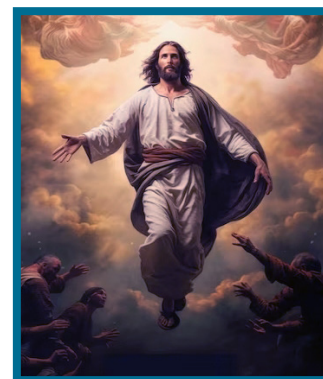
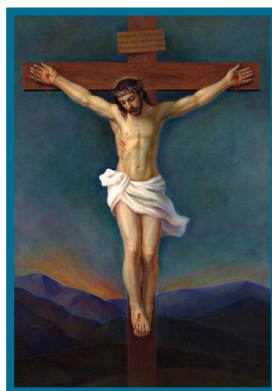
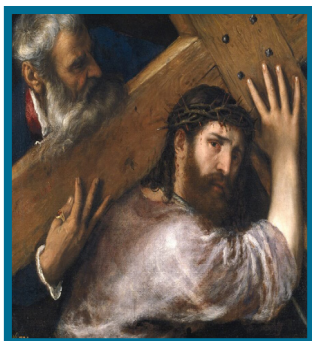


COME, LORD JESUS!

NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2023 VOL. LXXXVIII NO. 100

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



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

October 1
26th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

October 8
27th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

October 15
28th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

October 22
29th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY IN DAILY LIFE

The greatest singular event in the history of mankind is the coming of the reign of God in our midst through the Paschal Mystery. The Passion and Death of Jesus, evolving into the Resurrection/Ascension Mystery, was shared with us through the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecost event. We, the church, are God's holy people who are endowed with this mystery of godliness. We are a sacrament, a sign of God's holy presence, which has come to abide with us. This saving presence has come to dwell within our very persons so that we in turn can reveal it to our world. Ours is a unique privilege, a precious mission, a grave responsibility!

Jesus took his responsibility very seriously. His whole life was devoted to carrying out this urgent call to proclaim God's stupendous love for all mankind, especially as expressed in Jesus' sacrificial death, and the divine mercy and forgiveness of sins that it brings. When Jesus sent the disciples out to spread the good news, he conveyed the urgency of their assignment by saying, "*Greet no one along the way.*" In other words, don't waste precious time by useless, idle talk. We've got a pressing, momentous job to do. "*Say to them, 'The reign of God, is at hand'*" (Lk 10:4,9). Only a couple of years more and the reign of God, awaited for so many centuries, would be ushered in.

Now that this reign of love and goodness has arrived – so readily available in our midst – we are in a state of emergency. In the twinkling of an eye – within the very short life span of each human being, which is so endangered of being uselessly spent and lost – we must alert all in our path regarding the marvelous reality of the kingdom. It is imperative that we do so, because the reign of God is the answer to every life's problem or crisis, fruitless frustration or hopeless dilemma. Ultimately, we are dealing with a matter of life and death, a choice between endless pain and loss or unending joy and gain.

Before we can assume this urgent task, we ourselves need to experience the saving grace of God's reign. We must assimilate the powers of the world to come (yet already arrived in the kingdom) to an ever-greater degree. We must grasp it and allow it to grasp us, so that we can witness it to others – or so that they can witness it in us!

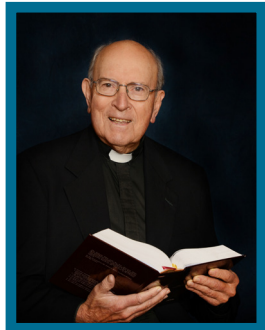
Striving for that holiness with you,

Father Conley Bertrand

Commentaries for the 31st and 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time can be obtained on our website:

comelordjesus.com
under Resources or by
calling our office.

