



COME, LORD JESUS!

NEWSLETTER
February 2022 VOL. LXVIII NO. 80

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*

*I have found
the one
whom my soul
loves.*

February
*Every Thursday
Memorial Mass
for the enrollees in
CLJ! Memorial Burse*

February 6
*Fifth Sunday of
Ordinary Time*

February 13
*Sixth Sunday of
Ordinary Time*

February 20
*Seventh Sunday of
Ordinary Time*

February 27
*Eighth Sunday of
Ordinary Time*



Are you living on the love of Jesus? Have you found Jesus yet in all his beauty and splendor? Have you been able to see beyond his humanity and come to know him as the Divine Son of God – the One who loved you to death, who sacrificed himself and endured such atrocious suffering for your redemption? Each of us can say, “*the Son of God...loved me and gave himself up for me*” (Gal 2:20). He conquered all evil and empowered you to be virtuous in all your trials and struggles – becoming more and more transfigured into his own glorious image. He is the one who rose triumphantly from the dead to show you the reality of the eternal life which he shares with you even now through his life-giving Spirit. This is the Jesus who loves you so much he comes to live in you with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-17, 23). This Jesus whom you love, is the one who comes to you in person at every Mass to nourish you with his own Divine Self in the Holy Eucharist, to purify and strengthen you and lift you to a new spiritual level of being (Jn 6:53-57). Have you found him in the fullness of his beauty and divinity so that you cannot let him go?

Have you become so attached to him that you would go to extremes rather than divert your attention and allow earthly things to take you away from him? Nothing compares to our Divine Jesus. You must be like the Bride in the Song of Songs who said, “*My lover... stands out among thousands*” (Sg 5:10). His glorious majesty has captured our hearts – we cannot let him go! We say, “*My lover belongs to me and I to him*”. We rejoice in this mutual love and are moved with gladness to say again, “*I belong to my lover and for me he yearns*” (Sg 6:3). We cannot afford to allow the alluring or distracting things of this world to take us away from Jesus, to diminish our love, and weaken our commitment to him. We must proclaim, “*I found him whom my heart loves. I took hold of him and would not let him go*” (Sg 3:4). We yearn and cry out for that firm and indefectible love so we will never forsake our most faithful Divine Lover. We pray that our commitment to him will become ever stronger and prompt us to go to extremes to demonstrate our love for him and do everything in our power to spend all our energies to return – through the Holy Spirit, that infinite love Jesus has for us.

Father Conley Bertrand

The Source of Christian Love



Where does Christian love come from? How can you get more of it? Surely it could never be a matter of sheer will power. Yet Jesus gave you his commandment of love so that your joy could be full and complete. The labor of love becomes a joyful occupation when its source and ability to execute it are commensurate to its tasks. The tasks of love are limitless in number and endless in duration. Such a love is beyond the scope of human love alone and therefore without hope of accomplishment. The burden of Christian love requires an infinite source whose plentitude and power are equal to the demands of love. This source must be God himself who is endless power and love. Christian love is of divine origin. It comes from God who is love. Only a person who is united to him can love in the Christian way. Faith and baptism united you to your God. Living in his love and grace keeps you there. *God's word and prayer will strengthen and deepen your union with him.*

Take up God's word and spend some time with it every day. Read a few verses slowly. These words are life-giving. (See Jn 6:63-68). They are purifying. (See Jn 15:3). They will fill you with God's power and holiness. (See Rom 1:16-17). They will refresh you, give you joy and fill you with wisdom; you will find them sweeter than honey and more precious than gold. (See Ps 19: 8-11). Through these words God himself will speak to you, manifest himself and communicate himself to you. As you read God's word, listen to him speaking to you through them and reflect at length upon their meaning. You will also want to express your love to him and speak to him about your life's concerns. Converse with him as you do with your best friend, for he, your God, is present.

The Eucharist will also strengthen and deepen your Christian love. First of all, according to the words of Jesus, the Eucharist purifies you from sin: "This is my blood...poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Mt 26:28). The Eucharistic sacrifice and its fruit cleanses your heart so that the charity of God can be poured into it. Then this sacrament will nourish you with an abundance of the very life of God who is love. Jesus said, "Just as the Father who has life sent me and I have life because of the Father, so the man who feeds on me will have life because of me" (Jn 6:57). The life you live flows from him who is love. Receiving Jesus in communion plunges you anew into him or intensifies your habitual union with him: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I live in him" (Jn 6:56). Each communion anchors you more permanently in Christ and situates you more deeply in love. You receive Jesus so that he can receive you and communicate his loving dispositions to you. Moreover, through his Eucharistic Body you are joined to all of his members, since you share the same food and life with them and are united to the same head: "Because there is the one loaf of bread, all of us, though many, are one body, for we all share the same loaf" (1 Co 10:17). Your actions, flowing from your union with Jesus will tend to foster unity among the diverse members of his body. In this way the union of charity among the many members is brought about and increased.

This helps you to see why you need to receive Jesus in the Eucharist often. Through it Christian love is made to grow and thrive.

Father Conley Bertrand

Recent Events



Area Coordinators from the Diocese of Lafayette recently gathered at the home of Patrice Williams, Diocesan Coordinator for Mass, spiritual reflection and lunch. Father Bertrand's booklet, "Living in the Light of Truth" provided enrichment and encouragement to our leadership team.

Call our *Come, Lord Jesus!* office to schedule a spiritual gathering in your diocese.



An Outreach Campaign was held at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lafayette led by *Come, Lord Jesus!* leader and Church Parish Representative, Mary LaBorde. Through her initiative, two new groups are being formed in her church parish. Thank you, Father Mario Romero for being an enthusiastic supporter of *Come, Lord Jesus!*



Blast from the Past

The Eureka Moment in the Development of Come, Lord Jesus!



When I became pastor at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Delcambre, meeting with a youth group, I added Song, Spontaneous Prayer, and Spiritual Reading to complete the twelve steps of the program. Whereas previously I was not able to keep groups together by being personally present at each meeting, now the groups persevered in meeting without my being there. Some have been meeting now non-stop for 45 years! **Glory to God! He did that!** I was just an old lead pencil that he used to do it.

It is important that we continue to remain faithful to the grace of the original inspiration contained in the **12 steps**. These are specifically blessed by God. They consist of a spiritual richness modeled after Acts 2:42 inspired by the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost. This is how the first disciples maintained their fervor and kept growing spiritually and increasing in numbers.

Aspiring to Live the Highest Life

17 Media Overload



Be cautious and prudent in your use of media. Be discrete and sparing with worldly entertainment.

Our modern way of life, with its accelerated tempo is never satisfied. It is supremely distracted by noise, activity, media and overstimulation – overload of our senses. We are not of the world, but we live in the world and are influenced by it.

Come, Lord Jesus! members have a mission to grow into the image and likeness of Christ. In order to accomplish ongoing spiritual growth, it is of great importance that we live a more solid interior life.



Adding to our Numbers

NEW MEMBERS:

Erath, LA: Christie Bourg, Lisa Duhon

Houma, LA: Lauren Haydel

Kenner, LA : Kristen Cipriani

Lake Charles, LA: Danny and Judy Cormier

Leesville, LA : Johnny White

Lafayette, LA : Tricia Williams

Father Ambrose Akalawu

Mamou, LA : Marie Aucoin

NEW GROUPS:

Houston, TX: Katherine Breaud...**Leader**
Erin Portus, Leslie Mikinski, Courtney Scioli

Lafayette, LA: Shelley Breaud...**Leader**
Christine Preis, Beth Brooksher,
Susan Castille, Jenny Tucker, Kirby Guidry

Gretna, LA: (Group that was being temporarily led by Ginny Dufrene is now being led by Juliette Swiler with David Mullek serving as co-leader.)



Come, Lord Jesus! welcomes one of our newest groups led by Shelley Breaud.

December 2021 With Sincere Gratitude! Gift Bags Received

Abbeville	Grand Prairie	Prairieville
Baton Rouge	Gretna	Ragley
Bayou Vista	Harahan	Rayne
Bell City	Harvey	Richard
Berwick	Houma	Schriever
Borger TX	Jeanerette	Scott
Bossier City	Jefferson	Slidell
Breaux Bridge	Kaplan	St. Martinville
Broussard	Kinder	Sulphur
Buda TX	Lacombe	Thibodaux
Cankton	Lafayette	Ville Platte
Carencro	Lake Charles	Washington
Carlyss	Leesville	Youngsville
Coteau	Leonville	
Dalhart TX	Little Rock AR	
Delcambre	Marrero	
DeRidder	Maurice	
Duson	Metairie	
Erath	Morgan City	
Estherwood	Morse	
Eunice	New Iberia	
Fenton	Opelousas	
Franklin	Orlando FL	
Fritch TX	Pierre Part	
Grand Coteau	Pine Prairie	

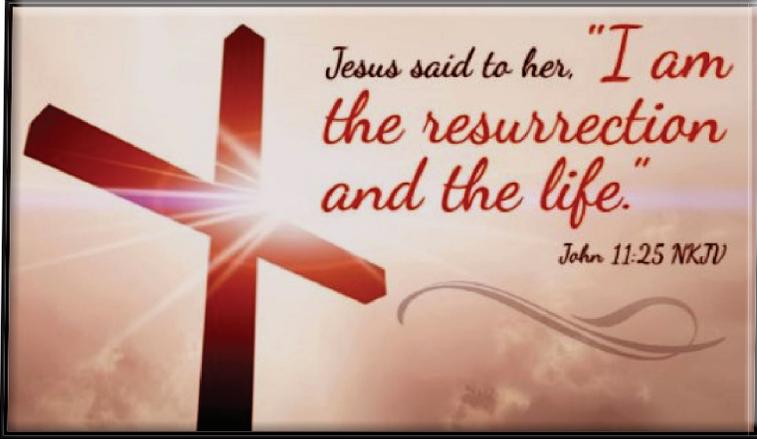
Attention Leaders:

Update sheets and Monthly Mail-in Forms were mailed out to you on January 18th. Please verify the information with your members and return the yellow Update Sheet ASAP with any corrections, additions, or deletions. We depend on your help to keep our information up to date. Thank you for all that you do for *Come, Lord Jesus!*.

Memorial Burse Donations

Lou Ify Bennett
Willard Castille
John Kurta
James Malroy "Mal" Morgan, Jr.

Rita Mouton
Angela Maria Ortiz
Jesse Rosas



Condolences

To member Ray Ortiz of Leesville, LA on the death of his mother, Angela Maria Ortiz.

To member Mariah Granger of Kinder, LA on the death of her sister, Joanie Granger.

To leader Loretta Kurta of Mowata, LA on the death of her husband, John Kurta.

To leader Rita Faulk of Cow Island, LA on the death of her niece, Erin Greene.

To member Kathy Mouton of Cow Island, LA on the death of her mother-in-law, Rita Mouton.

To leader Steve Morgan of Jefferson, LA on the death of his brother, James Malroy "Mal" Morgan.

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Come, Lord Jesus!
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