

**An Explanation
of Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Monument
By Father Mark Ledoux**

Sculpted by renowned Italian artist, Franco Alessandrini, Fr. Lafleur's last heroic crowning moment of life is depicted in White Carrara Marble. Beautifully carved is Fr. Lafleur struggling to push men to possible freedom from the hull of the torpedoed and sinking 'hell ship', the Shinyo Maru. Of 750 P.O.W. aboard this ship, only 83 survived to tell the tragic story of their plight and how Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur, "Padre", gave his life once more for his men.

The four-sided base of the Monument depicts significant events in Fr. Lafleur's 32 years of life. Opposite the name engraving is a basso relief of Fr. Lafleur as Associate Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene from 1938-1941. While this was Fr. Lafleur's only assignment as Diocesan Priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, he made a lasting impression upon the people of Vermilion Parish as a zealous and loving priest. Among the youth, Fr. Lafleur was a great inspiration of faith in addition to being an avid sportsman. The boys of Abbeville had very little financial resources available to them for non-necessities. Depicted is Fr. Lafleur bringing baseball bats, gloves and balls for them by hocking his wristwatch.

The two remaining basso reliefs are of Fr. Lafleur's time in the Philippine Islands. The first is Fr. Lafleur at the initial surprise attack upon Clark Field Air Base on December 8, 1941. Here Fr. Lafleur ministered to the wounded and dying without any regard for his personal safety. For his action he won the Distinguished Service Cross and was later awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. It was following the events at Clark Field that eventually led to the ordered surrender of all American Soldiers to the Japanese Militia. For nearly two and one-half years, Fr. Lafleur was a P.O.W. including stays at O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Davao, and Lasang.

The final basso relief is depicting the sinking of the 'hell ship', Shiny Maru on September 7, 1944. Most P.O.W. ships were nothing more than old freighter ships used by the Japanese to transport men to Japan. The ship, which Fr. Lafleur perished upon, was not flying the P.O.W. flag and was mistakenly torpedoed by the U.S.S. Paddle. Already severely weakened by malnutrition, dehydration, and heat exhaustion many men were too weak or badly wounded to even try and escape the hull of the sinking and burning ship. It was here that Fr. Lafleur, "Padre", led his men in prayer, blessed them and began pushing men through the one escape hatch to the deck in order that they would have a chance at survival despite the Japanese's continued resistance.

A MOTHER'S PREMONITION

During the dark days of prison life his mother prayed constantly for Chaplain Lafleur and "the boys". When not working she would sit in her chair by the window reciting her rosary and staring at the pine tree near the window. The little tree had been brought from St. Benedict Seminary years before on the occasion of her first visit there. With time, the pine tree had grown as tall as the house and, in the course of years, the climbing red roses planted nearby had grown to the top of the tree. So there was the pine tree covered with red roses. In the mind of Mrs. Lafleur it stood symbolic of her son's work.

On November 2, 1944, the family gathered around Mrs. Lafleur who was seated in her chair near the window. They broke the news to her that her son had died aboard a sinking ship on September 7, 1944.

"I knew it," she calmly remarked. "Look out of the window. My pine tree died at about that time."

No one but she had noticed the dried up branches of the pine tree and the dead rose vine.

Several months later an Officer came to her house to present post-humously Chaplain Lafleur's awards. Strangely, as he was in the house a gust of wind arose and a cracking noise was heard.

Looking out into the yard, all could see that the dead pine tree had fallen to the earth.

"There goes a job for someone," the Officer remarked. Thus ended the story of the pine tree with red roses. How appropriate was the inscription on a card received by Mrs. Lafleur from a mother whose son also made the journey to the Philippines just before the war "The Roses Have Crossed to the Other Side of the Wall."

Taken from: The Roses Have Crossed to the Other Side of the Wall

BISHOPS' SERVICES APPEAL

We are called to give generously so that Jesus' healing and grace may be spread to the dark corners of our communities, to people who are suffering and to people who have not yet heard or embraced the Good News of Salvation.

There are a number of priorities and needs facing our Diocesan Church that no one parish alone can address. Some require the strength and resolve of our entire Catholic Community working and sacrificing together as One Body. That is why every parish participates in the Bishop's Services Appeal, so that through our collective efforts, we can build the Father's kingdom by advancing the work of the Church.

Please respond generously.

**23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2007**

READINGS AND QUESTIONS FOR FAITH SHARING

Reading I: Wisdom 9:13-18b

- Our choices in life are timid compared to God's choices for us.

Reading II: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

- Paul baptizes a slave and then expect the slave's master to accept the slaves as a brother.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

- Do you want to be a disciple? Renounce everything else, with no reservations, no regrets.

Theme: "Wisdom For The Ages."

Today's Gospel is one of the most difficult for the modern believer to understand. Jesus' words sound too harsh. After all, isn't this the same Jesus who gave us the law of love? As Christians, we need to struggle with these hard sayings. As we listen to these words, let us be attentive to the reminder in today's passage from the book of Wisdom--we simply can't think big enough to understand the Lord's intentions. We need the assistance of the Holy Spirit, whose presence we acknowledge in this holy place.

