

**BAA money goes directly to diocesan ministries**

I remember when I was growing up that Catholics would proudly remark that they could go to Mass any place in the world and it would be the same Mass celebrated in Latin. It was a visible sign of the unity of the worldwide Catholic Church. Some today seem to talk of this claim of unity and the use of Latin as a nostalgic time but it is not a nostalgic idea even today. The Mass IS still the same no matter where you attend Mass anywhere in the world. It is true that the languages change but the Mass is still the same, and the use of Latin as a nostalgic time even today. The Mass IS still the same no matter where you attend Mass anywhere in the world. It is true that the languages change but the Mass is still the same, and we are still able to receive the body and blood of Christ and be united with the worldwide Body of Christ that is the Catholic Church. We should still proclaim confidently that we are ONE, one church, holy, Catholic and apostolic.

Here in the Diocese of Baton Rouge we have this same wonderful unity in Christ. It is true that every parish has a different personality and even takes on the best of the culture of the people and families who are parishioners. But every Sunday, the same Mass is celebrated and we are one in hearing the word of God proclaimed and in communion with the body and blood of Christ. I know our people are confident with this unity as many proclaim to me that they are ROAMIN Catholics, attending Sunday Mass in the parish of their birth, or the parish in which they now live or the parish of their grandchildren. This is a great testimony of our knowing that we are part of this beautiful, unified Catholic family. I have the privilege of being able to be a part of every parish so I see the beauty of each parish and the faithful way our pastors care for their parishioners and those within the parish boundaries. As your bishop though, I look on the Diocese, the whole Diocese as my ONE parish. It falls to me to support our parishes but also to faithfully attend to the needs of the whole church. While the parishes meet many local needs there are some needs that I must meet that are the responsibility of the whole church community but which no one parish can take care of. This is the work of the CHURCH that is supported by my Bishops Annual Appeal.

This year I want to make this aspect of the appeal clear. You have received information in the mail about the appeal and I hope you notice that I have clearly chosen to ask your support for what I consider foundational ministries for any diocese that supports both the healthy growth of the church and the fulfillment of our call to service and charity. All the money we receive is for the CHURCH that is supported by my Bishops Annual Appeal.

**From the Bishop**

**Bishop Michael G. Duca**

**OLOL opens Children’s Hospital**

By Bonny Van

The Catholic Commentator

Wearing a brightly colored ribbon and waving a stick with streamers, Hattie Davis, 8, maneuvered her wheelchair to visit with doctors, nurses and aids gathered in the parking lot of the new Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital in Baton Rouge. Davis and her family joined other patients’ families, hospital staffers and administration, community leaders and supporters for the Friday, Oct. 4 ribbon cutting and blessing ceremony to officially open the hospital.

Davis, who was born with spina bifida, has been a patient of Children’s Hospital since she was eight months old, according to her mother, Amy Davis. Four years ago, Hattie had a three-month stay at the hospital after developing ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome. That experience, along with its challenges, was on top of their mind when the Davis family, including Hattie’s twin sister, Harper, her father, Jeremiah, and her brother, Harrison, 9, toured the new hospital.

“It’s amazing,” said Amy. “They have thought of every convenience, every amenity, they thought of everything — anything from the beds to the couches to having washers and dryers on every floor so that parents who have extended stays have a place to wash and dry their clothes.”

Balloons, ribbons and streamers created a festive atmosphere, which kicked off with a video of the history of OLOL and the vision of the new hospital, played on a large screen on stage. OLOL president and CEO Scott Wester was joined on stage by Sister Barbara Arceneaux FMOL, regional minister for Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady; Gov. John Bel Edwards; Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston-Broome, Bishop Michael G. Duca; Dr. Shaun Kemmerly, chief medical officer of the Children’s Hospital; and, Dr. Alston Dunbar, president of OLOL Children’s Health.

Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital is officially open for business. Community leaders join hospital administration in the ribbon cutting ceremony Friday, Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis. The $230 million hospital is already scheduled for an expansion with the neonatal intensive care surgery unit. Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator
Our help is from the Lord

By Dina Dow

The Sunday Mass readings for the 28th and 29th Weeks in Ordinary Time reveal the saving power of God, as we witness faith-based responses to situations that cause suffering or require great effort. Four significant realities come into light: faith is unchained, dependence on the word of God sustains, endurance is necessary and prayer is essential.

Unchain the faith

The healing power of God has no limits nor conditions. We read in the Second Book of Kings (2 Kgs 5:14-17) and in the Gospel of Luke (7:11-19) two stories of healing, in each case those with leprosy. Acknowledging alienation accompanies those with leprosy; these healings were rooted in faith. Naaman, the army commander we hear about in the 2nd Book of Kings, as well as the group of 10 lepers mentioned in the Gospel of Luke, desire healing. They sought the one known to heal, who indeed cleansed their skin, a physical healing.

Beyond the physical, there occurs spiritual healing expressed in gratitude and a desire to repay the miracle. ‘Two lepers offered sincere gratitude; two unlikely men: Naaman, who worshipped pagan gods and one leper, a Samaritan. Both were outcasts, yet both received without condition. Both were open to the extraordinary. Both gave thanks to God. Both experienced conversions because of their trust and unchained faith. Hope was renewed. The person was made whole through the bountiful mercy of God. “The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power” (Ps 80).

St. Paul’s letters to Timothy continue for two more Sundays. Imprisoned and charged “like a criminal,” (2 Tim 2:9) he continues to witness the saving truth of Jesus Christ; a truth which is unchained. His suffering renews his fervor to continue preaching as he fortifies Timothy with encouragement, perseverance and fidelity to sacred writings inspired by the word of God (Jesus) for salvation. He then “charges” Timothy “to teach, refute, correct and train” so that “they may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 2:14-17). St. Paul never ceases to proclaim the message of Jesus. Rather, he unchains the faith by handing on the mission of preaching salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to Timothy and others.

The charge and urgency of St. Paul is alive today. The word of God, Jesus Christ, is the foundation of truth. One pathway of truth comes by reading, praying and meditating on the Bible. Once we grow in truth, our faith is unchained. We are equipped for mission. A day without reading the Bible is like walking through a long narrow tunnel without a flashlight: dark and dangerous. Dependence on the word of God sustains one’s path to eternity.

Paragraph 2466 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “In Jesus Christ, the whole of God’s truth has been made manifest. ‘Full of grace and truth,’ he came as the ‘light of the world,’ he is the truth. ‘Whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.’ The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know ‘the truth (that) will make you free’ and that sanctifies. To follow Jesus is to live in the ‘Spirit of truth,’ whom the father sends in his name and who leads ‘into all the truth.’ To his disciples Jesus teaches the unconditional love of truth: ‘Let what you say be simply ‘yes’ or ‘no.’”

Is my faith chained? If so, what are those chains? Am I handing on the faith to my family, especially my children, friends, community, strangers? Am I in need of healing, spiritual and/or physical? Have I sought the sacraments of healing in the anointing of the sick and/or reconciliation? Do I have a Bible on hand? Perhaps a great way to begin is by reading the daily Mass and Sunday Mass readings. Is there a Bible study at my church? If not, start one.

Endurance & prayer

During the 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time readings, we hear of the necessity of endurance. Moses, in the Book of Exodus, commits to praying on top of a hill over the Israelite army, as they wage battle against a serious enemy. His task is to keep his arms raised in prayer, staff in hand throughout the entire battle. Easier said than done. Naturally, his arms and legs begin to weaken. As soon as his arms lower, they experience small defeat. As soon as he raises his arms, they experience small victories. Moses’ endurance is waning.

