



COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



August
Every Thursday
Memorial Mass for the
enrollees in the CLJ!
Memorial Burse

August 6
The Transfiguration of
the Lord

August 13
19th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

August 20
20th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

August 27
21st Sunday
of Ordinary Time

Questions for
The Transfiguration
can be found in the
following **CLJ!** books:
Volume I - pg 28
Volume II - pg 138
Volume III - pg 112
Understanding the
Sunday Gospels
Cycle C pg 148
for all Readings

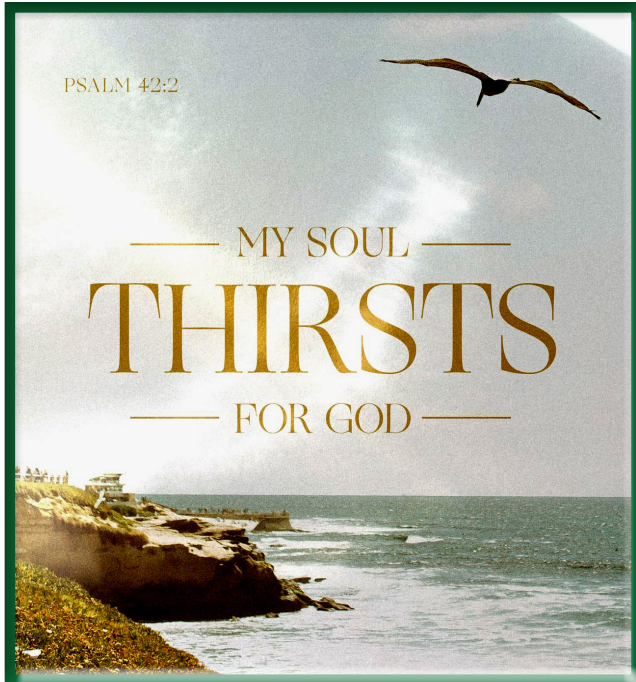
God has loved us into being. He first loved us. Our happiness consists in continually receiving God's eternal love, his self-gift, and incessantly returning that love just as the Son does. This kind of love-response brings us into fellowship with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. In this way we participate in God's own eternal love-life.

In prayerful vigilance we remain habitually turned toward God and opened to his self-gift. We accept God's eternal love poured out in the Holy Spirit from moment to moment. We live in total accord with truth as it is revealed in our consciences. We obey God's will and do what pleases him. We avoid sin and any behavior that resists or opposes truth as expressed by the inspirations of grace or revealed by God's word. Consequently, we live in communion with God; we enjoy fellowship with him. Being thus steeped and caught up in the movement of divine love we are empowered and inclined to love one another. And living in the communion of love with one another fosters our living in fellowship with the Blessed Trinity. St. John writes, "What we have seen and heard we proclaim in turn to you so that you may share life with his Son, Jesus Christ" (1 Jn 1:3).

This divine life that we share together by grace brings us into fellowship with God and with one another. Our late Father, Pope St. John Paul II, explains that Jesus' prayer to the Father, "*that all may be one as we are one*" implies a certain likeness between the union of the divine persons and the union of the children of God in truth and charity (Dominum et Vivificantem no. 59, p.105).

Let us look at Jesus' words more closely: "*I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one, as we are one – I living in them, you living in me – that their unity may be complete*" (Jn 17:22-23). The glory that God gives us for unity is the Holy Spirit (CCC 690). There is only one fellowship: the Holy Spirit unites us both to God and to one another. It is because we are united to God by the Holy Spirit that we are able to be open in love to each other and have fellowship. Fellowship with God brings us into fellowship with each other. The one Spirit of God unites us to one another through our union with God. Without the Holy Spirit informing and uniting us, there is no true Christian fellowship, only a shallow external imitation.

by Father Conley Bertrand



Becoming spiritual has to do with disposing ourselves to receive the reign, that is, opening ourselves to the Divine Presence; we become like God and become one with him. Where and how do we start? What is the basic disposition necessary to begin this adventurous task?

St. Teresa of Avila, the great saint and mystic who founded the Discalced Carmelites and whom the Church proclaimed Doctor of the Church, tells us that we need great desires to begin the spiritual life and to go forward to overcome the obstacles, and persevere in this difficult undertaking (Life, Chap. 13, Peers). Another great doctor/teacher in the spiritual life, St. John of the Cross, puts it this way: “A love of pleasure, and attachment to it, usually fires the will toward the enjoyment of things that give pleasure. A more intense enkindling of another, better love (love of one’s heavenly Bridegroom) is necessary for the vanquishing of the appetites and the denial of this pleasure. By finding his satisfaction and strength in this love, a man will have the courage and constancy to deny readily all other appetites. For the sensory appetites are moved and attracted toward sensory objects with such cravings that if the spiritual part of the soul is not fired with other more urgent longings for spiritual things, the soul will neither be able to overcome the yolk of nature...” (Ascent, Bk 1 Ch 14).

Great desires express themselves through longing, which is a thirst of the soul. The psalmist expresses it this way, “*As the deer longs for the running waters, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God*” (Ps 42:2-4). Desires also express themselves through yearnings: “*Your name and your memory are the desire of our souls. My soul yearns for you in the night, yes, my spirit within me keeps vigil for you*” (Is 26: 8-9). These desires can become very strong: “*My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God*” (Ps 84:3).

The New Testament resumes this manner of expressing our desire for God as thirst: “*Let him who is thirsty come forward; let all who desire it accept the gift of life-giving water*” (Rev 22:17). This spiritual thirst is efficacious – it produces results: spiritual nourishment. “*To anyone who thirsts, I will give to drink without cost from the spring of life-giving water*” (Rev 21:6). Jesus pointed out that this desire/thirst for God should be directed to him; for his is the source of the Spirit who alone can satisfy our thirst. “*If anyone thirsts, let him come to me; let him drink who believes in me*.” Scripture has it ‘*From within him rivers of living water shall flow*’. Here he is referring to the Spirit, whom “*those that came to believe in him were to receive*” (Jn 7:37-39).

Jesus explains that this thirst will join us to the very desire God has for himself and enables us to participate in God’s own eternal life. “*Whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty again. No, the water I give shall become a fountain within him, leaping up to provide eternal life*” (Jn 4:14).

You are very blessed indeed if you have great spiritual desires. Jesus himself assured us, “*Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill*” (Mt 5:6). What an encouraging reassurance Jesus offers those whose urgent longings have opened their hearts to him and his glorious reign! They do indeed possess the basic disposition necessary to attain or receive its life-giving riches!

by Father Conley Bertrand

COME, LORD JESUS!

Anniversary Mass - Holy Cross Catholic Church - Lafayette





Testimony

In March of 2010 Father Bertrand and his team came to St. Pius X and spoke about *Come, Lord Jesus!*. I knew right away this was for me. I couldn't wait to get started. *Come, Lord Jesus!* has changed my life. It made me realize how little I knew about God and his love for me. It made me want more knowledge by asking questions, studying scripture and looking for answers. I look forward to *Come, Lord Jesus!* and hearing other members share our lesson and insights on our Lord. I also feel more comfortable about sharing our faith with other Christians of different faiths. I have acquired self confidence as a child of God. I have been strengthened to cope with life and to live the gospel. This is what *Come, Lord Jesus!* does for us – it strengthens our lives in a community of Christian love. I feel love in this community of believers.

Joy Best



“Women of Proven Worth” group from Buda, TX recently gathered for prayer, music, and discussion of Father Bertrand's booklet, ***“When Things Go Wrong: The Grace of Acceptance”*** for their Annual Inservice. Pictured (from left to right): Cindy Colunga, Juanita Rodrigues, Mary Jane Boyle, Mary Anne Howard, Anna Lara, Carol Champagne and Irene Fabian at their luncheon.



Anniversary Mass

Celebrating 9 years of Come, Lord Jesus! are members of Racsaída Cisneros' group in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico. Pictured with their group is Father Felipe De Jesús.
Ven, Señor Jesús!

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1

Outreach Introduction Night
Our Lady of Divine Providence
Metairie

August 5

Anniversary Mass
10:00 am
St. Joseph... Broussard

August 19

Anniversary Mass
10:00 am
Our Lady of Victory... Loreauville

August 26

Anniversary Mass
St. Landry... Opelousas
9:30 am.