337-233-6277



Father Conley Bertrand

WHAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

Most of you have heard my story of how *Come, Lord Jesus!* got started. From 1959 after ordination, until 1969 I tried various programs to form youths and adults in the faith. But I was never really satisfied with them. I found them all deficient, and they failed to hold the groups together. In 1969 I was inspired to begin putting together the most beautiful and powerful Scripture texts I could find into a program. After five years of experimentation with youth and adult groups, the program finally reached perfection.

Whereas, before I could not keep the groups meeting by my being personally present, now they continued to meet without me! Clearly, then a divine creation must have taken place. I did not realize it at the time, but I believe it was the Holy Spirit who was leading me to form a program modeled on Acts 2:42: *Prayer, the Word of God, the Eucharist and Fellowship*. That is how the Holy Spirit saved the early Christians from the corrupt generation of their day (Acts 2:42). This is what kept the Church strong in persecution and growing in numbers and holiness. This formula consisting of these four basic elements are integrated in the twelve steps of our program.

It is important that you follow these twelve steps of the program. They have proven themselves now for over 50 years. Some of the original groups are still in existence! Those who have not followed the twelve steps have disintegrated.

Why is it so important to follow the twelve steps? Why have they proven themselves in evangelizing the members? Why is it that the Holy Spirit can use the program to form and inspire its members? It is because the program is based on sound ascetical and mystical principles. Failure to follow these twelve steps and the directions involved means you are transgressing these principles and are headed for disaster or severe mediocrity.

Let me explain why this is so. Asceticism means self-discipline and self-mastery. And without self-discipline there is no spirituality. This means that the spirit has caved into the flesh and disordered self-love and self-gratification. And Jesus says, "It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail" (Jn 6:63; see also Rom 8: 7-8; 8,13). Without asceticism and spirituality, there can be no mysticism. In other words, if the spirit is not ruling fallen human nature, the gifts of the Holy Spirit remain inoperative because they are trapped and bogged down in the flesh. Therefore, individuals and the whole group are totally indisposed to experience the mystical knowledge of the risen Christ who is present in their midst. And without the subtle experience of the divine presence, the meeting is doomed to remain on a merely natural, human level. It will likely become dull and boring.

At that rate we can easily see how the meeting becomes a mere social gathering and doomed to failure. Those who are seeking the spiritual will not be attracted or inclined to join such a group. The group lacks fervor and spirituality.

Come, Lord Jesus! recognizes these leaders attending our recent Leader Seminar who have served since the beginning stages of our program!!



Verna Guillory
Ville Platte
48 Years



Joyce Melancon
Broussard
47 Years



Katherine Distefano
Morgan City
45 Years

Come, Lord Jesus! 2023 Leaders Seminar

Leaders from across the state gathered Saturday, September 23rd at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Lafayette for our Annual Leaders' Seminar. With his warm personality, Master of Ceremonies, Father Randall Moreau skillfully kept us on schedule while our Keynote speaker, Father Michael Russo passionately delivered two impactful presentations: "What it Means to Have Faith in the Pascal Mystery" and "How We Understand and Live Out Suffering". Beautiful testimonies by Vicky Landry and Ginny Dufrene were captivating and inspiring. Many thanks to Steve Morgan and all our volunteers who made this day a success. May God be glorified!



Father Michael Russo
Keynote Speaker



Father Randall Moreau
Master of Ceremonies



Diocesan and Area Coordinators



Come, Lord Jesus!

Step up to God's plate, and He serves you a magnificent feast!



After retiring from teaching in 2005, I knew I wanted to get more involved in serving the Church; it had been something that I had long desired to do, but never found the time.

