



Come, Lord Jesus!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



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

March 6
1st Sunday of Lent

March 13
2nd Sunday of Lent

March 20
3rd Sunday of Lent

March 27
4th Sunday of Lent

During this holy season of Lent, the Church leads us into the desert to be with Jesus there for forty days. This is a time of grace, when God looks upon us with special favor. I believe this is true because acts of penance are particularly efficacious in opening us up to God who is always desirous of favoring us with his love.

It is significant that immediately upon entering Lent, the Church reads these words of Jesus to us, “*Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self*” (Lk 9:23). We need to understand from the very beginning the importance of denying ourselves.

I have come to believe that the great downfall of the good person is self-indulgence. We very easily slide into this evil not only because it is a basic inclination of our human nature, but also because it seems so innocent. We tend to say, “What’s wrong with that? I’m not hurting anyone.” Actually, there’s plenty wrong with any form of self-indulgence, no matter how small. For, the moment we engage in it, we are turning to a creature for love of it rather than for the love of God. For example, eating or drinking too much of the wrong kind of food or drink is harmful and clearly not willed by God.

Yet we become so addicted to the pursuit of sensible pleasure that it takes precedence over God’s will. We love the creature more than God himself! And the moment we surrender our hearts to the creature in this way, our minds begin to become dull to spiritual realities, our wills are weakened, and we make ourselves, our ego, the center of existence. In this way, we gradually cut ourselves off from God and from others. Our desires begin to rule our lives and place us on a selfish level of existence. We become slaves and are no longer free to let the Spirit rule our lives.

This wrong kind of self-love continually asserts itself, often without our realizing it, to contaminate even our good deeds – to say nothing about the selfish acts that it promotes. Jesus gives us the remedy to this enemy to holiness. He commands us to deny the self instead of indulging it: “*Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self.*”

As we begin Lent together, let us encourage and support each other in denying ourselves like Jesus did so that we can become more and more like him whose whole life was centered around his Father and his will.

Lent

Father Conley Bertrand

LOVE LIKE JESUS

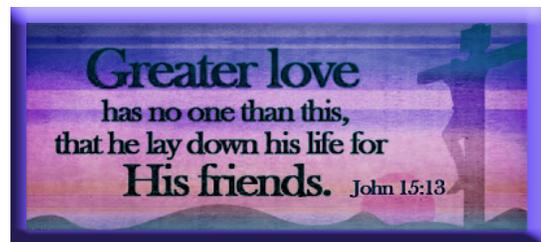
As we approach Lent, let us reflect upon Jesus' life in community and how he related to the apostles within the context of community. This will help us to understand his great love of mankind and provide a model for us in relating to others. We remember how at the Last Supper Jesus washed the apostles' feet and commanded them to wash each other's feet (Jn 13:14-17). This means that he wanted them to become one another's servants. Jesus' great desire was that they become one with him and live in him (Jn 15:4-9). This will take place if they keep his words and carry out everything he said (Jn 15:10). And Jesus' special commandment for his apostles is that they love one another as he loved them, even to laying down their lives for one another (Jn 15:12-13).

How discouraging it must have been for Jesus to see the apostles arguing at the Last Supper about who was the greatest among them (Lk 22:24-27)! So often they seemed to forget everything he taught them, or they just didn't understand what he was all about. But he patiently awaited the moment when the Holy Spirit would take over their lives and teach them – only however, after they had failed and experienced their own helplessness (Mk 14:27-31, 66-72). Jesus was full of understanding for their weaknesses, even at such a grave moment as his Passion (Mt 26:40-46). He befriended Judas till the very last moment (Mt 26:50). Yet he gave him the leeway and freedom to betray him. Such was his tolerance towards those he lived with in community!

Each one of the apostles – including his favorite ones – had shortcomings and was certainly sinful. But Jesus continued to relate and put up with them despite the tension that mounted among them (Mt 20:24) and the disputes which emerged (Lk 22:24). He understood quite well how fragile human nature is and how wounded we all are! Indeed, the perfect can only be found in heaven. So, he did the best he could with what he had to work with: a very imperfect bunch!

But in this whole process of interpersonally relating with and forming his apostles, all of the virtues were becoming more perfect in him. Jesus did not grow and mature only as a child (Lk 1:80) – he continued to develop as an adult also. The sufferings that brought Jesus to perfection (Heb 2:10) refer not only to those that reached their peak on Calvary – they included the ordinary ones contained in the struggles of daily living and relating in community and ministry. Similarly, if the synoptic gospels (Mt, Mk, Lk) focus on Jesus' temptations in the desert, this must not blind us to the fact that he was tried throughout his life. And most of this testing took place within the larger or smaller community.

