



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

P. O. Box 365 117 South Main St.

Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

(337) 229-4254

FAX (337) 229-4255

Rev. Barry F. Crochet, Pastor

Rev. Godwin Nzeh CME, Associate Pastor

Deacon Roland Jeanlouis, Pastoral Associate

pastor@stjosephparishonline.org

stjosephparishonline.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m.; Sunday — 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Monday and Friday — 6:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Tuesday and Thursday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

Wednesday — 6:45 a.m. at Saint Joseph

First Saturday — 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. and one-half hour before all weekday Masses, or by appointment during office hours.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If possible please conduct parish business by phone or email.

RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER/CEMETERIAN

Mrs. Gail Borel — gail.borel@stjosephparishonline.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Sherry Hebert — sherry.hebert@stjosephparishonline.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Adoration Chapel is open. The Main Church is also accessible from this entrance for your convenience.

FUNERALS

Please contact the Church Office to make Funeral Service arrangements prior to your appointment with the Funeral Home.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the Church Office to make arrangements for your child's Baptism.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact the Church Office six months prior to the desired date of marriage. No dates for marriage are reserved until after the first marriage interview with clergy.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Church Office to set up an appointment.



O God, Who by the Mystery of today's great Feast sanctify Your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the Divine Grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

Please pray for our Priests, Seminarians and Deacons

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these special men. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

MINISTERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY			
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
June 14 4:00 p.m.	Emily Begnaud	Sandra Boudreaux	Volunteers
June 15 7:00 a.m.	Samuel Schexnayder	Jackie Schexnayder	Volunteers
10:30 a.m.	Betty Guidry	Monica Delahoussaye	Volunteers



June 8	Rev. William Gearheard/Matthew Gomez Dcn. Jeff Trumps
June 9	Rev. Taj Glodd/Rev. Mr. Francis Xavier Gyles Dcn. Stephen Van Cleve
June 10	Rev. Msgr. Richard Greene/Coby Hebert Dcn. David Vaughn
June 11	Rev. Eric Groner, SVD/Rev. Mr. Evan Hebert Dcn. Durwood Viator
June 12	Rev. Mitchell Guidry/William Hebert Dcn. William Vincent
June 13	Chaplain Capt. Brad Guillory, USN/Zack Hebert Dcn. Douglas Wimberly
June 14	Rev. Joshua Guillory, JCL/Eric Hernandez Dcn. Byrne Winn

Please pray for our parish family members who are sick:

Stuart Sandoz, Brett Hebert, Eric Clements, Trevor Louviere, Austin Willett, Willey Poirrier, Butch White, Patricia Freyou, Lecia Broussard, Ashley Hebert, Stephen Dugas, Jade Delcambre, Pat Villermin, Brennan Wingfield, Betty Suire, Joe Judice, Mike Habetz, Betty Champagne, Leroy and Gloria Courville, Wayne LeBlanc, Melvin Broussard, Max Borres, Vivian LeBlanc, Beckie

LeBaron, Patricia Sorrell, David Dupuy, Ava Rose and Olivia James Dworaczyk, Ray Broussard, Shyla Romero, Bart Doucet, Ellenor Hebert, Jory L. Bernard, Annette Dugas, Kayla Barras Veronie, Jamie Ransonet, Randy Dugas, Rudy Delcambre, Ted Habetz, Clarence Theriot, Fred Thibodeaux, Lucy Bernard, Leif Melancon, Charlie Berard, Brad and James Clifton, Holly LeBlanc, Judy

Theriot, Carl LeBlanc, Nelda Breaux, Bernard Hebert, Jillian Faye Boudreaux, Marty LeBlanc, Bill Gonsoulin, Mark Ruly, Robert, Sr. and Julie LeBlanc, Michael Theriot, Hayes Enlund, Steve Thibeaux, Davi Clifton, Jimmy Wilson, Bobbie Boutte, Edie Boudreaux.

