



COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



The Power of Faith

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

August 3
*18th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

August 10
*19th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

August 15
*The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

August 17
*20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

August 24
*21st Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

August 31
*22nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

In asking Jesus for an increase of faith the apostles were looking for that charismatic power that would enable them to perform marvels. They had tried unsuccessfully to cure a demented boy, whereas Jesus cured him with ease (Mt 17:14-21). The disciples also saw Jesus cause a fig tree to wither up simply through a word of command (Mt 21:18-22). They wanted that same kind of power. Each time Jesus had told them it was because they had such little trust that they were unsuccessful (Mt 17:20; 21:21-22). "You will receive all that you pray for, provided you have faith", Jesus assured them (Mt 21:22). This is why the apostles said, "Increase our faith" (Lk 17:5).

In response to their request for an increase of faith, Jesus said that faith the size of a mustard seed could cause a tree to be uprooted and planted in the sea (Lk 17:6); such faith could move a mountain; nothing would be impossible for them (Mt 17:20).

These stupendous examples show us the power of ordinary, humble faith. They bring out the disproportion between simple faith (like a tiny mustard seed) and the marvelous results that it accomplishes (like uprooted trees and mountains moved).

In response to their petition for an increase of miracle-performing faith Jesus says that it is not so much a large amount as the kind of genuine faith that they need for the Christian life. This seemingly insignificant power of faith will bring about a remarkable transformation in a person's life. Faith brings about the transition from sense to spirit, from human to divine, from sin to virtue, from sadness to joy, from despair to hope, from hate to love, from addiction to freedom, from self to God, from darkness to light, from anxiety and turmoil to peace and tranquility, from earthly to heavenly existence.

All of this marvelous, seemingly impossible transition will be made to take place because of simple faith. It starts off very small, but grows into humongous proportions (Mt 13:31-32). This will surely happen because faith, like a mustard seed, has power to give life. The reason for this is that faith connects us to God.

continued on pg. 2



Faith is an infused virtue that is given to us at baptism. This theological virtue, whose function is to attain God, opens us up to the divine life. Sanctifying grace received in baptism gives us a share in God's life. When faith, which is one of the powers of sanctifying grace, is perfected by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it has the power to revolutionize our human lives. We receive divine illumination. We become children of God (1 Jn 3:1-2) – truly God's (Jn 10:34-35), and can live holy lives, lives wholly directed to God, lives of innocence unadulterated by disordered self-love. Such purity of heart enables us to see God (Mt 5:8). The impossible is accomplished through the simple virtue of faith. It brings about the transformation from a mere human to a divine existence.

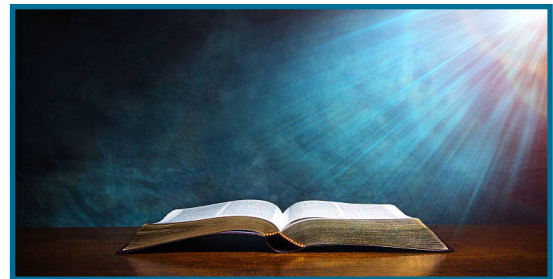
But for this to happen we must tenaciously trust in God's power. God will bring this change within us and in our whole world. We are in awe over God's mighty power to cause such a metamorphosis in us by the hidden, humble virtue of faith. But we must persevere in this power of trust in God and believe in his love for us. This is the quality of faith that Jesus says is so efficacious and brings such remarkable results. We must cling to him in our ups and downs, in the midst of plenty and want, in success and failure, and in our sorrows, trials, and troubles. We must remain connected to God through faith and believe all he has revealed to us in his holy Catholic Church. We must remain faithful to our God. He will use everything that happens to us to bring about a whole new world for us. (See Rom 8:28).

Our limited physical and natural world must be elevated and transformed into the infinite spiritual and supernatural world of God, which is our faith-world. Through faith we allow our inferior state of existence to be taken up into the supreme world of God. What happened to Jesus momentarily on the Mount of Transfiguration and permanently on the day of his Resurrection will also happen to us. God will become all in all for us (1 Cor 15:28).

This is made possible for each of us in our own individual lives, because of the humble, ordinary power of faith that opens us to the world of God, the divine.

Nurturing Faith

This precious virtue of faith that brings us to live in communion with the living God and share the eternal life of the Blessed Trinity must be nourished with the word of God: "*Not by bread alone is man to live but on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God*" (Mt 4:4). "*Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you*" (Col 3:16). "*My words are spirit and life*" Jesus explained (Jn 6:63). We need to take this word in and assimilate it through reflection and meditation. We need to write out impressive phrases and passages and commit them to memory. Jesus is Truth Itself (Jn 14:6).



By assimilating the truth expressed by his word we become like him, transformed into his image. Faith is the virtue which receives such divine revelation. This revelation, truth, which is identified with Jesus, illuminates our inner being and even our faith. Elevated by the gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge and counsel, faith begins to imitate God himself and the glorified Jesus as well as the Holy Spirit dwelling within us (Jm 14:16-21; Eph 1:17-21; 3:16-21). Faith takes on the quality of light. If at one time we lived in darkness now we are light in the Lord (Eph 5:8). This is the result of creating for ourselves an environment of faith by taking in God's word and storing it in our memory like Mary did, as it is written "*Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart*" (Lk 2:19).

continued on pg. 3



Jesus explained to the apostles that their weak faith (Mt 17:20) could be increased through prayer (Mk 9:29). Prayer is an exercise of faith that causes it to increase. And faith gives us free access to God (Rom 5:2). When we pray, we open ourselves to a continuous communion with the living God whose power and life flow into us as we pray. This brings us an increase of sanctifying grace, one of whose powers is faith. If we prayerfully sit at Jesus' feet each day and receive his love and his word like Mary did (Lk 10:39) we will not be overwhelmed by work and anxiety (Lk 10:40-42).

