CLARION HERALD
Official Newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

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Our Churches and Our Hearts Are Open!

Today is Welcome Home Sunday in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Across the archdiocese, Catholics have extended personal invitations to family members, friends, neighbors and former parishioners to join them for Mass and encounter the love of Jesus Christ as we continue to live the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

If someone invited you today, know that you are welcome here. There is a place for you in the Church, and we are grateful you are with us.

Let us continue to pray, invite and walk with one another as we help God's people find their way to him through encounter with the love and mercy of our Lord!

Welcome Home!



On Aug. 3, over 3,000 Catholic school faculty, staff and administrators came together for a Day of Formation at Xavier University. The day began with Mass celebrated by Archbishop James Checchio and included a presentation from Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization and Communication Father Jared Rodrigue. Look for more coverage on p. 8 of this edition and online at ClarionHerald.org.

THE CLARION HERALD

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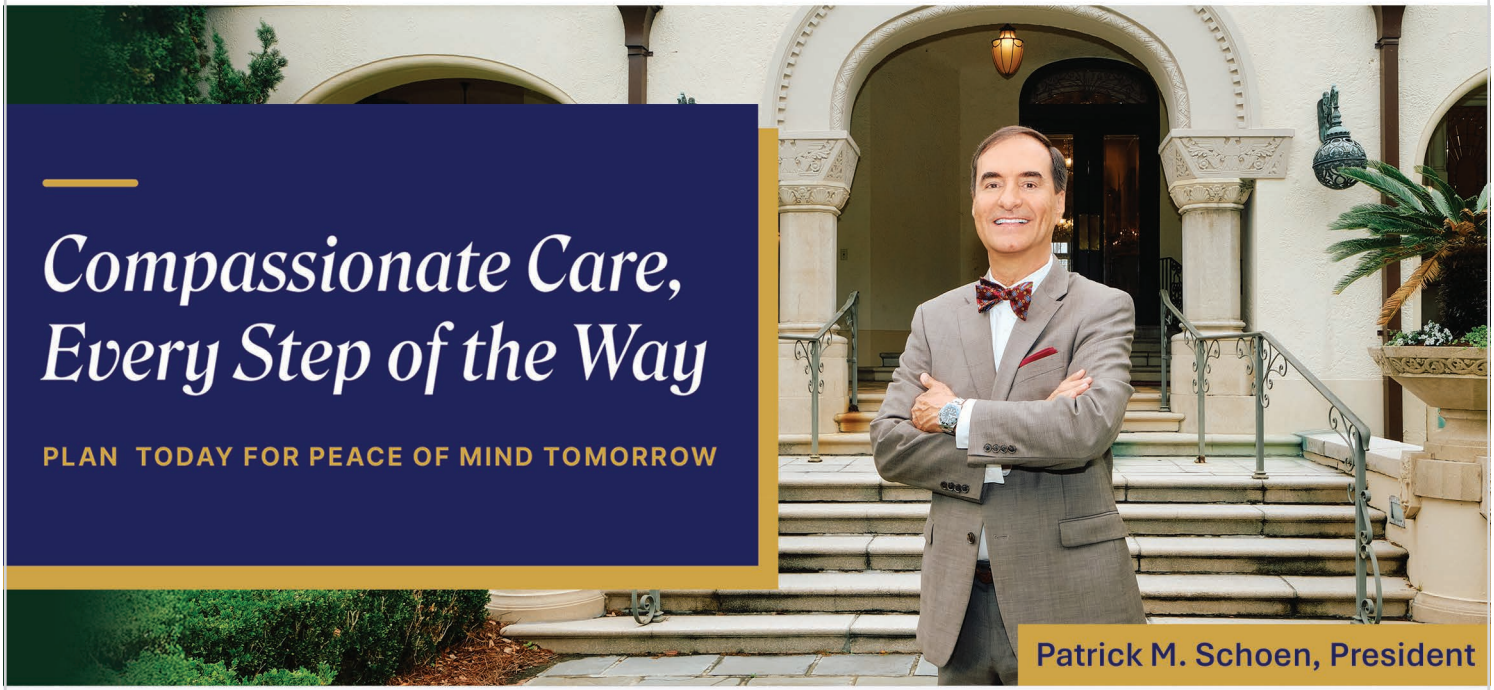
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Photo courtesy of Camp Abbey

Before Camp Abbey concluded summer 2026, Archbishop Checchio visited on July 31 to experience the fun of camp, meet some of the Week 5 campers, pray with the staff and tour the grounds.



Photo courtesy of Stella Maris Maritime Minsitry

The 79th annual Blessing of the Fleet was held Aug. 1 at Shell Beach in St. Bernard Parish with Archbishop James Checchio blessing the crews and ships ahead of what is hoped to be a successful fishing season.

Come Away and Rest Awhile



Most Reverend James F.
CHECCHIO, JCD, MBA
Archbishop of New Orleans

My dear brothers and sisters,

Jesus once invited some of His first disciples to "Come away with me and rest awhile." As we come to the end of summer, I hope you were able to find some time to relax and be renewed during this summer season with your family and friends.

My family has always enjoyed going down to the Jersey shore for our annual summer vacation. The beach, the boardwalk with its rides and snacks, fishing and crabbing, and seeing summer friends, were all things we looked forward to. And I fondly recall during some of those years going to daily Mass in late afternoon at the Christian Brothers residence in Ocean City, NJ. As a matter of fact, as I write this column, I am actually away for some time with my family and friends at the Jersey shore and then heading up to join a group of priest and bishop friends from seminary for a few days up in Newport, Rhode Island.

As an adult and having spent so much of my life in school or being involved in the administration of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, the summer always provided some welcomed extended down time for me. It gave me time to relax, rejuvenate, and extra time to be with Our Lord.

I have enjoyed some nice breaks this summer, but almost all elsewhere – I have to learn of vacation spots here in Louisiana and around our beautiful region! At the end of of June and into the early days of June, I was in Rome with family and friends, including so many new friends from here in New Orleans, to receive the pallium from Pope Leo. Those days were so enjoyable and being a pilgrimage, they were also truly uplifting, spiritual days. I was also blessed to visit some friends in Wisconsin to spend some time on Lake Michigan.

Of course, Jesus' invitation to "come away with me and rest awhile" is an invitation to grow closer to Him through prayer and the summer gives us time for that, too. Being by the water is very meditative for me, so I enjoy praying by the ocean and along the lake. Our Lord must have found speaking with the Father less distracting at a lake, too, as He spent much time on the Sea of Galilee where He called so many of His disciples who were fishermen.

Here in New Orleans, I have also been grateful for the slower pace of July and August as it gave me the opportunity for different unique pastoral activities such as visiting Camp Abbey, Project Lazarus, our Quo Vadis retreat for young men and also the Cenacle, our archdiocesan retreat house, to have Mass and lunch with some of our priests on retreat. Of course a visit to the Saints training camp added to the joy of the summer too!

The summer has also allowed me to visit with some of the religious communities, as well as nursing homes and a state prison in our archdiocese. It is always so moving to celebrate the Eucharist at these places. I have no doubt, that I receive more than I give during these visits. The conversations are always uplifting, and the joy real.

Throughout my months here, the chapel in my residence is a real blessing and oasis for me, a place where I am rejuvenated daily by resting with the Lord. I know that our Eucharistic Adoration chapels and churches throughout our archdiocese are likewise places where many come to spend time in daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and attend daily Mass. It is a great tradition to start if you have not yet taken advantage of praying before our Eucharistic Lord.

The Eucharist is one of the fruits of our consecration to the Sacred Heart, and we have published on our website and in this edition of the Clarion a complete list of all our Eucharistic Adoration chapels and times for Adoration and Benediction in our archdiocese. Our Lord awaits you! It is very heartening and I am truly grateful that so many already partake in adoration. If He was adored at each moment of each day somewhere throughout our archdiocese; we would receive abundant blessings from our resting in Him!

Our Lady always shows us the way to her Son, as she rested with Him each day, even when she did not understand all that was going on in His life or hers, and even when a sword pierced her heart. Mary always leads us to her Son, who always awaits us. Be assured I am bringing you in prayer to Him through her as we celebrate together her Assumption in heaven on Aug. 15, and I ask you to do the same for me.

Although I am sad to see the summer come to a close and am grateful for all the opportunities we all have had to spend more time with the Lord throughout this season, I pray that we will make time in the coming seasons too to "come away and rest awhile" in Our Lord's presence.

