



St. Maximilian Kolbe Prison Ministry comes to Diocese

OBERLIN – An effort that began more than two years ago – an effort to bring the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Prison Ministry to the Diocese of Lake Charles, bore fruit recently with the first retreat for 65 men incarcerated at the Allen Parish Correctional Center.

Fifty-five volunteers, from church parishes in the Diocese of Lake Charles and the Diocese of Beaumont, staffed the retreat, which was “well received” according to Shelley Hacker, founding director of the Kolbe Prison Ministry in the diocese and a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

Monsignor Daniel Torres, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, served as the Spiritual Director of the retreat at Allen Correctional, which came there “with the blessing of our Bishop, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost,” Msgr. Torres noted.

“I watched the prisoners come in Thursday with a coldness and stoic expression in their demeanor,” Msgr. Torres said. “On Sunday, there existed joy, hope, peace, and love. A visible transformation was evident in the lives of these prisoners who were murderers, rapists, thieves, sexual and domestic abuse offenders.

“They felt the Love of God penetrating their hardened hearts and experienced hope, peace, love, joy, and the tools on how to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ,” he continued. “They learned the importance of how to discern God’s Will versus the will of society. They understood they have to be men owning up to their choices and consequences. It was a beautiful retreat for my soul as well

as everyone present.”

The gymnasium of the prison had been transformed into a makeshift retreat center for Mass, prayer, testimonies, adoration, and sharing meals, according to Msgr. Torres.

“The organization and execution of the four days was unbelievable,” he said. “Shelley brought a genuine, humbling, hard-working spirit to help the prisoners to see they are loved by God. The many volunteers worked well with the leadership of Shelley and others.”

The ministry came to Southwest Louisiana via the Diocese of Beaumont through personal relationships between men involved in various church ministries, including the ACTS Ministry.

“It came to Beaumont from St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Fredericksburg, Texas,” Hacker said.

According to the website – kolbeprisonministries.com – the ministry came about following numerous KAIROS weekends (an interdenominational Christian ministry whose programs are designed to be presented in correctional institutions). From interaction between an offender in the Texas prison, a volunteer, and the prison chaplain, ACTS Prison retreats began and were soon approved to be brought into any unit within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) who may wish to have the retreat in their unit.

“The focus is prisons,” Hacker said. “We have prisons in Oakdale (a federal facility) and in Oberlin, as well as the Calcasieu Parish Jail. We hope to expand into that facility



and overall do two or three retreats a year and continue to expand, hopefully going statewide.

“That, though, will have to be a missioning effort among the bishops of the state and volunteers in each diocese who would like to take it up,” Hacker noted. “We have already been invited back to Allen Correctional for a second retreat.”

Hacker spoke of the men who worked dili-

gently with him over the past two years to make that first retreat possible - David Hennigan, Bernard Marcantel, Estel Matt, Joe Hacker, Gerald Fruge, Randy Daigle, David Rogers, Jason Touchet, Cecil Ashford, Bill Bourgeois, and Dewey Duhon. “They prayed and sacrificed their time to travel to Beaumont for St. Kolbe ministry. Their efforts blossomed at Allen Correctional.”

Villa Maria Celebrates Birthdays



Monsignor Daniel A. Torres, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church greets Mrs. Olivia Scalisi, a resident at Villa Maria Retirement Center, as she celebrates her 100th birthday. She was born on August 28, 1918 in Erath. A 70-year member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Mrs. Scalisi has five children – Phyllis, Juanette, Kathleen, Jerry, and Debra. In addition, she can boast of eight grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren. Two other residents of Villa Maria were also celebrating birthdays during the festivities.

January 14-19, 2019

March for Life Pilgrimage

LAKE CHARLES – The Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles is sponsoring a six-day Pilgrimage to Washington, DC – January 14 to January 19 – for high school teens and young adults attending the annual March for Life.

Three busloads of Southwest Louisiana pilgrims, including adult chaperones, will join hundreds of thousands of other pro-life supporters to mark the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including *Roe v. Wade*, that legalized abortion.

Over the course of the trip, pilgrims will visit a few National Shrines, attend daily Mass including a Mass with Bishop Glen John Provost, pray in Adoration for the right to life, visit and pray at the Holocaust Museum, attend a national rally with

thousands of others. They will also participate in a prayer walk in front of the White House and Supreme Court, attend a Geaux Forth Rally with other teens from the State of Louisiana, visit national monuments and museums and most importantly join the thousands in solidarity to Pray and March for Life in front of our nation’s capital.

The cost of the pilgrimage is \$625, which includes travel, lodging, most meals, scarf, hat, bag, journal and entry fees into various events and sites.

