

## DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

P.O. Box 3223  
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70602  
(337) 439-7400

*Office of the Bishop*

October 5, 2020  
Monday

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel  
Bishop of Lafayette  
1408 Carmel Drive  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-5215

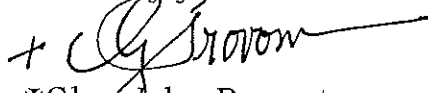
Your Excellency,

Greetings in our Lord! I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Your Excellency and the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Lafayette for your most generous gift to assist with the rebuilding of the Diocese of Lake Charles. As you are already aware, the devastation is significant and will take years to address. We are confident, however, that our Heavenly Father will prosper our work and bless the generosity of so many faithful Catholics, like yourselves, who have extended a helping hand and these needed funds.

Fixed firmly in our hearts and minds is the memory of Bishop Maurice Schexnayder, who established the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron following Hurricane Audrey in 1957. The image of Our Lady, carved in Carrara marble and commissioned by that same cherished Bishop while attending the Second Vatican Council in Rome, was struck by destructive winds and a massive storm surge during the recent hurricane. While the adjacent church regrettably suffered severe damage, I joyfully report that the Shrine still stands. Our Lady prevailed as a reminder of her abiding presence and loving intercession. She will never abandon us, the Catholics of South Louisiana!

From the depth of my heart, thank you! And may Our Lady Star of the Sea be for Your Excellency and the beloved people of the Diocese of Lafayette a constant inspiration and devoted intercessor, as I remain with prayers for your intentions,

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

+   
✠Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles