



Redemptorist Fathers to leave Diocese of Biloxi at year's end

BY TERRY DICKSON

BILOXI -- The Diocese of Biloxi has been richly blessed by the ministry of the Redemptorist Fathers who arrived after Hurricane Katrina and helped rebuild and revitalize Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos and Our Mother of Sorrows Parishes in East Biloxi.

However, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. It was announced at all the Masses the weekend of July 15-16 that the Redemptorist Fathers will be leaving the Diocese of Biloxi at the end of the year. Their last day will be December 31.

"The evangelizing mission of the Redemptorists in the Church has two major dimensions: we proclaim Christ's plentiful redemption, particularly to the poor and abandoned, inviting individuals to make a radical choice to place Christ at the center of their lives; and since this radical choice in favor of Christ needs to be nurtured and sustained within a community of believers, we work to form communities of faith in which this can effectively happen," said Father Stephen Rehrauer, C. Ss.R., Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists of the Denver Province. "It was for this reason we came to Biloxi in 2005 with an initial agreement that we would stay for 5 years. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we made the decision to extend our stay in Biloxi in order to accompany those devastated by loss and offer practical help as well as spiritual guidance when these were most needed. Working in conjunction with the Diocese of Biloxi during these past 12 years we have not only rebuilt the churches, but have fostered vibrant parish communities that will continue to thrive.



Father Benden



Father Enderle

"But as a missionary Congregation in the Church, we are also required to regularly evaluate our ministerial commitments and to discern when our mission has been accomplished in a place so that we are free to move and respond to the most urgent needs of the Church and the call of the Holy Spirit in another. In June our leadership council arrived at the decision that our mission in Biloxi has been successfully completed, and our men currently working there are needed to serve the mission in other places. We leave Biloxi with gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve the poor and abandoned of the Diocese. We also leave with confidence, knowing that our good work there will be carried forward by the Diocese."

Bishop Louis Kihneman said the Redemptorist Fathers will be sorely missed.



Father Cao



Father Wilson

"The Redemptorist Fathers have been a blessing to the Diocese of Biloxi," he said.

"We will particularly miss Father Stephen Benden and Father Gilbert Enderle who have been a very positive addition to our presbyterate."

Father Benden is currently pastor of both parishes and Father Enderle is in residence but assists in both parishes. The two priests also serve as supply priests throughout the diocese and have also conducted parish missions.

"We are deeply grateful for their ministry and service to the people of the Diocese of Biloxi these past 12 years," Bishop Kihneman said.

"The Redemptorists arrived in the Diocese shortly after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and Father Steve Wilson was instrumental in the physical and spiritual recovery of the parishes he served."

Father Wilson was assisted by Father Chuong Cao, who is now the pastor of St. Gerard Majella Church in Baton Rouge.

Father Wilson is the provincial treasurer and is based out of Denver.

Father Warren Drinkwater and Father James Keena, who both served in Biloxi are now retired.

In 2009, the Redemptorist Fathers took over the administration of Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Biloxi, which was pastored by Father Jimmy Pham and Father Joseph Ngo. Administration of the parish was turned back over to the diocese in 2015.

According to Bishop Kihneman, "Work has already begun to find a new pastor for Our Mother of Sorrows and Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos parishes."

New Permanent Diaconate class to commence in 2018

Bishop Louis F. Kihneman III has authorized information sessions to be held across the diocese which will begin the implementation of a new Diaconate Formation Class. The selection process will begin in the fall of this year and classes would commence in the fall of 2018.

Pre-selection information sessions will be conducted from 8:30 until noon on the following days:

Sat., Aug. 19, at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Hattiesburg, located at 3117 W. 4th Street

Sat., September 9, at St. Joseph Parish, Gulfport, located at 12290 DePew Road (Orange Grove)

Sat., Sept. 19, at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Ocean Springs, located at 4900 Riley Road

For interested men, attendance at one of these sessions is mandatory, and your wife is required to attend. Please see your pastor, and for further information, call the Diocese of Biloxi, Office of the Diaconate, (228) 702-2107.

For more on the Permanent Diaconate, see pages 10-13.

Wyrwich named Diocesan Director of Stewardship and Development

DIOCESE OF BILOXI -- Bishop Louis F. Kihneman has announced the hiring of Dave Wyrwich as full time Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Biloxi, effective August 1.

Wyrwich replaces Deacon Roberto Jimenez, who is retiring.

Bishop Kihneman thanked Deacon Jimenez for his good work as Director of Stewardship and Development.

At the same time, Bishop Kihneman welcomed Wyrwich, who he called "a family man and dedicated Catholic."



Wyrwich

As Director of Stewardship and Development, Wyrwich will lead a team committed to advancing the Gospel of Christ and teachings of the Catholic Church through Stewardship, Evangelization, and Disciple-

ship formation.

SEE WYRWICH, PAGE 4

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Spiritual Direction

Father Joseph Dang, SVD, a Divine Word Missionary, is available for spiritual direction at Fr. William Kelley Retreat Center in Bay St. Louis. Fr. Dang received his MA in spiritual direction and spirituality from Fordham University in New York.

Please contact him directly (732) 754-6970

A free will offering is appreciated.

July 31

St. Patrick Robotics Team Blood Drive

BILOXI -- The St. Patrick Robotics Team "Tempest" will host a Booster Blood Drive on Monday, July 31 from 1-6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This blood drive is in partnership with the American Red Cross to provide assistance in the crucial need for all types of blood. St. Patrick Catholic High School is located at 18300 St. Patrick Road, Biloxi. To make an appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code SPCHS or contact Debbie Worrel at dworrel@stpatrickhighschool.net.

August 3

Baptized and Confirmed, Now What?

OCEAN SPRINGS -- New Catholics: Bring your friends and join us on from 6 to 7:30, Thursday nights, for a five-week series, August 3-31, at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall for a "Come As You Are," multi-parish summer program. We will explore the "What Catholic Really Believe" DVD series. Dr. Ray Guerendi and Father Kevin Fete engage in an insightful and sometimes very entertaining dialogue to dispel the misrepresentations and misunderstandings of Historic Christianity with scripture and tradition. Register: faith@loribran-non.com or call (228) 875-5419.

August 4

St. James Movie Night

GULFPORT -- St. James Movie Night will take place on August 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall, 366 Cowan Rd.

The featured presentation will be "Like Dandelion Dust." In this critically acclaimed film, when biological parents try to get their child back, a man and his wife must fight to retain custody of their adopted son.

Admission is free and please bring a snack if you would like.

August 6

6th Annual St. Rose de Lima Live Auction

BAY ST. LOUIS -- The 6th Annual St Rose de Lima Live Auction will be held at the Holy Spirit Center, 301 S. Necaize Ave., Bay St. Louis. This favorite fundraiser is happening a couple of months earlier than usual, but that's because we are "full". We have a ton of great stuff including furniture, glassware, kitchenware, toys, decorative items, holiday decorations, antique oil paintings, lamps, tools, household items, and some antiques. Doors will open at 11 a.m., and the auction starts at 2 p.m. Lunch/full concessions open at noon. Pictures will be available soon on *Facebook*. Everyone is welcome, please come and have a "bidding" good time!

August 11

St. Joseph BBQ Fundraiser

MOSS POINT -- The youth from St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Moss Point will host the 3rd annual Pigs and Prizes fundraiser dinner and silent auction on Friday, August 11, from 5-8 p.m. in the parish hall. The menu will feature an award-winning Hawg Heaven BBQ sandwich, two sides, and a drink. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 from the parish office (228) 475-0777, Becky Fagan (228) 217-4566, or any CYO member. You may carry out or dine in and enjoy live music and participate in the silent auction featuring many unique items. Tickets at the door will be \$12. If you would like to donate a piece of art, a craft, or food item for the silent auction, you may contact Kristi Phelps (228) 990-9744 or Maria Walden (228) 218-0429.

August 12

OMS \$5,000 Drawdown

BILOXI -- Our Mother of Sorrows Parish will hold its annual \$5,000

Drawdown on August 12 at the Gruich Community Center. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each and admits 2 adults. There will be a silent auction and door prizes! For tickets, please call Mamie Hardy at (228) 243-2266 or the parish office at (228) 435-0007.

August 21

"Luke: The Gospel of Mercy"

WOOLMARKET -- *Upon this Rock Scripture Study* is beginning registration for the Bible study "Luke: The Gospel of Mercy" offered by *Catholic Scripture Study International*. This study explores the parables of Mercy and how God's Mercy is still active in the world today. It features a study guide with 325 works of art, biblical commentary, excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, papal encyclicals, and the writings of the Saints. The world-class video that is presented each week is shot on location in Rome and Assisi.

Author and speaker, Dr. Paul Thigpen and host Fr. Jeffrey Kirby present the 18-lesson study in the DVD presentation. The Bible study will begin Wednesday, September 13, and will meet each Wednesday morning through April 4, 2018 from 9:15-11 a.m. at St. Mary Parish in Murray Hall on Woolmarket Road in Biloxi. The fee is \$47 and includes the study set and a DVD presentation. Payment by August 21 will ensure that you receive your materials on September 13.

Upon This Rock Scripture Study is an inter-parochial program founded in 2002 by Catholics seeking to understand and appreciate the Catholic faith by studying Scripture and tradition. These objectives included understanding the connection between the Catholic faith and one's daily life, developing a more personal relationship with God, and developing the practice of personal and family prayer. St. Mary Parish in Woolmarket was chosen as the centralized location to meet. Bible study participants look forward each year to learning about God's plan of salvation throughout the Old and New Testament and why the Catholic Church, both human and divine, is "the sacrament of salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and men" CCC 780.

For more information call Sharon Jones at (228) 591-1069.

August 22

"Who Do You Say I AM?"

BAY ST. LOUIS -- Father Joseph Dang, SVD, will offer a series of talks titled "Who Do You Say I AM?", August 22, September 26, and October 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (*Mass and lunch will be provided) at the Father William Kelley Retreat Center. Cost is \$22.