Divine wisdom and strength received through prayer enable us to perform the duties of our state of life in such a way that we are sanctified by them. We develop a habit of prayerfulness so that we live in the divine presence and become one with God himself. We live his very life so that his divine perfections become our own. It is possible for us to actually experience the words, "My strength and my courage is the Lord and he has been my savior" (Ex 15:2).

God himself becomes our strength to face and prevail over the difficulties of life. Purity of heart enables us to see God and enjoy his Being (Mt 5:8). The gifts of the Holy Spirit attune us to God and keep us in touch with him. And in the continuous communion, God completes us with these divine perfections and attributes. This faith life affects our everyday life in very practical ways, as the prophet says, "He gives strength to the fainting; for the weak he makes vigor abound. Though young men faint and grow weary, and the youths stagger and fall, they that hope in the Lord (as expressed through prayerfulness) will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint" (Is 40:28-31).

Father Conley Bertrand

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 2

Anniversary Mass
Sacred Heart of Jesus
New Iberia
10:00 AM

August 16

Anniversary Mass
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
St. Amant
10:00 AM

August 23

Anniversary Mass
St. Anne
Youngsville
10:00 AM

August 30

Anniversary Mass
St Joseph Catholic Church
Cecilia
10:00 AM

September 27

Leaders' Seminar
Our Lady of Fatima
Lafayette
10:00 AM

October 18

Anniversary Mass
St. Landry Catholic Church
Opelousas
10:00 AM

October 25

Anniversary Mass
Divine Mercy
Kenner
10:00 AM

October 28

Church Parish Rep Workshop
St Jules
Lafayette
10:00 AM

November 19

Anniversary Mass
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Ville Platte
12:00 PM

Recent Events

DIOCESAN AND AREA COORDINATORS' ANNUAL MEETING



Attention Leaders and Co-Leaders!
Leaders' Seminar
September 27, 2025
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
2319 Johnston St.
Lafayette, Louisiana
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cory Hayes

June 2025 Gift Bags Received



Thank you for your generosity!

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Eunice, LA : Wendy Rougeau, Gladis Semien
Gretna, LA: Barbara Comeaux
Harvey, LA: Jo Ann Mattison, Laura Tran
Henderson, LA: Charlene Courville
Houma, LA: Chester Morrison
Lafayette, LA: Jennifer Campisi, Sue Robicheaux
Maurice, LA: Anna Stutes Mayeux
New Iberia, LA: Judy Moore
Parks, LA: Nessie Laviolette
Slidell, LA: Donald St. Germain, Ingrid Crowell,
 Elizabeth Riviera, Jose Rodriguez
Sulphur, LA: Bridgette Culpepper
Ville Platte, LA: Dana Broussard
Westwego, LA: Jeannie Rouillier, Chermaine Cerniglia

Abbeville	Houma	Paulina
Algiers	Jeanerette	Pierre Part
Avery Island	Jefferson	Prairie Ronde
Baker	Jennings	Ragley
Baton Rouge	Judice	Rayne
Bayou Vista	Kenner	Richard
Bell City	Kinder	Schriever
Berwick	Lacombe	Slidell
Bourg	Lafayette	St. Amant
Breaux Bridge	Lake Charles	St. Martinville
Broussard	Lawtell	Sugartown
Cankton	Loreauville	Terrytown
Carencro	Lufkin TX	Vidrine
Church Point	Marrero	Ville Platte
Coteau	Maurice	Washington
Delcambre	Metairie	Youngsville
Duson	Mire	
Erath	Morgan City	
Eunice	Morse	
Fenton	Natchez	
Forked Island	New Iberia	
Franklin	New Orleans	
Grand Coteau	Opelousas	
Grand Prairie	Orlando FL	
Gretna	Parks	
Harvey	Patterson	
Henderson		

JULY 1 - JULY 25, 2025 Memorial Burse Donations

NEW GROUP

Harvey LA - Savanna Orgeron - Leader

Mary Zeringue, Andrew Moncada, Jude Monaco,
 Garrett Orgeron, Nathaniel Parr, Mykah Brown,
 Jacob Mahoney, Landyn Bush, Lucy Enger

Jerry Brevelle	Ronald Corner
Kevin Couhig	Thomas Darensbourg
David Domingue	Verna Robin
Mae Hogg	Donald Howard
O.V. "Sonny" Moss, Jr.	Nancy Van Eaton Prince
Donna "Tutta" Staples Vetter	Anthony J. Sonnier
Albert Charles Higginbotham	

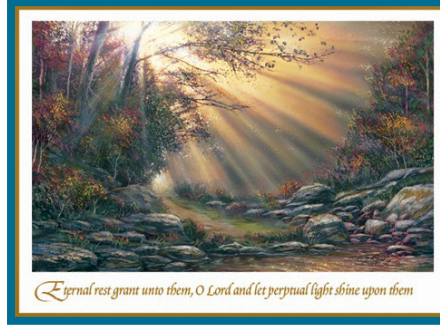
Condolences

To Father Ken Domingue of Cankton, LA on the death of his brother, David Domingue.

To member Brenda Prejean of Jeanerette, LA on the death of her brother, O.V. "Sonny" Moss, Jr.

To member Elizabeth Robin of Jeanerette, LA on the death of her mother-in-law, Verna Robin.

To the members of "Living Stones" group in New Orleans, LA on the death of their leader, Pat Robbins.



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Come, Lord Jesus!
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