer to Christ we will grow closer to each other and thus “progressively converge” around Christ and, as we do that, we will eventually find ourselves around one common altar and will see each other as part of the same community.

The path to unity then lies not in converting each other over, but in each of us living the Gospel more faithfully so as to grow closer to each other in Christ. This doesn’t mean that we do not take our divisions seriously, that we simplistically assert that all denominations are equal, or that we justify our divisions today by pointing to divisions that already existed in the New Testament churches. Rather we must all begin by each of us admitting that we do not possess the full truth and that we are in fact far from being fully faithful.

Given that starting point, Brown then gives this challenge to all the churches: “recognition of the range of New Testament ecclesiastical diversity makes the claim of any church to be absolutely faithful to the Scriptures much more complex. We are faithful but in our own specific way; and both ecumenics and biblical studies should make us aware that there are other ways of being faithful to which we do not do justice. … In short, a frank study of the New Testament ecclesiology should convince every Christian community that it is neglecting part of the New Testament witness. … I contend that in a divided Christianity, instead of reading the Bible to assure ourselves that we are right, we would do better to read it to discover where we have not been listening. As we Christians of different churches try to give hearing to the previously muffled voices, our views of the church will grow larger; and we will come closer to sharing common views. Then the Bible will be doing for us what Jesus did in his time, namely, convincing those who have ears to hear that all is not right, for God is asking of them more than they thought.”

Indeed: God is asking more of us than we think.

OBLATE FATHER RON 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 and facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

Rome ▼

From page 10

I knew I was venturing into unchartered spiritual waters that would require some equally uncomfortable answers. Assisi was stunning in its beauty, intimate in its quaintness – a place that cries for a return visit.

It was then on to Florence for a brief visit before traveling back to Rome, where visits to the Coliseum and other ancient ruins followed. Contrary to what many of my younger colleagues and friends believe, I did not actually cover the gladiators, but what a great feeling to walk in the footsteps of Julius Cesar.

Friends have often expressed that in their experiences there comes a spiritually-defining moment in every pilgrimage when God taps deep into the recesses of one’s heart. For the first few days I wondered if perhaps my own heart was too crusty for even God to penetrate.

Forty years a journalist will do that. Or so I thought, but God had other ideas.

For me, that moment came quickly and unexpectedly at the tomb of St. Peter. Early that morning, Father Jamin David, pastor at St. Margaret Church in Albany and the spiritual director for the pilgrimage, had celebrated Mass at the tomb of St. Peter, and following Mass I was able to spend a few moments in silent prayer.

Without warning, my eyes were awash in tears, a tsunami of emotions piercing my heart as I realized, just yards away was, to borrow a sports reference, “The Guy.” Here was the first Vicar of Christ, the man who walked with our Lord, the man who would deny our savior, as we all do in sin, only to repent and be cloaked in God’s mercy, a promise that the Lord offers to us all.

The Gospel reference, “You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church” reverberated through my psyche and prayer.

From that point, the pilgrimage was viewed through a different prism. Although the Vatican, especially the Sistine Chapel and the many surrounding churches were breathtaking, seeing the tomb of St. Peter brought to life the Gospel message and created many vexing moments in my own life, questioning how was I living out that message in my own life, what type of example was I setting, was Christ proud of me or viewing me with disdain because of my own sins.

Praying at St. Peter’s tomb made me realize that our faith is not about stunningly beautiful frescoes and churches on nearly every corner. Certainly, they enhance our own prayerful experiences and their beauty is to be admired and appreciated, but the message for me was that our faith is lived through our personal relationship with Christ. How do we love him, how do we try to emulate him in our words, thoughts and actions? And how do we not allow our cultural, societal and worldly distractions to disrupt our prayer life? By the way, I’m still working on that one.

And do I have the same love of God as that of St. Peter, who paid the ultimate price for being an apostle of Christ?

As the week passed, I also realized that God’s hand was in the timing of the pilgrimage. The church is enduring difficult times, and being a member of the Catholic media, although an amazing journey and greatly rewarding most of the time, has had its share of challenges lately.

Like so many other Catholics, my faith has clearly been tested. But being at the tomb of St. Peter, knowing whose presence I was in, reenergized the commitment I have to a church I love so much, warts and all.

More importantly, the experience renewed my own love of Christ, the one person I know I can trust, the one person who awaits us with welcoming arms, no matter our sin, no matter our transgressions.

Before the trip there was some anxiety about spending 10 days and nights with 60 people, the overwhelming majority I did not know. But equally as rewarding as the renewal of my faith life were the friendships that developed, the meals we shared, even the wine we sampled. You guys will forever hold a special place in my memories.

To top it off, one couple even got engaged while in Rome, casting an unexpected glow over the entire group and even offering hope to those of us still searching as we advance in years.

For now, St. Andrews can wait.
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March 1, 2019

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COMING EVENTS

March 1, 2019

St. Agnes Events – St. Agnes Church, 749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge, will host a pro-life Mass Tuesday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. and a healing Mass on Friday, March 22, 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 225-383-4127.

Retreat on Aging – Dana Territo will present a senior citizens’ retreat, “The Spiritual Graces of Aging,” sponsored by the St. Joseph Spirituality Center, Saturday, March 9, 9 a.m. – noon, at the Mother Alice Hall of St. Joseph’s Academy, 3080 Kleinterv Ave., Baton Rouge. Fee is $40. To register and for more information, visit stjocenter.org or call 225-383-3349.

Praise and Worship Night – St. George Church, 7608 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge, will host a night of praise, worship and adoration Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m. For more information, call 225-293-1208.

Count Your Blessings – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will host its 24th annual “Count Your Blessings” Lenten soup and bread supper Friday, March 22, 7 p.m., at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center, 445 Marquette St., Baton Rouge. Chef John Folse will prepare the food. Tickets are $10 and benefit St. Vincent de Paul. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit svdphr.org or call 225-383-7897, extension 0.

