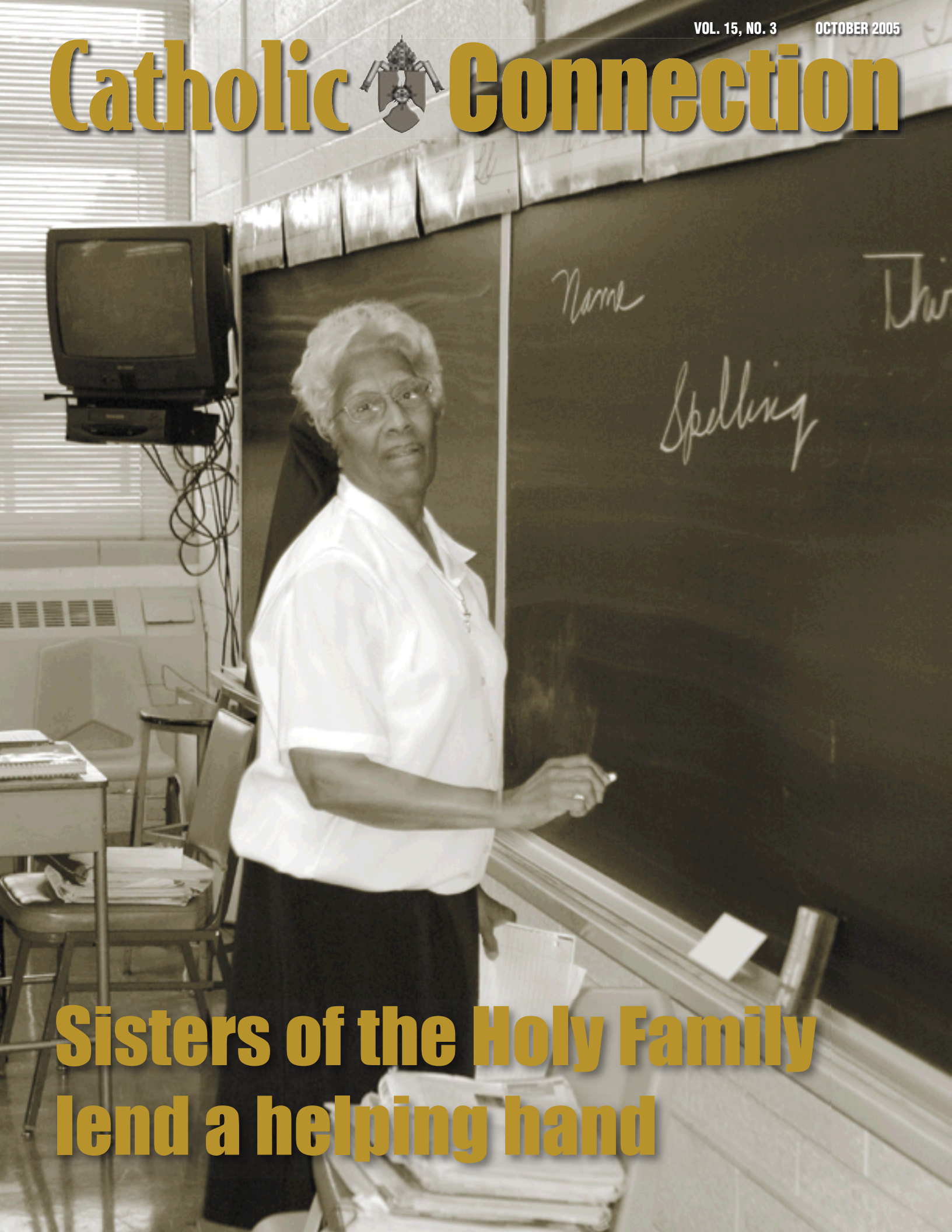


Catholic Connection



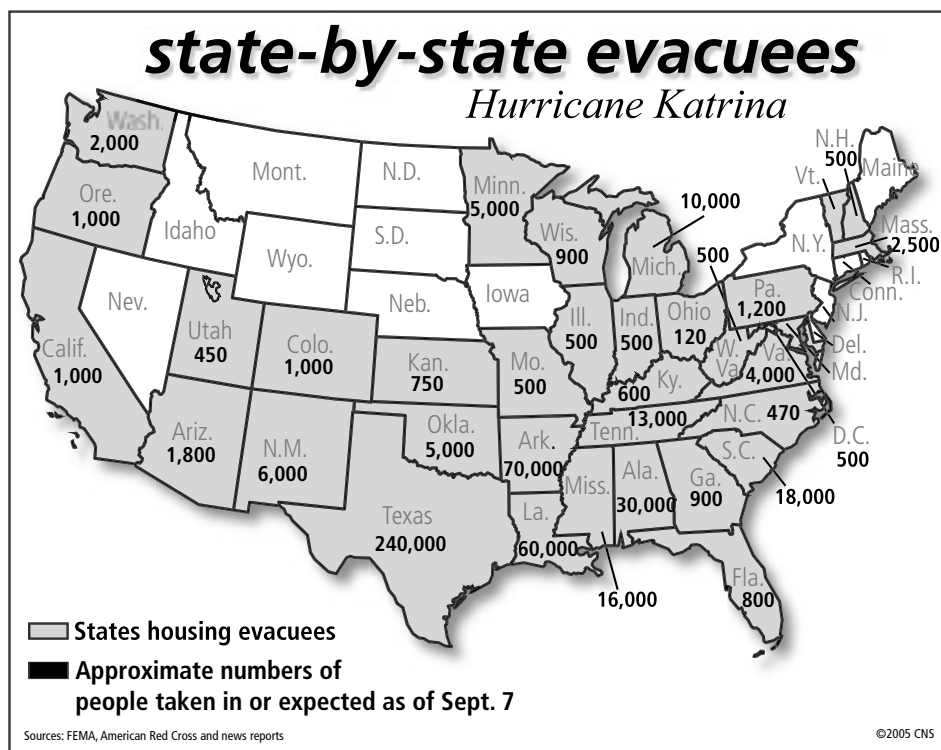
**Sisters of the Holy Family
lend a helping hand**

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

November 1, 2005 Feast of All Saints is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Catholic Center is closed.

