

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



My dear parishioners and friends,

This is my first opportunity to share with you in the *Bulletin* since my return from the Holy Land. Our group of 35 persons spent eight full days exploring the places where Jesus was foreshadowed, conceived, born, and ministered, and where He ultimately died and was raised in glory.

It was a great trip. I had been to the Holy Land before, but it was the first visit for everyone else. From what I saw, everyone was thrilled to be able to “walk in the footsteps of” the Lord and to pray at those very places made holy by His presence. **You were in my prayers**, and most especially in Bethlehem and Nazareth, where our patron St. Joseph had such an important part to play in our Savior’s life.

Two things stand out in my mind from the trip: one was our praying of the **Stations of the Cross** on the Lenten Friday of Feb. 26, along the actual “Via Dolorosa” in the famous “Old City” section of Jerusalem. What made it unusual was the weather: we prayed in a **constant downpour** of rain! It was one little way of suffering that even Jesus didn’t have to put up with 2,000 years ago! But it turned out to be special: whenever we pray the Way of the Cross from now on, I think all of us will always recall that special occasion when we walked together in Jerusalem identifying with Christ’s passion in such a unique way.

The other thing I’ll mention for now was the pleasant surprise that all of us realized simply by looking around us: **the Holy Land is safe** and quite accessible to visitors. Although the region has known much strife and bitterness, and has continuing political problems – and the news media profits greatly by playing this up – in reality Israel is not a dangerous place. It has signed peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt, and the security arrangement with the Palestinians has given them separate areas under their own political control. It’s not a perfect system – the Palestinians are separated by a barrier that seems to me to be overly fearsome, sort of a “Berlin Wall”! – but it has made the Holy Land a safe place to visit. If questions like this have kept you from considering a tour there, I’d encourage you to reconsider.

It appears that everything went smoothly

here at the Cathedral in my absence. The Parish Office staff and our regular corps of volunteers (liturgical ministers, money counters, *Bulletin* helpers, Food Pantry and other social responsibility workers, KCs, Ladies of the Cathedral, etc.), of course, deserve gratitude not only from me but from us all, whether I’m here or not. So many things go on, and it all seems so effortless, but this is due to the dedication of so many.

I also want to express my **special thanks** to Fathers David Allen, John Carville, Chris Decker, Howard Hall, Matt Lorrain, Pat Mascarella and Jerry Young for supplying both sacramental services and smiles while I was away. You know, priests of the Diocese of Baton Rouge have always considered ministry in our area a “shared responsibility,” and that is never more evident than when we “cover” for each other during illnesses and absences. These are not just “other priests” as far as I’m concerned, but “brother priests.” I hope the mutual affection we have for each other shows in the way we cooperate to serve the Lord and you.

This weekend we’re celebrating another one of our special “**Saturday @ 4**” Masses: the **Choir from St. Thomas More Parish** in Baton Rouge will join us for the Vigil Mass and a reception afterwards. Their repertoire has been described as “classically choral,” including historic favorites as well as new compositions which show off their versatility. This weekend why not join us for the Vigil Mass, and share a bit of different music and song with us?

At week’s end, on Friday, March 19, we celebrate the annual patronal feast of our diocese and parish church: the **Solemnity of St. Joseph**. The noon Mass that day will include a special blessing of the traditional **St. Joseph’s Altar** prepared by the Ladies of the Cathedral. Also, a free, meatless **meal** is served in the Parish Hall from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm by them and the Knights of Columbus. St. Joseph gave tender, fatherly care to Jesus, and since he’s our patron I’m sure he offers the same fatherly spiritual care to us all. Please **join us** if you can!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "P".

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU.....*Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

As you've no doubt heard by now, this Lent, a special effort is being made to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation more available in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. On the two remaining consecutive "middle" Wednesday evenings of Lent – March 17 & 24 – private confessions will be heard from 6 to 8 pm at 17 regionally-located parish churches. Many priest confessors will be available in these places to welcome and direct you. Helpful information is on the diocesan website www.diobr.org, in *The Catholic Commentator*, and in brochures in all churches. We're still having confessions at the usual times at the Cathedral (before daily Mass, on Saturday afternoons, and after work on Mondays during Lent), but sometimes people wish to confess to priests from other parishes, or at a more convenient time.

The churches in the city of Baton Rouge offering these special Wednesday-night confession times are Christ the King at LSU, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Aloysius, St. George, St. Paul the Apostle and St. Pius X.

Other churches not too far away are Immaculate Conception in Denham Springs, St. John the Evangelist in Plaquemine and St. John the Baptist in Zachary.

SPECIAL COLLECTION... Each year **Catholic Relief Services**, the US Catholic charitable agency for aid in foreign lands, is supported by a **Special Collection**, and this will happen this weekend, **March 13/14**. Given the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile the need is greater than ever. Please donate to this during the collection taken up at Mass this weekend.