June 1, 2025	
Regular Sunday Offering Envelopes	\$ 5,094.00
Regular Sunday Offering Loose	\$ 2,998.00
Regular Collection Total	\$ 8,092.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,385.00
Difference	+\$ 707.00
Present Loan Balance	\$ 74,854.61
Donation Against Loan Balance	\$ 520.00
Insurance Balance 2024-2025	\$ 43,663.83
Insurance Collection	\$ 125.00

Flowers on the Altar are in loving memory of
The Deceased Members of the Church Parish.

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning for
For the Community

Blessed Virgin Mary Altar Candle is burning for
For the Community

Saint Joseph Altar Candle is burning for
Steve J. Miguez Family, J.O. and Marie Neuville

Other Candles are burning for: Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Vance Breaux, Sr., Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Trey Romero, Chad Romero, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Domingue Family, Lynn and Theresa Delcambre Family, Special Intention, Collins and Doris Louviere, Kerney and Gene Louviere, Brooke Burch, Will and Lily Roberts.

The Vocation Chalice is in the Adoration Chapel
Please pray for vocations. If you would like to have the vocation chalice in your home please call the rectory office at 229-4254

Mass Intentions

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. StJo — Jan and Ken Berard 56 Anniversary, Stanley and Elsie Crochet, Yvonne LeBlanc, Edgar and Emmerette Peltier, Aimie and Kernis Peltier, Jack Braquet and Francis Crochet, Don Davis, Lane Champagne, Waylon Williams, Anna Mae Soprano Foti, In Thanksgiving, Steve J. Miguez Family, J. O. and Marie Neuville, Special Intention, Sam and Glo Delcambre, John Delcambre, Anita Berard, Sully Berard, Jr., Juliette Berard, Melvin Dugas, Roy, Sr. and Gladys Berard, Donald “Don” Crochet, Earline Crochet, Steven Crochet, John Vedia Perez, Barbara Ann Ozenne Perez Family, Robin Neuville, Sidney Breaux Family, Pauline and Craig, Adam “Coo” and Jeanette Crochet, Robert Judice, Sr., Judice and Laviolette Families, Elton “Red” Boutte, Brandon Boutte, Antoine “Boy” LeBlanc Family, Johnny and Rose Albert, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Billy Degeyter, Chester “Butch” Gonsoulin, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Nola Champagne, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Landry and Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Trey Romero, Chad Romero, Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Audrey Crochet, Paul Crochet Family, Jordan Prince and Special Intention, Vance Breaux Sr., Duffy Domingue, Cabrol and Domingue Families, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Lloyd and Anne Broussard, Simon and Felicie Granger, Forbus and Myrtle Mestayer, Kay Dooley and William and Dolores Dooley, Kim Decuir, Carl Wayne Judice, Leed and Mabel Gondron, Tammy Gaudet, Dolly and T-Paul Landry, Lynn and Theresa Delcambre, Ancestors and Descendants, Orford Breaux



Village of Loreauville
Vacation Bible School
June 9-13 *9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
For children entering Kindergarten
through 5th Grade
Volunteer Helpers: 6th-12th Grade

Family, Lynn P. Dugas, Sr., Jimmy Clifton, Julius and Jenny Ransonet, Larry Crochet, Sandi and Glenn Angelle, Betty Romero, Romero and Babin Families, Shanie Edler Decuir, Tim Edler, Edler Family, Arceneaux and Mestayer Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Lovell Romero, Henry and Renella and Josh Pelafique, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Jay Gonsoulin Family, Paul Sonnier Family and Clyde Warfel Family, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry, Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Maude Granger and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Granger, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Granger, Shelton Joseph Freyou, Ella Desormeaux Freyou, Rickie Oubre, Loto Louviere, Jr., Gam Gondron Family, Matthew Thibaux, Edmond Lancon Family, Louis Thibaux Family, Keri Bonin Boutte, Bonin and Boutte Family, Clyde Dressel, Judy Judice, Beauregard Judice, Gondron and Deville Family Ancestors and Descendants, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Anthony Deville, (Recovery), Mathilde Romero, Our Catholic Priest, Louto and Anite Gondron Family, Horace and Sylvia Thibodeaux, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, Patricia Fakier, David Guidry, Warren Sevin, Charles Sevin, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Martha Thibodeaux, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.