Discalced Carmelites – The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites will meet Sunday, March 10, 1:30 p.m., at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center in the St. Gabriel Room, 444 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge. For details, call Ethlyn White at 225-343-3181 or 225-803-3391 or email robertwhite456@att.net.

The Catholic Commentator

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SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SEARCH

Sacred Heart of Jesus School is seeking a dynamic and visionary Catholic educator to fill the role of assistant principal. The ideal candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, with a commitment to professional, spiritual, personal and intellectual growth. The candidate should have strong organizational and time management skills with a keen attention to detail, excellent written and oral communication skills, and the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.

Candidates must have a Master’s degree and at least 5 years teaching experience in a Catholic school, experience with discipline management, the ability to work with the principal to lead the school in curriculum and instruction, and the capacity to manage the school’s admissions process.

Responsibilities will include assisting the principal with teacher supervision and coaching, managing student discipline, directing the admissions process, creating and managing school schedules, directing schoolwide testing, supervising school records, and assisting the principal with the general operation of the school.

Steeped in Catholic tradition, Sacred Heart of Jesus School is a diverse community dedicated to educating the mind, body and spirit. Founded in 1929, it is one of the oldest continually operating parochial schools in the city of Baton Rouge. Learn more about Sacred Heart at www.SacredHeartBR.com.

Interested candidates should submit an interest letter, statement of personal educational philosophy and a resume to Carolyn Guidry, Interim Principal (CGuidry@SacredHeartBR.com). Submissions must be received on or before March 8, 2019.

Catholic Charities, Inc. serves the 65 counties of the Diocese of Jackson, MS with the home office located in Jackson, MS. The Executive Director has primary responsibility for the planning, management and execution of all operational functions according to the strategic priorities approved by the board, including: accounting and finance, human resources, fund development and marketing. The Executive Director is responsible for agency advocacy for public policies consistent with Catholic Social Teaching.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate should have a master’s degree in social work or related field and 5 to 7 years experience in a senior management role at a small or medium size not-for-profit social service or mental health agency, or similar background in not-for-profit management. A practicing Catholic is preferred.

See our website for job details www.catholiccharities.org The deadline to apply is Friday, March 29, 2019 at 5pm (CST). Submit your application package as attachments via EMAIL to: hradmin@catholiccharitiesjackson.org

Attn: Hiring Committee – Executive Director or Mail to: Catholic Charities Attn: Hiring Committee – Executive Director 850 East River Place Jackson, MS 39202 Please note that incomplete submissions will not be considered. Applications will not be accepted by fax, or hand-delivery. No phone calls please. Catholic Charities would like to thank all applicants for their interest, but only candidates being considered for an interview will be contacted by the hiring committee. Catholic Charities is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from qualified candidates.
CONFESS

From page 1

The catechism continues “Je-
sus’ call to conversion and
ance, like that of the prophet-
bles before him, does not aim first at
ward out works, ‘sackcloth and
, fasting and mortifica-
before him, does not aim first at
sion of conscience with
geek and make a good confession?”
“the way that I have found most fruitful for preparing for
confession, both for myself and
for others, is by bringing an ex-
amination of conscience with
us to a church or chapel and
spending some time talking to
the Lord and asking him to show
where forgiveness and healing is
needed,” said Father Brent Ma-
her, pastor of St. Ann Church in
Morganzia.
“Some people may be ashamed of
their sins and find it difficult to
confess to the priest.
“One of the built-in sources of
courage is the confessional screen – it is a wonderful gift
for people who might be em-
barrassed to say things face
to face or who want to remain
anonymous,” said Father Ma-
her. “Whether going behind
the screen or face to face, the
important thing to remember is that
the priest is there to dispense
God’s divine mercy. He isn’t go-
ing to tell anyone what is said in
the confessional, he isn’t shocked
by what is said in the confession-
al, he won’t be angry because of
what is said in the confessional, and – at least in my experience
– he probably won’t remember
what is said in confession later
when he sees you.”
Father Maher urged people
having a difficult time confessing
certain sins or asking sensitive
questions to be clear and direct
with the priest. “Most adults
have at some point most likely
had to have an uncomfortable
conversation or test run with
a medical doctor, but with the
knowledge that clarity will help
them to resolve the issue. In the
same way, it is best to straightfor-
ward with the priest, who is a
doctor of the soul, so that the
person can receive the best ad-
vice and healing grace to help
them in their issues of the soul,” said Father Maher.
“Happier yarns and lies
have the potential to be a ‘trou-
blesome’ side.”
“She explained that on one
side are a Native American
along with the three African-
American children, separated
from three white children on
the other side.
“I think some people could
look at it as some sort of a con-
trol feature,” she said. “(The
African-American children) are in
their place.”
She said on the sophisticated
side, where the white children
are, there is more of a whole-
some, even holy air, including
a road in the background that
speaks of an unlimited future.
“Toward not say it was delib-
erate but it was the temper of the
times,” Mauck said. “When you
have the Native American stand-
ing behind the black children,
the Native American is always, at
a symbolic level, the noble sav-
age. That’s going to be primitive.
“It’s a (subtle) way of saying
that the (African-American)
children come out of a savage
background. It’s almost like a
connection.”
Father Clark agreed the Con-
federate flag is a symbol of segre-
gation and white supremacy. He
said that when the issue of the
mural arose, there was some dis-
cussion among Racial Harmony
Commission members about
how the diocese can be welcom-
ing of all people and celebrate
the rich diversity within the dio-
cese.
“The presence of the mural
with the Confederate flag and
the history that it represents is
an unwelcoming symbol here in
the Catholic Life Center, which
is the center of the diocese,” Father
Clark said. “We want the (Cath-
olic Life Center) to be a very wel-
coming and inclusive place.”
“Certainly there has been a
movement in the country to be-
come more aware of what some
of the (Confederate) monuments
and symbols mean and what they
mean to people who were oppres-
sed by those symbols,” he
added. “I think sometimes that
voice was lost but that voice is
being heard more.”
Mauck believed the mural
had the potential to be a “trou-
blesome” to the diocese. She
said someone could misinterpret
or misunderstand the painting
and about the times when it was
created.
“I think contemporary chil-
dren would look at that painting
and say why are the white people
here and the black people over
home?” she said.
“What we don’t know is what
whether this was (Brent’s) idea
for the subject matter or whether
someone had an outline of what
they wanted represented. Now,
50 years later we’re saying our
perspective is broader.”
After a lengthy wait, Father
Johnson said he is thrilled to
have the art finally come down.
“It’s beautiful that it’s finally
happening and a small victory
for the kingdom of God,” he said.
“From my perspective, we had
no credibility to talk about ra-
cial healing in our diocese if
the Catholic Life Center had a dis-
play of a priest blessing a rebel
flag. How can you do all of this
work out there and you come
home and you have this in your
home?”
“Getting rid of that symbol of
heart and vision shows we are all
serious about making disciples
of all nations.”