Jesus is not just the image of God in the world. Yet through His parables, He reveals different faces of God. Please come join us to explore those faces of God, then to pray, and to deepen our relationship with God as Father, Wisdom, Compassionate One, Teacher, Healer, etc.

August 26

Christ the King Drawdown

LATIMER -- Christ the King Mission, Latimer, will host it's annual drawdown and silent auction on Saturday, August 26, at the Latimer Community Center on Tucker Road. The grand prize will be \$2,500! Tickets are available after every Mass. The tickets are \$35 which admits two adults, must be 21 years of age to attend, and includes cocktails and full buffet 6:30-7:30 p.m. The drawdown begins at 7:30 p.m. Door prizes are given for the first ticket drawn and a prize for every 20th ticket. For more information, contact Randall Cox at (228) 218-6458 or Dallas Lizana at (228) 861-8346.

August 26

Fresh Fire

METAIRIE, LA -- Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans will host *Fresh Fire: A Golden Jubilee Restoration* on Saturday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Benilde Cafeteria, 1901 Division Street. Cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Please pre-register for lunch by noon on August 23. Presenters will be Deacon Larry and Andi Oney and Patti Mansfield, with music by Jamie Diliberto and *Tongues of Fire*. To register, call (504) 828-1368 or send email to info@ccrno.org.

Bishop Braxton: Justice, love must be ‘written in our hearts’ and daily actions

BY JEAN GONZALEZ
Catholic News Service

ORLANDO, FL (CNS) -- In 1955 in Mississippi, a white woman lied and told her husband that Emmett Till, a black teen, flirted with her in the grocery store. In retaliation, her husband and another man kidnapped, beat, shot and lynched the youth.

His body was found three days after his murder and returned to his native Chicago. His mother had an open casket for the 14-year-old's funeral, where tens of thousands visited his body. Among them were an 11-year-old Edward Braxton, his brother, Lawrence, and his uncle, Ellis. They waited two hours in line to view the body.

"I peered into the glass coffin and beheld the terrifying remains of a vicious murder," said the now 73-year-old bishop of Belleville, Illinois. "He did not look like a human being. Emmett's mother was sitting in a chair, uncontrollable crying, saying, 'My baby. My baby. Why? Why did I send him down South?' I looked into her red-rimmed eyes not knowing what to say."

Uncle Ellis repeatedly told his nephews, "I don't want you ever to forget this night." And Bishop Braxton never did. Emmett's killers were never convicted of murder. And when he visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, he was transported to that day in 1955.

"For me personally, the most devastating experience in the history gallery was coming face-to-face with the original coffin of dear Emmett Till, which I had not seen in 60 years," Bishop Braxton said during his keynote address July 8 at the National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, adding that "dear Emmett Till" was one of 3,446 African-Americans lynched between 1882 and 1968.

"I have never forgotten (my uncle's) words. I have never forgotten the unrecognizable bloated, totally mutilated face behind the glass in that coffin. ... Seeing that coffin again brought it back again," he said.

That was only one piece of history at the museum that registered great emotions for the bishop, who has written extensively on the racial divide in America from a theological and pastoral perspective.

Among his writings are two pastoral letters, "*The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015*" and "*The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial*

Divide in the United States Revisited," issued in 2016.

In his congress address, he described how the National Museum of African American History and Culture museum is in eyeshot of the monument to George Washington and the memorial to Thomas Jefferson, both of whom owned "enslaved free human beings." Not too far away are the Capitol and the White House, both built in part by "enslaved free human beings," as he put it.

The history presented at the museum is not pretty but so important, and he urged everyone to visit the museum, especially the lower levels.

"I realized 60 percent of the museum is actually underground and it is underground deliberately because the architect wanted to give you the feeling that you were ... maybe inside a slave ship crowded with very little room to move about," Bishop Braxton said.

"The images in the museum reminded me of what happened to free human beings as they crossed the Atlantic in the Middle Passage," he continued. "Human beings chained side by side on top of one another in unspeakable squalor, cramped in darkness. ... An estimated 2 million people lost their lives during the Middle Passage of this African holocaust."

In January, he wrote an essay on the museum titled "*We, Too, Sing 'America': The Catholic Church and the Museum of African American History and Culture*."

Although he recognized the museum as an outstanding achievement, Bishop Braxton in his remarks to the congress lamented the lack of references there to leading African-American Catholics such as Father Augustus Tolton, the Sisters of the Holy Family, Sister Henriette Delille, Father Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, or Sister Thea Bowman at the museum. There are nearly 68 million Catholics in United States, but only 2.9 million are black.

"These absences reminded me that African-American Catholics then and now were already invisible in the larger influential black church," Bishop Braxton said. "At the same time, African-Americans were and remain all but invisible in the larger influential and largely European-American Catholic



Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Ill., addresses more than 2,000 delegates July 8 during the 12th National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Fla. The theme of the congress was drawn from words of the prophet Micah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly."

CNS photo/Jean Gonzalez, Florida Catholic

Church."

The bishop told congress attendees they could all do something to know their own history and to be engaged in the community. They must exercise their rights to vote, participate in public life, run for public life, use resources that develop discussion about the racial divide, inspire young people to become involved.

"I give you these imperatives: Listen, learn, think, act and pray," he said. "African-American Catholics need to get into real conversations with others in the community about this history so we can grow by means of knowledge."

Before closing, Bishop Braxton brought up a theme that he has "raised for years, to no avail" -- that "people of color should no longer accept the designation of African-Americans as a minority. We are not a minority; we are Americans." Referencing the words of the poet Langston Hughes, "We, too, sing America."

"The word minority group is a term used to divide, not to unite," he said. "The God who is God has no color, has no race, has dimensionality. It is so important that we depict the universality of the mission of God, showing diversity of the city of the kingdom of God."

In his remarks, Bishop Braxton also spoke about the prophet Micah, known as the prophet of social justice, whose warnings and criticism of political corruption and urging of caring for the poor still ring true 2,700 years later. A passage by Micah provided the theme of the congress: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly."

SEE ORLANDO BRAXTON, PAGE 7



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— **PUBLISHER** —

Most Rev. Louis F. Kihneman III

— **EDITOR** —

Terry Dickson

— **PRODUCTION /
ADVERTISING** —

Shirley McCusker

— **CIRCULATION** —

Debbie Mowrey

— **OFFICE HOURS** —

8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday

— **PHONE NUMBERS** —

Editor: 228-702-2126
Production / Advertising:
228-702-2109
Circulation: 228-702-2127
FAX: 228-702-2128

— **EMAIL** —

News:

tdickson@biloxidiocese.org
Production / Advertising:
smccusker@biloxidiocese.org
Circulation:
dmowrey@biloxidiocese.org

— **OFFICE AND
MAILING ADDRESS** —

1790 Popps Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

— **WEBSITE** —

www.gulfpinecatholic.com

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Across the Pond



Fr. Tracey

Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain.

For the extrovert, action is more important than contemplation; certainty than doubt; quick decisions than pondering outcomes; extroverts are more talkative, have a more appealing personality; are rated as being smarter, better looking; more desirable as friends. Basically, extroverts are friendly, forthright and always on the go. On the other hand, introverts can be shy, highly sensitive. They tend to work alone, be deliberate; abhor small talk; prefer to listen rather than talk; are more comfortable with a few close friends than in a large group. They express themselves better in writing and have distaste for conflict.

Cain indicated that, as a society, we have moved from a Culture of Character to a Culture of Personality. We have moved from the ideal of being serious, disciplined and hon-

I remember chatting with a very outgoing, charismatic and popular gentleman with a high degree of energy and enthusiasm. He surprised me when he said, "As I grow older, I feel the need to spend more time alone. I need the time alone to reflect on my life, what I have accomplished and how I want to spend my twilight years." Here was a classic lifelong extrovert who recognized that he needed to discover and embrace the introvert possibilities.

Recently, I read the New York Times bestseller book, "*Quiet: The Power of*

Talking and listening

orable to a pressure to entertain and to sell oneself. Dale Carnegie empowered us to win and influence people. Tony Robbins has become the guru for the Culture of Personality. Also, Rick Warren, author of "*The Purpose Driven Life*," as well as many of the televangelists, became prime example of that same Culture of Personality.

The more recent phenomenon of "*Groupthink*" suggests that creativity, success and achievement come from teamwork only. Some of these teams are virtual, working together, sharing on-line calendars, working in an open office plan where no one has a room of their own, with only the walls of the building to surround them.

In the Old Testament, God choose Moses to lead the Chosen People out of slavery in Egypt. He was the introvert. When Moses wondered if he was up to the task, he wondered if God had chosen the right person. Later on when the people complained and Moses brought their complaints to God, he felt inadequate to the task. God turned to Joshua, the extrovert, to complete the task.

It is interesting, in our talkative world that Jesus who kept people spellbound by his teaching, preaching and miracles also took time off to come aside and pray. Even when he met his disciples when they returned from preaching to tell him of their success and their excitement; he simply invited them to come aside and pray for a while.

Some time ago, I employed a man to erect a polytunnel for growing my organic vegetables. During the two days of construction, we engaged in some conversations. He was married for twenty-five years. As a master carpenter, he likes to work

alone and likes to befriend nature. He likes the solitude of getting in his fishing boat on weekends and heading off fishing alone. The fish he catches, he gives away as he is not a great eater of fish. On the other hand, his wife is bubbly, gregarious, enthusiastic, loves to be around people and to travel. Recently, she said to him, "We have been married for twenty-five years. How did we survive? We are such opposites."

Toward the end of her book, Cain says, "We all write our life's stories as if we were novelists with beginnings, conflicts, turning points and endings. And the way we characterize our past setbacks profoundly influences how satisfied we are with our current lives. Unhappy people tend to see setbacks as contaminants that ruined an otherwise good thing, while generative people see them as blessings in disguise."

Love is essential. Gregariousness is optional. Cherish your nearest and dearest. Work with colleagues you like and respect. Scan new acquaintances for those who might fall into the former categories or whose company you enjoy for its own sake. And don't worry about socializing with everyone else. Relationships make everyone happier. Think quality over quantity. The secret to life is to put yourself in the right lighting. For some, it's a Broadway spotlight; for others, a lamplight desk. Use your natural powers -- persistence, concentration, insight and sensitivity -- to do work you love and work that matters. Solve problems, make art, think deeply."

