

The Pastor's Corner

On Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., we will celebrate the annual memorial Mass for Fr. Verbis Lafleur. The mass will be celebrated by Father Francis Lowe, a military chaplain currently stationed in Arkansas, whose father was a prisoner of war alongside Father Lafleur during World War II. As most of you know, there is a beautiful monument in the front of our Church to celebrate Father Lafleur's memory. Fr. Lafleur is an example to all of us in giving over his life to God and his neighbor, namely his "neighbor" being fellow soldiers and prisoners of war during World War II. By all accounts, his life is something we should try to imitate because of his fearless willingness to serve God, neighbor and country. Fr. Lafleur's biography follows this Pastor's Corner. His call to priesthood was first received and nurtured here at St. Landry Church starting as an altar server. I hope we can all join together for this special celebration of his life, and to see the fruit of God's work in our parish. This year a book titled "But He Dies Not", has been published. The authors, Pete and Suzanne Guerra, will be attending the mass and will be autographing copies of the book. The book chronicles Fr. Lafleur's life here at St. Landry Church, in our diocese, and then his distinguished military service. It is "required reading" for those who want to know about the history of St. Landry Church. For more information about Father Lafleur, please visit <http://fatherlafleur.org>. There, you can learn about his life, download prayer cards, and even submit prayer requests.

Fr. James Brady

Fr. Verbis Lafleur's Biography

Fr. Lafleur was born on January 24, 1912 in Ville Platte, Louisiana. In 1926, his family moved to Opelousas, Louisiana. From early in his life, he felt a calling to the priesthood. Father Colliard, pastor of St. Landry Church at the time, arranged for young Verbis to enter St. Joseph's Minor Seminary in St. Benedict, Louisiana in 1927. For 11 years, he prepared for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary and at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was ordained as a priest on April 2, 1938. Fr. LaFleur then celebrated his First Solemn Mass in St. Landry Catholic Church April 5, 1938.

Father Lafleur's first assignment was St. Mary Magdalene in Abbeville, Louisiana. He joined the Army Air Corps in the summer of 1941, nearly one half year before the U. S. became involved in World War II. Father Lafleur was assigned to Albuquerque, New Mexico, until he was assigned at Clark Field in the Philippine Islands just a few weeks before it was attacked on December 8, 1941. For his bravery in action, he won the Distinguished Service Cross and was later awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. After that, he became a Prisoner of War for approximately two and one half years including stays at O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Davao, and Lasang. On September 7, 1944, Father Lafleur gave his life while aboard a torpedoed "hell ship" carrying over 700 American Prisoners of War. By all accounts, Fr. Lafleur gave his life helping other prisoners off a prisoner ship the Japanese had not marked as "non-combatant", while many of his fellow prisoners protested because they believed he should evacuate because his life and ministry was more important to the other prisoners who might survive.

In 1945, Father Lafleur's classmates and family members gathered in Ville Platte for a Memorial Service in his honor. The Knights of Columbus in 1946 held a parade in his honor from the Opelousas Court House to St. Landry Catholic Church. Notre Dame Seminary Alumni dedicated a bronze plaque in his memory on November 27, 1951. On May 21, 1989, he was honored at the dedication of the Chaplain Hill monument at Arlington National Cemetery. On December 7, 2005, a dedication of the Father Lafleur Shrine in St. Landry Catholic Church, Opelousas, Louisiana, was held. On September 7, 2007, the Father Lafleur Monument was dedicated at St. Landry Catholic Church, Opelousas, Louisiana.

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

Week of August 29, 2010

- Reading I Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-2**
Ancient wisdom insists that the more humble we are, the greater we are.
- Psalms 68** "God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor."
- Reading II Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a**
Far from frightening, our encounter with God will be like a glorious holiday.
- Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14**
Jesus presents his own version of table manners.

THEME,

Give as God gives- - in humility and love.

The living word manifests God's presence and leads us to conversion of heart. As God's word is proclaimed in this holy place, let us pray that our hearts will be turned toward greater compassion for the poor and needy in our community and beyond. Let us be attentive to sacred words that call us to Christian hospitality.