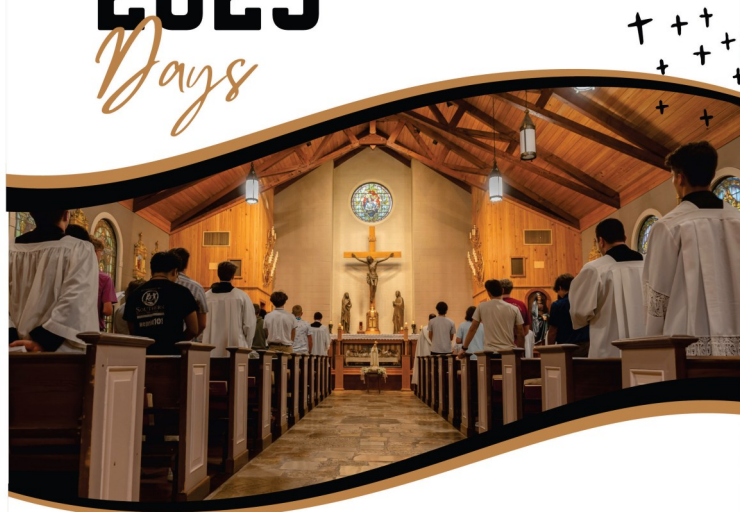
Sunday 7:00 a.m. StJo — *Pro Populo* Saint Joseph & Our Lady of Victory

Monday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

Wednesday 6:45 a.m. StJo — Roy and Michael Thibodeaux, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne, Families Ancestors and

QUO VADIS 2025 Days



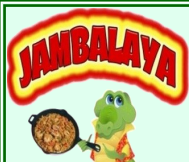
Register
Here

Community of Jesus Crucified
103 Railroad Ave. · St Martinville, LA

JUNE | 10-12 | 2025

Quo Vadis is a time of recollection to reflect on where you are going in your own life. We will explore that question through prayer, fraternity, recreation, and talks on discernment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (337) 261-5690
WWW.LAFAYETTEVOICATIONS.COM



Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
Jambalaya Dinner Fundraiser
Sunday, June 22, 2025
10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Dinner includes: Jambalaya, Corn, & Dinner Roll

Donation: \$12

Descendants, Huey Olivier Family, Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Andrew "Toupee" Bonin, Bonin and Crochet Families, Lindsay Davidson.

Thursday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

Friday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Lynn and Theresa Delcambre Ancestors and Descendants, Linwood Delcambre Family, Judice and Walet Families, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

Petrocentrism: a problem? by George Weigel

One hundred fifty-five years ago, when the freshly minted Kingdom of Italy conquered the rump of the Papal States and Pope Pius IX withdrew behind the Leonine Wall as the "prisoner of the Vatican," elite European opinion pronounced the papacy finished as a factor in history — and, it was often assumed, the Catholic Church as well.

Well.

Last month, the election of Pius IX's twelfth successor riveted world attention as no other change of institutional or governmental leadership possibly could. Much credit for that goes to Pope Leo XIII, who, between 1878 and 1903, invented the modern papacy as an office of global moral teaching and an instrument of global moral witness. Concurrently, Leo set in motion the dynamics that led to the growth of the Catholic Church into a global communion of 1.4 billion people — a worldwide community of diversity and inclusion like none other.

Pope Leo XIV is too intelligent, too given to good manners, and too shrewd to have said it, but when he stepped out onto the central loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica on the night of May 8, this son of the American Midwest might well have said, playing variations on a theme by Mark Twain, "Rumors of the Church's demise have been greatly exaggerated."

Those of us in Rome in those electric days could not fail to have been impressed by the enthusiasm that greeted the 267th Bishop of Rome. Yet it struck me then, as it strikes me now, that there are potential downsides to the Petrocentrism — the tight focus on the papacy and the pope as the index of All Things Catholic — that has been on display throughout the Catholic world for some time now.