Know of my love, prayers and gratitude for you!

Archbishop's Schedule


Photo courtesy of the New Orleans Saints

On July 31, Archbishop Checchio got to experience a day at the New Orleans Saints training camp at their facilities in Metairie.

Thursday, August 20 11 a.m. Our City, Our Cathedral Restoration Meeting
Thursday, August 20 2 p.m. Episcopal Vicars and Secretariates Cabinet meeting
Friday, August 21 11:30 a.m. Mass, ANO Chancery
Saturday, August 22 11:30 a.m. Hispanic Apostolate gathering, private event
Saturday, August 22 12:45 p.m. Catholic Charities young adult works of mercy bus tour
Saturday, August 22 4:30 p.m. Mass and Pastor Installation, St. John the Baptist Church, Folsom
Sunday, August 23 8:30 a.m. Mass, St. John Paul II Church, Waggaman
Sunday, August 23 10:30 a.m. Mass and Pastor Installation, The Visitation of Our Lady Church, Marrero
Monday, August 24 5:30 p.m. Mass and Dinner with Jesuit Community, private
Tuesday, August 25 4:30 p.m. Feast of St. Louis King of France, Presentation, Mass, Reception, private event.
Wednesday, August 26 8 p.m. ANO Finance Council Meeting, private event
Wednesday, August 26 5 p.m. Mass of the Holy Spirit, Notre Dame Seminary
Friday, August 28 6 p.m. Cenacle on the Lake Gala, Chateau Country Club
Saturday, August 29 9 a.m. Parish Faith Formation Leader Gathering, St. Rita Church, New Orleans
Saturday, August 29 10:15 a.m. Respect Life - Jazzed for Life, Schulte Hall, Notre Dame Seminary
Saturday, August 29 11:30 a.m. Pazos Education Fund Luncheon
Saturday, August 29 5:30 p.m. Mass and Pastor Installation, St. Benedict Church, Covington
Sunday, August 30 9 a.m. Mass, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Destrehan
Sunday, August 30 11 a.m. Mass, 25th Anniversary of Parish Founding, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, New Orleans

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Mission Possible: To Make Jesus More Known and Loved

by Sarah McDonald

In the time that Most Reverend James Checchio has been Archbishop of New Orleans, there are a few things that have become very clear to him about the Catholic Church in Southeast Louisiana. Amongst his observations are the people here are faithful and loyal, and that the Church, though wounded, is vibrant and in a season of renewal.

In a recent meeting of the Administrative Staff of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Archbishop Checchio thanked the staff for their often "hidden" work and presented a new organizational structure for the archdiocese that is meant to continue that spirit of renewal and improve cooperation and communications between the offices and ministries in service to the parishes and the faithful of the local Church.

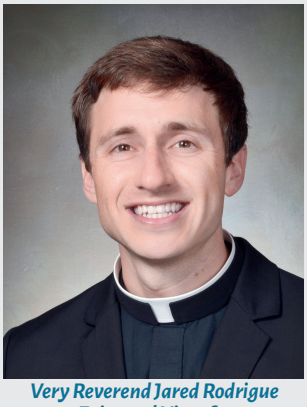
"Our main task is to make Jesus known and loved more and more – that is our mission, nothing more, nothing less," said the archbishop in his address to the staff. "Your often hidden work here makes it possible for me and the pastors of this archdiocese to guide our people into deeper friendship with Christ, helping them to see Jesus working in their lives and in our world too, even when things are dark or confusing in someone's personal life, in our local Church or around the world."



Very Reverend Patrick Williams
Vicar General and Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Consecrated Life



Very Reverend Charles J. Benoit
Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Life and Planning



Very Reverend Jared Rodrigue
Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization and Communications



Dr. RaeNell Houston
Secretary for Catholic Education and Faith Formation



Mr. Dirk J. Wild
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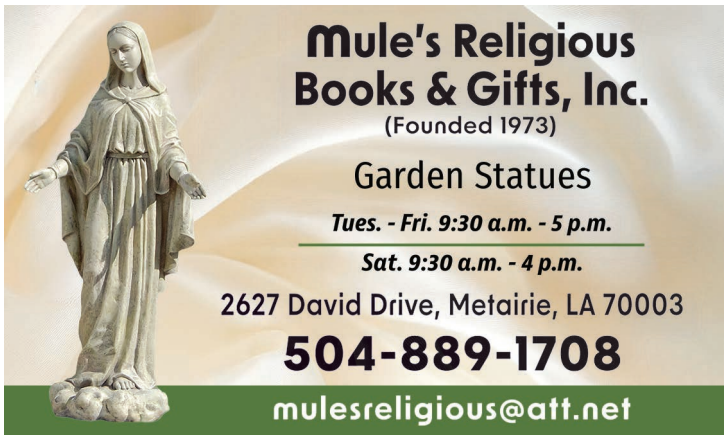
The new organizational chart establishes a new administration and assigns the various offices and ministries into Vicariates and Secretariats, creating new positions and retaining old ones.

With this restructuring, Archbishop Checchio introduced two new Vicars: Very Reverend Charles Benoit as Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Life and Planning and Very Reverend Jared Rodrigue as the Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization and Communication.

"In his landmark Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, Pope St. John Paul II reminded us that the Lord said he would give us shepherds after His own heart. Pope Francis further reminded priests of the necessity of being with their people and to be shepherds with the smell of the sheep," said Father Benoit. "Archbishop Checchio is a shepherd who desires not to be in his office, but to be with this flock. As he recently told the employees of the archdiocese and our ministries, there are 500,000 Catholics souls, in addition to the 800,000 other souls in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, that need to hear the message of Jesus Christ and experience His love."

"I'm so honored and humbled to do my part in coordinating the pastoral offices of the archdiocese, so that as coworkers in the vineyard, we can assist Archbishop Checchio, all priests, and our parishes to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ, share His love and mercy, and assist those in our community who are in need," continued Father Benoit. "Together, as a united Church in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, we can do our part to build up the Kingdom of God."

Very Reverend Patrick Williams, who has (see **MISSION** p. 10)





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A Culture of Safety, Transparency and Trust

by Kim Roberts



During safe environment training sessions she leads for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Sister of Mount Carmel Mary Ellen Wheelahan, the Youth Protection Executive of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, often shares a quote from the early days of Pope Leo's pontificate – "Only together can Christians rebuild the credibility of the wounded Church."

In a June 27 letter to the faithful of the archdiocese, Archbishop James Checchio wrote candidly, "Our mission is to spread the Gospel, to witness God's love and mercy and to bring others to better know, love and serve Jesus. We are hindered in fulfilling this if parents do not trust us and children do not feel safe. As Archbishop of New Orleans, I am committed to a zero-tolerance policy of abuse. I urge anyone who has been abused by clergy to come forward, as brave survivors before you have done. Every report of abuse, no matter the extent, who is being accused or when it happened, will be reported to law enforcement."

The Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Life and Planning, Father Charles Benoit, said, "We have to do everything humanly possible to protect our children and vulnerable adults and to help ensure the safety of everyone in our schools and parishes."

Father Benoit tells parents child protection is no longer just a check off box, "It's at the forefront of everyone's minds and in planning at all levels. We are more aware of how we do things, and our young people are also more aware too. We work closely with the archbishop to make sure everything on the non-monetary plan is implemented to the fullest agreement to make sure nothing can fall through a crack and that everyone is protected."

He added the local Church's efforts in parishes and schools include reporting all allegations, even those from the past, to law enforcement, being extremely thorough in documenting everything and placing an emphasis on full transparency.

"More safeguards are in place now and we have more volunteers that are trained at this time," said Sister Wheelahan. "We train a lot of grandparent clubs in person – they understand the need to have the training today. Typically, this group fought training in the past. I'm amazed at the number of people who are not fighting the training anymore and now understand this is a societal problem,"

All school employees and staff in the archdiocese must take archdiocese safe environment training courses every three years and a mandated reporter training course for the state each year. Anyone employed by a school must complete a background check and fingerprint checks regularly.

"We have excellent school counselors and partners that we work with in the archdiocese," Sister Wheelahan said. "I have been impressed with them and how informed they are with trauma responses."

Sister Wheelahan constantly emphasizes in training that staff and volunteers are partners in protecting children not only from physical abuse but from emotional and mental abuse and neglect as well.