On August 25, 2005, Reverend Dariusz Pawlowski was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Shreveport in accord with the prescriptions of the Church by order of the Most Reverend William B. Friend, Bishop of Shreveport.

Christine Rivers
Chancellor
Diocese of Shreveport



Announcements:

Mary, Queen of Peace would like to invite everyone in the Diocese to come celebrate with their parish on the dedication of their new building. Bishop Friend will be at the dedication which will take place Saturday, November 12th at the 4:00 p.m. Mass.

Fall Annulment Workshops Scheduled for Diocese

October

Sunday, October 2

St. Mary of Pines, Shreveport
11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 4

St. Pius X, Shreveport
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 6

St. Paul's, Minden
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 23

Blessed Sacrament
10:30 a.m.

Catholic News Service – News Briefs

Charities official urges quick action on housing for Katrina victims

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- An official of Catholic Charities USA called on Congress Sept. 15 to work quickly to address and fund the critical housing needs of victims of Hurricane Katrina. "We need initiatives to produce safe and affordable housing, especially for very low-income families," said Sharon M. Daly, senior policy adviser for Catholic Charities USA, in testimony before the House Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. She said Catholic Charities officials "have been thrilled by the kindness and generosity of Americans and people throughout the world who are making enormous sacrifices to reach out with their time and treasure to aid Katrina survivors." But, Daly said, Congress "must act quickly now to honor the survivors and the responders by authorizing and appropriating the necessary funding for the housing and other services that are necessary for people to participate in rebuilding their communities or adapting to new ones."

Vatican delegation tours devastated regions of Gulf Coast

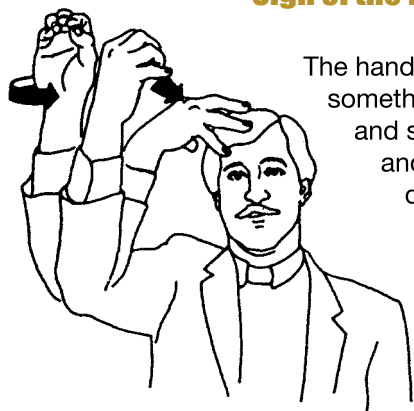
BILOXI, Miss. (CNS) -- Archbishop Paul Cordes, the Vatican's top humanitarian aid official, urged Biloxi Catholics Sept. 12 not to lose hope in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and assured them that with God's help they would "be able to overcome" the struggles they faced from the devastation. The archbishop, who is president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," which coordinates charity efforts, was sent to the Gulf Coast region by Pope Benedict XVI as part of a delegation visiting the hurricane-devastated areas of the United States. He was accompanied by Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick and Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, for a three-day visit that included visiting evacuees in Baton Rouge, La., going on a helicopter tour of New Orleans and driving through hard-hit areas in Biloxi. Archbishop Cordes said his visit was "a sign from the pope that he'd like to be close to you and show his compassion."

New Orleans clergy want voice for poor in rebuilding efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As New Orleans looks to rebuild, a group of Catholic and Protestant clergy want a seat at the planning table for their poor and working-class African-American parishioners. At a Washington news conference, they proposed a long-term relief plan that builds on the community organizational structure that parishes and congregations already had in place in poor and working-class neighborhoods prior to the destruction by Hurricane Katrina. "We don't want to just receive things. We want to participate. We want you to include us at the table," Edmundite Father Michael Jacques told Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who was also at the Sept. 12 news conference. Father Jacques is pastor of St. Peter Claver Church in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans. Tremé was completely flooded when several levees broke releasing water from Lake Pontchartrain into much of the city. The priest is one of the founding members of All Congregations Together, known as ACT, a coalition of 30 Catholic and Protestant congregations founded in 1989 to improve conditions in their neighborhoods.

From the Deaf Community

Sign of the Month – Grace



The hand seems to take something from God and shower it down, and signifies God's divine love being bestowed freely upon mankind.

Formation: Beginning with the right thumb touching the fingertips, palm facing forward above the right shoulder. Then twist the wrist inward, spreading the fingers while moving down to the right side of the head.



Bishop Friend thanks members of the Knights of Columbus for their gift to the Diocese of Shreveport of \$10,000 to help out with expenses incurred with aiding Catholic evacuees from Hurricane Katrina. Pictured above left to right are Ernie Chmielewski, Bishop Friend and Fred Christ.

Pictured on the cover is Sister Elma Olivera of the Sisters of the Holy Family from New Orleans. Since they arrived after Hurricane Katrina, the sisters have been helping out at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Academy in Shreveport. In all, the Diocese has an additional 551 children that were previously attending Catholic schools in the New Orleans area.

For a free subscription, address changes or article submissions:

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The **Catholic Connection** is a monthly publication funded by your Diocesan Service Appeal; mailed to every known Catholic household in the Diocese of Shreveport. Our Mission is to advance knowledge and understanding of our Catholic Faith among the faithful. We seek to foster the application of Christ's teachings and our Church's mission in our daily lives and to encourage our sense of Catholic identity within our family, parish, and diocesan faith community.

A Friendly Reflection

BY BISHOP WILLIAM FRIEND



Have you answered God's call?

Reflecting on the events of his day, Father Henri de Lubac observed once: "Is it not true, as is sometimes said, that man cannot organize the world without God. What is true is that, without God, he can only organize it against man."

This perceptive insight certainly signals us about our own contemporary popular culture. While the vast majority of people do believe in God, there appears less of a connection with his life, his love and his revelation. Seeking to please everyone in society, to avoid offending anyone's faith tradition, some would prefer total detachment from God in the public sector at least. It is as if in our popular culture one hears that self is of primary concern, that pleasure wins out over other legitimate objectives, and opinion prevails over truth.

Perhaps the essential problem is the need to understand the relationship between divine initiative and human response. At the heart of Christian spirituality

lies the sense of God's calling us, or the sense of "vocation."

Throughout Sacred Scripture the notion of vocation or calling is found to describe God's interaction with humankind. Vocation is an essential feature of the traditional interpretation of God's interaction with creation. The Scriptures remind us that our human family was called to be God's partner; to participate in the covenant: "I will be your God, and you will be my people."

Jesus describes his mission as the calling of humankind to God. Men and women who had forgotten that they were called to a relationship with God, were and continue to be sought out by God's love, expressed in Christ and activated by the Holy Spirit. The Sacraments assist us in fashioning our response, moreover.

We read in the Gospel how Jesus called his disciples, and by implication all Christians, to continue the revelation of God's call to go forth to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. In simple words, the Christian vocation demands that one join Christ in calling people back to God and the relationship he continually offers—to fidelity to a covenant of love with our Creator.

All of us who have received Baptism have responded to

God's call, and having entered the Church we further specify our response by accepting responsibility for various aspects of the Church's mission, whatever our particular role in life, our specific states in life.

Because one's sense of calling emerges toward specificity in light of our personal history and humankind's corporate history it is important that we all help to fashion the ideas, the understandings and values that will help by means of God's grace to create an environment—a culture in society—that will enhance the sense of call which can in turn give more meaning to work, community participation, service to others and in being a good neighbor to all.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our spiritual mother, certainly serves as an excellent model in accepting and living out the call that God gave her. She said: "Be it done to me according to your word." She made herself totally available to God and His will. So may we do so also. Mary, help of Christians, pray for us. ♦

+William B. Friend
Bishop of Shreveport

Una Reflexión Amistosa

POR OBISPO WILLIAM FRIEND

¿Has Respondido al llamado del Dios?

Reflexionando en los eventos de este día, como el Padre Henri de Lubac observó una vez: “No es verdad, como algunas veces se dice, que el hombre no puede organizar el mundo sin Dios. Lo que es verdad es que, sin Dios, el hombre puede solamente organizarlo contra el mismo hombre.”

Esta perspectiva ciertamente nos señala la cultura de nuestro mundo contemporáneo. Mientras que la gran mayoría de la gente cree en Dios, tal parece que hay menos conexión con Su vida, Su amor y Su revelación. En el buscar complacer a todos en la sociedad para evitar ofender la tradición y la fe de otros, algunos prefieren desconectarse totalmente de Dios por lo menos en el sector público. Parece que en nuestra cultura popular se escucha que él sí mismo es la primera preocupación, que el placer triunfa sobre los objetivos legítimos y que la opinión vence a la verdad.

Tal vez el problema esencial es la necesidad de entender la relación entre la iniciativa divina y la respuesta humana. En el corazón de la espiritualidad cristiana se encuentra el sentido del llamado que nos hace Dios, o el sentido de “vocación.”

A lo largo de toda la Sagrada Escritura la noción de vocación o llamado describe la interacción de Dios con la humanidad. La vocación es una característica

esencial de la interpretación tradicional de la interacción de Dios con la creación. Las Escrituras nos recuerdan que nuestra familia humana fue llamada a ser socia compañera de Dios; a participar en la alianza: “Yo seré tu Dios y tu serás mi pueblo.”

Jesús describe su misión como el llamado de llevar a la humanidad hacia Dios. Hombres y mujeres que hayan olvidado que fueron llamados a la relación con Dios, fueron y continúan siendo buscados por el amor de Dios, expresado en Cristo y activado por el Espíritu Santo. Por otra parte, los Sacramentos nos ayudan a moldear nuestra respuesta.

Leemos en el Evangelio como Jesús llamó a sus discípulos,

**“Que se haga en mi
según tu Palabra.”**

y así mismo nos llama a todos los Cristianos, a continuar la revelación del llamado de Dios de ir por todo el mundo y proclamar la Buena Nueva a toda la creación. En palabras simples, la vocación Cristiana nos manda que nos unamos a Cristo en llamar a su gente a que regrese a Dios y a la relación que él ofrece continuamente – a la fidelidad a una alianza de amor con nuestro Creador.

Todos nosotros los que hemos recibido el Bautismo hemos respondido al llamado de Dios, y habiendo entrado a la Iglesia proseguimos a especificar nuestra respuesta aceptando la responsabilidad de varios aspectos de la misión de la Iglesia, cualquiera que sea nuestro papel en la vida, nuestro estado específico en la vida.

Porque del sentido del llamado emerge una cualidad específica a la luz de nuestra historia personal y la historia de la humanidad, es importante que todos nosotros ayudemos a moldear las ideas, los entendimientos y valores que nos ayudarán por medio de la gracia de Dios a crear un ambiente – una cultura en la sociedad – que aumente el sentido del llamado, el cual puede en retorno dar mas significado al trabajo, a la participación de la comunidad, al servicio de otros y en ser un buen prójimo para todos.

