



COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



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

July 5
*14th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

July 12
*15th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

July 19
*16th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

July 26
*17th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

We are called to love God with our whole heart, soul, strength and mind (See Deut 6:5). That is because God is our creator and sustainer. Without his loving us into existence, we would not have been conceived and born; without his sustaining us in being, we would cease to exist and vanish. “In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). All of this helps us to understand why the scriptures command us to love God with all our being. We are taught to love God by obeying his word and commands. Because of original sin and the disordered self-love that we are born with, we are strongly inclined to put self-love before the love of God. But because of our indebtedness to God our creator and sustainer, we are challenged to put the love of God before the love of self. That is why divine revelation tells us that we must deny ourselves when there is a conflict between love of God and self-love. We owe God first allegiance because he is our creator and sustainer. What he commands us is for our good. He created us and knows us better than we do ourselves- what is for our good. Concupiscence, disordered self-love, is blind to our total needs. We tend towards the pleasurable and self-gratification while transgressing and conflicting our spiritual needs. God knows us better than we know ourselves. We ought to obey our Creator for our own good.

We ought, therefore, to follow God’s will blindly when a conflict arises between the love of God and love of self. It is then that we must practice self-denial for our greater good.

We can see why we must not continue blindly to follow our own wills. We ought to inform ourselves about God’s will for us as taught by the Church and sacred tradition which includes God’s word. That is the objective of truth on which we ought to base our lives.

Jesus’ whole life was based on this objective truth and he taught us to live by it. He re-affirmed our need to love God with all of our being (Mt 22:37) and to deny self-love when such love goes contrary to this great command. He said, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Lk 9:23). Jesus exemplified our need to practice self-denial when self-love went contrary to God’s will. That was what his agony was all about. It was his Father’s will that Jesus suffer and die to redeem the sins of the world. Jesus’ whole being cringed and rebelled violently at having to undergo the horrible tortures involved in his passion and crucifixion. But even after begging his Father to forego such painful suffering – which he refused- he submitted himself to his Father’s will. He denied himself and what he wanted. As a result, the great good of the redemption of the world took place.

IN HIM
WE LIVE
AND MOVE
AND HAVE
OUR BEING.
-ACTS 17:28

God Before Self

Indulging self and sense is ultimately a choice between Jesus and cheap pleasure or self-satisfaction. We must endeavor to remain in Jesus through his spirit and keep out of self. Disordered sense pleasure is passing and quickly lost, leaving its residue of pollution, making us indisposed for spirit communion with the divine, closing us off from the all-pervading and enduring pure joy of divine communion.

Abstaining from such disordered pleasure is painful to dissatisfied and demanding self and sense and requires fortitude and sacrifice. The reward for such sacrifice is the retention of the heavenly treasure, the experience of the presence of God through purity of heart. The nostalgia for sense pleasure must be responded to by the personal effort of asceticism and some form of spiritual exercise: spending time with Jesus in his Eucharistic presence, recollection, prayer, scripture, being with friends who seek God. There's a need to be aware of the evil one and his lies in his envious attempt to rob us of our inheritance or gift of the Garden of Paradise. God's highest and most precious gift is his self-gift, the spiritual kingdom, God's presence and all his spiritual gifts for communion with him in our hearts. Even the senses are jealous when they are not able to have fruition also of these spiritual riches. So they protest: concupiscence wants its share. And the evil one stirs them to make their demands.

God has given us everything good in himself. The forbidden fruit, the tree of knowledge of good and evil whereby we decide and determine for ourselves what is good and what is bad for us, is what is actually bad for us because it robs us of the Garden of Paradise: God and his kingdom within us with all its spiritual riches, the fullness of joy. The ever-recurring temptation, when the senses feel deprived, is to listen to the lies of the evil one to break the command and to decide for ourselves what is good at the moment. Temptation happens in this weakened state when the self and senses want immediate satisfaction.



This disordered desire obscures the serene joy of the Garden of Paradise that we are and makes us think that we will get something better by reaching out for the forbidden fruit- and “enjoy” the pleasure or self-satisfaction that it will give us. We must live by faith in God's word, trusting in him and his promise that he has given us the better part already.