"We can stop the behavior if we hold each other accountable," she added. "According to research, the number of allegations within the church have gone down, yet the number of cases in society have risen because more people today are calling DCFS, they are watching their environment, and they aren't afraid to report it if they believe behavior is inappropriate."

"In order to better serve our staff with safe environment training, we have translated the presentation to Spanish and are in the process of translating it to Vietnamese as well," said Sister Wheelahan. "We have been using the Virtus Safe Environment Training for the past five or so years to help train our staff."

"The question I always ask in the beginning of any training session is 'Are we passing the test, are we protecting our children today?'" she said. "After they complete the training, I ask them to reevaluate their environment with these things in mind: we must – keep children safe physically, mentally and spiritually, protect adults from false allegations, and allow the children to feel safe in their space."

"Our children are special blessings, and I am committed to doing all we possibly can to keep them safe," wrote Archbishop Checchio in his June letter.

"I am committed to pastorally responding to the needs of the survivors who have been hurt and may feel neglected and even rejected. Since my arrival here in November, I have set aside time weekly in my schedule for this. Likewise, including them in my prayers is something I consider urgent too. I am proud of the work our faithful and so many in the archdiocese are doing daily to prioritize the protection of our children."

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse of minors or vulnerable adults.

Learn more about the Archdiocese of New Orleans's efforts to keep children safe online at nolacatholic.org/ocyp.

If you are aware of anyone or anything out of compliance with the Child Protection Policies of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, please report these concerns to the Youth Protection Executive at ype@arch-no.org.

If you have cause to believe a minor has been abused, contact the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (1-855-452-5437) or local law enforcement at the numbers listed in the graphic above.

"Educating Children to Get to Heaven"

More than 3,000 educators from Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans gathered Aug. 3 at Xavier University's Convocation Center for the Day of Formation sponsored by the archdiocesan Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation.

The day, which is held annually to kick-off the new school year, started with an uplifting musical praise and worship service lead by Lorraine Hess, followed by Mass celebrated by Archbishop James Checchio and concelebrated by priests representing area Catholic schools.

After Mass, Dr. RaeNell Houston, Secretary for Catholic Education and Faith Formation gave a welcome address and introduced the day's keynote speaker, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization and Communications Father Jared Rodrigue.

After his address, Father Rodrigue and Dr. Houston lead a commitment ceremony in which the educators pledged to recommit their time, talent and efforts to teaching and serving the families at Catholic schools this school year.

The Archbishop asked those in attendance to pray for him while he prayed for them and to ask the children to pray for him as well.

"I look forward to seeing all of you this year," he said. "Remember, you are educating our children to get to heaven. Keep the focus on Jesus."

Pictured right: Father Rodrigue presents his keynote address titled, "The Heart of Catholic Education" encouraging schools to continue to "live our consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus" in the upcoming school year.



Photo credit:Kim Roberts

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Catholic Charities Steers Young Adults Towards Works of Mercy

by Kim Roberts

An idea born from a conversation with two brothers who graduated from Jesuit High School, quickly grew into a full-blown "Works of Mercy Bus Tour" for young professionals organized by Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO) coming this Aug. 22.

According to James Capuzzi, CCANO donor engagement manager, Patrick and Peyton Fine, two young professionals who are involved in Catholic life through their alma mater and parish, spoke to him about the importance of getting their age group more involved with the church and its mission.

"The brothers remembered when their father, Paul Fine, went on one of our bus tour many years ago and how much it energized his faith," he said. "The boys thought it would be a good time to bring back the tour and offer it to young adults. It makes a lot of sense to do this now with the strong growing young adult group we have in the archdiocese."

The tour will begin at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans where Archbishop James Checchio will greet attendees and pray with them. Then the bus will travel to Belle Chasse to visit Padua House, formerly known as Padua Pediatrics, a residential program for individuals of all ages with intellectual disabilities who are medically fragile. Currently, 31 individuals live at this facility. Upon their arrival, the group will be split in half with part of the group visiting Padua House and the other half listening to a presentation from Project SAVE Director Allyson Tuttle.

Project SAVE is a pro-bono legal services program for women survivors of domestic abuse.

The last stop of the tour will be uptown New Orleans and the Incarnate Word Head Start Program coupled with CCANO's and AmeriCorp's Foster Grandparent program.



Photo courtesy of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

"After the bus tour, for the last two hours, we will attend Vigil Mass and enjoy a light dinner together," Capuzzi said. "It's really important as the younger generation steps into the shoes their parents filled in the church, they have a greater understanding and experience the ways the Catholic Church in New Orleans is reaching out and helping their community."

"We want to give them a chance to see the good work that is being done and experience it in a positive way," he added. "It's important for the young adults to join us in these works of mercy. They can do that through volunteering, donations to catholic charities and missions and specific programs and spreading the word of the positive impact of these programs in the community. One of the strongest parts of being a Catholic in this city is the great work that the church does for everyone in need."

Capuzzi hopes to fill the entire 56-person bus the day of the tour, right now they have about half of the bus filled. "I know it's a big ask, asking young people to give up part of their Saturday, but it will be worth it," he said. "Attendees will have a chance to experience just four of the programs we operate, but being able to see some of the people we serve will help bridge that gap of understanding the true meaning of works of mercy."

To register for the bus tour, visit https://www.ccano.org/works-of-mercy-bus-tour/.

About Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

Catholic Charities's holistic approach to programming serves the entire community and meets the full range of human needs. They currently encompass 23 different programs and one affiliated ministry that cover housing and homelessness, immigration and refugee services, children and family services, health and behavioral health services, justice and employment services, senior services and disaster response services.

The organization's long history in New Orleans gives it deep structural knowledge and a rich network for doing good. The Ursuline nuns began serving the needy in the New Orleans area in 1727. In 1938, Associated Catholic Charities incorporated to coordinate the archdiocese's many service agencies. Renamed Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans in 1996, CCANO is now one of the largest and most active Catholic Charities agencies in the country. CCANO serves the eight civil parishes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany and Washington.

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MISSION

served as Vicar General for the Archdiocese of New Orleans for over a decade, will remain in his role while also continuing his ministry as rector of St. Louis Cathedral and also as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Consecrated Life. Mr. Dirk Wild's title was changed from Chief Financial Officer to Secretary of Administration, and Dr. RaeNell Houston's titled was adjusted to Secretary of Catholic Education and Faith Formation. The ultimate goal, according to Archbishop Checchio, is for the secretaries and vicars to meet with the offices and ministries they oversee and for them to meet together to discuss the work of their vicariates and secretariats.

"Hopefully this will further unite us in our effort to bring Jesus to our people, supporting the work of our parishes and social services agencies," continued the archbishop. "While Father Rodrigue, who is also remaining as pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist in Slidell, will have his own vicariate, I also have asked him to have a relationship with all our offices, as every one of us is meant to evangelize. He will be asking each of us to ask ourselves, 'How does what I do help in our effort to have Jesus's name more known, loved and served?'"

Archbishop Checchio reminded the staff that evangelization is not just something the Church does, but it is who "we are; it's our mission and why she exists."

"This restructuring isn't simply about changing an organizational chart; it's about strengthening our mission of evangelization," said Father Rodrigue. "By bringing together ministries that naturally work together, we can better support our parishes and help everything we do point people toward a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. My hope is that this renewed collaboration will help us proclaim the Gospel with greater joy and invite more people into the life of the Church."

Another new position in the organizational chart is the role of Youth Protection Executive and reports directly to the archbishop. That position is held by Sister of Mount Carmel Mary Ellen Wheelahan who led the archdiocese's Safe Environment program for many years before taking on this new position. The new organizational chart also clearly defines the lines of communication and oversight empowering the Vicars and Secretaries to work directly with office and ministry leaders to make ministerial and administrative decisions.

"In a sense, we are in a season of renewal," said Archbishop Checchio.

"In this Jubilee Year of St. Francis let us remember how he heard God speaking to him in prayer, saying 'rebuild my Church'. You and I have to do the same here. God has chosen us to rebuild His Church here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and to do that, we must be people of prayer so that everything we do is done through a lens of evangelization: helping the faithful in the archdiocese to believe and personally respond with all their hearts in a commitment of love to the very person of Jesus Christ."

Find the complete organizational chart online at nolacatholic.org and on p. 17 of this edition.

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Living Liturgically in the Month of August

Staff Report



The painting above the sanctuary at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis King of France illustrates St. Louis IX, calling for the seventh Crusade. The stained glass windows of the cathedral that bears his name depict scenes from his holy life.

Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Aug. 22

The Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on Aug. 22. It honors Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth, sharing in the royal majesty of Jesus Christ. Pope Pius XII established this feast day in 1954 through his encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam*. In 1969 Pope Paul VI moved the date to Aug. 22 to be eight days after the Solemnity of the Assumption (Aug. 15) to illustrate how Mary's bodily assumption leads to her coronation as Queen of Heaven.

This memorial honoring Mary's queenship has roots in Scripture – even from the Old Testament. Throughout the Old Testament we read of the influence of the king's mother in various courts. Then in the New Testament, we hear in the Angel Gabriel announce to Mary at the Annunciation that her son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. Then, at the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." During his public ministry, Jesus's first public miracle at the Wedding Feast at Cana is a direct result of Mary's words, "Do whatever he tells you to do," showing us that Mary always leads us to her Son.

Celebrate the memorial by:

- Attending Mass.
- Praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.
- Reading the Gospel accounts of the Annunciation and Visitation in the Gospel of Luke.
- Praying Mary's Magnificat.
- Praying the Angelus – a traditional prayer that commemorates the Incarnation– when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Taking its name from the Latin word angelus, meaning angel, from the opening line: "The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary…" it is traditionally prayed three times a day – at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. as a reminder to pause a pray for God's will in your life.

Feast of St. Louis King of France, Patron of the Archdiocese of New Orleans
Aug. 25

Saint Louis IX, King of France reigned as the King of France from 1226 until his death in 1270. Born in 1214, he ascended to the throne at the age of 12, leading to his mother ruling as regent. From that time, he developed a true love and respect for his mother – a key relationship as he began his own family.

As King of France, he was known for ruling with justice and for making important decisions prayerfully. He was known for his protection of the clergy and enforcement of laws against blasphemy. He implemented significant reforms in the French legal system, established institutions such as the Sorbonne and monasteries, led crusades and left a lasting impact on medieval France's economic and political landscape. Saint Louis is known for his patronage of the arts and influence on Gothic art and architecture.

He was canonized as a saint in 1297 and is known as the patron saint of France; the French monarchy; barbers; construction workers; difficult marriages; distillers; embroiderers; hair stylists; parenthood and parents of large families; prisoners; sculptors; sick people; soldiers; stone masons; architecture; the Third Order of St. Francis; the Archdiocese of New Orleans; and the Archdiocese of Saint Louis.

Celebrate the feast day by:

- Attending Mass at Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France in New Orleans or St. Louis, King of France Parish in Metairie.
- Learning more about the life of Saint Louis online at nolacatholic.org/livingliturgically.
- Donating to or volunteering at a homeless shelter or food pantry to help the poor.
- Making a visit or contribution to a local hospital or home for the aged.
- Reflecting and praying with your family on living God's will in each station of life.



Living Liturgically - Saints Monica and Augustine

Memorial of St. Monica, *Aug. 27*
Memorial of St. Augustine, *Aug. 28*

Saint Monica was raised in a Christian home in North Africa in the 4th century. She was given in marriage to a pagan Roman man named Patricius who was known to have a violent temper. In her marriage to him, as well as in the challenging relationship she had with her mother-in-law, she became a deeply devout woman.

Monica and Patricius had three children and though she was Christian, her husband refused to allow them to be baptized, causing her great distress. Though Monica endured her own suffering, she prayed fervently years for the conversion of her family.

Her eldest son, Augustine, was the most wayward of her children and caused her the most grief. It is said that Monica prayed for nearly 20 years for Augustine's conversion, and when Augustine began following heretical sects while living in Milan, she followed him. Monica became friends with the Bishop of Milan, Saint Ambrose. The holy bishop Saint Ambrose comforted her, saying, "The son of these tears of yours shall not perish!" and he was instrumental in Augustine's conversion to Christianity.

Augustine was baptized shortly before her death, but not before they had spent peace-filled, joyous days together, discussing the mysteries of God, whom they loved so much. Additionally, through her persistence in prayer and good example, her husband, Patricius also became a Christian shortly before his death.

Augustine's intelligence, conviction and faith led to him being ordained a priest and later becoming Bishop of Hippo. He is known for his theological masterpieces, Confessions and The City of God and over 350 of his sermons are preserved.

Saint Augustine died in 430 and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1298 by Pope Boniface VIII. He was named alongside Saint Ambrose, who had given comfort to Augustine's mother Monica and influenced Augustine's conversion, Saint Jerome and Pope Gregory the Great as one of the first four original Latin Doctors of the Church. Saint Augustine is considered the patron saint of brewers, printers, theologians and a number of cities and dioceses.

Saint Monica died in 387 but not before witnessing God answer her prayers through the conversions of her husband and her son. Her patience and kindness became a source of encouragement to other unhappy housewives during her life and continued to be a source of solace for struggling wives and mothers after her death.

Saint Monica is the patron saint of mothers, difficult marriages and conversions.

You can observe the memorials of St. Monica and St. Augustine in many ways including:

- Attending Mass.
- Inviting those who do not attend Mass regularly to join you for Sunday Mass.
- Praying for family members who have left the Church through the intercession of St.Monica.
- Praying for the conversion of hearts of those you do not know.
- Praying for mothers of difficult children.
- Praying for wives who experience abuse.
- Reading one of St. Augustine's many writings or sermons.
- Learning more about and planning a visit to St. Augustine Church in the Treme neighborhood of New Orleans.
- Learning more about the mission of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans.

Saints Monica and Augustine, pray for us!

Three Prayers to Saint Monica

Blessed Monica, mother of Saint Augustine,
we give thanks to our Father in Heaven
Who looked with mercy upon your tears
over your wayward son.

His conversion and heroic sanctification
were the fruit of your prayers.

Dear Saint Monica,
we now ask you to pray with us
for all those sons and daughters
that have wandered away from God,
and to add your prayers to those of all mothers
who are worried over their children.

Pray also for us that,
following your example, we may,
in the company of our children,
one day enjoy the eternal vision of our Father
in Heaven.

Amen.

Dear Saint Monica, troubled wife and mother,
many sorrows pierced your heart during your
lifetime, yet you never despaired or lost faith.

With confidence, persistence and profound
faith,you prayed daily for the conversion
of your beloved husband, Patricius,
and your beloved son, Augustine.

Grant me that same fortitude, patience and
trust in the Lord.

Intercede for me, dear Saint Monica, for

(*mention your petition here)*

and grant me the grace to accept His will in all
things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen

Dear Saint Monica,
you were once the mournful mother of a
prodigal son. Your faithfulness to prayer
brought you and your son so close to God that
you are now with him in eternity.

By your intercession and God's grace, your son
Saint Augustine became a great and venerable
Saint of the Church. Please take my request to
God with the same fervor and persistence with
which you prayed for your own son.

(Mention your intentions here)

With your needs, worries and anxieties, you
threw yourself on the mercy and providence of
God. Through sorrow and pain, you constantly
devoted yourself to God. Pray for me that I
might join you in such a deep faith in God's
goodness and mercy.

Above all, dear Saint Monica, pray for me that
I may, like your son, turn from my sin and
become a great saint for the glory of God.

Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
Office of Marriage and Family Life

2026 Marriage Preparation Program Calendar

Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreats

Cost: $350/couple

JANUARY 9 - 11 FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1 MAY 29 - 31
JULY 10 - 12 AUGUST 21 - 23 NOVEMBER 13 -15

A weekend of in-depth, private, personal marriage preparation within the context of Catholic faith and values.

All 2026 Engaged Encounter Retreats are at the W.J. Kelley Retreat Center Bay St. Louis, MS.

