



COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



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

**June 6
The Most Holy Body
and Blood of Christ**

**June 13
11th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

**June 20
12th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

**June 27
13th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

It is consoling to be aware of how much of the good and the positive we have going for us: we are immersed in God and have been recreated and endowed with virtues and gifts that enable us to operate on a divine level. Our lives are in movement toward our indwelling God who draws us to himself and is gradually transforming us into his own likeness through love. We want to be aware of these holy inclinations within us and promote them. These are the movements of the good spirit that we want to foster so that they will dominate and rule our lives.

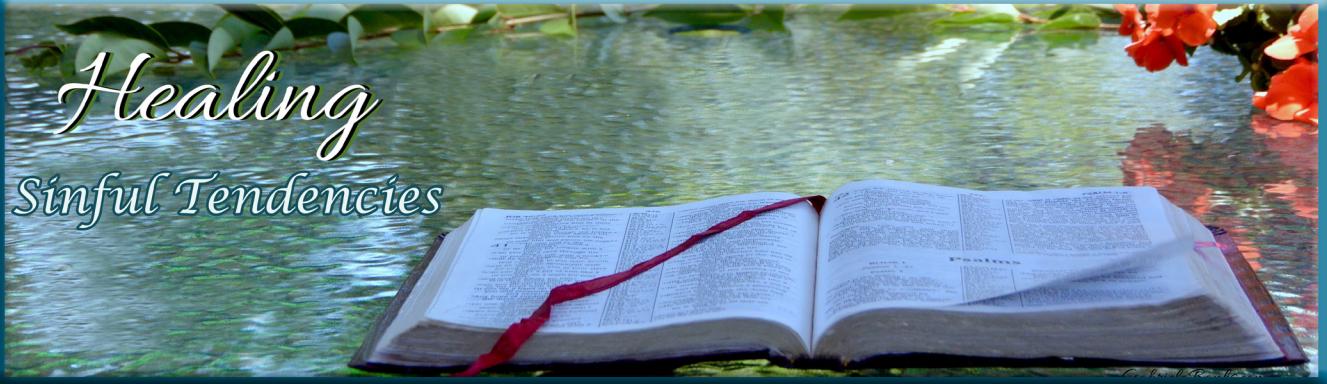
We also need to be aware of certain evil tendencies within us that tend to negate these positive forces for good. We have received certain disordered tendencies from birth. Originally, the gift of integrity kept the passions and desires subject to God through the higher powers of the soul. But this blessed state was lost through original sin. The original order gave way to disorder and disintegration. Spirit dominance became subject to the dominion of the senses. As a result, our passions and desires are unruly and look only to their own satisfaction regardless of God's will in the matter. Selfish desires for pleasure are so strong they tend to obscure the light of reason and grace; they overwhelm and take control of the will.

The soul is no longer subject to God. The attractive pleasures of this world and the strong movements to sense toward self-gratification overpower our more subtle and delicate spiritual aspirations toward God. Our human natures have truly been wounded and weakened.

We need to be aware of (discern) these disordered tendencies as they arise, and control or deny them, so that our lives will be centered around God and his will. Here, to a great extent, the spiritual life consists in struggling to cooperate with God and his grace. We must reorientate our passions and desires in accord with our call as children of God to become one with God in love. At first, the work of striving to unite ourselves to God is more corrective—it consists in subduing and reordering the wayward and unruly passions and desires toward God. We must deny or resist the evil impulses in human nature when they go against God and his will. Gradually the movement of our spirits toward God in love and longing will prevail and take over our lives. The spirit will dominate so that God can become the center of our existence. But all of this can only happen if we apply ourselves with great effort to the pursuit of holiness.