Questions of the week

Question for Children,
Jesus tells us that we should treat everyone as a guest. Who do you tend to shun or not be nice to?

Question for Youth,
God asks us to do for others without hope of repayment. This past week, what did you do for someone else for which you won't be repaid?
Who are the people most in need of your generosity?

Question for Adults,
Who are the people living near you that you would find it most difficult to invite to a meal in your home or to invite to be a part of your life?

Bulletin Bites

"Invite the poor, the cripples, the lame, the blind, and the unwanted: blessed will you be because of their inability to repay you."

A parishioner noted to his pastor that Jesus dined with the rich and famous of his day. He asked, "Do you think Jesus would belong to an exclusive country club if he were here today?" The pastor answered, "I suspect he might, if he could afford it. But his guests would include people who could not afford it, people who need a bath and a new set of clothes, people who have not recently had a decent meal, people who are lame, who limp, or feel their way with a white cane." The pastor then said to his parishioner, "You belong to a very exclusive country club. Have you ever brought such guests to your club?" The man said nothing. The pastor added, "When we leave Mass and go into God's world, we are supposed to be Jesus present in the world. So, when you are at your exclusive country club Jesus IS a member. You might want to start reviewing your guest list."

Adult Religious Education Classes (RCIA)

Adult religious education classes will be starting September 7th. in Valentin Hall.
Registration starts at 6:30PM. Anyone interested in learning about the teachings of the Church or knows of anyone interested in becoming a Catholic is welcome.
For more information, call Deacon John W. Miller at 337-942-2911.

MASS INTENTIONS



FOR THE WEEK

- Saturday, August 28 4:00 p.m.** Francis Wilson Jr. (BD), Velma and Patsy Gail Boss, Walfred LeBlanc Sr. and Wally, Ronnie J. Vidrine, Richard E. Savage, Jeanette Lalonde, Dr. Richard Hargroder, Lee Martin, Bonnie Amy (DA)
- Sunday, August 29 8:00 a.m.** Youle and Theresa Fontenot, Martin J. St.Amand, Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard, M/M Ezra Martin and Denise Hull, Joey Prather, Robert (DA) & Verlie Joubert and family
- 10:00 a.m.** Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith, Claude & Anna Soileau and Betty Valin, Ernie and Steven McKinney, Lawrence, Lilly, Mickey and Joyce Hollier, Grace Soileau, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. and Doris H. Philippe, Peggy Wyble, Bonnie Amy (DA)
- 5:00 p.m.** St. Landry Church Parishioners, Jackie Benoit, Allen Hudspeth Sr., Van, Edward and Allen Jr., Harold Savoy
- Monday, August 30. 12:10 p.m.** Una L. Moreau, Clayton Titard (DA)
- Tuesday, August 31 NO MASS**
- Wednesday, Sept. 1 12:10 p.m.** M/M Jesse J. Pitre Sr., Edwards – Perrault Families, Mayance and Wanda Dupre (WA)
- Thursday, Sept. 2 12:10 p.m.** Wayne Wyble
- Friday, Sept. 3. 12:10 p.m.** Ethel Meaux, Lou Ella S. Lognion, Teddy J. Meaux, Evelyn T. Batton
- Saturday, Sept. 4 4:00 p.m.** M/M Robert Going Sr., James E. Martin, Walfred LeBlanc Sr. and Wally, Ronnie J. Vidrine, Richard E. Savage, Jeanette Lalonde, De. Richard Hargroder, Lee Martin, Oscar, Agnes and Dr. Robert Lee Roy
- Sunday, Sept. 5 8:00 a.m.** M/M John FaKouri Sr., John Jr. and Jacob, Youle and Theresa Fontenot, Martin J. St.Amand, Alton, Elizabeth and Louis Vernon Joubert, Carol Pitre and M/M E. J. Leonard, Allen Hudspeth Sr., Van, Edward and Allen Jr., M/M Ezra Martin and Denise Hull, Irl White, Joey Prather
- 10:00 a.m.** Wilfred, Annette, Richard, and Marian Smith, Allen Richard, Bobbie & Julia Mouton, Ronnie & Steve Ardoin and the Rider family, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. and Doris H. Philippe, Edwards – Perrault Families, Peggy Wyble, Frank Miller
- 5:00 p.m.** St. Landry Church Parishioners, Jackie Benoit, Harold Savoy, Therether Sumner