María, la Madre de Jesús y nuestra madre espiritual, ciertamente sirve como un excelente modelo en aceptar y vivir el llamado que Dios le dio. Ella dijo: “que se haga en mi según tu Palabra.” Ella se puso a disposición total de Dios y a Su voluntad. Así también hagámoslo nosotros. María, ayuda a todos los Cristianos, Ruega por nosotros. ♦

+WILLIAM B. FRIEND
Obispo de Shreveport

Para recibir esta subscripción gratis mensualmente o para cambio de dirección, favor de llamar a: Rosalba Quiroz 219-7311



Celebrating the Gift of Saints

Each year, as the month of October ends with All Hallows' Eve, Catholic communities begin the celebration of All Saints Day. This feast commemorates all the saints – especially those without any specified feast day of their own.

In some of our parishes on that day kindergarteners process into Mass dressed as their patrons – the saint whose name they bear or a saint special to them. As the cantor leads the community with “Oh When the Saints Go Marching In”, boys and girls enter church. At the head of the line marches a little girl, wearing a blue veil with a halo of stars and holding a small baby doll – behold the Blessed Mother! A boy enters in silver colored armor, carrying a green stuffed “dragon” and holding a plastic sword – behold St. George! One after another they join the faith community – St. Theresa, Child of Jesus, Michael the Archangel, Blessed Kateri Tekawitha – Lily of the Mohawks, St. Matthew - Apostle and Evangelist, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and good St. Nicholas bearing a bag of toys! The beauty of these children touches the hearts of the faith community. Each child has learned about his or her patron and, as the holy people they portray, their gentle belief and their love for God shines for us all to see!

In October we prepare to celebrate the gift of saints! So October is an excellent month for families to share stories, to learn about the saints and to look at the favor God gave us through the example of these believers. Our belief is that through our salvation, we are all united – the living and the dead – in God. We believe as Christians that death does not divide us. We all live in God's love!

Within the tradition of the Catholic Church we practice the choosing of Saint's names for our children at Baptism. Those receiving the sacrament of Confirmation choose the name of a saint to strengthen them in their development of faith. We also

have a long tradition of choosing special saints as patrons and protectors through our lives. We are brothers and sisters to the saints – the saints in heaven (known and unknown), saints in Purgatory (who are on the journey to the full presence

of God), and living saints (we number among them).

Perhaps this month you and your children would like to explore some favorite saints – their lives and the example they bring to us. Learning about some of our favorite Saints!

The Communion of Saints celebrates the special union of the faithful on earth; those in purgatory; the saints in heaven – our officially recognized saints; and the men, women and children who have gone before us leaving us with examples of Christ's love.

Here are a few activities for this month's Home Plate!



Activity 1

Do you know these heavenly brothers and sisters? Here are some clues to help you name eight well-known saints! Write the name of the saint after each clue. Share things that you know about each saint. (Find your answers at the bottom of this sheet.)

1. This Italian saint loved God's animals and the animals loved him.
2. This saint was the cousin of Jesus.
3. This saint is called the Little Flower.
4. This saint was Jesus' grandmother.
5. This French Saint was one of the first women to serve in the military
6. This saint was our first Pope.
7. We pray for this saint's help when things are lost.
8. This saint is the patron of children.

Activity 2

Who is your patron saint – the saint who is your special friend and protector? Perhaps this saint was chosen for you when you were born. Perhaps you have chosen your own.

Let each family member write the name of his or her patron and tell others something about this saint. Also, interview a grandparent, uncle, aunt, cousin or other family member and write in their names and the names of their patrons. Ask them to tell you something about their patron saints.

Mom's Patron _____

Dad's Patron _____

Kids' Patrons _____

If you would like to know more about your patrons, you might borrow a book on the saints from your parish library, or from our Library at the Catholic Center! Books about the Saints are often available at our Church bookstores too. ♦

MARY MCGILL

Director of Catechetics and Worship

Answers to the questions:

(St. Frances of Assisi, St. John the Baptist, St. Theresa, St. Ann, St. Joan of Arc, St. Peter, St. Anthony, St. Nicholas)

Starting Early

I was watching television one evening and saw a well-made advertisement targeting smoking awareness for parents. The premise of the ad was that it is never too early, or never a bad time to talk to your children about the dangers of smoking. I couldn't help but make the correlation that it is also never too early or a wrong time to mention servant hood to the Church as well.

Every parent has experienced conversations with a child when you sense that it is the "right time" to bring up certain subjects. Getting along with others, drugs, sexual activity and responsibilities relative to schoolwork quickly come to mind. As parents, we need to also exercise the option to remind our children what it really means to be a baptized, active member of the Catholic Church.

Using the seasons of the year is one way to get started and you can begin the new year by discussing with your children how blessed

your family is to have made it to another change in the calendar. Encourage them to do more for Christ in the coming year and by doing so, they will do more for each other. Strive to let young people experience Lent in a real way, and if this means forcing them through the Church entrance more than once a week, just persevere and witness the wonderful affect it will have on them as the Easter experience becomes more real for the whole family.

Memorial Day is a perfect opportunity to not only honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, but also to ponder as a family, Jesus' gift of himself on the cross for all of humanity.