There is good news here, to be sure. The world needs an adult speaking in adult terms into a global communications ecosystem too often dominated, and thus marred, by the soundbite and the tweet — and Leo XIV has already demonstrated just how to do that. The world needs someone who can shine the bright light of truth into the darkness of conflict and war, and Leo XIV has already done that, too. 1.4 billion Catholics need a reference point for the unity that is one of the four marks of the Church — and by reminding us that this year marks the 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed, Leo XIV has shown us exactly where the template of that unity-in-truth is to be found.

Petrocentrism has its downsides, however.

What happens in Rome does not even begin to exhaust what is happening in, to, and with the Catholic Church throughout the world. In the 1990 encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, Pope Saint John Paul II taught that the Church does not *have* a mission, as if mission were one of a dozen things the Church does. No, the Church *is* a Mission, an Evangelical Mission defined by Christ Himself in Matthew 28:19: "Go and make disciples of all nations."

Thus what happens in Father Bill Ryan's *Togo Mission*, or on the campuses served by the *Fellowship of Catholic University Students*, or in the vibrant pastoral life of the Archdiocese of *Bamenda in Cameroon*, or amongst the heroic priests and people of the *Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church*, or in Church-supported crisis pregnancy centers and hospice facilities, or in Jimmy Lai's solitary witness in a Hong Kong prison cell — what happens in your local parish — is at least as important, and often more important, than what happens in Rome.

At the American founding, there were some 25,000 Catholics in the United States, and it's a safe bet that fewer than one hundred of them knew the name of the pope (Pius VI, as it happens) or what he did. The pendulum has now swung hard in the opposite direction, such that too many Catholics are preoccupied — intensely, even frantically — with what's afoot in Rome: an unhappy conjunction, I suggest, of the politicization of everything with 21st Century entertainment culture.

An interest in life at the Church's administrative center is fine; an obsession with it, fueled by ill-informed blogs and social media, is not. It distorts the global Catholic reality even as it raises both unwarranted anxieties and misguided hopes.

Pope Leo XIV has an immense task ahead of him. Let us keep him, daily, in our prayers. Let us also do him the service of not dissecting every sentence he speaks, every initiative he undertakes, or every appointment he makes as if the Church's future were hanging in the balance. That adds yet another burden to those Robert Prevost assumed when, a Chicago White Sox fan and thus a man familiar with suffering, he said "Accepto" in the Sistine Chapel a month ago.



ST. MICHAEL'S
ABBAY.

THE ABBOT *and* COMMUNITY of ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY
of the NORBERTINE FATHERS
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND



✦ **THE ORDINATION**
to the PRIESTHOOD of ✦



FRATER PAUL JESSE SCHEXNAYDER
FRATER ISAIAH MATT KAWCZYNSKI

at the hands of

THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP KEVIN VANN
BISHOP OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, the 28th of JUNE, 2025 • 10:00 a.m. MASS
RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IN THE ST. NORBERT COURTYARD

ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY
27977 SILVERADO CANYON ROAD
SILVERADO, CA 92676

Kindly RSVP to (657) 314-9049 or email Events@StMichaelsAbbey.com

**THE FIRST
MASSES of**



REVERAND FATHER PAUL SCHEXNAYDER
on **SUNDAY, the 29th of JUNE, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

and

REVERAND FATHER ISAIAH MATT KAWCZYNSKI
on **MONDAY, the 30th of JUNE, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.**

at

ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY
27977 SILVERADO CANYON ROAD
SILVERADO, CA 92676



FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATIONS IN PERSON
ORDINATION MASS (ONLY) WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT
STMICHAELSABBEY.COM/ORDINATIONS

*Save
the
Date*

Mass of Thanksgiving in the Village of Loreauville
Frater Paul (Jesse) Schexnayder, O.Praem., Celebrant
Sunday, July 20, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m.
Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Loreauville
Reception follows in Saint Theresa Hall

The parish family of Saint Joseph Catholic Church will be hosting a reception for Frater Paul Schexnayder on the occasion of his ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

At this time we ask the following:

- If you want to attend the reception, please call the Parish Office (229-4254) to make reservations
- Whether or not you attend the reception, if you are able to donate prepared food, please call the Parish Office (229-4254) so that we can coordinate the meal, deserts, and drinks.
- If you would like to volunteer your services to help with the reception as a server, please call the Parish Office (229-4254) so that we can coordinate all of the helpers.