A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is due with the registration form, which can be completed online or in paper form for each person making the pilgrimage. Paying the deposit or the entire cost can be done safely using a credit card or an e-check online at

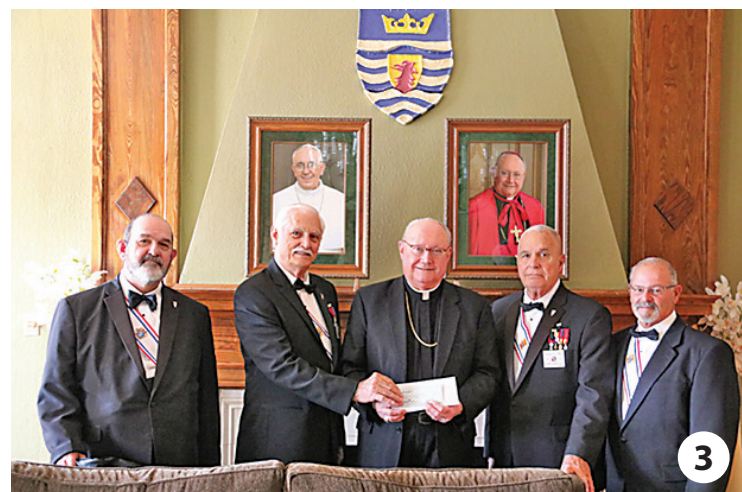
lcdioocese.org by clicking the Event Registration logo.

Any payment balance for the pilgrimage must be paid by Monday, December 17. There will be an informational meeting that day beginning at 6 p.m. in the Diocesan Chancery Administration Building, 414 Iris Street.

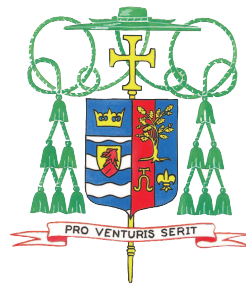
Spaces for the pilgrimage are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. A spot will not be held without the non-refundable deposit and registration forms turned in to the Office of Youth Ministry, 411 Iris Street. Those considering taking part in this faith-filled journey should act quickly to reserve a seat.

Group leaders should contact Caroline Matt at 337-439-7400, Extension 301, or Milissa Thibodeaux at youth.ministry@lcdioocese.org with any questions.

As it happened ...



Numerous events took place in the Diocese of Lake Charles during the summer and early fall. Here we endeavor to provide acknowledgement of some of those events. The September Veritas Conference - Catechesis of the Family – featured two keynote speakers, Dr. Bob Rice and Sister Anna Marie McGuan, RSM. Dr. Rice is pictured during his musical presentation with his guitar in photo one. Msgr. Daniel Torres carries the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament during the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Eucharistic Procession while OLQH youth kneel during the passage in photo two. The annual contribution for the Excellence in Religious Education program of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus to the Diocese is visited in photo 3 with Bishop Glen John Provost accepting a check of \$2,000 from Sir Knight I. J. Tarou. Pictured at left is Faithful Navigator Rickey Fruge of Fr. Veillard Assembly #2087 in Sulphur and at far right Faithful Navigator Sir Knight Robert Istre of Msgr. Peeters Assembly #332 in Jennings. Also present was Past Faithful Navigator Sir Knight Jack O’Reilly representing Msgr. Chambers Assembly #320 in Lake Charles. The contribution comes from the annual donations made by Knights of Fourth Degree Assemblies domiciled in the Diocese. Members of the Judge Henry Yelverton Chapter of the St. Thomas More Society are pictured with Bishop Provost in photo four following the annual Red Mass held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In photo five, Bishop Provost speaks to the annual retreat for diocesan permanent deacons and their wives during Mass in the Assumption Chapel of Saint Charles Center. Shown in photo six are Mrs. Janet Stoma, left, and Chester Jones, right, presenting a check from the Bishop Jude Speyer Chapter of the Pontifical Knights and Dames to Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, for the summer “Beat the Heat” program. Sr. Mary Vianney returned to her order’s motherhouse in Michigan and was replaced by Sr. Miriam MacLean, RSM in September as Director of Catholic Charities and Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services.



RETURN TO THE LORD

Priest Retirement Fund

LAKE CHARLES – One of the major goals in the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign of the Diocese of Lake Charles was to enhance the Priest Retirement Fund.

These monies are invested and only the interest earned from that investment goes to assist retired priests, of which there are currently 13, with pensions and health insurance coverage.

All of these men are priests who have been incardinated into the diocese and, thus, are the responsibility of the diocese.

The goal set for adding to the funding of the Priest Retirement Fund, which had nearly \$1.5 million at the start of the Capital Campaign, was \$3.2 million.

Currently, generous donors from throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles have pledged \$1,533,996.23 with payments totaling \$863,337.96.