Father Michael Tracey is retired and lives in Ireland. He can be contacted by email at mtracey1@bellsouth.net. His website is www.michaeltracey.net

WYRWICH

From page 1

Wyrwich has spent the last five years in the Diocese of Corpus Christi working at both the diocesan and parish level. As a Development Specialist for the diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development he served the pastors and parishes of the diocese by developing ways to help parishes increase redemption rates for the diocesan-wide "*Legacy of Faith-Future of Hope*" Capital and Endowment Campaign. In 2015 Wyrwich began serving as the Parish Administrator of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, also in Corpus Christi.

Prior to working in the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Wyrwich spent 20 years in the restaurant business as a general manager for several national concepts. During his time in the restaurant industry, Wyrwich learned the

value of team work and mission-oriented service to others. Although he enjoyed his time in restaurants, he always desired to serve people in a more spiritually focused manner.

Wyrwich eventually found his way to put his talents and skills to work in serving others through the Church in 2013.

Wyrwich served three years as an Army Armor Officer with the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado. He graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in RHIM.

Wyrwich has two grown children, Haleigh and Haden.

"I am humbled and grateful to be offered the chance

to serve Bishop Kihneman and the priests and people of the Diocese of Biloxi," said Wyrwich. "When I attended Bishop Kihneman's ordination I was so impressed with the welcoming and loving spirit that I felt from everyone in the community. I look forward to working with and getting to know the people of this great diocese and I am excited to help share and teach the Gospel of Christ through Stewardship, Evangelization and Discipleship."

Wyrwich plans to hit the ground running by visiting pastors, administrators, principals and school development directors as soon as possible.

Pope prays for dialogue, reconciliation in Jerusalem

BY CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis called on Muslims and Jews in the Holy Land to "moderation and dialogue" as tensions continued around a key site in Jerusalem that is sacred to members of both faiths.

After reciting the *Angelus* July 23, the pope asked people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the midday prayer to join him in asking the Lord to inspire reconciliation and peace in the region.

Tensions in Jerusalem have been high since July 14 when three Israeli Arabs armed with knives and guns killed two Israeli police officers at an entrance to the

site the Jews call Temple Mount and the Muslims call Haram al-Sharif. The site includes the Western Wall and Al Aqsa mosque.

In his main *Angelus* talk, Pope Francis spoke about the parable of the weeds among the wheat from the Sunday Gospel reading.

The farmer in the parable from the Gospel of Matthew tells his workers not to pull up all the weeds because they might uproot the wheat, but to wait until the harvest when the wheat and weeds can be separated.

"With this image, Jesus tells us that in this world good and evil are so intertwined that it is impossible to separate them and eradicate all the evil -- only God can

do that," the pope said.

Human beings are called to the "difficult exercise of discernment" in choosing between good and what is evil, he said, and when they fail -- which all people do sometimes -- the church stands ready to help with the grace of baptism and of confession.

Like the farmer in the parable, the pope said, God calls Christians to be patient as they await the harvest.

"Patience means preferring a church that is leaven in the dough, that is not afraid of getting its hands dirty washing the clothes of its children, rather than being a church of the 'pure,' who insist on judging beforehand who is in the kingdom of God and who isn't."

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lord, save me!

Story is told of a couple at a neighborhood gathering and the person serving drinks asked the man in line, "What is your wife's favorite wine?" The husband replied that she had three, "You don't bring me flowers anymore; you never listen to me, and you spend too much time in front of the TV watching sports." So, what is your favorite wine?

**Sunday
Scripture
Commentaries**



Deacon Torrelli

In our first reading, Elijah, a great prophet of God had just completed a major victory over God's enemies in a standoff with 450 prophets of the pagan god Baal (1 Kings 18:16-49). Such a demonstration of boldness and trust in the Lord on Elijah's part changed the hearts of the Israelites practicing pagan worship instead of honoring the Lord. After the

miraculous display of God's power all the people declared, "The Lord is God."

But in today's reading, Elijah, frightened by threats on his life, is hiding in a cave and God comes to visit. Does he offer God praise, worship and thanksgiving for coming to his aid? No, he whines! "I have been most zealous for the Lord...the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, destroyed your altars and murdered your prophets...I alone remain and they seek to take my life" (1 Kings 19:9-14). God does not address Elijah's whining, but tells him to get up and take some food and drink to be strengthened for the next task. God was not finished with him yet. From there Elijah went on to anoint two kings and the prophet Elisha to succeed him.

Although out of character for a prophet of Elijah's stature, his momentary timidity demonstrates the fickleness of the human condition. We often desire to

serve the Lord but fear of critics dampen our zeal and cause us to back down. We have a choice: whine or pray! Whining focuses inward, not in a reflective way with a goal for improvement but with a critical, complaining and condemning spirit. Prayer, on the other hand, is offering God our praise and thanksgiving and petitions God to conform us to his will.

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Responsorial Psalm: 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14
2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Elijah separated himself from God (so he thought) by hiding in a cave. It was only when he came out of the cave at the Lord's command, and assumed a position of listening that he heard the Lord. At times, we too can indulge in a personal pity party or gripe session insinuating that Lord and others are treating us unfairly. If instead of complaining, we quiet ourselves before the Lord and assume a listening attitude, the still small voice of God within will lead us in the tasks we are to accomplish for His glory.

The Psalmist prays with confidence to the God who in the past has favored his forefathers and can surely do the same for him and his people. The prayer is very intense, reminiscent of Jesus' prayer in the garden when about to be arrested, scourged and crucified. ...He (Jesus) was in such agony and He prayed so fervently that His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground" (Luke 22:42-44).

Sometimes our attitude towards prayer is too casual. "Well, it can't hurt to pray; it may even help so why not pray." Instead of praying with a passionate and burning faith that God will supply whatever is best for me.

Paul expresses sadness that his kinsmen reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Messiah despite receiving covenant promises and blessings. Similarly, we may grieve when those we love, who have received the sacraments, took part with us in worship and heard God's promises in scripture choose to stay away from the Church.

What can we do? First, know that God wishes all people to be saved, not condemned (John 3:16-17) and take every opportunity through prayer and witness to make the Lord known; hoping for a genuine conversion. Second, exercise prudent judgment to assure our aid or involvement with someone in need does not enable their continued poor choices or harmful behavior patterns. Third, avoid judging the status of anyone's eternal soul: leave that to God alone. Instead, mirror the Lord's patience, don't give up on anyone, and pray, persistently.

In today's gospel, Jesus, once again, shows power over nature and fear. Peter steps out to walk on water, but falters when he takes his eyes off Jesus, "Lord, save me!" Jesus chides Peter for his small faith and frequent doubting, but rescues in times of trouble.

When we pray, "Lord, save me," Jesus, the constant watchman, prevents us from sinking.

Since God is perfect, faithful, and eternal and we are flawed, fickle, and temporal, we can rejoice that he is readily available and easily accessible. He is present through; strong wind (Holy Spirit), crushed rocks (divine power), earthquake (shaking our earth-linked foundations), fire (purifying from sin) and a tiny whisper (teaching us to listen closely). He is present in His Church, in the Sacraments and in the Scriptures. If we cannot find God where we are, we will not find him anywhere.

In what circumstances have you ignored even the most obvious signs of God's presence? Jesus said, take courage, it is I; do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27b). A contrite heart will not spurn Christ's invitation.

What fears should you give to Jesus now?

Deacon Ralph Torrelli lives in Hattiesburg and is assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Visit his website: www.homilypearls.com.

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 for prayers
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus, Council 2180



On the eve of July 4th, Laurel's dynamic Knights of Columbus, Council 2180, hosted its inaugural parish Patriotic Rosary, a glorious evening of prayers, food, fun and fireworks on the steps and front lawn of the venerable Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The local council, in keeping with the holiday theme, literally rolled in its own "big gun", a hand-wrought smoker grill that fed at least a hundred hungry, flag-waving souls. The Knights offici-

ally opened the festivities with a salvo of burgers, hotdogs with all the trimmings and assorted beverages. The more-than-satisfied gathering moved outside as the threatening thunder-clouds retreated leaving clear skies for the balance of the evening.

The children bounded in the bounce house while the adults were graciously led by Bill Gatzman in reciting the Patriotic Rosary, prayers of gratitude, protection and restoration for our country, the 50 states and our elected leaders. As the skies mellowed to a dark navy blue, our beloved town of Laurel provided a fantastic 20-minute fireworks display. We were captivated by the bomb bursts, brocades and bouquets filling the skies with shimmering trails and crackles as they fell from the sky like falling leaves. The display culminated in a triumphant barrage that left no one wanting.

The parish and friends of the parish wish to thank those intrepid Knights and their families who graciously worked out their salvation by sacrificing time, talent, effort...and not to mention hairs on their arms and eyebrows...to provide this wonderful gift to all.

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER

Knights of Peter Claver Our Mother of Sorrows Council 25 and Little Flower Court 25, Biloxi



On June 4, at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, three high school seniors were presented with scholarships from the Knights of Peter Claver Our Mother of Sorrows Council 25 and Little Flower Court 25, Biloxi. The three recipients were Emily Hollingsworth from Our Lady Academy, Bay St. Louis; Clara Harbin from Resurrection Catholic High, Pascagoula; and A'mon Haynes from Moss Point High, Moss Point. Committee members pictured are Lady Ardell Roberts, Grand Lady Beverly Duffy, Grand Knight Michael Griffin, Ladies Denise Bovastro and Judy Polk, and Brother Franklin Parker.

DIOCESAN HAPPENINGS

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Picayune



The teens of St. Charles Borromeo attended the Steubenville on the Bayou Youth Conference in Houma, La; June 16-17. This conference addresses the needs of today's Catholic youth. The weekend was filled with exciting faith-based talks, praise and worship, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thanks to the generous support of our parish family 24 teens were able to attend this wonderful conference.

Thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Jude for prayers answered. LD

Thanks: Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, St. Jude and St. Anthony. Prayers answered. JW

Thank you, St. Jude, for prayers answered. Monica

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**Thank you, St.
Jude, for prayers
answered. CS**

**Thank you, Jesus,
Mary, St. Jude,
and St. Anthony
for prayers
answered. CS**

ORLANDO BRAXTON

From page 3

The bishop said the prophet would not be satisfied with those words solely emblazoned on T-shirts, banners and bags.

“Micah would demand to see these words written in our hearts, in our daily actions when we leave Orlando and return to our dioceses, neighborhoods, parish communities and families,” Bishop Braxton said.

In talks a day earlier, Bryan Stevenson, a public interest lawyer, and Tricia Bent-Goodley, a professor and director of the doctorate program at Howard University School of Social Work, separately spoke about black communities, and the justice system and black family life.

Stevenson shared his work fighting mass incarceration, racial bias and poverty through the legal system. He founded the Equal Justice Initiative, which works to eliminate excessive sentencing, to exonerate innocent death-row inmates, and to challenge the abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill. Stevenson praised black Catholics for “raising their voice in support of social justice and all the commands of the Gospels.”

In speaking about “*The Black Family: Challenges and Opportunities*,” Bent-Goodley described the impact of mental health issues, community violence, and domestic violence on black families. She called on black Catholics to face these issues with both the power of prayer and the help of professionals.

She noted that too often, black families don’t get the care and counseling they need; sometimes because of a lack of access and sometimes because of a reluctance to seek help.

Gonzalez is on the staff of the Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Miami and the dioceses of Orlando, Palm Beach and Venice.

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Nothing but NET for Biloxi girl who is set to join National Evangelization Team

BY TERRY DICKSON

BILOXI -- Caitlan Thompson, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish at Keesler Air Force Base, has been selected by NET Ministries to serve on one of its National Evangelization Teams.

NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. Every August, 175 young Catholics aged 18-28 leave behind their jobs, school, family, and friends to devote nine months to serving with the National Evangelization Teams (NET).

Divided into 16 teams, they travel across the U.S. for nine months to share the Gospel with young people and their families. Since 1981, NET teams have led over 30,000 retreats and ministered to more than 1.8 million young Catholics.

Thompson will leave on August 7 for training in St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Upon arrival, I will be involved in a 10-day music/worship leader training program, followed by five weeks of evangelization training," she said.

"The first three weeks will focus on personal development of my faith and how to share it with others. The last two weeks, I'll be placed on a parish school team or a traveling team and, during those two weeks, I will learn how to work with my team, taking the things I learned the previous three weeks and applying them to the topics we will be discussing during retreats at youth groups and schools."

Thompson applied for NET at the suggestion of Father Jacob-Matthew Smith, O.F.M. Keesler Medical Center Auxiliary Contract Priest.

"Father Jacob-Matthew often invites the military youth of our parish to participate in retreats going on outside of our community," said Thompson.

"I was actually invited to attend a retreat in Laurel that was hosted by NET. I learned a lot about what the organization does and I just kind of fell in love with it. They go around the country for about nine months, spreading the Good News to young Catholic adults and I really like that."

Father Jacob-Matthew believes Caitlan is a perfect fit for NET Ministries.

"I have known Caitlan for more than 2 years now and she has never been one to pass up opportunities to learn and engage herself in activities that would broaden her understanding of who she is and where she might want to go in life. She has been active at all levels in church ministries at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish at Keesler Air Force Base and in youth activities with other parishes of the diocese," he said.

"For her to be accepted as one of the group of teenagers to experience ministries around the country is a milestone in her career. She not only represents the diocese, but also the Archdiocese for Military Services whom the Air Force falls under for Catholic services. Caitlan exudes the kind of spirit our young people need



Pictured are Major (Father) Laserian Nwoga Senior Catholic Priest-Chaplain and Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary, Keesler Air Force Base, Caitlan Thompson and Deacon Michael Butler. Father Nwoga offered a special Mass and Blessing for Caitlan on July 17 as she prepares to spend a year evangelizing for NET Ministries.

today regarding their faith, and I have no doubt Caitlan will be a leader in youth ministries for the Church in the years to come. Her can-do spirit draws people to her and this will be the catalyst for other teens to want to engage their faith. I have nothing but praise for Caitlan and I know Our Lord will be watching over her this next year."

After she finishes her training, Thompson will embark on her nine-month journey.

"I'll find out after training which path I get because the path is kind of pertinent to which team I'm put on, whether it's a traveling team or a parish school team," said Thompson.

A self-described "military brat who was born at Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakeheath, England, United Kingdom, Thompson, 18, is the daughter of Major Jerry and Heather Thompson. Caitlan is their only child. The family has also lived in Alaska, Portugal, California and Washington. They moved to Biloxi three years ago. Both parents work at Keesler. Her dad is in the United States Air Force Medical Service Corps and serves as the Healthcare Administrator and Keesler Medical Group Executive Officer. Heather Thompson is the Catholic Pastoral & Religious Education Coordinator at Our Lady of the Rosary Keesler AFB.

"My husband and I are very proud of her for answering God's call and having the courage and generosity to step out there and serve God's people," said Heather Thompson.

"I'm a little nervous about her taking a year off from school, but I think this will be an excellent learning

opportunity for to go out and share her faith, which she is very good at doing."

Caitlan, who was home-schooled, plans to attend Ave Maria University, a private Catholic university located in Southwest Florida.

Caitlan said she's excited about the opportunity but also nervous.

"This will be my first time being away from home for such a long period of time," she said.

"I actually won't have my phone during training, so that'll be the longest time I've gone without speaking to my mom. I'll have it during music training but, during the five weeks of evangelization training, it'll be in a locker in another state."

Major (Father) Laserian Nwoga, Senior Catholic Priest-Chaplain and Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary, Keesler Air Force Base, offered a special Mass and Blessing for Caitlan on July 17.

"I feel very confident with her selection to serve as a missionary for NET. I know that she will represent the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) very well," Father Nwoga said. "She is spiritually mature and I applaud her for taking such a bold step to answer this call. I have no doubt that God has a special ministry for her in the future. I am very proud of her and wish her well."

Caitlan shared a litany of gratitude to those who have helped her along the way.

"I want to thank God and my family because I was a little nervous about approaching my parents to tell them I wanted to take a year off from college right away. They've been nothing but supportive throughout this whole process," she said. "I also want to thank Father Laz. He has provided our parish with so many opportunities. He's been nothing but supportive to the youth of our parish. I'd also like to thank the people of Our Lady of the Rosary for their support. Father Jacob Matthew is always presenting us with different opportunities because, at Keesler, we don't have a very steady youth population.

"I also want to thank St. Mary Parish in Woolmarket. They have been nothing but welcoming to the youth of our parish by letting us get involved in their Life Teen program and other youth activities, especially Matt Johnson. He didn't have to take in the kids from our place but he was nothing but welcoming and encouraging to us," said Caitlan. "I'd also like to thank Katherine Lingenfelder, who was the Life Teen Director at St. Mary's in Woolmarket when I first started attending Life Teen Mass and Youth Ministry in Woolmarket. She met with the teens every Sunday with open arms. I find her to be such an inspiration through the passion she had for youth ministry and answering the call to religious life (Currently in a discernment program). She's an incredible woman I feel blessed to have in my life."

Msgr. Flannery's book tells history of mission in Saltillo, Mexico

BY TERRY DICKSON

MADISON -- Msgr. Michael Flannery has written a definitive history of the Saltillo Mission, which was established by the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson in 1969.

In his book, *"Saltillo Mission,"* Msgr. Flannery, who served in the mission from 1971-1997, tells how the Catholic Church in Mississippi came to serve the people of Mexico and delves into the life and ministry of the mission's founder, Father Patrick Quinn, who faithfully served the people of this poor, mountainous region until his untimely death in 1997.

A native of Ireland, Msgr. Flannery, 77, was ordained to the priesthood in 1964. His first assignment was as associate pastor of St. Mary Parish in Jackson. In 1968, he was appointed associate pastor of Our Lady of Victories Parish in Pascagoula, one of the earliest and staunchest supporters of the Saltillo mission.

Saltillo Summers

"Actually, Pascagoula was the first group that went down there," said Msgr. Flannery, alluding to the genesis of the Saltillo Summer Experience.

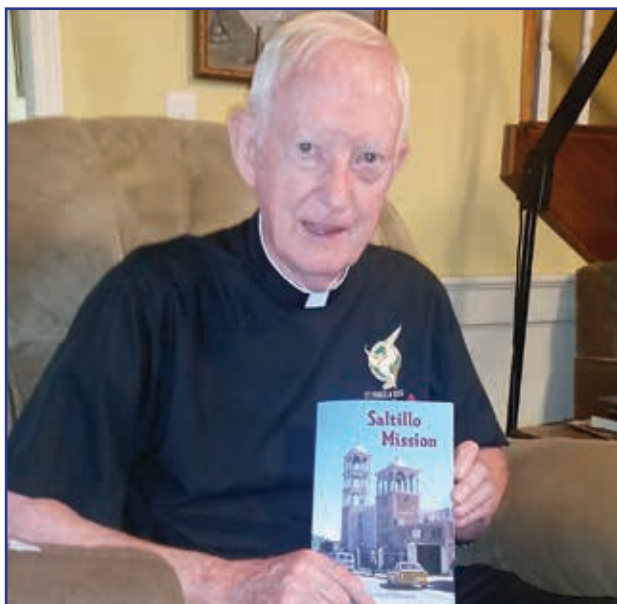
"I was teaching the seniors religion and I challenged them to do something for the poor. There were three guys -- Robbie Goff, Cary Olsen and Donald Martin -- who volunteered to drive a nine-ton U-Haul truck filled with clothes and medicine to the Mexican border. We gave them \$50 apiece for their own expenses and a credit card to pay for their gas and hotels. They were to leave the truck in Laredo. Father Quinn was on his way to Ireland for vacation and was going to meet them at Christ the King Church in Laredo. Well, they decided to go into Mexico and visit the mission. Father Quinn was not going to be there, but they went in anyway by bus. They came back to Laredo and had enough money to buy a bus ticket to New Orleans. When they got to New Orleans, they met a lady who gave them a dollar, which was enough money for bus fare to Hwy 90. From there, they hitchhiked to Bay St. Louis. Cary Olsen had an aunt in Bay St. Louis who fed them and got them bus tickets for the rest of the way back to Pascagoula."