Thank you so much for your gracious assistance!



The Order of Canons Regular, also known as the Norbertines, is a religious order in the Catholic Church. They were founded in 1120 by Norbert of Xanten. They are part of the Augustinian tradition. Norbert was a friend of Bernard of Clairvaux and was largely influenced by the Cistercian ideals as to both the manner of life and the government of his order. [Wikipedia]

**Courage Under Fire:
A Tribute to Pope St. Paul VI
by Msgr. Charles Fink**

When I graduated from my large public high school in 1964, I don't remember having ever heard the word marijuana. By the time I graduated from college four years later, you could discern the fragrance of pot wafting across the campus. Protests against the Vietnam War were everywhere in full swing, and the sexual revolution was sweeping away centuries-old moral norms concerning marriage, sex, and family.

The revolution, however, was more than sexual. It struck deep into the heart of dogmas and traditions throughout the Church and society. Everything was up for grabs. If I attended one, I attended a dozen or more lectures beginning with words to this effect: "Up until Vatican II, we believed thus and so, but now we see clearly that . . ." Pope Benedict XVI called this the "hermeneutic of discontinuity and rupture." In the seminary I attended, the attitude, often as not, seemed to be, "We owe Tradition and official teachings of the Church critical respect; now for the rest of the semester let's look at what the latest, greatest dissenting theologians have to teach us."

The world, Catholic and non-Catholic, was turning upside down, as a perfect storm of war, protest, dissent, and the jettisoning of all that came before seemed poised to sweep away everything in its path. Against this seemingly invincible tide of disruption and destruction stood a frail, reserved, intellectual servant of God and his Church, raised to the papacy in 1963 as Pope Paul VI, canonized in 2018, and now officially Pope Saint Paul VI.

He knew what he was in for. He knew the state of the Church and the world, one point lamenting that the smoke of Satan had entered the sanctuaries of the Church. The wonder is not that he wasn't always wearing a smiley-face; the wonder is that this man of chronically poor health could bear the weight of the responsibility thrust upon him.

Experts insisted that the Church should change Her immemorial teaching on artificial contraception, and, by implication, all that follows from the divorce of the unitive and procreative aspects of sex. He stood fast, issuing

in 1968 the most controversial encyclical of modern times, *Humanae Vitae*.

Seeing growing confusion among Catholics concerning the ancient Dogmas of the Faith, he promulgated his magnificent and too-little-known or appreciated *Credo of the People of God*, an extended and clarifying meditation on the *Nicene Creed*.



Deeply devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he tried to promote that same salutary devotion among the faithful in two of his seven encyclicals.

Sometimes accused of leaning too far to the right morally and dogmatically, he was accused of leaning too far to the left in matters of social justice, both accusations are unjust: those making them forgetting or ignoring Saint Augustine's famous maxim: "In essential things unity; in doubtful things liberty; in all things charity."

When it came to holding fast to the essential Teachings of the Church, Paul VI was rock solid. When it came to prudential judgments concerning, e.g., how to reconcile the right to private property on the one hand with the goods of the earth being given for the good of all on the other, he warned, even before his papacy, in a little work published as **The Christian in the Material World**, that

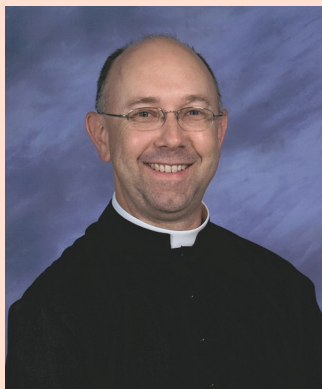
"Economic prosperity absorbs us more and more, as though it wanted first to attract us, then to enchant us, and finally to enchain us," a warning not unlike Jesus' oft-repeated cautions against the dangers of riches.

