

COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



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

May 1
*3rd Sunday of
Easter*

May 8
*4th Sunday of
Easter*

May 15
*5th Sunday of
Easter*

May 22
*6th Sunday of
Easter*

May 29
Ascension of the Lord



After the glorious Resurrection, Jesus did not reveal himself immediately even to his closest friends. Each had to be awakened by signs of faith and prepared by responding; they had to seek him.

The pattern of Jesus' self-revelation continues for us the way it began for the apostles. We, like them, need to dispose ourselves in order to be prepared to receive a divine revelation. As sense-bound people of the world we must open ourselves to the spiritual world, the kingdom, where Jesus lives with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Faith and faith life are the means whereby we can open ourselves to these spiritual realms.

We must look for our risen Lord in the breaking of the bread (Lk 24:35), and in his word (Jn 1:14; Phil 2:16), in needy persons (Mt 25: 35-36), in the least significant human being (Mt 25:40) – like a stranger on the seashore (Jn 21:4); we must also seek out our glorious Lord in the faith community (Mt 18:20; Jn 20: 24-25).

A gradual unfolding of our Lord takes place. God takes the initiative by giving us certain signs of his presence. He does not reveal himself all at once. Having given us a hint as to his whereabouts, he awaits a response from us. Our follow-up must be to seek him. This action on our part disposes us for a further revelation from God. In this way, by mutual reciprocation, we gradually come to see our risen Lord with increasing clarity.

This is like St. Teresa's image of the Interior Castle and its seven mansions. We go from one degree of holiness to another by a progressive interiorization until we come upon the risen Christ made one with the Father in the Spirit dwelling in our innermost hearts. Each time we take a step in faith to seek him in one of the sacraments, or make a sacrifice, or detach ourselves from this world to seek him in our neighbor or in our faith community, we attain a new degree of spirituality.

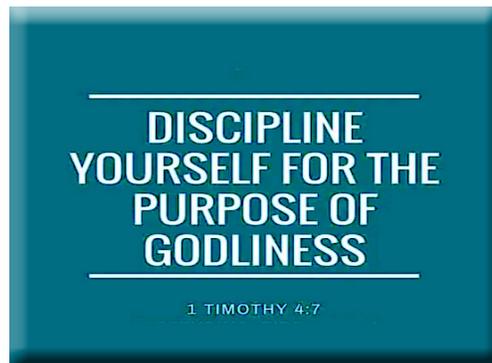
God awaits us. He usually binds himself to this law: we must dispose ourselves for him by making efforts to seek him so that our physical beings can be transformed into spiritual beings. Then we come to be in a position or state of being that enabled us to "see" God. Until this transformation happens, our human nature cannot know the risen Christ who has become Spirit through his resurrection (2 Cor 3: 17-18). St. Paul warns us that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 15:50). On the other hand, as we become more spiritual, we come to see him, our risen Savior, ever more clearly (Col 3: 9-10; Eph 1:17-20).

Jesus himself explained how we could come to realize this magnificent reality (Jn 14: 19-21). The search is indeed rewarding; it leads us to the glorified Christ dwelling in us!

Father Conley Bertrand



God tells us, “Walk in my presence and be blameless” (Gen 17:1)). To succeed in this, our loving Father must be given first priority in our lives. This takes holy self-discipline.



Factors that Dissipate Discipline

Part 2

- **Self-centeredness that seeks our own will and desires, causing us to lose God-centeredness.**

For example: I want what I want regardless of what God wants or how inconvenient it is for others.

- **Infidelity to God by seeking creature satisfaction beyond God’s will.**

We overindulge in recreation to the neglect of prayer life.

- **Holding on to hurts and unforgiveness, causing us to lose our focus on God.**

We cling to hurt feelings and stinging words. We will not let these go and give them to God. Nor do we forgive the enemy who afflicted us. All of these take our minds away from God who deserves to be loved with our whole heart, soul, strength, and mind.

- **Fleeing the arduous, the cross, or God’s will in life, thus weakening our will for virtue.**

Labor, trials, and the cross are meant to strengthen us in virtue. By shirking our duty and fleeing the difficulties of life because we choose not to face them, we become weak in virtue. Disobedience to God’s will in these matters prevents us from living in communion with God.

- **Allowing apathy and laziness, and sloth in spiritual exercises to prevail so that sense dominance makes it impossible to find fruition in spiritual exercises, causing discouragement and loss of interest in spiritual things.**

Apathy, laziness, and sloth cater to sense dominance, so our spirit is not free to enjoy God. It is overwhelmed by sense and self. Since we no longer have fruition in spiritual activity, we become discouraged and lose interest.

