

**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:***August 25-26, 2018*

Envelopes for your donations to our **HVAC (heating and cooling) System Replacement Project** can be found at all entrances to our Co-Cathedral Church. Copies of my Appeal Letter are posted in the Bulletin Board at all entrances of our church for those who missed my personal appeal. Please use the envelopes for your donations. ***Merci beau coup!*** By this time the Asbestos Abatement work in our church basement is done and the initial work of our HVAC Project has begun. We envisioned the Project to be done in multiple **Phases** for efficiency and so as not to interrupt our services. **Phase I** will be the removal the old small Generac Generator and Boiler. **Phase II** was the Asbestos Abatement. **Phase III** preparing one side of the crawl space with new duct work and the installation of the new units; followed by (**Phase IV**) the removal of the old duct work on that side of the crawl space. **Phase V** will be the installation of new duct work and the new units on the opposite side of crawl space; followed by (**Phase VI**) the removal of the remaining old duct work. **Phase VII** will be the removal of the old compressors and chillers and the installation of the new units; after which (**Phase VIII**) the transfer of electrical panels and controls to a centralized location. At the end of Phase VIII the Project is completed! This is how my ecclesiastical and canonical mind sees how this project unfolds, but what do I know!

Please keep the priests of our diocese in your prayers this week as we all gather at Lumen Christi for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of Houma-Thibodaux Priests (August 27 to 29<sup>th</sup>). At this gathering, we will learn, review and discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> component of the **Strategic Plan of the Diocese** which is the **Youth Formation Program**. Inserted in this Bulletin, is an Update on the Strategic Plan and how it will apply to us later on. Please check out the Insert and be informed. Thank you.

The gospel of John this weekend tells us that during the time of Jesus, *“many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him”* because they cannot accept some of His teachings and the challenges He presented to them. Jesus asked those who remained *“Do you also want to leave? Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’ ”* In light of the scandals and tragedies happening in our Church, and the pain and the sufferings inflicted on the innocent people, it is no surprise that people would want to leave our Church. We are a hurting Church and wounded, but we will find healing in our brokenness – soon, but not yet.

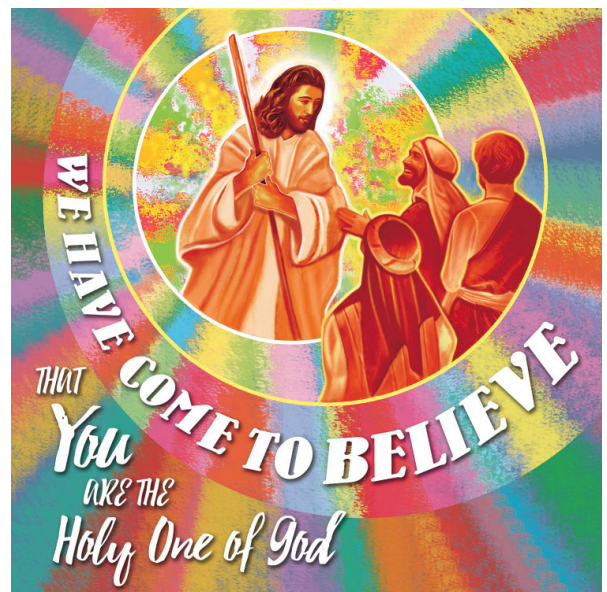
Many of us have been through tough times in our own lives and faith. We all have had “crises moments” when life-experiences challenged our faith and convictions. We have been betrayed and disappointed many times even by the

very people we love and trust, respect and honor. And in spite of all these, I see people still trying to hold on to their faith and loving a broken Church despite the unworthiness of her servants and ministers. People have every reason to leave and they have the right to. But the question I ask is, “what makes YOU stay?”

Personally, I stay because I fell in love with this Church from the time I came to know her through catechism and my early sacraments, until today. I love how Jesus “built His Church” upon her and gave to His first apostle the keys to the Kingdom. I love how Jesus entrusted to a rag-tag of simple, ordinary men and women (who He called as friends) His gospel message, and empowered them to bring all to His kingdom. I love the traditions that were passed on through centuries to us and how they connected us to the Christ. I love the teachings of the learned that instructed us and made sense of our faith. I am edified by the sacraments that we celebrate that restores and heal me in my own brokenness. I am inspired by the examples of ordinary men and women who lived up the faith and some gave up their lives for it. I am constantly filled with awe by the witness of everyday Catholics sitting in their pews and corners in the church, quietly saying their prayers and whispering their wishes to God. I find completeness in life by being surrounded and having people who shares my beliefs, and hopes and dreams even in our imperfections. I hear God speaking to me in the life-stories we share. I discover God’s unconditional love in the kindness of others. In the perseverance of many, I see a glimpse of God who never gives up on me. In all of you, I hear **God’s words of eternal life!**

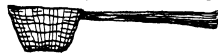
I stay because of these. Why do you stay?

*Father Vic+*



**August 4th/ 5th**

Weekly Collection	\$ 9,565.11
Weekly Loose	2,238.30
ACH Weekly	335.00
	\$ 12,138.41

**Weekly Offering**

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**Prayer for Hurricane Season**

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude; you are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a storm less eternity awaits us. Amen

**C.E.N.T.S.**

C.E.N.T.S. will be offering the Small Business Course beginning in September, 2018 through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. This course is designed to help people who are interested in starting a small business. It will be held one evening a week for six weeks. There is a \$20 fee associated with this course. Anyone who is interested in participating, please call 876-0490 to register.

**Hospital Ministry**

If you or your family member of our church parish is in the hospital, please call the office at 446-1387 to inform us.

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 26, 2018**

As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

— *Joshua 24:15b*

**Diocese of Houma - Thibodaux  
Priest Convocation**

Bishop Fabre has announced with the EXCEPTION of the two Cathedrals (St. Francis and St. Joseph) all the Masses in all churches in the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese will be canceled from Aug. 27 to the 29<sup>th</sup> because of the Convocation of Priests. *Our mass times will remain 6:30 AM & 5:30 PM.*

**Baptismal Seminar**

Thursday, August 30th  
7:00 PM  
Life Center

Parent's & godparents are required to attend.  
Please call the office to register  
985-446-1387

**Altar Servers**

Calling all who would like to SERVE!!!

Must have received their First Communion and is in third grade or above.

If you are interested, please contact  
Mr. Richard Lasseigne, III at (985) 413-8708 or at  
stjoaltermervice@gmail.com

A training will take place soon.

**Boy Scouts Pack 330  
Popcorn Sale**

The boy scouts will be having a popcorn sale after all masses on the weekends of  
August 25th/26th &  
September 15th/16th

Thank you for your support!



Please remember **Harold Long** who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that his family may find comfort and consolation through their faith.

*Wedding Banns*

*Kaitlyn Blanchard & Matthew Glover (2)*