The Thanksgiving season and Advent 2005 will be a very special time for the people of our diocese as we will still be hosting many of our sisters and brothers displaced by hurricane Katrina, as they struggle to maintain their lives in our region. The experience of hurricane Katrina has given

many of our local children and their parents a real reason to celebrate many things in life that can easily be taken for granted. A home, air conditioning, a vehicle for transportation and even basics like food and water. So many of our Catholic school children have poured out their hearts to welcome over 500 new classmates to schools in the diocese, working to make them comfortable and give them a needed sense of routine in their lives.

We can all help the Church "capitalize" on the spirit of giving servant hood that has risen around us as a result of the tragedies along the gulf coast. One never knows how this experience may lead several of the young among us to seek a life of service to God, and thereby serve this faith community for years to come. ♦

JOHN MARK WILLCOX
*Director of Communications
and Vocations*

Christ the King Health Fair will be bigger and better this year!

(Spanish translators will be available)

On October 19, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Christ the King Parish Center located at the corner of McCormick and Ogilvie Streets in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Testing for the following will be done by Northwestern University College of Nursing students with screening kits provided by Christus Schumpert Health System:

- Blood glucose and cholesterol (fast from midnight for accurate reading)
- Blood pressure and other vital signs
- Eye and hearing exams
- Flu shots will be available from the Red Cross at no cost for those with Medicare Part B; otherwise there will be a \$15.00 fee.
- Shots for Tots will be on site, bring immunization record or birth certificate.
- Representatives from the following agencies and organizations will be available to speak with individuals, answer questions, and provide written information: LA Chip, WIC, Medicaid, LSU Home Economics, American Diabetes Assoc., St. Catherine of Sienna Community Center (vouchers for free mammograms available), Gingerbread House, LifeShare Blood Center, Social Security, WK Hospice of LA, Partners in Wellness Program. Refreshments will be served.



Our prayers are with you. . . .



Left: A welcome sign stands in a flooded street in downtown New Orleans Sept. 6. Many residents living in the few areas of the city untouched by flood waters say they will defy official requests for them to abandon their homes. (CNS photo from Reuters) (Sept. 8, 2005)



Right: Receding floodwaters are seen around the Bethany Community, convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, in New Orleans Sept. 15, more than two weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. (CNS photo by Greg Tarczynski)

Right: Homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina are seen in an aerial photograph of Irish Bayou outside New Orleans Sept. 6. Nearly 1 million customers remained without electricity eight days after Hurricane Katrina pounded the Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Mississippi, according to area utilities and the U.S. Department of Energy. (CNS photo from Reuters)



Left: Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes blesses Gerald Williams of New Orleans at the Baton Rouge River Center shelter operated by the Red Cross in Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 11. Archbishop Hughes, of New Orleans, was accompanying the Vatican's top humanitarian aid official on his visit to the facility. (CNS photo by Greg Tarczynski)

Bottom Left: Archbishop Paul Cordes, the Vatican's top humanitarian aid official, walks through rubble before viewing the damage inside St. Michael Church in Biloxi, Miss., Sept. 12. He was among several officials coordinating relief and reconstruction efforts for parishes and individuals hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. (CNS photo by Bob Roller)



Right: A cross marks an improvised grave containing the body of a woman on a street in New Orleans Sept. 4. As remaining residents of the city were being evacuated, officials said they could not estimate the number of people left dead by the Hurricane Katrina and subsequent flooding. (CNS photo from Reuters)





Left: Bishop Robert W. Muench of Baton Rouge, La., speaks with Gregory Dowson of New Orleans at the Baton Rouge River Center shelter operated by the Red Cross Sept. 11. Bishop Muench was accompanying Archbishop Paul Cordes, the Vatican's top humanitarian aid official, on his visit to the facility. (CNS photo by Greg Tarczynski)



Right: Josephite Father Bartholomew Endslow and Precious Blood Father Bill Stang, a chaplain with the Indiana National Guard, look through the window of the rectory for parish records and Father Endslow's personal belongings at Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Pass Christian, Miss., Sept. 9. The rectory was moved from its foundation about 1,000 feet during Hurricane Katrina. Father Endslow evacuated the evening before the storm with only the clothes he was wearing. (CNS photo by Ed Foster Jr.)



Above: New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes surveys the destruction at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Slidell, La., Sept. 17. After the roof collapsed the church was flooded by the storm surge created by Hurricane Katrina. The parish elementary school also suffered severe flooding. (CNS photo by Frank J. Methe, Clarion Herald)



Right: A statue of Mary lies amid rubble Sept. 9 near a destroyed grotto outside St. Michael Church in Biloxi, Miss., in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. At least 14 Catholic churches in the Biloxi Diocese were known to be destroyed or possibly damaged beyond repair by Hurricane Katrina. (CNS photo by Bob Roller)



Right: Houses remain surrounded by floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans Sept. 6. Nearly 1 million customers remained without electricity eight days after Hurricane Katrina pounded the Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Mississippi, according to area utilities and the U.S. Department of Energy. (CNS photo from Reuters)

Katrina Creates More "Strangers Among Us"



We as Church and as individuals have recently welcomed the stranger, the evacuees of New Orleans, in many wonderful ways. The Racial & Religious Tolerance and Immigration Action Team is an effort that preceded Katrina and finds its work even more urgent after that hurricane's destruction,

since many immigrant victims of the storm are not eligible for any government help despite the fact that they also lost everything they had. The Action Team of Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith is working for a just immigration policy that will both respect our nation's need for secure borders and help undocumented immigrants already here find a path to citizenship. Recognizing that people understandably have questions and a wide range of feelings about this complex and controversial reality, this ecumenical group has begun to do small group meetings in the Shreveport/Bossier area in which immigrants share their story and participants have time for questions. Some reactions of the group: "What a lot of courage and determination!" "I noticed at a Spanish Mass something that you don't see at other Masses, that many there were single men. Knowing that Latin Americans highly value family, it made me

sad to realize how they left family behind to be able to provide a decent life for them..." "I admire the way they can speak English. I don't know another language and I think I'd find it hard to learn Spanish!" Those present have also expressed legitimate questions and concerns.