SEE GOSPEL PAGE 14
KPC celebrates centennial

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A century-old tradition of service and community outreach along Bayou Lafourche was recently celebrated with a Mass followed by a dinner and presentations.

Parishioners of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Bertrandville and the surrounding area gathered Sept. 28 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Knights of Peter Claver Council No. 23, which is based out of the small parish. Bishop Michael G. Duca celebrated the Mass and the dinner was held in the same parish hall where the first council meeting gathered in 1919.

“It’s a great celebration because of the years that our parents and grandparents put into the organization, and it is still going strong after 100 years,” Grand Knight Raymond Oliver said. “Now we need to fulfill their dreams of keeping the organization alive.”

St. Benedict the Moor welcomed its first parishioners on Oct. 1, 1911 under the guidance of pastor Father Benoit Favard SSJ, one of the early Josephite missionaries who had committed their lives to tend to the souls in God’s “colored harvest.” The opening of St. Benedict followed earlier missionary work by other religious near St. Elizabeth Church in Paincourtville.

Seven years later, Father Joseph Van Baast SSJ arrived to continue the missionary work. Father Van Baast had spent his early years of priesthood along the Alabama Gulf Coast, collaborating with Father Conrad Rebesher, who was the founder of the Knights of Peter Claver.

Father Van Baast was one of the seven charter members of the KPC.

On Sept. 28, 1919, he established Council 23, and the descendants of those early members have remained active members. (The council) has meant a lot to the community,” said Raphael Buggage, a former Grand Knight and state director who is scheduled to celebrate his 50th anniversary in the organization in June.

“I thank God for letting me follow (in his parents) footsteps,” added Buggage, whose daughter, Naddine Buggage, is the District 2 commander. Raphael’s grandfather, Isaac Buggage, served as Grand Knight from 1933-37.

Through the past century, Council 23 has earned a reputation for hospitality, hosting many meetings of the Southeast Louisiana Central Committee and St. Peter Claver Day celebrations. In 1967 and again in 1975, St. Benedict hosted the annual Louisiana State Conference and also hosted the annual Louisiana Junior State Conference in 1977.

Oliver said the council has certainly faced a myriad of challenges, perhaps the most difficult being struggling with membership. The council now totals 27 members, most of whom have risen through the Junior Division, of which Raphael Buggage is the founder.

“It’s going better,” said Oliver, 61, who joined the Junior Division when he was eight years old. “My main struggle is once I get younger members, with the difference in my age and the age of our older generation, is to keep the three age differences together. We do fundraisers, picnics and fellowship together.”

“I mainly take the example from Psalm 31:25
In the Lord.”

Sister Dulce’s Ministry presents Swimming Upstream: Living a Catholic Life in a Pagan World

Steve Ray
Filmmaker, Apologist, Holy Land Guide

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Steve will explain how culture is falling back into new paganism (we call it pluralism) in the West, worshiping at the altars of comfort, affluence and self-indulgence. He will challenge you to swim upstream and make a deadly choice: to stay faithful or keep your head and lose your soul.

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Supreme Court to review LA abortion law

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

News that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear oral arguments regarding Louisiana’s Unsafe Abortion Protection Act that would require abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital was greeted warmly by the state’s pro-life leaders.

The decision, which was announced Oct. 4, came on the heels of the Court’s decision in February granting a Shreveport abortion facility an emergency stay request after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit had upheld the law in the fall of 2018. “It was welcomed news to learn that the Supreme Court will hear the admitting privileges case,” said Danielle Van Haute, respect life coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. “I am hopeful that we are one step closer to finally enacting this common-sense law.”

She said requiring admitting privileges for abortion providers is an attempt to raise the required standards for abortion facilities to bring them more in line with outpatient surgical facilities. “If an abortion provider is unable to obtain admitting privileges, the bigger question is ‘why?’” she added.

Also under consideration by the Court in accepting Gee v. June Medical Service is the legal issue of whether abortion providers can claim to represent their patients in a challenge to a law, despite the fact no patient or pregnant woman has challenged the law. “Abortion has known medical risks, and the women of this state who are often coerced into abortion deserve to have the same standard of care required for other surgical procedures,” Jackson said.

The United States Supreme Court chose wisely to consider a very valuable Louisiana law regarding admitting privileges of those performing abortions within our state,” said Rob Tasman, director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops. “The LCCB supported this legislation as it passed through the Legislature overwhelmingly and was signed by former Governor (Bobby) Jindal, as it is a genuine issue of women’s health unlike the way in which advocates for abortion refer to ‘women’s health.’ “In this way, advocating for such measures within our law should neither be controversial nor adversarial, if we are to truly keep the life of the woman and the unborn child at the forefront of the conversation. We remain hopeful that the United States Supreme Court will treat this case both fairly and justly such that the inherent dignity and value of life is honored and revered.”

Citing a similar Texas law that was struck down three years ago, pro-choice proponents claim the Court should have struck down the Louisiana law without any oral arguments. However, two of President Donald Trump’s Court appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, were not on the Court in 2016 when in a 5-3 decision the Texas admitting privileges law was ruled unconstitutional.

“Abortion facilities should not be provided loopholes when it comes to health and safety standards that apply across the board to outpatient surgical facilities,” said Benjamin Clapper, executive director for Louisiana Right to Life. “We are also pleased that the Supreme Court has accepted Louisiana’s challenge on third-party standing. Substandard physicians and for-profit providers unable to meet health requirements should not be able to hide behind their supposed patients when making legal claims against a law.”

Rep. Katrina Jackson of Monroe, who authored the bill in 2014, said the state Legislature passed the law to protect the health and safety of women and encouraged the Supreme Court to do the same. “Abortion has known medical risks, and the women of this state who are often coerced into abortion deserve to have the same standard of care required for other surgical procedures,” Jackson said.
Volunteer firefighter uses God as his chief

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Fired up with faith, Lobdell Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tim Crockett allows God to direct him in treating people with compassion and urgently needed services during emergencies.

Crockett said his call to be an emergency responder started at a young age. “My mom, being an elder in the family, was always called when someone was sick,” said Crockett, who lived in Brusly at the time. “And I remember a cousin in the family had fallen in his home. They called my Mom and she said, ‘Call 9-1-1 and I’m on the way.’”

It was late at night and Crockett’s mother took her young son with her. “We get to the house, and by this time the Brusly Fire Department busts in the door,” said Crockett. “My cousin had a heart attack. They started CPR and I’m watching these guys do this work and something came over me … ’God I want to do this work. This is my future, this is what I want to do.’”

Shortly after, he became a certified medic and joined the Brusly Fire Department. He said he was a ‘cocky medic.’ But he almost quit when he received a call reporting another cousin couldn’t breathe. Crockett rode in the ambulance with the cousin.

“In route to Baton Rouge General (Hospital), we crossed the railroad tracks. We hit the railroad tracks on Florida (Boulevard) and he said, ‘Guy, my time here is done.’ I looked up and said, ‘Oh, no cuz. I’ve got you.’ He then looked up at the corner of the ambulance, took a deep breath and passed away.”

The death of Crockett’s cousin tempered his zeal when he administers first aid. “I’ll talk to them and I’ll tell them ‘I’m here. I’ll do everything I can for you,’” said Crockett, who is especially touched when he works on children.

“I’ve delivered three children. I’ve worked on quite a few children. I can remember the faces of all the children. “From the first day I stepped on the ambulance, I can remember the children … when it was, what I’ve done. Because children are special.”