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

South Baton Rouge. Every other Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and/or Friday 9:00
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Position Opening: Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster/Music Director
St. Joseph Cathedral Parish in Baton Rouge is seeking a Director of Music who has
a thorough understanding of Catholic liturgy and is a pastoral leader who possesses
the skills and talents to enhance worship through the varied expressions of liturgical
music. The candidate will need to be \- in collaboration with the Pastor and certain diocesan
officials \- to provide leadership and direction in the planning and implementation of all
liturgical music for parochial liturgies on Sundays and holy days, and for select diocesan
liturgies. This includes the recruiting, basic training, scheduling, evaluation direction
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events at the Cathedral as well as certain diocesan ones (the principal diocesan liturgies are the an-
nual Rite of Election, Chrism Mass, \"Respect Life\" and Marriage Anniversary Masses, and
ordinations). Composing and editing occasional Orders of Service and worship aids,
and maintaining the music library of the Parish, will also be within the purview of the position.
Applicants should have strong keyboard skills on the pipe organ, and will need compe-
tence in ensemble leadership, choir direction and vocal coaching for cantors. The selected
person will work toward promoting lively, engaging, participative and hospitable liturgies
maintaining the music library of the Parish, will also be within the purview of the position.

Position Opening: Nursery School Director
St. Joseph Cathedral Parish invites applicants for a full-time Nursery School director. The St. George Nursery
School is a licensed childcare center for children 2 through 4 years old.
The person selected to be our next Director should be a faith-filled,
enthusiastic, collaborative, and experienced person who will work in
conjunction with our Pastor and other staff in implementation of the Mission of our Parish.
Applicants must have an early childhood ancillary certicate and a minimum of
5 years experience in a licensed early learning center or comparable
sitting, or possess a national administrator credential and five years
experience in teaching or care in a licensed childcare center, or
comparable setting, plus 6 credit hours or 90 clock hours of training in child
care, child development, early childhood, or management/administration.

Major Duties Include:
- Hiring and Supervising Staff
- Maintaining Student Records
- Budgeting/Purchasing and Financial Record keeping
- Oversight of Facilities
- Maintenance and Repair

Please send a resume and a cover letter no later than March 15, 2019 to:
Nursery Director Search Committee
St. George Church
8088 St. George Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Interested candidates may also submit a resume and cover letter to
marinh@stgeorge.org.

SYMBOL

From page 3

COUNCIL MEETING

The Catholic Commentator 19
March 1, 2019
Pope: No more excuses

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The time has come for an “all-out battle” against the abuse of minors, erasing this abominable crime from the face of the earth, Pope Francis said, closing a global four-day summit on child protection in the Catholic Church.

For quite some time, the world has been aware of the “serious scandal” the abuse of minors by clergy has brought to the church and public opinion, both because of the dramatic suffering it has caused victims and because of the “unjustifiable negligence” and “cover-up” by leaders in the church, he told people gathered in St. Peter’s Square on Feb. 24.

“We listened to the voice of victims, we prayed and asked for forgiveness from God and the people hurt, we took stock of our responsibility, and our duty to bring justice through truth and to radically reject every form of sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience, he said.

“We want every activity and every place in the church to be completely safe for minors,” he said, which means taking every possible measure so that such crimes never happen again.

It will also entail working with great dedication together with people of good will everywhere in order to fight this “very grave scourge of violence” that affects hundreds of millions of minors around the world.

The pope told some 190 cardinals, bishops and religious superiors from around the world, “the time has come, then, to work together to eradicate this evil from the body of our humanity by adopting every necessary measure already in force on the international level and ecclesial levels.”

However, despite the importance of knowing the sociological and psychological explanations behind this criminal act of abuse, he said, the church must recognize this is a spiritual battle against the “brazen, aggressive, destructive” power of Satan.

“I see the hand of evil that does not spare even the innocence of the little ones.

While the majority of abused minors are victims of a person they know, most often a family member, he said, it is “all the more grave and scandalous” when a member of the church, particularly a priest, is the perpetrator “for it is utterly incompatible” with the church’s moral authority and ethical credibility.

BURNS ▼

From page 7

sinned.’ My immediate response was to look into her eyes and say, ‘What’s clear is that you cannot sin so much that God will not love you.’

With tears in his eyes, he said, “When we parted, she grabbed my hands and looked into my eyes and said, ‘You know. You and I — we’re not that different.’ I said, ‘I know, God loves you, too.’"

While he’s not certain if she came into the Christian faith, there’s hope that the seed was planted.

Since his retirement, Father Burns said he has had the gift of time to reflect and pray, and he is studying the writings of St. John the Cross and appreciating the value of silence.

And his photography continues to be a link to faith. The invitations to his anniversary celebration included a photograph he took in 2018 at Virgin Island in Pierre Part of three wood duck chicks leaping off a Cypress stump to their mother duck calling to them from below. National Geographic selected that photo from among entries around the world as their “editor’s pick of the day” for their website.