Jesus tells us that the Final Judgement is based on "Whatsoever you did – or didn't do – for the least of My brothers and sisters, you did – or failed to do – unto Me." Consider hosting a meeting with/about this largely Catholic, "invisible" group of our brothers and sisters. If you need help, contact Sister Dolores in the Hispanic Ministry office (219-7288). And please donate to your local St. Vincent de Paul so they can be of much needed help in the months to come. ♦

SISTER DOLORES SANCHEZ
Director of Hispanic Ministry

St. John's Holds Blessing of the Animals Ceremony

In early October, a procession of animals is led to many Catholic churches for a special ceremony called "The Blessing of the the Animals". On October 5th at 5:30 p.m., Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Many will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals in front of the church conducted by the Rev. Joe Martina, pastor at St. John's.

This custom is held in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of animals and the ecology. Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, is known for his gentleness, love, and unique way with all animals and creatures. Usually, pets are blessed around the world either on or near the October 4th feast.




Rev. Joe Martina, pastor of St. John's, is shown pictured with some of the children of the church parish and their pets who attended the annual "Blessing of the Animals" ceremony last year.

www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

2005
"Mission: Bread Broken for the Life of the World"

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE:
OCTOBER 16TH & 23RD

COLLECTION DATE:
OCTOBER 29TH & 30TH



In this year dedicated to the Eucharist, we recall Jesus' self-offering at the Last Supper, which was carried through to His sacrifice on the cross: "On the night He was betrayed, He took bread, and after He had given thanks, broke it and said: "This is My body that is for you. Do this in memory of me."

The Eucharist helps us to understand the "eucharistic" sense of our life, which is mission. It leads us – every individual believer – to be "bread, broken for the life of the world." It is this "bread" alone that gives hope to a world so full of misfortune. It is why we bring the Catholic faith to every nation, that those who are without hope may be strengthened and comforted in their daily struggle, knowing that a better world and a loving Savior awaits them.

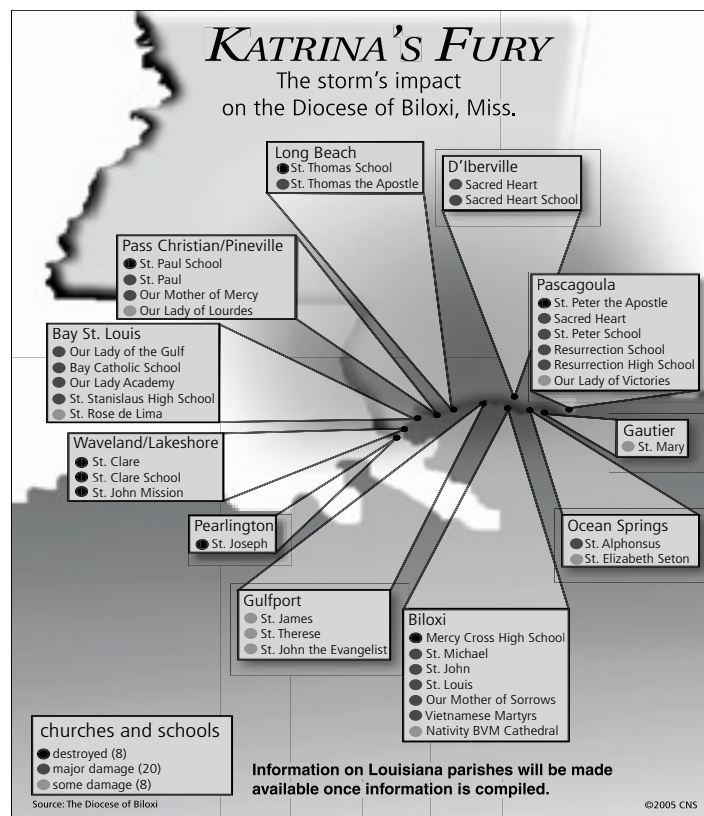
How Well Did the Diocese Do?

How well did you, the lay faithful, contribute to the Diocese of Shreveport's Second Collections? Below is a recent report from our Diocesan business office of monies collected.

HOME MISSION APPEAL
Collected May 29, 2005
\$15,042.77

PETER'S PENCE
Collected June 26, 2005
\$22,753.66

VERY REV. DAVID T. RICHTER
Vicar General



Blessing of the Graves

Recent weeks' events have brought the reality of death closer to our minds. While we have understandably been affected in a negative way, our Catholic faith urges us to see death as the passage to the next life, and therefore hope for eternal happiness.

The cemetery, due to this hope, is a holy place, and the Church enjoins that a cross be erected there. There we pray, as the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass says, "For those who have died in the peace of Christ and all the dead whose faith is known to God alone."

A priest or deacon will offer prayers at our local cemeteries on a weekend close to All Souls' Day, the commemoration of the faithful departed.

