

COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*

Faith Hope and Love.
But the greatest of these is Love



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

September 4
*23rd Sunday of
Ordinary Time*

September 11
*24th Sunday of
Ordinary Time*

September 18
*25th Sunday of
Ordinary Time*

September 25
*26th Sunday of
Ordinary Time*

*Leaders' Seminar
Sept 3rd*

*See You
There!*

The Theological Virtues
Sanctifying or habitual grace began to be infused in us at baptism. And it continues to be poured into us through the reception of the sacraments, prayer and selfless or charitable acts. Through this grace we are given a share in the very nature of God. We become his children. Our human natures are permeated with divine qualities. Our bodies and our souls are filled with God's presence. All of our natural powers are elevated, transformed and deified by this interpenetrating grace that abides in us and makes us one with God.

Just as nature needs certain powers to operate and express itself, such as arms and legs, eyes and mouth, so does super nature. Sanctifying grace also needs certain powers with which to operate. These are what we call the infused virtues and gifts. They come from God; they spring from grace and enable it to operate.

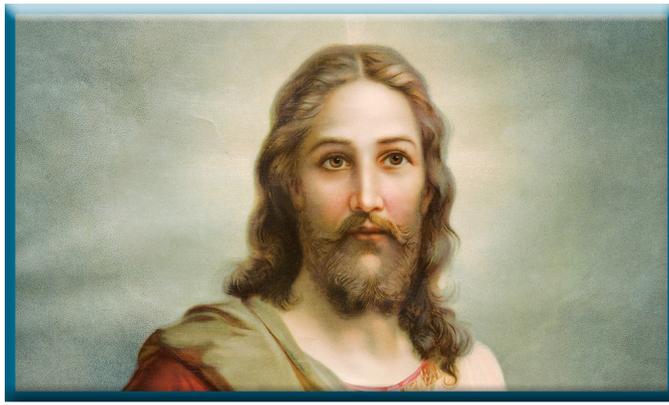
Holy Scripture speaks of certain virtues through which we attain God. *"There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love"* ((1 Cor 13:13). In his first letter to the Thessalonians St. Paul writes, *"We constantly are mindful before our God and Father of the way you are proving*

your faith, and laboring in love, and showing constancy in hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thes 1:3). We call these the three theological virtues because they are powers that enable us to be in contact with God. Each of them unites us to God in its own way.



Faith enables us to know God and accept all he has revealed. This virtue elevates and perfects our intellect so that it can know supernatural truths including God himself who is The Truth. The power of faith opens us up to divine realities and the splendors of eternal life. As Jesus expressed it, *"He who believes has eternal life"* (Jn 6:47). This power enables us to live the very life of God. It puts us in the world of God and enables us to view all things in his light. Faith unites us to God as Truth, as Light.

Continued on page 2



The theological virtue of **hope** makes us tend to God and unites us to him as our ultimate happiness, and trusting in his promises, continually strive to reach him. Hope resides in the will and prompts us to desire God as our Supreme Good. This virtue begets holy desires in us, especially the desire to possess God. It gives us a holy yearning for God, our Beatitude, and sustains us and our efforts in our quest. This is the virtue that moves us to cry out: “*O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water*” (Ps 63:2).

And again, “*I have waited, waited for the Lord*” (Ps 40:2). “*O Lord, my God by day I cry out; at night I clamor in your presence*” (Ps 88:2). Hope prompts us to trust in God, his forgiveness, his grace and his gift of eternal life because of Jesus’ love for us and his saving passion, death, and resurrection.

The theological virtue of **love** is the greatest of all the virtues because it unites us most intimately with God and is the only one of the three that perdures through all eternity. Once we are ushered into God’s presence, we will no longer need faith because we will see God face to face; then we will possess God, so that we will no longer need hope. Only love will remain by which we will be united to God for all eternity. St. Paul explains this and the superiority of love over all the virtues in 1 Cor 13: 1-13.

**Love is patient, love is kind...
it always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.**

Love never Fails

Without love, no matter what other good qualities we may have, we are nothing. Love embodies and informs all the other virtues. It is patient, kind, detached, humble, seeks the good of others, self-controlled, longsuffering, trusting, and so forth. Love gives life to and beautifies all the other virtues. It is their very soul. Love is the theological virtue that inclines us to love God above all and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. It is not the same as to like or have good feelings. We may have good feelings when we pray or warm feelings toward others. But when these are absent, we can still love. Love is rooted in the will. Love makes us strive earnestly and constantly to avoid even the smallest sin and do God’s will in all things out of love for him. It makes us put God first in our lives. We are always thinking of him and striving to please him. We try to be like Jesus who said, “*I always do what pleases him*” (Jn 8:29).

It is through love that God takes possession of us and unites us to himself. The more we love God and one another, the more we are united to God and become like him. St. John writes, “*God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him*” (1 Jn 4:16). The love of God in us prompts us to love one another as well as God, for it is the same love. St. John says, “*Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God*” (1 Jn 4:7). Loving others shows we are being born of God and are his children. This gives us an experiential knowledge of God giving us birth. Loving one another, St. John assures us, makes divine love perfect in us: “*Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us*” (1 Jn 4:11-12). Laying down our lives for one another through service is loving God. Such sacrificial love brings us to perfection.

Father Conley Bertrand

COME, LORD JESUS!

Breaux Bridge Area Anniversary Mass - St. Bernard Catholic Church



Testimony by Jessica Guidry

I started with the Come, Lord Jesus! Program in June of 2010. Prior to Come, Lord Jesus! we had a very special priest in our parish, Fr. Michael Delcambre. He had a class on prayer, "Prayer 101". I learned to pray with the Lectio Divina method of prayer. I read scripture before that but had not prayed with it in that way.

A few months after that Ms. Marianne Hebert gave a testimony at our Masses one weekend. During the week the Come, Lord Jesus! team introduced our parish to the Come, Lord Jesus! Program. Our group had been studying the CCC. Well in the steps of Come, Lord Jesus, there is a very good study of the CCC, so, we just transitioned to Come, Lord Jesus!. During Covid my group quit meeting and did not start up again. So, Mrs. Cheryl Guidry and her group adopted me.

If I had not joined CLJ!, I would have prayed with scripture occasionally, but not on a regular basis. Through CLJ! meeting weekly, and of course we started with the Gospels, it brought my relationship with Jesus to a deeper and intimate level. I FELL IN LOVE WITH JESUS. It was like Jesus met me on the Road to Emmaus.

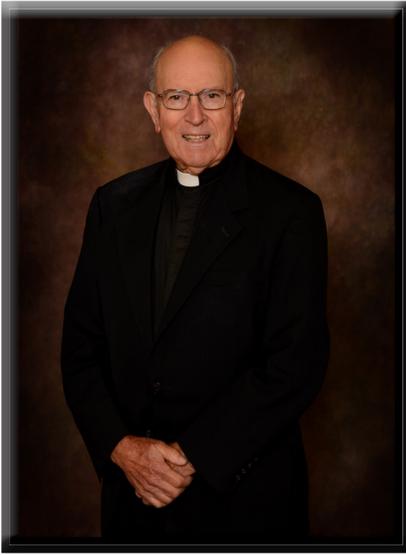
I was very blessed to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. CLJ! prepared me for that pilgrimage, I knew the readings, and I was very familiar with the events that took place in the Old Testament and New Testament at the Holy Sites we visited. It allowed me to enter into the events taking place: the Sermon on the Mount, The Transfiguration, The Agony, Crucifixion and the Resurrection, just to name a few.

It has also helped me to be a better Catechist in my church parish. I can share all of these gifts from God with my students to help them to encounter Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus! prepares me for my Sunday Mass. And occasionally if I am not able to attend our meeting, I feel lost, like something is missing.