“It took four hours for 14 wood duck chicks to leap six feet down to the water to join mom,” said Father Burns. “I think this picture is about a leap of faith — isn’t a leap in faith what spirituality is about?”

GUATEMALA ▼

From page 15

“As for two hours the children patiently waited. Then came the red-bottomed helicopter. And as it landed the excitement was just over the top. There’s not enough superlatives to describe what they looked like,” said Carmena.

Even through the kind-hearted laughter over mistakes as each learned the other’s language, there was an understood affection that did not need translating, said the missionaries.

“We have to give credit to the Holy Spirit because he made it all work,” said Carmena.

As part of mission prep the women had a chance to see the positive “snowball effect” the scholarships had on the lives of the recipients. They said they could see hope in their eyes that they will have a better life.

The trip was also an educational experience for Chauvin. Leaving home for 30 days was one of the most difficult things she’s had to do, but she learned to depend on God and fell in love with the country and the people.

“The Lord has not given me a gift of the Spanish language. When I go there I’m not knowing the language, but that’s OK. Because there is a universal language in this. It doesn’t matter if I can’t speak to them. They know I love them,” she said.

For more information about this year’s mission and to donate, visit encontraconfieconcristo.org.
## Lenten regulations for the Diocese of Baton Rouge

As per the Pagella Policies of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, as in the rest of the church in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound by a grave obligation to observe a solemn fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday as well. These norms have been established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in accord with the norms of canons 1249-1253 in the revised Code of Canon Law of 1983.

To fast means to consume only one full meal a day at most, although taking of other smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink “between meals” (excepting only water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days. To abstain from meat means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork or poultry at least, although not necessarily eggs, milk products or meat broths, or condiments made from animal fat. The consumption of fish, shellfish and reptiles is permitted if desired.

Beyond the mandatory days listed above, abstinence from meat on every Friday throughout the year which is not a solemnity and fasting on all Lenten weekdays (especially Wednesdays and Fridays), and on Holy Saturday, is strongly recommended to all the faithful.

There always remains, of course, the grave obligation to participate at Holy Mass on all Sundays and days of obligation. Each in his or her own way, every Christian is bound to do penance by virtue of divine law. Only ill health or some similar situation of urgency excuses. During the Lenten season, Christ Jesus’ own challenges to prayer, fasting and almsgiving are paramount.

### Ash Wednesday schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas Chapel</td>
<td>3291 Hwy. 22, Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mercy Church</td>
<td>445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Gabriel Church</td>
<td>3625 Hwy. 75, St. Gabriel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart Chapel</td>
<td>45049 Lake Martin Rd., Carville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine Church</td>
<td>809 New Roads St., New Roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater Dolorosa Church</td>
<td>609 Third St., Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family Church</td>
<td>474 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul the Apostle Church</td>
<td>3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Pompeii Church</td>
<td>14450 Hwy. 442W, Tickfaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary Church</td>
<td>44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ann Church</td>
<td>182 Church St., Morganza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent Chapel</td>
<td>6389 LA Hwy. 1, Innis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church</td>
<td>2505 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas More Church</td>
<td>11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel</td>
<td>3147 Church St., Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mark Church</td>
<td>42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Church</td>
<td>2130 Rectory St., Paulina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church</td>
<td>666 East Main St., Gramercy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church</td>
<td>11485 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine Mission, Klotzville</td>
<td>174 Hwy. 1003, Belle Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Peach Church</td>
<td>15281 Hwy. 644, Vacherie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Philip Church</td>
<td>1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church, Albany</td>
<td>30300 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James Church</td>
<td>6613 Hwy. 18, St. James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Church</td>
<td>255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spiritual renewal opportunities of the Lenten season

**MARCH 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, APRIL 3, 5, 10, 12**

**Eucharistic Adoration**
St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church, Albany
30300 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond (take Albany, LA exit off of I-12)
6:30 a.m.–5 p.m. - Ash Wednesday
7:30 a.m.–8 p.m. - All other Wednesdays
7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. – Fridays
Hailey Dellaune 225-329-7491

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
6:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m.
in church
Angela DiFranco 985-318-4927

**DAILY MARCH 8 – APRIL 11**

**Tri-Parish Youth Lenten Play**
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church
6:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m.

**Stations of the Cross**
St. Philip Church
1774 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
6:30 p.m. – March 8
Carol Ann Hymel 225-265-3953

**Eucharistic Adoration**
Mater Dolorosa Church
609 Third St., Independence
1 – 7 p.m.
Fr. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9609

**Hailey Delaune 225-329-7491**

**MARCH 8 AND 9**

**Tri-Parish Youth Lenten Play**
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church
Parish Hall
3523 Hwy. 78, Livonia
7 p.m. – March 8
6 p.m. – March 9

**Donations** – Half of donations will be donated to Suicide Awareness in memory of Andrew Glaser, who wrote the play. March 9 after the play, potluck supper.
Bring your favorite dish to share.
Peggy Champagne 225-625-2438,

**MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29, APRIL 5, 12**

**Stations of the Cross**
St. Ann Church
182 Church St., Morganza
6 p.m.
Retta Ramagos 225-694-3781

**Eucharistic Adoration**
St. Ann Church
182 Church St., Morganza
7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Retta Ramagos 225-694-3791

**Stations of the Cross**
St. Augustine Church
809 New Roads St., New Roads
6 p.m.
225-638-7553

**Stations of the Cross**
St. Gerard Majella Church
5354 Flank Rd., Baton Rouge
11:30 a.m. followed by Mass
Fr. Chuaon 228-233-6413

**Stations of the Cross**
Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Deacon Richard Grant 225-926-1883

**Stations of the Cross**
St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church, Albany
30300 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond (take Albany exit off of I-12)
5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Lanie Borum 225-265-3973

**Stations of the Cross**
St. Mary of False River Church
348 W. Main St., New Roads
After noon Mass

**St. Joseph Novena**
Pompeii Hall
14450 Hwy. 442, Tickfaw
6:30 p.m.

**DAYS FOR HOSPICE**

**March 1, 2019**

St. Joseph Hospice brings comfort and supportive care to patients and caregivers, wherever they call home.