By the time the three boys returned to Pascagoula, Msgr. Flannery said, the three boys hadn't shaved in a week and were barely recognizable to their own parents. However, their beards weren't the only thing to grow out of that initial trip.

"OLV was actually the first parish to send a group of kids down there and that's what started the summer program," he said.

"That really took off and became the best program that we actually had for youth. Conservatively, there were over 20,000 kids from all over the country who visited the mission during Father Quinn's time. It was a game changer for most of those kids who went down there."

According to Msgr. Flannery, the first high schoolers to visit the mission were OLV students Pat Stone, Mary Evans, Kathleen Moore and Genevieve and



Msgr. Michael Flannery is pictured with his new book, "Saltillo Mission," in which he details how the Catholic Church in Mississippi came to serve the people of Mexico and delves into the life and ministry of the mission's founder, Father Patrick Quinn, who faithfully served the people of this poor, mountainous region until his untimely death in 1997. Photo/Terry Dickson

Yvonne Walker. In addition, Dr. Matt Kuluz, a Pascagoula pediatrician and OLV parishioner, solicited donations of supplies such as vitamins, proteins, baby food, bandages, antibiotics and antihistamines to take along on the maiden voyage.

In fact, Msgr. Flannery dedicated his book to Dr. Kuluz, "who has supported the Saltillo mission more than anyone I know."

Msgr. Flannery notes that Dr. Kuluz has visited the mission more than 30 times and "inspired other medical doctors to join him in reaching out to the poorest of the poor."

Serving the poorest of the poor

In the book, Msgr. Flannery discusses his decision to volunteer for service in the Saltillo Mission.

"I had been before and was inspired by what was going on there," he said.

"I came to Mississippi from Ireland looking for missionary work. If I had stayed in Ireland, the probability is that I would have ended up teaching high school for 25 years. That did not appeal to me. There was more variety in the work here. There was also a shortage of priests here and that's why I volunteered to come to Mississippi. Most of my contemporaries went to places like California and Florida because those were the popular places to go. I chose Mississippi because it was the poorest state in the union."

The difference between Mississippi's poverty and Saltillo's poverty, however, was very stark.

"In Mississippi, you have some resources. You can

Copies of Msgr. Michael Flannery's book, *"Saltillo Mission,"* (\$15) are available in the office of the *Gulf Pine Catholic*, located inside the Diocese of Biloxi's Pastoral Center, 1790 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi. Msgr. Flannery is also planning to bring the book to the Diocese of Bioxi later in the fall to offer at several parishes. Check the *Gulf Pine Catholic* for more details. Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit St. Anthony School in Madison.

call on welfare and get state and federal assistance," he said.

"In Mexico, there's none of that. A lot of people would live from hand to mouth. They didn't know where their next meal would come from, particularly in these mountain villages. They were the poorest of the poor. They lived in adobe mud huts. They had no running water and no basic amenities of life."

One thing they did have was a deep faith in God. So, whenever a priest would visit -- sometimes just once a month -- the people would turn out for Mass and other sacraments. In 1969, Father Quinn reported just over 500 baptisms. In 1978, he reported 1,416 baptisms, 1,200 First Communions and 256 marriages.

"The mountain villages had been neglected," Msgr. Flannery said. "Some of these villages hadn't seen a priest in ten years, yet the faith was alive, which was strange enough. Mexicans are religious people, basically. They might live in a mud hut, half the size of my living room. But, generally, in the corner there is a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It's a sacred space. That's very important to them. They have a deep faith response. It's very different from ours, but, if you could take the best of their faith response and add it to ours, you'd really have something going."

Father Quinn

By the time of his arrival in 1971, Father Msgr. Flannery said the number of villages being served by the mission had grown from 44 in its infancy to 62.

"Father Quinn could never say no to anyone," Msgr. Flannery said.

"Initially, Father Quinn made a commitment to staying in Mexico for five years and ended up staying for 30 years. After five years, Bishop (Joseph) Brunini asked him to stay on and he was happy to do that. By the time of his accident (which is detailed in the book), he was so enamored with the people that he didn't want to go back to the United States for medical treatment. He nearly died down there because he got two pulmonary embolisms"

Father Quinn initially refused to go to the United States for treatment, Father Flannery writes, "on the grounds that this service was not available to the people he served and he should show good example by staying and accepting what was available to a regular patient."

SEE SALTILLO MISSION, PAGE 12

Sacred Order of Deacons ‘a visible sign of the Church’s service to the local Christian Community’

DIOCESE OF BILOXI -- Permanent deacons serve a vital role in the Church. “In the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, the Second Vatican Council reestablished the diaconate as a ‘proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy.’ The Sacred Order of Deacons is a visible sign of the Church’s service to the local Christian Community,” said Deacon Gayden Harper, diocesan director of Pastoral Services.

“Our ministry of Word, Liturgy and Charity/Justice is linked directly to the missionary dimension of the Church. Priests and deacons are seen as complementary but subordinate participants in one apostolic ministry bestowed by Christ upon the Apostles, with Peter as their head, and continued through their successors, the bishops, in union with the Roman Pontiff.”

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, a deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or “orders,” of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters and deacons. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came “to serve and not to be served.”

The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, Sacrament, and Charity, but bishops, presbyters and deacons exercise these functions in various ways. As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of Sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services. As ministers of Charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshaling the Church’s resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only WHAT a deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important.

“The Fathers of Vatican Council II stated, ‘In her whole being and in all her members, the Church is sent



Deacon Gayden Harper preaches the Gospel at Our Lady of Victories Church in Pascagoula.

to announce, bear witness, make present, and spread the mystery of the Communion of the Holy Trinity.’ This missionary mandate is the obligation and sacred right of the Church,” Deacon Harper said. “As ministers of charity and justice, the deacons of the Biloxi Diocese are responding to this missionary mandate of the Church Fathers. The Deacon Community leads the Prison Ministry in the Biloxi Diocese, with 18 deacons serving the 12 adult and juvenile detention facilities, jails, and prisons of the diocese.”

The formation period of this proposed class would begin in September 2018 and conclude June 2022. During the first year, the class would attend 8 hours of classroom on the third Saturday of each month. During years 2-4, the class would attend classroom sessions on the third weekend of each month, Friday evening through Sunday. The 4-year program consists of approximately 750 hours of classroom and field formation prior to conferral of Holy Orders, periodic Deacon Board review and concurrence by the Bishop of Biloxi.

There are currently 39 active deacons in the Diocese of Biloxi and 9 men are currently studying to be

ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2019.

Requirements:

“Ideally, it is preferable (but not mandatory) that applicants be between the ages of 35-55, although the upper age can be waived with good cause,” Deacon Harper said.

“The applicant, if married, should have a stable marriage within the Church of no less than five years, employed, and a visibly active member of parish life within a parish of the Biloxi Diocese for a period of five years. He should have the ability to comprehend academic studies at the college graduate level, be willing to discern the theological understanding of diaconal ministry and develop a specific spirituality which flows from the theological understanding.”

Deacon Harper said wives play a crucial role in the formation process. “This importance cannot be overstated. Marriage requires an interpersonal giving of self, a mutual fidelity, a source and openness to new life, and a support in times of joy and sorrow. Lived in faith, this ministry within the domestic Church is a sign to the entire Church of the love of Christ and forms the framework of the married deacon’s unique gift within the Church,” he said.

“The deacon and his wife must be a living example of fidelity and indissolubility in Christian marriage. A deacon and his wife, both as a spiritual man and woman and as a couple, have much to share with the bishop and his priests about the Sacrament of Matrimony. A diaconal family also brings a unique presence and understanding of the domestic family.”

For those reasons, attendance at one of the informational sessions is mandatory not only for husbands, but also for their wives. It is also imperative for anyone who is interested to discuss with his pastor.

For more information, call the Diocese of Biloxi Office of Pastoral Services at (228) 702-2107.

Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, to the diaconate, and to the religious life, especially in the Diocese of Biloxi

The Permanent Diaconate in Mississippi

BY DEACON MARTIN AND
BRENDA FINNEGAN

In 1973, interest in establishing a permanent diaconate program in Mississippi was generated by Most Reverend Joseph Brunini, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson. (At that time, it was the Catholic Diocese for the entire state of Mississippi. The Diocese of Biloxi was not established until March 1, 1977, with Bishop Joseph Lawson Howze as its leader.)

The first permanent deacon program was announced in the *Mississippi Today Catholic* newspaper on October 5, 1975, and Father Thomas Boyce was appointed as the director of the program. After a year-long selection process, the first class was held in October 1976, at the Sun and Sand Motel in Jackson. Shortly after, the Renewal Center on Bolling Street (a former seminary) became available and the 26 candidates accepted into the program and wives were housed there. Fourteen of those completed the program in 1979.

Father Chuck Siebenand was the second Director of the Permanent Diaconate in the Jackson Diocese, and Father Peter Mockler was appointed the first Director in the Biloxi Diocese. A newsletter was begun by the candidates, *The Pre-Deacon Beacon*, which kept the candidates informed (and sometimes amused).

The first ordination of permanent deacons of the Biloxi Diocese was held on Sunday, June 17, 1979, at 11 a.m. Mass (Father's Day). Of the six candidates from the Biloxi Diocese who completed the 3-year formation, four were ordained that day. Candidates Martin Finnegan of Pascagoula, Thomas Miller and Rene' Moniot, both of Biloxi, and Charles Walker of Gulfport were ordained by Bishop Howze at the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin to a standing-room only crowd. (Eight from the Jackson Diocese were ordained in their respective parishes, including Leon Kitchin of Greenwood, father of Father George Kitchin, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the diaconate program. Deacon Finnegan, by the luck of the draw, was the first permanent deacon ordained for the Diocese of Biloxi.

