**REPARATION**

**Way of the Cross a beginning to healing**

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Where there is darkness, light shines; where there is despair, hope. Bishop Michael G. Duca celebrated a special Way of the Cross for reparation for the sin of sexual abuse within the church April 5 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge. The bishop also gave a moving homily. Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator

Bishop Michael G. Duca celebrated a special Way of the Cross for reparation for the sin of sexual abuse within the church April 5 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge. The bishop also gave a moving homily. Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator

“I thought it was important to add this to our many ways we will grow and hopefully heal as a church.”

Following each of the 14 Stations of the Cross, Bishop Duca prayed a special prayer for sexual abuse victims. After the Third Station – Jesus Fall for the First Time – Bishop Duca prayed “for all abuse victims falling under the heavy burden of anguish too heavy to carry; we pray with them in their pain, fear and confusion that they may have the endurance and receive the love that enables them to rise again.”

During his homily after the final station, Bishop Duca said, “We gather for this Way of the Cross and reparation for the sins of the church.”

He noted that reparation is the road to the Passion of Jesus, and we can see in the Passion how he teaches us how to walk with suffering in the hope of the resurrection.

**Musical tribute**

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Robbie Giroir, who was director of music and the organist at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge for more than 30 years, left a legacy through his musical career. Former student Christopher Berry, born and raised in Baton Rouge and an alumnus of Catholic High School, returned to present a recital in memory of Giroir at the cathedral on March 28.

Christopher Berry’s hands gracefully glides across the keyboard of the organ, Providence, at a concert tribute to Robbie Giroir on March 28. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator

Giroir’s indelible print has been left on his students, many of whom have traveled the world and excelled in their own musical careers. Former student Christopher Berry, professor of organ and organist at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, returned to present a recital in memory of Giroir at the cathedral on March 28.

Berry, born and raised in Baton Rouge and an alumnus of Catholic High School, started studying the organ at age 13. He said he was on “cloud nine”

**Holy Week preparation**

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he was greeted by cries of joy and praise - ... they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel (Jn 12:13).”

Palm Sunday, with its procession of faithful holding palms outside of the church and the reading of the Passion of Christ during Mass, kicks off a Holy Week that includes both a beginning and an end, but not in that order. Instead, it’s the end of one liturgical season and the beginning of another, according to Father Tom Ranzino, vicar general of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

“The best way to look at this is not so much how to get prepared for Holy Week but how do you do Holy Week?” explained Father Ranzino.

“When we think about the liturgical seasons of the year, many people think of seasons like Christmas, Easter, even Lent and they fail to remember the liturgical season the Triduum which is right in the middle of Holy Week.”

The Easter Triduum is the “shortest liturgical season we have,” according to Father Ranzino. It begins the evening of Holy Thursday and ends the evening of Easter Sunday.

Father Ranzino noted that Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday, encompasses the ending of Lent, the beginning of a new liturgical season that includes the celebration of Easter and “really becomes the doorway that leads us into what we call the Easter season.”

“The feast is so big it can’t be contained in just one celebration,” said Father Ranzino. “We have 40 days of Lent, well, we have 50 days of Easter.

“You know one backdrop to this whole week of what we call Holy Week is what we call the paschal mystery and that's the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

**THE CATHOLIC COMMENTATOR**

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SERVING THE DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE SINCE 1963

thecatholiconline.org
Ronald McFish?

No meat on Fridays during Lent? No problem for Catholics in south Louisiana who consider anything growing in or around a bayou, river, lake, ditch or Gulf of Mexico sustenance for the dinner table.

In the past, however, the no meat deal included all Fridays of the year and even Wednesdays during Lent. The rule was initially aimed at prescribing faithful Catholics to eat fruits and vegetables and abstaining from meats, which were much more filling.

According to Canon Law 1250, “The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.”

Thus, the practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays gave rise to a new commodity and new commercial product in the U.S.: McDonald’s Filet-O-Fish. Lou Groen, a McDonald’s franchise owner in Cincinnati, Ohio, created the fish sandwich in 1962 to tackle low hamburger sales on Fridays. At the time, most of his customers were Catholics.

While Vatican II did not eliminate abstinence on Fridays, a special day of the week observing Jesus’ death, it did allow for other forms of penance to serve in place of abstinence as allowed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In 1966 a pastoral statement on penance and abstinence, the USCCB did away with the Friday abstinence rule and encouraged good works instead, stating, “It would bring great glory to God and good souls if Fridays found our people doing volunteer work in hospitals, visiting the sick, serving the needs of the aged and the lonely, instructing the young in the Faith, participating as Christians in community affairs, and meeting our obligations to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our community, including our parishes …”

As society, habits and tastes have changed during the years, the idea of eating fish on Fridays during Lent has remained strong, giving way to the popular Friday fish fries at many Catholic churches. Those events are part of the good works of these church parishes by raising funds to support ministries and parish programs.

But, as Good Friday approaches, it might be good to be reminded of the USCCB’s pastoral statement, referring to the observance of Friday, meat or no meat: “Friday should be in each week something of what Lent is in the entire year.”

CORRECTIONS

James Lockwood’s name was misspelled in the March 26 issue of The Catholic Commentator.

DID YOU KNOW

Ellis Doyle, a parishioner at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Baton Rouge, fries shrimp and fish for the church’s Friday fish fries during Lent. Photo by Debbie Shelley

| The Catholic Commentator

Journey to Calvary

By Dina Dow

Holy Week is here. The journey to Calvary begins with the fall in Eden and ends with the last breath of Jesus on the cross. The head of the snake will be crushed by the one promised by God and foretold by the prophets. The number of Scripture readings for Palm Sunday, the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The Lord, having loved those who were his own, loved them to the end. Knowing that the hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father, in the course of a meal he washed their feet and gave them the commandment of love. In order to leave them a pledge of this love, in order never to depart from his own and to make them sharers in his Passover, he instituted the Eucharist as the memorial of his death and Resurrection, and commanded his apostles to celebrate it until his return; thereby he constituted them priests of the New Testament.”

Via Dolorosa

We adore you, o Christ, and we praise you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Way of Sorrows begins in the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives, as Jesus prays. The intensity of his prayer proves so agonizing as he sees the sins of the world: past, present and future. What does he see? All the sins of the world. All of them. Mine, yours, ours. He truly desires the will of God, knowing where this will lead him. His innocence lifts our guilt. His love outweighs our hate. His sorrow depletes our loss. His love restores our lives. Despite the betrayal of a friend, the denial of another, the abandonment of the rest, the condemnation of earthly authority, the beatings, stripping, mocking, spitting, crowning of thorns piecing his head, the carrying of the cross, the nails driven into his hands and feet, the torment of the cross, lossof most of his blood and three hours of slow suffocation, he did not once turn back. He never abandoned his path. Step by step, with every ounce of energy left in his muscles, he kept on moving forward to Calvary, the destination of sacrifice for you and me. From the cross, he forgave, he opened...
Abortion on legislative agenda

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A legislative session focused, primarily by law, on fiscal concerns will also have a bevy of other issues to consider, including significant pro-life legislation.