I was already serving as a lector, but I wanted to get involved in a group that met regularly, one in which I could enjoy spiritual friendships and learn more about my faith. So, when Mrs. Lola Griffin invited me to join her *Come, Lord Jesus!* group in Esther, I was willing to go and see what this popular Bible study was all about. Well, the ladies were impressive, they certainly knew more about their faith than I did. They knew a personal, loving God, and their desire to know His will for their lives really captured my attention. Before my involvement with this group, I had imaged myself as a pretty good Catholic. I met my obligations, was a lector at Mass, even attended daily Mass, but these ladies were living a deeper more intense level of their faith. These ladies, who I had always thought had everything together, also struggled with their own challenges, but I could see they felt rescued by being able to

study God's Word to help them. Their efforts to find in the readings and questions of the *CLJ!* program a fulfilment of their Catholic faith, to study God's Word in order to live in His light, to realize His way, to serve Him with their entire lives – all of this opened my eyes to a faith that was much more serious than mine. I was so surprised to realize that their desire to know God came not only from wanting to live a good life, but even more from wanting to love Him more perfectly, and to bring their family and others to Him. Truthfully, even with the holy examples in this *CLJ!* group, for a few years I wrestled with the preparation, commitment and sacrifices that weekly participation required. As for many of us, caring for my elderly parents became very important, and time-consuming. I had also become an officer in our Lay Carmelite community, and I kept praying – Lord, this is too much, I know you want me to have more peace, what should I give up? But I never heard an answer, instead I was asked to lead and begin hosting our *CLJ!* meetings at my house. For many reasons I was the most logical candidate for this position, so I accepted.

Well, step up to God's plate, and He serves you a magnificent feast! Shortly after I began hosting and leading our meetings, we were asked to accept new members into our group, and it began to grow, and change! We polished up our agenda by trying more carefully to follow all of the steps of the meet-

ings without any omissions. And God stirred things up! The new members were younger, and hungry to understand God's Word. Our discussions were deep and realistic. God was cutting into our hearts with His two-edged sword, and new holy bonds developed quickly and beautifully. Although what is discussed in our group stays in our group, I often hear members, including myself, thanking God for the life-giving Spirit in our *CLJ!* meetings.

One of the questions I was asked to answer in this testimony is "How has *CLJ!* influenced your life?" The answer to this is – this program has opened the door to salvation for me! The Ethiopian eunuch's story is also mine! "*How can I (understand) unless someone instructs me?*" And from last month's Magnificat edition, the answer is: "*They shall all be taught by God', who speaks through the Church, Philip (or Father Conley Bertrand) opened his mouth, and proclaimed Jesus to him, '...The eunuch, drawn by the Father to the Son is now incorporated into the Church, on the road to eternal life!'*"

I'd like to conclude with 1 Peter 2:9b-10: "*He called (me) from darkness into His marvelous light. Once (I was) no people, but now (I am) God's people. Once there was no mercy for (me), but now (I) have found mercy.*"

by Vicky Landry

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 10

Advisory Board Meeting
CLJ! office 9:00 am

October 11

Leaders Spiritual Formation
Morgan City 6:00 pm

October 14-15

Outreach Campaign
Our Lady of Seven Dolars/ Welsh

October 19

Introduction Night
Our Lady of Seven Dolars 6:00 pm

October 21

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

October 28

Anniversary Mass
St. Benilde / Metairie / 10:30 am

November 11

New Leader Workshop
St. Agnes / Jefferson / 10:00 am

November 29

Anniversary Mass
Sacred Heart / Ville Platte / 12:00 pm

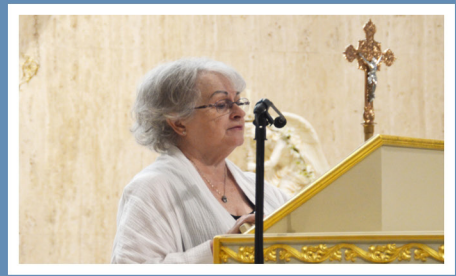
December 2

Anniversary Mass
Our Lady of Christian Help / Jennings / 10:00 am

St. Landry Catholic Church

Anniversary Mass

Opelousas, LA



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Carencro, LA: Carol Allemond
Eunice, LA: Janice Stout
Grand Prairie, LA: Debbie Guillory
Gretna, LA: Pam Landry
Houma, LA: Sonia Revolorio, Libby Wilder
Iota, LA: Krystian Comeaux
Jefferson, LA: Rosalind Rowell
Kinder, LA: Stacy Calder
Lafayette, LA: Kathleen Price, Raquel LaGrange
Lawtell, LA: Miranda Fontenot
Lufkin, TX: John O'Connor
Milton, LA: Sarah Williams
Washington, LA: Clarisse Deshotel