Victor Baglioni of Moss Point was ordained the following year. Robert Miller of Gulfport became ill and died before he was ordained. Father John McGrath succeeded Father Mockler as Director of the Permanent Diaconate, and Deacon Martin Finnegan succeeded (now) Msgr. McGrath in 1986, serving for eighteen years under Bishop Howze, and later under Bishop Thomas Rodi.

A new deacon formation class for Mississippi and Alabama candidates was begun in 1990 by Deacon Finnegan with Deacon Joseph McGonagle, and Rev. John Ahern in the Archdiocese of Mobile, resulting in eight new deacons being ordained for the Biloxi Diocese in 1993, which included Deacon Thomas LeBlanc. (Several were ordained in Alabama; records were lost in Katrina.)

Deacon LeBlanc was the associate director at the beginning of the next class, begun in 1999, also with the Archdiocese of Mobile. He and his wife, Ann, were



Deacon Martin Finnegan exposes the Blessed Sacrament at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Ocean Springs.

one of the mentor couples the first year. In 2000, Deacon Victor Baglioni and his wife, Gladys, became mentor couples to the new class, who were ordained in 2002.

That class included Deacons Ben Wimberly and Gayden Harper. Deacon Wimberly became Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Biloxi Diocese after Deacon Finnegan resigned in 2004, and he was succeeded by Deacon Gayden Harper in 2007.

Since then, formation classes have been held in our own diocese under Director Gayden Harper. Since the class of 1979, there have been five additional formation classes. Counting deacons moving in from other dioceses, there are now 48 permanent deacons serving in the diocese at this time. Another formation class is due to be ordained in 2019.

Deacon Martin Finnegan's reflections:

"It was difficult for the first class because permanent deacons were new to the Church as well as to the diocese. Establishing a deacon community was important, then, and still is. Support from Bishop Howze was necessary, helpful and welcome, as well as the support of priests and parishioners of the diocese. The continuation of support from the succeeding bishops has been very important to the deacons and their wives," he said.

"As a result of my ordination, I was privileged to serve for nine years at Sacred Heart in Pascagoula. The parishioners at Sacred Heart were very supportive to me and my wife, Brenda, often baby-sitting our three children when we traveled to Jackson for classes monthly from 1976-1979.

"I was also blessed to serve with the Apostleship of the Sea, visiting ships at the Port of Pascagoula. I was privileged to travel with Msgr. Gregory Johnson to meetings in Toronto, Canada, Seattle, Washington and New Orleans. I also enjoyed being chaplain to the Boys and Girls Scouts, and serving on the board of the deaf ministry, de l'Epee.

"I was able to take early retirement from Chevron Refinery in Pascagoula to become the Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Victories (now Resurrection Catholic School from 1985-1988. I enjoyed teaching religion to students in sixth-twelfth grades. I still hear from many of them.

"In 1986, I was appointed as the third Director of the Permanent Diaconate, succeeding Msg. John McGrath. I was able to help begin a new deacon formation class in 1990 with Deacon Joseph McGonagle, and Rev. John Ahern in the Archdiocese of Mobile, resulting in eight new deacons being ordained for the Biloxi Diocese in 1993, and eight more in 2002.

The formation team included my wife, Brenda, Deacon Vic Baglioni and his wife, Gladys, and later, Deacon Tom LeBlanc and his wife, Ann. From the beginning, wives have played a significant role in our deacon community, which included serving on the deacon board, along with other lay women, religious women, lay men and clergy.

"After being assigned by Bishop Howze to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in 1988, I was able to serve there as Director of Religious Education until 2005. I've been privileged to administer the sacraments of baptism, marriage, and assist at funerals, and have made life-long friends among the parishioners there.

"Since my ordination to the diaconate, my family and I have had wonderful experiences of serving with the clergy and laity of the diocese, bringing us closer to God and the church.

"I've been pleased and humbled with the generosity of the parishioners at both parishes in which I've served."

In 1994, on the 15th anniversary of his diaconate ordination, he was surprised with a gift from the St. Elizabeth parishioners fulfilling a life-long dream -- a 15-day trip to Ireland, with his wife.

At St. Elizabeth Seton, he has served under Father George Kitchin, Father Bernard Farrell, and continues to serve on a limited basis under Father Sergio Balderas. He has presided at over 350 baptisms, witnessed over 100 marriages and has served at many funerals in his parishes, at other churches, and in the mission at Saultillo, Mexico, with Father Patrick Quinn. He has also served under four Biloxi bishops: Bishop Joseph L. Howze, Bishop Thomas Rodi, Bishop Roger Morin and Bishop Louis F. Kihneman.

"Although I 'officially' retired in 2015 (a requirement at age 75), I continue to assist at Masses, and visit the sick on a weekly basis and am called upon occasionally for funerals, baptisms and weddings. I've preached more homilies than I can count, and though I miss preparing homilies and preaching regularly, I still enjoy it when I'm able."

"Having our new deacon at St. Elizabeth Seton, Deacon Mike Butler (Class of 2016) is a blessing to our parish and to me.

"I'm also very grateful to the current director of the permanent diaconate, Deacon Gayden Harper, for continuing to include me in diocesan programs. Brenda and I thoroughly enjoyed being one of the five mentor couples with him and Donna for the formation class of 2016, which included Deacon Mike and his wife, Kitten, and will always cherish the memories of the three years we spent with the candidates and their wives on those monthly weekends in Dedeaux."

SEE PERMANENT DIACONATE, PAGE 11

Deacon's faith strengthened by ministry to the sick

BY DEACON WARREN GOFF
Sacred Heart Parish, Hattiesburg



Goff

I have been involved with this ministry for all of my 24 years as a deacon for the Diocese of Biloxi. It actually began many years ago with two members of our prayer group in Pascagoula deciding to go to the hospital on Sunday mornings between masses.

I will never forget that first visit. It was Bragg Moore, Eddie Williams, and myself. We were so nervous. We

sat outside the hospital for quite awhile trying to work up a little courage. I even remember the first room we entered. It was Mrs. Buffet, Jimmy Buffet's grandmother. She broke the ice with her faith in God and appreciation of our visit

It has truly been a blessing over the years to have



Deacon Karl Koberger, of St. Joseph Parish in Gulfport, visits a hospital patient.

the honor of bringing the Eucharist to so many people. My faith has been strengthened by the faith of those I have visited and it continues each day of my ministry to the sick. Many of our people are facing a life changing sickness and still others are preparing for the ending of their life's journey. Seeing their faith through those

trying times has an effect on you.

I have been involved in many ministries over the years and the ministry to the sick has been one of the most fulfilling, especially as I serve the People of God in the Hattiesburg area. The parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish here in Hattiesburg have been such a great gift to Nancy and me

Next year I will be ordained twenty five years. As long as my health holds up I plan to continue with the same ministry that started so many years ago with two friends standing outside Singing River Hospital trying to get up enough nerve to go in.

I hope that with God's blessing and continued good health, to try to live up to one of the heroes in my life, Deacon Bob Everard, who is still ministering to the sick at the young age of ninety years old. It is his example that defines the Ministry of a Deacon on their life's journey. Seeing their faith through those trying times has an effect on you.

Hospice ministry enables deacon to be 'instrument of Christ's mercy and companionship'

BY DEACON MICHAEL SAXER

Imagine that you had an opportunity to help a family through one of its most trying moments. Imagine that you are invited to become a temporary member of a household of faith. The moment you enter the house you can feel the faith. People are sad, but they are strong. They are ready; they are hungry for the love and support of the Church and for the sacramental Presence of our Lord. He is indeed present in their faith. Imagine that you are asked to become the embrace of the Church for her children at such a difficult moment as the passing of a loved one. That is the reward that I get from being a deacon in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi. Diaconal ordination has blessed me with the opportunity to become an instrument of Christ's mercy and companionship through hospice ministry with Notre Dame Hospice, a ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Through this ministry, Christ fulfills his promise: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:18)"

I was first introduced to this ministry by Father Mike O'Connor during the last year of diaconal formation. I went into it thinking that it was a great opportunity to prepare myself for the passing of my own parents. Little did I realize I would be able to help so many people, not just for myself and for my family. I am able to strengthen and encourage people by reminding them of healing power of Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum,



Saxer

and then facilitating a timely visit by their pastor to administer these Sacraments (Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1516 and 1524). My father, Deacon Robert Saxer, MD, passed away recently, and I experienced a profound sense of assurance and calm even as I comforted my mother and my siblings. Because of this ministry,

I knew how to speak words of comfort to my loved ones, remain strong in my faith, and was thankful that the Holy Spirit gave me the grace.

Another wonderful result of this ministry is that when people are suffering, they become open to the Good News that our Catholic Faith has to offer. I have witnessed how God can use the death of a loved one to make people feel the love the Church has for them. Once they feel this, they are eager to wrap themselves in its embrace.

I am grateful to God for having called me to this ministry and thankful to Bishop Louis for allowing me to continue to serve in this ministry that I have come to love. I am also thankful for the support of my wonderful faith-filled wife Janet, and the encouragement of my pastor Father Michael Marascalco, the people of St. Clare Parish, and the team at Notre Dame Hospice. If anyone is interested in hospice ministry, contact Deacon Mike Saxer at (228) 216-4365.

PERMANENT DIACONATE

From page 12

"I'm so pleased to hear that Bishop Kihneman has approved a new formation program for permanent deacons in the diocese and I sincerely hope that men who desire to serve the church and God, will answer the call of a vocation to this ministry."

A native of Hattiesburg, Deacon Finnegan and his wife have been blessed with three grown children: Kenneth, Natalie and Darren, and six grandchildren: Talia, Kelly, Andrew, Isabelle, Lucy and Georgia.

SALTILLO MISSION

From page 9

Msgr. Flannery remembers Father Quinn as a visionary.

"He could look at any situation and know how best to approach it," he said.