Days for the Engaged

Saturdays 9 AM - 4 PM
Cost: $85/session

SESSION A	SESSION B
JANUARY 10, COVINGTON MOST HOLY TRINITY	JANUARY 24, NEW ORLEANS CYO BUILDING
MARCH 7, HARAHAN ST. RITA	MARCH 21, MANDEVILLE MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE
MARCH 28, NEW ORLEANS CYO BUILDING	APRIL 18, TBD LOCATION TBD
MAY 2, NEW ORLEANS CHANCERY CONFERENCE ROOM	MAY 16, NEW ORLEANS CYO BUILDING
JUNE 6, NEW ORLEANS CYO BUILDING	JUNE 13, NEW ORLEANS CHANCERY CONFERENCE ROOM
AUGUST 8, NEW ORLEANS CYO BUILDING	AUGUST 22, HARAHAN ST. RITA
SEPTEMBER 12, NEW ORLEANS CHANCERY CONFERENCE ROOM	SEPTEMBER 19, COVINGTON MOST HOLY TRINITY
OCTOBER 10, METAIRIE WILLWOODS COMMUNITY BUILDING	OCTOBER 24, NEW ORLEANS CYO BUILDING

A two-day series of workshops held on separate Saturdays that help engaged couples explore how the Church understands and imagines the Sacrament of Marriage through both the interpersonal aspects (Session A) and the couples' relationship with God (Session B).

ECHO Retreat for Engaged Couples

Cost: $450/couple

FEBRUARY 6 - 8 MARYHILL RENEWAL CENTER | PINEVILLE, LA

Register at: echocommunity.us/for-engaged-couples

A weekend retreat by the ECHO Community that uses St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body to help couples understand marriage in the Catholic Church.

Special Marriage Preparation

Cost: $85/couple

JANUARY 24, NEW ORLEANS
CYO BUILDING

MARCH 21, MANDEVILLE
MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE

MAY 16, NEW ORLEANS
CYO BUILDING

SEPTEMBER 19, COVINGTON
MOST HOLY TRINITY

For couples who have already been married civilly and are now getting married in the Catholic Church (convalidation) or have already been living together for a substantial period of time.

Register online at nolacatholic.org/mfl, then click on "Getting Married"

Questions? (504) 861-6243 • mfl@arch-no.org

Living the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

- Matthew 11:28

Our Lord invites us to draw close to Him in the Blessed Sacrament and to "cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Spending time in adoration can sometimes be difficult, seeking to understand the Lord's voice. To help support you in prayer as we continue to live our consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we have developed a guide for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, along with a list of Scripture verses to help guide your time with Jesus that can be found online at https://nolacatholic.org/eucharisticadoration. On this page, there is also a parish contact list for those wanting to learn how to become a committed adorer.

The following listing of perpetual adoration chapels and scheduled times of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at churches throughout the archdiocese was updated and accurate as of June 1, 2026. Please visit the parish website directly to confirm current adoration times before visiting.

Deanery I - Cathedral Deanery (New Orleans)

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos — 1st Friday after 7 a.m. Mass through 8 a.m.
Corpus Christi-Epiphany — Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Immaculate Conception (Baronne St.) — Sundays, 7–7:30 p.m; 1st Fridays, 8–11:45 a.m.
St. David — 1st Fridays at 11 a.m.; every other Friday in the Day Chapel at 6:30 p.m.

Deanery II - City Park-Gentilly

Mary Queen of Vietnam — Thursdays, 3–6 p.m.
Our Lady of the Rosary (New Orleans) — Every other Thursday, 6–7 p.m.
St. Anthony of Padua, New Orleans — Fridays, 9–11:15 a.m.
St. Dominic — Perpetual Adoration
St. Martin de Porres — Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
St. Maria Goretti — Thursdays, 9 a.m.–Noon
St. Paul the Apostle — 1st Fridays, 8 a.m.–Noon
St. Pius X, New Orleans — Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 6 a.m.–9 p.m.; Wednesday, 6 a.m.–3 p.m.
St. Raymond-St. Leo the Great — Thursdays, 6–7 p.m.

Deanery III - Uptown

Blessed Trinity — Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–Noon
Good Shepherd Parish: Basilica of St. Stephen — Tuesdays, 4:45–5:45 p.m.; *St. Henry's*, Thursdays, 9 a.m.–Noon
Holy Name of Jesus — Monday, 6 a.m.–10 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.–11 p.m.; Wednesday, 5 a.m.–11 p.m.; Thursday, 6 a.m.–10 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi — Tuesdays, 5–6 p.m.; Fridays, 8–9 a.m.
St. Patrick, New Orleans — Monday–Friday, Noon–1 p.m.

Deanery IV - East Jefferson

Divine Mercy — Perpetual Adoration
Our Lady of Divine Providence — Perpetual Adoration
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Kenner — Perpetual Adoration
St. Agnes — Wednesdays after 8:30 a.m. Mass for one hour
St. Benilde — Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–10:00 p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena — Perpetual Adoration
St. Christopher — Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–Noon
St. Clement of Rome — Perpetual Adoration
St. Edward the Confessor — Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m.–10 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier — Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.; Fridays 7 a.m. through Sunday 6 p.m.
St. Jerome — Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; 1st Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
St. Mary Magdalen — Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m.; Sundays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
St. Matthew the Apostle — Thursdays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
St. Philip Neri — Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.; 1st Fridays, 6:45–8:45 a.m.; Lent/Advent, 6:45–8:45 a.m.
St. Rita, Harahan — Perpetual Adoration

Deanery V - St. John-St. Charles

Ascension of Our Lord — Perpetual Adoration
Holy Family, Luling — 1st Friday Adoration in Church, 5–6 p.m.; Wednesdays in Lent/Advent, 5–6 p.m.
Our Lady of Grace — 1st Fridays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.; Lent, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus — Wednesdays, 3–6 p.m.
St. Anthony of Padua, Luling — 4th Wednesday of the month, 7 a.m.–4 p.m.
St. Charles Borromeo — Perpetual Adoration
St. Joan of Arc — Tuesdays, 3–5:30 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, Edgard — Holy Days of Obligation only
St. Mark — Perpetual Adoration
St. Michael the Archangel — 1st Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
St. Peter, Reserve — 1st Wednesday of the month, 1–4 p.m.; *St. Hubert* — 3rd Thursday of the month, 4–6 p.m.

Deanery VI - West Bank

Christ the King — Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m.; 1st Fridays, 7–8 p.m.
Immaculate Conception, Marrero — 1st Fridays, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
St. John Paul II — Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Westwego — Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.; 1st Fridays, 9–10 a.m.
St. Agnes Le Thi Thanh — 1st Sundays, 3–4 p.m.
St. Anthony, Lafitte — Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–Noon; 1st Fridays, 7–8 p.m.
St. Cletus — Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–Midnight
Mary Help of Christians — Wednesdays, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
St. Joachim — 1st Fridays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
St. Joseph the Worker — 1st Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 9–10 a.m.
St. Martha — 1st Fridays, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Visitation of Our Lady — 2nd Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.; 4th Thursdays, 9 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Deanery VII - Algiers-Plaquemines

All Saints — Thursdays after 6:30 a.m. Mass, last 10 minutes of Adoration
Holy Name of Mary — Tuesdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m. and 5:30–6 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Belle Chasse — 1st Fridays, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle — Tuesday–Thursday, 9a.m.–8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
St. Patrick, Port Sulphur — Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Deanery VIII - St. Bernard

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Chalmette — Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Wednesday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

Deanery IX - West St. Tammany-Washington

Holy Family, Franklinton — Thursdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m.; 1st Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Mary Queen of Peace — Thursdays, "Parents in Prayer," 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; 1st Fridays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Most Holy Trinity — 1st Fridays, 9:15 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Our Lady of the Lake — Perpetual Adoration
St. Anselm — 1st Fridays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
St. Jane de Chantal — 1st Wednesdays, 4:45–5:30 p.m.; 1st Thursdays in Spanish, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.; 1st Fridays, 8:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, Folsom — Adoration Chapel: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 7–11 a.m. In Church: Fridays, 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
St. Peter, Covington — Perpetual Adoration

Deanery X - East St. Tammany-Washington

Annunciation — Thursdays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes, Slidell — Perpetual Adoration
Sacred Heart, Lacombe — Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–2:45 p.m.
St. Genevieve — Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
St. John of the Cross — Wednesdays, 8 a.m.–5:45 p.m.
St. Luke the Evangelist — Perpetual Adoration
St. Margaret Mary — Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. through Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Sts. Peter and Paul — Perpetual Adoration

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us and on the whole world!



Mujer, qué grande es tu fe: que se cumpla lo que deseas



Fr. Manuel
SOLORZANO, O.P.

20° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
Mateo 15: 21-28
16 de agosto de 2026

Queridos hermanos:La Palabra de Dios de este domingo nos presenta un mensaje hermoso y exigente: el amor de Dios no tiene fronteras. Él no excluye a nadie; su salvación está abierta a todos los pueblos. Lo único que pide es un corazón que crea, confíe y persevere.