- Founded in 2002, St. Joseph Hospice is named for the Patron Saint of a Peaceful Death, St. Joseph, and provides peace, comfort, support, and dignity to those facing life-limiting illness.
- Our expert care team offers a full range of hospice and palliative care services in the patient’s or caregiver’s home, senior living communities, assisted living and skilled nursing care facilities, and our own hospice care homes.
- Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance plans. No patient will ever be turned away from St. Joseph Hospice based on their ability to pay.

St. Joseph Hospice
225-769-4810

Proudly Serving the Diocese of Baton Rouge since 2002

StJosephHospice.com • LaCarpenterHouse.com
SPIRITUALITY  ▼
from page 28

2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge
4:30 p.m. English
7 p.m. Vietnamese
Rev. Peter Tan Viet Nguyen
225-357-4800

Lenten Mission
St. John the Evangelist Church
57805 Main St., Plaquemine
9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Entitled “Knowing God Through Our Sacred Scriptures.” The speaker is Fr. Gregory Plata OFM, Midwest Regional Vocations Director for the Franciscan Order in the USA.

Divine Mercy Novena
St. Thomas More Church
1441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge
After 6 p.m. Mass
March 5 — no 6 p.m. Mass

Divine Mercy Chaplet
Most Blessed Sacrament Church
1561 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge
6:30 p.m. exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, benediction.
3 p.m. — Final Divine Mercy Chaplet, Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28
Kathy Duplessis 225-752-6230

MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29, APRIL 5, 12, 19
Stations of the Cross
St. Joseph Church
15710 LA Hwy. 16, French Settlement
6 p.m.
March 8, 15, 22, 29
March 5 — no 6 p.m. Mass

Divine Mercy Chaplet
Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
After 6 p.m. Mass
Divine Mercy Chaplet will be sung, benediction
Deacon Richard Grant
225-926-1883

Divine Mercy Novena
St. Thomas More Church
1441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge
After 6 p.m. Mass

MARCH 12, 19, APRIL 2, 9
Stations of the Cross
St. Benedict the Moor Church
5479 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
5 p.m.
Jerry Williams 985-513-2528
Fr. Elisesu Ibeh 985-513-3470

MARCH 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3, 10
Stations of the Cross
St. Augustine Church, Klotzville
174 Hwy. 1003, Belle Rose
5:30 p.m.
Fr. Elisesu Ibeh 985-513-3470
Jerry Williams 985-513-2528

MARCH 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3, 10, 17
Singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet
St. Agnes Church
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge
After 5:30 Mass and before the Lenten reflection
Eileen Carroll 225-383-4127

LIVE LENT! By Small Christians Communities
Holy Ghost Church
601 N. Oak St., Hammond
March 20 — Gathering Area of Holy Ghost Church. All other dates in the parish hall, 511 N. Oak St., Hammond
6:30 – 8 p.m.
$24.95 — Order workbook from ascensionpress.com
Every step of the stations, biblical experts reveal how Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death

Bible Study: “No Greater Love, A Biblical Walk through Christ’s Passion”
Holy Ghost Church
Annex Parish Hall
511 N. Oak St., Hammond
6:30 – 8 p.m.
$24.95 — Order workbook from ascensionpress.com
Every step of the stations, biblical experts reveal how Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death

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Let us cater for you!
Full Service On-Site Catering & Delivery Available
SPIRITUALITY ▼
from page 3B

Lenten Reflections: “On the Seven Last Words of Jesus Crucified”
St. Agnes Church
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Eileen Carroll 225-383-4127

MARCH 14
“Quench the Thirst”
St. John the Baptist Church
402 S. Kirkland Rd., Brusly
8:30 – 3 p.m. adoration
8 a.m. communion service
2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge
Chapel
St. Aloysius Church
Communion and Adoration
Mrs. Bridget Fugarino 985-320-8498
$20
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
601 N. Oak St., Hammond
Altar Society
Day of Reflection by the Rosary
women.
Free – An evening of reflection for
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
402 S. Kirkland Rd., Brusly
St. Agnes Church
“Quench the Thirst”
Eileen Carroll 225-383-4127
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge
St. Agnes Church
Lenten Reflections: “On the Seven Last
From page 3B

MARCH 16
Communion and Adoration
St. Aloysius Church
Chapel
2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge
8 a.m. communion service
8:30 – 3 p.m. adoration
Ross McCalip 225-343-6657

MARCH 19, APRIL 2, 9
Adoremus
Our Lady of Peace Church
15281 Hwy. 644, Vacherie
6:30 p.m.
Praise and worship
Carol Ann Hymel 225-265-3953

MARCH 22, 29, APRIL 5, 12
Stations of the Cross
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
11445 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville
5:30 p.m.
225-835-4603

MARCH 23
Women’s Morning of Reflection
St. John Church
15208 LA Hwy. 73, Prairieville
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$20 at the door 8:30 a.m., cash or check
“Refueling your spirit when you are running on empty” facilitated by Jean
Gatz.
RSVP by March 20, 225-673-8307

MARCH 24 AND 25
Lenten Mission with Fr. Whitney Miller
St. John the Baptist Church
402 S. Kirkland Rd., Brusly
7 – 8 p.m.

MARCH 25
Lenten Mission
St. Gabriel Church
3625 LA Hwy. 75
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Office 225-642-8441

MARCH 26
Taize Prayer Around the Cross
St. Mary of False River Church
348 W. Main St., New Roads
6:30 p.m.
Taize Service: Prayer Around the Cross
Holy Family Church
319 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen

Looking for Daily Mass Schedules?
Please refer to the Annual Mass Schedule that was released in the January 4 issue of The Catholic Commentator.

MARCH 19
Women’s Morning of Reflection
Holy Family Church
369 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$20 at door 8:30 a.m., cash or check
Refueling your spirit when you are running on empty facilitated by Jean
Gatz.
RSVP by March 14 to jlejeune@gmail.com or 225-336-4463

MARCH 17
“Passion of the Christ,” the movie
St. Joseph Church
15710 LA Hwy. 16, French Settlement
7 p.m.
Office 225-753-7950 or stjeanvianney.org to register

MARCH 18, 19, 20
Parish Lenten Mission
St. Thomas More Church
11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge
7 p.m.
Presented by Rob Tasman, Executive Director of the LA Conference of Catholic Bishops

MARCH 19
Adoration and Evening of Prayer
St. Jean Vianney Church
16166 S. Harrell’s Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge
7 – 8 p.m.
Office 225-698-3110

MARCH 20
Women’s Morning of Reflection
St. John Church
15208 LA Hwy. 73, Prairieville
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$20 at the door 8:30 a.m., cash or check
“Refueling your spirit when you are running on empty” facilitated by Jean
Gatz.
RSVP by March 20, 225-673-8307

MARCH 21
Women’s Morning of Reflection
St. John Church
15208 LA Hwy. 73, Prairieville
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$20 at the door 8:30 a.m., cash or check
“Refueling your spirit when you are running on empty” facilitated by Jean
Gatz.
RSVP by March 20, 225-673-8307

MARCH 22
Women’s Morning of Reflection
St. John Church
15208 LA Hwy. 73, Prairieville
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$20 at the door 8:30 a.m., cash or check
“Refueling your spirit when you are running on empty” facilitated by Jean
Gatz.
RSVP by March 20, 225-673-8307

MARCH 23
Stations of the Cross
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
11446 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville
5:30 p.m.
225-835-4603

MARCH 24
Lenten Mission
St. Gabriel Church
3625 LA Hwy. 75
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Office 225-642-8441

MARCH 25
Stations of the Cross
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
11445 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville
5:30 p.m.
225-835-4603

MARCH 26
Taize Prayer Around the Cross
St. Mary of False River Church
348 W. Main St., New Roads
6:30 p.m.
Taize Service: Prayer Around the Cross
Holy Family Church
319 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen

MARCH 27
Taize Service: Prayer Around the Cross
Holy Family Church
319 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
6:30 p.m.
Church office 225-383-1838

MARCH 29 AND 30
24 Hours for the Lord: An overnight silent retreat.
St. Joseph Spirituality Center
3167 Old Hwy. 51 South, Chatawa MS
$200
4 p.m. Friday – 5 p.m. Saturday
Register online: stjocenter.org/events or Diane Hanley 225-383-3349

APRIL 1, 2, 3
Lenten Mission with Fr. Whitney Miller
St. John the Baptist Church
402 S. Kirkland Rd., Brusly
7 – 8 p.m.

APRIL 2 AND 3
Retreats/Days of Reflection
St. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church
2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge
7:30 p.m. Vietnamese
Fr. Peter Tan Viet Nguyen 225-357-4800

APRIL 5
Our Walk to Calvary – A Lenten Journey
St. Ann Church
182 Church St., Morganza
7 – 8 p.m.
Scenes for the Passion of the Christ will be shown.
Use discretion on allowing small children to attend.
Janice Newton 225-936-3361

APRIL 7
“Augustine,” the movie
St. Joseph Church
Parish hall
15710 LA Hwy. 16, French Settlement
3 p.m.
Office 225-698-3110

Men’s Healing Service
St. Joseph Church
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula
2 p.m. until
Fr. Anthony Odiong will lead healing service
Fernando Morales 985-662-2844

Celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict the Moor
St. Benedict the Moor Church
5470 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
10 a.m. Mass followed by activities in St. Benedict Center
Youth and elders will interact in activities
SEE SPIRITUALITY PAGE 5B
Lenten fundraisers throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge

**MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29, APRIL 5, 12**

**Lent Dinners**
Most BlessedSacrament Church
MBS Bishop Ott Center
8033 Baringer Rd., Baton Rouge
5 – 7:30 p.m. to go orders
6 – 7:30 p.m. dine in
$7 per plate includes fried fish or shrimp, each week a different entree will be served.
Visit the MBS Men’s Club website for weekly specials at mbsmensclub.org
Gil Brassard 225-400-5052 or mbsmensclub@yahoo.com

**Fish Fry**
St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Albany
30300 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond
(take Albany, LA exit off of I-12)
4 – 6:30 p.m.
$8 includes fried fish, potato salad, coleslaw, bread and dessert
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573

**Lenten Fish Fry**
St. Augustine Church
Church hall
809 New Roads St., New Roads
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
$8 includes fried fish, potato salad, coleslaw, bread and dessert
Marcia Skidmore 225-323-7197

**Lenten Seafood Meals**
St. Mark Men’s Club
Fr. DeMaria Activity Center
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
6 – 7:30 p.m.
$10 each
Keith Beaucouray 225-647-8461

**Lent Dinners**
St. Jean Vianney
225-698-3110
5 – 6:15 p.m.
$8 per plate, for pick up only
401 Main St., Baton Rouge

**KC Seafood Suppers**
Knights of Columbus Hall
679 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
5:30 – 7 p.m.
$8
Parish office 225-753-7950

**Fish Fry**
Knights of Columbus
KC Hall
701 E. Pecan St., Ponchatoula
4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
$8 donation, eat in or dine out
Buddy Williams 504-252-2031

**MARCH 9 AND 10**

**Bake Sale**
Fr. Van Baast KPC Court #23
Ladies Auxiliary and Jr. Daughters
St. Benedict the Moor
St. Benedict Center
5471 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
6 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m. Sunday
Magan Williams 985-513-0674

