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Since 1958, Patio Drugs has helped individuals and families understand their medications, both prescription and over-the-counter. Their full-

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Patio Drugs, located at 5208 Veterans Blvd., is owned by John and Daisy DiMaggio. Call (504) 889-7070 or visit www.patio-drugs.com.

Saint Joseph Abbey Retreat Center

As a retreat center for men, women and married couples, the Saint Joseph Abbey Retreat Center offers wide opportunities to step back, disconnect and find quiet time for reflection and prayer on the beautiful 1,200 acres of the abbey, which has provided the same experience to the Benedictine monks for more than 125 years.

Under the leadership of Deacon Steve Fer-



ran, director, and Father Paul Hart, director of retreats, the retreat center has availability for outside groups, including company meetings, parish retreats and school events. Retreat

experiences are offered to artists, sculptors, iconographers, school administrators, teachers, seminarians, priests, religious brothers and sisters and deacon couples.

Now in its 62nd year, the retreat center has expanded its schedule to nearly 70 retreats annually, including week-end retreats and retreats of one, two, three or four days. Days of reflection are also offered for those individuals with busy schedules.

The retreat center is a ministry of the abbey in the greater community and a reflection of the hospitality exemplified by the Rule of St. Benedict. Many retreatants return yearly.

Married couples, especially, are seeking time to reconnect with their spouse and with God. Consequently, the retreat center continues to increase the number of married couples retreats each year.

The retreats are enhanced by delicious meals and newly renovated accommodations. And, retreat packages are affordable so that everyone who desires to attend an Abbey Retreat is able to do so.



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saintjosephabbey.com/retreat-center**

(985) 892-3473

Christopher Homes

Christopher Homes is the affordable housing program of the Archdiocese of New Orleans providing some 2,500 seniors with decent, affordable housing.

The staff of 150 is dedicated to that ministry and lives out that dedication in service to residents.



DEACON ADAMS

The staff's concern for residents was illustrated clearly throughout the pandemic, said Deacon Dennis Adams, executive director of Christopher Homes since 2005.

The pandemic forced the organization to adjust its operations with the safety of residents the No. 1 priority, Deacon Adams said.

The staff focused on maintaining clean environments while also assisting residents with procuring groceries and medication. Managers worked tirelessly to secure food and meal donations. Staff made daily deliveries of food and packages to relieve residents of the need to leave their apartments and expose themselves to the virus.

"Recognizing that our properties are independent-living and trying to see what could be done to help our residents remain both safe and live successfully, our staff really stepped up," Deacon Adams said. "We have a meal program provided through Second Harvest and Giving Hope, and those meals were delivered to our residents' apartments by our staff, sometimes a couple of times a day, seven days a week.

"Life changed for everybody, and all of a sudden, everything was being ordered online from Amazon. The number of deliveries of packages increased dramatically, so in order to keep our residents safe, our staff delivered those packages to their doors. Amazon and FedEx didn't want to come into the building and left packages at the front door. It may have been food or medicine or

whatever our residents needed. Our staff made it happen."

Managers coordinated with a network of health and government agencies to secure on-site COVID testing at all properties. More recently, they coordinated on-site vaccinations accessible to all residents and staff. About two-thirds of residents are fully vaccinated, Deacon Adams said.

"With 2,500 souls to care for, even with this huge pandemic issue, we ended up with only 75 or 80 cases of COVID," Deacon Adams said. "That all came about because the staff at the sites did so much to protect residents."

Christopher Homes has reinstated visits from family members, transportation and activities on a limited basis. Some of the adjustments made during the pandemic are likely to continue, particularly helping residents use technology more frequently for regular doctors' visits.

"We're looking to see what we can do to increase Wi-Fi services at our properties to improve the ability of residents to stay in their apartments and visit with doctors online," Deacon Adams said. "We're trying to see where it's going to go, but life has changed. We hope and pray we're going to be able to get to normalcy, but it's going to be a new normal."

Christopher Homes has been selected annually as one of NOLA.com's top places to work in the metro New Orleans area.

"We consider this selection a great honor and an acknowledgment of our mission-based organization since the selection criteria to belong to this elite group come from surveys taken of our employees," Deacon Adams said.

As an agency of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Christopher Homes is committed to its staff and residents and, through collaboration, the needs of its sister agencies.

Christopher Homes provides housing and services to low-income seniors in properties from the northshore to the West Bank and from Meraux to Metairie.



