

Photo by Frank J. Methe | CLARION HERALD

An Easter like none we've ever seen



Photos | COURTESY BIG EASY WING, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

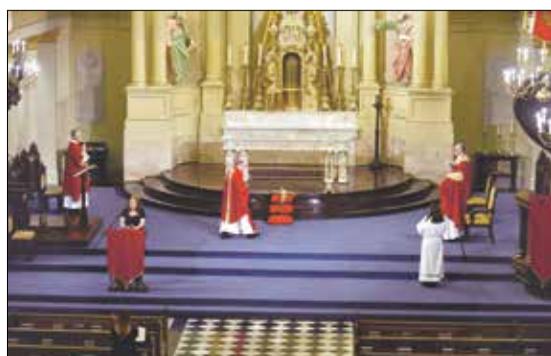


Photo by Peter Finney Jr. | CLARION HERALD

"Historic" and "unprecedented" are not words easily tossed around, but Holy Week 2020 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and across the world, aptly fit those descriptions for a global community paralyzed by the coronavirus. Clockwise from top left, Archbishop Gregory Aymond celebrated Easter Sunday Mass in a virtually empty St. Louis Cathedral but also to a "virtual" congregation of thousands. On Good Friday from an open cockpit of a WWII biplane, he blessed the city with the Eucharist and holy water from the Jordan River. On the ground, he gave comfort to those serving at medical facilities set up at the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center. Even the Good Friday ritual of venerating the crucifix changed – no kissing of the cross was allowed.



Photo by Peter Finney Jr. | CLARION HERALD

In hungering for Eucharist, turn to helping others

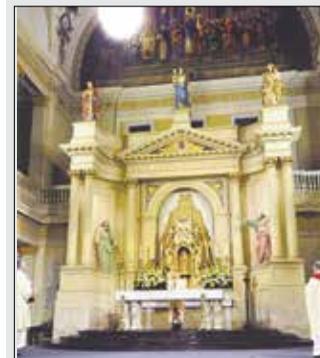


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Archbishop Aymond on Holy Thursday: "We come here today to renew our gratitude for the Eucharist and to accept the mandate from Jesus to wash the feet of others. Let's remember that Jesus never does "social distancing" with us. He's very close to you and to me. He lives deep in your heart and in mine. In this celebration, even though so many of us are disappointed that we cannot be here, hear the Lord Jesus say, "In the midst of this turmoil and this crisis – in the midst of all of that – do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. It is I. I love you."

Good Friday walkers sparse, but resolute



Photo by Beth Donze | CLARION HERALD

Cathy and Toby Wattigney of Belle Chasse pray in front of closed St. Alphonsus Church at the start of their Good Friday walk to nine New Orleans churches. Toby Wattigney said his grandmother began the devotion in 1941 to ask for the safe return of her three sons from World War II. Her prayers were answered.



Photo by Christine Bordelon | CLARION HERALD

On bikes, in cars or on foot, stations are observed

By Christine Bordelon
Clarion Herald

As fast as the coronavirus spread worldwide, so did ingenuity on how to practice the Catholic faith during Holy Week. People now have time to reflect on what's important in life.

A group of 14 families who live in River Ridge quickly banded together and created the 14 Stations of the Cross in their neighborhood for Good Friday.

Emily Stricker, a parishioner of St. Rita in Harahan, got the idea of creating a "neighborhood" Stations of the Cross after seeing it in a Facebook post from another community of 14 families in Covington.

In front of each house on the 3.8-mile trek was a 14-by-16-inch sign depicting one station. A basket of rosaries for visitors sat beside Station 4. Children wrote the number of the station in chalk so people could follow along.