Critics of Paul VI even found reason to find fault with him following a tragic incident that darkened the end of his life. His friend, former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro, was kidnapped by a far-left terrorist group known as the Red Brigades. Pope Paul wrote a heartfelt letter to the kidnappers begging (on his knees, he said) for Moro's release, earning him the accusation that he had treated the terrorists too kindly. The Pope's accusers should have considered that good men — facing such tragic and desperate circumstances — might employ different approaches concerning the best path forward. In the event, Moro's bullet-ridden body was found in a car in Rome. The pope's own wounds, inflicted by critics and dissenters over many years, were doubtless even more numerous, if less visible.

It's often insinuated that a different pope or a different approach to, say, liturgical observances, would have spared the Church the trauma of mass defections from the pews, empty seminaries, and dwindling numbers of religious. But it's been my experience that in a complex world populated by equally complex human beings, there are no magic wands or silver bullets to answer what ails us. But there are dogmas and moral absolutes, setting the boundaries outside of which we stray at our own peril. Within these boundaries, there's wide latitude in seeking approaches to solving problems and addressing issues, none perfect and none final, given the flow of history.

Pope Benedict XVI declared that Paul VI had lived a life of heroic virtue. Pope Francis canonized him. Two very different popes of one opinion about a third. I side with them against the cynics, second-guessers, and back-seat drivers maligning this holy man's good name, and I stand in admiration and awe of a man who showed extraordinary courage and composure under fire. I know I could never have done the same for as long or as well. I doubt many of his critics could have. Pope Saint Paul VI, pray for us.

**Happy 32nd
Anniversary
Fr. Crochet**

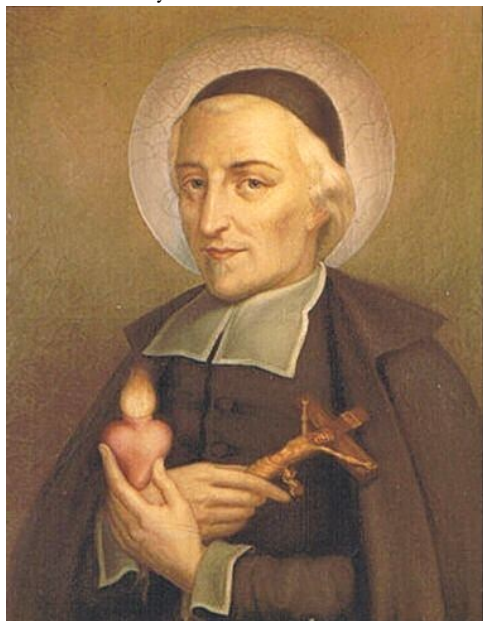


✠
12 June 1993
✠

Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV to the Bishops' Conference of France

On the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Canonization of Saints John Eudes, John Vianney, and Therese of the Child Jesus

I am happy to be able to address you for the first time, pastors of the Church of France, and through you, all your faithful, as this month of May 2025 marks the One Hundredth Anniversary of the canonization of three Saints whom, by the grace of God, your country has given to the universal Church: Saint John Eudes (1601-1680), Saint John Vianney (1786-1859) and Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1873-1897). In raising them to the glory of the altars, my predecessor Pius XI wanted to present them to the People of God as teachers to listen to, models to imitate, and powerful supporters to pray to and invoke. The scale of the challenges facing the Church in France a century later, and the continuing relevance of these three holy figures in meeting them, lead me to invite you to give special prominence to this anniversary.



In this brief Message, I will mention just one spiritual trait that John Eudes, John Mary Vianney and Thérèse have in common and present in a very meaningful and attractive way to the men and women of today: they loved Jesus unreservedly in a simple, strong and authentic way; they experienced His goodness and tenderness in a special daily closeness, and they bore witness to it in an admirable missionary drive.

