



COME, LORD JESUS!

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2023 VOL. LXXXVII NO. 99

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*

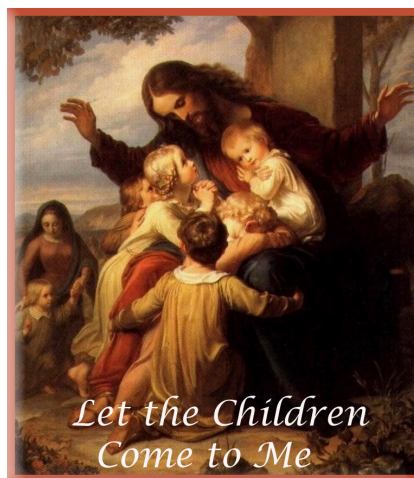
September
Every Thursday
Memorial Mass for the
enrollees in the CLJ!
Memorial Burse

September 3
22nd Sunday of
Ordinary Time

September 10
23rd Sunday of
Ordinary Time

September 17
24th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

September 24
25th Sunday
of Ordinary Time



*Let the Children
Come to Me*

Jesus had a special love for children. We've already seen how he called a child over to be in the midst of his disciples to teach them the lowliness required to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Parents recognized Jesus' love for children: they brought them to him so he could lay his hands on them and pray over them. The laying on of hands and praying is a way of communicating grace upon others. The power of touch also communicates love to other persons. We humans have a need of relating lovingly with each other in that way. Touch is a powerful way for parents to love and affirm their children.

Jesus' disciples felt that those parents were bothering Jesus by bringing their children to him. They thought their master had too many other more important matters to occupy him. But Jesus reprimanded them for trying to keep the children from coming to him, "*Let the children come to me*" he said, "*and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*"

This passage helps us to understand why the Catholic Church baptizes children and infants. Jesus told Nicodemus that it is necessary to be born of water and the Spirit in order to enter the Kingdom of God (Jn 3:5).

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus blesses children as legitimate members of the Kingdom. Thus, he is laying a foundation for infant baptism. The early Church baptized young children as well as adults. Peter told the people on Pentecost, "*Repent and be baptized every one of you...For the promise is to you and your children...*" Acts 2:38-39).

"The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church. There is explicit testimony to their practice from the second century on, and it is quite possible that from the beginning of the Apostolic preaching, when whole "households" received baptism, infants may also have been baptized" (CCC 1252).

Early Church Fathers, such as Origen (185-254), trace baptism to apostolic tradition. The Council of Trent (1547) later confirmed and promoted the practice. From early on the baptismal liturgy included Jesus' words "*do not prevent them*." To exclude any age of human beings from baptism would not meet the universal need for salvation.

by Father Conley Bertrand

Leaders Seminar

(leaders and co-leaders)

Saturday, September 23

Our Lady of Fatima
Lafayette

*beginning at 10:00 and
concluding with Mass
at noon. To register:
Call 337-233-6277*



The person who is baptized is cleansed of original sin and, in the case of one who has reached the age of reason, of particular sin, he is incorporated into Christ and made a member of His Body, the Church; he is infused with sanctifying grace and receives the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, the infused moral virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance; we also receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfect all of these virtues. Do you remember what these gifts are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord.

These virtues and gifts flow from the Indwelling Presence of the Blessed Trinity. This is known as the Uncreated Grace from which created, sanctifying grace flows within our very hearts.

When I was a little boy, I used to kneel by my bedside and pray my prayers. I directed my prayers to God whom I pictured as far, far away in the sky. I did not know of God's Indwelling Presence in the center of our soul. Through the power of sanctifying grace, we can make direct contact with this Indwelling Trinity. If you want a more tangible object, we have our glorified Lord Jesus living in the depths of our hearts who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

The moment you awaken in the morning you want to be aware of this Indwelling Presence of your Glorified Lord who loves you to death dwelling in the inmost depths of your being, ready to receive your love in response to his. In this way, you and he can spend the whole day together. He will empower you through this continuous communion with him to meet all the tests of life with love, wisdom and fortitude.