But when he turns people over to the ambulance service or the hospital Crockett has a peace in his heart. “I didn’t play, I didn’t second guess. I did everything that I could. Now it’s time for God to do what he has to do,” Crockett said.

He has witnessed death and destruction through responding to house fires, Hazmat scenes and vehicle accidents along area highways and the surrounding I-10 West Interstate area, which has been called the “Devil’s triangle of interstates.”

Drug addictions are also a common tragedy Crockett encounters.

As a testimony to the opioid crisis, Crockett brought out the medicine and equipment first responders use and explained the process to revive a person who has overdosed on opioids. Crockett’s faith carries him through such stressful and discouraging times.

A recent convert to Catholicism, Crockett and his wife, Ellen Green Crockett, grew up Baptist but were looking for a change. Tim Crockett asked his Catholic relatives questions.

One day at a funeral wake for an employee in Crockett’s fire department, a man led the rosary. “It was mesmerizing,” said Crockett. “It was almost like it was just him and God. It was the most beautiful thing I’ve ever heard.”

Crockett and his wife joined the RCIA program. “Becoming Catholic has grounded me because some of the things I used to wonder about (were) ‘Why? What’s happening here?’ Now when I pray I think about people and wonder what else can I do to help them not only physically but spiritually,” he said.

His Catholic faith has strengthened his family and community bonds. Crockett said he painted his rescue truck pink for the ladies in his department, which comprise 60 percent of his crew, including his wife and daughter, Whitney.

His entire department has been impacted by cancer in some way, and the truck helps raise awareness, according to Crockett. It was designed by three of the ladies in the department and named “Miss Charmaine” after one of them.

Crockett, who represents District 6 in the Louisiana State Fireman’s Association, said he makes his decisions based on what’s best in protecting the property and lives of people in his community.

“I feel when I’m here I must answer the page when I’m there if I’m sick … hurt. One time I had knee surgery and I still had staples in my knee and I went out on a fire call. Everybody said, ‘Chief, you’re crazy.’ I said, ‘I’m all right, it will be okay.’”

That’s because everyone in Lobdell is family to Crockett. “Everybody here in Lobdell, I’ll say they’re my relatives,” he said. “It doesn’t matter who you are, what (race) you are, what religion you are. You’re my family. And I would do everything I can for you.”

D o you have a family member buried in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery?

The Cemetery Fund Board wants to hear from you. We’re working to update and complete our records on who is buried in the Cemetery, and you can help.

If you’d like to learn more about the Cemetery, check out our current newsletter on Facebook.
Eligibility for sacrament of the sick/ When to offer both species

Question Corner
Father Kenneth Doyle

Both the Code of Canon Law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church offer some guidance as to when the sacrament of the sick can be administered. Canon 1094.1 says that it is given "to a member of the faithful who, having reached the use of reason, begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age."

The catechism highlights that this anointing is not meant to be limited to those who are right at the point of death (No. 1514). The pastoral judgment of the priest does determine when a person is eligible, but my experience has been that most priests tend to be permissive, especially when the person has asked for the sacrament.

In your own situation, I find your argument about anesthesia to be persuasive. In looking at parishes’ websites with regard to this sacrament I found, for example, that St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Sandusky, Ohio, says that “you may ask to receive the sacrament any time that you are to undergo surgery under general anesthetic.”

In my new diocese, parishes do not seem to offer the precious blood at Communion time. Do certain dioceses restrict that as a “privilege,” when in fact it is a command from Jesus? Christ opted to offer the two species to us separately: “Unless you eat his flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood ...”

I am a religious sister with great devotion to the Eucharist for nearly 60 years, and I am wondering if the faith of Catholics who no longer believe in the real presence might not be strengthened by a eucharist on receiving under both species.

(And to be honest, it just seems like another way to exclude folks from a clerical privilege, even as our lectors are not invited to receive from the cup.) I would appreciate your thoughts. (Trenton, New Jersey)

For the first 11 centuries of the church’s history, the Eucharist was customarily received by the faithful under the forms of both bread and wine; but then that custom fell out of practice, in part because Catholics began to receive holy Communion less frequently.

In 1963, the bishops of the Second Vatican Council restored the option for the faithful to receive also from the chalice. The “Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds,” issued by the U.S. Catholic bishops in 2002, leave to local bishops the determination as to the occasions on which both species are to be made available; and in practice, most bishops have ceded that judgment to local pastors.

However, there is a clear preference expressed both in those “norms” and in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which is the church’s universal “guidebook” on liturgical directives.

The general instruction says: “Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds” (No. 281).

(Both the general instruction and the norms do make it clear that distribution under both species is not mandatory and that Christ is fully present when either the consecrated bread or wine is received alone.)

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BENEDICT ▼

From page 3

older members and heed what I learned when I was younger,” he said, adding that he often converses with younger members to learn their interests and educate them on the rich history of the Knights.

Oliver, who has hired a 25-year-old commander who can relate to the younger generation, said future sustainability is rooted in the Junior Division. He said by keeping the young generation engaged, his hope is they will want to join the Senior Division when they turn 18.

Although the Knights have provided assistance in countless ways to the church and surrounding community, the organization particularly stood out when it played an integral recovery role in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Through fundraisers and simply word of mouth, Council 23 was able to provide dry goods and meet numerous other needs for people displaced by the storm.

The parish hall was turned into a distribution center, serving those in need regardless of creed or race. Damage was limited in the immediate area, but many families suddenly saw their household dramatically increase by fellow family members fleeing the massive destruction.

At one point, Oliver had 15 people living in his home for up to two months.

“It was an open policy,” Oliver said. “We reached out throughout the parish wherever there was a need. People were stranded and in need. We supported them.”

Community relief efforts such as post-Katrina, and the ongoing service provided to the church, is at the core of the mission of Council 23 as well as a source of pride for members.

“It’s an honor to say I’m a Knight for over 43 years in the Senior Division,” Oliver said. “One hundred years is a lot of years not to fold. And it was formed in our little neighborhood.”

Buggage said each Knight takes an oath dictating direct responsibilities, including those in need. It’s one of the reasons he has been involved in the church’s St. Vincent de Paul Society’s chapter.

“We help the people in the area and do what we can,” he said. “I have to go about and do what I can to help.”

During his homily Bishop Duca, himself a Fourth Degree Knight of Peter Claver, paused and reflected on the historic moment.

“I am so proud to have (Council) No. 23, of all the Knights. That is a badge of honor,” he said. “What a great testimony it is. And the more you carry that on, you need the new lifeblood to carry on that great tradition.

“One hundred years. Wow. I’m proud to be called one of your number.”
Rosary Coast to Coast a call to humility, prayer

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Recognizing there is a spiritual war without boundaries, people will gather on Sunday Oct. 13, at St. Alphonsus Church in Greenwell Springs and St. John the Baptist Church in Zachary to pray the rosary in unity with people from around the world for the healing of countries, communities and their own intentions as part of the Rosary Coast to Coast Campaign.

Rosary from Coast to Coast was launched in 2018, during a time of turmoil for the government, church and society. While Rosary Coast to Coast is the name of the national campaign it is also part of a larger, worldwide day of public prayer.

According to organizers, the uniting of prayers is reminiscent of Pope Pius V forming the Holy League of Nations and his command to pray the rosary for victory during the 1571 Battle of Lepanto in the waters off southern Greece. In that battle the greatly outnumbered Holy League was victorious against the Muslim invasion of Europe. That victory led Pope Pius V to establish Oct. 7 as the feast of Our Lady of Victory, later renamed the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Rosary Coast to Coast is inspired by Rosary on the Border in Poland and Rosary on the Coast in Ireland.