"During his time there, the city quadrupled in size. It went from 400,000 to 800,000 people. Part of that was caused by drugs in the mountain villages. If you lost a crop for two years in a row, you had nothing. You had no seeds to sow. So, people moved at that point and a lot of them became squatters on the side of the mountain. A lot of the growth happened to be at Perpetuo Socorro (Perpetual Help). He responded to that need. He could see that people were living in cardboard boxes. So, he started this program of building cinder-block homes and he ended up building 2,250 of them in his time."

Msgr. Flannery came back to Mississippi in 1974 and ministered to the poor in the Mississippi Delta. He retired from active ministry in 2014 and currently resides in Madison.

He continues to visit Saltillo on an annual basis.

Youth ministry, fire department chaplaincy give deacon opportunity to live interesting life of service

BY DEACON JOHN JENNINGS

Holy Spirit Parish, Vancleave, and Christ the King Mission, Latimer

About six weeks after Susie and I were married, Father Paddy Mockler, who was at St. Alphonsus at the time, asked us to dinner. Well, the old saying that there is no such thing as a free meal is certainly true! We left dinner that night as youth ministers and have been involved in youth ministry for the past 37 years. We have been privileged to work with hundreds of young people over the years; from our own CYO groups in every parish we have belonged to, as well as working with the Diocese's Youth Office allowing us to get to know youth from across the entire diocese. We have traveled many miles with groups of young people. We have been to our mission in Saltillo many times, six national youth conventions, March for Life trips, Notre Dame Vision six times and many, many local diocesan youth celebrations. Currently we serve on the adult team for the diocesan SEARCH team. About ten years ago, Bragg Moore asked us to consider joining the SEARCH team for a one-year commitment. We have been a part of the SEARCH community ever since. The Gospel of Matthew tells us of the Father who "Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike". It is through the eyes of the youth that our faith has been revealed to us. They have challenged us to delve deeper into our study of the faith by their questions and to



Jennings

practice the faith that we preach. The youth can spot a phony immediately; you must be real and genuine. They have grounded us and humbled us. This ministry has allowed us to involve and raise our children thus our ministry became a family affair. We are blessed with three daughters, three grandchildren and hundreds of spiritual children that have become a part of the fabric of our lives. Our

kitchen is decorated with pictures of many of the children who have allowed us into their lives.

Another ministry in which I am proud to serve is being a chaplain for the Biloxi Fire Department. I have been a member of the fire department since March of 1990 and currently serve as the Deputy Chief of Training. Soon after I was ordained a deacon, I made a request to Bishop Rodi asking to be "officially" appointed as the Fire Department Chaplain.

Some of the roles and responsibilities of the Fire Chaplain is to attend special events, perform invocation at Department and City events, when requested assist in the funeral or memorial service of fire fighters, both active and retired, assist family members in the preparation of the arrangements, assist in crisis situations, and provide spiritual counseling to fire personnel and their families.

One of my main responsibilities as the Deputy Chief of Training is to train our new recruits and pre-

pare them to work "shift work" and begin a life of service as a firefighter. These two "tats" I wear work well together. One of the first things I tell the new recruits is that I can teach you how to operate, use, and/or drive every apparatus, tool, and piece of equipment that the department owns. What I cannot teach you is the proper way to deal with everything you will see, touch, smell, and experience over your career. There is no textbook for this! It basically boils down to one word ... "stress"! First responders have to deal with much more stress than the average person.

This is where the need of an "in-house" chaplain comes in. I have training in Critical Incident Stress Management and of all the duties of being a chaplain, helping our people recognize and deal with stress is one of the most important. I am in a unique position to understand the "stresses" that firefighters must deal with as I have to deal with them as well, for I am one of them. During my first year of formation one of our instructors, who was also a deacon, told me something that has stuck with me all these years. He told me "You are called to lead an interesting life of service. In your professional life as a firefighter you are responsible for putting fires out. As a deacon, you are responsible for helping fires to grow!" He could not have been more correct. It is an interesting life of service that I am very proud to live. Please pray for me and those I am privileged to serve. As a very dear friend of mine used to say ... "I need the prayers and you need the practice!"

Land O' Lakes statement on Catholic higher education turns 50

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Not all Catholics are familiar with the Land O' Lakes statement, a document on Catholic higher education with a cool sounding name, but this landmark text needs no explanation for Catholic college and university leaders.

The document's official name is "*Statement on the Nature of the Contemporary Catholic University*," but its catchier title did not give it widespread acceptance. Ever since it was signed July 23, 1967, the text has been both revered and criticized.

Even conferences about the document on its 50th anniversary have different takes. Promotional material for an upcoming symposium co-sponsored by St. Louis University and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities says the statement has not gone uncontested, adding: "Some consider it a revolutionary road map for Catholic education in the modern world; others have declared a half-century of devastation. Others designate it a mixed legacy."

This past January, the Cardinal Newman Society and the Institute of Catholic Culture sponsored a con-



Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, second from left, joins hands with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Edgar Chandler and Msgr. Robert J. Hagarty of Chicago, far right, in this 1964 file photo. Father Hesburgh, then president of the University of Notre Dame, convened the group that produced the 1967 Land O' Lakes statement. CNS photo/courtesy University of Notre Dame

ference on the text that was described as a discussion of "the crisis in Catholic education under attack from the secularist agenda set forth 50 years ago by the disastrous Land O' Lakes Statement."

The document, which is still promoting such strong discussion, was put together by a group of two dozen

Catholic college educators at a retreat center in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin -- hence the statement's name.

The group -- invited by Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, then-president of the University of Notre Dame and Jesuit Father Paul Reinert, then-president of St. Louis University and what was the Jesuit Secondary Education Association -- met to examine the role of Catholic colleges and universities in the modern world and, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, to submit a paper to the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education.

The group's members were primarily priests, including superiors from colleges' sponsoring religious communities, Catholic scholars and a bishop, all of whom belonged to the North American region of the International Federation of Catholic Universities.

Their statement said in part that Catholic universities must have institutional autonomy and academic freedom along with their commitment to Catholic faith and life. It raised eyebrows at the time, and now, for its wording about university autonomy that some say has contributed to the secularization of many U.S. Catholic universities.

SEE LAND O LAKES, PAGE 14

Pascagoula Catholics represent diocese at National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando

St. Peter the Apostle Parish took parishioners to the next level with attendance at the National Black Catholic Congress XII in Orlando, Florida, July 6-9. The roots of the Black Catholic Congress started in 1889 with journalist Daniel Rudd. He was instrumental in 100 black Catholic men coming together and sharing issues affecting their race which ultimately initiated a course of action while standing behind the Catholic Church and its values. The gathering of 2,200 Catholics was an opportunity to come together, learn, grow, and fellowship. Our visionary leader and pastor, Father Joseph Benjamin, SSJ, travelled with Joycelyn Lett, Parish Youth Advisor; chaperones Clara Barial and Lawanna Stringfield; and three youth: Carolyn Williams, Caleb Lett, and Phelicity Moore. They were all first time attendees.

The theme was *"The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me: Act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God."* The general sessions and workshops were held to explore these inspirational thoughts aligned with our daily obligation to serve the Lord.

Clara Barial stated what a memorable experience to aid in strengthening the church ministries. The homilies were uplifting and inspirational, as was the wonderful choir.

Joycelyn Lett said the Congress was so spiritually motivating and filled with much information of how to communicate with many types of adversity, how to serve the youth of our worldly community, how to apply prayer effectively in today's society, and many other topics. It was astounding to witness the systematic technique accomplished during this occasion. "The participation of the youth was so enlightening and rewarding until it filled my heart with joy," said Lett.



Youth from St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Pascagoula, attended the National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Fla. They are, from left to right: Father Joseph Benjamin, SSJ, pastor; Carolyn Williams; Clara Barial; Phelicity Moore; Lawanna Stringfield; Caleb Lett; and Joycelyn Lett.

"One of the most phenomenally orchestrated events of the whole congress was the undertaking of transporting over 2,200 people by bus from the hotel to the Basilica and back. This was truly amazing."

Lawanna Stringfield said every moment increased many levels of awareness communicated through the cardinals, bishops, priests, and speakers emphasizing justice, human dignity, unity, and reconciliation forming a foundation for the mind and soul. In addition, the Congress afforded her the opportunity to walk humbly with God and live in a communion of faith, share with one another the life of solidarity, step beyond division, and realize we all have differences. Again, the message inspired her to practice patience, reconciliation, and peace.

The youth enjoyed the experience of meeting new

friends and look forward to the opportunity to attend future Catholic teen conferences, including the next Congress in five years. The youth attended sessions on *"Dealing with Anger," "Black Catholic History," "You are Never Too Young to be Pro-Life"* and *"The Next Generation."*

Brian Greenfield engaged the youth in a general session on *"Returning to the Father"* and explored a powerful message to adults of *"Why Others Aren't Inspired: Being Intentional with Your Faith."* He told the adults that the parish is the key and there is no time for games. Your life is the only scripture that others know. He asked us not to negotiate with evil because the devil will keep us asleep, misunderstood, and lost rather than allowing the Lord to heal, restore, and bless us. He also inspired all to be encouraged and share our testimonies including interacting with our brothers/sisters to become the Word in body and spirit.

On Thursday evening, we were treated to a sneak preview of the *Tolton Drama* with actor Andrea Goodnight. It was powerful. The play will start in October.

The Opening Eucharistic Liturgy was held on Friday at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, with standing room only. His Eminence, Peter Kodwo Cardinal Turkson, was the celebrant of the Mass. Cardinal Turkson also set the tone in the general session and discussed how the *"Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly with Your God."*

The NBCC XII concluded with Mass on Sunday. We were all challenged to go out and do our ministries, do them good and stay in your lane. We were commissioned to return to our parishes to carry out the plan.

LAND O LAKES

From page 13

Critics have primarily focused on this sentence: "To perform its teaching and research functions effectively the Catholic university must have a true autonomy and academic freedom in the face of authority of whatever kind, lay or clerical, external to the academic community itself."

