

COME, LORD JESUS!



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

January 7
The Epiphany of the
Lord

January 14
2nd Sunday of
Ordinary Time

January 21
3rd Sunday of
Ordinary Time
Word of God Sunday

January 28
4th Sunday of
Ordinary Time



Follow the
Way of Love

Beloved brothers and sisters,
May our God of love bless you with total openness to receive the supreme joy that Jesus brings with his coming. As we end an old year and begin a new one, I find myself looking back with gratitude to my Lord who has been so good, so generous, loving and merciful towards me. I'm sure that you must feel the same. I thank him also for you who have been so supportive and affirming of me. The obvious and immense benefits that you derive from your *Come, Lord Jesus!* meetings, and the faith and love community that it has brought you into, keep me encouraged and urge me to further productivity. I must say, you really challenge my creativity! I ask your prayers for divine enlightenment.

As we look at Jesus becoming one of us so that we can see how a true child of God is called to live, I think of the words, "Follow

Spiritual Insights Reports Formation Program Updates

the way of love, even as Christ loved you. He gave himself for us.." (Eph 5:2). This means that we also are called to give ourselves over wholly to God and others just as he did. We are to hold nothing back for our selfish selves.

When Jesus became one of us, he took the form of a servant (Phil 2:5-8). If we could follow his way of servanthood, we would need to do nothing other than be totally dedicated to those in our care, fulfill the demands, and carry out the duties entailed. Following the way of love in this way requires self-effacement and forgetfulness of self at all times. It calls for true humility – lowliness, sacrifice, and endless generosity. It demands that we give all with still more being asked of us! When we are placed in a situation demanding this supreme kind of love, we are brought face to face with ourselves and made to see just what kind of stuff we are made. This is how the Lord would form us and guide us to true greatness. Ordinarily, however, we are asked to "*follow the way of love*" freely, without coercion. This is the way that Jesus teaches us by his coming. He became man to show us how to become like God – by following the way of love, by placing ourselves in self-sacrificing love to those we live and work with. We do not have to go far to find opportunities. They are always at hand. Give yourself in love! May the God of love who encompasses you, draw you ever more strongly to "*follow the way of love, even as Christ loved you. He gave himself...*"

With sincere love,

Father Conley Bertrand

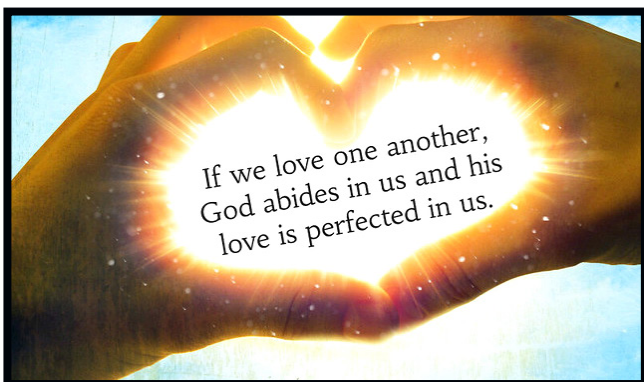


THY WILL BE DONE

Our goal in the spiritual life is total union with God through the union of our wills with God's will. This is what Jesus instructed us to pray for in the *"Our Father"*: *"thy will be done"*. All good will come from this union of wills. Our will is the faculty which says "yes" to God. It is through the will that we surrender ourselves to God. By this power we command all of the other powers to be submissive to God.

But how can we surrender our will to God when it, like the rest of our body-person is tinged with the effects of original and personal sin? We have learned that we have been wounded by original sin.

The remedy for this woundedness is to go against our disordered self-love. For, the moment we go against this self-love we go toward God who is in the opposite direction. This self-denial requires that we muster our spiritual forces in the form of discipline. Such assertion of spirit disposes us for union with God and puts us in movement toward him. In this selfless act we show God that we love him more than ourselves. This love is transforming in God-likeness – for, *"God is love"* (1 Jn 4:16). We become love and participate in the divine life of love. This explains why an act of self-denial for love of God propels us towards God. Jesus also explained that love of neighbor is an exercise in divine love whose object is God himself. That is why St. John tells us that, *"If we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us"* (1 Jn 4:12). Jesus considers as done to himself our acts of charity to others (Mt 25:40).



So, we see the value of going against our will, tinged as it is with disordered self-love. This is its innate tendency. That is why Jesus explained that *"whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self"* (Lk 9:23). God provides many opportunities for us to practice selfless love toward him and our neighbor in that each demands that we go against our own selfish wills to fulfill his needs. Each time we consent, the purity and strength of our love increases. We must therefore be on the lookout for these opportunities to practice love and sacrifice – they are our friends assisting us toward high sanctity. The pure love involved is like the pure love-life in the divinity.

What are these opportunities offered us to love and sacrifice for God? The world he created is limited so that many things fall short of our expectations and needs. They go against our will. We are called to embrace these events, accept them and love God through them, offering them as spiritual sacrifices (see Rom 12: 1; Eph 5:12). We are called to leave ourselves and do God's will through his word, his Church, our superiors, our duties, state of life, family, etc.