Father Conley Bertrand

**NO
in all these things
WE
MORE
than
CONQUERORS
that
LOVED US
THROUGH HIM**



Sacred Scripture is very definite in its teaching that we must “not yield to the cravings of the flesh” (Gal 5: 16). “The flesh in its tendency is at enmity with God” (Rom 8: 7). Consequently, we read in Second Peter, “I urge you not to indulge your carnal desires: By their nature they wage war on the soul” (2 Pet 2: 11). St. Paul speaks of the works of the flesh and enumerates fifteen different examples of such sins. But there are more! Traditional spirituality has summed up these various sinful tendencies into seven. They are called the seven capital sins or principal evil inclinations to which all other sins are related. They are called sins because they lead—if we consent to them—to a disordered relationship with God and creatures, which is sin. These seven capital sins are: pride, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, sloth, and covetousness. We will briefly describe each and how to counteract it.

Pride is an inordinate love for one’s own excellence—an excessive self-esteem. The moment we become aware of such a movement rising within us we must admit it to God and ask his help as we try to give him the glory instead. (The virtue opposed to pride is *humility* which disposes us to acknowledge our limitations and see God as the source of all our good qualities.)

Envy is the sadness experienced in seeing the talents, achievements, property or success of others that we feel outshines or obscures our own. When we begin to feel this way about the good fortune of others we must quickly present ourselves to God and seek his divine assistance as we attempt to find joy in the welfare of others. (The opposite virtue is *love of others* that moves us to rejoice in their good fortune and praise God for his goodness to them.)

Anger is a strong feeling of displeasure that inclines us to repel whatever displeases us or punish an offender. When we feel this disordered emotion we need to turn to God for succor from the start and struggle for self-control and tolerance of others, or of the situation that annoys us. (The opposite virtue is meekness or gentleness which inclines us to practice *self-control* and to be patient with others, or with aggravating circumstances.)

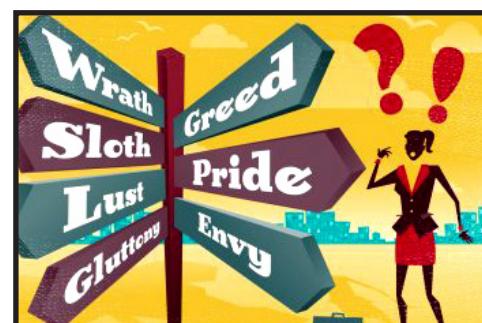
Gluttony is an excessive desire for or indulgence in food and drink. When we discern this inordinate love for food or drink expressing itself we must call upon the Lord immediately to strengthen us as we contend to resist this undue appetite, and hunger and thirst for God instead. (The virtue opposed to gluttony is *temperance* which moderates our attraction towards sense-pleasure, and keeps it within the proper limits.)

Lust is an inordinate desire for sensual or sexual pleasure. When we become aware that this disorder is beginning to assert itself we must beg God for purity and employ the cross and self-discipline to curb this desire. (The opposite virtue is *chastity* which disposes us to check or mortify our desire for venereal pleasure.)

Sloth is an excessive love of ease that leads us to omit or neglect recognized duties. When we realize that laziness is taking hold of us we must cry to God for deliverance and make vigorous efforts to tend towards God. (The virtue opposed to sloth is *diligence* which inclines us to expend our energies in striving for holiness and to cooperate with God in working out our salvation.)

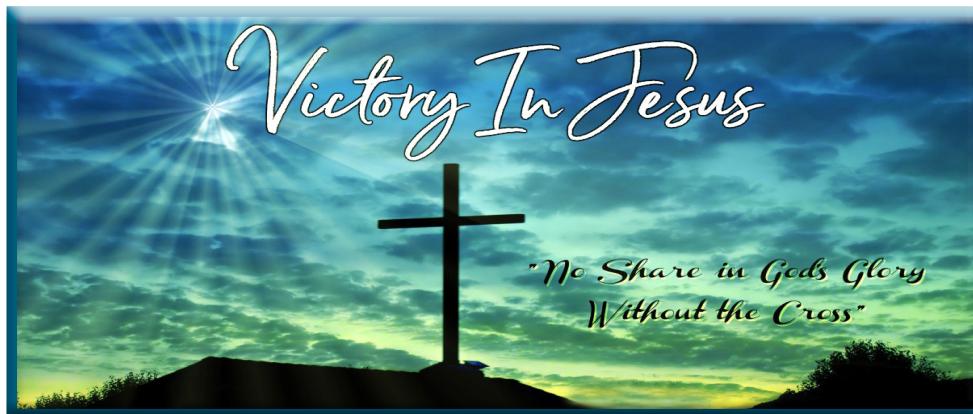
Covetousness (avarice) is the excessive love for, and seeking after wealth and other worldly possessions. When we notice this happening to us we must look to God for assistance and strive to moderate our use of this world’s goods. (The virtue opposing this capital sin is *liberality* which disposes us to generously use our earthly possessions for the good of others and for the promotion of the Kingdom of God.)

