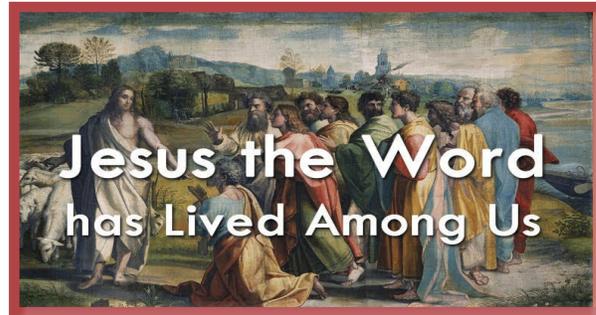




Come, Lord Jesus!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



**Jesus the Word
has Lived Among Us**

January

*Every Thursday
Memorial Mass
for the enrollee s in the
CLJ! Memorial Burse*

*January 1
Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God*

*January 8
The Epiphany of the Lord*

*January 15
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*January 22
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*January 29
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Happy New Year! May you have
NEW LIFE Through Jesus, the Word!**

We rejoice at Jesus' being born among us and living as a fellow human. Now we can learn from him, the Son of God himself made man, how to live in this world as a child of God.

What Jesus tried to teach us during his lifetime, the Gospels have tried to capture in words. That is why we must peruse them in order to take hold of their spirit. Jesus reveals himself to be the Wisdom of God incarnate (Jn 6:27-50). He is our imperishable food, which nourishes us with eternal life (Jn 6:27). He is the bread of life, which has come down from heaven to give life to the world (Jn 6:33-35). Those who believe in him have eternal life (Jn 6:47). He is that living water which satisfies our thirst for eternal life (Jn 4: 10-13). His words are spirit and life (Jn 6:63). Jesus is the word of God (Jn 1:14; Rev 19:13). He is the word of life (Phil 2:16). The eternal life, which was with the Father, has become visible and revealed himself to us (1 Jn 1: 1-2).

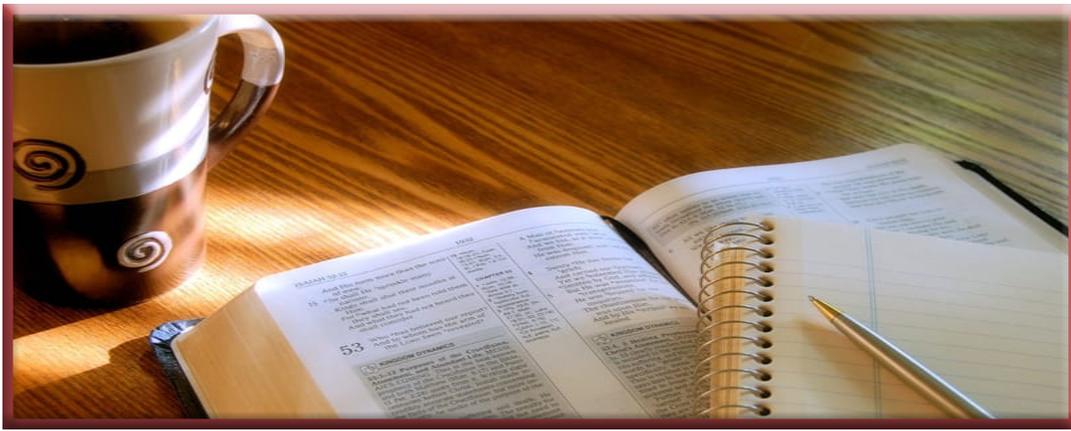
We need only to look at the gospels to see Jesus exemplified as the word of life. When Jesus' life-giving word struck Lazarus, he who had been dead for four days, abruptly came back to life (Jn 11: 39-44). This miracle helps us to understand how God's word can affect us. It can bring us to life (Jn 5:25) and give us a foretaste of the final resurrection from the dead.

God's Word Affects us

Other examples from the gospels demonstrate further how Jesus' word affects us when we receive it. It can bring order and calm to our lives as it did the stormy sea. (Mt 8:23-27). His powerful word is cleansing and heals us even as it cleansed and healed the leper (Mt 8:1-4). Jesus' word enlightens us as it gave sight to the two blind men (Mt 9:27-31). That word can also open our ears to truth as he healed the deaf mute (Mt 9:32-33). Indeed, Jesus' word can heal us of all our ills (Mt 9:35) if only we open ourselves up ever more to its healing power. Jesus' word can free us from evil spirits that agitate and harass us with continuous restlessness and restore our sanity and peace of mind (Mk 5:1-20).

(Continued on page 2)

2023



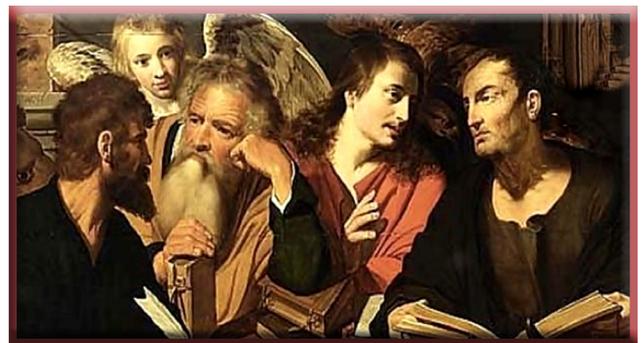
The Power of the Word

Jesus speaks a creative word, which remains ever alive. That word has the power to create disciples out of us. It has the ability to free us from the obstacles presented by family and business ties (Mk 1:16-20). Similarly, it can break the hold that money has on us so that we can become true followers of his (Mt 9:9; Lk 19:1-10). Ultimately, God's word can set us free from sin so that we are no longer slaves (Jn 8:31-36). Indeed, God's word has the power to save us if we but act upon it (Jms 1:21-22). But this does not come from sheer will power. God's word has an inbuilt power to move and impel us – for it is living and effective (Heb 4:12). It is the power of God leading everyone who believes in it to salvation (Rom 1:16). It is at work within us, transforming our lives (Col 2:13; 1 Thes 2:13; Mt 13:33). It brings hope and encouragement (Rom 15:4); it enriches us (Col 3:16); it cleanses our hearts (Jn 15:3). That word of grace has the power to build us up and give us our inheritance (Acts 20:32); it grows and bears fruit (Col 1:5). At times, the word is like a sword that attacks us (Heb 4:12), moving us to repentance and conversion (Acts 1:37-41). But it can also become a weapon for us to use against the evil spirits (Eph 6:10-17). God's word is so powerful and effective that despite all the obstacles it faces in this world, it is like a prolific seed that produces thirty – or sixty – or a hundredfold (Mt 13:1-23).

God's Word Demands Our Cooperation

But it is important that we apply ourselves to understand that word (Mt 13:19). We are called to devote ourselves to the reading of Sacred Scripture (1 Tim 4:13). We must be like Mary who sat at Jesus' feet to listen attentively to his word. Jesus wants us to make this a priority in our lives (Lk 10:38-42). Like the mother of Jesus, we should cherish the word of God; we should treasure and reflect upon it (Lk 2:19-51). The scriptures are the source of wisdom that lead to salvation; they are useful for teaching and training in holiness. They make us competent and equip us for every good work (2 Tim 3:15-17).

God's word builds us up and obtains blessings (Acts 20:32). If we put it into practice, it makes us solid as rock so that we can withstand any storm that arises in life (Mt 7:24-25). This word truly nourishes us (Mt 4:4); it gives us the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:4-31; 10:44). Putting that word into practice makes us the mother, brother, and sister of Jesus (Lk 8:21) and has the power to save us (Jms 1:21). That holy word can become like a friendly fire within us, causing our hearts to burn and aglow with love (Lk 24:32). That word has the power to sanctify everything we do (1 Tim 4:5).



Like the first disciples, we must welcome and study the scriptures every day (Acts 17:11). We must also pray that Jesus will open our minds to the understanding of the Scriptures (Lk 24:45). The Father will give us the Holy Spirit to instruct and remind us of everything Jesus spoke (Jn 14:26). The Spirit will guide us to all truth (Jn 16: 12-13). If we are of God, we really hear that word (Jn 8:47). It consecrates us to God (Jn 17:17); it sets us apart as his special people. This word makes us one with God so that we desire and ask only what he wills. We receive answers to our prayers according to his great providence (Jn 15:7). Living by God's word renders us so pleasing to God that he comes and makes our hearts his permanent dwelling place (Jn 14:23).