I am a cradle Catholic, and I was not one to question. I am very content being Catholic. I stood, sat, kneeled, genuflected – I did what I was taught. I took part. By participating and going through the 12 steps of Come, Lord Jesus!, I now understand what is going on in the Mass! It has brought me to a deeper union with Jesus Crucified and Jesus in the Eucharist.

Thank you, Father Bertrand and your staff who work so diligently to make it all happen.



Dear Friends,

Peace and joy in Jesus!

As we enter the season of coordinators' and leaders' meetings as well as workshops, spiritual formation gatherings, and area Anniversary Masses, it is important that you realize their value so that you will make the necessary efforts to attend them. *What is so special about this kind of gathering that would move you to exert the extra energy needed to be present for them?*

There's something electrifying about being in the presence of those who are filled with God. The Scripture says that *"The place where they were gathered shook as they prayed. They were filled with the Holy Spirit..."* (Acts 4:31). Jesus himself promised to be among you when you meet in his name (Mt 18:20). Like the first disciples, you too will rejoice at the sight of the Lord as he reveals himself to you (Jn 20:20). You will be inebriated like the apostles when they were in the presence of their transfigured Lord (Mt 17:4). Becoming *"light in the Lord"* (Eph 5:8), you will come to understand why Stephen's face seemed *"like that of an angel"* (Acts 6:15). Through such experiences of being together in the Lord, *"all of us are being transformed from glory to glory into his very image by the Lord who is Spirit"* (2 Cor 3:18).

The power of the word that is spoken and shared when you come together affects you in a way similar to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus as Jesus spoke to them. *"They said to one another, 'Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?'"* (Lk 24:32).

This helps you to understand what takes place within you during those meetings as the word of God is explained to you. Your hearts are enkindled with the warmth of divine love. This word brings you into the presence of God and into deep prayer. This experience teaches you how you can use the word to get closer to God in prayer on a daily basis.

Jesus' word resurrects people from death (Jn 11:43-44); it has the power to take you out of yourself and from the depths of depression and make you worthy to share the lot of the saints in light; it can rescue you from the power of darkness and bring you into the kingdom of his beloved Son (Col 1:12-13).

You have so much to learn from one another at these meetings as you share yourselves and life's experiences illumined by faith! You come into the presence of such graced and beautiful people! It is an opportunity to grow through interpersonal relationships with your community of faith.

You are filled with joy in meeting with those special people who have the same spiritual aspirations as you. You are blessed in establishing new friendships and strengthening the bonds of those already formed. There, in the midst of your *Come, Lord Jesus!* community, you have a real experience of the Communion of Saints, where God becomes all in all (1 Cor 15:20); you enter into the fullness of life; indeed, in Christ, you are brought into the very kingdom of God! Surely, you will not want to miss such grace-filled opportunities, where you can all feed each other that hidden manna (Rev 2:17) by your very presence and being!

Father Conley Bertrand

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Algiers, LA : Michael H. Nedd, Sr.
Arnaudville, LA: Lorraine Dupre
Coteau, LA: Jim O'Hara
Egan, LA: Erica Laughlin
Eunice, LA: Tut Reed, Angela Huckaby
Harvey, LA: Carol DeLord, Ella Mae O'Quain
Houma, LA: Glenn LeBoeuf, Theresa LeBoeuf
Iota, LA: Gretchen Chaumont, Lynette LaComb
Jefferson, LA: Dianne Rapp
Lafayette, LA: Hazel Kratzer, Billie Henry, Renee Torina
Metairie, LA: Nancy Kleffner
New Iberia, LA: Michael Degeyter, Doris Degeyter
Lionel Louviere, Doris Louviere, Rudy Delcambre
Diana Delcambre, Nancy Barras, Mike Simon
Pierre Part, LA: Tammy Gros
Ragley, LA: Angelic Hebert, Shelly Mougeot
Richard, LA: Claire Link, Donna Dischler
Scott, LA: Dave Hebert, Danielle Alleman