Saturday, November 5, 2005

Rose-Neath Cemetery, Bossier City, 1:30 p.m. –
 Rev. Dariusz Pawlowski
 Hill Crest Cemetery, Houghton, 2:15 p.m. –
 Rev. Dariusz Pawlowski
 Forest Park Cemetery, Shreveport, 3:00 p.m. –
 Deacon John Basco

Sunday, November 6, 2005

Saint Joseph Cemetery, Shreveport, 2:00 p.m. –
 Rev. Msgr. J. Carson LaCaze
 Centuries Memorial Cemetery, Shreveport, 2:45 p.m. –
 Rev. Rothell Price
 Forest Park Cemetery WEST, Shreveport, 3:30 p.m. –
 Rev. Clayton, Rev. Thomas John, &
 Deacon Clary Nash

VERY REVEREND DAVID T. RICHTER, V.G.

Reporting Child Sexual Abuse in the Diocese of Shreveport

In accordance with the “Child Abuse Reporting Procedures of the Diocese of Shreveport” each person serving the Diocese of Shreveport must report to the local law enforcement agency and the immediate supervisor any sexual misconduct of a cleric or church worker with a minor.

Allegations that a cleric or church worker if the Diocese of Shreveport engaged in sexual abuse of a minor must be reported to the Diocese either in writing or by meeting in person with the Assessor or Chancellor, who notifies the Bishop.

Diocese of Shreveport Resources and Contact Numbers

To Report Child Sexual Abuse by a Cleric/Employee or Volunteer in the Diocese of Shreveport

VICTIM ASSISTANCE MINISTER

Ms. Ann Inabnet

Hotline: (318) 221-6121

and your local law enforcement agency

Administrator/Assessor

Rev. Peter Mangu

(318) 221-5296

Coordinator for Safe Environment and Education

Mrs. Debra Schmidtke

(318) 219-7280

Toll Free (800) 256-1887

Vicar For Clergy

Rev. LaVerne “Pike” Thomas

(318) 746-2508

Additional Resources:

Diocese of Shreveport –

www.dioshpt.org

VIRTUS – www.virtus.org

Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana –

www.pcal.org

Child Help USA

1-800-4-A-CHILD or 1-800-422-4453.

REPORTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

In our Protecting God’s Children sessions we always talk about how to report and who is to report instances of suspected child abuse. We have been giving out an 800 number as well as advice on local access to child protection services. For some, it may have been a couple of years since you’ve attended a PGC session so here is a review of information about reporting child abuse. Some states have a child abuse report hotline. The State of Louisiana does not. There is an 800 number that is available 24-hours a day through an organization called Child Help USA. That number is 1-800-4-A-CHILD or 1-800-422-4453.

Local telephone numbers for the different parishes in our state can be found on the Louisiana Department of Social Services website – <http://www.dss.state.la.us/index.htm> Some additional information on reporting child abuse drawn from that website follows.

1) How can I report child abuse or neglect?

Child Protection services are available day and night by calling the Child Protection hotline or calling the local parish office of the Office of Community Services.

2) What is abuse/neglect?

The Louisiana Children’s Code provides the following definitions of abuse and neglect:

“Abuse” means any of the following acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:

- The infliction, attempted infliction, or as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.
- The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person.
- The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent or the caretaker of the child’s sexual involvement with any other person or of the child’s involvement in pornographic displays, or any other involvement of a child in sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of this state.

“Neglect” means the unreasonable refusal or failure of a parent or caretaker to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for injury, illness, or condition of the child, as a result of which the child’s physical, mental, or emotional health and safety is substantially threatened or impaired.

3) What are the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect?

The first step in helping abused or neglected children is learning to recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect. The presence of a single sign does not prove child abuse is occurring in a family; however, when these signs appear repeatedly or in combination you should take a closer look at the situation and consider the possibility of child abuse.

If you do suspect a child is being harmed, reporting your suspicions may protect the child and get help for the family. Contact your local child protective services agency or policy department.

4) Who are mandated reporters?

Mandated reporters are any of the following individuals performing their occupational duties:

- “Health practitioner” is any individual who provides health care services, including a physician, surgeon, physical therapist, dentist, resident, intern, hospital staff member, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, nursing aide, dental hygienist, any emergency medical technician, a paramedic, optometrist, medical examiner, or coroner, who diagnoses, examines, or treats a child or his family.
- “Mental health/social service practitioner” is any individual who provides mental health care or social service diagnosis, assessment, counseling, or treatment, including a psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage or family counselor, social worker, member of the clergy, aide, or other individual who provides counseling services to a child or his family.
- “Member of the clergy” is any priest, rabbi, duly ordained clerical deacon or minister, Christian Science practitioner, or other similarly situated functionary of a religious organization, unless the information of abuse/neglect is learned in a confidential communication.
- “Teaching or child care provider” is any person who provides training and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher’s aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, social worker, probation officer, foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member, personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider, or any individual who provides such services to a child.
- Police officers or law enforcement officials.
- “Commercial film and photographic print processor” is any person who develops exposed photographic film into negatives, slides, or prints, or who makes prints from negatives or slides for compensation.
- Mediators appointed pursuant to Chapter 6 of Title IV, of the Louisiana Children’s Code for mediation in juvenile court cases. ♦

DEBRA SCHMIDTKE

Director of Human Resources

Responding to Others in Need



Left: KOC Council 12061 of Many pictured assisting in feeding evacuees in the Southern deanery.

Below: Donations being unloaded at evacuee shelter in Many.

Right: Bishop Friend after celebrating Mass at LSUS Evacuee Shelter performed a Baptism for a 10-day Hispanic baby boy who had previously been rushed to hospital twice since arriving at evacuee shelter.



Left: Donations from all over our area came flooding into the shelters showing the generous nature of people wanting to help.

Right: Pictured is the LSUS Shelter in Shreveport a couple of days after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and Biloxi. As of today, the LSUS Shelter may be opened up again to take evacuees from Lafayette and Lake Charles with Hurricane Rita headed that direction.



