

April 16, 2023: Second Sunday of Easter

HOUMA THIBODAUX

Have you ever heard the word HOUMA? (pronounce HOMA, a native American name as in OklaHOMA). Maybe not.

Have you ever heard the word THIBODAUX? (pronounce Ti-bo-do, Fourth Governor of Louisiana). Maybe not.

If you were present at the 5 pm Mass one month ago (March 4), you would have heard those two words HOUMA THIBODAUX mentioned together several times. Bishop DORSONVILLE had accepted our Parish Council's invitation. We wanted to express all our appreciation for his continuous support for the last 10 years. Bishop Dorsonville was leaving our Archdiocese of Washington as a long-time Auxiliary Bishop to become the new Bishop of the Diocese of HOUMA THIBODAUX in LOUISIANA.

While he was with us in Waldorf probably for the last time, he expressed his wish that both Deacon Bill and I attend his installation as the Fifth Bishop of HOUMA THIBODAUX on March 29. We did oblige with some reluctance on my part (I rather be serving our parish). But it proved to be a good decision.

The Mass of Installation presided by the Archbishop of New Orleans (just one hour away east of Houma) was awesome. It was the first time I attended a Mass of Installation outside Washington DC. The Diocese of HOUMA -THIBODAUX prepared this event with such an amazing Love and Solemnity displayed for their new Bishop, whom they barely knew. This is Christian Love.

You can see the entire event (about two hours) on our website. I can assure you, watching this video will be worth more than 1,000 words. You can count in the long entrance procession as many as 30 deacons, 100 priests, 40 bishops, two Cardinals, and the Papal Nuncio to the United States Archbishop Pierre who represents Pope Francis. You will recall that Archbishop Pierre, who is totally fluent in Spanish and English, honored our own parish with his visit last December at one of our Christmas Novena Masses combining traditions of our Pilipino and Hispanic communities.

Listen to the extraordinary music (including the long finale). Music enhances the Liturgy and helps us to pray.

Listen to the first reading which was read by a Native American in "Cajun French". I had a hard time understanding. It sounded mysterious. This was not a surprise for me, having heard French Creole in Mauritius or "old" French spoken in Quebec!

My surprise throughout my stay (my first one in Louisiana) was that almost no one I spoke to could understand my simple question: "Parlez-vous Francais?". I encountered only one person who could speak French. He was a Native American "Houma" priest and at 91 was the oldest priest of the Diocese. The younger generation was not allowed to speak French at home...

A greater surprise was the extraordinary welcome given to all visitor guests (like Deacon Bill and I), a sincere welcome filled with Joy and Friendship. Our large cities have lost that sense of community. I pray that our own parish can remain welcoming and display special attention to the large number of new members (in last five years) with the same enthusiasm and the same deep sense of Brotherhood in Christ. It was a Joy to see Bishop Dorsonville reaching out to everyone and already feeling at home in Houma.

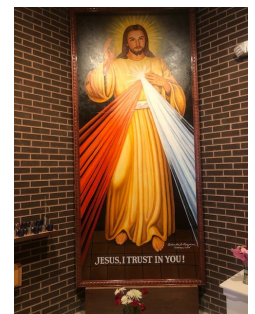
Some of you may wonder why I am writing to you about Houma. It reminds me of our own FATHER MARTIN serving alone the Waldorf area for 29 years, and demonstrating a heroic zeal for souls, reaching out to everyone, especially the Native Americans (Piscataway), the African Americans (recently freed slaves) and German-speaking immigrants from Austria, Germany and France (Alsace-Lorraine).

The EVANGELIZATION OF ALL AND THE INTERCULTURAL UNITY Father Martin promoted in Waldorf can be observed in HOUMA -THIBODAUX today (compared with many years of tensions in the 19th century). I will write in more detail about Father Martin in the next few weeks as the Father Martin Society (of which I am co-founder with the former Pastor of St Peter's Msgr. Parent) is preparing a major celebration in Waldorf on SUNDAY AUGUST 6 which marks the 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FATHER MARTIN. SAVE THE DATE! Mark your calendars. You will get more details soon.

I hope you and your families had a most Joyful Easter! May God through the HOLY SPIRIT help you to sustain that Joy and HOPE in your hearts throughout the 50 days of the Easter Season ending at Pentecost!

Concluding the Solemn Octave of Easter, we will celebrate DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. May the MERCY AND LOVE OF JESUS be always with you!