Aunque en el mundo siguen existiendo barreras de cultura, idioma, nacionalidad, condición social o manera de pensar, Cristo nos recuerda que el Reino de Dios está abierto a todos los que se acercan a Él con fe sincera.

En la primera lectura, el profeta Isaías anuncia que también los extranjeros que buscan al Señor serán acogidos: "mi templo será casa de oración para todos los pueblos". Dios quiere reunir a todos sus hijos sin distinción. Esta lectura nos invita a preguntarnos si nuestras comunidades son verdaderos espacios de acogida, donde cada persona pueda sentirse recibida y acompañada.

El salmo proclama: "Que te alaben, Señor, todos los pueblos; que todos los pueblos te aclamen". Toda la creación está llamada a bendecir al Señor. Este canto nos recuerda la misión de la Iglesia: anunciar a Cristo para que todos descubran la alegría del Evangelio.

En el Evangelio, Jesús se encuentra con una mujer cananea, extranjera para Israel, que suplica por su hija: "Señor, Hijo de David, ten compasión de mí". Aunque al principio Jesús guarda silencio y sus palabras parecen duras, ella no se ofende ni se marcha. Con humildad responde: "también los perritos comen las migajas que caen de la mesa de sus amos". Entonces Jesús alaba su fe: "Mujer, qué grande es tu fe!", y su hija queda curada.

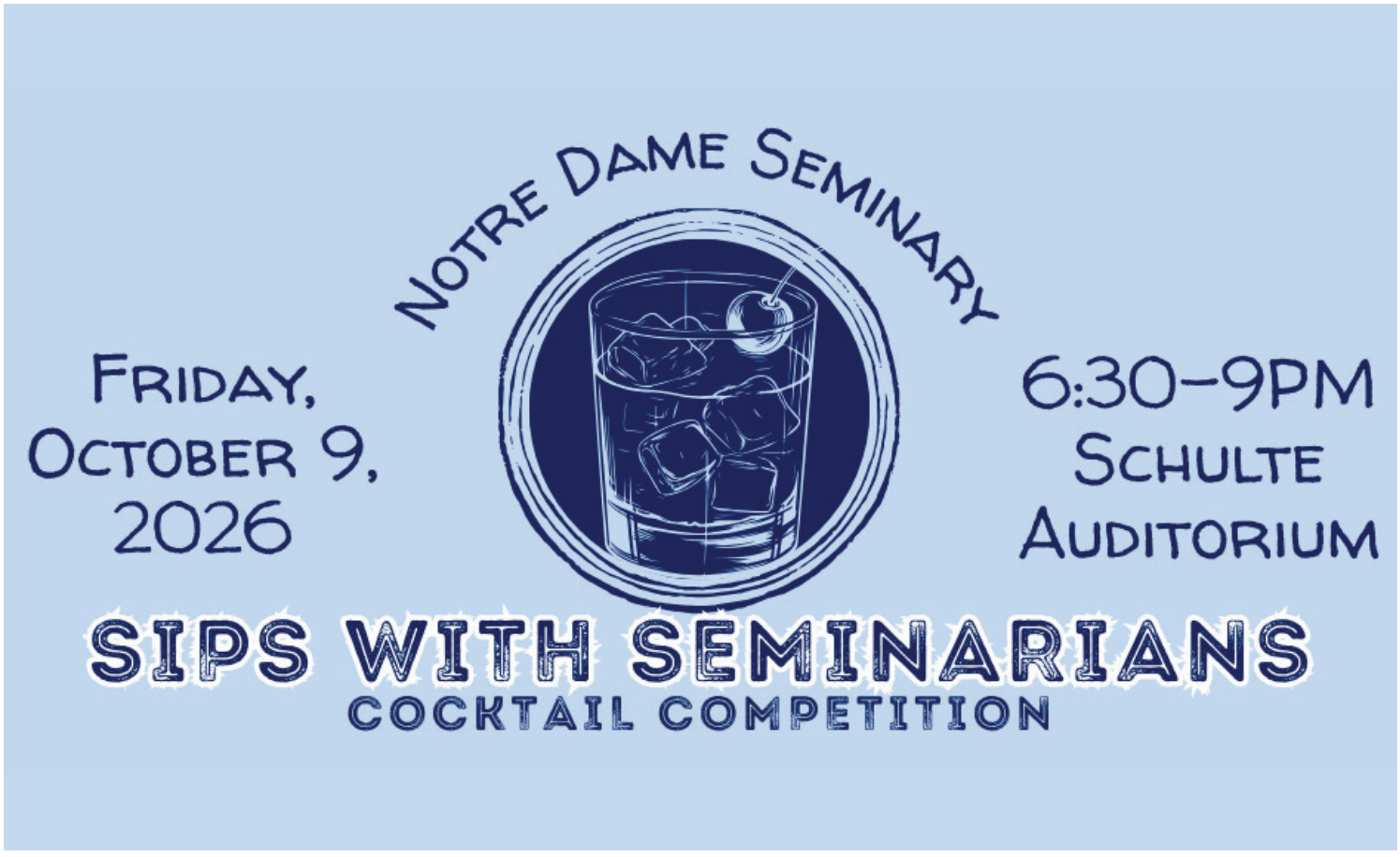
Este pasaje revela que la verdadera pertenencia al Reino no depende del origen, sino de la fe. La mujer cananea nos enseña a perseverar cuando Dios parece guardar silencio, a orar con confianza y a permanecer humildes.
También nosotros pedimos por la salud, la familia, el trabajo, la Iglesia o nuestro país, y a veces sentimos que Dios no responde. Pero su silencio nunca significa ausencia; muchas veces nos invita a crecer en la confianza y a purificar nuestra fe.

Las lecturas de este domingo nos dejan un mensaje claro: Dios quiere salvar a todos y responde a quienes se acercan a Él con fe humilde y perseverante. Que nadie se sienta excluido de su amor, y que nosotros no excluyamos a nadie de nuestra acogida, oración o comunidad.

1.Permanece firme mi fe cuando Dios parece guardar silencio?
2. Sé pedir con humildad y confianza, aunque la respuesta tarde en llegar?
3. Acogo a todos con el respeto y amor de Cristo?
4. Qué barreras debo derribar para amar de manera más universal y fraterna?

Hermanos, aprendamos de la mujer cananea. Su humildad, confianza y perseverancia tocaron el corazón de Jesús. Pidamos al Señor que aumente nuestra fe para seguir buscándolo aun en la oscuridad, y que nuestras comunidades reflejen siempre el corazón de Cristo: abierto, misericordioso y acogedor.

Que la Santísima Virgen María, mujer de fe inquebrantable, nos acompañe y nos enseñe a confiar siempre en el Señor. Amén.



Archdiocese of New Orleans Organization Chart

Archbishop of New Orleans
Most Reverend James F. Checchio, J.C.D., M.B.A

Notre Dame Seminary
Very Reverend Joshua Rodrigue

St. Joseph Seminary College
Very Reverend Matthew Clark, O.S.B.

Judicial Vicar
Very Reverend Peter Akpoghiran, J.C.D.

Youth Protection Executive
Sister Mary Ellen Wheelahan, O.Carm.

Safe Environment Office

Chancellor
Very Reverend Peter Akpoghiran, J.C.D.

