



Come, Lord Jesus!

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2024 VOL. XCII NO.104

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*

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

February 4
*5th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

February 11
*6th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

February 14
Ash Wednesday

February 18
1st Sunday of Lent

February 25
2nd Sunday of Lent



For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God (Cor 1:18).

You must have noticed how often Jesus told people not to tell that he was the Messiah. Similarly, he did not want them to broadcast his miracles. All of this is because they had the wrong idea of what he was about. People wanted to use him for temporal reasons – for example, to acquire health, food or prestige – to make earthly life easier, or to escape pain, labor or inconvenience. But that is not what his mission was for!

True, he did perform miracles to show that the Father had sent him, that he was the Messiah. But his own disciples as well as the rest of the people were indisposed to hear how he would accomplish his mission. They turned him off when he tried to explain (Mk 8:32). They had glorious preconceptions that differed drastically from God's plan (Mk 10:37). What was God's plan for Jesus and us to attain salvation (see Mk 8:27-38)? If you live according to the truth and accept

God's will in human life as it unfolds, you will have to suffer in life and experience rejection by those who live for pleasure and who worship the god of this world. But in this way, instead of being undone or destroyed by suffering, mistreatment and hard times you will undergo a transformation. That part of you (the spiritual) which is most beautiful, the indestructible, the holy and true will be made to come out of you. It's like the pains of childbirth which cause a woman to produce a new creation.

Jesus is saying, then, that life's trials and difficulties are in the process of bringing the best out of us – if we let them, if we humbly and lovingly submit to the divine order of things in life. That means we accept human life as it is experienced in an imperfect world with its limitations, failings, disappointments, and sins. Strange as it may seem, these will transform us. So, we need to face them, rather than to flee from them. It is by going through them that we are brought to perfection.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
COME, LORD JESUS!
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
March 9th
REGISTRATION FORM
on Pg.4

Father Conley Bertrand



Lent: A Call to Conversion – A Time of Transformation and a Change of Heart.

We have seen that holiness is the result of opening ourselves up to God with great desire so that he can give himself to us. This desire expresses itself with thirsting for God and seeking him with all our hearts. But this implies that we have already turned to God, that is, converted ourselves to him. This conversion to God supposes God's grace that has called and moved us. We convert ourselves to him insofar as we accept his touch of love. Our positive response in accepting his love is the first step in an unending series of graces that God is anxious to give us, *"love following upon love"* (Jn 1:16). So, ultimately, conversion is a gift of God, but we must cooperate and do our part by receiving it. That marks the beginning of our spiritual life.

Conversion to God supposes a turning away from something else. And this is why conversion is usually so difficult – we are turned to creatures and are thoroughly enjoying them. Moreover, the pleasure in them and the desire they elicit in us – in whatever form – blind our minds to spiritual realities. We are prevented from knowing and experiencing God. Our wills are weakened, and our hearts are enslaved. We are lulled and deceived by a false sense of security and counterfeit happiness (Lk 6:24-26).

Since conversion is the first step required to receive all the blessings God has in store for us, we can appreciate the supreme importance it has in our spiritual lives. One would think that it is something we would be anxious for! Yet, on the level of the senses, which we share with lower creation, we may be totally oblivious to the need to change. We may be perfectly content with the level of life we presently enjoy – a life that is dominated by the good, natural life. However good it may seem, it does not begin to compare with the spiritual (supernatural) life which the kingdom of God offers us. That is what Jesus implies when he said, *"The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the gospel!"* (Mk 1:15).

However innocent natural human life may appear, it can cause us to ignore the good news and infuriate God (Mt 22: 1-7); earthly occupations can absorb our time, attention and energies, and offer easy excuses to prevent us from devoting ourselves to the kingdom of God. The Lord in his anger readily rejects these excuses (Lk 14: 16-24). Moreover, these so-called good things of earth cause us to lead mediocre lives that merit condemnation from a God who deserves so much more: *"Because you are lukewarm...I will spew you out of my mouth!...Little do you realize how wretched you are, how pitiable and poor, how blind and naked!"* (Rev 3:16-17).

However urgent and imperative is the call to conversion, it is not an easy matter. Even for those of us who have made the initial break with absorption in creatures, and who are called to a further, deeper conversion, there is the resistance of a tenacious human nature. We are to look to Jesus, therefore, for the grace of conversion that we are seeking – whatever new depth or degree that might be. We must be confident that he desires our turning ever more wholly to God even more than we do. He would do for us what he did for the rabid Saul (Acts 9:1-22), or the sinful woman (Lk 7:36-50), the money-loving Zacchaeus (Lk 19: 1-10) or the raving demoniac (Mk 5:1-20).

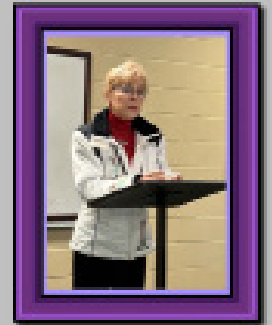
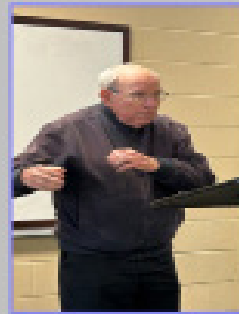
But we must do our part. Whatever small sacrifice we can make in order to attempt to dominate our senses, however we can deprive ourselves for the love of others, whatever time we can set aside to read the word of God and reflect upon it, will show God the seriousness of our desire for conversion and our willingness to dispose ourselves for this grace.

May this Lenten season lead us from one grace to another until we are fully transformed (2 Cor 3:18) and God becomes all in all (1 Cor 15:28). For this we long....