Perhaps the most high-profile bill is the “Love Life Amendment,” co-sponsored by Rep. Katrina Jackson and Sen. Beth Mizell, which would allow that nothing in the constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion. Additionally, the amendment would prohibit requiring funding for an abortion.

“The bill is an exciting step in the right direction,” said Danielle Van Haute, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. “This Constitutional Amendment would prevent the state court from being able to establish the right to abortion or tax funding for abortion.”

“I feel confident that this amendment can pass,” she added. “The fundamental human right is the right to life. Any law claiming a ‘right’ to destroy life undermines all others. I think the people of Louisiana understand that.”

If approved by lawmakers, the “Love Life Amendment” would go to the voters Nov. 16. “Our polling data shows that 70 percent of Louisianans self-identify as pro-life,” Benjamin Clapper, Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life, said “It’s time our citizens placed our pro-life principles at the heart of our state by passing the Love Life Amendment. Our new Louisiana Pro-Life Amendment Coalition will be leading the effort to pass this amendment, and we look forward to visiting with voters across Louisiana to gain their support for the amendment.”

Jackson said her amendment assures there is no right to an abortion or taxpayer funding of abortion in the state constitution. She said approval by voters would prevent Louisiana from following in the footsteps of New York, which recently legalized abortion up to the very moment before birth.

Mizell has also filed the Women’s Right to Know Law, which would essentially require the name of the physician who will perform an abortion be listed on a written document in the same manner as the name appears on the membership roll of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the local and specialty of the physician’s residence and whether the residency has been completed, whether the physician is currently board certified and if so by what organization, whether the physician has ever been placed on probation, reprimanded or had his license suspended or revoked by any professional licensing organization.

Rep. Frank Hoffman has filed a bill that would redefine the term “abortion” for the purpose of the Outpatient Abortion Facility Licensing Law. The bill would remove the term “any surgical procedure after pregnancy” with the intent to cause the termination of a live birth to “the act of using or prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug or any other substance, device, or means with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman” with knowledge that those means will, with “reasonable likelihood” cause the death of the unborn child.

The session convened April 8 and must end no later than 6 p.m. June 6.
Holy Family School, in Port Allen, Louisiana, serves over 400 students in grades PK-8th and is currently accepting applicants for Elementary School Teacher, Middle School English Teacher and Middle School Spanish Teacher for the 2019-2020 school year.

Interested applicants should email a resume, letter of intent and contact information for three professional references to Principal Michael Comeau at mcomeau@hfspa.com.

Holy Family Catholic School does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school administered programs.
Volunteers fill Easter baskets with candy, love

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

When needy children plunge their hands into the Easter grass of brightly colored baskets to retrieve their goodies, the St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers who packed them with love and prayers say they hope their delight will lead them to discover the greater gift given to them by Jesus at his resurrection.

St. Vincent de Paul will distribute more than 3,000 Easter baskets this year, according to Desha Martin, SVDP volunteer coordinator. Approximately 1,500 baskets will be distributed to children in the East Baton Rouge Head Start Program and the Easter Bunny will distribute 1,500 baskets to children at the SVDP dining room on April 13.

While many think about giving at Christmas, Lent is a time of soul searching and reflection, said SVDP Executive Director Michael Acaldo. The Build a Basket project is an ecumenical project that helps people look beyond themselves by reaching out to people in need, according Acaldo.

“At Easter, we celebrate the life and resurrection of our Lord, and there is no better time to give and to share the Easter message of hope,” Acaldo said.

He said the Easter basket project is SVDP’s way to let children and their parents/guardians know that Easter Sunday is different from all other Sundays and that someone cares about them.

Volunteers came to the Bon Carre Business Center and filled shopping carts with stuffed animals, candy — in the form of chocolate crosses or Easter bunnies, in plastic eggs or packages — as well as coloring books, crayons, toys and other items donated from around the diocese. The assembled Easter baskets also contained the story of Christ’s resurrection at Easter.

“I love knowing this is going to brighten up a child’s day,” said Abigail Alexander. “I’m excited because I don’t have a daughter, I have three sons, so it gives me great joy to do a girl’s Easter basket.”

The opportunity to tell others about Jesus’ resurrection was the calling card for volunteer Debra Averhart. Her grandchildren love to dye Easter eggs, which she hides for their egg hunt. But her main goal is to make sure the children discover the true meaning of Easter.

“It’s all about the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,” said Averhart.

Yalan Tang has volunteered to wrap Christmas gifts for SVDP and enjoys seasonal projects.

“I feel that when they open their basket they will be so happy. I want to share in the joy with the child. I love children and want them to feel special. I want to do all I can for them,” said Tang.

Working on Easter baskets was something Margarett Upshaw said she loved to do as a child.

“Children should be able to celebrate Easter,” said Upshaw.

Roger del Rio, who has volunteered for SVDP for several years serving in the St. Vincent de Paul dining room, said, “This year I was looking for something different I could do this year for Lent when my wife said, “Each year you talk about giving something up for Lent. Why don’t you think about what you could do for Lent?”

He has enjoyed going in a different direction by joining in the Easter basket project for his Lenten journey and thinks about the gratitude that will fill the children’s parents and guardians’ hearts as they and their children receive a message of hope during their trials and sufferings.

Del Rio was recently helping with the Easter baskets when a big truck backed up to deliver 330 Easter baskets assembled by Pat Hill at her home. Last year, Hill, the most pro-prolific Easter basket project volunteer, assembled over 1,000 baskets and hopes to match or exceed that number this year.

“It’s a beautiful opportunity for me to give a gift to a child,” said Hill. “I say a prayer that the children and their families who will receive the baskets will be so blessed.”

Her family is involved with making the baskets. Her daughter from Katy, Texas makes bows for the baskets that girls can wear in their hair or boys can give to their sister or “girlfriend.”

Hill’s family also helps her develop a theme for each basket.

Her church family, St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, also helps by sending supplies or monetary donations.

Hill said that sometimes a little gift, like an Easter basket, might be all it takes to help a child recognize that something good happened on Easter Sunday – Christ’s resurrection.

“Hopefully they’ll grow up and look a little further into it,” she said and discover for themselves the true meaning of Easter.
Bell at consecration?/ Blasphemy against Holy Spirit

Q I was in a liturgy committee meeting at my parish, and I suggested that we have the altar server ring the bell at the consecration during the Mass on Easter Sunday. (We don’t normally use altar bells at our parish.) One of the committee members said that the use of altar bells has been banned by the church since the Second Vatican Council. Is this true? (Owings Mills, Maryland)

A The committee member was wrong. The use of altar bells during Mass is neither mandated by the church nor forbidden; it is an option but not an obligation, left to the discretion of the pastor.

