



Come, Lord Jesus!

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026 VOL. CXVIII NO. 133



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

September 6
23rd Sunday
of Ordinary Time

September 13
24th Sunday
of Ordinary Time

September 20
25th Sunday
of Ordinary Time

September 27
26th Sunday
of Ordinary Time

*All baptized
Catholics continually
need conversion because
the Christian life involves
ongoing repentance,
renewal, and growth in
holiness.
(CCC 1427-1428)*

Understanding the Heart of True Conversion

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 (created goods) 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).

Continued on page 2



The Saving Grace of Jesus

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 from absorption in worldly pleasures and who are called to a further, deeper conversion, there is the resistance of a tenacious human nature. St. Paul expressed the drama of the struggle that is involved, and the ultimate answer to conversion. *"We know that the law is spiritual, whereas I am weak flesh sold into the slavery of sin. I cannot even understand my own actions. I do not do what I want to do but what I hate. I know that no good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; the desire to do right is there, but not the power. What happens is that I do, not the good I will to do, but the evil I do not intend. This means that even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrongdoing is always ready at hand. My inner self agrees with the law of God but I see in my body's members another law at war with the law of my mind; this makes me the prisoner of the law of sin in my members. What a wretched man I am! Who can free me from this body under the power of death? All praise to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* (Rom 7: 14-15, 18-19, 21-25).

St. Paul discovered Jesus and his saving grace. Only that saving grace can strengthen the human will to overcome the sinful inclinations of our fallen human nature. That grace was won for us by Jesus Christ who suffered and died for our salvation. Jesus explained, *"Without me, you can do nothing"* (Jn 15:5). It is only through Jesus that we can attain the supernatural and live the highest life of the spirit.

Jesus is the only one who can give us the spiritual power to vanquish our sinful human nature. We must surrender our life completely over to him and let him rule our heart. This realization must move us to make a deliberate decision to turn over our life to Jesus. Let us entrust and give ourselves over to him. I invite you to surrender your hearts to Jesus by reciting this prayer with me:

Prayer of Surrender

Lord Jesus Christ! I have come to realize that without you and your saving grace, I am absolutely incapable of overcoming the sinful inclinations of my fallen human nature. Therefore, I now surrender myself entirely to you, merciful Savior. I trust that you will receive me and enable me to overcome my sinfulness.

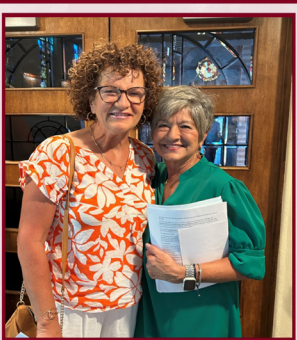
I am astonished to hear you profess your love for me, a sinner: You said, "I have loved you with an everlasting love..." "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love" (Jer 31:3, Jn 15:9). I humbly accept such a personal invitation to live in a continuous communion of love with you.

In this way, I will draw power from you to subdue the works of the flesh and cultivate the fruits of the Spirit. Then to my great joy, sustained by your love, I will live in your presence and enjoy the highest life, the life of the Spirit.

Amen.