Father Conley Bertrand

RECENT EVENTS

What the World Needs Now is Love



Presented by Susan Castile



Spiritual Formation – Leaders of Lafayette, LA

Archdiocese of New Orleans

Spiritual Attentiveness



Presented by Steve Morgan



Please Join us for our Come, Lord Jesus! Annual Conference

Keynote Speaker - Father Michael Richard, JCL



When: *Saturday March 9, 2024*

8:30 – 12:00

Where: *St. Mary Catholic Church*

419 Doucet Road

Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

Topic: Mary Magdalen – A Great Saint and Lover of Jesus.

Concluding with the celebration of Mass with our founder, Father Conley Bertrand

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip** _____

Phone () _____

There is no fee, but registration is required by February 28th so that we may plan accordingly.

Please mail to: Come, Lord Jesus! / 1804 W. University Ave. Lafayette, LA 70506

Or send via email to : comelordjesusprogram@gmail.com

For more information, call 337-233-6277 Monday – Wednesday 8:00-3:00



New Members

Abbeville, LA: Denise Mouledous, Vanessa Levy

Arnaudville, LA: Penny Thibodeaux

Baton Rouge, LA: Joan Phillips, Karen England,
Diane O'Connor, Ana Terhoeve

Buda, TX: Ruth Garza

Cankton, LA: Cabrini Broussard

Coteau, LA: Genée Viator

Houma, LA: Catherine Hebert

Lafayette, LA: Shelia Pritchett, Shirley Grado,
Faye Drobnic

Lake Charles, LA: Renee Reina

Metairie, LA: Maureen Mulino

Paulina, LA: Harriet Buckner

Terrytown, LA: Linda Greathouse, Adan F. Contrerasio

Washington, LA: Cynthia Bordelon

Youngsville, LA: Ruth Whitman, Carmen Richard,
Hannah Schorr, Mia Fouquier

Returning Member

Lufkin TX: Rosa Garcia

New Groups!

Welsh, LA: Joan Granger.... Leader

Corda Leger, Paul Marcantel, Betty Marcantel, Susan Mayes
Cecilia Morvant, Linda G. Chaisson, Cleaton Leger,

Mary Sonnier, Carolyn LeJeune, Rita Ramagos

Broussard / Youngsville, LA: Sandra LeBouef.... Leader

Ruth Moncus, Paulette Fontenot, Peggy Whelchel, Linda Moore

Church Point, LA: Wendy Miller.... Leader

Amy Stanford, Christi Hebert, Lauren Charles, Hope Miller,
Alex Duhon, Blake Stanford, Barbara Stanford,

Justin Daugereaux, Kristy Bernard

Ville Platte, LA: Carla Daigle... Leader

Charlotte Castille, Ashley Dufrene, Brandy Vidrine

Emily Reed, Christina Brown, Pam Fontenot



December 2023 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Abbeville | Fenton | Mire |
| Algiers | Franklin | Morgan City |
| Avery Island | Grand Coteau | Morse |
| Basile | Grand Prairie | Mowata |
| Baton Rouge | Gretna | New Iberia |
| Bayou Vista | Harvey | Opelousas |
| Bell City | Houma | Patterson |
| Borger, TX | Jeanerette | Paulina |
| Breaux Bridge | Jefferson | Pierre Part |
| Broussard | Judice | Pine Prairie |
| Buda, TX | Kenner | Prairie Ronde |
| Cankton | Kinder | Rayne |
| Carencro | Lacombe | Schriever |
| Cecilia | Lafayette | Scott |
| Coteau | Lake Charles | Slidell |
| Delcambre | Lawtell | Terrytown |
| DeRidder | Leonville | Vidrine |
| Diboll, TX | Lufkin, TX | Ville Platte |
| Duson | Marrero | Washington |
| Erath | Maurice | Welsh |
| Estherwood | Metairie | Westwego |
| Eunice | Milton | Youngsville |

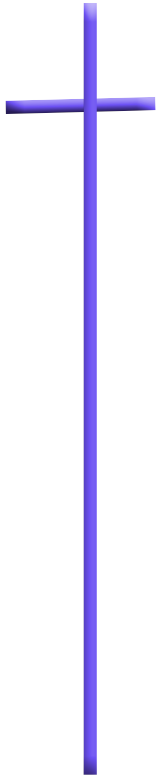
Welcome to Come, Lord Jesus!



Come, Lord Jesus! welcomes
Wendy Miller and her group from
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in
Church Point, Louisiana!

Condolences

To member Jenny Guillot of Bayou Vista, LA on the death of her son, Luke Guillot.
To member Verna Landry of Breaux Bridge, LA on the death of her son, Gerald Landry, Jr.
To member Cynthia Ardoin of Erath, LA on the death of her sister, Bonnie Cheramie.
To members Wayne and Joanie Bernard of Broussard, LA on the death of their grandson, Reeves Gauthreaux.
To member Cindy Matte of Carencro, LA on the death of her brother-in-law, Willie Joseph Matte, Jr.
To member Carmen Richard of Youngsville, LA on the death of her husband, Steve Richard.
To member Charlene Matte of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her son Jared Matte.
To leader Linda Alfred of Broussard, LA on the death of her sister, Joyce Mae Williams Barlow.



Memorial Burse Donations DEC 27,2023 - JAN 17,2024

Mary Margaret Bains
Joyce Mae Williams Barlow
J.C. Broussard
Leola Broussard
Charles D'Agostino
Madison Howard "Bud" Romaine

Joyce Dietrick
Doug Dupre
J.C. "Buster" Griffin
Elizabeth Kuehn
Gerald "Jerry" Landry, Jr.
Ethel Sexton

Jared Matte
Willie Joseph Matte, Jr.
Robert McAnelly
Jeffrey David Montgomery
Steve Richard

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

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