Left: Pictured is John Mark Willcox, Director of Communications and Vocations talking to an evacuee from the West Bank in New Orleans named Gail. Her family and pets had been living out of their car behind a gas station because they had not been able to find a shelter that would accept pets. They finally learned of the LSUS Pet Shelter and were very happy that their animals would be taken care of as well as themselves.



Right: One of the Sisters of the Holy Family shown during Mass that was held at the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans on the National Day of Prayer for Hurricane Katrina victims and evacuees.

October 2005

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Nunc Dimittis
Please join Bishop Friend in
praying for the repose of the soul of
Rev. William Christopher O'Hanlon

Therese of the Child

2

Respect Life Sunday

Annulment Workshop
St. Mary of the Pines
11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

3

Annulment Workshop
St. Pius X
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Ramadan begins
Rosh Hashanah

4

5

Annulment Workshop
St. Paul
Minden
7:00-9:00 p.m.

6

October
Catholic Connection
deadline

7

8

9

Vocation Awareness
Sunday

10

Columbus Day
(observed)

11

Principals' Meeting
Video Conference

12

13

Vocation Board
Meeting
Catholic Center
Noon

Jewish observance:
Yom Kippur

14

Parent Teacher
Conferences
Catholic Schools
(No School)

15

Diocesan Pastoral
Council
Catholic Center
9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

KOC
Taste of Shreveport

16

Academy of Sciences
Washington, D.C.

Bosses' Day

17

Canada,
Thanksgiving Day
Ignatius of Antioch

18

Catholic Church
Extension Society
Anniversary
Chicago

Jewish observance:
Succot begins

Luke, evangelist

19

20

SERRA Club
Mass/Meeting
Catholic Center
Noon

Paul of the Cross

21

22

23

2nd
Collection for
World Mission Sunday
White Mass Cathedral
5:30 p.m.

24

Also on the 23rd
Annulment Workshop
OLBS
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

25

26

Diocesan Finance
Council Meeting
Catholic Center
Noon-2:00 p.m.

Jewish observance:
Simchat Torah

27

28

Simon and Jude,
apostles

29

2nd Collection for
World Mission Sunday

30

Central
Standard
Time Begins

Priesthood Sunday

31

Our Diocesan Schools

Stepping Up To The Plate

At noon on Monday, August 29th Hurricane Katrina had just unleashed her full fury along the Gulf Coast and Diocesan School Superintendent Sr. Carol Shively knew she had a decision to make. Displaced Catholic School students from the region were beginning to line up at several Catholic schools. "I tried to phone our sister dioceses in the Southern portion of the state to see what had been done in the past with situations like this and I couldn't get a call through to anyone. That is when I knew the situation down there must be real bad."

Faced with the prospect of turning needy people away from the academic and spiritual nourishment so needed by those involved in the sudden Diaspora, Sr. Carol quickly made her decision. "We were taking those kids," she comments without hesitation, "I would worry about the logistics later." What followed was an amazing series of events that included a national story by Catholic News Service on Shreveport being the first diocese to temporally wave tuition and enroll students in their system, and dioceses throughout the nation quickly following suit.

Then the cry for help was issued by and relief for evacuee students has been pouring into the Catholic Schools Office from all over the country. School supplies, monetary donations and offers to volunteer in our schools started arriving almost immediately. Financial donations, textbooks, school supplies, uniforms

and school lunch vouchers could be offered to young people as soon as three days after the storm. Some help came from individuals, other help from Catholic dioceses and parishes in far away places, and still other assistance arrived from religious orders.

Now, 551 additional students later, Sr. Carol reflects on her decision and offers a weary smile. "We did the right thing and others took notice and followed our lead." The real challenge outside of tuition issues has been the addition of new teachers to handle the enrollment increases across the diocese. While some teachers in Catholic School systems affected

by the hurricane have been hired on, others have come from sources that only a natural disaster of this magnitude could materialize.

After their Mother House in New Orleans was severely flooded, the Sisters of the Holy Family

arrived at the Catholic Center with little more than the clothes on their backs. The congregation has been a guest of our diocese since that time at the request of Archbishop Alfred Hughes. This multi-talented group of wonderful women counts several teachers among their ranks, and six of them have gone right to work within our Catholic School system.

Principal of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School Winnie



Sr. John Mary Jackson pictured with students from Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Academy, Shreveport. Photo by Sherry Heflin.

Vance-Antoine could not be happier to see the nuns at her school. "For years, the students have joined me in the prayer of Jabez, asking God to enlarge our territory and He has answered our prayers. These nuns have been such a blessing to everyone here and the children became attached to them immediately."

The same holds true for Jesus the Good Shepherd School where five Vietnamese sisters from the Daughters of the Holy Rosary Order arrived from New Orleans in need of a school to share their teaching skills with. What they found was a school that was in dire need of additional teachers to handle a growing enrollment. "I wish they were here with us on a permanent basis," comments principal Lisa Patrick. "They have fit in so nicely and have really brought a sense of Catholicity to our school."

Despite these happy stories, funding is still needed to assist our schools with assuming the task of educating these young people. If you or your parish would like to "adopt" one of our seven schools in the diocese to help with the ongoing costs of this effort, please contact the Catholic Schools office. ♦

JOHN MARK WILLCOX
*Director of Communications
and Vocations*



Sr. Aquinas reunited with her relative from our diocese, Maxine Sarpy.

Red Mass in Monroe

September 6th, 2005



Catholic  **Connection**

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