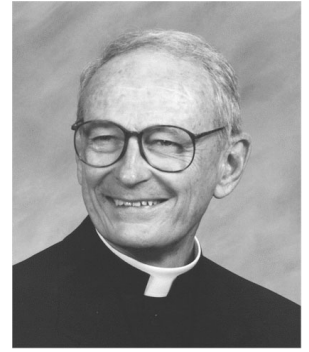


FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

A big “Hip Hip Hooray” for Mrs. Peggy Langston and our new woman’s organization called “Women in Spirit.” The first event hosted former Governor Kathleen Blanco, who spoke on the “Qualities of Leadership.” It was a treat to see her and Raymond again, and I realized how much I missed them, for they attended liturgies and events at the Cathedral. So many of Kathleen’s remarks were based on stories and challenges she had faced during Hurricane Katrina, and it was a very revealing humorous and terrific talk. I’ve always said that women are a powerful example of strength and commitment to us and, when joined in communion and cause with one another, very powerful. My best wish to “Women in Spirit.” I’m proud of you and look forward to great things from our organization! It’s open to all our ladies who want to come together in common spirit and the Holy Spirit, so call the rectory if interested!

I had the privilege of announcing my replacement as Pastor of St. Joseph to all this weekend prior to its’ publication to the diocese in our Commentator. It’s Father Paul Counce. It’s always a good sign when a priest applies for a parish, and many of you who were parishioners before I arrived, know Father Paul was in residence with Father Uter for several years and a short time during my pastorate. We welcome Father Paul to the Mother Church, and we recognize his many talents. I remember when he served as pastor of St. Pius, but appreciate him more for his truly competent and superior work for all in this diocese as head of our Marriage Tribunal. This very skilled ministry has made it possible for so many men and women to procure annulments from previous invalid marriages and begin anew. One does not always realize what joy and peace this area of our diocese’s good works can accomplish in people’s lives! I will meet with him this week and soon have a reception at church before he assumes his new post as Pastor of St. Joseph Cathedral. Please help me extend our gratitude and happy transition of pastorship to Father Counce.

It may be close to Holy Week by the time this bulletin reaches some of you; however, I wish you a deep awareness of what this solemn time before Easter means for you and our Christian community amid a society that seems to be growing more indifferent to practice and a growing militant faith that is spread in this world. I think it is imperative that we as

individuals and for Christians as a whole to get a hold of who we are and what we are called to be by reason of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection in our daily lives. It is certainly not merely saying we are Christians and merrily going about a good life neglecting the serious practice of our Catholicism. If this Lent, and what time we have left, is fully entered into with spiritual sincerity, recognizing all that Christ has done for us as individuals and for the world by the new life given through his death and resurrection, it will assuredly moderate a change of heart. To share in His Way of the Cross in deeper commitment and allow our faith to rebound into new resolve so as to live for him and share that enthusiasm with others who may not know Him is paramount. We must, however, start within the sincerity of ourselves.

Last week’s Gospel spoke of men going to Philip and saying, “We would like to see Jesus.” It is only a little later in his chapter that Jesus says to them, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” Jesus was talking about Himself and what He will do for the world, but if we, too, really want to see Jesus, we today must see Him in our faith, in our sincere practice of holiness that calls us to see Christ in our neighbors, poor and needy. A good desire to see Christ through the practice of Lent and Holy Week sensitizes us to see Christ and experience Him in our hearts and commit ourselves deeply to His cause. Then we will experience the conversion and joy of the resurrection! Then, we can really see Christ.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. James Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and a long tail on the final letter.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 8:	Mass of Holy Chrism at 10:30 a.m. (Bishop Muench/Diocesan Priests)
Thursday, April 9:	Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:00 p.m. (Bishop Muench) (Private prayer and reflection until 9:00 p.m.)
Good Friday, April 10:	Morning Prayer at 7:00 a.m.; Stations of the Cross (Outdoors) at 9:00 a.m.; Solemn Liturgy at 12 Noon (Bishop Muench); Stations of the Cross (Indoors) at 3:00 p.m. (Led by Bishop Muench)
Saturday, April 11:	Morning Prayer at 7:00 a.m.; Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. (Bishop Muench)
Easter Sunday, April 12:	Mass at 8:00 a.m.; and 10:00 a.m. (Bishop Muench)

PALM SUNDAY: This Sunday, April 5, Passion Sunday, our Masses will be at the regular times of 4 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (Bishop Muench), and 12 Noon on Sunday. Palms will be blessed at all Masses.

OPERATION RICE BOWL will be collected along with our **REGULAR COLLECTION**, this weekend, April 4 & 5. Please put your donation in the first collection with a notation "Operation Rice Bowl". Our **SECOND COLLECTION** will be for the Maintenance and Repairs of the Cathedral. Please be generous.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE: We are to abstain from eating meat on Good Friday. We are also obliged to FAST, that is, to limit ourselves to **ONLY ONE FULL MEAL** (with no in-between meal snacks) if between the ages of 18 and 59. Priests and deacons may dispense a person from these obligations for a very serious reason, but a grave responsibility for each Catholic to do so remains.

DONATIONS TO EASTER FLOWERS: During Lent donations are accepted for the physical needs of worship here at the Cathedral. An envelope is provided in your monthly packets for these donations.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Classes will begin May 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Office. Any Catholic baptized adult parishioner wishing to be confirmed should call the Cathedral Office at 225-387-5928 to register.

Important Tax Information....PLEASE BE ADVISED....WE WILL NOT BE MAILING 2008 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF YOUR STATEMENT, PLEASE CALL 225-387-5928 OR E-MAIL SHEILA AT SHEILA@CATHEDRALOFSTJOSEPH.ORG. SHE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU WITH THIS REQUEST.

The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday, April 10**, and **Monday, April 13**, for the Easter holidays. There will be no **Noon Mass on Monday, April 13**. We will reopen on **Tuesday, April 14** at 8:00 a.m. **HAVE A HAPPY EASTER!**

CHRISM MASS

The Annual Diocesan Blessing of the Oils Eucharist (Chrism Mass), will be held on Wednesday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m., here at St. Joseph Cathedral. At this ceremony, the oils of the Sick and Catechumens are blessed, the Sacred Chrism is consecrated and distributed for use throughout the diocese for the year, and the Institution of the Priesthood and Renewal of Priestly Service are celebrated. You are most welcome to attend.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION.....The Annual Holy Land Collection will be taken up on **Good Friday, April 8**. This collection is used support the charitable, educational, and social works which the Church sponsors in Israel and Palestine.

DIOCESAN PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION....The special collection for the Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund will be taken up Easter Weekend, April 11 & 12. Please be generous.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Passion of Christ
Passion of the World

GOOD FRIDAY, April 10, 2009
9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Cathedral, Downtown Baton Rouge

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED..The Christian Outreach Center, 1427 Main Street, Baton Rouge, welcomes volunteers to assist with the mission of the agency. The Christian Outreach Center is a collaborative effort of first Baptist, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, River Community and St. Joseph Cathedral Churches to provide assistance to indigent residents of the 70802 zip codes. The Center provides snack bags and hygiene kits to homeless persons and transients. The Outreach Center would like to thank you in advance for giving your time and talents to the success of the mission. Please stop in, or call Elaine Borskey, Executive Director at 225-377-8582.

Vocations Discernment Retreat for Women

April 9-11, 2009
Mobile, Al

Open to Single Catholic Women 17-35 Years Old
For more information, call Sr. Cornelia @ 251-476-6335 or
Email:lsmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org