HELP THE SICK... Once again the local St. Vincent de Paul Society is holding its "Fill A Prescription for the Needy" campaign, this year on the weekend of March 20 & 21. Please place a monetary donation in an empty prescription vial (*remember to remove the label!*) and bring it to Mass on these dates. Put your gift into the giant prescription bottle container in the Cathedral. *Empty vials are available if you do not have an empty one at home.*

NEED YOUR TAX INFORMATION?... Remember, IRS regulations require a **statement from the church** or copies of your canceled checks in order to claim charitable donations made to us last year. If you need a copy of your 2009 statement, email the Parish Office at office@cathedralofstjoseph.org or telephone 225-387-5928.

Saturday @ 4 **March 13 Special Celebration!**

Great news! St. Thomas More's Church Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Janelle Couvillion, will join us at the Cathedral on March 13 for the Vigil Mass! This is another of our periodic **Saturday @ 4** celebrations, which feature choirs from throughout the Baton Rouge area.

The STM Choir is sure to provide inspiration for your Lenten prayers. A brief reception in the Parish Hall will follow Mass, providing an opportunity for our parishioners and the Choir to "meet and mingle." The event is free and open to the public: invite your friends to come join us!

FEDERAL CENSUS... Remember to fill out the short **2010 Census** Questionnaire that you will be receiving this month, and return it in timely fashion. Census information lets the government know where to provide needed services.

LENT AT THE CATHEDRAL

Lenten Masses

Monday through Friday at 12:05 pm
Saturday at 4 pm
Sunday at 8 am, 10 am and 12 noon

Lenten Confessions

Monday through Friday at 11:30 am
Monday afternoons from 4 until 5:30 pm
Saturday afternoons at 3 pm

Weekly Devotions

Stations of the Cross
Each Friday at 11:30 am

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Novena to our Mother of Perpetual Help
Each Tuesday at 11:50 am

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Prayers to St. Jude the Apostle
Each Thursday at 11:50 am

CATHEDRAL SQUARE GARDEN CLUB... will meet on Saturday, March 20, for its monthly "morning in the garden." Anyone is welcome to join. On the agenda: spring housekeeping, weeding, cutting back freeze damage, and planting some spring color in the beds in the Bishops' Courtyard. Please join us!

Solemnity of St. Joseph

March 19, 2010

Mass at 12:00 noon (includes St. Joseph Altar)
(Lenten Meal served beginning at 11:30 a.m.)

Please call the Cathedral Office at 225-387-5928 for more information or to help!

BEIGNETS... Next Sunday, March 21, Mr. Robert Cannon will serve his delicious beignets after the 8 and 10 am Masses. We invite ALL parishioners and friends to stop by after Mass and enjoy them: in fact, around the Cathedral, being marked with powdered sugar is almost as popular as being marked with ashes at the beginning of Lent!



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MASS INTENTIONS - Week of 3/13

Sat.	4:00 pm	Simon Maggio Family
Sun.	8:00 am	Velma Trepagnier
	10:00 am	For Cathedral Parishioners
	12:00 noon	Charles Schexnayder, Marie Meeks
Mon.	12:05 pm	Lillian Cline Koster/Benedict Cline
Tues.	12:05 pm	Cedric Aucoin, Jr., Ray Ewings, Ivy Garon, Lettie & Claude Latil, Purgatorial List
Wed.	12:00 pm	Robert & Mark Fontenot
Thurs.	12:05 pm	M/M Richard Cointment, Sr., Agnes & Joseph Blasi, Jr., Zimmermann Family, Todd Willeford (Spec. Int.)
Fri.	12:05 pm	Josephine Batiste



WEEKLY PRAYER INTENTIONS...

Saturday:	For an increased spirit of generosity in our lives and our world
Sunday:	For the grace to read and find direction in the Sacred Scriptures
Monday:	For national, state and local leaders
Tuesday:	For the teachers and youth
Wednesday:	For Christian family life
Thursday:	For peace and justice in the world
Friday:	For alcoholics and other drug addicts

SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK...

Saturday	Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday	Jos 5:9a,10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3,11-32
Monday	Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday	Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday	Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday	Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday	2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24a or Lk 2:41-51a

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE... The collection over the weekend of Feb. 27/28 totaled \$10,290.00 (181 identified givers offered \$9,787.00, while unidentified givers gave \$503.00). The annual special collection for Black and Indian Missions came to \$551.00.

OTHER NOTES ABOUT GIVING...We prefer that everyone be an Identified Giver, paying by check or using envelopes. This permits your generosity to be deductible in accordance with applicable tax laws.

Another option in giving to your Cathedral is by automatic direct bank draft transfer. Contact your bank and set up your regular donation made from your checking account to the Cathedral as often as you instruct them to do it.

The Cathedral also accepts gifts of stock or distributions from other funds. Call the Parish Office (225-387-5928) to arrange this.

Finally, have you remembered the Cathedral in your will?