Leaders in Catholic higher education who spoke to *Catholic News Service* said the document should be judged on its entirety and by what it helped to promote -- the success of Catholic colleges in today's academic environment.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, president and CEO of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, said the group that gathered at Land O' Lakes, "wasn't a bunch of renegades or people who didn't love the

church and didn't want Catholic education to advance."

He also said the document should be examined and compared to *"Ex Corde Ecclesiae"* (*"From the Heart of the Church"*), an apostolic constitution issued in 1990 by St. John Paul II that outlines the identity and mission of Catholic colleges and universities and provided universal norms to ensure colleges maintain these standards.

At its essence, Galligan-Stierle said the statement was meant to be a "a way to strengthen our schools" to be competitive with other universities and provide options for students to want credible degrees.

The fruit of the document, he said, is in the success today of Catholic colleges and universities -- where enrollment has doubled from what it was when the document was written. Another testimony to what Catholic colleges are doing today, he said, are studies that show Catholic college graduates are often active

lay leaders in their parish.

Marc Pugliese, assistant professor of theology and religion at St. Leo University near Tampa, Florida, said before the document was written, Catholic universities were already taking some of the steps it outlined, particularly in making their governing boards and theology staffs include more lay people.

He said one weakness of the document is that it says Catholic colleges and universities need to be a strong Catholic presence but it is vague about what that means.

But the document itself acknowledged it wasn't covering all the bases. The text's preamble says it "does not pretend to present a full philosophy or description of the Catholic university. It is selectively and deliberately incomplete."

SEE LAND O LAKES, PAGE 15

SVDP Home Giveaway

How to Help

BUY A TICKET...The contest started June 1 at 12:01 p.m. It will end on November 24. You can buy 1 ticket, or up to 50 tickets. Limit of 50 tickets per person. Tickets are \$100.

Grand Prize

Single family residence valued at \$300,000. Designed by Darrell Bell, 15021 Dismuke Drive, Biloxi, MS 39532. 2,110 SF. living space, 240 SF porch, elevator, custom cabinets, central heat & air, granite countertops. Winner will not be taxed on Grand Prize. All Appliances Included and MORE..

Other Prizes

Early purchasers will qualify in the drawing of other gifts & prizes valued at \$10,000 (Details will be available as more prizes are donated.)

For more information, visit www.svdphomegiveaway.com or www.facebook.com/SVDPHomeGiveAway

Send emails to SVDPHomeGiveAway@yahoo.com

Phone: Tel: 228-334-4408
Cell: 228-215-2650

DIOCESAN BRIEFS (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

August 26

Sixth Annual Bill Seal Charity Golf Tournament

GULFPORT -- The 2017 Bill Seal Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Windance Country Club on August 26. This year's tournament will honor the Knights of Columbus Council 4898 by awarding two scholarships in the Council's name. Lunch will be served at 12 with Tee time 1 p.m. It is a four-person team. Hole and corporate sponsorships are available. All proceeds benefit families of all faiths in the Biloxi Dioceses with unforeseen expenses with tuition assistance. For more info, see our *Facebook* page: Bill Seal Charity Golf Tournament.

August 28

Financial Peace University

GULFPORT -- Not making progress on your financial goals? Wish you could give more? Financial Peace University (FPU) teaches you God's ways of handling money. It teaches you about budgets, saving, giving, insurance, and many more financial topics. You shouldn't be living with financial stress. Live with financial peace. Classes start Monday, August 28, at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph's, Gulfport, in Depew Hall, and meet each Monday for 9 lessons. Call Ed Brennan for details (228) 234-7601.

September 16

St. Joseph Drawdown

GULFPORT -- St. Joseph Catholic Church, 12290 Depew Road, will host its First Annual Drawdown and Silent Auction on Saturday, September 16, in Depew Hall. The grand prize is \$10,000! Tickets are now available in the parish office or you can contact Barbara Brock for ticket information. Tickets are \$100, admit two adults, or \$50 admits one (21 years of age and older only). It includes dinner and beverages. Contact Barbara Brock, chairperson, at (228) 223-1059 or Michelle Petersen, co-chairperson, at (228) 596-5571 for more information.

September 16

Life in the Spirit Seminar

METAIRIE, LA -- A Life in the Spirit Seminar will be held on Saturday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pauline Book and Media, 4403 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie. The event is sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans and will be hosted by the CCRNO Women's Retreat Team. Bring bag lunch, drinks provided. The Life in the Spirit Seminar is a one day event open to men and women. Come deeper with Jesus and Mary and experience the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. This seminar prepares a person to receive the Baptism in the Spirit and has revolutionized the Christian

lives of millions of Catholics all over the world. Come and be blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit! While there is no charge for this seminar, please pre-register. Space is limited. Love Offering will be taken.

For more information, call or mail CCRNO:info@ccrno.org or (504) 828-1368 or www.ccrno.org.

September 22

St. Rose de Lima 91st Year Celebration

BAY ST. LOUIS -- St. Rose de Lima 91st Year Celebration \$11,000 Big Money Drawdown Party! \$10,000 grand prize, \$1,000 in prizes throughout the evening. Drawdown party is at the Holy Spirit Center at 301 South Necaize Avenue at 6 p.m. on September 22. Donations are \$100 which includes dinner and tickets are available for purchase now! Call (228) 467-7347.

September 28

Healing Retreat

SCHRIEVER, LA. -- "Rise and Be Healed, A Healing Retreat for Men and Women," will be held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 at Lumen Christi. Father Richard McAlear, OMI, will be the presenter. The event is sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans. For more information, call (504) 828-1368 or send email to info@ccrno.org.

CORRECTION



In the July 14 issue of the *Gulf Pine Catholic*, this photo was incorrectly identified as Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory. Pictured is Bishop John G. Noonan of Orlando, Fla., who is seen at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, N.Y., in this 2015 file photo. We regret the error.

CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

LAND O LAKES

From page 14

Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, the current president of Notre Dame, writing about the Land O' Lakes statement in an *America* magazine article posted online July 11, said that "despite the brevity of a document composed swiftly," the statement "presented a bold, hopeful vision informed by Vatican II."

"The document's limitations left questions to be addressed, but the vision in broad outline is one that makes truly serious Catholic research universities possible for our time," he added, stressing that Catholic leaders should acknowledge and correct the limitations of the

text but also "continue to strive to realize its vision."

Jesuit Father Christopher Collins, St. Louis University's assistant to the president for mission and identity, said the tension that Catholic universities face today are not unlike those the Land O' Lakes writers considered.

In many ways, he said, today's Catholic universities are living out that call of Pope Francis, to be at the peripheries.

"It's messy and confusing, but it's exciting. It's good stuff," he said.

To advertise in the *Gulf Pine Catholic*, call (228) 702-2109 for more information.

Bishop Kihneman installs Knights of Columbus state officers



Bishop Louis F. Kihneman III installed Mississippi State Officers for the Knights of Columbus in July at St. Michael Church in Biloxi. Pictured, at left, from l-r, are Guy Heying, State Warden, Mike Kassouf, State Treasurer, Jim McCraw Immediate Past State Deputy, Bishop Kihneman, Noel Aucoin, State Deputy, Philip Jabour, State Secretary, and Raul "Roy" Gamez, State Advocate. At right are the 2017-2018 State Officers, District Deputies and The Honor Guard. Photos/Juliana Skelton

Knights of Columbus offer sweet treat to Hope Haven

BY MAUREEN SMITH
Mississippi Catholic

JACKSON -- Knights of Columbus throughout Mississippi hold Tootsie Roll drives during the year to raise money for people with intellectual disabilities. It may seem like a small gesture, but when all the knights join forces, their work has a substantial impact.

On Tuesday, July 11, Jim McCraw, the past state deputy, presented a check to Hope Haven at Catholic Charities headquarters in Jackson. Hope Haven is a residential program for teens in crisis. It offers temporary shelter as well as counseling and a way for families to get back on track.

The donation could not have come at a more perfect time. "Each year Knights' councils nation-wide host fundraising drives for people with intellectual disabilities -- the tootsie roll drive is kind of our mainstay -- and the councils in Mississippi do the same thing," said McCraw. "Seventy-five percent of what the council raises goes back to an agency of their choosing, but 25



percent of that money is pooled together collectively and the board of directors identifies 501c3 agencies throughout Mississippi that we fund," said McCraw. "This year, with the budget cuts that have happened, particularly in the area of mental health we felt like this Hope Haven program is a very worthwhile thing to get some of that money so we set aside \$2,500 to go to that," he added.

Michelle Hamilton is the program director for Hope Haven. She explained that the service aims to be a turning point for young people and families facing mental health crises. "They stay for 14 days at a time. We are a crisis residential so they come and receive individual and group therapy and then they move on to a longer-term placement," said Hamilton. In addition to treating the teens, counselors offer sessions with the parents while the teens are staying at Hope Haven. Once the 14 days are done, counselors don't

Left, KC members are pictured with Bishop Kihneman after a recent can shake at Nativity BVM Cathedral in Biloxi. From l-r are Harry Steinwinder, Gerard Darnell, Bishop Kihneman, Clarence Guillory, Pete Broussard and Randy Trahan. Proceeds from the can shake were recently presented to Hope Haven at Catholic Charities headquarters in Jackson. Hope Haven is a residential program for teens in crisis. It offers temporary shelter as well as counseling and a way for families to get back on track. Photo/Terry Dickson

just release the teens, they work with the family on the next appropriate step. It might be a different in-patient program or out-patient counseling or perhaps a counselor will make home visits. This way, the teens and their families have a new path forward.

This year has been hard for all Mississippi mental health programs because of drastic budget cuts coming from the legislature's budget. "General funding by Medicaid has been cut and it has greatly affected us. Currently we have seven residents, so we are full," said Hamilton.

Hope Haven is just one of many programs at Catholic Charities facing steep cuts. Directors hope to maintain as many services as they can, but many of these programs are already working on lean budgets. "We don't like to turn anyone away," said Amy Turner, director for children's services. Learn more about Catholic Charities programming on their website, www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org.