

# NolaCatholic e-Bulletin



February 15, 2017

## NEWS

We have a new name and a new format. We no longer publish the "Oracle".

- \* **New Name** - NolaCatholic e-Bulletin
- \* **New Format** - The e-Bulletin has the following categories:
  - Section 1)** Message from the Archbishop (as in the past) and calendar
  - Section 2)** Action Requested - a section that requires action from every pastor or parish secretary
  - Section 3)** Parish Publicity - invitations to events in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. It is written so that it can be easily copied for your parish bulletin.
  - Section 4)** General news around the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

We hope this new format is helpful to you. In the past, the Oracle had become too long, too wordy and awkward to read-so we will try this new approach!

Thanks...suggestions are welcomed.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

### Deaths

We are sorry to inform you of the death of Abbot Patrick Regan, O.S.B. He died peacefully February 8, 2017. Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at Saint Joseph Abbey. Please keep Abbot Regan, his family and all who mourn his death in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

Sr. Mary Alice LeBlanc, C.S.J., a Sister of St. Joseph died February 3, 2017, in Wichita, Kansas. Sister Mary Alice entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille in New Orleans in 1948 and taught for a number of years in elementary schools and congregation academies in New Orleans and New Roads, Louisiana. She retired in 2008 and made the prayer apostolate her ministry. The Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, February 7, 2017, in Wichita, Kansas. Let us pray for Sr. Mary Alice, her family and the Sisters of St. Joseph. May she rest in peace.

### Official Appointment

Dr. RaeNell Houston, as Superintendent of Catholic Schools, effective July 1, 2017. We look forward to the leadership of Dr. Houston. You may download the complete press release [here](#).

### Announcements

- Bishop Cheri is in the hospital and will undergo a surgical heart procedure tomorrow. Please remember him in prayer.
- Please see the attached message ("*The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift.*") of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2017.
- Our office has received several letters of concern regarding crawfish boils, fish fries, etc. on Good Friday. Let us do what we can to remind people of the meaning of Good Friday and to observe fasting and abstinence.

This bulletin is also available on the Archdiocesan website, [www.arch-no.org](http://www.arch-no.org), or [www.nolacatholic.org](http://www.nolacatholic.org)

Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2017

Lenten Retreat in Daily Life- Archdiocesan Spirituality Center

Second Collection for Catholic Charities

Abbey Youth Fest March 25, 2017

Vocation Weekend for High School and College Age Men

Catholic Charities Introduces AmeriCorps Opportunity

Dumb Ox Ministries Presents GARDEN: An Original Love Story

Job Opportunity- Notre Dame Seminary

*Impelled by Christ's call and inspired by the Holy Spirit through the work of the Ninth General Synod, the ministries of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, in union with the Archbishop and with one another, serve the people of the parishes, schools and organizations of the archdiocese in enabling them to encounter Jesus and to witness with joy.*

- Many Religious joined for Mass and lunch on Saturday at St. Joseph's Abbey Church in Covington as we celebrated "World Day for Consecrated Life". Thanks to Sister Beth Fitzpatrick and all those who planned this celebration.
- Due to health reasons, the February 17, 2017, ordination of the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi, Louis F. Kihmeman, has been postponed. He had surgery for diverticulitis. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Please pray for the priests on retreat February 20-24, 2017.
- Christ in the City, a Holy Hour for young adults, will be held at Most Holy Trinity Parish, 501 Holy Trinity Drive, Covington, LA, on February 21, 2017, at 7:00 PM.
- There will be a Legatus Mass at St. Catherine of Siena on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 6:00 PM.
- Notre Dame Seminary will celebrate an Alumni Day on Thursday, February 23, 2017.
- The archdiocesan offices will be closed February 27-28, 2017, in observance of Mardi Gras. We will reopen on March 1, 2017, at 9:00 AM. Have a happy and safe Mardi Gras and a very blessed Lenten season.
- Please pray for our Black Catholics from Southern Louisiana including the Archdiocese of New Orleans who will be gathering for Sankofa, National Black Catholic Congress and A Synod Day of Reflection, on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at Xavier University Center Ballroom beginning at 9:00 AM.
- The Rite of Election will be celebrated at St. Joseph Church, 1802 Tulane Avenue, on Sunday, March 5, 2017, at 3:00 PM. The Rite of Election will also be celebrated at Most Holy Trinity, 501 Holy Trinity Drive, Covington, on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 7:00 PM.