Question for Adults:

Are there any "words of wisdom" that you have tended to live by? How have they profited you in attaining the kingdom?

Question for Youth:

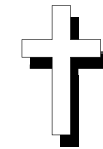
Do you know anyone who has given all that he or she had for the sake of the gospel? What if you are ever asked to?

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Most Rev. Emilio Z. Marquez, D.D. and the Diocese of Lucena, I wish to thank you so much for accommodating our mission appeal to benefit our urgent need to build up a seminary. Please appeal to the parish community our sincere appreciation of their generosity and kindness. In a most special way, I really appreciated your gracious and kind hospitality for our priest. With assurances of prayers and good wishes, I remain,

Rev. Jose Erlito Ebro

**MASS
INTENTIONS**



**FOR THE
WEEK**

Saturday, September 8 4:00 p.m. Terry & Eula Lavergne, Florence (Flo) Fournier, Dorsey Quebedeaux Sr., Donald Fontenet, Arcade & Ada Fontenet & Armille & Lucille Fontenet, Martin & Angela Cosgrove, Ray Hebert, Eugene & Josephine Lavergne (DA) Family, Jeanette Lalonde, Liz Potier, Alex Robertson, Jr.

Sunday, September 9 8:00 a.m. Marguerite Roberie, M/M Ezra Martin & Denise Hull, Irl White, Martin J. St. Amand, Youle & Therese Fontenet, Mary Elizabeth Potier, Ernie & Steven McKinney

10:00 a.m. Wilfred, Annette, Richard & Marian Smith, Dr. Sidney & Alice Rozas and Dr. Dudley & Putsy Bienvenu, Gerry Allen, Jack Benson Sr., Ernie & Steven McKinney, Ernest, Ena & Sis McKinney, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. & Doris H. Philippe, Edval Jannise, Sr., Theresa Doucet, Harry & James Jannise

5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, Carl Lanclos, Lee Martin, T.C., Eleanor & Atwood Quirk, Ernie & Steven McKinney, Rena S. Arceneaux

Monday, September 10 12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday, September 12 12:10 p.m.

Thursday, September 13 12:10 p.m.

Friday, September 14 12:10 p.m.

Saturday, September 15 4:00 p.m. Loretta Marcantel, Tom Hammil, Lee, Vivian & Kristie Artigue, Luke Henry, James E. Martin, Florence (Flo) Fournier, Jeanette Doucet, Dorsey Quebedeaux Sr., Donald Fontenet, Arcade & Ada Fontenet & Armille & Lucille Fontenet, Martin & Angela Cosgrove, Jeanette Lalonde, Liz Potier, Alex Robertson, Jr.

Sunday, September 9 8:00 a.m. M/M Ezra Martin & Denise Hull, Martin J. St. Amand, Youle & Therese Fontenet, John Roberie, James Dugal

10:00 a.m. Wilfred, Annette, Richard & Marian Smith; Fontenet, John Roberie, James P. Dugal, Gerry Allen, Mary Manuel, Jack Benson Sr., Alexis Lanclos, Ernie & Steven McKinney, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. & Doris H. Philippe

5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, Tom Hammil, Lee Martin

**Confessions: Saturdays 3:00-3:45 p.m.
11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Fri.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION *Every Gift Comes From Above.*
Your Stewardship To God
 Total Offertory Collection\$5,436.99
 Maintenance Repair Fund\$1,836.59
 O.C.S. Foundation Fund.....\$1000
Thank you for your generosity!

REMINDERS FOR THIS WEEK

MON., SEPT. 10	6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting
TUES., SEPT. 11	6:00 p.m. Catholic Daughter Meeting 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. RCIA
WED., SEPT. 12	5:00 p.m. Altar Society
THURS., SEPT. 13	7:00 a.m. KC Meeting

NOTICE
 Deacon Tom Lindsey is in need of Eucharistic Ministers to administer Communion to the patients in Opelousas General Hospital once a week. If you are interested, please call Deacon Tom at 942-8307 or 942-4174 ext. 201.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 Adult religious education classes (RCIA) have just started. You still have time to come and begin. All are welcome to attend. If you know of a friend that is interested in joining our Church or just wants to know what the teachings of the Catholic Church are, please invite them. For more information call Deacon John W. Miller....Phone # 942-2911.