Archives and Records

Victim's Assistance Coordinator

Vicar General
Very Reverend Patrick Williams

Vicar for Finance
Very Reverend Patrick Carr

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
Respect Life Office

Secretariat of Administration
Accounting
Aspiring Scholars
Building Office
Catholic Community Foundation
Cemeteries
Compliance and Parish Accounting
Human Resources
Information Technology
Legal
Property and Building Management
Risk Management/Insurance
School Food Services

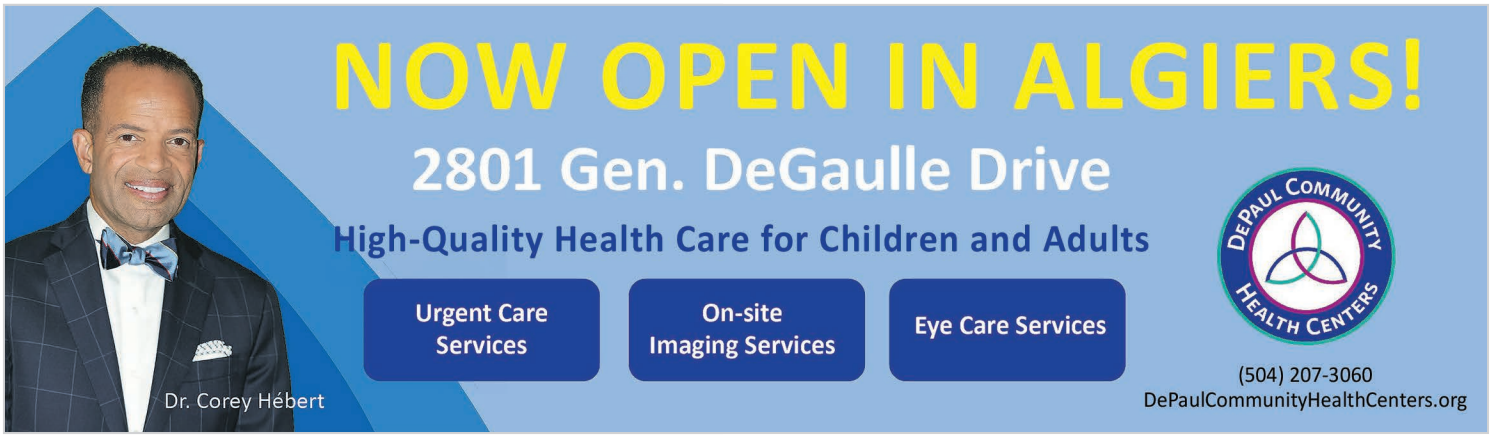
Vicariate for Evangelization and Communication
Communications
Clarion Herald
Newman Center
Tulane Catholic
Pontifical Mission Societies

Vicariate for Pastoral Life and Planning
Archdiocesan Spirituality Center
Black Catholic Ministries
The Cenacle on the Lake
Center of Jesus the Lord
Catholic Counseling
CYO/Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Camp Abbey
Deaf Apostolate
Ecumenical Office
Filipino Catholic Ministry
Hispanic Apostolate
Marriage and Family Life
Project Lazarus
Second Harvest Food Bank
Stella Maris
Vietnamese Catholic Ministry
Worship Office

Vicariate for Clergy and Religious
Priest Personnel
Permanent Diaconate
Episcopal Liaison for Religious
St. John Vianney Villa
Vocations

Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation
Office of Catholic Schools
Office of Faith Formation

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS





"An Evening in Wine Country"

A Gala Benefitting The Cenacle on the Lake, The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center

Friday, August 28, 2026

Chateau Golf & Country Club

Enjoy Chef John Folse & Company's exquisite four-course seated dinner.
6:00 PM Cocktails/7:15 PM Dinner
$150.00 per person
2026 Legacy Award Honoring Linda Sunseri

To purchase tickets, please visit onecau.se/cenacle or call (504) 267-9600.

THE CENACLE
on the lake

A Wife's Obedience: Surrender that Saves the Family



Charla
MISSE
NOLACatholic Parenting

It has been on my mind that I should write about obedience. Specifically, wives' obedience to their husbands. This can be a challenging issue because, in our great nation, women are given the same freedoms and rights as that of men. Equality is appropriate and correct. Obedience, however, is different. It is not an issue of equality, but a call to practice a virtuous life.

The First Sorrowful Mystery, the Agony in the Garden, reflects on Christ's anguish before His crucifixion and His surrender to the will of the Father. The Fruit of this Mystery is obedience to God's will. Our Lord and Savior practiced rightly ordered obedience at the cost of His life but to the reward of Eternal Life for others.

Our holy Catholic priests, monks and sisters also follow a structure of authority that demonstrates perfect obedience to their superiors. In following the rules of their Orders, which all include vows of obedience, they quietly show us how to practice discipline in our own lives: with humility and trust.

Thus, rightly ordered obedience is a virtue we should all strive to emulate. In the Holy Bible, regarding wives and husbands, we are instructed in Ephesians 5:21-24: "Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything."

Emphasizing this, throughout scripture and tradition, we find examples of Our Blessed Mother herself showing obedience to God's will and obedience to her husband; she was perfectly humble and trusting. In this way, she allowed Saint Joseph the dignity and honor of leading and protecting the Holy Family just as our merciful and omniscient Lord had designed.

We are so blessed! Our Lord ordained a structure for all families that gives the husband both authority over and responsibility for his family. As the head of the household, the head of the domestic church, husbands can protect and save their families.

This concept took time for me to understand because women, including me, worked hard to earn respect in their education and careers. It took dedication, perseverance and focus. So, when I later had a husband and child, I often felt I "deserved" to make decisions for myself and the family. And, like many other caring and respectful men, my husband allowed me to usurp his authority in many ways. I see now, however, the disorder and unnecessary strife we had in our home as a result.

For us, there was a shift when I asked my husband to lead the family prayers, rather than I had for years, because he was the head of our household. Subtle but as days passed, things transformed. I learned to surrender more things, and I think my husband felt more respect and love. Graces flowed and our lives began to align with God's design.

Now that I better understand and accept my role as wife, obedient and supportive to my husband, there is increasing peace and joy.

I know it is hard for anyone to submit to the will of another when you question whether their choices are correct; I still make mistakes. I think the key, though, is not to question the correctness of their choice, but to trust that God will handle everything if you submit as we are taught. True submission to the husband, especially when it is difficult, brings the desired outcome: peace in your heart and pleasing behavior to God.

When properly ordered and directed toward God's greater good, practicing the submission of one's own will paradoxically develops self-mastery, humility and courage. I've found that you do not "lose" anything. Indeed, you gain so much more than you can imagine, especially in difficult circumstances.

So today, I humbly say "Welcome Home" to wives in the hope that you will find peace and rest in the Catholic Church and come to recreate that same order and holiness in your own home through the practice of obedience.

Charla Misse *feels blessed to be a wife and mother and to work with her husband while serving others as a Catholic financial advisor. Things that make her happiest are laughing with her family, exercising in the outdoors, visiting the Adoration Chapel, and praying with her Lectio Divina group.*

Save the Date: September 16

Annual Archdiocesan Evening of Confession

Archbishop Checchio has asked all parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans to continue the tradition of the annual fall Evening of Confession on the Wednesday closest to the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross. This "Evening of Confession" as it is known throughout the archdiocese was begun by Archbishop-emeritus Gregory Aymond in 2015.

For resources including a helpful guide for how to go to confession and an Examination of Conscience visit nolacatholic.org/confession online.

"God's love for us is always bountiful, and He desires us to turn away from sin, be forgiven and be faithful to the Gospel."
-Archbishop Checchio



Around the Archdiocese - Calendar Listings

Co-ed Grief Retreat, Aug. 22-23, *The Cenacle on the Lake, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie.* Co-ed Grief Retreat with Jewell Bayhi. Register (504)267-9604 or neworleansretreats.com.

De La Salle Summer Linen Alumni Party, Maroon & White Linen Night, Aug. 22, patron party 6–7 p.m., gala 7–10 p.m., *De La Salle High School, 5300 St.Charles, Ave., New Orleans.* Tickets and sponsorship opportunities https://delasallenola.com/summer-alumni-party/

Feast of St. Louis King of France, Patron of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Aug. 25

An Evening in Wine Country, Aug. 28, 6 p.m., *Chateau Country Club , 3600 Chateau Blvd., Kenner.* Gala benefitting The Cenacle on the Lake,The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center. Chef John Folse and Company four-course seated dinner, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7:15 p.m. dinner. $150 per person. 2026 Legacy Award Honoring Linda Sunseri. Purchase tickets, ONECAUSE/CENACLE or call (504)267-9600.

God's Special Children, Families and friends Mass, Sept. 6, 2-3 p.m., *St. Francis Xavier Church, Metairie Road, Metairie.*

Labor Day, Sept. 7 - Archdiocesan and parish offices closed

Two days of Prayer with Sister Judy Gomila, MSC and Pattie Gros Harris, PT, "Make Melody in Your Hearts to the Lord, Sept. 9–10, *The Cenacle on the Lake, 5500 St. Mary St.Metairie.* Overnight accommodations and meals available. Register, neworleansretreats.com or (504)267-9604.

Bishop Fernand Cheri, III Gospel Music Festival 2026, "Healing Hearts Through the Power of Praise," Sept. 12, 5 p.m., *St.Martin de Porres Community Center, 2241 Mendez St., New Orleans.* Admission is free with donation for Second Harvest Food Bank, Vendors, concessions stands and security provided.