- **Creature comforts, choices, and preferences tend to wedge themselves between Jesus and us, causing us to lose our will to pursue the divine romance.**

The comfortable way of life tends to become what we desire rather than God whom we are commanded to love and desire with all our heart. It is easy to pursue luxury to the detriment of pursuing God. The broad highway of self-indulgence weakens our spirit of self-discipline. We are no longer capable of being genuine lovers of God.

- **Allowing anger to prevail to take over our life thus displacing a loving, peaceful disposition flowing from communion with God.**

Anger is a passion that helps us overcome adversity and face challenges. But it has to be dealt with by leveling with those who injured us or are a source of difficulty. We need to respond appropriately and then let the anger go. We need to forgive and not allow the passion of anger to prevail and take over our lives. We would then become hostile and no longer be able to live in peace in the presence of God.

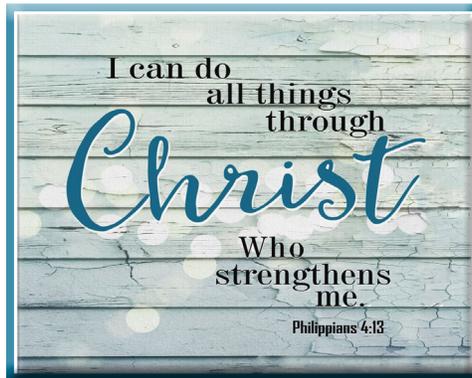
- **Habitually giving in to movements of impatience or selfish tendencies.**

Giving in habitually to the movements of impatience indicates that our spirit is weakening and its determination to please God by accepting the cross in daily life. We express such impatience by murmuring, complaining, losing our tempers, uttering vulgar words, or endless fussing over our mishaps. We must come to grips with this weakening, un-Christ-like attitude by spirit assertiveness in containing ourselves for the love of God when things go wrong.

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Aspiring to Live the Highest Life

20



Prepare yourself for battle – Human nature and its selfish tendencies will challenge you...but be determined. Resist these sinful inclinations which take you away and separate you from God. Do all of this struggling in union with Jesus, whose strength you constantly implore. You cannot succeed by your own power – only with God’s help (Jn 15:5). Draw strength from him through constant prayer.

Mistakes can make you wiser; they teach you to be prudent and avoid the near occasions of sin. Failures can profit you. They help you grow in humility and self-knowledge; they teach you to be more dependent on God. Weakness can effectively thrust you toward him. With St. Paul, you will be able to say, “I can do all things in him who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13). Eventually, you and your growing union with God will prevail, and your disordered tendencies will be put to rest, freeing you to love God with your whole heart and your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus Mingles in Community



Jesus continued to mingle in community with the apostles after he died. Upon rising from the dead, he returned to join himself again to his apostles and friends. He conversed with them, and commingled with them familiarly (e.g., Jn 20: 11-23). They did things together, like catch fish (Jn 21: 1-8), and enjoyed cooking and sharing a meal together on the seashore (Jn 21: 9-14).

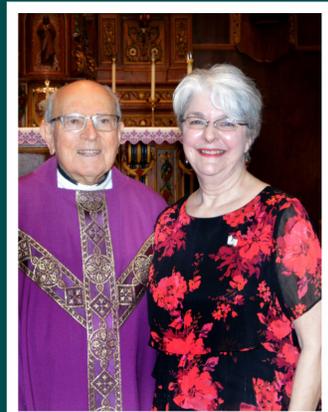
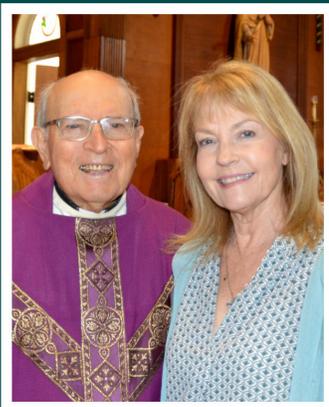
Jesus promised that he would continue to be present within the community he had formed. He would accomplish this through the Holy Spirit (Jn 14: 15-23).

This community became a center of power to which the apostles returned to draw strength so that they could continue to speak God’s word with boldness in the face of opposition and persecution (Acts 4:23-31). This is the community that maintained its fervor and strength by nourishing itself on the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of bread (the Eucharist) and the prayers (Acts 2:42).

