

'Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Special Collection!'

The McNeese State University Archives has acquired the papers of Monsignor Irving A. DeBlanc. The Monsignor, a priest of the diocese of Lake Charles for 66 years, was pastor emeritus of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Msgr. DeBlanc helped design Our Lady Queen of Heaven school and church, Villa Maria Retirement Center, and Consolata Cemetery. He also commissioned the millennium statue of Christ on the city's lakefront. Monsignor received the St. Vincent de Paul Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2000. In 2002 he donated his 2,000-volume personal library to Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Center. His latest book is "Marriage, the Most Beautiful Way to Heaven, But the Hardest" and continued to write a monthly column for the Southwest Catholic, the Lake Charles diocesan newspaper until its temporary retirement post-Hurricane Rita.

Msgr. DeBlanc donated his photographs, correspondence, and personal writings which document his lifelong contribution to the church and to the areas in which he has served. The McNeese Archives is organizing and preserving the papers and in the coming year and make them available for research and scholarship. The McNeese Archives is located on the first floor of Frazar Memorial Library and is open to the public. Members of the Southwest Louisiana community are invited to donate similar materials they may hold on his life's work that could enhance the Archives holdings of his historical documents.

For more information, call Kathie Bordelon, McNeese Archivist
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