Jesus was “*tested through what he suffered*” (Heb 2:18) and this can be clearly seen through some of the episodes that he had to endure with the apostles (e.g. Mk 8:14-21). In this way, he was “*tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned*” (Heb 4:15). His fidelity to the Father was tried and proven to be true. It was through the strength of his virtue that Jesus kept his word and carried out the Father's will.



Each of us has to go through the same experience: that is what community is all about. This is how we are made perfect. We come to know ourselves as sinners; we are humbled; we become more dependent on God who can thus strengthen us. So we grow in virtue. We become more and more compassionate toward each other, since we understand and accept each other's weaknesses – for we all have them as we have learned from experience. Yet the more accepting and self-effaced we become in all of this, and surrendered, the more the glory of God shines through our transparent persons.

Father Conley Bertrand

Recent Events



Area Coordinator, Becky Leger (standing with Father Bertrand) recently gathered with her leaders at St. Augustine in Basile for spiritual reflection, fellowship, and lunch. Father Bertrand's booklet, "To See God" was the topic of discussion.



Campaigning
for
Come, Lord Jesus!



ATTENTION LEADERS!

Thank you for returning your updated group information to our office! This is a tremendous help in keeping our records accurate. If you have not yet submitted your group information, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Promoting *Come, Lord Jesus!* and our *CLJ! Lenten Journey* are zealous members from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Ville Platte and St. Alphonsus in Maurice. Please remember to extend invitations to your family and friends! May God be glorified!

Welcome New Members

Abbeville, LA: Pamela Domingue
Baton Rouge, LA: Kathy McKnight, Bonny Van Ana Terhoeve
Bell City, LA: Joyce Bourque, Jackie Estabrooks
Cankton, LA: SuSu Rainey
Cecilia, LA: Tommy Guidry, Carol Guidry
Coteau, LA: Joan Robichaux, Pamela Romero
Crowley, LA: Josette Abshire
DeRidder, LA: Lisa Thompson
Estherwood, LA: Brenda Williber
Gretna, LA: Dayna Croal
Houma, LA: Carolyn Haddad
Iowa, LA: Ricky Buck, Mark Gary
Jeanerette, LA: Sr. Mary Peter
Lafayette, LA: Rachel Clark, Mary Schutte, Madeleine Fincke, Cheryl Slade, Anthony Algeciras, Msgr. Jeff DeBlanc, Diane Desormeaux, Linda Simar
Mire, LA: Carolyn Thevis, Deannie Bergeron
New Iberia, LA: Andrea Renee Anthony
Ragley, LA: Danny Landry, Selene Landry, Terry Leger, Vickie Leger, Paulette Salsbury, Andrea Habetz
Richard, LA: Anna Richard Leleaux, Dolores Frey
Slidell, LA: Terri Wunder
Washington, LA: Bonnie Pitre, Alyce Klier, Brooke Chehotsky

Returning Member

Abbeville, LA: Dolores Trahan

New Groups

Jefferson, LA: Luci Morgan.... Leader
Chris Adoue, Karen Alexander, Arthur Ambrozewski, Timonhy Kennedy, Delta J. Willis
Jefferson LA: Steve Morgan.... Leader
Shelly Nettles, Michelle Martin, Gretchen Kimball, Richard Kimball, Joe Yanez, Regina Cairns, Joseph R. Parker, Jr. Gloria Palacio, Franklin H. Rhea, Joe Clesi, Patrice Osborne
Lafayette, LA:Janet Sierra.... Leader
Austin Sierra, Mary Hopkins, Kathy Nieto



January 2022 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Harvey	Scott
Basile	Houma	Slidell
Baton Rouge	Iowa	St. Martinville
Bayou Vista	Jeanerette	Sulphur
Bell City	Jefferson	Thibodaux
Bossier City	Jennings	Ville Platte
Breaux Bridge	Kenner	Washington
Broussard	Kinder	
Cankton	Lafayette	
Carencro	Lake Arthur	
Cecilia	Lake Charles	
Coteau	Marrero	
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Crowley	Mermentau	
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Esther	New Iberia	
Estherwood	Opelousas	
Eunice	Pierre Part	
Fenton	Plaisance	
Forked Island	Ragley	
Franklin	Rayne	
Grand Prairie	River Ridge	
Gretna	Schriever	



CLJ! welcomes Jo Malbrough's group from Holy Cross Church in Lafayette! We are so happy to share this spiritual journey with you!