Returning Members

Delcambre, LA : Myrna Dooley, Donna Duhon,
Janet S. Hollier

New Groups

Paulina, LA : Charmaine M. Ordeneaux- **Leader**
Jane Pertuis, Mary Cambre, Mary Kliebert, Paula Favaloro
Debra Rouillier, Melodia Milioto, Lynn Bourg
Rayne, LA : Leah Guidry- **Leader**
Bryan Guidry, Laney Guidry, Valerie Louviere,
Derek Louviere, Cheryl Fabacher
Sulphur, LA : Megan Miller- **Leader**
Payden Miller, Emma Miller, Joseph Miller, Audrey Miller
Baylor Miller



July 2022 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

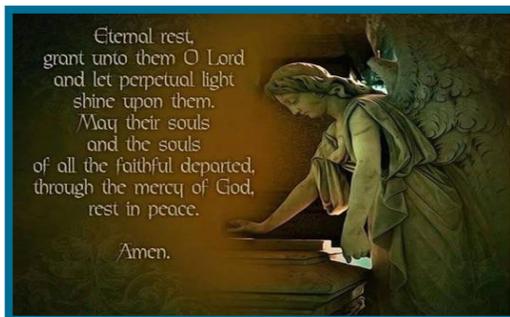
Abbeville	Grand Prairie	Schriever
Algiers	Gretna	Scott
Arnaudville	Harvey	Slidell
Baker	Houma	St. Amant
Basile	Jeanerette	St. Martinville
Baton Rouge	Jefferson	Sugartown
Bayou Vista	Jennings	Sulphur
Berwick	Kenner	Thibodaux
Breaux Bridge	Kinder	Vidrine
Broussard	Lafayette	Ville Platte
Cankton	Lake Arthur	Washington
Carencro	Lake Charles	Youngsville
Carlyss	Leonville	
Catahoula	Marrero	
Cecilia	Maurice	
Coteau	Metairie	
Cow Island	Milton	
Delcambre	Morse	
DeRidder	New Iberia	
Duson	New Orleans	
Egan	Oberlin	
Erath	Opelousas	
Estherwood	Patterson	
Eunice	Pierre Part	
Fenton	Pine Prairie	
Forked Island	Prairie Ronde	
Franklin	Ragley	
Grand Coteau	Rayne	

JULY 25- AUGUST 22, 2022 Memorial Burse Donations

Barbara Bennett	Anne Cummings
Glen Eggers	Bobbie Lee Favaron
Lynn O. Fontenot	Donald Kimm
Ronald Latiolais	Hilda LeBlanc
Mary Lou Legleu	Vickie Naquin
Kathryn Poindexter	Robert Reviere
Vincent Dupuis	Douglas Touchet
Ouida Robert	Josie Ruffino
Jeanette Salone	Selma Thompson
Marguerite Waguespack	Michael White

Condolences

- To member and *CLJ!* office receptionist Datie Cespiva of Lafayette, LA on the death of her aunt, Hilda LeBlanc.
- To member Patricia White of Lake Charles, LA on the death of her grandson, Michael White.
- To the members of “To Do Your Will” group in Jefferson, LA on the death of their member, Jeanette Salone.
- To member Gayle Fontenot of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her sister, Ouida Robert.
- To member Charlotte Delatour of St. Amant, LA on the death of her mother, Clara Milano.
- To the members of “Love Never Fails” in Washington, LA on the death of their longtime member, Mary Vine Mayeux.
- To member Margaret Vidrine of Carencro, LA on the death of her mother, Marguerite Waguespack.
- To member Imelda Touchet of Lafayette, LA on the death of her husband, Douglas Touchet, who also served as a *Come, Lord Jesus leader*.
- To Area Coordinator and Leader Gail Dupuis of Morgan City, LA on the death of her husband, Vincent (Sonny) Dupuis.
- To the members of “Abide in Me” group in Ville Platte, LA on the death of their member, Lynn O. Fontenot.



Come, Lord Jesus!
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