Confessions, Saturdays 3:00-3:45 p.m.
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

Second Collection
Week of September 5, 2010
St. Landry Church Maintenance Fund

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Your Stewardship To God

Regular Offertory Collection	\$4,319.31
Church Building Main. Endowment	\$340.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$271.00
Opelousas Catholic Foundation	\$809.91

Every Gift Comes From Above.

Thank you for your generosity!

REMINDERS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 30 August	5:30pm	Choir Practice
	6:15pm	Rosary at Monument
Wednesday, 1 Sept.	5:30pm	Eucharistic Ministers Meeting in Church
Thursday, 2 Sept.	6:30pm	Come, Lord Jesus
	6:30pm	Pre-Baptism Class
Friday, 3 Sept.	8:40am	All School Mass

Prayer Intentions

Betty Jane Andrus, Clifford and Jane Ardoin, Anna Lee Beadle, Gerard Boudreaux, Wilbur Briley, Chris Brewster, Kirk Courville, Robert Danaher, Glenn Derington, Kacey Dupre, Shirley Emonet, Tristen Estes, Paul Franks, Craig S. Guillory, Agnes Kidder, Renella Lavergne, Deacon & Mrs. Laura Miller, Ron Moreau, Julie Mouton, Melanie M. Richard, Joseph James Robin, Novella Sebastien, Elaine Talbot, Patrick Steward Jr., James Touchet, Brandy Willingham, Warren Wyble

It is Diocesan policy that to put someone on the Prayer List, you must first have his or her permission.

OC Corner

Entertainment Books 2011 are available through the OC Development Office. The money saved through the many discount offers can easily recover the purchase price of \$30. Call 942-5404 ext. 105 for more information.

The Catholic Schools of Opelousas Alumni Association membership letters have been mailed out to those on the schools' database. Please consider a membership in celebration of your Catholic education! If any graduate of AIC, Holy Ghost, or OC did not receive a letter, please call 942-5404 ext. 105.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Our Lady of the Oaks

- Weekend Retreats for Women:**
- September 9-12 & 16-19
 - October 14-17 November 11-14
 - December 2-5

Married Couples Retreat:

October 22-24
For more information call 662-5410 or visit the website at www.ourladyoftheoaks.com.

Jesuit Spirituality Center

- Individually Directed Retreats:**
- September 13-22, September 27 through October 6
- Workshop on Life Transitions:**
- Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12, Presenter Father Hernando Ramirez, S.J.
 - Call 662-5251 or jeuitspiritualitycenter.org. For more information.

ALABAMA IN OCTOBER

Religious Ramblers will be going on this 4-day trip to visit the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament (Mother Angelica) in Hanceville, as well as St. Bernard's Abby in Cullman. Join us for this popular spiritual and fun get away from October 15th—October 18th.
E-mail Bonnie Wyble at bbwyble@bellsouth.net or phone 942-6940 – 945-2267.

Thank You

Please accept our sincere thanks for the tray of sandwiches and cookies.
We appreciate your thoughtfulness during our time of grief and sorrow.
God bless all of you,
The Bessie Fontenot Family

Update on Alex Albert

Alex reported he is settling in and doing well. He started classes on Thursday, the 26th.
Anyone wishing to write to Alex may do so at the following address:
Alexander Albert
P.O. 402
St. Benedict, LA 70457

SANCTUARY LIGHT

CHURCH..... Success of Parish Visitation Ministry
CHAPEL.....St. Landry Church Parishioners

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group VI..... Norma Hargroder, Week of Sept. 4, 2010
Group VII Gwen Fruge, Week of Sept. 11, 2010