**MARCH 15, 22, 29, APRIL 5, 12**

**Lenten Dinners by Holy Ghost**
Holy Ghost Church
Carpool area
601 N. Oak St., Hammond
5 – 7 p.m.
$8 plate
March 15, 22, April 12 – Fish
March 29 and April 5 – Seafood Potatoes
To support various projects throughout the year for Holy Ghost School
Daniel Mercante 985-507-7742

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**SPIRITUALITY ▼**

from page 48

about St. Benedict the Moor, patron of parish
Jerilyn Williams 985-513-2528
Fr. Eliseus Ibeh 985-513-3470

**APRIL 8**

**Taize Prayer Service**
St. Mark Church

**APRIL 10**

**Holy Hour Sponsored by KC Council #13632**
St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main St., Baton Rouge
5 – 6:15 p.m.
Lorie Weeks 225-387-5928

**APRIL 14**

**Palm Sunday Procession**
St. Benedict the Moor Church
5414 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
10 a.m.
Procession from Williams and Southall Funeral Home to St. Benedict the Moor Church
Jerry Williams 985-513-2528
Fr. Eliseus Ibeh 985-513-3470

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225-767-2525
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Hours: M - Wed. 11a - 7p; Th. - Sat. 11a - 9p
The Light is ON for You, sacrament of reconciliation

DAILY MONDAY – FRIDAY
St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main St., Baton Rouge
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.
Lorie Weeks 225-387-5928

St. Agnes Church
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge
Daily Monday – Friday 4:45 p.m., 4:45 p.m.
Saturday 7:45 a.m., 3 p.m.
Eileen Carroll 225-383-4127

First Saturday of the Month
Reconciliation
St. Gabriel Church
57805 Main St., Plaquemine
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Sister Hilda 225-753-9782

MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28
MARCH 10, 17
Reconciliation
St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
6:30 p.m.
Carol A. Hymel 225-265-3953

MARCH 9, 16, 23, 30,
MARCH 6, 13
Reconciliation Service
St. Gerard Majella Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
6:30 p.m.
St. Agnes Church
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge
6 – 7 p.m.
Eileen Carroll 225-387-5928

MARCH 9, 16, 23, 30,
MARCH 6, 13
Reconciliation Service
St. Gerard Majella Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
6:30 p.m.
Carol A. Hymel 225-265-3953

MARCH 10, 17
Reconciliation
St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
6:30 p.m.
Carol A. Hymel 225-265-3953

MARCH 13, 20, 27,
APRIL 3, 10
The Light is ON for You
Holy Family Church
474 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
5:30 – 6:15 p.m.
Church office 225-383-1838

MARCH 13, 20, 27,
APRIL 3, 10, 17
The Light is ON for You
Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Deacon Richard Grant 225-926-1883

MARCH 20
The Light is ON For You
St. Helena
122 South First St., Amite
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Church office 225-753-7950

MARCH 21
The Light is ON For You
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
11485 Ferdinand St.,
St. Francisville
5:30 – 7 p.m.
225-635-3630

MARCH 25
Lenten Penance Service
St. Ann Church
182 Church St., Morganza
6 p.m.
Retta Ramagos 225-694-3781

MARCH 26, 27
Reconciliation Service
St. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church
2905 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge
9 p.m.
7 p.m. Mass
Rev. Peter Tan Viet Nguyen 225-357-4800

MARCH 27
Lenten Penance Service
St. Joseph Church
57805 Main St., Plaquemine
6 p.m.
Marsha A. Dupont 225-687-2402

APRIL 2
Reconciliation
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
6:30 p.m.
Cecile Haley 225-647-8461

APRIL 3
Reconciliation
St. Joseph Church
2130 Rectory St., Paulina
6:30 p.m.

FUNDRAISER ▼
From page 58
$8 dinner-presale
$10 dinner at the door
Lunch and dinner tickets are NOT interchangeable.
Plates include fish, french fries and coleslaw.
Tickets can be bought online at saccessfsf@gmail.org or SACC family.
Triage the Clown and Friends, along with a DJ, providing entertainment in the Parish Hall. Raffle tickets available for $5 each to win a cash prize.
Chad Cole saccessfsf@gmail Child Care Center Kim Blair 225-343-1548

APRIL 5
Fried Fish Dinner
St. Ann Church
C.C.D. Building
182 Church St., Morganza
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
$8 per plate
Janice Newton 225-936-3361

KC Fish Fry/Sweet Shop
St. Mary of False River Church
Parish hall
348 Main St., New Roads
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
$10

APRIL 13
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
Holy Family Church
Parish Hall
182 Church St., Morganza
9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
All are invited for donuts and coffee. Bring camera to take pictures with the Easter Bunny!
Treat bags are first come, first served basis.
Accepting canned food items for Port Allen Food Pantry
Jennifer LeJeanne 225-336-4463

APRIL 14
Fish and Shrimp Po-boy Sale
KPC Council #23
17521 Monitor Ave., Baton Rouge
7 – 11:30 p.m.
$60 ticket ($50 alumni)
Drinks and food by LaCaretta Restaurant included in ticket price. Music by the band Parish County Line.
Josh Galasso or LeAnnah King 225-733-9782

MARCH 29
Seafood Supper
St. Joseph’s Academy
3080 Kleinert Ave.,
Baton Rouge
5 – 7 p.m.
$10 plate includes seafood etouffee, salad and bread.
Dorinda Beaumont, Athletic Director 225-388-2290

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The city’s oldest, continuously owned family business is
how because of a time-honored tradition of providing safe for families. At Ravenhurst, we have responded to over four generations of changing customs, traditions and beliefs.
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ravenhurst.com
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1100 Florida Blvd. • 272-9500