It would be a great spiritual gift to your children and grandchildren to teach and form them with the knowledge of this heavenly gift of our glorified Lord Jesus' Indwelling Presence with his Eternal Father and the Holy Spirit. How easy it is for us to go to God in faith:

He is so close to us – we have such easy access to him who loves us so. As your open eyes have direct contact with viewable objects around you, so the theological virtues of faith, hope and love make direct contact with your Indwelling Lord the moment that you posit and activate these spiritual powers. That is what spontaneous prayer is all about: throughout the day making frequent contact with God for continuous spiritual enrichment. We live in the Divine Presence.

But very often we are so caught up in this earthly life that our contact with God is clouded up and vague. We need to examine ourselves to see to what extent we have allowed our disordered affection for the things of this world to have cluttered up our minds and hearts so that our contact with God has become very vague and distant. We must pray and ask God to help us to understand how far we may have drifted from him if that is our situation. If that is so, very often it is because our prayer time with God is often scarce and weak. With increased prayer, God helps us to see how we have allowed the things of this world to take over our lives and displaced him.

We pray to be able to remedy this by repentance and the Sacrament of Penance. Attending a weekend experience of prayerful reflection such as Acts or Cursillo would be a great spiritual benefit to help you make a new start in the spiritual life.

My hope is that *Come, Lord Jesus!* has already remedied your shallow Catholic life and has immensely enriched your spiritual life. And now you are beginning to pour yourselves into God's word and are coming to know our glorious Indwelling Lord Jesus living in your very heart. You have been plunged into the deep things of God and you now see how much you were missing by living a worldly life. Glory to God for having saved you!

by Father Conley Bertrand



COME, LORD JESUS!



Anniversary Mass - St. Joseph Catholic Church - Broussard





The word “commitment” comes very strongly to mind as we read in Jn 10: 11-12: “*The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand runs away*”. It is because of his great love for us that Jesus committed himself in self-sacrifice for us. “*He gave himself*” (Eph 5:2). True love prompts us to want to give ourselves to Jesus and the Father in return, through the Spirit who inspires and moves us to respond by a similar commitment of self-giving.

One way of doing this is through our weekly meetings. Our commitment to the weekly meeting is an expression of our commitment to Jesus, his word, and our group members. In this way, we put him and his Kingdom first.

This supposes a great love that prompts us to leave everything else behind. We sacrifice anything and don’t think twice about it because we have found the love of God to be the greatest good on earth. Whatever sensible good we may miss out on by going to our meeting – we feel like St. Paul: “*But those things I used to consider gain I have now reappraised as loss in the light of Christ. I have come to rate all as loss in the light of the surpassing knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. For his sake I have forfeited everything: I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth and I may be in him...*” (Phil 3:7-9).

Commitment is a big word – formidable and awesome! So many shrink away from in. In the words of Jesus, “*they run away*” because “*they work for pay*”, that is they seek sensible or earthly gain for a selfish self that has not learned to seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness. The spiritual does not have first priority in their lives. Realize that your ability to commit yourself definitively to the Kingdom of God through *Come, Lord Jesus!* is a great gift from God it supposes considerable progress in the spiritual life.

I encourage you to **renew your commitment** as we enter a new fiscal year of *Come, Lord Jesus!*. Make a commitment to faithfully follow the 12 steps of the meeting process. Make a commitment to attend your area’s Anniversary Mass and Spiritual Formation gatherings. There is something electrifying about being in the presence of those who are filled with God. Surely, you will not want to miss such grace-filled opportunities, where you can feed each other with that hidden manna (Rev 2:17) by your very presence and being.

by Father Conley Bertrand

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 23
Leaders’ Seminar
Our Lady of Fatima...Lafayette
10:00 am

October 14-15
Outreach Campaign
Our Lady of Seven Dolars
Welsh

October 21
Anniversary Mass
10:00 am
St Joseph... Cecilia

October 28
Anniversary Mass
St. Benilde... Metairie
10:00 am

November 11
New Leader Workshop
St. Agnes... Jefferson
10:00 am

New Members

Abbeville, LA : Mona Richard, Fr. Charles Esuaiko

Alexandria, LA: MiMi Hardy

Algiers, LA: Bonnie Belanger, Debbie Armstrong

Breaux Bridge, LA: Charleen LeBlanc

DeRidder, LA: Chris Broussard

Gretna, LA: Gina Brothers, Gretchen Lopez

Houma, LA: Albert Lirette

Lake Charles, LA: Mary Hurst

Lafayette, LA: Linda McDaniel, Cora Bouton

Opelousas, LA: Rita Melancon

Prairie Ronde, LA: Cindy Pitre

Schriever, LA: Jean Jowers, Susan Verdun

Slidell, LA: Jamie Courtney

St. Amant, LA: Sister Joan Manuel

St. Martinville, LA: Betty Derouen

Youngsville, LA: Jane Breaux

New Groups

Harvey, LA: *Neal Jordan* Leader

Kelly Robichaux, Debbie McKenna, Elizabeth Sheets, Pedro Guzman
Kathleen Miller, Mary Alice Salcido, Toni Savona