Providing a dignified retirement for these men that have spent their lives in service to God in this local church is of utmost importance. Increasing this fund is significant because our priests are living longer and, just as for the laity, their healthcare costs continue to increase.

Not that far into the future, there will be additional priests who will retire. In the next eight years, perhaps as many as 12, and that does not take into account those who may become too



Father Don Piraro, left, and Father John Poerio, right, are two of the 13 retired priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Both men live at Villa Maria Retirement Center in Lake Charles. Father Piraro, a native of Lake Charles ordained in 1967, served as the first director of Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff until his retirement while Father Poerio, ordained in 1959, served in a variety of parishes, including St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Raphael in Iowa, St. Lawrence in the Hathaway-Raymond area, St. John Vianney in Bell City and St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake, prior to his 2003 retirement. He also held positions in the diocesan Tribunal.

ill to perform their pastoral duties during that time.

Bishop Glen John Provost ordained a single priest in 2018 and, with the Grace of God, will ordain another in 2019. Four men studying in Rome and at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans are scheduled to be ordained transitional deacons next year and then to the priesthood for the Diocese

in 2020, the largest class of men to be ordained priests for the Diocese in its history.

Currently, retired priests will have paid into Social Security, receiving a monthly check the Social Security Administration and being eligible to receive benefits from Medicare. Those diocesan priests serving now also pay into that system. Religious order priests serving

in Southwest Louisiana are the responsibility of their religious orders.

Many of the retired priests continue to perform significant service to various churches of the local church, such as filling in for masses when a priest is on vacation or has to be out of the parish on retreat or educational reasons.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2018 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed in 1957 by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey:

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of the land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, and overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

**The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder
Second Bishop of Lafayette**

Deacon Sumner Kohlhund dies

DERIDDER – The Mass of Christian Burial for Deacon F. Sumner Kohlhund, 90, was celebrated with The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, presiding, on Friday, Sept. 21, in St. Joseph Catholic Church. A Rosary was prayed before the Mass.

Deacon Kohlhund was ordained a permanent deacon on June 24, 1977 in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church by The Most Reverend Gerard L. Frey, Bishop of

Lafayette, and served at St. Joseph until his retirement. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Lake Charles following its establishment in 1980.

He was born in Audubon, New Jersey on Nov. 3, 1927 and received his B.S. in Engineering from Texas A&M College in 1954.

Deacon Kohlhund, who served in the United States Navy from 1946-1950 and the United States Naval Reserve

until his honorable discharge in 1971, is survived by his wife Evelyn and five daughters – Karen Dianne, Candice Lynn, Kathy Lee, Elizabeth Anne and Mary Evelyn.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



**Deacon
Sumner Kohlhund**

The next Catholic Calendar will be published Friday, November 16.

Offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22-23. Regular office hours will be observed on other days during that week.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Come and See weekend Nov. 2-3

LAKE CHARLES -- Men, 16 years and older, are invited to a Come and See weekend retreat on Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, at Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College to learn more about how to discern God's call for their life, according to Reverend Jeffrey Starkovich, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

There is no cost for participants at this vocation retreat and transportation is provided from Lake Charles.

You may register at <http://lvocations.com> or contact Father Starkovich at (337) 725-3719 or vocations@lcdioocese.org.

Part time staff opening at St. Martin de Porres

LAKE CHARLES – St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is seeking to staff part time its Youth Ministry Program.

The individual or team would set goals and objectives; plan and execute youth ministry program; keep current on youth ministry trends and issues by attending diocesan youth ministry meetings; maintain relational ministry with teens; communicate with church staff and advertise youth events; plan and implement parish youth activities that foster spiritual growth and fellowship.

The successful candidate should: be a prayerful, practicing Catholic who knows the Christian message and Catholic teachings; be a witness to the faith; be a participant in a Catholic faith community and be prepared to worship at St. Martin de Porres; and have prior training and/or experience in working with youth of middle school and high school age.

For application and full job description, contact Denise Donahoe at 337-478-3845 or ddonahoe@smdpcatholic.com

Pilgrimage to Italy in 2019

LAKE CHARLES – Visit Rome, Monte Cassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Lanciano, Manoppello, Loreto, Tolentino, Assisi, Orvieto, Florence, Padua, and Venice with Spiritual Director Father Rommel Tolentino, on September 16-27, 2019.

The 12-day pilgrimage is \$3879 per person with double occupancy. The price includes round trip airfare from Houston, \$450 government taxes and airline surcharges, accommodations in first class hotels, most meals, comprehensive sight-seeing, daily Mass, and more.

For a brochure and more information, call 337-436-7251 or email rommel.tolentino@lcdioocese.org. Space is limited!