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Gulf Coast Bank & Trust

'FOMO' and real estate

By Guy Williams

Gulf Coast Bank

FOMO – the “fear of missing out” – is one of many reasons why the residential real estate market bubble is growing so rapidly. Homes are selling quickly, often above asking price. There are even more realtors than properties listed for sale.

While FOMO will always be evident, there are three other reasons why properties are selling so quickly.

► The first is that most buyers will borrow to buy homes and are doing so right now because mortgage rates are still very low. The historically low interest rates give borrowers a low mortgage payment, which can then be locked in for 30 years. It may be hard to believe, but the long-term average mortgage interest rate is a high 8%. Therefore, buyers are understandably rushing to purchase before the inevitable rate increases.

► Another issue is the lack of supply. Before the financial crisis in 2008, home-building exceeded normal demand. New home construction was significantly lower than normal demand for almost 10 years after the crisis. This resulted in a serious imbalance between supply and demand that especially rose during COVID shutdowns as interest rates were pushed to historic lows, which created more real estate buyers than sellers.

Builders tend to ramp up new home construction when demand exceeds supply. Because of the COVID challenges, there are a number of reasons why new construction cannot keep up with demand. Workers are in short supply and sometimes unwilling to rejoin the workforce. Due to shipping delays, appliances and other necessary building supplies

are more expensive or simply unavailable. And municipalities are not speeding up their permitting and approval processes, which also makes new construction difficult.

► Finally, the shutdowns and work from home phenomenon caused many people to decide that they needed to buy new homes to get more space or a better environment for a home office. Interestingly, some are borrowing to renovate open-floor plans to create Zoom-friendly home offices. Others are trying to relocate to areas that give them a good work and home business environment.

So what's your plan?

So, what should you do? If you have property to sell, this is the time to go ahead and list it – don't wait to repaint or repair. This is your window of opportunity that won't last. No one knows when the market will change, but circumstances are so unusual that a change is inevitable.

If you are a buyer, the situation is more challenging. The one thing to remember in real estate is that you cannot change the location. It is far better to buy land or a house in your preferred location than to buy what is available in an area you do not like. When our first child was born, we moved to a child-friendly neighborhood. Through the years, we have renovated every room in the house and also added on to our home. The house was far from perfect, but the neighborhood was just what we wanted.

The real estate market can be difficult, but FOMO shouldn't be the only reason you choose to buy or sell.

Contact one of our local bankers or mortgage lenders to help discuss your options today.

Guy Williams is president and CEO of Gulf Coast Bank & Trust (www.gulfbank.com).

Catholic Journeys

The business of coordinating pilgrimages to venerated Catholic sites around the globe ground to a halt in 2020, a mitigated casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The great news is that 16 months of pent-up demand for travel to Catholic sites will lead to an amazing rebound in 2021 and 2022, said Jimmy Hyland, owner of Catholic Journeys.

"Absolutely," Hyland said.

But, there's a caveat. Pent-up demand is meeting a slowly increasing supply of airline and hotel capacity.

"If people do want to go, they're going to need to decide early," Hyland said. "Even for some trips to the Holy Land in the summer of 2022, it's difficult to get additional space. That's because everyone got moved from

'20 to '21 and some even to '22, so availability is not the same.

"Also, a lot of aircraft were taken out of circulation and many pilots were furloughed. The light switch seems to have come on for travelers, but it's difficult to turn on the supply switch. It may take a while for capacity to catch up with demand."

Hyland used the painful, no-travel year to concentrate on rebuilding his own technology infrastructure.

He developed a new website – www.catholicjourneys.com – along with a new booking system that allows travelers to book directly. The system also accepts on-line payments, and Hyland is easily available now through email or chat functions on the website.

"You don't know what's going to happen until you march down that path," said Hyland. "The year enabled me to do things I wasn't previously able to do. And now, things are ramping up. Our first group leaves for Medjugorje on May 17. I was the last traveler home before we shut down, and I'll be the first one back out!"

There are no blanket protocols for resuming international travel, Hyland said.

"Right now there are only three places open for American travelers, and those are Guadalupe in Mexico, Greece and Medjugorje, and you only need a negative COVID test result," Hyland said.

"The Holy Land's official opening day is May 23. We had a group scheduled for that day, but we decided

to postpone it until July because there's no sense in going to the Holy Land if many of the shrines are still closed."

