



Come, Lord Jesus!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*

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

**December 1
1st Sunday of Advent**

**December 8
2nd Sunday of Advent**

**December 9
The Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

**December 15
3rd Sunday of Advent**

**December 22
4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 25
The Nativity of the Lord**

*Merry
Christmas*



Peace and joy in our infant Savior!

The Christmas season is the celebration of our God's self-giving. From all eternity the Father and the Son have been giving themselves to each other in the eternal Love of the Spirit. This self-gift which is the nature of God who is Love reached us in time through the marvelous mystery of the Incarnation. This is the Christmas mystery, when we celebrate God's gift of himself to us in Jesus. It took place through the cooperation of Mary who herself had entered into this movement of self-gift from the moment of her Immaculate Conception. Her "fiat" (let it be) was but an audible manifestation of what had been going on all along. This eternal motion of love's self-giving was extended to us and became part of our world so that we could become participants in it. We are invited to enter into this blissful current of self-giveness toward God and toward each other, and thus realize our true nature which is to be love. It is only when we fully realize the nature of our beings as children of this self-giving God that we can be truly happy.

We can come to understand how to do this by looking at Jesus. He loved and gave himself to his Father by always doing the Father's will instead of his own – even if it meant the cross (Jn 6:38; 8:29); he gave himself to others in loving service – even at the cost of great personal sacrifice (Mt 20:28); and he commands us to do the same (Mt 7:21; 20: 26-27). But this is easier said than done! If Mary's first inclination from her Immaculate Conception was toward God and others (Lk 1:38-39), ours – from original sin – is towards self. Disordered self-love interferes with the love of God and others. Something must be done about this! Otherwise, we will never come to our full potential for true self-realization and joy. If we do not intervene, we will spend the rest of our lives in the pursuit of self-gratification. That means our senses and our feelings will rule our lives. We will become their slaves and be at the mercy of our desire for pleasure and self-satisfaction. We will be trapped on a shallow level of existence, doomed to spend the rest of our lives imprisoned in the narrow confines of the flesh.

Jesus confronted this serious obstacle to the life of love and clearly stated the remedy.

Continued on page 2

For unto you is born this day
in the city of David,
a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2: 11

The only solution, Jesus says, is to resist these disordered inclinations to put ourselves first – at the center of the universe. In fact, he said that we must attack this tendency at its roots by denying the self (Mk 8:34-35) and even go so far as to bring ourselves to nought (Mt 10:39).

This is the secret of the saints and explains why they developed such a great love for the cross. Once they had been purified by it, they entered upon a spiritual level of existence, where the kingdom of God abides. They learned that, unlike the level of sense where giving is losing, here giving is receiving. For, giving is loving and loving is living the divine life. We partake of the infinity of God who never runs out and never gets tired of giving. This is truly “endless love”. That is why the saints were happy to say, “all for you and naught for me”. Nothing less than total self-giving love could satisfy them! They discovered the highest, most blissful form of life that is possible on earth – the very life of God...heaven itself! As beginners, we find the life of giving very painful because our senses have not yet been

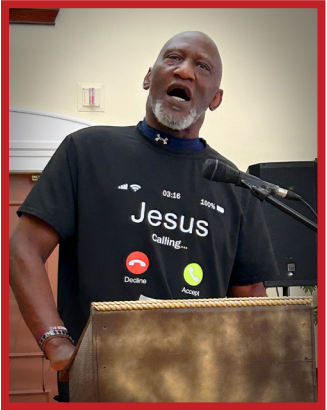
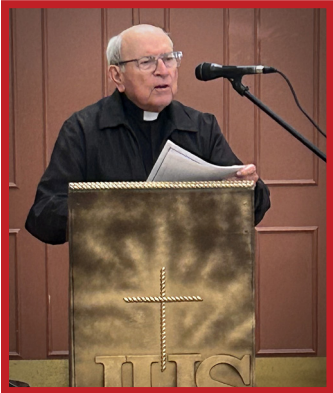
purified – they resist being deprived. But in time, they too will experience the joy of giving, for having been transformed, they will begin to live on a divine level. Let's hope that our Christmas gifts will become more and more expressions of the gift of ourselves. We give ourselves to God through others. We use material means and service to express the disposition of our hearts. Our whole lives are taken up with the love of God.

This puts us on the level of Mary who hastened into the hill country: no journey is too long; no task is too difficult, nor burden too heavy – we can do all things in him who strengthens us (Phil 4:13); we no longer rest in self; each manifestation of God's will prompts us to fly towards its fulfillment; the body no longer weighs us down; we have been freed; we live on a new level – God's own self-giving LOVE has become our own!

