



# COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights  
Reports  
Formation  
Program Updates*



## *God's Gift of Joy*

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

**July 4**  
*14th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

**July 11**  
*15th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

**July 18**  
*16th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

**July 25**  
*17th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

God's original plan was to put man in a garden of delight (Gn 2: 8-15). Our first parents were to keep their eyes fixed on God, enjoy his companionship, and live in his presence. In this way they could keep their innocence and integrity with all of the gifts that came with that original wholeness and holiness. They were fully equipped with spiritual powers (virtues) to enable them to be faithful to God and his wishes and so remain firmly united to him in love. Thus they would live in the joy and euphoria of eternal life.

But their senses, with their inclination towards pleasure, and their pride, with the added influence of the evil one, caused them to turn away from God, and to direct their attention to the fruits in the garden. They lost their focus on the Divine Object (God himself) for which they were made, and substituted him for those particular earthly objects that captivated their senses. In this way, they were deprived of that fulfillment and holy joy which only God and his infinite Spirit can give.

Before, an immense joy flowed through their pure beings as a consequence of their single-hearted connectedness to God; now, they would struggle desperately to eke out some meager counterfeit joy in each creature pleasure for which they would frantically grasp – just as we do today. But they (and we) remain bereft of all REAL JOY, the JOY OF GOD.

Jesus was born among us as the new Adam (1 Cor 15: 45-49) to restore to us that original joy (Lk 2:10), and to teach us by his words and show us by his example how to live in this garden of delight in which we were placed. For, we too were joined to God and placed in the midst of plenty. Living as one with God in love is the essential joy that fills our beings. The challenge we face is to remain in union with God and to increase it to the highest degree – to let no creature or affection, even the smallest amount come between us and him. We must love all creation in him, according to his will – no more, no less. We must keep the great commandment of love (Mt 22:37) by single-heartedness. Our happiness consists in living for God and his will. We were made for him.

*Father Conley Bertrand*

## *The Cross is not an obstacle to Joy.*



We must ever be tending to God – there must be no deviation, no side-tracking so that we would give undue love to a creature. We must ward off any particular object that solicits our attention and our love to itself and away from God. Our gaze must be ever fixed on God, our Divine Object. In this way, we will remain one with him and draw unceasingly streams of eternal life that continually flood our whole beings with the joy of God. In this state of being, there is no need to grasp after the fleeting and elusive creature pleasures that fail to satisfy us. For we already have continuous, all-pervading joy through union with God. Creature satisfaction is relegated to second place and unessential. God is our principal joy.

That is why it is possible to develop a love for the cross. The cross is not an obstacle to joy which is a spiritual reality. We can deprive ourselves of sensible consolations because we already have our main joy in God. We can do without particular objects because we have found the Great Object for which we were created (which preeminently includes all of these). We can practice a holy restraint in all things because we possess the consoling love of God within us. We guard this precious love of God through the cross, which is the tree of life. For through it we cut out or restrain our desire for sensible pleasures that usurp God's place or go contrary to his will. In this way, we deny our senses, keep them in right order, and protect divine intimacy from sense intrusion. God and his will for us come before our bodily desires. The cross, therefore, fosters the life of the spirit through which we attain and experience union with God. Without the cross our carnal desires prevail and interfere with the life of the spirit in such a way that we cannot experience our union with God and the sublime joy that flows from it. For, this can only be perceived through the gifts of the Spirit. And if we are sense dominant, we incapacitate these spiritual gifts that enable us to know God and experience the all-fulfilling joy of his presence.

Jesus came to teach and exemplify how we are to live a spirit dominant life so that we could live in the joy of God. He could die rather than deviate from his Father's will because God and his will was his whole joy. Everything and everyone else was informed and ameliorated by that joy. The world became a paradise because the joy he received from union with the Father transformed the world around him into a Garden of Eden. Even when he experienced sadness, rejection or difficult times, whether in the crib or on the cross, he did not lose the joy he experienced in the core of his being. When his hour had come and his soul was troubled, he would not be spared, for he saw beyond it unto the glory he would give his Father (Jn 12:27-28). Even the terrifying cross could not destroy the joy that always remained his in the substance of his soul, because it came from his joy-giving union with God. It did not depend on the senses. Ultimate depression is only for those who cannot see through, transcend and spiritualize their losses. Such disappointments are not dead ends but opportunities for detachment and a more perfect transformation and union with God, our joy.

So the angel could sing - even if it was a dark night and the baby had to be put in a feed trough near the animals. The shepherds could rejoice and give glory to God although they were poor and lived a hard life. The old man Simeon was ready to die of gladness – despite the fact that he had reached the end of his life. Mary found joy in God – though poor, a virgin with child and fatigued after a long trip through the desert. The joy of salvation transcends all boundaries and limits. It is greater than any earthly limitation. Since it is spiritual, it can go through any obstacle. This joy in God knows of no impediment, including death itself, since Jesus has made it the passage to the fullness of life, eternal joy, heaven itself.

*Father Conley Bertrand*

# *Aspiring to Live the Highest Life*

## Step

# 10

Aspire ardently for an ever-greater love for God and neighbor. Love is the most important reality of all. Love of God and neighbor fulfills the whole law (Rom 13:10). All of our recommended spiritual exercises are meant to immerse you more completely in God who is love (1 Jn 4:16). This divine love will overflow to loving others as you love yourself, even unto self-sacrifice. In this way you will return God's love for you. Jesus considers as done to himself the love and service you give to the least person. (Mt 25:40).



# Anniversary Mass Celebrations



## Abbeville Area Groups



## De Ridder Area Groups





**Broussard, LA:** Ken Burgess, Darnella Burgess  
**DeRidder LA:** Jaclyn Hayes  
**Esther, LA:** Michele McNeil  
**Grand Coteau, LA:** Corliss B. White, Bobby Vallow  
**Grand Prairie, LA:** Rose Fontenot  
**Kinder, LA:** Carla Fontenot  
**Lafayette, LA:** Teri Stelly, Trudy Trahan, Ann Wallace  
 Iran Meche, Gary Hebert, Anne McDade,  
 Audrey M. Doggett, Chuck Hodges, Brian Lambert  
 Margaret Lambert, Angelique Plaisance, Cecil Tauzin  
 Felice Sawyer, Peggy Melancon, Angela Richard  
**Lake Charles, LA:** Tommy Vizena, Beverly Castillo  
**Lyons Point, LA:** Edna Benoit, Louis Roy, Jr.  
**Maurice, LA:** Jeannie Martin  
**New Iberia, LA:** Dalie Berard  
**Patterson, LA:** Erin M. Guidry  
**Slidell, LA:** Catherine (Connie) Charitat  
**Sulphur, LA:** Becky Fuselier  
**Ville Platte, LA:** Leonard Fontenot, Jan A. Fontenot,  
 Angie Manuel



**Bossier City, LA :** Roane Risher- **Leader**  
 Mary Adams, Jackie Guillot, Sharon Allbritton  
 Nancy Grappe, Dianne Webber

**Ville Platte, LA :** Connie Buller- **Leader**  
 Michele K. LaHaye, Patrice C. Hemmi, Danyelle Reed  
 Rita Soileau, Sandy L. Ortego, Billie Nezat, Lisa Schmidt  
 Lynn Fontenot



## May 2021 Gift Bags Received

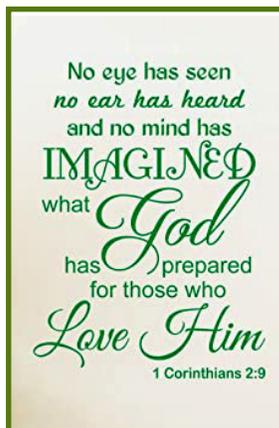
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Abbeville	Fenton	Orlando Fl
Avery Island	Franklin	Pierre Part
Basile	Gretna	Pine Prairie
Baton Rouge	Harvey	Richard
Bayou Vista	Houma	Schriever
Bell City	Iota	Scott
Berwick	Jeanerette	Slidell
Breaux Bridge	Jefferson	St. Amant
Broussard	Judice	St. Martinville
Cankton	Kaplan	Sulphur
Carencro	Lafayette	Thibodaux
Carlyss	Lake Arthur	Verdunville
Cecilia	Lake Charles	Vidrine
Coteau	Liberty TX	Ville Platte
Cow Island	Lyons Point	Washington
Crowley	Marrero	Youngsville
Dalhart TX	Maurice	
Delcambre	Metairie	
DeRidder	Midland	
Dry Creek	Morgan City	
Duson	Morse	
Erath	Mowata	
Esther	New Iberia	
Estherwood	Oberlin	
Eunice	Opelousas	

PLEASE NOTE:  
THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JULY 5TH

## MAY 20 - JUNE 21, 2021 Memorial Burse Donations *In memory of:*

Emery Arnaud  
 Felix Baez  
 Peggy Brett  
 Joseph Carmena  
 Charlotte Chedotal  
 James C. Colligan  
 Frankie Diesi  
 Bruce Donnell  
 Joycelyn Exnicios  
 Theresa Ann Fabre  
 Stephanie Landry  
 Juliette Langlinois  
 Ben Nash  
 Danny Reviere  
 Garrett Ryder  
 Bill Yauger



## Condolences July 2021



To the members of "Children of God" group in Ville Platte, LA on the death of their member, Verna Fontenot.

To member Peggy Hymel of Kenner, LA on the death of her sister-in-law, Peggy Brett.

To the family and husband of Joycelyn Exnicios of New Orleans.

To member Tibby Davis of Kenner, LA on the death of her niece, Stephanie Landry.

To member Peggy Hymel of Kenner, LA on the death of family member, Charlotte Chedotal.

To member Dale Nash of Franklin, LA on the death of her husband, Ben Nash.

To the members of "Living Hope" group in Erath, LA on the death of their member, Juliette Langlinais.

To the members of "Gathered Together In My Name" group in Lafayette, LA on the death of their member, JoAnn Crumling.

To member Etchie Yauger of Slidell, LA on the death of her husband, Bill Yauger.

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**Come, Lord Jesus!**  
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