Forgetfulness of the all-pervading joy of the spirit life begins when sense life intrudes with its demands for satisfaction of its needs. Then it calls attention to itself and interferes with the peace and serenity of the spirit life. It is at this time that sense dominance occurs. It begins from afar. It is helpful to be aware of what is happening so we can take proper remedies to stop it and restore spirit dominance.

This we accomplish through engaging in various spiritual exercises mentioned above. We must also practice sacrificial love by abstaining from the self or sense indulgence or at least moderate it so it will be legitimate and acceptable to the Lord. Another drastic remedy to regain spirit dominance is to flee from circumstances that feed into the temptation so that its continuing attraction is removed from our tantalized senses. We prove our love for God by such renunciation; his grace rewards us by restoring order and peace within us.

We learn from experience that there are certain situations that tend to stir our senses to the point of overwhelming our spirit dominance. We must learn to avoid these through the virtue of prudence whose foresight keeps us out of trouble and temptation.

Father Conley Bertrand



Grand Prairie, LA: Erin Devillier

Mire, LA: Mona Bernard

Sulphur, LA: Kenneth W. Breaux, Jeannie Breaux



LEADERS,

**If you have not yet returned your Group Update Form that was mailed to you in February, Please do so ASAP!
Thanks!**



**May 2020
Gift Bags Received**

Thank you for your generosity!

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Basile | Mamou |
| Breaux Bridge | Melville |
| Broussard | Metairie |
| Cankton | Morgan City |
| Carencro | New Iberia |
| Coteau | Opelousas |
| Cow Island | Pierre Part |
| Delcambre | Pine Prairie |
| Esther | Richard |
| Estherwood | Schriever |
| Fenton | Slidell |
| Franklin | St. Amant |
| Grand Prairie | Sugartown |
| Iota | Ville Platte |
| Jefferson | Washington |
| Judice | Youngsville |
| Lafayette | |

Condolences June 2020

To members Ginger Landreneau and Amy Poche of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her father, Jake Ardoin.

To member Judy Guillory of Chataignier, LA on the death of her husband, Thaddeus Guillory.

To member Lynette Roberie of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her father, Jack Latour.

To member Freida Coreil of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her father, Harris Veillon.

To member Loretta Kurta of Mowata, LA on the death of her grandson, Kasey Gerard Leger.

To member Sheran Blanchard of Morgan City, LA on the death of her husband, Gil Blanchard

To member Helen Ledet of Broussard, LA on the death of her brother-in- law, Lelion LaBry.

To the members of "Meek and Humble of Heart" group in Pierre Part, LA on the death of their member, Peggy Sedotal.

To the members of "Seed on Good Ground" group in Morgan City, LA on the death of their member, Alice Guzzetta.

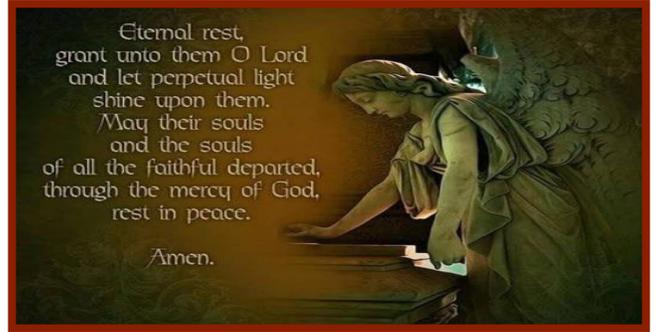
To member Dorothy Leger of Lake Arthur, LA on the death of her husband, Arthur Leger (who was also a member).

To member Rosalie Oubre of Harvey, LA on the death of her husband, Wayne Oubre.

MAY 20-JUNE 17, 2020
Memorial Burse Donations

Gil Blanchard
Bruce Anthony Coupel
Robert Joseph Gauthreaux
Alice Guzzetta
Lelion LaBry
Kasey Gerard Leger

Arthur Leger
Wayne Oubre
Dr. James Peltier
Logan Rana
Nita Serpas
Shirley Vidrine



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Come, Lord Jesus!
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