Milton, LA: *Melanie Heintz* Leader

Al Bacilla, Adrienne Kimball, Cheryll Duchamp, Paula Landry,
Claudette Landry

Milton, LA: *Claire Morley* Leader

Austin Morley, Rhonda Smith, Missy Francois, Karen Sinitiere,
Carla Delcambre, Merza Smith, Marielle Babb, Holli Brou,
Charmain Morley, Christina Albea



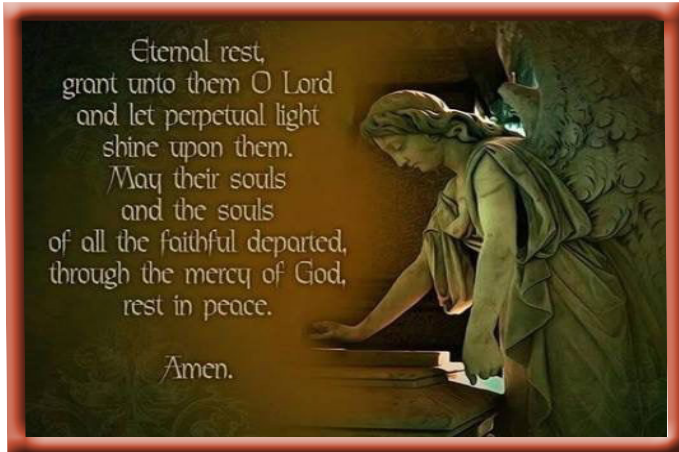
JULY 2023 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Houma	Schriever
Algiers	Jeanerette	Slidell
Baker	Jefferson	St. Amant
Basile	Jennings	St. Martinville
Baton Rouge	Judice	Sugartown
Bayou Vista	Kenner	Terrytown
Bell City	Kinder	Vidrine
Bossier City	Lacombe	Ville Platte
Breaux Bridge	Lafayette	Washington
Broussard	Lake Charles	Westwego
Cankton	Lawtell	Youngsville
Carencro	Lufkin TX	
Carlyss	Marrero	
Cecilia	Metairie	
Coteau	Mire	
Cow Island	Morgan City	
DeRidder	Morse	
Duson	New Iberia	
Erath	Opelousas	
Esther	Paulina	
Eunice	Pierre Part	
Fenton	Pine Prairie	
Forked Island	Plaisance	
Franklin	Prairie Ronde	
Grand Prairie	Ragley	
Gretna	Rayne	
Harvey	Richard	

AUGUST 1ST - 28TH, 2023
Memorial Burse Donations

Bradley Charles Alleman	Ana Elizabeth Angelloz
Ray Bonvillain	Judith Halls
Patrick Kelley	Molly Helm
Ronald Aaron Lafleur, Jr.	Larry Labit
Lenny Malorin	Christopher John LeBlanc
Raymond Mouton	Anna Lee Medoza
Donald Joseph Plaisance, Jr.	Lovell Muse
Charles Ernest "Chuck" Weimer	
Judith Wilkinson Giorlando	



To the members of "Spiritual Treasure" group in Youngsville, LA on the death of their member Ada Diz.

To member Joyce Langlinais of Youngsville, LA on the death of her sister, Yvonne King.

To member Liz Broussard of Youngsville, LA on the death of her cousin, Derek Duhon.

To member Dale Nash of Franklin, LA on the death of her brother, Ray Bonvillain.

To the members of "Meek and Humbler of Heart" group in Pierre Part, LA on the death of their member, Wayne Clement.

To member Angela Breaux of Jeanerette, LA on the death of her mother, Judith Halls.

To leader Gwen Kelley of Jefferson, LA on the death of her husband, Patrick Kelley.