This year marks the 102nd anniversary of Mary’s last apparition to three children in Fatima, which included the miracle of the sun.

The rosary will take place at 3 p.m. at St. Alphonsus, St. John will join Rosary Coast to Coast and combine it with their America Needs Fatima Rosary with a procession after the 11 a.m. Mass from the church to the parish’s future adoration chapel.

According to Loretta Martone, corresponding secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council #2807 at St. Alphonsus, a devotion to the rosary has been prominent at the Greenwell Springs church, with ministries and small groups gathering to pray, as well as opportunities for children and families to gather and pray the rosary.

When Martone heard about Rosary from Coast to Coast, she inquired about the possibility of St. Alphonsus participating, and they were onboard.

Olga Johnson, director of religious education at St. Alphonsus, said, “When Loretta (Martone) came up to me last year and told me about it, we signed up right away. Our goal in the formation office is to help people learn more about their faith. Anything that has the element of prayer for families and centered around Jesus and Mary, that’s what we want to offer.”

Ladies auxiliary president Tammy McGuire said, “The mysteries of the rosary are a wonderful, wonderful way to learn about the life of Jesus.”

In 2008, there were more than 1,200 registered locations participating in 50 states in the U.S. and around the world.

“In China they had people praying the rosary. Countries which you would not think of as being supportive of the rosary,” Martone said.

This is part of the mystery of whom God chooses to carry out his missions, she noted.

“When you think of praying for the nation, God chooses people who we would not expect to do his will. You see this throughout the Bible. And when we pray we say, ‘God you know what we need. Keep us faithful to what your will is.’ ”

The rosary is also a call to humility as a people, church and nation, McGuire noted.

“We’re really focused on prayer, strength and faith. We want everyone to remember where we come from and what we want to achieve in our faith, our faith in God, our country and ourselves. Through the rosary we reinforce this,” she said.

And above all, it’s a call for unity in the United States as well as the world.

When it comes to politics, people can be on “one side or another,” but praying the rosary as a community creates solidarity and educates people, especially children, on how to pray the rosary, according to Knights of Columbus #2807 Grand Knight Mark Legendre.

“We ask for things in prayer, so this is a way to ask God to help our country,” said Legendre.

And it’s a way to put prayer back in the public eye as people petition God to help the country, said Legendre and McGuire.

“We are so close to losing religious freedom and this is something we pray about,” Martone said.

“Praying the rosary is a way to say, ‘Here we are, see us,’ ” said McGuire.

Added Johnson, “Our focus is to teach people how to pray and how to express themselves in public prayer. A lot of times we feel we don’t have the freedom to pray in public and that you have a voice. It’s about Jesus. A lot of times we are afraid to ‘not be politically correct.’ People don’t want to step on anyone’s toes. This is our way of saying, this is who we are, this is what we believe and we are standing up for it. And we share it (faith).”

McGuire said, “We are doing this so everyone has an opportunity to be there and be heard.”

Everyone is invited to attend the rosaries.

Marie Kennedy, organizer of the rosary procession at St. John, expressed her belief in the importance of people praying the rosary.

“If we knew the true power of the rosary we would do this is on a regular basis and make sure that America remains one nation under God,” Kennedy said.

For more information about Rosary Coast to Coast, visit rosarycoasttocoast.com.
Animals, color themes brighten the mood

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

Coming in at five stories, 630,000 square feet and $230 million of the latest medical technology and features, Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital in Baton Rouge is ready to enter the ring in the fight against childhood illness. Standing as a colorful beacon in the landscape of medical facilities, the hospital is easily seen and accessed from busy I-10 and it’s located less than two miles from I-12.

“We see about 100,000 kids a year from throughout the state of Louisiana from all 64 parishes,” said Trey Williams, director of public relations for the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System. “That’s the size of LSU stadium.”

And treating such young patients was a priority in the design of the new facility. Everything from colors and artwork to sound and furniture were created to keep thoughts of illness, anxiety and treatment at bay. Patients arriving at the hospital enter through a brightly colored glass portico filled with the sounds of birds indigenous to Louisiana. Support beams of the portico feature hand motion-controlled melodies.

Entering the lobby area feels like walking onto a steamship docked on the Mississippi River. Waves carved onto an opposite wall invite children to slide on the slick surface and windows reaching up to the second floor offer bright light. A modern chandelier in the form of a cross hangs in front of a wooden perforated board featuring stained glass panels of the life of St. Francis that were part of the original Our Lady of the Lake Hospital. Photo by Richard Meek | The Catholic Commentator

The ground floor of the hospital is the hubbub of activity featuring patient registration portals, a resource center for families, a chapel (still under construction) and the emergency room area. There are four triage units for patient assessments and 30 ER rooms.

According to Williams, 35,000 children visit the emergency room at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge annually. “We also have a transport team so when a child is at another facility that cannot take care of the child’s needs, they will contact us and within 30 minutes, the team is activated,” he said, adding that the transport team has been active for six years and has transferred 1,250 patients.

Each floor of the hospital has a color theme and mascot representing the ecosystem of the Bayou State. Both also act as a reference guide for children or even parents who get lost among the floors.

“St. Francis was very much about nature and animals,” explained Williams. “As you go through the hospital you’ll see that influence. You’ll see animals, you’ll see trees, you’ll see signs of nature throughout.”

The mascot for the first floor is the pelican. The mascot for the second floor, which houses the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic, is the spoonbill. Here, the set-up is very much like a mini-St. Jude Children’s Hospital. Bright colors are seen throughout including the 12 infusion bays for chemotherapy or sickle cell treatment. The bays are private and are set up with televisions and a gaming system network. Also, any patients of St. Jude can continue their treatment at the clinic and avoid the travel to Memphis.

“It allows families to stay together,” said Williams. “This also keeps the support network of a family together so friends and family are here to assist if needed.”

Another advantage of housing the clinic in the hospital is for inpatient care. Previously, the clinic was housed a few blocks away from Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.

The third floor, with its sunny yellow colored walls, bright furniture and marshland mascots of deer and foxes, its purpose: surgery. Five large operating rooms are equipped to handle any type of surgery.

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Sculptures designed to offer peace, focus on Christ

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Patients and visitors to the new Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital will likely be touched by the playful, yet powerfully spiritual elements in the relief sculptures created by local artist Deborah Luke located on the first floor.

The artwork selection committee for the Children’s Hospital interviewed Luke in the summer of 2018 about creating reliefs of a spiritual nature for the hospital, and she submitted drawings of proposed ideas for the pieces of artwork.

“Religious art is sometimes serious and heavy and things have a certain gravitas,” said Luke. “But working with a children’s hospital allowed me to follow a more whimsical pursuit.”

Luke was told each floor had a different theme tied to Louisiana, with the first being the Mississippi River.

“So I immediately pictured St. Francis in a pirogue on a Louisiana river surrounded by typical Louisiana creatures: the alligator, the egret, the pelican,” she said.

The committee loved the idea and asked her to broaden the composition to include Jesus and children of different ethnicities.

Luke revised her artwork to include a panel of St. Francis, a panel of Christ with the children and a panel of Mary on top of a cypress tree.

The original drawings for the panel featuring Mary featured a guardian angel on top of a cypress tree looking down at Christ and the children. But the art committee requested the panel include a female presence instead.

Drawing upon the name Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, Luke noted that in sacred artwork Mary is depicted on top of the tree of life. So Mary replaced the guardian angel.

But the focus of all three panels is on Christ, noted Luke.