Travel protocols vary

Hyland said travel to Western Europe is beginning to reopen, but the protocols are still unclear. No one knows if the European Union will act jointly to set up those protocols or if they will be established on a country-by-country basis.

Vaccinations, for example, are required before entering France.

Hyland said German health officials were wise to push back the once-every-10-years Oberammergau Passion Play to 2022. There are a few spots left on the Clarion Herald's pilgrimage to Oberammergau, Fussen

(the hometown of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos) and the shrines of Italy, set for June 15-28, 2022.

That trip will be led by four archdiocesan priests: Fathers Matthew Johnston, Ken Smith, Chris Zavackis and David Ducote.

Hyland said getting fully vaccinated is a personal decision, but for international travel, it can't hurt.

"I would recommend the vaccine if someone doesn't have another reason not to have it," he said. "What's required for international travel has been very fluid. The Holy Land requires it, but Medjugorje doesn't. If you want to access the world, the vaccination is the best way to go."

For more information, contact Hyland at (504) 834-4951 or www.catholicjourneys.com.

CATHOLIC JOURNEYS.COM "Your Local Expert in arranging Spiritual Journeys for the Faithful!"

It's time to rediscover the joys of Traveling on
a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Medjugorje and
Marian Shrines around the World!
Here are some upcoming Highlights:

"40 Years Among Us!"

2021 will mark the 40th Anniversary of Our Lady's Apparitions in Medjugorje!

Join one of our Pilgrimages from New Orleans to be there during this very special time of Grace. Space still available for the June 21-29 departure, to be in the home of visionary Marija Pavlovic Lunetti when she receives the Message for the World on June 25!

Oberammergau

We are pleased to announce that we have additional space for the Special Pilgrimage visiting the Shrines of Italy and Oberammergau June 15-27, 2022!

Visit the Vatican and the Basilicas of Rome, Pray at the Tomb of Padre Pio, Venerate the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano, Gaze upon the Holy Face in Manoppello, Celebrate Mass in the House of the Holy Family in Loreto, See the Cross where Jesus spoke to St. Francis in Assisi, asking him to rebuild His Church, Visit the childhood home and church of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. in Fussen, and attend the Passion Play in Oberammergau, only the 42nd performance in nearly 400 years!

**Don't miss this opportunity to join four Priests from the Archdiocese of New Orleans
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For more information contact Jimmy Hyland



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*Complete list of pilgrimages
through 2022 available at
www.CatholicJourneys.com*



**Become a Group Leader
or Spiritual Advisor!!**

Notre Dame Health System



Since Jan. 1, when he assumed the reins of Notre Dame Health System, Deacon Jeff Tully has navigated the numerous challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Notre Dame Health System is the agency of the Archdiocese of New Orleans that provides senior independent and assisted living apartments, skilled nursing, home health, home care and hospice services.

Now that the rate of vaccination of staff and residents has increased and the incidence of COVID-19 cases has declined, there is cautious optimism, especially about allowing family members to visit their older loved ones residing in the three archdiocesan facilities – Chateau de Notre Dame Apartments and Nursing Home in New Orleans, Wynhoven Health Care Center in Marrero and Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center in Algiers.

Critical need for staffing

The biggest ongoing challenge, Deacon Tully said, is finding enough staff members for each facility, in part because of the economic reality that skilled nurses and other medical support personnel are in such high demand.

"My biggest challenge is that we need staff," said Deacon Tully, a former hospital administrator. "We need people. So we're going to have a whole new salary structure. We have to do that."

As an example, Deacon Tully said, LPNs (licensed professional nurses) and CNAs (certified nursing assistants) are in short



Photos | COURTESY NOTRE DAME HEALTH SYSTEM

Residents of Chateau de Notre Dame in New Orleans, Wynhoven Health Care Center in Marrero and Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center in Algiers – facilities run by the Archdiocese of New Orleans' Notre Dame Health System – can see real hope as family visitations have resumed.

supply, meaning his facilities have had to contract with agencies to provide the care at a much higher cost. Sometimes the premiums include nearly double the normal salary.

"The needs are skyrocketing, and agencies are paying premiums for people to travel around the country for 13 weeks," Deacon Tully said. "All of our peers in health care are struggling with staffing. Staffing is a major issue in health care right now."

The archdiocese owns three nursing homes – Chateau de Notre Dame, Wynhoven and Our Lady of Wisdom – and there is room available at each facility because some families, since the start of the pandemic, are caring for their loved ones at home.