Father Conley Bertrand

Anniversary Mass Sacred Heart of Jesus Broussard, LA



Anniversary Mass - Church of Assumption Franklin, LA



NEW MEMBERS

Algiers, LA: Marina Reed, Quynh Tran

Baldwin, LA: Karla Vappie

Breaux Bridge, LA: Colleen Narido

Cankton, LA: Connie Guidry

Carencro, LA: Yvonne Alexander Domingue

Gretna, LA: Laurie Phillips

Harvey, LA: Eli Thompson, Ashley Jambon

Lindsay Robichaux

Jeanerette, LA: Ruth Mendoza

Jennings, LA: Shirley Diehl, Tina Diehl,

Laurie Hebert

Krotz Springs, LA: Kathy Ellis

Lafayette, LA: Jennifer Burnette

Marrero, LA: Judy Leblanc

Milton, LA: Julie Constantine, Karen Angelle,

Margaret Greene, Vlynda B. Romero,

Jonathon J. Romero, Rob Landry, Teddy Broussard,

Patty Broussard, Colette Daigle, Tiffany Nutt,

Angie Landry

New Iberia, LA: Victoria Morgan

New Orleans, LA: Paul Messina, Annette Messina

St. Amant, LA: Ruth Humphrey

NEW GROUPS

Baton Rouge, LA : Marcia S. Empson- **Leader**

Anne B. Dugas, Sandra C. Brown, Sharon Hebert,

Kenny Hebert, Dell Rabalais

Henderson, LA : Pamela Blanchet- **Leader**

Kenneth Dupuis, Lori A. Laviolette, Charlene Huval,

Michelle Patin, Betty Guidry, Victorian Soileau



Mandy Schexneilder, Area Coordinator introduces Father Bertrand at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Mire as he unveils his latest publication, "The Breath of Life - The Sanctifying Power of God's Word in Heart to Heart Prayer". Glory to God for such an inspiring evening!



Gift Bags Received During the month of July 2026

Thank you for your generosity!

Luke 6:38

Abbeville	Grand Prairie	Opelousas
Algiers	Gretna	Parks
Baker	Harvey	Paulina
Bayou Vista	Henderson	Pierre Part
Bell City	Houma	Plaisance
Bossier City	Iota	Prairie Ronde
Breaux Bridge	Jeanerette	Ragley
Broussard	Jefferson	Rayne
Cankton	Jennings	Richard
Carencro	Kenner	Schriever
Cecilia	Lacombe	Scott
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Coteau	Lufkin TX	St. Martinville
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Erath	Mire	Thibodaux
Esther	Morgan City	Vidrine
Eunice	Morse	Ville Platte
Fenton	New Iberia	Washington
Forked Island	New Orleans	Youngsville

2026 LEADERS' SEMINAR

For Diocesan Coordinators, Area Coordinators, Leaders (or a substitute), Co-leaders (or a substitute)

September 26

10 am | Seminar

12 pm | Mass with CLJ! Founder and Director, Fr. Conley Bertrand

Lunch on your own

Fr. Randy Moreau
Keynote Speaker

Our Lady of Fatima Church
2319 Johnston St
Lafayette, LA 70503

REGISTRATION

There is no fee for the Seminar, but we do ask that you register all who will attend so that we can plan accordingly.

To register, please mail this in, visit the QR code below, or email comelordjesusprogram@gmail.com

Leader's Name (or Substitute) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

List any Co-leader (or substitute) who will be attending from your group: _____

Note to Leaders: Registration Forms are being mailed to Leaders/Area Coordinators only, so please check with your Co-Leader/Substitute and include their name on this form if they will be attending.

July 28 - August 19, 2026 Memorial Burse Donations

Steven Michael Gondran
Teddy Gorman
Mary Alice Grand
Dorothy "Tally" McDonald Gros
John Hillary Guillory
Janet Fontenot Manuel
Ray Paul Rhodes
Rev. Harold James Trahan



Condolences

- To member Margaret Guillory of Lake Charles, LA on the death of her husband, John Hillary Guillory.
- To leader Elaine Trahan of Lake Charles, LA on the death of her brother-in-law, Rev. Harold James Trahan.
- To the members of "Seek and You Shall Find" group in Marrero, LA on the death of their member, Dorothy "Tally" McDonald Gros. Tally was also the sister of member Rita White.
- To member Brenda Moore of New Iberia, LA on the death of her nephew, Forrest Vanderbilt.
- To member Becky Gorman of the Sugartown, LA group on the death of her son, Teddy Gorman.
- To member Lana Fisher of Carencro, LA on the death of her mother, Mary Alice Grand.
- To leader Annette Fontenot of Carencro, LA on the death of her sister-in-law, Janet Fontenot Manuel.
- To the members of "Children of Light" group in Franklin, LA on the death of their co-leader, Jo Ann Sinitiere.

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Come, Lord Jesus!
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