1866
Founder and 1847 immigrant
Charles Ravenhurst begins a business.

1897
Son Oscar, later joined by brother
Alvin E., leads into the 20th Century.

1924
First mortician hearse is customized
by Oscar Ravenhurst.

1931
Construction begins on the first
facility in the city built for funerals.

1932
Alvin E. begins pre-planning with
life insurance, son Alvin F. expands.  

1978
Second location opens on
Florida Boulevard.

1994
Fourth generation honors
founder’s grave, leads into the 21st Century.

2004
Modern, on-site crematory
means your loved one
never leaves our care.

2015
Receptions and catering
keep food tradition, sharing alive.
**Holy Week services**

**APRIL 18, HOLY THURSDAY MASSES**

**St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church, Albany**  
30200 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond  
(take Albany LA exit off of I-12)  
7 p.m. followed by adoration until midnight  
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573

**St. Gerard Majella Church**  
5354 Plank Rd., Baton Rouge  
7 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m.

**St. Agnes Church**  
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge  
5:30 p.m. followed by adoration until midnight

**St. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church**  
2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge  
4 p.m. – English  
7:30 p.m. – Vietnamese

**St. Alphonsus Church**  
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs  
7 p.m.

**St. Stephen the Martyr Church**  
22494 LA Hwy. 22, Maurepas  
7 p.m.

**St. Mark Church**  
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales  
7 p.m.

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
7 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Church**  
12364 LA Hwy. 416, Lakeland  
7 p.m.

**Mater Dolorosa Church**  
609 Third St., Independence  
7 p.m.

**St. Joseph Church**  
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula  
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Terri Albert 985-386-3749

**APRIL 19 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES**

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church, Albany  
30200 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond  
(take Albany LA exit off of I-12)  
Noon

**Veneration of the Cross**  
St. Thomas Chapel  
32191 Hwy. 22, Springfield  
3 p.m.  
Lanie Borum 225-567-3573

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Gabriel Church  
3625 Hwy. 75, St. Gabriel  
Noon  
3 p.m. service

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Agnes Church  
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge  
3 p.m. followed by Divine Mercy Novena.  
5:30 p.m. service of “Passion and Death of our Lord”

**St. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church**  
2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge  
4 p.m. – English  
7:30 p.m. – Vietnamese

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Alphonsus Church  
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs  
Noon  
3 p.m. Passion service

**Passion of the Lord and Stations of the Cross**  
St. Mark Church  
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales  
3 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Gerard Majella Church  
5354 Plank Rd., Baton Rouge  
2:30 p.m. followed by veneration of the cross

**Liturgy and Veneration**  
St. Stephen the Martyr Church  
22494 LA Hwy. 22, Maurepas  
6 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. John the Evangelist Church  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
Noon  
3 p.m. Veneration of the cross

**Stations of the Cross and confessions**  
Immaculate Conception Church  
12364 LA Hwy. 416, Lakeland  
Noon  
3 p.m. Passion of the Lord Service

**Outdoor Stations of the Cross**  
St. Joseph Cathedral  
401 Main St., Baton Rouge  
9 a.m.  
Lorie Weeks 225-387-5928

**St. Joseph Cathedral**  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
Noon  
3 p.m. Veneration of the Cross  
Marsha A. Dupont  
225-687-2402

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Joseph Church  
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Terri Albert 985-386-3749

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. John the Evangelist Church  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
Noon  
3 p.m. Veneration of the Cross  
Marsha A. Dupont  
225-687-2402

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Joseph Church  
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Terri Albert 985-386-3749

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. John the Evangelist Church  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
Noon  
3 p.m. Veneration of the Cross  
Marsha A. Dupont  
225-687-2402

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Joseph Church  
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Terri Albert 985-386-3749

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. John the Evangelist Church  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
Noon  
3 p.m. Veneration of the Cross  
Marsha A. Dupont  
225-687-2402

**Stations of the Cross**  
St. Joseph Church  
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Terri Albert 985-386-3749
**APRIL 4**

Lenten Penance Service  
St. Alphonsus Church  
2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge  
8 p.m.

Reconciliation Service  
Holy Rosary Church  
44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant  
6:30 p.m.

**APRIL 8**

The Light is ON For You  
Our Lady of Pompeii Church  
30300 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond  
6 a.m. – 8 a.m.

**APRIL 9**

Deanery Lent Penance Service  
St. Jean Vianney Church  
16666 S. Harrell’s Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge  
7 – 8 p.m.

**APRIL 10**

Penance Service/The Light is ON For You  
St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church, Albany  
30300 Catholic Hall Rd., Hammond  
(take Albany, LA exit off of I-12)  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**APRIL 19**

Reconciliation  
St. Joseph Church  
255 N. 8th St., Ponchatoula  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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**HOLY WEEK ▼**

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

Reconciliation Service  
St. Augustine Church  
809 New Roads St., New Roads  
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
225-627-755

**APRIL 20 EASTER VIGIL**

Mater Doloresa Church  
609 Third St., Independence  
8 p.m.  
Fr. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9639

St. Agnes Church  
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge  
8 p.m.

St. Gabriel Church  
3625 Hwy. 75, St. Gabriel  
8 p.m.

St. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church  
2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge  
4 p.m. – English  
7:30 p.m. – Vietnamese

**APRIL 21 EASTER MASSES**

St. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung Church  
2305 Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge  
8:30 a.m. – English  
10 a.m. – Vietnamese

St. Gerard Majella Church  
5354 Plank Rd., Baton Rouge  
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

St. John the Evangelist Church  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Immaculate Conception Church  
12364 LA Hwy. 416, Lakeland  
7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

St. Mark Church  
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales  
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

St. Alphonsus Church  
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs  
8 a.m.

St. John the Evangelist Church  
57805 Main St., Plaquemine  
7:30 p.m.

St. Gerard Majella Church  
5354 Plank Rd., Baton Rouge  
7 p.m.