"People are keeping their parents and grandparents home and taking care of them because a lot of people lost their jobs and can't afford to put them somewhere," Deacon

Tully said.

The irony is that contrary to the bad news coming out of New York and New Jersey at the start of the pandemic – where COVID deaths were extremely high – the nursing homes in the archdiocese have been incredibly safe for seniors.

Fantastic safety record

"Nursing homes, to be honest with you, are some of the safest places around because of the attention to detail," Deacon Tully said. "Ninety-four percent of our residents have received both vaccines, so it's a safe place. And, now, we are letting people come in to visit. We can get back to the normal of what it was pre-pandemic. You can come visit mom; you can come stay with mom. As the mandates are starting to ease off, you can start spending more time with mom. For a year, we couldn't do that."

Archdiocesan nursing home care is not just for the wealthy

or for those who have private pay insurance. Residents include those who are on Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.

Deacon Tully said Notre Dame Health System offers a "continuum of care": long-term care; short stays involving rehab to home; physical therapy; occupational therapy; memory care; assisted living; independent living; home health services (physician-ordered) which provide nurses, therapists, aides, social workers and chaplains; home care, where sitters come into the home; and hospice care, where a person can be visited regularly in the home or in a medical facility.

"Hospice, for the most part, is a Medicare benefit, so there's no out-of-pocket charge for the diagnosis for which you are admitted," Deacon Tully said. "So, let's say you're admitted because you have congestive heart failure or COPD and

you have all these pulmonary things. It doesn't matter your age. If you have Medicare, Medicare will pay for that and also pay for your medications related to your diagnosis."

Caring and compassionate

Deacon Tully said Notre Dame Health's Catholic orientation shines through its stated mission logo: "Caring, Compassionate, Christlike."

"We have to be caring, we have to be compassionate and we have to be Christlike in everything we do," Deacon Tully said. "We ask ourselves whether every new process or policy or procedure is in line with that."

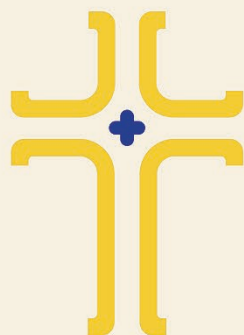
Besides nursing jobs, Deacon Tully said there are openings for van drivers, housekeepers, dietary personnel and staff members in payroll, internet services and human resources.

For information on job openings or residential services for loved ones, call (888) 673-9003 or visit notredamehealth.org.



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Dignity Memorial

Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home, Metairie Cemetery and Lake Lawn Park Cemetery offer families in the New Orleans area unrivaled convenience, security and serenity. We are dedicated to remaining at the forefront of service to families, adapting to changing times and differing needs.

Our funeral home was built on the historic grounds of Metairie Cemetery in 1979, making our facility the first combined funeral home and cemetery in New Orleans. Now, we provide the convenience of all products and services in one beautiful location.

Metairie Cemetery was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 6, 1991. It was given this honor in recognition of its stature as the burial place of many famous people and the home to breathtaking above-ground family mausoleums, tombs and monuments. These magnificent memorials, made of marble, granite and brick, testify to the dignity and significance of all those who are buried there.

Former Metairie Race Course

The grounds of Metairie Cemetery originally held a race track that was quite popular in its heyday. The oval outline of the Metairie Race Course, built in 1838, can still be seen in the cemetery today. In 1872, the land was converted into a cemetery, owned by the Metairie Cemetery Association.

In 2003, Metairie Cemetery was named by Forbes.com as one of the 10 best cemeteries due to its unique historical significance and beauty. Metairie Cemetery is the final resting place of numerous famous people, including nine governors of Louisiana, seven mayors of New Orleans and three Confederate generals.

For families choosing cremation, the extraordinary Tranquil Oaks® Cremation Garden at Metairie Cemetery features serene walkways, complemented by lush landscaping and beautiful water features in this peaceful, beautiful and everlasting garden. There is also our



Photo | COURTESY LAKE LAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME

Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home, Metairie Cemetery and Lake Lawn Park Cemetery offer peace of mind and compassionate care to families grieving the death of a loved one.

newest development, Metairie Estates, which offers premier locations for traditional and cremation memorials in historic Metairie Cemetery.

The beautifully landscaped grounds of Lake Lawn Park Cemetery are located adjacent to Metairie Cemetery. Lake Lawn was established in 1949 and offers a variety of options for families, including ground burial spaces, family tombs and outdoor terrace mausoleums and columbarium niches for cremated remains. A main feature of this serene space is the stately Lake Lawn Park community mausoleum.