Father Conley Bertrand



TO SEE THE RISEN CHRIST

Part 3



Practice Virtue

But in doing God's will in work and family life, we must practice the virtues. This is not only a matter of external conformity, but internal as well. We must bring our hearts and wills and minds into loving submission to God. We strive to desire only what he wills. We discipline and bring into conformity the reluctance and resistance of our rebellious natures. Even while doing an externally good act, such as attending the sick or babysitting, we can be very self-indulgent in eating or watching television. The virtue of temperance enables us to practice self-restraint regarding our pleasure appetites. That is also God's will for us as we do an act of service. Otherwise various forms of self-indulgence and the desires of the flesh take over our lives. These make us sense-dominant so that we cannot know or experience the presence of Jesus, our risen Lord. Self-indulgence causes us to become full of self-love. Selfish desires spring from our unmortified bodies. Sense-life rules us and excludes God and others. These selfish desires replace the one great desire that we ought to have for God. The only way divine love will rule in us is if we let these selfish desires die unfulfilled. This is why we must practice self-control through the virtue of temperance and mortify our appetites.

Opportunities for Selflessness

Manual labor can be an opportunity to practice selflessness as we keep ourselves occupied with the task at hand. Here, as at all other times, we do well to fast from food and addictive drinks between meals. For self-indulgence is the great enemy of the spiritual life. It feeds into self. By denying our appetites in this way, we become spiritual and are disposed to commune with God as we go about doing his will through work. As our faculties are occupied with the task at hand, our hearts are with God in love.

Jobs that bring us into relationship with others also provide opportunities to practice the great commandment of love. Here we pour our hearts out to God through love for others. This is a marvelous opportunity to practice selflessness. We become like Jesus who did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life for others (Mt 20:28). So often those we serve at work or whom we relate to in family life are different from us. This situation is a gift from God to make us spiritual by effacing the selfish ego. We forego what we would like for the love of God and those we deal with. This is by no means an easy task, but God invites us to take a leap into the great adventure of loving like God.

Forsaking "Self" Through Love

It must have been in view of attacking the selfish self that Jesus uttered the following words in his sermon on the mount: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you. When someone slaps you on one cheek, turn and give him the other; when someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When a man takes what is yours, do not demand it back..." (LK 6:27-30). The "enemy" can be anyone who differs or makes demands of us (Compare Mt 10:35-36). Spouses, children or parents are always testing and confronting our love and generosity. Perhaps we would never be able to leave self on our own. A providential situation given us by God often provides an atmosphere that "forces" or urges us to forsake the selfish self and become utterly self-giving. We are given hundreds of opportunities each day through love for others to achieve the passage from the narrow constrictions of self-love to broad expanses of divine love. We want to grasp these opportunities! We forsake our rights for divine righteousness – so we can become new creatures, children of God-Love; we keep nothing back for ourselves; we forget all self-interest, however much nature may rebel; we deprive ourselves for the love of others; we abase our own personality for the benefit of others.

Recent Events



Passionate in their pro-life beliefs, *CLJ!* members from Plaisance made a generous donation of \$850 to the new Opelousas Pregnancy Center.



Mona Izzo, Area Coordinator recently met with Lafayette leaders for a spiritual gathering reflecting on Father Bertrand's booklet, "Living the Graced Life"



"Commitment to Jesus" was the theme of Margaret Bebe's spiritual inservice inspiring her leaders at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fenton.