“St. Francis is looking up and stepping out of the boat, which to me is a symbol of his willingness to follow Christ,” said Luke.

St. Francis, Mary, the children and even the birds are looking at Christ in the reliefs, she said.

After the drawings were approved, Luke’s husband, Barry, built an easel large enough to hold the 7½- x 3-foot life-size panels of plywood for Luke to begin her sculpting work.

“I started with (St. Francis) because he was the inspiration of the work,” Luke said. “When I actually started building up the See Artwork Page 10
The next phase was the relief sculptures on the first floor of the hospital. Molly’s little brother, William, 2, who died in a house fire in 2010 in the Pierre Part area, is featured on one of the panels of the relief sculpture on the third floor where the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic is located.

Luke finished the clay models in about six weeks, an average of two weeks per panel. Committee members visited her studio and were pleased. The next phase was the relief molds.

“(The mold making process) requires the use of the left side of the brain. It’s more analytical basically, a technical process,” Luke said.

Once the molds were complete, the delicate process of transporting the molds began. Barry built a framework in the back of his truck and five separate trips were required to bring the relief work to the hospital. “There was a little nail-biting but we got it done,” said Luke. The pieces are now worked in the alcoves in the hallway next to the hospital chapel, which is under construction.

Luke said the artwork is fulfilling because it combines her passion for art with the convictions of her faith. “My initial impulse that it be a comforting image, that people looking at the artwork will get a sense that the children who are going to be patients in the hospital will be in the loving arms of God in the form of the doctors and nurses and people who work there,” she said. Her wish is that the artwork will bring peace to the families in difficult situations. “My hope is that it brings joy,” Luke said. “The child will look at the alligator, the crawfish nipping at St. Francis’ heel, the bullfrog at the face of Jesus and feel comfort in a situation that is anything but comforting, having a child in the hospital.”

Luke is working on another piece that is being cast in bronze and will be displayed in the baby’s garden in front of the hospital. It features two young children, Emily, 3, and Jacob Saucier, 2, who died in a house fire in 2010 in the Pierre Part area. The children are sitting together on a swing within a circle, which represents eternity.

Luke and her prayer as an artist is that those who view her work will see the presence of God in all situations. “Art is a form of communication, and I hope this speaks volumes about God’s love and care for all of us,” Luke said.

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The focus of many prayers, rosaries and fasts will be dedicated to an end to abortion. It’s part of the annual 40 Days for Life campaign and for some Catholic students in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, those prayers will be said outside of Delta Clinic.

“The intention for when students come out and pray – it’s not that it’s just one and done, another activity to check off the list - this is part of an ongoing dialogue and formation within our Catholic schools of what it means to uphold the dignity of the human person,” explained Danielle Van Haute, coordinator of Respect Life for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

According to Van Haute, 40 Days for Life began in the diocese in 2011 as a joint effort between the Office of Marriage and Family Life and Baton Rouge Right to Life. The campaign, which focuses on community outreach and education, has continued every year except for 2016 because of the flood. Van Haute said she’s encountered people who are unaware that abortions are continuing in Baton Rouge.

“This is an opportunity to open up dialogue because, let’s face it, many people in our culture, even within the church, are not comfortable saying that abortion should be illegal,” Van Haute said.

Among those joining the prayer vigil are students from Catholic High School and St. Jude the Apostle School, both in Baton Rouge.

“Every year we talk about life issues in our religion classes, particularly our sophomore year where we cover the theology of the body, where we cover abortion and what it does to the child,” said Margo Otterstetter, Respect Life moderator at CHS. “The students know that prayer is an important part in the battle for right to life issues.”

Junior Luke Dardis is the president of the Respect Life Club at CHS. He said the pro-life movement “is a movement for a reason.”

“I think it’s a beautiful way to show support in a nonviolent way for the dignity of life – to be a silent but present force and to show dignity for the mother and child,” said Dardis.

“So often society is telling young men that you don’t have a voice in this. This is a decision that a woman makes and you’re not part of it because you’re a man and that’s completely untrue,” explained Van Haute.

“There is an area of post-abortion ministry for men, who are grieving the loss of their child through abortion.”

According to Van Haute, a number of prayer warriors have been recruited who cannot physically go to the site including prison ministries and the homebound “so that as the body of Christ … this is something that we can unite in.”

An online calendar is available to groups to schedule prayer time between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day of the campaign. For more information, go to 40daysforlifebr.com or email Van Haute at dvanhaute@diobr.org.

Bishop Michael Duca joins Danielle Van Haute, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and other participants in front of Delta Clinic in Baton Rouge in a prayer vigil to end abortion as part of the 40 Days for Life campaign. Submitted photo
What once began as an idea, a hope, a prayer, has become real. The new Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital symbolizes our mission to serve, our call to heal and our vision to create a healthier tomorrow for Louisiana’s children. Every inch of this building is thoughtfully designed with the child and family in mind. Our doors are now open to children from across our state and beyond.

Thank you for being with us on this Amazing journey!

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Learn more about the new hospital at ololchildrens.org

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EDUCATION GRANT – St. Jean Vianney School in Baton Rouge was awarded the Cox Communication Innovation in Education grant, which will allow fourth-grade students to participate in the online IXL Math program throughout the school year. SJV School was one of 12 schools in a multi-parish area to receive this designation. Photo provided by Abby Bourgeois | St. Jean Vianney School

HURRICANE HELP – “Be a Rainbow in Someone Else’s Life” was the theme of a service project for students at Holy Ghost School in Hammond. On Friday, Sept. 13, students wore a shirt of any color of the rainbow to show support for the victims of Hurricane Dorian. The students collected nearly $2,000 to donate to the people in the Bahamas. Photo provided by Cindy Wagner | Holy Ghost School
Ad Astra

Compelling sci-fi drama, set in the near future, in which an astronaut (Brad Pitt) goes on a quest to communicate with his father (Tommy Lee Jones), a pioneer space traveler who long ago disappeared during a mission to search for extraterrestrial life from the outer boundaries of the solar system. As he endures a variety of challenges, he broods on his emotional solar system. As he endures a variety of life from the outer boundaries of the future, in which an astronaut (Brad Pitt) goes on a quest to communicate with his father (Tommy Lee Jones), a pioneer space traveler who long ago disappeared during a mission to search for extraterrestrial life from the outer boundaries of the solar system. As he endures a variety of challenges, he broods on his emotional

Downton Abbey

Interrar elegance makes a comeback as screenwriter Julian Fellowes takes his popular ITV and PBS television series to the big screen under the direction of Michael Engler. A 1927 visit to the stately home of the title by King George V (Simon Jones) and Queen Mary (Geraldine James) revives a long-simmering family dispute with a cousin (Imelda Staunton) who is one of the queen’s ladies-in-waiting and who intends to displace the estate’s patriarch (Hugh Bonneville), her closest male relative, as her heir, much to the chagrin of his iron-willed mother (Maggie Smith). The clan’s former chauffeur-turned-widowed-son-in-law’s (Allen Leech) Irish Republican sympathies are scrutinized by a mysterious stranger (Stephen Campbell-Moore) while downstairs excitement among the servants (led by Jim Carter and Phyllis Logan) turns to consternation when they discover that the royal family travels with its own staff, all of whom turn out to be insufferably arrogant. Fellowes’ film ensemble walking in perfect time and the result will be catnip to fans of the franchise. A strong message about marital and familial loyalty and the reconciliation of quarreling spouses is somewhat offset by the sympathetic treatment of a same-sex-attracted butler’s (Robert James-Collier) search for love. But beyond implicitly deploiring the harassment to which homosexuals were subjected in the time, the film has no particular axe to grind. Still, though secondary, this subplot makes the glossy costume drama strictly grown-up fare. A romantically viewed homosexual relationship, scenes in an improvised gay bar, a couple of same-sex kisses. A-III; PG-13

Hustlers

Sordidly treated fact-based tale of two strip-club dancers (Constance Wu and Jennifer Lopez) who, strapped for cash during the Great Recession, collaborate on a scheme to drug wealthy clients and max out their credit cards while they’re helpless. In adapting a New York magazine article by Jessica Pressler, writer-director Lorene Scafaria tries to showcase the bonds of friendship and Hollywood’s much-loved theme of the self-chosen family. But the attempt to justify financial exploitation by the sexually exploited and blame the whole thing on Wall Street travels with its own staff, all of whom turn out to be insufferably arrogant. Fellowes’ film ensemble walking in perfect time and the result will be catnip to fans of the franchise. A strong message about marital and familial loyalty and the reconciliation of quarreling spouses is somewhat offset by the sympathetic treatment of a same-sex-attracted butler’s (Robert James-Collier) search for love. But beyond implicitly deploiring the harassment to which homosexuals were subjected in the time, the film has no particular axe to grind. Still, though secondary, this subplot makes the glossy costume drama strictly grown-up fare. A romantically viewed homosexual relationship, scenes in an improvised gay bar, a couple of same-sex kisses. A-III; PG-13

Rambo: Last Blood

Bleak, absurdly brutal swan song for the character of the title, first played by Sylvester Stallone in 1982. Working from a script by Stallone and Matthew Cirulnick, director Adrian Grunberg relies on the old trick of setting up easy-to-hate villains, then doling out their presumably just desserts. In this case, it’s the Mexican white slavers (led by Sergio Peris-Mencheta and Oscar Jaenada) who have drugged and kidnapped the Vietnam veteran’s adoptive niece (Yvette Monreal). The sadistic revenge he exacts via body traps and butchery is so over-the-top that it ceases to shock and becomes laughable. Hideous bloody violence, including gruesome torture, drug use, a prostitution theme, much rough and crude language, sexual references. O; R

GOSPEL ▼

From page 2

not for lack of faith, but by way of exhaustion.

Take note of Psalm 121, “Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” Calling upon the Lord, Aaron and Hur stand on either side of Moses, help him sit down and hold up his arms. Moses’ endurance increased by the help of Lord through the work of these two men, who were equipped to serve the mission. They persisted because of their faith in God and responded to serve the crucial need of another.

Finally, we read the story of the widow and the unrighteous judge. This woman is truly powerless. Yet she repeated her request until she received an answer from the unjust judge. He finally gave in to her plea because she “relentlessly bothered him.” Here is the lesson: if an unjust judge who does not care for one moment about this woman finally answers her persistent plea, how much more will God, who infinitely loves us, respond to our persistent prayer? We realize we may receive an unexpected answer, yet God does listen and answers our prayers. Hence, prayer is essential to our faith. Life without prayer is ice cream without a freezer; everything just melts into one big mess.

What battles am I praying over right now? Who is the one I help me endure the trials? Am I persistent in my prayer? How can I set aside time to sit with God, in silent prayer and contemplation?

“Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. The LORD will guard you from all evil; he will guard your life. The LORD will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever.” (Ps 121:7-8). Amen.
Catholic medical ethics conference scheduled Nov. 2

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Providing quality and timely medical ethics formation for medical professionals will be the focus of an upcoming conference sponsored by the Diocese of Baton Rouge, as well as Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University.

The Converging Roads Medical Conference, with the theme “Catholic Social Doctrine Medicine” is scheduled Nov. 2 at the Catholic Life Center.

Danielle Van Haute, respect life coordinator for the diocese, said the ongoing message throughout the daylong conference will be “How do we live out our belief as Catholics in medicine and how do we approach the individual in front of us? We are looking at this through the lens of Catholic social doctrine and that opens up a lot of areas.”

The conference, which begins with Mass at 8 a.m. scheduled to be celebrated by Bishop Michael G. Duca, features a mix of local and national speakers. Some of the topics to be addressed include care for the sick and dying; rooted in Catholic social doctrine; dignity of the human person and human ecology; religious liberty, healthcare and human flourishing; women’s healthcare; a Catholic response to the opioid crisis; access to healthcare for the poor and undocumented; and human suffering and hastening death.

“All of this is rooted on the dignity of the human person,” Van Haute said. “Every person has that.”

Van Haute said the standards scheduled to be discussed and highlighted are not just Catholic-centric but are standards and ethics that all medical professionals should be striving to live up to in order to provide the best possible health care.

She said the conference is not only a source of information but also a source of encouragement and support for medical professionals who perhaps are practicing in a group where a tension exists regarding how best to serve the dignity of the human person.

The event is the first of its kind in the diocese and came about because the Houston-based Pope John Paul II Foundation, had received interest from Catholic medical professionals in Louisiana. For more information, email susie@forlifeandfamily.org or call 812-779-1070.

Come and See weekend set Nov. 8-10

Thought about joining the priesthood?
Perhaps the upcoming Come and See weekend retreat at St. Joseph’s Seminary College in Saint Benedict will offer some encouragement.

The weekend is scheduled Nov. 8-10 and is open for all men 16 years old and older.

Activities include conferences on seminary life and discernment, as well as Mass, adoration, and confession. The retreatants will typically sit in on philosophy and theology classes.

Meals and beds are provided but retreatants must bring bed linens, pillows, towels and personal items.

To reserve a spot call 225-336-8778 or email Director of Vocations Father Andrew Merrick at amerrick@diobr.org or Michelle Blalock of the Office of Vocations at mballock@diobr.org.

SEMINARIAN MASS – Bishop Michael G. Duca celebrated Mass for seminarians and their parents Sept. 28 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge. A brunch followed the Mass. Pictured from left are Vocations Director Father Andrew Merrick, seminarians Taylor Sanford, Jeremy Lopez, Austin Young, Bishop Duca, seminarians Albert Blount, James Vu and Director of the Office of Seminarians Father Matthew Lorrain. Photo submitted by the Office of Vocations
Important synod on the Amazon scheduled in Rome

The conclave of cardinals that elected Pope Francis asked that the pope they would elect to concentrate on global evangelization, make our church more relevant and do so collegially by involving the bishops of the church in his decisions. Pope Francis has fulfilled this mandate by calling synods to meet with him in Rome, two in 2014 and 2015 on family issues, and one in 2018 on young people. Alert to the collegiality request, he included in the synods not only cardinals and bishops but also laity affected by the topics treated in the synods. The title given a fourth synod meeting this month in Rome from Oct. 6-27 is “The Amazon: New Paths for the Church and for Integral Ecology.”

The Amazon region covers eight countries and one territory in South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. This area is represented in the synod by 184 bishops and priests and one religious brother as voting members. There are also 80 non-voting lay experts and auditors, including 33 women.

A white paper, called in Latin “instrumentum laboris,” which sets and describes the topics for discussion, numbers more than 54 pages. Its numbered paragraphs are divided into three parts: Encouragement to the people of the Amazon to speak out in their own behalf; the need for a new integral ecology to fight much environmental destruction and the challenge to the church to be more prophetic.

This synod is certainly timely, following closely the U.N. Climate Summit held just this past month in New York. That summit dealt with warnings by scientists that climate change is hitting harder and sooner than they originally predicted. The weather is certainly getting hotter, and the seas are rising and the rivers and bayous are flooding.