Here’s what the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says: “A little before the consecration, if appropriate, a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation by the priest, according to local custom” (No. 150).

The ringing of bells during the consecration has a long history in the church, beginning about the 13th century. In those days, churches were large, the priest faced the altar and Mass was offered in Latin; churches often had raised platforms in front of the altar for the choir, the result being that some worshippers could not see the altar. The ringing of bells served to draw the attention of the congregation to the fact that the sacred act of transubstantiation was taking place.

After the liturgical reforms of Vatican II with the priest now facing the people and the language in the vernacular, many parishes decided to discontinue the use of altar bells. Bells do, though, add reverence and solemnity to a celebration. (Note that bells are rung at the Gloria during the Easter Vigil Mass to express the joy of the Resurrection.)

Altar bells are commonly used in the basilicas of Rome and, interestingly, in 1972 when asked the question “Is a bell to be rung at Mass?” the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments gave this reply: “From a long and attentive catechesis and education in liturgy, a particular liturgical assembly may be able to take part in the Mass with such attention and awareness that it has no need of this signal at the central part of the Mass. The opposite may be presumed in a parish or a public church, where there is a different level of liturgical and religious education and where people who are visitors or are not regular churchgoers take part.”

Q Recently I heard read at Mass these words from St. Mark’s Gospel: “Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin.” This puzzled me. How does one blaspheme against the Holy Spirit? (Dublin, Ohio)

A The quote you reference is from Mark 3:28-29. On the surface, it would seem to clash with what we grew up learning: that God can forgive anything if we’re sorry. And so, not surprisingly, this passage has sparked considerable commentary.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: “There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit.” (No. 1864).

So “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” — I believe and would hope is rather unusual; it would mean rejecting God’s offer of forgiveness all the way to the end of one’s life.
Self-examination a good practice during Lent

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

"Could you not stay awake one hour?"

As Lent quickly comes to a close, some may find themselves in the same perplexing situation as the disciples, when Jesus invites them to watch and pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane and admonishes them when he returns from prayer to find them asleep. People may find they have been on autopilot during Lent and are now receiving a startling “wake up” call, according to Father Jerry Martin, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Prairieville.

One of the reasons people may not be fully ready to celebrate Easter is that they have gone “by the same program” they do each Lent without thinking about how prayer, almsgiving and fasting should lead to spiritual growth. They believe they are “doing okay” by sticking with the familiar, according to Father Jerry Martin, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Prairieville.

“When abstaining from meat, for example, for a lot of people it’s not painful, not difficult, maybe even pleasurable,” said Father Martin.

Sacrifices should be more than an exercise in self-control, it should be a way of finding unity and relationship with believers around the world, Father Martin emphasized.

A good practice to mark spiritual progress is through an evening self-examination of conscience and asking, “What did I do today, and why?” according to Father Martin.

"Especially during Lent, make sure you are not going through the motions so that you will reap the spiritual benefits," said Martin.

If one discovers they have taken the easy way, they can look to Jesus, who modeled on the way to his crucifixion that when one falls down they get up and start again.

"The only failure is when we don’t get back up and try again," Father Martin said.

A good way people can avoid the pitfall of being in the same place spiritually as before they started Lent is “to appreciate the progress I’ve already made and not be discouraged by the progress I have yet to make," stressed Father Martin.

Deacon Pete Walsh, deacon assistant at St. Patrick Church in Baton Rouge, said during Lent, “Each of us needs to introduce something that will re-orientate our thinking. We need a ‘discontinuing in life.’”

Sometimes that “discontinuing in life” is handed to people, such as during the Flood of 2016, or when one loses a loved one or faces some other life change.

Deacon Walsh, whose home and cars were flooded during 2016, said he was blessed by the assistance from his family and church family of St. Patrick and heard many people say, “I really don’t need all that stuff.”

Deacon Walsh, whose wife, Joan, died in January, said loss causes one to be more introspective and draw closer to God. He pointed out that during Lent people can encounter God more deeply through the Stations of the Cross, Taize services, praying the Divine Mercy chaplet, participating in a retreat – away or at home – or having a technology-free day.

“It’s a good time to recalibrate. A recalibration where we check where we are and where we are going,” said Deacon Walsh.

During those periods, "time really slows down," and people can hear God’s promises of love, faithfulness and protection, Deacon Walsh emphasized.

“It’s Jesus calling, saying, ‘I will protect you. I’ll take care of that’,” said Deacon Walsh.

And that can lead to the realization that heaven, not Earth, are home.

Deacon Walsh recalled a trip to Europe and Medjugorje with family and friends.

“I remember thinking (in Europe) this is not my home and when I get back to the United States, that’s still not my home.”

To be renewed spiritually during Lent, people should ask Mary to teach them how to pray and take her with them. He said Mary was in deep sorrow and distress as she accompanied Jesus to his death and rejoiced at his resurrection.

Deacon Walsh emphasized if you want to “get at the heart” of who Jesus is, you have to let him into your heart.

To do so, one must be humble, said Deacon Walsh. He noted that Jesus observed the Pharisees and taught his followers not to do what they do if they want to enter the kingdom of heaven.

“The minute I start feeling so good about all the things I do, I better watch out,” chuckled Deacon Walsh.

The Holy Spirit calls people to make changes that will result in spiritual growth beyond Lent, said Deacon Walsh.

“But he’s doing the work, you just have to show up,” said Deacon Walsh. “Say, ‘Thank you Jesus, I can only do it because of your help.’"
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Baton Rouge

Wednesday April 24th
Duke’s Seafood
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Lunch Provided Afterwards

Baton Rouge

Thursday April 25th
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4960 Bluebonnet Blvd., Ste. C
10:00am – 12:00pm
Lunch Provided Afterwards! Catered by Carrabbas Italian Grill
GIROIR
From page 1

when Giroir, who had a reputation of excellence as a teacher, took him as a student in the 1990s after an audition.

“I remember his sayings. He was brilliant and really quick with one-liners. They could sometimes be scathing,” said Berry.

He remembers playing a piece in the cathedral choir loft and Giroir was down in the church listening to him.

“He came running up the stairs and said, ‘What are you doing, trying to kill cockroaches?’ ” Berry mused.

Giroir then instructed Berry on the correct way to play the organ pedals rather than stomp on them. Berry wears ballroom shoes, which have a thinner sole than dress shoes, to get “the feel” of the organ pedals.

Berry acknowledges that an organism’s temptation is to “show off.” Giroir helped him get over that during another lesson. This time, Giroir’s approach was more slow and grave. He told Berry, “You need to play to express, not to impress.”

Even through his corrections, Berry didn’t lose heart, because he knew that Giroir had high expectations and would not take on a student unless he recognized talent and potential in them. Berry said Giroir was always supportive and offered critiques that the students be the best they can be.

Berry said he was also privileged to be around the cathedral when its icon organ, Providence, was installed in 1992. He said Giroir “walked on air” as the electronics and piping were installed.

When Berry was in high school, Giroir asked him to be his assistant organist, which meant playing for Saturday vigil Masses and assisting at other large cathedral events, including the funeral of Bishop Stanley J. Ott.

And Berry has taken many valuable lessons from Giroir through his musical career. Berry is also director of music and organist at the basilica of St. Joseph in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

His church positions have also included the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. and the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City. He has played recitals and accompanies choirs throughout Europe and America.

Giroir has been to Berry’s concerts through the years. Berry said it was also through Giroir’s tutelage that he won a prestigious award from the Conservatoire de Rueil-Malmaison in France.

“I learned (to play) ‘Pièce Héroïque’ with Robbie,” he said. “Years later, when preparing for the final exam at the conservatory, a piece was assigned to us on short notice that had to be played from memory in order to obtain the Premier Prix, or first prize. To my great joy, and relief, this was the piece I was assigned. I had learned it so well that memorizing it on short notice was no problem.

“So I owe my Premier Prix to Robbie.”

He attended Giroir’s funeral and met David Summers, primary substitute organist at St. Joseph. Summers and Berry came from different eras of Giroir’s students (Summers studied under Giroir from 2011-2015). However, as they talked they found much that remained the same about Giroir, such as his quotes, eccentricities and “brand of music” that was distinct, which is what drew them to him.

“He (Giroir) had something I wanted,” said Summers, who himself has studied and performed music abroad and did an internship at the cathedral under Giroir. “I knew studying with him I would get on the right path.”

Summers remembers Giroir would say, “Don’t come with a default setting” and was amazed at Giroir’s ability to improvise when playing the same musical selections for three to four weekend Masses.

It wasn’t long after Berry and Summers talked that the memorial concert was planned. Berry’s concert featured congregational hymns, which Giroir considered “the pinnacle of music” and most sacred.

And Giroir’s personality shone through in the concert. Concerning the piece “Litanies” Berry said, “You can hear the rhythm of the railroad in this piece. I chose to play it, in part, because Robbie was such a train enthusiast.”

Berry received a standing ovation at the concert’s conclusion, which he and Summers hope left a true impression of Giroir, a person whom is “too hard to describe in a few words.”

“Even better than a performer, choral director and airplane pilot, one thing Robbie was better at than any one else was as an educator,” said Summers. “He had that gift that inspired people and made them want to be the best.”

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Art from the Heart

By Richard Meek

The Catholic Commentator

Spent a few minutes with Kim Lopez and one is immediately struck by her love of the Catholic faith.

Take some time looking at the artwork of the Baton Rouge resident and one has a glimpse into her heart, one that overflows with love, love of family, love of faith and a genuine appreciation of her life.

“I don’t know how people live without faith,” said Lopez, a native of New Orleans and a cradle Catholic. “When you’re in the dumps, where do you go?”

Lopez is one of those rare individuals who has been able to share her love of Christ from her heart to the canvas.

Since retiring from a Baton Rouge engineering firm several years ago, Lopez has turned her attention to painting religious art. And the results are stunning.

Step into the new John Paul II house that is managed by Christ the King Catholic Center in Baton Rouge and one is welcomed by a stunning painting of the San Damiano cross that St. Francis was praying when he got his stigmata.

Through art, the piece tells the story of the crucifixion and the risen Christ. The image is of the risen Christ, and all who were present at the crucifixion and the risen Christ. The image is of St. Francis was praying while he was going on with that crucifix of San Damiano. It tells the whole crucifixion right there.

Lopez, one of six children, was first introduced to the art world at the youthful age of four, when her mother sent her to Delgado Community College in New Orleans for an art class. She said a “really nice husband and wife” were her instructors.

Lopez was grateful for, especially since her older sisters also dabble in art, particularly modern art.

“In every piece of work, you might see something,” said Lopez, who had dabbled in art in her younger years and had been painting pieces more appealing to young people while her two children, including her son Jeremy, who is a seminarian, were being raised.

Evidence of her work is displayed through her paintings of the Sacred Hearts, which she shares with her husband, located in the lakes area of Baton Rouge.

Her first foray into religious art came about 13 years ago when her family moved to Christ the King. By that time, her two children were old enough to allow Lopez freedom to spread her artistic wings.

“I wanted to give back and I wanted to do something,” said Lopez, who had asked the priest to “come pray about the image” or think about the image he might want.

Painting religious art allows Lopez the opportunity to express what she wants to relay to people and to evoke emotions.

“And maybe tap into something just like you would verbally, something nonverbally,” she said. “Music does it, art does it. That can change somebody.”

Her artwork is also an opportunity for evangelization, explaining that a person might be on the fence regarding his or her faith but in “every little piece of work, you might see (something) supporting their faith, a belief so strong that it’s what’s driving them.”

“And sooner or later it’s going to drill down into somebody like, ‘I need to start paying attention to that a little more in my own life.’”

“Just like with (the crucifix), in every piece of art I’ve done I’ve gained knowledge,” Lopez added. “The people that are praying about it, they have insight and they have passed that onto me.”

“Lopez and her gift of art ever since I was ordained a priest,” Father Merrick said. “Her sacred art reflects her deep love of the Lord and her Catholic Faith. Each piece she produces is a gift of love to the King Catholic Center. By that time, her two children were old enough to allow Lopez freedom to spread her artistic wings.”

Her Sacred Hearts were original images of the Sacred Hearts, Father Johnson said, adding that Kim painted for me were original images of the Sacred Hearts. Her first foray into religious art came about 13 years ago when her family moved to Christ the King. By that time, her two children were old enough to allow Lopez freedom to spread her artistic wings.

“I have always had a devotional to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and the first pieces that Kim painted for me were original images of the Sacred Hearts,” Father Johnson said, adding that Lopez “has been walking with me through her gift of art ever since I was ordained a priest in 1991.”

“When I moved into my new rectory (at Holy Rosary), I wanted my entire rectory to feel like a place that was conducive for prayer.”

“Father Johnson said Lopez created multiple pieces for him for the rectory so that whatever room he is in he can experience intimacy with Jesus.

“I’ve always had a deep faith and I wanted to do something,” said Lopez, who had dabbled in art in her younger years and had been painting pieces more appealing to young people while her two children, including her son Jeremy, who is a seminarian, were being raised.

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Tapping into the future of teaching means tapping into technology. The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Baton Rouge is making sure educators are prepared.

Thirty teachers from schools throughout the diocese gathered March 26-27 at the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center in Baton Rouge for a workshop on education technology provided by the International Society for Technology in Education, ISTE.

According to CSO superintendent Dr. Melanie Verges, ISTE partnered with the National Catholic Educational Association to provide classes to certify teachers as a “technology educator.”

“They’ll be using technology in their classrooms not only more frequently but in a way that promotes higher order thinking skills and increases rigor in their classrooms,” said Verges. “Our goal is to evangelize hearts, educate minds, encourage talent and embrace the future, and technology is a tool that goes across all of those parts of our vision.”

Following the two-day cohort, participants will go through nine weeks of online work, then develop a portfolio demonstrating “they’ve learned and mastered and have the ability to incorporate these standards into their lessons,” stated Marcie Hebert, ISTE facilitator.

“It’s a powerful process because it gets (teachers) to really look at technology and why we use technology and how we use technology,” Hebert said.

She added that while technology is an important tool it should not be “the thing that drives our decision making” but it will help meet educational goals.

“It’s going to give teachers frameworks that help them to analyze technology use as well as looking at some of the big concepts going on right now like digital citizenship,” stated Hebert.

Zachary Leger, who teaches engineering and computer architecture at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge, said ISTE standards are “very vast and very broad.”

“They’re going to give teachers new avenues to teach tools. They’re going to give teachers the opportunity to teach their lessons in a new way. They’re going to give teachers the opportunity to teach their lessons in a new way.”

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Teachers gather for a breakout session during the ISTE cohort on technology training held March 26 – 27 at the Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. Photo by Bonny Van | The Catholic Commentator

The CSO is the second school system in Louisiana and the first Catholic school system to host the cohort.

“The research is clear,” said Verges. “If a teacher has a lot of skill and talent, the students learn more.”
BURNING OF PALMS – Ken Thevenet, director of worship at St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge, and fifth-grade students from St. Aloysius School in Baton Rouge, burn palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Every Wednesday during Lent, the student body prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Photo provided by Edie Boudreaux | St. Aloysius School

THROW ME SOMETHING! – Sixth-grade students at Catholic Elementary School of Pointe Coupee in New Roads host the first Krewe of 6th Parade. The theme was “Louisiana Traditions.” Students planned, created and worked on everything themselves, using items from home, donations from parents or items they had found in the classroom. Krewe members tossed beads and candy to students lining the hallways. Photo provided by Megan Girlinghouse | CESPC

SCIENCE NIGHT – St. Alphonsus School in Greenwell Springs hosted a night of science and hands-on scientific activities for students and their families called “Phun with Physics: It’s All About the Wave.” Photo provided by Dr. Cindy Rials | St. Alphonsus School

YOUNG LAWMAKERS – Eighth-grade students from Holy Family School in Port Allen participated in the Boys and Girls Club Youth Legislature Program, which introduces students to the legislative process. The two-day mock legislative session was held at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Eighteen students represented Holy Family School and presented six bills ranging from underage tobacco usage to a universal hunting license. Photo provided by Annette Fitzgerald | Holy Family School

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Grades Kindergarten – 8th

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Register Online:
https://learn.evangelcatbr.org
**Captive State**

**Foco**

Drab sci-fi drama in which, nine years after humanity surrendered the earth to invading aliens, a young Chicago man (Ashton Sanders) gets caught up in a conspiracy to rebel against them. He and the other plotters are tracked by a local police official (John Goodman) whose ultimate allegiance in the struggle is unclear. Director and co-writer Rupert Wyatt sets out to tell a thoughtful, complex story, and his film, which also features Jonathan Majors, Vera Farmiga and Colson Baker, aka rapper Machine Gun Kelly, does engage more interest as the interlocking elements of the planned uprising emerge. But the movie as a whole never quite gels, and the inclusion of some gritty settings and behavior makes this strictly adult fare. Considerable violence with some gore, torture, multiple suicides, glimpses of nonmarital sexual activity, cohabitation, a prostitution theme, a transvestite character, at least one pornography, a couple of rough terms, occasional crude language. A-III; PG-13

**Us**

Top-notch but excessively bloody horror fantasy from writer-director Jordan Peele. A childhood encounter with an exact double of herself proves to be the far-off prelude to a California woman (Lupita Nyong'o), her husband (Winston Duke) and kids (Shahadi Wright Joseph and Evan Alex) being visited and terrorized by a malignant version of their family. The macabre replicas have emerged from the tunnels in which they dwell armed with scissorys and intent on murder. There are frights aplenty in the struggle that follows as well as an allegory about economic inequality and perhaps slavery as well. Though clan closeness proves crucial to the outcome, the mayhem is too intense for a wide audience. Much graphic and gory violence, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, numerous rough and crude terms, mild sexual references. L; R

**Dumbo**

Disney

Lush but insubstantial live-action reimagining of the 1941 animated classic, set in 1919, in which the young elephant of the title becomes a pawn in a struggle to profit from the fact that his outsized ears enable him to fly. Out to protect him are a wounded and recently widowed World War I veteran (Colin Farrell), his two children (Nico Parker and Finley Hayward), and the manager (Danny DeVito) of the circus for which he works. The owner (Michael Keaton) of a lavish amusement park has more ideas which are not necessarily shared by his amiable girl friend (Eva Green). Director Tim Burton brings visual flair to screenwriter Ehren Kruger's story but the impression it leaves is less than lasting while constant peril, the mistreatment of animals and several sad plot developments make this too challenging for little kids. Characters in danger, cruelty to animals. A-II; PG-13

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**Unplanned**

**Pan Flk**

Hard-hitting, fact-based drama adapted from a memoir by Abby Johnson. During her rise to become one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the country, Johnson (Ashley Bratcher) gradually becomes uneasy about the organization’s marketing of abortion, a process of conversion that reaches a dramatic climax when she is asked to assist a doctor performing the procedure and witnesses via sonogram what it really involves. Her new stance is welcomed by her pro-life husband (Brooks Ryan) and parents (Robin DeMarco and Robert Thomson) as well as by some of the activists (Jared Lotz and Emma Elle Roberts) she once considered adversaries. But it infuriates her former superior in the organization (Robia Scott) who becomes the moving force in a lawsuit against her. Written and directed by ChuckKonzelman and Cary Solomon, the film is effective but unsurprising in its effort to convey the full horror of slaughtering the unborn. So the parents of older teens will have to decide whether the informative value of the story outweighs its disturbing content. Not for the casual moviegoer of any age. Gory images of abortion and dismembered fetuses, much medical gore, a mild oath, a few crass expressions, a vague sexual reference. A-II; PG-13

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**Actress who stars in ‘Unplanned’ thinks film is ‘going to change history’**

(CNS) — To say that actress Ashley Bratcher is enthusiastic about her latest film project is an understatement.

“1 think it’s going to change history,” she said of the real-life story upon which the film is based. “I really do. I think it’s just that impactful.”

Bratcher portrays Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who became an outspoken pro-life activist, in “Unplanned.”

Opening in theaters to higher than expected ratings March 29, the film is Johnson’s book of the same title and recounts how Johnson, once honored by Planned Parenthood as its “Employee of the Year,” came face-to-face with the reality of abortion and converted to the pro-life cause.

Bratcher knows the story’s transformative power because she has felt it herself.

Though she auditioned for the role without even knowing that Johnson was a real person and not the fictional creation of a screenwriter, Bratcher later went home and did some research online. She watched a video of Johnson sharing her story and, she said, it “shook me to my core.”

Bratcher had identified as pro-life, but admits that she had been “middle-of-the-road” on the issue, having limited understanding of fetal development, not knowing much about what an abortion procedure actually involved, and being unwilling to tell another woman what to do with, “so to speak, her body.”

But that video filled the gaps in her understanding, she said, and “really convicted me in my spirit to say, Wow, people don’t know this. ... America needs to know the truth.”

If video footage of Johnson describing her experience in words can be that powerful, a dramatization would be even more powerful.

“With this movie, we allow people to see for the first time what they’ve never seen before, and I think that is going to be. ... really compelling,” Bratcher said during a March 8 telephone interview with The Southern Cross, newspaper of the Diocese of San Diego.

The filmmakers’ effort to share Johnson’s eye-opening experience with theaters met with an R-rating from the Motion Picture Association of America for “some disturbing/bloody images.”

Johnson sees “a political agenda at play” in the rating decision, but also feels that the MPAA “stumbled backwards into the truth” that abortion is inherently violent.

A parent herself, Johnson gives her assurance that children “have seen much worse on cable TV than they will see in this film.”
HOLY ▼

From page 1

Christ. That's the whole story right there."

On Wednesday of Holy Week, Bishop Michael G. Duca will bless the oils used throughout the new liturgical year at a Chrism Mass, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge. On Holy Thursday, only one Mass is allowed in the evening, according to Father Ranzino, which includes two major events: “the washing of the feet and the giving of the Eucharist.” Both actions, he noted, are “different ways of saying communion.”

“We’re doing communion in the washing of the feet and we’re doing communion in the sharing of the body and the blood of Christ – the justice aspect of service,” continued Father Ranzino. “That’s one of the demands that comes from receiving Holy Communion. One is to go out and love thy neighbor as a way of showing love for God.”

Holy Thursday Mass ends with the procession of the Blessed Sacrament followed by adoration vigil. The practice “harkens back to the early Christian community in Jerusalem,” Father Ranzino said.

“They would stay all night. They would keep vigil, looking forward to the Easter celebrations.”

Good Friday commemorates the death of Jesus through the Stations of the Cross and Holy Saturday includes the Easter Vigil and the Easter fire, which lights the candles of the faithful before Mass and the new sanctuary light, representing Christ as our light, according to Father Ranzino.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops calls the liturgical season, Father Ranzino.

“The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops calls the liturgical season, Father Ranzino.

“Though chronologically three of the liturgical year, stating, ‘the end of Holy Week. People should be tired because they would have given themselves. This is really the week of faith expressed through the church. You don’t keep Holy Week by yourself. You keep it with others, with the church,” said Father Ranzino.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS – Bishop Michael G. Duca, right, and Chef John Folse serve up a Sicilian-style soup made by Folse during the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s “Count Your Blessings Supper” March 22 at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center. The Lenten dinner allowed participants to give thanks for the gifts they have received during the past year while helping the needy. Photo by Debbie Shelley | The Catholic Commentator

 solution on page 18
Greatest hero

The early Christians did not make crucifixes because the sight caused them so much shame and horror. They lived in a Roman world that still used crucifixion to carry out the death penalty for condemned criminals. The main point of crucifixion was public shame and threat. It was used to discourage rebellion, sedition and escape from slavery. The first century Jewish historian Josephus called crucifixion “the most wretched of deaths.” St. Paul best expressed the inspired meaning of the cross for Christians. It was both a sign of the power of evil, Jesus’ planned torture and death, as well as a sign of divine love for all humankind who suffer: “For in him (Jesus) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross” (Col 1:19-20).

There is a strong tradition that the true cross was found before 350 and was venerated by pilgrims in Jerusalem, as is attested to by St. Cyril at the end of the fourth century. On Sept. 13, 335, Constantine’s Basilica of the Resurrection was dedicated in Jerusalem. The next day, the relic of the true cross was solemnly venerated in the basilica. It was St. Cyril’s mother, St. Helena, who had found it in an abandoned well near Calvary. From the earliest Christian times, the faithful made the sign of the cross on themselves as an expression of faith. This custom was often mentioned by St. Augustine who lived in the fourth and early fifth centuries.

There is an interesting cycle in the history of the veneration of the cross that reveals something about the meaning of Lenten devotions. Because of the revulsion at its use in Roman capital punishment, early Christians emphasized the “Crux Gemmata” or “Jeweled Cross,” without the figure of Christ. They were emphasizing the victorious Lord of the Resurrection who gained victory over sin, suffering and death.

The first evidence of the crucifix, the cross with the body of Christ on it, appeared after the sixth century. The realistic art of the early Renaissance and the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi made devotion to the crucifix very popular. The Crusades had brought back with them from the Holy Land the devotion of the Way of the Cross. This “morality play” accentuated the crucifix, which served very well as an instrument of catechesis for an oral, unlettered culture.

The crushing impact of the Black Death firmly established the crucifix as the sign of the follower of Christ. People needed to see that Jesus had suffered on Calvary just as they were suffering. A suffering God made human pain bearable and gave them hope. During a period of 50 years (1350-1400), a third of Europe perished from disease. “Plague Crosses” appeared everywhere leaving us imperishable works of art such as those of Albrecht Durer.

As the danger of the plague receded, a mood of real resurrection was felt. It was the age of baroque music, and the glory of the cross and its power of salvation was sung in Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Passion of St. Matthew” and “Handel’s Messiah.” Later, the romantic period of the 18th and 19th centuries saw the popularity of passion plays such as those held in Oberammergau, Germany. These inspired others around the world, all the way to Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Our past century with all its war and death has brought us back to an understanding of life as a sharing in Christ’s cross. Mothers with sons on the battlefield clung to their crosses. And not only war but also oppression cause people of the third world to understand the crucified Jesus better than those who live in comfort. The scourged Jesus brings healing to those who are tortured; the thirsty Jesus gives strength to those who suffer drought and famine. And to all of us who must eventually die, the dying Christ gives hope.

With the restoration of the Easter Vigil and the whole liturgical reform of Vatican II a balanced emphasis has been created on both the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus. Both are part of the reality of life; both are part of our redemption. May you be blessed by both as you participate in the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter.

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

Holy Week and Easter, time spent under the cross of Christ

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.
Holy Week a journey to spiritual resurrection

Soon we will enter into the most sacred part of our journey to Easter, the celebration of the Sacred Triduum, Holy Week. Each part invites us to connect with the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

We begin our Holy Week journey on Palm Sunday as part of the crowd that joyfully welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem. Remember, as we are crying out “Hosanna,” that a few days later the same crowd cried out for Jesus’ crucifixion. The people were partially cheering on Palm Sunday for the Messiah they wanted Jesus to be. When he was crucified and revealed what it meant to be a disciple, many were afraid to stand with him. They would eventually have to choose to put their faith in Jesus as he revealed himself and not as they wanted him to be. Our faith journey, if we are genuinely searching for the truth, will lead us to the same choice of letting go of the God WE create, accepting the true teaching of Jesus and humbly conforming ourselves to him.

On Holy Thursday we commemorate the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper. In the Eucharist we are given the body and blood of Christ to nourish our souls, strengthen our resolve and hope, and unite us in communion with Christ. We also stand with the apostles as we hear the command of the Lord to seek to serve and not be served.

On Good Friday we continue our journey and see that we must join our dying to sin to Jesus on the cross as the way of salvation. When Jesus picks up his cross, we ask for the strength to pick up our cross with joy and faithfulness. When Jesus falls we remember that we have fallen and called on Jesus to help us get up. We walk the way of the cross with Jesus with hope because “if we have died with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.”

On Holy Saturday during the day we remember Jesus’ time in the tomb as an often overlooked part of the journey. There are times in our lives when we are in a time of transition. We have let go of the old self but do not yet know how to move forward. It feels like nothing is happening when in fact we need to be patient and be like Jesus in the tomb awaiting resurrection.

In real life we share in these mysteries of Jesus’ life all the time. At times we are cheering and praising God like on Palm Sunday. At other times we feel the reality of death in our lives like on Good Friday, and sometimes along the way we are just lying in the tomb waiting for resurrection.

And through all this we remain hopeful because we know that our journey, like Holy Week, leads to the resurrection, the ultimate sign that death has lost its sting and that nothing should ever fill us with so much sorrow that we forget the joy of Christ risen from the dead.

**This is our night for telling stories**

**“This is our night for telling stories.”**

The priest moved slowly through the shivering crowd, huddled around a roaring fire on the steps of the church, bracing ourselves against the biting wind.

“This is our night for telling stories. For remembering who we are.”

His voice boomed as he made his way to the fire, altar servers trailing behind, ready to start the Easter Vigil.

But even before the Mass began, the pastor spoke to us of the power of the stories we were about to hear. Ancient stories of our faith: creation and covenant. Mysterious stories of our hope: resurrection and salvation.

I shivered again, not from the cold but from the truth of his words. Since I was a child, clutching a small candle in the dark church, listening to familiar Scripture turned strange and new, I loved this night of telling our most sacred stories.

Every year when Holy Saturday dawns, this priest’s words echo in my head. This is our night for telling stories.

But what if we entered every night with Easter in our hearts, hungry for stories that would shape us and save us? What if we told stories like this tonight?

My children love stories.

Our youngest has learned their stories from the nearest adult, board book clutching a fist, and demand to “read.” He delights in the rhythm and the repetition, flipping pages to see what’s next, pulling another book off the shelf to keep going.

Our older kids sprawled across the floor each night, begging for more one more chapter as we read aloud. Though they spend hours each day wrapped in their own worlds of reading, this ritual of coming together to share stories in the darkness has become their favorite moment of bedtime.

We understand by instinct what we deepen with practice. Stories matter. Stories define us.

But what if we remembered each time we picked up a book to read, to another or for ourselves, the sacred power of stories?

What if every night held a memory of Easter Vigil?

From its earliest days, the Christian liturgy has understood what anthropology, sociology and psychology came to discover: humans need stories.

Stories have the power to shape us. For better or for worse, we are influenced by the stories we hear, read and share.

This is why our Catholic Mass, rich in Scripture and stories of faith, has a deeply formative power. Over time, as we encounter the real presence of God in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we become what we receive.

But just as the Eucharist is meant to change every meal we share outside of church, our stories of faith are meant to transform the way we hear and read every story we encounter.

So what if each night, as darkness settles and we prepare for a new day, we turned to stories that remind us of who and Whose we are?

What if we let our rituals of reading echo with the power of hearing God’s word?

I look at our toddler learning the delight and wonder of reading with another. I listen to our kids ask for one more chapter as we close the day with stories. I remember the power of this simple, sacred act: sharing a story that helps us understand ourselves, our world and our God.

What if reading every night, to others or ourselves, could glimmer with the memory of Easter Vigil?

This is our night for telling stories. A night for remembering who we are.

**FANUCCI** is a mother, writer and director of a project on vocation at the Collegeville Institute in Collegeville, Minnesota. She is the author of several books, including “Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting,” and blogs at motheringspirit.com.

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**From the Bishop**

Bishop Michael G. Duca

**Mothering Spirit**

Laura Fanucci
St. Agnes Lenten Reflections – St. Agnes Church, 749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge, will host “The Last Seven Words of Jesus Crucified” Lenten Reflection on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. Confessions at 5 p.m., Mass at 5:30 p.m. Visit StAgnesBR.org for more information.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebrations – St. Steven the Martyr Church, 22494 Hwy. 22, Maurepas, will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 28. The day will begin with confessions at 1:30 p.m. and will include a video on St. Faustina, praise and worship, the Divine Mercy chapel and Mass at 3:30 p.m. After Mass there will be healing prayers. For more information, call 225-665-6310. The Marian Servants of the Eucharist will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday April 28, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., at Holy Ghost Church, 601 N. Oak St., Hammond. The event will include the singing of the Divine Mercy chaplet, veneration of relics of St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Faustina and praying the litany of healing and the rosary. The Marian Servants will offer individual intercessory prayers. For more information, call 985-345-3360.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR
ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL
St. Michael High School is now accepting applications for the full-time position of Assistant Principal. As an instructional and spiritual leader in the school community, the Assistant Principal works collaboratively with the administrative team to advance the mission of the school. Applicants must meet the following criteria:
• Practicing Catholic
• Master’s degree
• At least 5 years teaching experience
• Effective leadership skills

Please send letter of interest, resume with references, and copies of transcripts to:
Principal, St. Michael High School
17521 Monitor Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
Fax 225-753-0605
mguarisco@smhsbr.org

FOR SALE
Three burial plots in Roselawn Cemetery Section C. $7500. (504) 275-9552

LEGAL NOTICES
Anyone with knowledge of the whereabouts of Hung Manh Nguyen is asked to contact the Diocesan Tribunal at 225-336-8755.

HELP WANTED
Ascension Catholic educates the mind, body and spirit of each student to know, love and serve God, self and others in a safe and caring environment.

Ascension Catholic School
Grades PK-12
Ascension Catholic School seeks full time, certified teachers for the 2019-2020 school year for the following positions:
Music and/or Band
Middle School ELA

Please send letter of interest and resume’ to:
Mrs. Sandy Pizzolato, Principal
sandy.pizzolato@acbldogs.org
311 St. Vincent Street
Donaldsonville LA 70346

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April 12, 2019

COMING EVENTS

Women in Spirit – Nancy Zito, executive director and principal of the Gardere Community Christian School, will speak at the Women in Spirit Meeting with complimentary lunch Thursday, April 25, noon, at St. Joseph Cathedral, Fourth and Main Streets, Baton Rouge. Women in Spirit is an interfaith program for women seeking to grow in their faith and fellowship. RSVP to wis.stj@gmail.com or call the Cathedral Office at 225-387-5928.

Life in the Spirit Seminar – The Marian Servants of the Eucharist will present a Life in the Spirit Seminar and Healing Prayer on Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the Holy Ghost Church Parish Hall, 600 N. Oak St., Hammond. Guest speakers will be Linda Kelley, Dr. Frank Henchy and Father Bill Henry, with music by Reign. To register and for more information, email paulettewalowitz@yahoo.com

Festival of Two Rivers – St. Alphonsus Church, 14040 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs, will host the Festival of Two Rivers, Friday, May 3 – Sunday, May 5. There will be food, live entertainment, Bingo, cash raffle and arts and crafts. For more information, call 225-261-5299 or 225-261-4650.

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HELP WANTED

Recently Resurrection Catholic Middle/High School Pascagoula, Mississippi is now accepting APPLICATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Masters Degree in Educational Administration/Leadership 486 Administrative Certification or Ability to Obtain Certification Active Member of the Catholic Faith

Complete application at www.biloxidiocese.org. With resume and license to: Dr. Rhonda Clark Superintendent of Education rclark@biloxidiocese.org 1790 Popp’s Ferry Road Biloxi, MS 39532 228-702-2130

Applications accepted through April 17, 2019

HELP WANTED

Job Opportunities at St. Thomas More

St. Thomas More Catholic School is now accepting applications for the following teaching positions:

- 5th & 6th Grade Religion
- 5th & 6th Grade English Language Arts (ELA)

STM seeks candidates that are joyful, faith-filled, and committed to excellence in all that they do. St. Thomas More recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children, and we are committed to partnering with the families of our students to help each child become the person God calls him or her to be.

STM utilizes best practices in education with regard to pedagogy and assessment, implementing instructional strategies that maximize student learning. St. Thomas More teachers differentiate instruction so as to engage students’ multiple intelligences in an environment that fosters higher order thinking. STM faculty have access to interactive white boards, Chrome Book laptops, and iPads to facilitate hands-on learning activities.

Candidates interested in submitting an application for teaching positions at St. Thomas More should send a letter of interest, resume’ (including at least three professional references), and philosophy of education to STM Principal Brian Moscona via e-mail at mosconab@stmbr.org.

About St. Thomas More

St. Thomas More currently serves 800 students twelve weeks through 8th grade. STM is a warm and welcoming community, blending traditional Catholic values and best practices in education. Since 1960 St. Thomas More has been known throughout the community for its outstanding academic program, tremendous success in athletics, and strong Catholic identity. St. Thomas More was nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2016.

At St. Thomas More, our goal is to help each child entrusted to our care to reach his or her full potential. For many years the school has utilized ability grouping to meet students where they are in their development. STM teachers differentiate instruction and engage students’ multiple intelligences. The school has two school counselors and two resource teachers to provide support as we help our students become the men and women God calls them to be.

For more information about St. Thomas More, please visit the school’s website at www.stmbr.org.
The bishop said that since his August installation as the sixth bishop for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, the church has been inflamed with an anger and a shame about the sexual abuse of minors. He said in 2002 the problem was answered with programs put into effect by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops which were effective but added “we never stopped really to allow ourselves to feel as a church, and as bishops, the pain of abuse.”

“It’s hard to if you did not experience it in your life,” he said. “It’s hard to understand how at the time when you are developing your understanding of love and trust that you are met with someone who uses you and robs you of the joy of your youth.”

Adding to the pain, he said, is that when many victims reported the abuse they were told to keep quiet, met with disbelief or were turned away by the church.

“It’s hard to feel that,” he said. “But what I think we as bishops, what I am doing and what I hope we as a church are doing, is trying to recognize the harm of our sins and the deep effect on the lives of those who have been abused.”

“So we have tried to begin to repair it as best we can,” the bishop added. “We have released a list of those who have been accused of abuse in our diocese to show the breadth of it and to allow those who have experienced it in their lives to come forward with more confidence now that we do want to hear their stories, we want to share in their pain.

“Two together are strong but one alone will despair.”

Bishop Michael Duca
Diocese of Baton Rouge

Hope Resurrected

As we celebrate the joy of Easter, we are also reminded that those who loved Jesus were filled with sorrow and hopelessness in the days following the crucifixion. But through the miracle of the resurrection, hope was restored, and the faith of His followers became so powerful that they were able to change the world.

At St. Vincent de Paul, faith and hope are renewed daily. Like that first miracle of water transformed into wine, we know that Christ is present when we see dreams replacing despair, and a last chance become a new beginning. We see His face in every person we serve, and it is His hand that guides us as we provide shelter, fill prescriptions, and serve meals to the needy. Most of the people who come to us have hope that things will get better, while others have almost given up. At our St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room, we’re so grateful that we can give them a nourishing meal, as well as a helping hand to other resources. In 2018, we served 282,000 meals and also served as a gateway to desperately needed services such as our shelter and pharmacy.

Our Bishop Ott Shelters provided over 36,000 guest nights of shelter last year to homeless men, women, children, and families. These are the poorest of the poor: people who have lost everything. It’s here that we most often see children like Billy, in the photo – children whose families might be living on the streets or in their cars if our services were not available. We offer them much more than a warm bed and safety from the streets; we give them hope for the future.

Our Community Pharmacy is also a place where hope is resurrected. Although we do see some younger patients, the majority are older individuals. Many of them were breaking tablets in half or skipping doses of critical medications before coming to us. Last year, we filled prescriptions worth more than $1.3 million, and each prescription improved someone’s health and touched their heart. In some cases, it saved a life.

During this holy season, we are especially grateful for the people who make our work possible – people like you. Over 2,000 years after the resurrection of Christ, St. Vincent de Paul is working hard to continue His ministry, and we need your help. It’s not just children like Billy that need a helping hand. Thousands of people are hungry, homeless, sick, or forgotten. Be assured, their prayers do not go unheard. We hope you will support our efforts to be there for the poor and homeless by using the envelope in this publication to make an Easter gift, or give online at svdbr.org.