St. Henry Altar Society Popcorn Ball Sale

LAKE CHARLES -- The Altar Society of St. Henry Catholic Church hosts its "famous Popcorn Ball" sale on Friday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. until 'sold out' in the St. Henry Community Center, located behind the church at 1021 Eighth Avenue.

Popcorn balls, which are \$3.00, are guaranteed when "pre-ordered" by the Friday, Oct. 19, deadline. Call 337-912-2185, 337-436-7223, or 337-439-1159 to place orders.

Annual ICCS Greenery Fundraiser Underway

LAKE CHARLES — The annual Immaculate Conception Cathedral School Christmas Greenery fundraiser is currently underway. On-line orders can be placed through Thursday, October 25. Local and nationwide direct delivery options are available.

An array of live fresh cut greenery wreaths, door swags, garland and table centerpieces are available for purchase. The quality evergreens, picked from the Pacific Northwest, add ornamental and aromatic features to any home or business. Greenery orders will arrive in late November, just in time for the holiday season. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Immaculate Conception Cathedral School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

For more information, log on to www.iccschool.org or call (337) 433-3497.

Knights of Columbus Council #5022 BBQ Dinners

LAKE CHARLES –The St. Henry Knights of Columbus Council #5022 will have a BBQ dinner sale from 8 a.m. until "sold out" on Saturday, Oct. 27, in the St. Henry Community Center, located behind the church.

Dinners of half a chicken or pork steak or ribs are \$10 each and include rice dressing, pork and beans, and potato salad. Call 337-499-9226, 337-439-1159, or 337-912, 2185 for more information or to order dinners.

2018 ICCS Panther Run October 27

LAKE CHARLES — On your mark. Get set. Go! The 2018 Immaculate Conception Cathedral School Panther Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 27.

This annual ICCS PTO Fundraiser will feature a 10K, 5K and 1-Mile Color Run. The 10K and 5K races will begin at 7:30 a.m. at ICCS, located at 1536 Ryan Street in Lake Charles. The 1-mile Color Run will start at approximately 8:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in the 10K and 5K races.

Cost to enter is \$25 for the 10K and 5K races and \$20 for the 1-mile Color Run. To register, visit www.active.com and click on the ICCS Panther Run link.

Participants must register by Monday, October 15 to receive a guaranteed race day shirt. Race proceeds benefit the Immaculate Conception Cathedral School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

For more information, please call Immaculate Conception Cathedral School at 337-433-3497, or visit www.iccschool.org/panther-run-packet.

St. John Vianney Bazaar October 28

BELL CITY – St. John Vianney Catholic Church will hold its 2018 Fall Bazaar on Sunday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the church grounds.

There will be bingo and raffle along with live and silent

auctions, kid's games, a fun jump and train rides.

Pork loin dinners and barbecue chicken dinners will also be available. All are welcome.

Radio broadcasts of Cathedral Sunday Mass

LAKE CHARLES -- The celebration of the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, which has been broadcast on KLCL (1470-AM) since the beginning of the Diocese of Lake Charles and more recently on Jennings' KJEF-AM (1290-AM) as well streaming on the two stations' websites, will also be broadcast on Radio Maria (91.1 FM) on the second Sunday of each month and streaming on Radio Maria's website.

Women sought to join Theresians

LAKE CHARLES – Catholic women are being sought to join a monthly faith-filled spiritual community, especially to form a new Theresians group in the Westlake, Sulphur, Vinton and Carlyss areas, according to Cookie Phillips, outreach coordinator for the Theresians International Organization.

To learn more about the Theresians call 337-474-9205 or email cookiephil@suddenlink.net.

Center for Catholic Studies class schedule

LAKE CHARLES -- Father Ruben Villarreal, Ph.L., J.C.L., will lead Introduction to Philosophy in November and December at the Center for Catholic Studies at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 221 Aqua Drive, according to the Office of Religious Education and the Office of Adult Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Father Villarreal's class will take place on Mondays November 5, 12, 26 and December 3, 10, 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and is described as follows: What is philosophy? And how can it help us to better understand God, the world around us, and ourselves as human beings? How can it help us make heads or tails of what we hear in the news, and how can it help us strike that important balance between our emotions and our reason? This introduction to philosophy will explain what philosophy is by showing philosophy in action - as it helps to clarify our thoughts and to rid us of confused or even odd notions about God, the world around us, and ourselves. According to Father Villarreal, "If you would like to take this course, are a current college student and/or need financial assistance, please register by calling the Office of Religious Education at 337-439-7400, Extension 308."

Father Nathan Long will teach on the Letters of St. Paul during the months of January and February while Paula Hunter will teach Theology of the Body & Interior Life during March and April.

Cost is \$50 per person for each course. Click here to register online. For more information, or to be placed on a list for future announcements, call 337-439-7400, Extension. 308 or email marlie.mudd@lcdioocese.org.