



# COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights  
Reports  
Formation  
Program Updates*



*Behold, I Make All Things New*

*January  
Every Thursday  
Masses for the enrollees  
in the CLJ! Memorial Bourse*

*January 2  
Epiphany of the Lord*

*January 9  
Baptism of the Lord*

*January 16  
Second Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*

*January 23  
Third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*

*January 30  
Fourth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*

***Happy, Holy New Year! Are you ready  
to be made new? (See Rev 21:5.)***

The first step toward transformation is to be faithful to prayer, both informal and formal. To begin with, spontaneous prayer of the heart must constantly arise from within us. We need God. We crave God. Our welfare depends on our being connected to God who is a life-giving Spirit. We must respond to God's love which brought us into existence and continues to sustain us this very moment. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Everything we experience all day long reminds us of the God who constantly loves us. We respond by relating everything to him. Our good consists in constant interpersonal communion with him in joy, in sorrow, in thanksgiving, petition, love, adoration, contrition etc. Each time we pray, even if it is simply asking God for something, we open ourselves to God's transforming light.

But these brief moments interspersed throughout the day are not enough to satisfy us! We need to prolong our union with God by arranging set and extended times each and every day!

There we can keep God company and remain in his presence, as he repeatedly asked us (Jn 15: 1-10), for periods of time. Like Jesus, we can become absorbed in prayer (Mk 1:35) or spend the night in communion with God (Lk 6:12). The more Divine Love takes over our lives, the more habitually we will live in communion with God and be transformed into his very image. (Col 3:10).

We begin our prayer in the company of Jesus who is always with us (Mt 28:20). We reflect upon his word and listen to God in the silent depths of our heart; then we speak to him and express our love and our needs. In time, these acts become more and more simple and intuitive. Our prayer becomes a loving knowledge. If we are faithful and persistent in pursuing prayer, God may eventually give us an experience of his presence. Moreover, he may draw us into the very life of the Trinity so that we begin to participate in that same loving knowledge that takes place within the Godhead between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the beginning of eternal life (Jn 17:3). Prayer becomes love.



*Father Conley Bertrand*

# Maintaining Our Movement Toward God



The more perfectly we open up to God and share in his divine being through love, the more he takes possession of us and transforms us.

Our main joy is God. Our love for him informs our whole being as we go about pleasing him and finding our joy in doing his will. Doing his will unites us to God, who is heaven. This union with him in love constitutes our joy and happiness. This begins to happen when all selfish passion and desire in us have been put to rest so that we are free to live for God and in God. Thus, we can find our joy in him.

As long as our hearts are in movement toward God, we are in little danger of being attracted by some foreign object that is not of God. But the moment we stop being taken up with God, there is a danger we will allow something or someone to replace him. We cannot allow inertia to set in. That would mean that we are falling back on ourselves. And we know that the *self* competes with God for first place. It wants to be in the limelight. At such a moment we have no choice but to abandon the self (which we are being tempted to focus on through inactivity or laziness) and go to God through longing for him and practicing the virtues. Our great desire must be God whom we must love with all our hearts. That is the great commandment. It is imperative, therefore, that the contemplative spirit takes possession of our hearts for God. This will assure us of habitual movement toward God. But how can we attain the contemplative spirit? What is it?

A contemplative heart is one that has been freed, to some extent at least, from the self. It has accomplished this through self-denial. The heart has dared to contradict self-centeredness with a firm “No!”. As a result, spirit dominance replaces sense dominance. In this way, it has come to live in the divine presence. The Creator has replaced the creature.

The heart, now freed from enthrallment with the creature, is now enraptured with the Creator through a continuous contemplative gaze. Spirit-being is simple and coexists as one with God who is sufficient for us. Thus, the contemplative heart already enjoys the Divine Indwelling and is forever tending toward the Divine Being in loving knowledge.

St. John of the Cross, in his counsels for conquering the desires, presents the solution to us in this way: “*First*, let him have a habitual desire to imitate Christ in everything that he does, conforming himself to his life; upon which life must meditate so that he may know how to imitate it and to behave in all things as Christ would behave. *Secondly*, in order that he may be able to do this well, every pleasure that presents itself to the senses, if it be not purely for the honor and glory of God, must be renounced and completely rejected for the love of Jesus Christ” (Ascent, Bk 1 Ch 13, Nos. 3-4).

In other words, by associating lovingly with Jesus every day in prayer, reflecting on his words and denying our selfish desires, we will come to know and love him; and we will want to imitate him – since he is the way and the truth. To truly know Jesus, whose humanity opens up to the divine, is to become taken up with and by him. His beauty and glory draw us to himself. We would be always tending towards him in love and desire. Thus, taken up in this divine attraction, we will want to shun all other contrary desires. We will be given the desire and the strength to forego those tendencies that lead us to the selfish self and away from God. More and more our beings will take on a spiritual quality. Little by little we will become disposed for union with God and begin to live ever more deeply in union with him. Our whole beings will gradually become a total movement towards him so that we will begin to forget the demanding self. Fortified and exhilarated with this union of love, we will shun the tendencies to selfishness and begin to live for God alone. Thus, these wayward desires, unattended and left to themselves, will eventually die out so that we will be free for God and his will. We will be taken up in the divine current of love which is in God. We will begin to participate in the aspiration of love which is in God.

*May our God of love bless you with new life this new year leading you to transformation into his glorious image and likeness.*

Father Conley Bertrand

# Anniversary Mass

Sacred Heart of Jesus – Ville Platte



*Welcome to Come, Lord Jesus!*

In Celebration of Father's Birthday  
90 Years Young!!!

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

**Abbeville, LA:** Catherine Desormeaux  
**Arnaudville, LA :** John and Kassi Dupre  
**Buda, TX:** Irene Fabian  
**Dalhart, TX:** Nancy Walter  
**DeRidder, LA:** Ruth Barbier  
**Fenton, LA:** Linda Leonard, Jona Daigle  
**Jeanerette, LA:** Flavia Eldridge  
**Lafayette, LA:** Mary Heimbald  
**Opelousas, LA:** Madeline Deshotels  
**Plaisance, LA:** Margie R. D. Soileau

### **Returning Members:**

**Maurice, LA:** Patsy Delcambre

### **NEW GROUP:**

**Gretna, LA:** Ginny Dufrene .... **Interim Leader**  
Madeline Wiche, Patrick Foltz, Elizabeth Foltz  
Claudia Pineda Mullek, David Mullek, Juliette Swiler  
Ricky LaCour, Missy LaCour, Liliana Alegria  
Oscar Alegria, Kayley Kisch, Jordan Kisch



“For the outpouring of love expressed through the many cards, letters and gifts, I am so grateful. Thank you for your support and affirmation which keep me encouraged and urge me to further productivity”.

*Be sure to check out Father's birthday slide show on our Facebook page accessible on our website: [comelordjesus.com](http://comelordjesus.com)*



## *Aspiring to Live the Highest Life*

### **PRACTICE SELF-DISCIPLINE**

Our five senses are easily attracted to the beautiful world in which we live. The virtue of temperance flowing from our interpersonal communion with God enables us to moderate our pleasure appetite. This virtue, perfected by the gift of fear of the Lord, empowers us to abstain and practice self-denial so that we do not become self-indulgent and slaves to our passions. In this way, we live spirit-dominant lives. Thus, our union and communion with our glorious Lord Jesus are guarded and preserved. Perhaps we could say that maintaining this interpersonal communion with Jesus is the most precious and delicate aspect of our relationship with God. It is the fruit of a strong prayer life leading to a holy self-discipline in accord with God's word and will.

It is imperative to realize that self-indulgence and disordered affection for creatures darkens our judgment. It causes withdrawal from God, serious spiritual harm and interferes with Divine Intimacy. Such disordered love for creatures must be avoided at all costs. A strong prayer life and its fruit of self-discipline *must* become a part of our *Come, Lord Jesus!* members' life. This is the fruitful outcome of devoting our lives to God's Word, holy Fellowship among the members, Prayer and Holy Eucharist.

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# Evangelization



Answering God’s call to discipleship are members of *Come, Lord Jesus!* at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lafayette who gave witness to the love of Jesus through the spread of our program during “Coffee and Donut Sunday”. “I’m a cheerleader for *Come, Lord Jesus!*”, Mary LaBorde (left) stated. This apostolate led to the formation of two new groups! “Yeah, JESUS!”

## November 2021 Gift Bags Received

### NOV 23 - DEC 15, 2021 Memorial Burse Donations

Ryan Jamison Beatty  
Shane Boudreaux  
C.J. Budd  
Lucille Guidry  
Donna Barnett Knauer  
Danny McConnell  
Averie Revett  
Kristy McCall Rivers

Richard M. Bosse  
Abby Broussard  
Virginia Budd  
Patsy Johnson  
Jane Crews LeBlanc  
Joseph Huey Ortego  
Donald Lamar Rivers  
Vincent V. Tumminello, Sr.

Abbeville	Iota	Slidell
Arnaudville	Jeanerette	St. Amant
Baton Rouge	Jefferson	St. Martinville
Bayou Vista	Kaplan	Sugartown
Bell City	Kenner	Sulphur
Borger, TX	Kinder	Thibodaux
Broussard	Lafayette	Ville Platte
Buda, TX	Lake Charles	Washington
Cankton	Leonville	Youngsville
Carencro	Mamou	
Catahoula	Marrero	
Coteau	Maurice	
Cow Island	Metairie	
Delcambre	Milton	
DeRidder	Mire	
Duson	Morse	
Erath	New Iberia	
Estherwood	Opelousas	
Eunice	Patterson	
Fenton	Pierre Part	
Forked Island	Pine Prairie	
Grand Prairie	Prairie Ronde	
Gretna	Richard	
Harvey	Schriever	
Houma	Scott	

## Condolences

To member Donna Ennis of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her mother Donna Barnett Knauer.

To member Kathy Screen of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her brother-in-law, Donald Lamar Rivers.

To member Janet Greig of Esther, LA on the death of her brother, Abby Broussard.

To co-leader Johnny Reed of Ville Platte, LA on the death of his father-in-law, Joseph Huey Ortego.

To co-leader Amy Richterberg of Schriever, LA on the death of her husband, Joseph Richterberg (who was also a member).

To the members of "Heirs in Hope" group in Thibodaux, LA on the death of their member, Shirley Huggins.

To member Theresa Peltier of Delcambre, LA on the death of her grandson, Shane Boudreaux.

To member Lou Courville of Lafayette, LA on the death of her great-granddaughter, Averie Revett.

To the members of "Consider it all Joy" group in Rayne, LA on the death of their former member, Patsy Johnson.

To member Margaret Sykes of Ragley, LA on the death of her sister, Tracey Vedros.

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Come, Lord Jesus!  
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