September

Leaders' Seminar
Our Lady of Fatima... Lafayette
Date and Time - to be announced

October 14-15

Outreach Campaign
Our Lady of Seven Dolars
Welsh

October 21

Anniversary Mass
10:00 am
St Joseph... Cecilia

Oct 28

Anniversary Mass
St. Benilde... Metairie
10:00 am

New Members

Breaux Bridge LA : Juanita Louviere, Tina Landry
DeRidder, LA: Naomi Morales
Esther, LA: Ann Guillotte
Grand Prairie, LA: Marsha Soileau
Gretna, LA Philip Oncale, Val Coles, Mitzi Labadot
 Susan Naquin
Harvey, LA: Edie Meaux
Kinder, LA: Rhonda LaPoint, Julie Brooks
Lafayette, LA: Pam Philips, Carole Bares
Slidell, LA: Sabrina Anderson
St. Amant, LA: Lisa Westerfield
Youngville, LA: Karen Rabalais, William Brinkhaus

New Groups

Youngsville, LA: *Jeannette Broussard* **Leader**
 Janet Segarra, Wilda Gunn, Jackie Domingue, Debbie Bodin
 Darlene Champagne, Debbie Burley, Tina DeLeon, Debbie Lavergne
 Sue Fournier, Ruth W. Wildharber
Morgan City, LA: *DeAnna Zweigle Dupree* **Leader**
 Yvonne Zweigle, Dalton Dupree, Anna Hebert
Lake Charles, LA: *Debbie Theriot* **Leader**
 Paula Bruce, Dianna Guillory, Darilyn Ardoin, Gail Toothman
 Judy Arceneaux, Barbara LeBlanc, Shawn Hacker, Mary St. George
Iota, LA: *Mary Guillory* **Leader**
 Judia Lacombe, Julie Hebert, Melinda LeJeune, Carolyn L. Reed



JUNE 2023 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

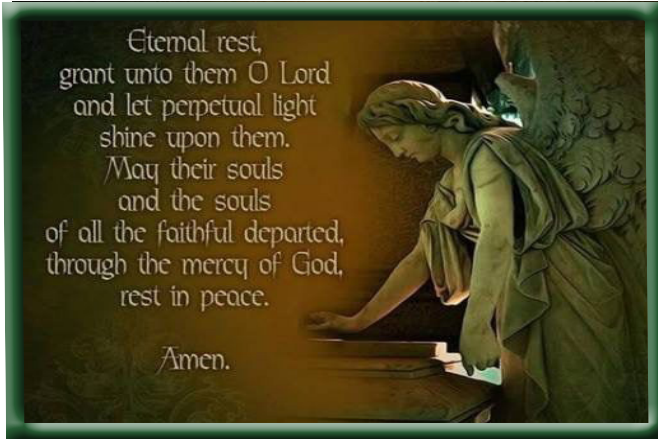
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| Basile | Iota | St. Amant |
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Condolences

JUNE 26 - JULY 24, 2023 Memorial Burse Donations

E.J. Alleman, Jr
Calvin Bodin
Jo Boyd
Betty Bernhardt Campos
Wilson James Domingue
Jeannette Ann Simon Wax

Evelyn Fricke
Cecil Gilbert
O'Neil Higginbotham
Charlie Johnson
Janice H. McNeil
Bobby Vidrine



Eternal rest,
grant unto them O Lord
and let perpetual light
shine upon them.
May their souls
and the souls
of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.

Amen.

To leader and Area Coordinator Ginny Dufrene of Marrero, LA on the death of her brother, Jim Martin.

To member Susan Doumite of Kinder, LA on the death of her husband, Jerry Doumite. Condolences also to his daughter, Camille Tramel.

To the members of "One Body" group in Lufkin, TX on the death of their member, Jo Boyd.

To leader Barbara Taylor of Lufkin, TX on the death of her mother, Evelyn Fricke.

To member Laura Matthews of Duson, LA on the death of her husband, John Matthews, Sr.

To member Alice Bodin of Jeanerette, LA on the death of her husband, Calvin Bodin.

To member Cindy Lafleur of Grand Prairie, LA on the death of her father, Bobby Vidrine.

To the members of "Do Whatever He Tells You" group in Schriever, LA on the death of their member, Emily LeBoeuf.

To leader Sandra Johnson of Slidell, LA on the death of her husband Charlie Johnson.

To member Margaret Rucks of Lafayette, LA on the death of her mother, Margaret Roy Rucks.

To member Joyce Guillot of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her fiancé E.J. Alleman, Jr.

To member Lisa Marshall of Lafayette, LA on the death of her mother, former member Betty Bernhardt Campo.

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Come, Lord Jesus!
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