

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:
April 28-29, 2018

SOMETHING NEW: Last February, we finished repairing and fixing all areas inside our Co-Cathedral that needed some attention – the interior plaster and walls, holes and scratches, etc., have been repaired including those that needed to be repainted have been retouched. We have organized and cleaned all the rooms and closets. We are in the process of adding more storage spaces and places to organize and keep the things we use regularly. Little items that we need for our liturgical services and use have been purchased. We are now in the process of cleaning and organizing the church basement – pray for us!

This **Saturday, April 28th** is the **150th anniversary (1868-2018) of the arrival of the Relic of St. Valerie** at St. Joseph's Church. Obtained by Peré Charles Menard from the Holy See during his visit in 1867, the relic arrived in Thibodaux via the Steamboat *Nina Simmes* from New Orleans by way of Bayou Lafourche. The reliquary bier (glass casket-looking) was carried to the old church by a fire truck. Early Tuesday morning on May 25, 1916, the old St. Joseph Church (at the time located on Highway 1, behind the Peré Menard's monument) burned to the ground and the Relic of St. Valerie was one of the few items that were saved by the firemen. Perhaps out of gratitude from being saved from another form of martyrdom (i.e. "being burned"), St. Valerie had watched over the City of Thibodaux and its inhabitants through the years from any natural disaster and calamities! Out of gratitude, we gather around the bier of St. Valerie on this day, to ask for her continued protection and intercession this year. This Saturday, I will ask St. Valerie to watch and protect all our firemen and women as they continue trying to save the lives of many. If you know someone who is a fireman/woman, please stop by the Bier of St. Valerie and pray for them! In a different note: I'm still trying to solve a mystery associated with our relic of St. Valerie. My initial research of our records (Annales de l'Eglise de Saint-Joseph et memoirs du Peré Menard, Latin documents and other texts) led me to discover that the historical facts behind our relic came from combined background information of TWO women named "Valerie/a," who lived in two different centuries and places (Sainte-Valerie de Limoges, France, Virgin & Martyr, 1st Cent, and Santa Valeria di Milan, Italy, Martyr, 3rd Cent.),

giving us a "hybrid story" for the relic that we have in the church! My research, which I have labeled, "*Sainte-Valerie de Limoges OR Santa Valeria di Milan: A Tale of Two Saint Valeries,*" is proving to be more intriguing than ever! Anyone interested in doing some serious historical research, come and see me please.

The Conversion Story of St. Paul (nee Saul of Tarsus) that we have been hearing these past weeks of Easter continues on in our 1st reading this weekend, the 5th Sunday of Easter. While most writers would confine Saul/Paul's "conversion story" as the incident that happened to him as he was making his way to Damascus, I would like to say that Saul/Paul's entire life and ministry is and was about his **conversion** – daily. In fact, I read St. Paul's 13 epistles as "**conversion stories**" of Saul of Tarsus/Paul the apostle, and those who have followed Jesus of Nazareth. In following Jesus, we must go through a process of **conversion** daily; and St. Paul is our model for this.

Conversion IS NOT a dramatic once-in-a-lifetime event or experience. Rather, it is a regular event and experience in one's life who, upon encountering the Christ where he/she is at that particular moment, is called to change, invited to be transformed, and sent to be a disciple. To see conversion as "a single momentous event and experience" is to define and limit not only God's power to transform us but also our abilities and capabilities to be transformed as well. In order for us to be true to work of the Holy Spirit and our human nature, we must realize and recognize that God is calling and inviting to **CONVERSION** at all times so that I may remain in Him and God in me. You and I know that remaining in God faithfully ALL THE TIME is not easy and very challenging. However, these challenging times are our opportunities for **CONVERSION**. So I repeat: **conversion is NOT a one-time event, it is a life-long process of becoming like Jesus!**

Father Vic+



COMMITTED TO TRUTH

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 29, 2018

Let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

— 1 John 3:18

Children's Liturgy



We are in need of adult volunteers for our Children's Liturgy Ministry during the 9:30 AM Mass.

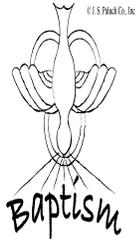
If you are interested in finding out more information, call the Life Center at 446-1387.

The following were Baptized into the family of Christ recently:

Celie Catherine
Child of Ryan & Natalie

Jackson Frazier
Child of John & Claire

Adelyn Margarete
Child of Jeffrey & Nadja



April 14th/ 15th	
Weekly Offering	
Weekly Collection	\$ 8,436.00
Weekly Loose	2,216.02
ACH Weekly	335.00
	\$ 10,987.02

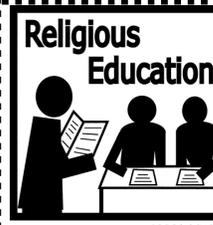
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Wedding Banns

Victoria Roy & Kade Steib (3)
Hannah Waguespack & Alexander Morvant (2)
Heidi Gaudet & Blake Hymel (2)
Caroline Bimah & Nathan Naquin (1)



The religious education department is in need of a 6th grade teacher for the 2018-2019 school year.

If you are interested, please contact Sue at 985-446-1387.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal *Strengthening the Church at Home*

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Right now, over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds programs, such as religious education, seminary formation and lay ministry training, to build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.



Please remember **Mary Alice Morvant, Karen Prejean, Ethel Gaubert & Mabel Tabor** who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that their families may find comfort and consolation through their faith.



Firemen's Day with St. Valerie

PATRONESS OF THIBODAUX

Our Protectress from fires & the ravages of hurricanes

Please join us in procession with the relic of St. Valerie

Saturday, April 28th

Beginning from the Co-Cathedral at 3PM and return for the Vigil 4PM Mass

At Mass, all Firemen will be receive a special blessing .