"Women of Proven Worth" group from Buda, TX united in holy fellowship meditating upon Father Bertrand's book, "To Know Jesus".



June 12- Anniversary Mass St. Joseph / DeRidder 10:00 am
June 14- Anniversary Mass St. Mary Magdalen / Abbeville 6:00 pm
June 26 - Morning of Reflection St. Bernadette / Bayou Vista 9:00am
September 11 - Leaders' Seminar Our Lady of Fatima Lafayette 9:30 am

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Abbeville, LA : Kristie Wright, Michelle Abshire

Bayou Vista, LA: Kathy Shilling

Breaux Bridge, LA: Madison Dupre

Broussard, LA: Fallon McManus

Cow Island, LA: Kristi Broussard Roy

Crowley, LA: Laura Pellerin

DeRidder, LA: Dot Syzdek, Charles Smart, Matt Pontiff,
Inez Pontiff, Sherica Silas, Della Sylvest

Duson, LA: Susan Rabalais

Jeanerette, LA: Diana Aucoin

Jefferson, LA: Marie Hasney

Lafayette, LA: Gayle G. Luttrell, Bonnie Vivien

Lyons Point, LA: Crissie Woods, Martha B. Guidry

Marrero, LA: Debbie Wexelberg

Metairie, LA: Bob Schroeder, Bill Harrison

Opelousas, LA: Patty Richard, Shawn Leblanc

Pierre Part, LA: Wendy Hebert, Linda Boudreaux



April 2021 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Harvey	St. Martinville
Arnaudville	Houma	Sugartown
Baker	Jeanerette	Thibodaux
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Broussard	Kinder	Youngsville
Buda Tx	Lacombe	
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Grand Prairie	Pine Prairie	
Greenwell Springs	Rayne	
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Aspiring to Live the Highest Life



- Accept and patiently endure the afflictions and sufferings of life realizing that they are spiritually transforming. During our times of difficulty, we can find comfort from God whose love guides us through the challenges. St. Paul reminds us in 2 Cor 4:17 that though painful, these trials are producing in us an eternal weight of glory.
- Learn to appreciate the value of work. It contributes toward our eternal retirement. The discipline required to accomplish work enables us to live on the level of spirit and disposes us for communion with God. Such spirit activity subdues and purifies our wayward passions. The fortitude required for labor strengthens our character; it makes us stronger in all of the virtues. Work is God's will for us (Gen 2:15; Sir 7:15).

Please Note:

The 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Sunday are not used this year. We celebrate Corpus Christi on June 6th and the 11th Sunday in Ordinary time on June 13th. Please see Vol 1 p.109, Vol 2 p. 95, Vol. 3 p.69.

APRIL 20 - MAY 19, 2021 Memorial Burse Donations

Thomas Barfield
Sylvia Bella
John Gilbert Bernard
Frederick Bernard
Luke "Lukie" Bonin
Adele R. Chronister
William Hubbell

Jimmy Lamy
Josephine Rita Mescher
Douglas Robichaux, Sr
Georgia Rose
Nancy Watts

Condolences June 2021

To member Barbara Youngblood of Metarie, LA on the death of her sister, Joan Reginelli.

To member Carla Bernard of Broussard, LA on the death of two of her brothers-in-law,
John Gibert Bernard and Frederick Bernard.

To member Doug Robichaux and his wife, Leader Lo Lo Robichaux of Jeanerette, LA on the
death of his father, Douglas Robichaux, Sr.

To member Jeanette Stelly of Cow Island, LA on death of her sister, Wanda Noel, and her sister-in-law, Brenda Guidry.

To member Beatrice Gaspard of Forked Island, LA on death of her sister, Barbara Hebert.

To member Fonda Launey of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her husband, Michael Launey.

To the members of "Citizens of Heaven" group in Franklin, LA on the death of their member, Sylvia Bella.

To member Betty Lafleur of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her mother, Georgia Rose.



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Come, Lord Jesus!
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