No one who has been fishing for speckled trout and redfish out of Cocodrie or in the lakes behind Golden Meadow for the past 30 years needs scientists to tell us that the Gulf of Mexico is rising. Quite a few lakes are no more lakes. They have been swallowed by the Gulf. And this is world-wide.

I just returned from a trip to the National Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux in Juneau, Alaska. Just above Juneau is the Mendenhall Glacier. It has regressed more than a mile from its original movement toward the sea, leaving the Mendenhall valley now full of houses.

The climate change now being called a crisis because of its rapid increase in the past few decades, proves the wisdom and the prophetic accuracy of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical “Laudato si’” about care for our planet. Climate change is Pope Francis’ prime example of the results of our inattentiveness to the ecological good of our environment. While admitting that climate change has multiple causes like volcanic activity, variations in the earth’s orbit and axis, and the solar cycle, he claims that human activity has increased it greatly: “A number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity.”

It is important to understand the ethical content of Pope Francis’ plea for action to care for our planet home. He recognizes other possible causes of climate change besides pollution caused by human activity. There are scientists who argue against the claim that “most climate change is caused by human activity.” There have been long periods of ice ages and then warm ups that led to hot periods that were favorable to the existence of dinosaurs and other now extinct creatures. No humans were around then to cause such global warming. Pope Francis also recognizes the economic difficulty in changing our present dependence on sources of energy that do pollute. However, it is not responsible for us to fail to do what we can, because we owe it to God as our creator who entrusted the earth to us and to the poor who suffer most from the destruction of our environment. In Laudato si’ Pope Francis talked about the depletion of our natural resources, especially water. People in poor countries suffer and die from lack of fresh drinking water. (Better-off people in Flint, Michigan and some living near sink-holes in Louisiana have a similar problem.) The pope is talking about underground sources of water that have been polluted through mining, farming and industrial activities unregulated by proper controls. The ethical problem is about our not doing what we can to promote a healthier and more sustainable environment.

There are other problems in that region of South America that are included in the agenda for this synod. It will be better to consider them from hindsight in another column.

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

**Public policy guide issued by LCCB**

**A CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Catholic tradition affirms that responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. The leaders of the Catholic Church have the right and duty to share the Catholic Church's teachings, insights, and wisdom with Catholics on moral dimensions of public life, so they may form their consciences in light of their faith. Additional guidance is available in the USCCB publication Faithful Citizenship at www.usccb.org/faithful-citizenship.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The family is the primary, indispensable and essential unit of our society. We encourage policies that strengthen family stability and uphold the traditional definition of marriage.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

The state budget expresses the voice of the legislature for the safety, education and health of the people. We urge an equitable structure of taxation and public services, and care for those who struggle to survive in a difficult economic climate. Also, the underprivileged should not be adversely affected by regulatory policies in a disproportionate manner.

**EDUCATION**

As the primary educators of their children parents have the right to choose their children's education. Adequate funding for public education is essential. We also believe that parents of children who attend state-approved private or parochial schools deserve their fair share of education funding. Private education renders a very public service. The current state scholarship program is a beginning which we strongly support.

**HEALTH CARE**

Health care should be available to all. We support an equitable expansion of health delivery services so that everyone may access affordable health insurance and care, or if necessary, be served by Medicaid.

**HUMAN LIFE**

The protection of human life from conception until natural death is paramount. All persons have an inherent right to life and a right to live with dignity. We strongly support laws that protect the life of unborn children and services that assist pregnant women. We believe that cloning, embryonic stem cell research, surrogacy and assisted suicide are contrary to at all times as conversations focusing on immigration reform are had at the highest levels.

**IMMIGRATION**

All God's people deserve respect and civility. We support immigration reform that is consistent with each person's innate human dignity as well as reform that will keep the family unit intact. Preservation, as opposed to separation, of the family unit should be sought at all times as conversations focusing on immigration reform are had at the highest levels.

**RACISM**

We are all brothers and sisters, equally made in the image of and likeness of God. Racism is a moral issue that manifests itself institutionally and systemically. A deep individual conversion of heart, which effectively compels change and reform in our institutions and society, is what is most needed. We must confront racism's root causes and the injustice that it produces. The love of God that binds us together should overflow into our relationships with all people.

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

The rights of faith – filled individuals and faith – based institutions should be recognized and respected without coercive government intrusion or regulations that violate the rights of conscience regardless of religious affiliations.

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

We recognize the need for incarcerating individuals who inflict harm on society. We encourage adequate legal representation to the accused, and we advocate for a restorative approach to prisoner rehabilitation. Consistent with our moral ethic for human life we must reject use of the death penalty.

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops is an agency of the Roman Catholic Bishops of the state which has as its foundation the beliefs of the Catholic Church. It serves to coordinate the education of the people through joint pastoral statements; to promote collaboration in shared projects among Catholic dioceses and other institutions; and to communicate and interact with local, parish, state and federal bodies.


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The ministry of making room

O ur family learned this summer that we are expecting a baby in March, due on the feast of the Annunciation. A delightfully timed due date to think of welcoming another child.

As the weeks progress, our baby's presence grows. I have to make room for my expanding waistline with looser shirts and roomier jeans. Soon the bin of maternity clothes will be dragged out from under the bed, since none of my regular clothes fit the way they did a month ago.

Making room for a new member of our family is a long and gradual process. I’m not the only one who will have to adjust. Baby’s brothers are facing a bedroom shuffle as we think about what she called “the ministry of moving over”: the simple act of scooting into a seat or a space to make room for another child.

"Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting," Laura Fanucci

Laura 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.
COMING EVENTS

October 11, 2019

Public Square Rosary – St. Gerard Majella Church, 5354 Plank Road, Baton Rouge, will host a public square rosary on Saturday, Oct. 12, noon. For more information, call 225-356-7141 or 225-938-0392.

St. Jude Mission – Catholic comedian Doug Brummel will present a mission, “Lighten up! A Celebration of Faith and Family,” Monday, Oct. 14 and Tuesday, Oct. 15, 6:45 p.m., at St. Jude the Apostle Church, 9150 Highland Road, Baton Rouge. For more information, call 225-766-2431.

Grand Day – St. Joseph Cathedral, Fourth and Main streets, Baton Rouge, will host its Grand Day in Catholic Square on Sunday, Oct. 20 after the 10 a.m. Mass. There will be food, music and children’s entertainment. For more information, call 225-387-5928 or visit cathedralbr.org.

Silver Rose Service – St. Margaret Church, 30300 Catholic Hall Road, Albany, will have a prayer service Sunday, Oct. 20 following the 5:30 p.m. Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and affirmation and dedication to the sanctity of human life. The prayer service includes reciting the rosary, followed by the consecration of the Silver Rose and blessing. For more information, call Glenn Young at 225-567-1468.

Feast on the Levee – St. John the Baptist Church, 402 S. Kirkland Dr., (River Road) Brusly, will host its Feast on the Levee on Sunday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. There will be live entertainment, food, Fun Run and children’s activities and games. For more information, call 225-749-2189 or visit sbj-brusly.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FOR SALE

Beautiful well maintained home in the Island Subdivision, Plaquemine. It’s amenities include: 3beds, 3baths, bonus room, dining room, 2 fireplaces, ceiling fans, wood floors, granite countertops and much more in the spacious 2400 sq ft living area. The exterior has fenced, screened enclosed pool w/kitchen, and a whole house generator. $369,000.00. Call for an appointment.

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Director of Communications and Development
St. George Catholic Church and School is seeking an experienced Communications and Development Director. Applicants must have proficiency in financial development, marketing, communications and coordination of a widely inclusive volunteer program. Duties include arranging and coordinating programs and campaigns, special purpose and planned giving initiatives, as well as volunteer recruitment and training. The director also searches out grant opportunities and coordinates alumni activities for the school. Other duties include overseeing all publications and external communications including social media and websites. This is a full time salaried position with benefits. Minimum requirements – bachelor’s degree preferable in fields of communication, public relations, marketing, or business as well as 3 to 5 years experience in these areas. Must possess good organizational skills; writing skills; superior computer skills; interpersonal and relational skills; management and leadership skills; send resume and cover letter to: Search Committee, St. George Church, 7008 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809; or email to martinh@st-george.org.
Help Wanted

The Olde Mill LLC currently has an opportunity available for a part-time team member in our front office. Job duties may include making follow-up sales phone calls, follow-up emails, weekly social media posts, mail marketing and other general office tasks. Experience preferred, but not necessary. We will train you to grow with us. Position is hourly to start with a flexible schedule, depending on our needs. Perfect candidates would be motivated, hardworking, and share our passion. To learn more about us, visit our website theoldemill.com. Email resume and/or job experience to shawn@soursodesigns.com.

Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge

Director of Stewardship

Full-Time Benefits Eligible Position

General Statement of Duties
The Director of Stewardship serves as the chief fund raiser for the diocese, overseeing the Stewardship Office, parish and school stewardship training, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, fund raising by the diocese and the Catholic Foundation and assists parishes in selecting vendors for their fund raising campaigns.

Education and Experience Requirements
- Bachelor’s degree required, preferably in Business, Communications, Marketing, Non-Profit Management or Philanthropy and five years specifically related experience.
- Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) certification preferred.
- Valid, current driver’s license and own, reliable transportation.
- Due to the nature of this position, it is required that the incumbent be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing, who is registered and active in a parish.

Must Be Able to Demonstrate
- Ability to develop and cultivate diverse relationships, including peers, staff, pastors, principals and potential donors.
- Administrative and fund development expertise and ability in program and business development; working knowledge of fund raising software.
- Excellent managerial skills including the ability to appropriately supervise staff and vendors.
- Must have a working knowledge of fund raising software and social media and able to innovatively promote the use of technology to further the goals of the office.
- The ability to travel to parishes and schools and work outside of office hours.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, and references to hr@diobr.org.

Applications must be received by October 30, 2019.

Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge Office Manager

Diocesan Office of Vocations and Seminarians

Full-Time Benefits Eligible Position

General Statement of Duties
This position provides executive level administrative support to the Director of Vocations & Seminarians, and general administrative support as needed to the offices of Diocesan Formation and Continuing Formation for Clergy. This position is self-directed and operates under minimum supervision and independently oversees the daily aspects of the office to include budget, scholarship promotion, and annual events. This position has seasonal and recurring work situations with occasional variations and provides support to Seminarians, Clergy, Prospective Seminarians, Deacon Candidates, Parishes and Diocesan Offices. This position also assists with website design and maintenance, social media, practical application of technology, strong planning and organizational skills and other duties to contribute to the functions of the three offices it supports and works collaboratively with related diocesan offices. This position requires confidentiality in the handling of sensitive information and matters requiring discretion.

Education and Experience Requirements
- Bachelor’s degree in a related field or equivalent education in business management preferred with prior parish or diocesan ministry experience preferred.
- Two years related experience may be substituted for educational requirement.
- Minimum of three years’ experience in office administration with a high level of budgetary recordkeeping, software and internet technology is required.
- Excellent typing skills, extensive knowledge Microsoft Office, including Publisher, Internet, Web Design, Adobe InDesign and Adobe Acrobat Professional required; working knowledge of Electronic Document Management System preferred.

Other Requirements
- Strong professional and interpersonal skills, ability to communicate effectively in oral and written communications required.
- Strong analytical skills are needed as well as being creative in design and technology, and ability to utilize modern technology to promote vocations.
- Ability to build professional rapport with the individuals served by the three offices; self-directed ability to work independently; able to use sound judgment in handling difficult and/or sensitive situations; maintain strict confidentiality and discretion; ability to exercise good organizational and time management skills; ability to coordinate events, and attend to details, while managing projects and multiple priorities.
- Due to the nature of this position, it is required that the incumbent be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing, who is registered and active in a parish, with a working knowledge of Catholic social teachings and doctrine.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, and references to hr@diobr.org

Position will remain open until filled.
During each of their remarks, the dignitaries told the individual story of Children’s Hospital patients who also sat on the stage.

“This day has been dreamed about and planned for a very long time,” said Wester, who also announced the expansion of the neonatal intensive care surgery unit in 2020.

Bishop Duca blessed the building, asking God to “make this place a house of blessing and a center of love for the children in need of healing and comfort.”

“May those who bring their children here find, in this place, a place where physicians practice the art of healing with skill and love with a compassionate heart for each child; for nurses and aids to serve each child as if they were their own... Grant that, comforted in their illnesses, our children will be healed and regain their health,” said the bishop.

He also prayed for the donors and supporters of the hospital and the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady and their hospital system “which continues to bless the Baton Rouge area, now with this beautiful gift for children.”

Bishop Duca then blessed the audience from the stage and sent several priests into the hospital to bless it with holy water.

“This has been such an exciting day for us,” said Sister Barbara after the ribbon cutting. “I think it’s been such a long time coming and it’s a great day we’ve been looking forward to.”

Sister Barbara added the feast of St. Francis was chosen specifically for the grand opening. She added that the importance of emphasizing “the catholicity of the building” through artwork and other designs. A new statue of Mary stands at the front of the hospital, a significant part of the hospital’s mission.

“We wanted her to be out towards the interstate so that people driving down the interstate can see her,” explained Sister Barbara. “There’s a light that shines upon her as they’re driving down (Interstate 10), you can see her – she faces the interstate.”

The Catholic Commentator  October 11, 2019

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**Homelessness is a Nightmare for a Child**

but during the initial intake process, we often see frightened children clinging to their parents: the only sure thing left in their lives. We hear sobs and comments like, “I want to go home.” They are simply too young to understand that home isn’t there anymore.

It’s not just the kids that are afraid. Even adults, especially parents of children like Kay and Cerenity, in the photos, are terrified at the thought of eviction. The long-term effects of homelessness can be tragic, particularly for young children. Living on the streets or in a car must feel like a nightmare they can’t wake up from. This can have a devastating impact on their sense of trust, security and safety. Can you imagine how difficult it is for them to understand that they can’t go back home?

By providing shelter to a homeless child can be an uplifting – or heartbreaking – experience. At St. Vincent de Paul’s Sweet Dreams Shelter, there are happy, laughing children everywhere, providing shelter to a homeless child can be an uplifting – or heartbreaking – experience.

**Sweet Dreams of Home**

Since 2001, thousands of women, children and families have stayed at our shelter until their dreams of home could once again become a reality.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of homeless women, children and families that need our help. Our response was to expand our Sweet Dreams Shelter last year from 36 to 82 beds. This has enabled us to assist more people, which is critical, because we are the only shelter in our community that provides services to homeless mothers with male children over the age of 5, fathers with children, and couples with children. Of course, these new services mean that we need your help now, more than ever.

Every year, through our Sweet Dreams effort, we ask people to pray for those we serve. Please save this Sweet Dreams Prayer and make it a regular part of your spiritual life. Pray for the homeless, especially women, children like Kay and Cerenity, and families! See the envelope insert in this issue to see how you can help, or visit us online at www.svdpbr.org.