The late Pope Francis left us, rather like a testament, a beautiful Encyclical on the Sacred Heart in which he states: “That stream which is never exhausted, never passes away

... offers itself time and time again to all those who wish to love as He did. For His Love alone can bring about a new humanity” (*Dilexit nos*, 219). There could be no more beautiful and simple program of evangelization and mission for your country: to help everyone discover the tender and devoted Love that Jesus has for them, to the point of transforming their lives.



And in this respect, our three Saints are undoubtedly masters whose life and doctrine I invite you to constantly make known and appreciated by the People of God. Was Saint John Eudes not the first to celebrate the liturgical worship of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary? Was Saint John Mary Vianney not the priest who gave himself passionately to his ministry and who said: “The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus”? and finally, was Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus not the great Doctor of *scientia amoris* that our world needs, she who “breathed” the Name of Jesus at every moment of her life, with spontaneity and freshness, and who taught the little ones an “easy” way to access it?

Celebrating the centenary of the canonization of these three saints is first and foremost an invitation to give thanks to the Lord for the marvels He has accomplished in this land of France over long centuries of evangelization and Christian life. Saints do not appear spontaneously but, by grace, emerge from living Christian communities that have been able to transmit the Faith to them, to kindle in their hearts the Love of Jesus and the desire to follow Him. This Christian heritage still belongs to you, it still deeply permeates your culture and remains alive in many hearts.

This is why I express the hope that these celebrations will not merely evoke nostalgia for a past that might seem bygone, but that

they will awaken hope and give rise to a new missionary impetus. With the help of the saints He has given you and whom you celebrate, God can renew the marvels He has accomplished in the past. Will Saint Thérèse not be the Patroness of the Missions in the very lands where she was born? Will Saint John Mary Vianney and Saint John Eudes not be able to speak to the conscience of many young people about the beauty, greatness and fruitfulness of the priesthood, to inspire their enthusiastic desire for it, and to give them the courage to respond generously to the call, at a time when the lack of vocations is harshly felt in your dioceses and priests are under increasing strain? I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the priests of France from the bottom of my heart for their courageous and persevering commitment, and to express my paternal affection for them.



Dear brother Bishops, I invoke the intercession of Saint John Eudes, Saint John Mary Vianney and Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, for your country and the People of God who are courageous pilgrims there, despite the contrary and sometimes hostile winds of indifference, materialism and individualism. May they give courage to these People, in the certainty that Christ, the Savior of the world, is truly risen.

Imploring upon France the maternal protection of her powerful Patroness, Our Lady of the Assumption, I impart to each of you, and to all those entrusted to your pastoral care, the Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 28 May 2025
Leo PP. XIV

**Message of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
to Participants in the Seminar
“Evangelizing With the Families
of Today and Tomorrow:
Ecclesiological and
Pastoral Challenges”
2-3 June 2025**

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am pleased that following the celebration of the Jubilee for Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly a group of experts has gathered ... to reflect on the theme, “Evangelizing with the Families of Today and Tomorrow: Ecclesiological and Pastoral Challenges”.

This theme clearly expresses the Church’s maternal concern for Christian families throughout the world as living members of the Mystical Body of Christ and the primary nucleus of the Church, to whom the Lord entrusts the transmission of Faith and the Gospel, especially to the new generations.

The profound thirst for the infinite present in the heart of every human being means that parents have the duty to make their children aware of the fatherhood of God. In the words of Saint Augustine: “As we have the source of life in You, O Lord, in Your Light we shall see Light” (**Confessions**, XIII, 16).

Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today’s world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.

This effort requires that special attention be paid to those families who, for various reasons, are spiritually most distant from us: those who do not feel involved, claim they are uninterested or feel excluded from the usual activities, yet would still like to be part of a community in which they can grow and journey together with others. How many people today simply do not hear the invitation to encounter God?

Sadly, in the face of this need, an increasingly widespread “privatization” of faith often prevents these brothers and sisters from knowing the richness and gifts of the Church, a place of Grace, Fraternity, and Love.

As a result, despite their healthy and holy desires, while they sincerely seek ways to climb the exciting upward paths to Life and

abundant Joy, many end up relying on false footholds that are unable to support the weight of their deepest needs and cause them to slip back down, away from God, shipwrecked on a sea of worldly concerns.