Another exquisite mausoleum option is All Saints Mausoleum. Designed in conjunction with the Archdiocese of New Orleans and dedicated on Nov. 1, 1986 – All Saints' Day – All Saints Mausoleum fulfilled

Archbishop Philip Hannan's vision for a modern Catholic burial facility. All Saints is located just steps from Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home.

To meet the growing needs of the families we serve, All Saints Mausoleum completed its newest addition, All Saints' Phase IV. The expansion to All Saints Mausoleum features beautifully polished marble, handcrafted mosaics, luminous stained-glass windows, private family rooms, glass-front cremation niches and single and true companion crypts.

Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home features nine visitation parlors and two spacious chapels. We are proud members of the Dignity Memorial® network of funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers, offering quality, compassionate care and service you can trust.



Photo by Frank J. Methe | CLARION HERALD

All Saints Mausoleum, in cooperation with the Archdiocese of New Orleans, was created to provide a modern and climate-controlled Catholic burial facility in New Orleans.



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Villere's Florist

In operation since 1969, Villere's Florist is one of the top florists in the South.

Owners Roger and Donna Villere, who oversee the floral needs of weddings and Carnival balls, keep abreast of the latest trends in floral design with affiliations in the Louisiana State Florist Association (as a past president and lifetime member), the Professional Floral Designers Association in New Orleans and the Academy of American Florists.

Villere's has designed flowers for a number of First Ladies and other dignitaries and debutantes, and works with corporate and business accounts, private clubs, hotels, conventions and local movie productions.

Villere's offers a large selection of cut flowers from around the world, as well as tropical flowers and plants. It creates fruit and gourmet baskets, sells pottery and delivers locally and worldwide.

Eleven Villere family members are in the busi-



ness, including Roger and Donna's sons Roger III, Mark, Jacques, and

daughter-in-law Deborah Villere, who manages the Covington store.

For specials, go to the company's Facebook page and click "like," or sign up at the florist's website.

Villere's Florist: 750 Martin Behrman in Metairie at (504) 833-3716; and 1415 North Highway 190 in Covington at (985) 809-9101; call toll-free at (800) 845-5373; or www.villeres-florist.com.



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Abbey Art Works (AAW) at Saint Joseph Abbey

Art has been part of the Benedictine tradition for centuries. The rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 53, emphasizes: "Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ."

Abbey Art Works (AAW) is considered an extension of this "open arms" ethos, opening the world of art to all, no matter the skill level or age.

AAW's unofficial mot-



to is "Making Art to Let Our Souls Know We are Listening." Painting and the arts provide time for solitude and reflection on a level that cannot be achieved in a typical

setting away from the Abbey's serene grounds.

Artist-in-residence Lyn Hill Taylor established AAW in 2009 in collaboration with Abbot Justin Brown. Offerings now include weekday classes, weekend workshops and art retreats that last from two to four days, with overnight accommodations at the Saint Joseph Abbey Retreat Center.

Rather than create a "one-and-done" venture, AAW's classes and workshops organically complement each other and can also be accessible to new students. Students are the program's biggest ambassadors.

The emphasis of the program is to encourage beginner students, and Taylor meets individually with them.

Art education should be available to anyone who is interested in learning. Some of AAW's three-hour classes are offered for as little as \$15.

In addition to Taylor, AAW's instructors are Auskelis Ozols, Alan Flattmann, Robert Labranche, Phil Sandusky, Billie Bourgeois, Jaclyn Warren, Phillip Sage and Chryl Casso Corrizo.



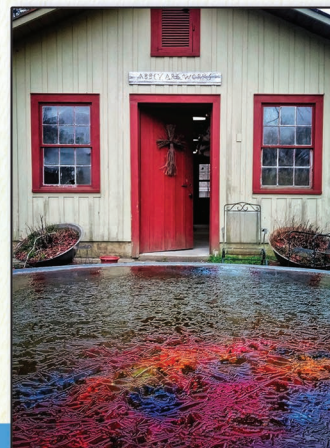
Art Works

***Making Art to Let
Our Souls Know that We are Listening***



Abbey Church & Pond by Lyn Hill Taylor, artist-in-residence at Abbey Art Works.

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***Subscribe to the student & artist website at
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Archbishop Chapelle High School

The mission of Archbishop Chapelle High School is the establishment of a Catholic educational community of excellence in which the spiritual, academic and social development of the students is accomplished, trusting that "Deus Providebit" (God will provide).

Founded in 1962, Archbishop Chapelle is a leading private Catholic high school for girls in grades 8-12 offering exceptional academics alongside spiritual formation and leadership development. Chapelle inspires its students to learn, grow and thrive as well-rounded young women ready to become leaders of tomorrow.

Archbishop Chapelle is a model of academic excellence and innovation. Chapelle's trendsetting educational program attracts students from across the New Orleans metropolitan area, northshore and



Photo by Peter Finney Jr. | CLARION HERALD

Chapelle's 3D Anatomage table takes anatomy studies to another level.

River Parishes and is structured to help each student develop to her fullest potential.

With Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment classes, a beautiful STEM center and the latest in hands-on technology, Archbishop Chapelle provides a rigorous college-preparatory

curriculum that is attuned to each student's needs and prepares graduates to excel in college and their future careers.

With the introduction of the Anatomage table during the 2020-21 school year, the STEM offerings were immediately enriched. The Anatomage table is

a fully segmented, real human 3D anatomy system that presents anatomy in a fully interactive, life-sized touch screen experience, in operatory bed form.

Chapelle is excited to offer a veterinary science course in the 2021-22 school year, which will utilize the Anatomage technology. Students will have the opportunity to learn animal anatomy in 3D, as well.

Chapelle's 1:1 student technology initiative integrates technology into every subject through the use of individualized Google Chromebooks and multipurpose labs for interdisciplinary and collaborative learning. Chapelle women master technological fluency and build the foundation for success in an ever-growing global, technology-driven world.

Through religion classes, liturgies and various campus ministry programs, Chapelle

students are challenged to deepen their faith, advance in the wisdom and truths of Catholicism and witness Catholicity in virtuous behavior.

Chapelle's campus ministry program encourages student leadership and empowers students to reach out to their classmates, their church parishes and members of the community regarding faith formation and acts of service.

The graduates of the Class of 2021 will join the ranks of more than 13,000 proud alumnae of Archbishop Chapelle High School on May 15 as the Baccalaureate Mass is celebrated at St. Louis Cathedral. Graduation follows at the Pontchartrain Center.

Each graduate carries with her the commitment to her Catholic faith, the knowledge gained and the strength of her green-and-white legacy long after she leaves the halls at 8800 Veterans Memorial Blvd.

CHAPELLE

PROUDLY CELEBRATES



2020
ALUMNA
OF THE YEAR

**KAY
QUIGLEY
DUSSOUY**

CLASS OF 1999

Kay Quigley Dussouy has made a name for herself in the pharmaceutical industry over the span of her 16-year career. She has dedicated countless hours of service to her Alma Mater, serving as Secretary of the Alumnae Board from 2017-2019. Kay shares, "The things I learned throughout my time at Chapelle have shaped me into the woman I am today."



2020-2021
DEUS PROVIDEBIT
AWARD RECIPIENTS

**RAY AND
JUDY
SPADAFORA**

JUDY, CLASS OF 1966

Ray and Judy Golemi Spadafora are proud to be a part of a school that continues to grow and strive for excellence for the betterment of their students, the community and beyond. They shared: "We always feel like there is more that we can do to enlighten the students at Chapelle, put a smile on their faces, and enhance the school for future Chipmunks."



2021
ALUMNA
OF THE YEAR

**DANNA
SPATAFORA
DAVIS**

CLASS OF 1982

Danna Spatafora Davis has 33 years of experience in radiology. She has been a dedicated Ambassador to Chapelle, assisting in planning the Emerald Gala, Prom Fest, Cocktails in the Courtyard, Decade Rally and Craft Fair. Danna is currently serving on the Alumnae Board where she has been a Member at Large for the last 5 years.

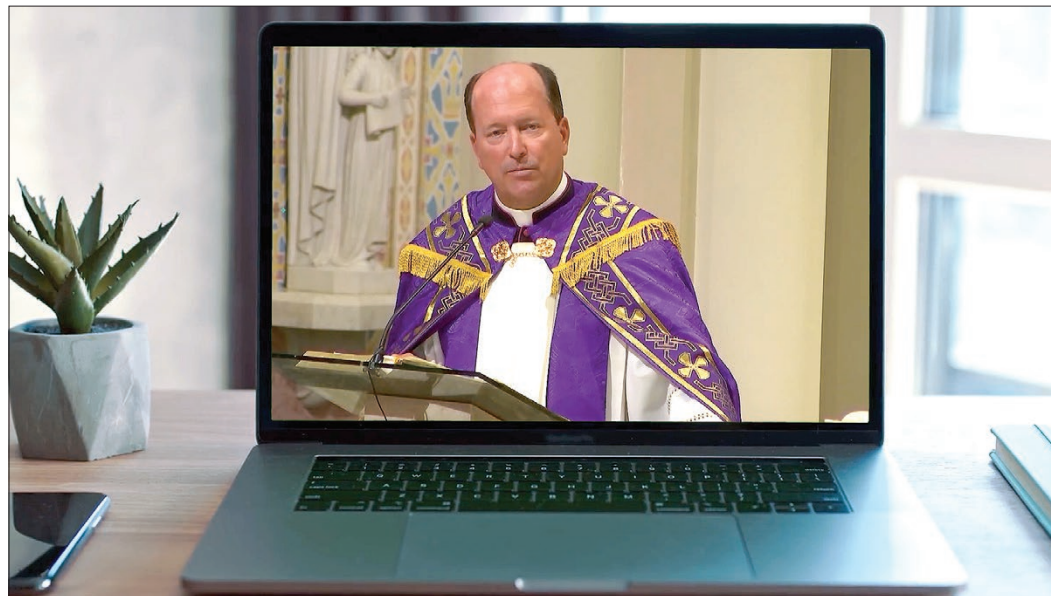
WLAE TV

A sense of connection

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S. last spring, almost all Catholic churches felt the effects of lockdowns and quarantines.

Many churches resorted to livestreaming Masses on their websites and social media platforms using iPhones and tablets as transmission devices. Fortunately for viewers in New Orleans, WLAE had set up video infrastructure many years ago to not only broadcast the daily Mass from St. Louis Cathedral on television but also livestream the Mass on the website, TheDailyMass.com, and on Facebook.

"Staying connected to your home parish and church has proven to be vitally important



Photos | COURTESY WLAE

WLAE has cameras at St. Stephen Church, where Msgr. Christopher Nalty livestreams the 4 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass.

to Catholics who could not gather together during the pandemic," said Ron Yager, president of WLAE. "Watching Mass streaming online or on TV is a great way for parishioners to hear from their own pastors and priests until they feel comfortable returning back to Mass in person."

Responding to the need for more access to the Mass on TV and online, WLAE installed a multi-camera production system at St. Stephen Church in uptown New Orleans. In addition to the daily and Sunday Mass from St. Louis Cathedral, WLAE now broadcasts and livestreams the 4 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass from St. Stephen's, giving the daily Mass a presence on air and online seven days a week.



"Driven" executive producer, Jim Dotson; producer and host Tom Gregory; associate producer and editor Carolina Loreto; and executive producer Ron Yager display their Emmy Awards.

WLAE captures second Emmy Award

WLAE and LAE Productions are known for high-quality video productions on the local, national and regional level.

This past December, the production unit received its second Emmy Award for an episode in the Cox Yurview series, "Driven," which was recognized in the Best Magazine Program category.

"It's a car show, but unlike the car shows that you see on the television where it's the guy with the long, ZZ Top beard that's working on the car, we take the car after it's been worked on," said producer and host Tom Gregory. "We don't get into torque and gear ratio. Other people with tattoos and long beards can do that."



Ted Ochoa directs Houston's most celebrated chef, Hugo Ortega.

LAE Productions: Quickly changing course

For many of our clients – and the clients they serve – the need to bring people together is very important. So what do you do when you can't bring hundreds or thousands of people together face-to-face?

You go virtual, and that's where we come in.

Over the past several months, we have conducted virtual tours of all kinds of gatherings: from high school fundraisers to group painting events to world-class chefs demonstrating a popular dish to statewide prayer events to year-end galas and conferences.

"At LAE Productions we have done virtually everything and anything virtual," said Jim Dotson, general manager of LAE Productions. "What's exciting for me is to share our experiences from one client to the next and then watch them light up with excitement as they realize how we can take that experience and bring their people back together."

The virtual gatherings are more than Zoom meetings. It is using all of the technologies to provide the right solution for customers. If you know of a business or organization that would like to bring their people together in an exciting, safe and fun way, please contact jim@wlae.com.



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For more information, visit **wlae.com**

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