St. Michael Blue Rose Ball, Sept. 12, 6–11 p.m., *Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave.* Entertainment, cocktails, dinner, dancing, silent and live auction. Individual tickets $225, sponsorships available. Contact, Jodie Gallagher, jgallagher@stmichaelspecialschool.com.

Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Sept. 13 - observed in the United States

Archdiocese-wide Evening of Confession, Sept. 16, 5–6:30 p.m. – all parishes in the archdiocese. Visit nolacatholic.org/confession for more information.

The Bible, Bunco and Bubbles, Sept. 23, 6 p.m., *The Cenacle on the Lake, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie.* Join to reflect on selected Scripture passages, play Bunco and share snacks. Please note –attendees must be 21 or over.Limited seating. Register soon. $25/person & $40/couple. Register: https://neworleansretreats.com/the-bible-bunco-and-bubbles-september-23-2026 or call(504)267-9604.

NOLA Catholic Youth Conference,"Made For More," Sept. 26. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., *Jesuit High School, 4133 Banks St., New Orleans.* Seventh–twelfth grade students are invited to attend, contact your parish/school group leader to register.

Notre Dame Seminary Institute for Lay Ecclessial Ministry Open House and Sips with Seminarians, Oct. 9 beginning at 5 p.m., *Notre Dame Seminary, 3901 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans.* Open House and Enrichment Night followed by Sips with Seminarians in Schulte Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register for the open house email layprograms@nds.edu. To purchase tickets for Sips with Seminarians or to sponsor a team visit nds.edu/sips.

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Around the Archdiocese in Pictures



Photo courtesy of Cabrini High School

Ten student leaders from Cabrini High School recently returned from the inaugural Cabrini High School Leadership Summit at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, Colorado, where they experienced an unforgettable week of prayer, leadership formation, service and fellowship at one of the most significant places in the Cabrinian world. The Leadership Summit is one component of Cabrini High School's growing commitment to developing faith-filled leaders at every stage of a student's journey. The initiative began this summer with the inaugural Cabrini Leadership Academy for rising seventh-grade girls and will continue throughout the 2026-2027 school year with a monthly leadership speaker series for all Cabrini students. Together, these programs create a comprehensive leadership formation experience rooted in the values and charism of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. In the photo above, Cabrini High School students stand before the 22-foot statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus after climbing the 373 steps to the top of Mount of the Sacred Heart at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, Colorado.



Photo courtesy of St. Benilde Parish

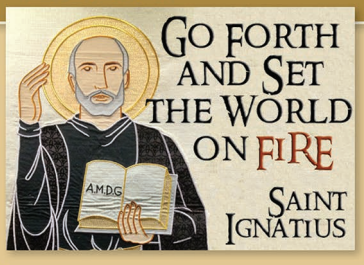
In preparation for the new school year, St. Benilde Parish and School Leadership gathered for their annual retreat, taking time for prayer, reflection and fellowship as they begin a new year of ministry.



Photo courtesy of the Office of Vocations

Seminarians Ethan Camet and Christian Flick, pictured here with Vocations Director Father David Ducote, departed New Orleans in July for Rome where they continue their theological studies at the Pontifical North American College.

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Friday, SEPTEMBER 18th - 6:00 pm
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Around the Archdiocese in Pictures



Photo credit:Kim Roberts

The Catholic Community Foundation hosted a Parish Stewardship Day of Development on July 30 at the Notre Dame Seminary. Archbishop James Checchio opened with a prayer and greeted attendees reminding them stewardship is necessary to support Jesus and do His will and as disciples, "we are called to increase the talents He has given us."



Photo courtesy of St. Bernard Church

On Aug. 1, Archbishop Checchio celebrated Vigil Mass at the third oldest parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, St. Bernard Church. St. Bernard was established in 1787 to minister to the Islenos community who settled the area and continues that legacy of ministry today



Photo courtesy of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Pearl River

On Aug. 2, Archbishop Checchio celebrated Mass with the parish community at Saints Peter and Paul in Pearl River and then greeted the people as they left Mass



Photo courtesy of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Slidell

On Aug. 2, Archbishop Checchio celebrated Mass at St. Margaret Mary Parish. After Mass, the archbishop lead the back-to-school "Blessing of the Backpacks" for all the school children preparing for the new school year.

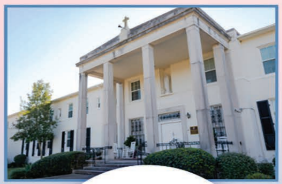
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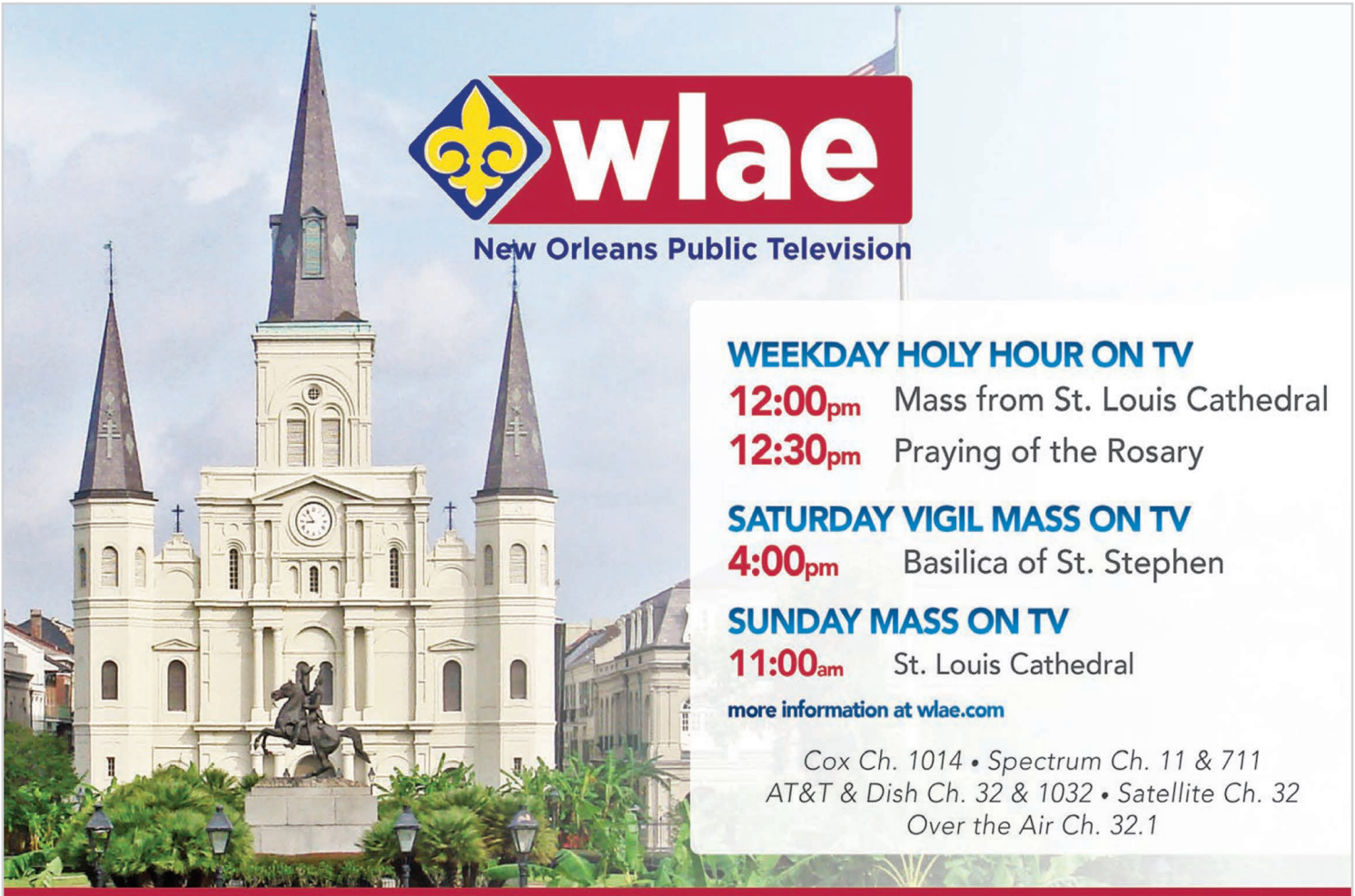
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