

SCHOLARSHIP FUND STARTED IN MEMORY  
OF LT. FATHER JOSEPH VERBIS LAFLEUR

With the help of a North Carolina couple, a scholarship fund has now been started in honor of Lt. Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur, a local World War II military chaplain who perished during service to God and his country in 1944. The scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students of Sacred Heart in Ville Platte, which Father Lafleur attended as a boy; to Opelousas Catholic in Opelousas, where Msgr. Colliard helped him to enter the seminary; and Vermilion Catholic in Abbeville, because of Father Lafleur's dedication to the youth of the area during his assignment as associate pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church.

Last year Loretta and Alex Theriot were down from North Carolina for a stay in the home they maintain in Denham Springs. On a visit to a local religious shop they discovered But He Dies Not, a biography on Father Lafleur. As they learned more about Father Lafleur's life and legacy, the Theriot's made a generous contribution to the Father Lafleur Memorial fund and also learned of the efforts to establish an additional scholarship fund in the priest's memory. In October 2011, the Theriot's offered another donation matching up to \$50,000 in local donations. The Friends of Lt. Father Joseph Lafleur continue to seek donations to complete the scholarship fund with a principle amount of \$100,000 and the hope is to have the funds raised over the next year.

Donations can be mailed to Lt. Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur Endowment Fund  
C/O St. Landry Catholic Church  
1020 North Main Street  
Opelousas, LA 70570

Or made out to Father Lafleur's Fund and added to your local church donations.

Mr. and Mrs. Theriot have also generously agreed to donate the funds for the 2015 scholarships. Therefore, the scholarships are scheduled to be awarded this year in May, with the applications due by March 29, 2015, so that they may be reviewed by a committee to select the recipients. The applications process is open to any eighth-grade student who wishes to attend either Sacred Heart School in Ville Platte, Opelousas Catholic in Opelousas, or Vermilion Catholic in Abbeville. The applicants will be judged on:

- A submitted essay expressing his/her knowledge of the life witness of Lt. Father J.V. Lafleur
- Involvement/leadership in his/her church parish, school and community
- Pastor's testimony of the applicant's faith, church involvement, character, values and verification that the applicant is a registered parishioner committed to Mass attendance
- Financial need

Scholarship forms and additional information on the essay portion requirements may be requested by contacting St. Landry Catholic Church in Opelousas at 337-942-6552 or Carrol and Richard Lafleur at 337-948-6130.

# Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Memorial High School Freshman Scholarship

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read application carefully. Provide information and answer all questions fully.
2. Notify your school authorities of having made application for this scholarship grant. Request that the school principal or counselor fully complete the questionnaire contained in the application. Obtain from your school a complete transcript of your academic grades record. The questionnaire and grades record should be placed by the principal or counselor in a sealed envelope and **must be included with your application at the time of filing**. This required information will not be accepted or made part of your application if mailed separately.
3. You may attach up to 5 personal references or recommendations (**one must be from your Pastor**) from additional priests, church youth leaders, teachers, employers, coaches and evidence of awards (academic, community, church, etc.) that you received and personal accomplishments. However, this information including references, which should be submitted in sealed envelopes, **must be included with your application at the time of filing**, and will not be accepted or made part of your application if received separately.
4. Each application with attachments **must be received *IN ITS ENTIRETY* by the Scholarship Committee no later than *April 1, 2016***. Entries received after this date will not be considered.
5. Mail your completed application, following the guidelines specified above, to:

Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Scholarship Committee  
c/o St. Landry Roman Catholic Church  
1020 N. Main Street  
Opelousas, LA 70570

6. Winners of Scholarship grants sponsored by the “Friends of Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur” will be announced in May of 2016. Winners will be immediately notified by mail. Applicants may check the Fr. Lafleur website ( [www.fartherlafleur.org](http://www.fartherlafleur.org) ) for winner postings.