### Mark Your Calendars

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| March 22, 2017    | Confession available in all parishes, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM |
| March 29, 2017    | Confession available in all parishes, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM |
| April 5, 2017     | Confession available in all parishes, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM |
| May 20, 2017      | Transitional Diaconate Ordination                     |
| June 3, 2017      | Priesthood Ordination                                 |
| Sept. 13, 2017    | Confession available in all parishes, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM |
| Sept. 19-21, 2017 | Louisiana Priest Convention in New Orleans            |
| May 19, 2018      | Transitional Diaconate Ordination                     |
| June 2, 2018      | Priesthood Ordination                                 |

### ACTION REQUESTED

Pastors and parish secretaries are asked to please ensure response and follow-up on the items below

- ✓ The Office of Diaconate has two remaining "Information Nights" for inquirers seeking to be considered for formation for the Permanent Diaconate. Attendance at only one is required: Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 PM, Infant Jesus of Prague/Diaconate Center, 700 Maple St., Harvey and Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 PM, Northshore Pastoral Center, 4465 Hwy 190 – East Service Rd., Covington. RSVP to [pdiaconate@arch-no.org](mailto:pdiaconate@arch-no.org) or call the *Office of Diaconate* at 504-861-6329 for more information.
- ✓ The Lenten Morning of Prayer for all priests serving in the Archdiocese of New Orleans will be Thursday, March 16, 2017, 10:00 AM -1:30 PM at St. Maria Goretti Church. Please click [here](#) for more information and the registration form. Registration ends March 9, 2017. For questions, call 504-861-6269 or email [ppersonnel@arch-no.org](mailto:ppersonnel@arch-no.org).

## PARISH PUBLICITY

Announcements below are made available for publicizing to parishioners via placement in parish bulletins, on parish websites and social media, or other appropriate means

### Lenten Retreat in Daily Life-Archdiocesan Spirituality Center

Experience a retreat in daily life during Lent. Pray daily with scripture, meet with a certified spiritual director weekly. Held in two locations:

**Archdiocesan Spirituality Center, 2501 Maine Ave., Metairie:** Opening Session: Sunday, March 5, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 PM (Group Experience)

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Northshore Pastoral Center, 4465 Hwy. 190 E Service Road, Covington**  
Opening Session: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10:30 AM - Noon (Group Experience)

Please register by March 1, 2017, as enrollment is limited to the availability of spiritual directors. Register on the web: <http://asc.arch-no.org> or call (504) 861-3254. Cost is \$40.00 (adjustments can be made) Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

### Second Collection for Catholic Charities

The second collection at all Masses March 11- 12, 2017, will be taken up for Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans. This second collection provides crucial funds that enable Catholic Charities to be a source of hope and help for the poor and needy in our archdiocese.

Donations through this collection enable Catholic Charities to help over 82,000 individuals and families each year. Vulnerable children, struggling families and frail seniors receive basic nutrition, essential health care, education, and case management services. The homeless and unemployed are connected to resources for shelter, care, and employment. Your support also provides emergency relief during times of unforeseen disaster.

### Abbey Youth Fest March 25, 2017

Abbey Youth Fest (AYF), the largest youth event within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, will be held on the grounds of Saint Joseph Abbey. This event is open to teens and young adults ages 13 or older. Its focus is evangelization and vocational discernment. Information and online registration can be found at [www.abbeyyouthfest.com](http://www.abbeyyouthfest.com). Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

### “Chefs’ Charity for Children” Fundraiser to Benefit St. Michael Special School

Some of New Orleans’ best-known and most talented chefs will come together to cook, teach, entertain and serve lunch for local food lovers at the 40th Annual "Chefs' Charity for Children" fundraiser on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Proceeds benefit St. Michael Special School, which educates special needs adults and children of the greater New Orleans area. Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

## PARISH PUBLICITY

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### Vocation Weekend for High School and College Age Men

Come and See Vocation Discernment Weekend for high school juniors and seniors, and college-age men will be held April 7-9, 2017 at St. Joseph Seminary College, Covington, Louisiana. This is an opportunity for men who are interested in the priesthood and who would like to find out more about seminary life. There is no cost for the weekend, but availability is limited on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to register, call the **Archdiocesan Vocation Office** at 504-861-6298 or e-mail [vocations@arch-no.org](mailto:vocations@arch-no.org). Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

### Hispanic Apostolate February Invitations

The Hispanic Apostolate invites you to our Charismatic Mass Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 7:00 PM. The service will be held in Spanish at the Hispanic Apostolate, 2525 Maine Ave. Metairie, LA 70003. Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

The Hispanic Apostolate invites you to our Holy Hour Monday, February 27, 2017, at 7:00 PM. The service will be held in Spanish at the Hispanic Apostolate, 2525 Maine Ave. Metairie, LA 70003. Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

### Hispanic Apostolate March Opportunities

The Hispanic Apostolate invites you to our annual Lenten Retreat Saturday, March 4, 2017, at 9:00 AM. This retreat will give us a chance to reflect on our daily lives and to prepare prayerfully for Holy Week and Easter. The service will be held in Spanish at the Hispanic Apostolate, 2525 Maine Ave., Metairie, LA, 70003. Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

The Hispanic Apostolate invites you to a night of Praise and Worship Saturday, March 11, 2017, at 7:00 PM. Come with all your family and enjoy an evening of worship songs as we join together to praise God. The service will be held in Spanish at the Hispanic Apostolate, 2525 Maine Ave., Metairie, LA, 70003. Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

## NEWS AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Following is news and information of general interest to the local Church

### **Catholic Charities Introduces AmeriCorps Opportunity**

AmeriCorps allows members, recruited from unemployed and previously incarcerated individuals, to make money while serving their community! Members serve at Catholic Charities' Food for Families/Food for Seniors program in Orleans Parish. Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

### **Dumb Ox Ministries Presents GARDEN: An Original Love Story**

Dumb Ox Ministries, in collaboration with Notre Dame Seminary, is proud to present an original, full-stage musical play, "*GARDEN: An Original Love Story*." Seminarians, college students and young professionals are all contributing to this unique, modern-day retelling of the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Show dates are March 16-19, 2017, at Notre Dame Seminary. Seating is limited, so order your tickets today at [dumboxministries.com/garden](http://dumboxministries.com/garden) or call Cortney Robert at 504-304-1280. Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

### **Job Opportunity-Notre Dame Seminary**

The Coordinator of Lay Student Services requires an organized, energetic, self-starter who is able to coordinate lay student services at Notre Dame Seminary. The person in this position will be responsible for coordination and communication for all aspects of lay programs.

Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in Theology or related field, strong administrative skills, computer and digital media literacy, and successful communication skills. This is a full-time position with some evening hours and Saturdays required.

See the full job description by clicking [here](#). Please send cover letter, resume and three professional references to Notre Dame Seminary, c/o Elizabeth Babin [ebabin@nds.edu](mailto:ebabin@nds.edu) by March 1, 2017.



**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2017**  
***"The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift"***

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (*Joel 2:12*), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. *Homily, 8 January 2016*).

Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. *Lk 16:19-31*). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

**1. The other person is a gift**

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful.

The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called *Lazarus*: a name full of promise, which literally means *God helps*. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. *Homily, 8 January 2016*).

Lazarus teaches us that *other persons are a gift*. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

## 2. Sin blinds us

The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man (cf. v. 19). Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called “a rich man”. His opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes. Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities (cf. *Jer* 10:9) and kings (cf. *Jg* 8:26), while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: “He feasted sumptuously every day” (v. 19). In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride (cf. *Homily, 20 September 2013*).

The Apostle Paul tells us that “the love of money is the root of all evils” (*1 Tim* 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 55). Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.

The parable then shows that the rich man’s greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence (cf. *ibid.*, 62).

The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

Looking at this character, we can understand why the Gospel so bluntly condemns the love of money: “No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money” (*Mt* 6:24).

## 3. The Word is a gift

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that “we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it” (*1 Tim* 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls “father” (*Lk* 16:24.27), as a sign that he belongs to God’s people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: “During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony” (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life’s evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them" (v. 29). Countering the rich man's objections, he adds: "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead" (v. 31).

The rich man's real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was *the failure to heed God's word*. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

From the Vatican, 18 October 2016

Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist