

COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



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

May 7
*5th Sunday of
Easter*

May 14
*6th Sunday of
Easter*

May 21
*Ascension
of the Lord*

May 28
*Pentecost
Sunday*



During this time of Jesus' glorification, I think of his words, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (Jn 12:32). Jesus' bodily ascension into heaven expressed outwardly the transformation of his human nature that took place in the mystery of the resurrection. It is through this transformed humanity to which we are joined at baptism that Jesus gradually uplifts us to a new level of being. St. Paul puts it this way, "All of us, gazing on the Lord's glory with unveiled faces, are being transformed from glory to glory into his very image by the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Cor 3:18).

This is the marvelous vocation which *Come, Lord Jesus!* is helping each member to respond and open himself to. This is what the process of sanctification is all about – our persons are being opened to the divine glory to an ever-greater degree. All of this is happening through our risen Lord's initiative as he draws us "upward" from his exalted position – but not without resistance from human nature. And we too go along with it by clinging to earth through various desires that go contrary to the Gospel of holiness whose purpose is to free us for him. "Since you have been raised up in company with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms where Christ is seated at God's right hand. Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth" (Col 3:1-2).

This is what we're all about in our *Come, Lord Jesus!* communities. Every member is being drawn upward by becoming more spiritual. **It has been said that when a soul is uplifted, the whole church is raised up with it.** I call upon each of you to be more alert in responding to Jesus' movement to lift you up toward the Father. You will accomplish this, not only by preparing yourself well for each *Come, Lord Jesus!* meeting, but also through the transformation of your person which results from responding faithfully to Jesus as he draws you. Like Jesus, you will become a new creation and affect the members of your community by your very presence and excellence of being.

Jesus promises, "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20). He is closer to us than ever before. For, being Spirit, he can now live within each of us. And we can know him better, more intimately and profoundly than ever before – not by a surface knowledge of sight, hearing and external nearness of companionship, but by a deep interpenetration of being and community of life and love.

United with you in love and prayer,

Father Bertrand

*Come
Holy
Spirit!*



*Fill the
Hearts
of the
Faithful!*

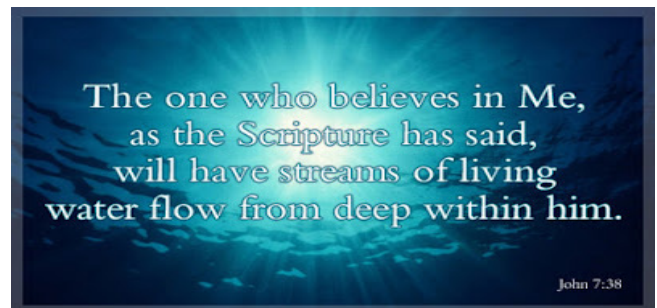
Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me; and let him drink who believes in me. As the Scripture says, ‘From within him shall flow rivers of flowing water.’ Here Jesus is referring to the Spirit which those who came to believe in were to receive. For there was no Spirit, since Jesus had not been glorified” (Jn 7: 37-39).

Jesus is the source of the Holy Spirit. He promised to send him to us after he would be glorified. Jesus fulfilled his promise on Pentecost Sunday, after he had been glorified on Easter Sunday and ascended into heaven. He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit upon the Church. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity, was sent to us to complete and perfect the work of Jesus. For example, he gives us the insight to understand the words of Jesus. He gives us the grace and the power to live and carry out the teachings of Jesus.

Those who were not present on Pentecost Sunday to receive the Holy Spirit, received him later at the hands of the Apostles who had received him. For example, Peter and John went to the people of Samaria who had been baptized but had not received the Holy Spirit. The Apostles prayed, then laid hands on them so that the Holy Spirit fell upon them (Acts 8:14-17). The same thing happened to the disciples in Ephesus. After baptizing them, Paul laid hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 19:5-6) – just as the Bishop or one of his delegates lays his hands on those who are being confirmed. That means that those who were baptized are strengthened (confirmed) by the Holy Spirit to live out and witness their faith.

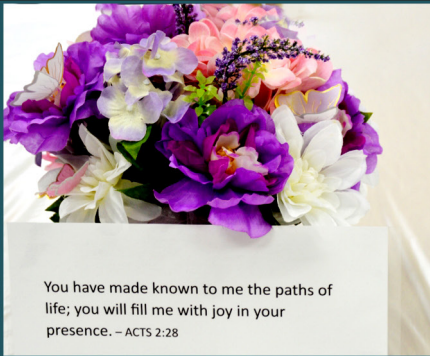
Jesus cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me; and let him drink who believes in me.” It is through an active faith that we drink of the Spirit symbolized by the term “rivers of living water” that flow from the open side of Jesus’ pierced heart. These flowing waters in the Holy Spirit flow from our glorified Savior, Jesus Christ.

We drink of the waters through faith expressed in prayer gazing upon our crucified and risen Jesus. This faith is also expressed when we meet and receive Jesus in the Sacraments such as the Holy Eucharist and Penance. But to what extent do we receive a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit when we pray or receive these sacraments? Jesus puts a condition in his statement: “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me; and let him drink who believes in me.” **To the extent that we thirst for Jesus, to that extent will we receive rivers of living water, the Holy Spirit of Jesus and his grace.** Are we really thirsty for Jesus, our glorified Lord, for interpersonal communion with him? So often we are so full of the goods and pleasures of this world, we do not feel a need for Jesus. Our minds are so full of the images and thoughts about the things of this world; any thought of the divine Jesus is crowded out.



To really receive a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we need to empty ourselves and abstain from the many things and pleasures that clutter our minds and stir our passions. Jesus promised that we would come to have a personal knowledge of the Holy Spirit “because it remains with you and will be in you” (Jn 14:17). Through the Holy Spirit both Jesus and the Father have come to dwell in our very hearts. They share their divine life with us. To be in communion with our indwelling God through the Holy Spirit is the highest kind of blessing and joy attainable on this earth. I pray that you will avail yourself of this grace.

Father Bertrand



You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. – ACTS 2:28



Anniversary Mass Church of the Assumption Franklin, LA





Come, Lord Jesus!

A Testimony: 25 Years of *Come, Lord Jesus!*

What did *Come, Lord Jesus!* say it would do for me using the 4 Pillars of this program: Prayer, Scripture, Eucharist and Community? It would teach me how to pray aloud in thanksgiving and for my petitions with my group; it would give me an experience of the Divine Presence by reading Scripture and encounter God with joy in being with likeminded brothers and sisters; it would increase my faith and I would experience joy; it would teach me how to get the most out of reading Scripture through Lectio Divina (Divine Reading); it would help me cope with life in difficult moments – overcoming obstacles; it would help me to share my faith and to defend and explain it to others (apologetics).

How **has** *Come, Lord Jesus!* benefited me? It has accomplished all of the above! *Come, Lord Jesus!* has educated me – the first important thing that happened to me was to let myself be guided into this beautiful program. There's a saying that one must trust the journey and it's true. It has literally changed my life, turned me around and guided me in a new direction throughout all these past 25 years. *Come, Lord Jesus!* educated me by bringing a new awareness of the Divine and into a beautiful new loving encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. Reading scripture opened my eyes. The scales were removed. They literally spoke life into my spirit and to this day, it still does.

Come, Lord Jesus! has disciplined me. Joining *Come, Lord Jesus!* requires a little work beyond just attending meetings each week. It required me to develop a time set aside for preparation to get the full benefit of the program. It's like attending Mass. You will get out of it as much as you put into it. I set this time aside and everyone knew that my special day was of utmost importance and there would be times when I could not attend a family activity.

Come, Lord Jesus! has taught me obedience and perseverance. Dying to self and doing the program the way it was designed using all 12 steps brought many graces to our members. We have received many answered prayers, healings, both physical and spiritual throughout the past 25 years.

For whatever reason you joined *Come Lord Jesus!* I guarantee that you will find whatever you are searching and longing for. It's all right here. This is where Jesus reveals Himself and His love for you. Remember, if you seek Jesus with all of your heart, all of your mind and all of your strength, you will find him and he will pour out his Spirit upon you.

Gracie Guillotte, Area Coordinator

MARCH 27- APRIL 24, 2023 **Memorial Burse Donations**

L.J. Ardoin, Jr.
Sal Cipolla
Theresa D.Comb
Elgin Guillory
John Dale Landry
Suzanne Romero LeBlanc
Greg Mahtook
Claude Shilow
Audrey Ardoin Verrette

Frank Boggs, Jr.
Thomas Clausi
Maefred Weiser Curran
Leslie Owen Hayes
Frankie Landry, Jr.
D'Aun Marie Ledet
Lester Mouton
Celie Ulm
Michael Wascom

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Baton Rouge, LA : Amber Ellwood
Bossier City, LA: Mary Grace Bauldin
Carencro, LA: Joan Douget
DeRidder, LA: Karen Peavy
Gretna, LA: Samantha McKenzie
Harvey, LA: Bonnie Reiser
Houma, LA: Pat Herques
Jeanerette, LA: Elizabeth Robin
Jefferson, LA: Trish Chatelain, Audrey Clapp
 Catherine Eikel, Sandra T. Ligori
Lafayette, LA: Debbie Moore, Albert J. Bushnell
Prairie Ronde, LA: Cindy Lafleur
St. Amant, LA: Cathy Brown
Ville Platte, LA: Charlene Soileau, Elizabeth D. Lafleur
Washington, LA: Marie Pitre, Angela Pitre.
Youngsville, LA: Mark Poindexter, Debby Poindexter
 Mrs. Kelly Cahill, Mr. Kelly Cahill, Janice A. Plaisance
 Hilton Sonnier, Margo Sonnier, Ada Diz, Vickie Woosley
 Liz Broussard

Welcome, New Groups

Jeanerette, LA : Diana D. Aucoin- **Leader**
 Dru Aucoin, Ethel Collins, Stacy Freeman
Youngsville LA : Barbara Hebert- **Leader**
 Roy Hebert, Linda Woodward, Audrey Smith
 Yvonne Rodrique, Rita Landry
Lacombe, LA : Bonnie Cannon - **Leader**
 Ginger Bruce, Robin Blakeman, Cathey Saurage,
 Marie Kurtz, Lynn Suprean, Angelle Greer
 Julie Bacon, Joan Gregory, Karen Pinner
 Marilynn Zummo, Laura Lopez, Pat Varisco
 Sylvia DeLaurel, Gaylynn Ford, Linda Giaise
 Karen Gibbs, Roianne Posey

New Groups - continued

Marero, LA : Cissy Monaco- **Leader**
 Michelle Guise, Nicole Cannaliato, Judy Baldassaro
 Krissy Orgeron, Charla Dalton, Silvana Collins, Shane Robichaux, Tommy Anderson, Nicole Perque
Kinder, LA : Nancy Burleigh - **Leader**
 Beth Courville, Monica Duplechin, Lynda Hamilton,
 Kylie LaFosse, Susie LeBlue, Jacquella Manuel
 Jennifer Marcantel, Linda Marcantel, Graceanne Montou,
 Margaret Vincent, Brenda Nash
Jennings, LA : Evelyn Babineaux - **Leader**
 Frances G. Naquin, Sandra Hotard, Patty Boudreaux
 Steve Manceaux, Loretta M. Smith

Returning Member

Lake Charles, LA : Brenda Hickman

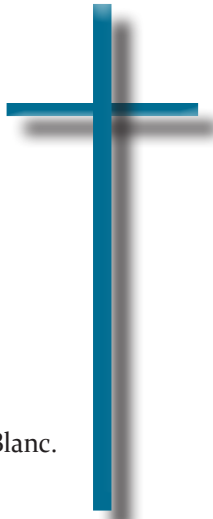


March 2023 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Grand Prairie	Richard
Algiers	Gretna	River Ridge
Arnaudville	Harvey	Schriever
Baker	Houma	Slidell
Basile	Jeanerette	St. Amant
Bayou Vista	Jefferson	Sugartown
Bell City	Judice	Sulphur
Bossier City	Kenner	Terrytown
Breaux Bridge	Kinder	Viadrine
Broussard	Lafayette	Ville Platte
Buda TX	Lake Charles	Washington
Cankton	Lawtell	Westwego
Carencro	Mamou	Youngsville
Carylss	Marrero	
Cecilia	Maurice	
Coteau	Metairie	
Cow Island	Milton	
Delcambre	Morgan City	
DeRidder	Morse	
Duson	New Iberia	
Erath	Opelousas	
Estherwood	Paulina	
Eunice	Pierre Part	
Fenton	Pine Prairie	
Forked Island	Prairie Ronde	
Franklin	Ragley	

Condolences



- To member Helen Ledet of Broussard, LA on the death of her niece, D' Aun Marie Ledet.
- To member Bertha Brown of Broussard, LA on the death of her brother, Lester Mouton.
- To leader Lynn Boggs of Sugartown, LA on the death of her husband, Frank Boggs.
- To the members of "A House of Prayer" group in Ville Platte, LA on the death of their member, Germaine Janice.
- To member Louissette Landry of Carencro, LA on the death of her husband, John Dale Landry.
- To the members of "The Lord, My Rock" group in Abbeville, LA on the death of their member, Suzanne Romero LeBlanc.
- To leader Pam Sonnier of Lafayette, LA and member Donna Soileau of Ville Platte, LA on the death of their mother, Audrey Ardoin Verrette.
- To the members of "Love Never Fails" group in Washington, LA on the death of their co-leader, Merryle Soileau.
- To member Versie Shilow of Eunice, LA on the death of her husband, Claude Shilow.
- To member Karen Ardoin of Eunice, LA on the death of her husband, L.J. Ardoin, Jr.
- To member Jeanella Guillory of Eunice, LA on the death of her husband, Elgin Guillory.
- To member Jurica Guillory of Eunice, LA on the death of her father, Elgin Guillory.
- To member Doris Samanie of Schriever, LA on the death of her daughter, Danielle Samanie.
- To member Douglas Frederick of Forked Island, LA on the death of his sister, Joyce F. Stelly.



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Come, Lord Jesus!
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