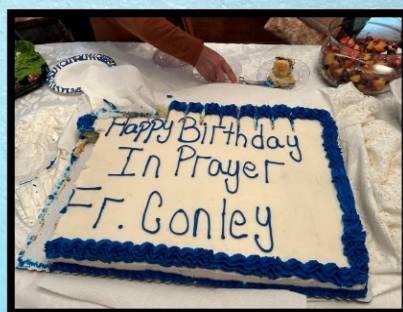
What are these opportunities offered us to love and sacrifice for neighbor? These are the endless needs of those with whom we live and work. We must bear with the differences that exist between us because of gender, race, religion, nationality, temperament, etc., that we must endure. We are given many opportunities all day long throughout our life to practice pure love by going against our wills to please God and to love and do good to the people with whom we are in touch.

What a marvelous opportunity to grow spiritually, to become transformed into the very love of God! By continuous prayer, we beg God to turn these occasions to profit by successfully crossing our own selfish wills to do his will as we love, love, love.

Father Conley Bertrand



Anniversary
Mass
Sacred Heart of
Jesus
Yille Platte, LA



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS JENNINGS, LA



Studio Shodwe
by Reese Miller

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Abbeville, LA: Cristina LeBlanc, Clare Broussard,
Claire Roy

Gretna, LA: Sybil Ditta, Marie Fink

Jennings, LA: Pam Prejean, Kathy Oustalet

Lafayette, LA: Cindy Nearing

Lake Charles, LA: Gloria Jeanis, Geneva Billups

Metairie, LA: Golden Reese

Milton, LA: Ellen Stutes, Nanette Cazayoux

Pierre Part, LA: Cindy Grandin

Welcome, New Groups

Pierre Part, LA : Linda Gaudet - **Leader**

Cindy Daigle, Tessa Mabile, Sue Tramonte,

Sharon A. Blanchard



Hello! My name is Monique McLallen and I am the leader for the “Holy and Beloved” group from St. Theresa’s in Sulphur. The first time I heard about *Come, Lord Jesus!* was actually at a silent retreat. Now, you might be thinking, “How did you “hear” about *Come, Lord Jesus!* at a silent retreat? You aren’t supposed to talk!”

Well, there was a group of ladies at this retreat whom I assumed to be a family. They acted like a family, maybe a mom and her daughters or sisters perhaps. But it was clear to me that they were related in some way. It was just the way they smiled at each other and took care of one another. Without even saying a word you could sense the love between them.



November 2023 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Jeanerette	Terrytown
Algiers	Jennings	Ville Platte
Basile	Kinder	Washington
Bayou Vista	Lafayette	
Bell City	Lake Charles	
Borger TX	Lufkin TX	
Breaux Bridge	Marrero	
Broussard	Maurice	
Buda TX	Metairie	
Cankton	Milton	
Coteau	Morgan City	
Coteau Holmes	Morse	
Cow Island	New Iberia	
Delcambre	Opelousas	
Diboll TX	Paulina	
Duson	Pierre Part	
Erath	Plaisance	
Estherwood	Prairie Ronde	
Eunice	Ragley	
Fenton	Rayne	
Fritch TX	Richard	
Grand Prairie	Schriever	
Gretna	Scott	
Harvey	Slidell	
Houma	St. Amant	
Iota	St. Martinville	

At the end of the retreat, while we were packing our cars to leave, I told one of them how much I enjoyed watching their family that weekend and how beautiful it was to witness them on a retreat together. She just laughed at me and said, “We are not related. This is my *Come, Lord Jesus!* Bible Study group.” I couldn’t believe it. They were not related at all. “We are sisters in Christ”, she said.

Well, as soon as I got home I googled *Come, Lord Jesus!* Bible Study. I could not believe I had not heard about this Bible Study before. It had been right beneath my nose, right here in Lafayette, Louisiana for well over 50 years! I discovered that you use your Bible and your Catechism – two books that I needed to read but didn’t. I was excited! I called my parish priest and told him all about *Come, Lord Jesus!* and how I wanted to start a *Come, Lord Jesus!* Bible Study group in our parish. Well, little did I know that Neal Rider, a fellow parishioner, had called the exact same week and asked to start a *Come, Lord Jesus!* group too! The Holy Spirit was at work in our parish! We started our two groups at St. Theresa in May of 2018, and we have been meeting ever since. We have been through many years, births and deaths, Covid and hurricanes. My *Come, Lord Jesus!* group has been such a blessing to me and I love my ladies so much. They are my sisters in Christ.

Monique McLallen

Condolences

To leader Charley Martin of Harvey, LA on the death of her husband, Jim Martin.

To member Mary O. Mouton of New Iberia, LA on the death of her daughter-in-law, Cotura P. Roy.



NOV 27 - DEC 20, 2023 Memorial Burse Donations

Vernon Joseph Broussard, Jr.
Linda Gail Domingue
Larry Garske
Dorothy Reese Jones
B.I. Moody
Cotura P. Roy

Linus J. Cortez, III
A.J. Galy
David Hubbell
Jim Martin
Jimmy Ritter
Helen H. Schexnayder

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Lafayette, LA
Permit No. 729

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