New Groups continued

Lafayette, LA:Jo Malbrough.... Leader
Dianne LeBlanc, Dale LeBlanc, Iris Diesi, Gail Romero, Rosie Reed, Robbin Davis, Carolyn Dore, Raymond Dore, Gwen Comeaux, Carole Higginbotham, Kathleen Lipari, Cynthia Williams
Vidrine, LA: Kerry Higginbotham and Katy Marcantel Leaders
J. Marie Aucoin, Faye L. Parrott, Barbara James, Suzanne Deshotels, Frieda G. Tate, Karen Griffith, Caletta Soileau, Verline Fontenot, Cynthia Fuselier, Raedonna Johnson, Pam Gautreaux

Aspiring to Live the Highest Life

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Reserve times of silence and recollection for yourself and God.



The Lord Jesus who knows so thoroughly our human nature recommends silence and solitude. *Come, Lord Jesus!* members are encouraged to create an oasis of silence and of peace in order to be refreshed, to be grounded again in truth and renewed in love. Our souls must be given time in quiet penetrated by contemplation to strengthen our spiritual and apostolic life. St. John of the Cross urges us, *"In order to make spiritual progress, we must be silent before this great God! The language he hears best is silent love."* It is in contemplation that the soul participates in the divine life. Here is where God communicates life to our being.

Live a more contemplative life. Spend time in silence loving God. Be with him in love. Practice heart to heart, spirit to spirit communion with God. Contemplate in awe of his holy sacredness. God is the reward.

Condolences

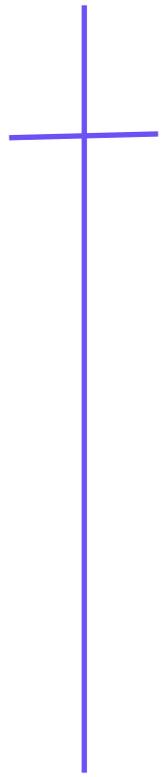
- T**o member Flossie Fontenot of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her husband, Willis Fontenot.
- T**o member Linda Fontenot of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her husband, Glenn Fontenot.
- T**o the member Kim Patout of Abbeville, LA on the death of her mother, Bobbie Begnaud.
- T**o leader Florence Crain of Abbeville, LA on the death of her brother, Ellis Bordelon.
- T**o member Freida Coreil of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her mother, Wilda Veillon.
- T**o members Debra Dupont and Rose Brown of Duson, LA on the death of their sister, Annie Mae Julien.
- T**o leader Bonnie Arceneaux of Coteau, LA on the death of her mother, Evelyn Menard (who was also a member).
- T**o leader Linda Branighan of Kenner, LA on the death of her brother, Gregory Chris Garcia.
- T**o member Joan Harrington of Abbeville, LA on the death of her husband, Kenneth Harrington.
- T**o member Mary Darby of Abbeville, LA on the death of her brother, David Bobb.
- T**o the members of "Fire Upon Earth" group in Abbeville, LA on the death of their member, Dorothy Davenport.
- T**o member Lisa Veron of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her father, Wilson Germain Roussel.
- T**o member Veronica Landry of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her husband, Dalton Landry.
- T**o member Cathy Fontenot of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her father-in-law, Mayner Fontenot.
- T**o member Charlene Matt of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her mother-in-law, Runnie Fontenot Matt.
- T**o leader Debra Fusilier of Rayne, LA on the death of her husband, Roger Dale Fusilier.
- T**o the *CLJ!* members in Basile, LA on the death of their longtime leader, Leola Johnson.

Memorial Burse Donations

JAN 24 - FEB 21, 2022

David Bobb
Dorothy Davenport
Glenn Fontenot
Willis Fontenot
Elizabeth Gaffney
Edward Joseph Gauthreaux, Jr.
Peggy LeBlanc Gilligan
Kenneth Harrington
Wilson Germain Roussel
Audrey Zeringue

Jack Albert Dantin, Jr.
Cary S. Eleser
Mayner Fontenot
Roger Dale Fusilier
Gregory Chris Garcia
Barbara Ghirardi
Allen J. Guillotte, Jr.
Runnie Fontenot Matt
Allen Smith



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Come, Lord Jesus!
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