With love and blessings for a Merry Christmas,

Father Conely Bertrand

Church Parish Representatives Workshop St. Jules Catholic Church - Lafayette, LA



Introduction to *Come, Lord Jesus!* St. Pius Catholic Church - Lafayette, LA



Spiritual Formation St. Joseph The Worker - Pierre Part, LA



Parent Intercessors- St. Bridget- Lawtell, LA



Welcome New Members!

Baton Rouge, LA: Kim Mullen
Bell City, LA: Peggy Ward
Breaux Bridge, LA: Julie Guidroz
Dalhart, TX: Karyn Alamo
DeRidder, LA: Judy Bourne, Jessica Ashmore
Forked Island, LA: Amanda Gaspard
Houma, LA: Pam Dugas, Chad Robichaux,
Fr. Charles Esuaiko
Jennings, LA: Sherree LaBouve
Morgan City, LA: Christy Thomas
Lacombe, LA: Michelle Williams
New Iberia, LA: Linda Fusillier
Parks, LA: Brenda Bergeron
Pierre Part, LA: Lisa Templet
Richard, LA: Donna Barry
Westwego, LA: Mary Prestwood

Returning Members

Lake Charles, LA: Anita Prejean
Fenton, LA: Jill Portie

WELCOME NEW GROUPS!

Pierre Part, LA: ... Kelly Breaux Leader
Renee Blanchard, Linda O'Neal, Aimie McAdams,
Brittney Broussard, Rhea Blanchard, Christina Cavalier,
Travis Breaux, Jenny St. Germain
Church Point, LA: ... Carl Stelly.... Leader
Denice Stelly, Jonathan Murphy, Jill Murphy
Sharon Treme
Marrero, LA: ... Luann Daigle Leader
Members of Wynhoven Nursing Home in Marrero

October 2024 Gift Bags Received



Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Grand Coteau	Parks
Algiers	Grand Prairie	Patterson
Arnaudville	Gretna	Paulina
Avery Island	Harvey	Pierre Part
Basile	Houma	Prairie Ronde
Baton Rouge	Iota	Ragley
Bayou Vista	Jeanerette	Rayne
Bell City	Jefferson	Richard
Breaux Bridge	Jennings	Schriever
Broussard	Judice	Scott
Buda TX	Kenner	Slidell
Cankton	Kinder	St. Amant
Cecilia	Lacombe	St. Martinville
Church Point	Lafayette	Sugartown
Coteau	Lake Charles	Sulphur
Coteau Holmes	Marrero	Terrytown
Dalhart TX	Maurice	Ville Platte
Delcambre	Metairie	Washington
DeRidder	Milton	Welsh
Duson	Morgan City	Youngsville
Erath	Morse	
Estherwood	Natchez	
Eunice	New Iberia	
Fenton	New Orleans	
Franklin	Opelousas	

NOV 1 - NOV. 18, 2024 Memorial Burse Donations

Dr. William Slaughter
Richard Donaldson
Charles R. "Trey" Albright III
Charles Campbell Sevin
Timothy James Kennedy
Mary McCowan
Ronald Edwin Haag
Karl Young
Alta Domingue

please note

**The office will be closed Dec 24th - 25th and Dec 31st - Jan 1st.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

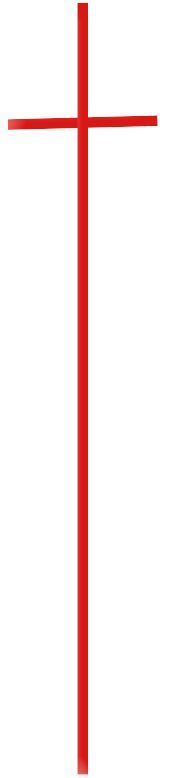
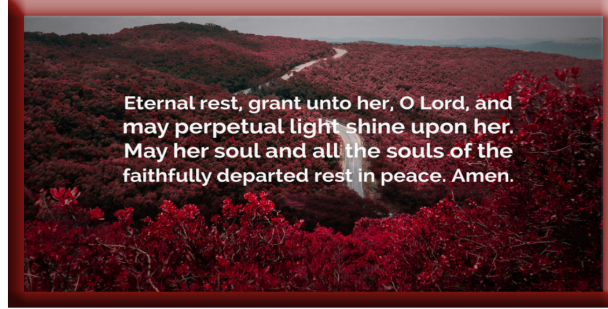
Condolences

To member Lisette Borné of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her nephew, Charles Campbell Sevin.

To leader Linda Branighan of Metairie, LA on the death of her nephew, Timothy James Kennedy.

To the members of "The Bread of Life" group in Metairie, LA on the death of their member, Ronald Edwin Haag.

To member Pat Young of Franklin, LA on the death of her father, Karl Young.



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Come, Lord Jesus!
1804 W. University Ave.
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