Are you interested in learning about your religion?
 NAME _____ PHONE _____

Do you know a friend or non-catholic who is ?
 NAME _____
 PHONE _____

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK
 Please pray for the sick in the **PARISH:** Dorothy Beaugh, Dusty Bellard, Shirley Bellard, Dougie Bergeron, Katherine Bertrand, Gloria Berzas, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Berzas, Stephen Berzas, Mary Aline Bihm, Clifton Boast, Jared Broussard, Shirley R. Chachere, Lucy Chapman, Leslie Chatham, Estelle Chautin, Dona Clary, Logan Comb, Shelby Constantine, Kirt Cormier, Norma Cortez, Shelton Daigle, Ferrell Glenn Darbonne, Sr., Angela Dautrueil, Helda Debailon, S.J. Deshotels, Sr., Lillian Delafosse, Sal Diesi, Sharon Doucet, Wayne Doucet, Landon James Duplichan, Carl Dupre, Jane Dupre, Tommy Dupre, Jim Durio, Emma Grace, Georgia Fiegel, Drake Fontenet, Shala Fontenet, Ann Guidroz, Vern Guidroz, Caleb Brent Guillory, Elaine Guillory, The T. Guillory Family, Louis Guillory, Gabrielle Marie Hansen, Tommy Hargroder, David Huckaby, Doris Hudspeth, Agnes Kidder, Austin Jagneau, Quentin Joubert, Brenda Lafleur, Sister Mary Joseph Lafond, Deionne Lalonde, Louis Lanclos, Harold Lastrapes, Dotty Lavergne, Glenn Lavergne, Cleveland Lanclos, Ranella Lavergne, Dustin Lavoie, Phyllis Cormier Leblanc, Ronald Leger, Tonya Londero, Thelma Macip, Andre Magallanes, Simone Marcantel, Kelly McCormick, Samuel McCormick, Frank Miller, Jefferey Miller, Theresa Miller, Romaine Miller, Mary Montet, Shirley Morris, Julie Mouton, Dot Nezat, Craig Ortego, Diana Ortego, Julia Ortego, Callie Palmer, Linda Pefferkorn, Johnny Pellerin, Yvonne Pellerin, Keith Perry, Mary Perry, Bell Pitre, Irene Pitre, Randy Pitre, Joey Prather, Kathleen Prather, Lisa Ramirez, Burke Reed, Gregory Richard, Jim Richard, Lilly Richard, Melanie Richard, Theresa Rideau, Larry Roberie, Joseph James Robin, Marie Saucier, Jane Smith, Raymond Soileau, Eddie Stanford, Aaron Stelly, Erika Stelly, Rodney Stelly, Viola Stelly, Melanie Stoute, Adolph Taylor, Sr., Charlene Terracina, Mrs. Titard, Lena Trahan, Pierre Trosclair, Cody Vidrine, Lou Vidrine, Gene Williams, Robert Wolfe, Jr. and Ivan G. Winn.

We are attempting to update our list. If any name is omitted and should be on the list, please call. Also, if you know anyone who is well enough to be taken off, please call. We appreciate your cooperation.
 St. Landry Church-Staff

RETURNED TO CHRIST THROUGH DEATH
 The St. Landry Church parishioners offer prayers and sincere condolences to the family of:
SR. JOAN MCMILLAN

REGISTER NOW FOR HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION AND CONFIRMATION
 All high school students register for religion classes and all 11th graders register for confirmation classes beginning on Monday September 24th at 6:00 p.m. All students and parents are encouraged to attend the 1st class. A safe environment presentation will be held on the evening of the 24th.

O.C. CORNER
 The O.C. Elementary dept. invites all grandparents (or special guests) to attend "GRANDPARENTS' DAY" this Friday, Sept. 14, beginning with 8am Mass in St. Landry Catholic Church. Following the Mass classroom visitations will be held and refreshments served. The Elem. Library Book Fair will also be in progress on this day and through Sept. 21..
 Please remember that Catholic education is an integral part of our faith. Parishioners are asked to consider a special gift for O.C.S. in support of its Anniversary Capital Campaign to revitalize the entire campus.

NOTICE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES
 It is time for all volunteers and employees of St. Landry Church Parish to attend an annual continued Ed Meeting for Safe Environment. A meeting will be held on:
 Monday September 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the Valentin Hall. EVERY-ONE PLEASE ATTEND!
 Rev. Msgr. J. Robert Romero

"Anyone who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."
Luke 14:33
 "Ah, Jesus, can I just keep my IPOD?" Jesus would point out that He said renounce (from the Latin words re=back and nuntiare = tell, meaning: To give up a claim, right, belief, practice, way of living, feeling, etc.) Jesus would add, "You may use that IPOD, but you may not claim that it, or anything else you think you own, actually belongs to you. It, like everything else you think you possess, comes from God and belongs to God, who wants you to have what you need to enjoy life, but not if that means others must do with out the necessities of life." That is a very hard concept for people in the United States, where we have the right to property, to understand and accept. We are stewards of all we have and God leaves it up to us to work out how much we need for ourselves and those for whom we are responsible, and how much we should share with others. So Jesus would probably say: Enjoy MY IPOD, and let others enjoy it too."

SANCTUARY LIGHT
 ChurchSouls in Purgatory
 ChapelSafety of All Troops

LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY
Group VBetty Leleux week of September 15, 2007
Group VI.....Norma Hargroder week of September 22, 2007