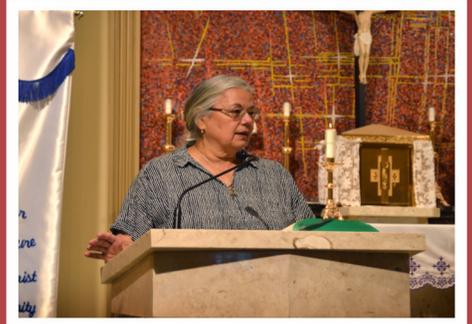
Father Conley Bertrand

SACRED



VILLE
PLATTE

HEART



HOLY ROSARY - ST. AMANT



Welcome New Members!

Abbeville LA: Cheryl Trahan
Baton Rouge, LA: Diane D'Avy, Jeannie Hanaman
Bell City, LA: Joyceln Spears, Margaret Arrant
Julie Racca
Cankton, LA: Karlene Dugas
Grand Prairie, LA: Tricia O. Fontenot,
Patricia F. Montgomery
Gretna, LA: Susan Naquin
Lafayette, LA: Susie Roy, Lauren Elizabeth Breaux
Anissa Talley
Maurice, LA: Yvonne T. Campbell,
Maria Ohlenforst Kracher
Metaire, LA: Mitchell Foto
Mamou, LA: Carolyn Fuselier
New Iberia, LA: Melanie Richard

Returning Members

Breaux Bridge, LA: Donna Smith
Cecillia, LA: Cynthia Soignier
Cow Island, LA: Jackie Bourque

WELCOME NEW GROUPS!

Jeanerette, LA: ... Susan Garcia.... Leader
Harriet Pirnie, Tia Simmons, Flavia Eldridge
Angela Breaux, Lou Arton, Mary Boudreaux
Liz Derise, Becky Patout, Lisa St. Germain,
Brenda Prejean

November 2022 Gift Bags Received



Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Gretna	Ragley
Algiers	Harvey	Rayne
Baker	Houma	Richard
Basile	Iota	Scott
Baton Rouge	Jeanerette	Slidell
Bayou Vista	Jefferson	St. Amant
Bell City	Judice	St. Martinville
Borger, TX	Kenner	Sugartown
Breaux Bridge	Kinder	Sulphur
Broussard	Lafayette	Terrytown
Buda, TX	Lake Arthur	Vidrine
Cankton	Lake Charles	Ville Platte
Carencro	Leonville	Washington
Carlyss	Marrero	
Cecilia	Maurice	
Coteau	Metaire	
Cow Island	Mire	
Delcambre	Morgan City	
DeRidder	Morse	
Duson	New Iberia	
Erath	New Orleans	
Esther	Oberlin	
Estherwood	Opelousas	
Eunice	Pierre Part	
Fenton	Pine Prairie	
Grand Prairie	Prairie Ronde	

NOV 19 - DEC 20, 2022 Memorial Burse Donations

Maurice Andrews	Allen Bourdier
Raymond Bourgeois	Hilda Chiasson
Consuela "Connie" Corripio	John Danos
Charlie Fontenot	Dr. William Karam
Albert LeBlanc	Russell Resweber
Robert Roshto	Lillian "Ms. Lil" Salvador
Stacy L. Washington	

Condolences

To member Beatrice Gaspard of Cow Island, LA on the death of her brother-in-law, Kayward Hebert.

To member Catherine Bourdier of Morgan City, LA on the death of her son, Allen Bourdier.

To member Bonnie Smith of Carencro, LA on the death of her brother, Albert LeBlanc.

To leader Annette Dyke of Lake Charles, LA on the death of her brother, Maurice Andrews.

To member Voncille Fontenot of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her husband, Charlie Fontenot.

To the members of "Believe in the Light" group in Lake Charles, LA on the death of their member, Lillian "Ms.Lil" Salvador.

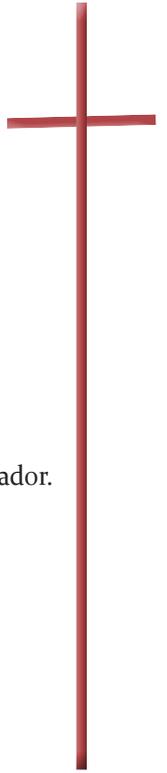
To the members of "Rejoice And Be Glad" group of New Iberia, LA on the death of their member, Edwin Whipp, Jr.

To member Brenda Washington of Broussard, LA on the death of her daughter-in-law, Stacy L. Washington.

To leaders Steve and Luci Morgan of Jefferson, LA on the death of his brother, Mark Morgan.

To member Pat McElwee of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her brother, Robert Fontenot.

To member Bernadette Danos of Carencro, LA on the death of her husband, John Danos.



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Come, Lord Jesus!
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