Among them are fathers and mothers, children, young people and adolescents, who find themselves at times alienated by illusory lifestyles that leave no room for faith, and whose spread is facilitated by the wrong use of potentially good means — such as social media — yet prove harmful when used to convey misleading messages.

What drives the Church in Her pastoral and missionary outreach is precisely the desire to go out as a “fisher” of humanity, in order to save it from the waters of evil and death through an encounter with Christ.

Perhaps many young people today who choose cohabitation instead of Christian marriage in reality need someone to show them in a concrete and clear way, especially by the example of their lives, what the gift of sacramental grace is and what strength derives from it. Someone to help them understand “the beauty and grandeur of the vocation to Love and the service of Life” that God gives to married couples (Pope Saint John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, 1).

Similarly, many parents, in raising their children in the Faith, feel the need for communities that can support them in creating the right conditions for their children to encounter Jesus, “places where the communion of Love, which finds its ultimate source in God, takes place” (Pope Francis, General Audience, 9 September 2015).

Faith is primarily a response to God’s Love, and the greatest mistake we can make as Christians is, in the words of Saint Augustine, “to claim that Christ’s Grace consists in His example and not in the Gift of His Person” (*Contra Iulianum opus imperfectum*, II, 146). How often, even in the not too distant past, have we forgotten this truth and presented Christian Life mostly as a set of rules to be kept, replacing the marvelous experience of encountering Jesus — God Who gives Himself to us — with a moralistic, burdensome and unappealing religion that, in some ways, is impossible to live in concrete daily life.

In this situation, it is the responsibility of the Bishops, as successors of the apostles and shepherds of Christ’s flock, to be the first to cast their nets into the sea and become “fishers of families.” Yet the laity are also called to participate in this Mission,

and to become, alongside ordained ministers, “fishers” of couples, young people, children, women and men of all ages and circumstances, so that all may encounter the one Savior. Through Baptism, each one of us has been made a priest, king, and prophet for our brothers and sisters, and a “living stone” (cf. I Peter 2:4) for the building up of God’s House “in fraternal communion, in the harmony of the Spirit, in the coexistence of diversity” (Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 18 May 2025).

I ask you, then, to join in the work of the whole Church in seeking out those families who no longer come to us, in learning how to walk with them and to help them embrace the Faith and become in turn “fishers” of other families.

Do not be discouraged by the difficult situations you face. It is true that families today have many problems, but “the Gospel of the family also nourishes seeds that are still waiting to grow, and serves as the basis for caring for those plants that are wilting and must not be neglected” (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 76).

What great need there is to promote an encounter with God, whose tender Love values and loves the story of every person! It is not a matter of giving hasty answers to difficult questions, but of drawing close to people, listening to them, and trying to understand together with them how to face their difficulties. And this requires a readiness to be open, when necessary, to new ways of seeing things and different ways of acting, for each generation is different and has its own challenges, dreams and questions. Yet amid all these changes, Jesus Christ remains “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Consequently, if we want to help families experience joyful paths of communion and be seeds of faith for one another, we must first cultivate and renew our own identity as believers.

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for what you do! May the Holy Spirit guide you in discerning criteria and methods that support and promote the Church’s efforts to minister to families. Let us help families to listen courageously to Christ’s Proposal and the Church’s words of encouragement! I will remember you in my prayers, and I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 28 May 2025
Leo PP. XIV



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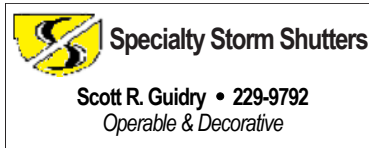
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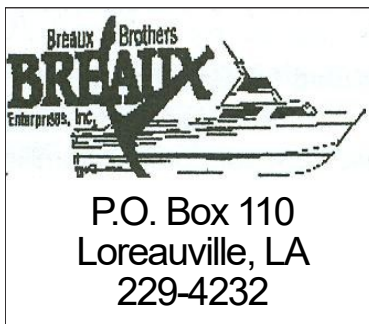
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