One in Christ,
Father Alain



***We are asked to pray for:**
Josephina Knapp
Angelo Sparacino
Maria de La Rosa
George Gallagher
D'Vaughn Webster

Lynette Washington
David Mesler
Ken Housewright
Laura Flaim
Zita Walker

Titus Thomas
Andre Walker
Janina Sidorska
Reign T. Young

****FATHER DIGNAN
HAS HAD A HEALTH
SET-BACK. PLEASE
KEEP HIM IN YOUR
PRAYERS****



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, April 15,

9:00 AM: Edwardo Sinense Jr.

5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners

Sunday, April 16,

8:30 AM: Orlando Lagman (+)

10:00AM: James Knapp (+)

11:30 AM: Peter & Joseph Nikolai (+)

7:00 PM: Ofelia Mora & Hector

Zaldiva

Monday, April 17,

9:00AM: Carolyn Akabogu (+)

Tuesday, April 18,

9:00AM: Yohan Ouedraogo

Wednesday, April 19,

9:00 AM: Arturo Guerrero (+)

7:00PM: Marcus Williams & family

Thursday, April 20,

9:00 AM: Carolyn Akabogu (+)

Friday, April 21,

9:00: AM: Carolyn Akabogu (+)

Divine Mercy Sunday

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2:00 pm Adoration

3:00 pm Excerpts from The diary of St Faustina
818 December 16 (1936)

3:15 pm Chanting of Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:30 pm The Litany Divine of Divine Mercy

3:40 pm Litany for priest

3:50 pm Litany of Loreto

I have offered this day for Russia I have offered all my sufferings and prayers for that poor country.

After Holy Communion, JESUS said to me I cannot suffer that country any longer do not tie my hands, My daughter (209) I understood that if it had not been for the prayers of poor souls that are pleasing to GOD, the whole nation would have already been reduced to nothingness. Oh how I suffer for that nation which have banished GOD from it's borders!



Tuesday Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Friday Scripture Study - The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday - The first Friday of each month the evening Mass in Latin is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

First Saturday - Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy - Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email office@alhoc.org.

Mass Readings for April 23, 2023

3rd Sunday of Easter

*First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

*Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

*Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

www.usccb.org



Prayer for Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise
You for always providing for the needs
of Your Church.

We ask that You abundantly bless
Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville as he
begins his ministry as the Bishop of the
Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

May he be a shepherd after Your own
heart for the people entrusted to his
care. May we all remain rooted in hope
and gratitude for Your faithfulness and
providence toward us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.



Prayer for Bishop Dorsonville

Outreach

The next Outreach meeting will be on May 3, 2023 at 7p.m. In Fr. Martin Hall. Everyone is welcome!

The next Shepherd's Table is on April 20, 2023.

"Sharing Sunday" collects nonperishable Food for the Food Bank of Waldorf. The collection box is near the door to Fr. Martin Hall. They are especially in need of boxed cereal of all kinds. Thank you all!

Mary's Helping Hands

Mary's Helping Hands will be selling their Spring raffle tickets next weekend in the Narthex after all Masses. The winner will receive a \$300 gift certificate to Thompson's Seafood Corner Market. All proceeds will benefit the ADW Southern Maryland Food Bank of Charles County Student Snack Saks Program

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist

Precious Blood: As of Holy Thursday, we are offering the Precious Blood at Mass. We need additional volunteers to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMoHC).

The criteria's are the same as a Godparent or Sponsor, you must:

Attend Mass weekly, and Holy Days, be at least 18, registered in our Parish.

Received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).

If married, you must be married in the Catholic Church.

If you feel the Lord is calling to serve him in this ministry, please contact Deacon Rich or the Office Manager at 301-645-7112 and give your name and phone number.

CCD

CCD classes resume April 16/17. The Confirmation workshop will be Sunday April 16, followed by a Youth Mass. First Communion workshop will be next Sunday, April 23rd.

Confirmation will be Friday, April 21, with His Excellency, Bishop Menjivar presiding. First Communion will be Saturday, May 6 at 10 am.

If you haven't paid your fees for the 2022-2023 year, please do so as soon as possible. Speak to Sister if there are any concerns.

2023 Catholic High School Fair

Is your middle schooler considering a Catholic high school? Designed for rising 7th and 8th grade students, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington hosts a High School Fair each year to help families plan for the future. The event features exhibits from all of the Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese. Come and learn more about the admissions process, scholarship opportunities, and financial aid.

Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Catholic University of America – Heritage Hall

Visit www.adwcatholicschools.org for more information and to reserve your space.

Registration is free.