Returning members

Lake Charles, LA: Berna Richard
Abbeville, LA: Katie Glafcke

Welcome, New Groups

Abbeville, LA : Kay Listi- **Leader**
 Patricia Bellaire, Roslyn Simon, Andrea Noegel
 Mandy Vincent, Annette Robicheaux, Connie Trahan
 Katie Hudspeth
Metairie LA : Marie Lygate- **Leader**
 Jackie DiStefano, Dee Arnold, Evelyn Espinal
Milton, LA : Kristen Comeaux - **Leader**
 Cole Sonnier, Macy Wade, Kensey Gary, Michael Heintz
 Joseph Olivier, Sydney Trim, Lacy Menard, Dee Comeaux



August 2023 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Grand Prairie	Pierre Part
Alexandria	Gretna	Pine Prairie
Algiers	Harvey	Plaisance
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Baton Rouge	Jennings	Schriever
Bayou Vista	Kenner	Scott
Bell City	Kinder	Slidell
Breaux Bridge	Lacombe	St. Amant
Broussard	Lafayette	St. Martinville
Cankton	Lake Charles	Sulphur
Carencro	Lawtell	Vidrine
Carylss	Leonville	Ville Platte
Cecilia	Loreauville	Washington
Church Point	Lufkin TX	Youngsville
Coteau	Marrero	
Delcambre	Maurice	
DeRidder	Metairie	
Dry Creek	Milton	
Duson	Morgan City	
Erath	Morse	
Eunice	New Iberia	
Fenton	Opelousas	
Franklin	Patterson	
Grand Coteau	Paulina	

SEPT 1- SEPT 25 Memorial Burse Donations

Lynn Lambert Alexander	Julie Andre Kato
Cathryn Leigh Arceneaux	Margie & Jake Kreiger
Imogene Brennan	Claire Vallot Manuel
Beatrice Bradley Broussard	Jared Matte
Rita Buetner	Joseph Melton "Joe" Pipsair
Odette Collett	Joyce Roberts
Ann Daigle	Lois Rubli
Dorothy Davis	Helen R. Thibodeaux
Jeanette Dufio	James Leslie "JL" Wax
Hervey Wallace Eversberg	Ronnie Willis
Lori Fayard	
Heath Fontenot	
Rosemary Holmberg	
Rebecca Ann "Becky" Odom Dawson	

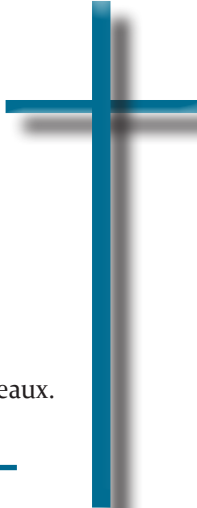
Our Lady of Victory

Anniversary Mass

Loreauville, LA



Condolences



- To member Charlene Matte of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her son, Jared Matte.
- To the members of “Stay With Us” group in Crowley/Estherwood, LA on the death of their member, Cathy Leger.
- To leader Peggy Fontenot of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her son, Heath Anthony Fontenot.
- To member Christine Hudspeth of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her son, Jacob Hudspeth.
- To Area Coordinator Linda Gaudet of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her uncles, Edgar Alleman, Sr. and Henry Comeaux.
- To member Beverly Mabile of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her grandson, Nolan Mabile.
-



Come, Lord Jesus!
1804 W. University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70506

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