We too, like the first apostolic community are deeply joined to him and with one another. (Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12: 13-27). Through him our *Come, Lord Jesus!* community is building itself up in love (Eph 4:15).

COME, LORD JESUS!

Lafayette Area Anniversary Mass St. Peter in Carencro, LA



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Bayou Vista, LA : Brenda Nelson
Breaux Bridge, LA: Cheryl Latiolais
Buda, TX: Mary Jane Boyle
Carlyss, LA: Keith Brown
Coteau, LA: Bernadette R. Derouen
Delcambre, LA: Sherry LeBlanc
Gretna, LA: Eddie Boudreaux, Cheryl Niehaus,
 Isabelle Coll, Paula Bilich, Lindsey Weaver
Jeanerette, LA: Julia F. Boudreaux, Steve Boudreaux,
 Linda Hebert
Lafayette, LA: Beverly Lagneaux, Carla Madere
Lake Charles, LA: Pal Vanacore
Loveland, CO: Jerry Held
Mamou, LA: Donna Frugé
Metairie, LA: Donna A. Foto
Morgan City, LA: Shelley Morell
Patterson, LA: Elaine Landry
Pierre Part, LA: Shana Blanchard
Slidell, LA: Suzanne Robinson
St. Martinville, LA: Tilly Duplechein
St. Amant, LA: Stacey Bumpus, Dae Simmons
Ville Platte, LA: Georgie Vidrine

New Group

Oberlin, LA : Merita Vallere- Leader
 Equilla Victorian, Judy Gilmore

March 2022 Gift Bags Received



Thank you for your generosity!

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Abbeville | Grand Prairie | Pierre Part |
| Basile | Gretna | Pine Prairie |
| Bayou Vista | Harvey | Plaisance |
| Bell City | Houma | Ragley |
| Berwick | Iota | Richard |
| Borger TX | Iowa | Schriever |
| Breaux Bridge | Jeanerette | Scott |
| Broussard | Jefferson | Slidell |
| Cankton | Jennings | St. Amant |
| Carencro | Judice | St. Martinville |
| Carylss | Kenner | Thibodaux |
| Cecilia | Kinder | Vidrine |
| Coteau | Lacombe | Ville Platte |
| Cow Island | Lafayette | Washington |
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| Duson | Lyons Point | |
| Egan | Marrero | |
| Erath | Maurice | |
| Esther | Metairie | |
| Estherwood | Milton | |
| Eunice | Mire | |
| Fenton | Morgan City | |
| Forked Island | Morse | |
| Franklin | New Iberia | |
| Grand Coteau | Opelousas | |
| | Patterson | |

MARCH 29- APRIL 20, 2022 Memorial Burse Donations

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Melba Albert | Elaine Therea Gillis |
| Felicia Ansley | Mariah Helaire |
| Ashley Barbara | Perpetual Sarah Igbelina |
| Raymond Bourgeois | Margie Landry LeBlanc |
| Ursula Carmena | JoAnn Smith Lemoine |
| Jackie Como | William Casey Mott |
| Theresa Cook | Maurice Wright O'Roark, III |
| Mildred Cormier | Kathleen Noel Smith |
| Bert Dantin | Craig Stanga |
| Dudley J. Deville | Robert J. Vanacore |
| Jessica Rayna Dupuy | Laura Weiss |
| Jose Fernandez | |
| Amy Gaudet | |

Condolences

- To leader Sandra Montalbano of Slidell, LA on the death of her granddaughter, Jessica Rayna Dupuy.
- To member Barbara Thomas of Broussard, LA on the death of her 16 year old great-niece and Godchild, Mariah Helaire.
- To member Dot Baudry of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her sister, Elaine Theresa Gillis.
- To the *CLJ!* members in Cankton, LA on the death of their member, Ray Bourgeois.
- To member Brady Como of Broussard, LA on the death of his mother, Jackie Como (also a longtime *CLJ!* member.)
- To member Jeanie Bienvenu of Breaux Bridge, LA on the death of her sister, Mildred Cormier.
- To member Pal Vanacore of Lake Charles, LA on the death of her husband, Robert Vanacore.
- To member Lee Anna Guillory of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her brother, Dudley J. Deville.
- To member Kathy Ray of Lafayette, LA on the death of her mother, Theresa Cook.
- To member Glenda LeBlanc of Lafayette, LA on the death of her mother, Melba Albert.

