

REUNION

The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil
(The Basilians - The Basilian Fathers)



Volume 13 No. 4 OF THE CHURCH OF MAN WITH GOD December, 2005 A.D.

~ HURRICANE KATRINA (and RITA) ~

*From Metropolitan Archbishop Paul, S.S.B.
To the flock entrusted into my care:*

We all know hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage in every State of the United States of America which borders the Gulf of Mexico. Mississippi, Louisiana, and Eastern Texas were the hardest hit.

WHAT HAPPENED:

New Orleans survived hurricane Katrina. It did not survive the ineffective operations of the federal, state, and local governments.

The mouth of the Mississippi River must be kept clear of silt to allow shipping to pass through the River's passes. For many years this was accomplished by dredging the channels (which, by the way, is still done today). Eventually a system of jetties which direct the force of the River in a manner to keep the passes fairly clear was developed. Before the jetties were developed, the silt from the river built up in the passes and flowed into the marshes on either side of the River. Dredging did not greatly effect the build up of silt into the marshes. The silt flowing into the marshes kept the marshes healthy, built them up, provided the material required for the marsh lands to expand, and built barrier islands off of the coast. When the jetties were built they dramatically increased the speed of the water so that the silt was carried into the Gulf of Mexico instead of being allowed to flow into the marshes and settle into the marsh. The levees which were built along side the River also prevented the silt from flowing into the marshes, thus preventing the natural replenishing of the marshes. The barrier islands did not receive the silt, and began to vanish.

(Continued KATRINA on page 22)



MARY AWAITED THE MESSIAH AS THE PERFECT CREATED HOST FOR PERFECTION

The Ever Virgin Mary was the perfect vessel for The Eternally Begotten Son of God the Father, to take and combine total human nature into Himself so that He has both the Divine Nature and human nature, Divine Will, and human will. Upon being requested by God, she freely accepted being the mother of God. Her perfection was dependent upon the perfection she was to bear, the perfection to which she was to give birth.

The Bearer of God awaited the coming of the Messiah just as all mankind had awaited His coming, for even in her perfection she required the coming of the Messiah who was to reestablish the ability of mankind to attain salvation.

We too anticipate the coming of the

(Continued MARY on page 9)

WITHOUT GOD'S SON, WITHOUT MARY'S SON

It can not be that God is the God of some people and not the God of others, for He is the only creator, the only God, and therefore the God of all.

Quite simply, until the Son of God became man, no man could attain union with God, no man could attain heaven. The holiness of Moses, of Elias, of Noah, Israel, and Abraham, even though it allowed them to speak with, experience, and see the manifestation of God, did not allow them to attain that for which mankind was designed. It did not allow them to

(Continued MARY'S SON on page 7)

THE FORGOTTEN STAR, THE FORGOTTEN FATHER

How short are our memories when it comes to things of God? Very short. Saint John the Forerunner was asked if he was the Christ, and he answered that he was not, that he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.

Every Jew knew the prophets had foretold the coming of the Christ. When Saint John was asked if he were the Messiah, the Jews were looking for an Earthly savior from the rule of the Roman Empire, but they were not

(Continued FATHERS on page 7)

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM CHRIST'S COMING

What should we expect from Christ's coming, be it His birth which has come, or His teaching, which has come, or His second coming, which is yet to come?

We know that our Redemption is at hand; indeed It was born some two thousand years ago although It is eternally begotten of the Father. We know that the signs we see today which are sometimes referred to as signs of the end of the world, have existed in some measure in every human age, so we can not know if today is the end times. We should therefore live as

(Continued PREPARE on page 8)

PUBLICATION NOTICE

REUNION is a religious publication with offices at the address given below. Circulation is approximately . All contents are copyright ©, December 1, 2005 A.D., REUNION, The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil, C/O St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, 125 Hartsie Dr., Waveland, Mississippi 39576, USA, unless separately copyrighted, and may be reproduced without permission provided credit is given. All by-lined articles may be used by the author without permission at any time. Literary contributions are welcome; no fee will be paid for same; editorial control will be maintained by REUNION. All submissions for publication are made subject to these provisions, and must bear the name, address, telephone number, and signature of the contributor.

The sole purpose of this publication is to comply with the teachings and instructions of Jesus Christ, second person of the Trinity God, and to further His kingdom.

*** SUBSCRIPTIONS: REUNION is published in both print and electronic (computer/BBS) format. Publication dates are irregular. It is available free for downloading from REUNION NETWORK (see information below), or by e-mail mailing list subscription (which is free) to REU_PUB@REU.ORG with the message SUBSCRIBE REU_PUB YOUR NAME. Just because an issue is published in REUNION BBS does not mean it will be print published also. Print

If you wish to receive REUNION please see **** above, and fill in your name and address below and send to:

REUNION
Holy Innocents Orthodox Church
311 Hickory Avenue
Harahan, Louisiana 70123

Name _____

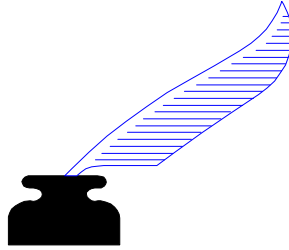
Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

LETTERS

(The Editors reserve the right to reject any submissions, and to edit as necessary. Letters must be typed, single space, signed, and include the sender's name address, and day and evening telephone numbers - If your typed letter is accompanied by an ASCII DOS Text copy on a floppy, we will thank you with extra prayers - Ed.)



publication distribution is to (in order of preference): financially contributing parishioners of Holy Innocents Orthodox Church (Harahan / New Orleans) or of St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church (Waveland, Miss.); publication swaps; those who pick up a copy and those who request a "free" subscription (if any are left); **** those who make a donation of \$30.00 (or more) to Holy Innocents Orthodox Church will be mailed each print published issue of REUNION for one calendar year from the date the donation is received. **A donation does not create an obligation for us to publish.**

We try to publish between four and twelve issues per year, and to print publish each electronically published issue, but do not guarantee to do so due to staffing and finances.

Telephones / electronic addresses:
Holy Innocents
311 Hickory Avenue
Harahan, Louisiana 70123 USA
Voice FAX (504) 738-3502
abp@reu.org
BBS telnet://reu.org
http://www.reu.org

Changes regarding receipt of REUNION, including cancellation, should be noted on the form opposite and sent in with your address label.

+ *Paul, S.S.B.*
Publisher .

WORLD WIDE WEB:

The direct connection to the computer which functions as the message, file, and communications center for The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil, is:
<http://www.reu.org>
telnet://reu.org

Issues of REUNION, in color, in Adobe PDF and HTML, are available at:
<http://www.reu.org/public/news.htm>



On Line Chat Room: at the main web site log-in <http://www.reu.org> You have to register with the system before you can use it, and it is best to send e-mail to set a "chat schedule".

**Current Active Mailing Lists
Originating From BasilNet ReuNet
HIOC BBS
The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint
Basil - The Basilian Fathers**

Each ML has its own rules, which are posted in the ML on a regular basis. Abbreviated commands are also in the signature of each ML message sent via e-mail. You must have permission from the appropriate ML administrator to gate a ML.

PRAYERS

Prayer requests operates under a simple premise. When we pray for each other we fulfill a portion of our Christian duty. Prayers for the living and for the dead are allowed and welcome. Those who make prayer requests agree to include the prayer requests of all who make them here. Prayer requests MUST be moral and for moral

(Continued WEB on page 3)

(Continued WEB from page 2)

purposes . . . hopefully morality will not have to be defined at length (i.e.: use common sense).

Participants and subscribers agree to honor the moral prayer requests posted, and to pray for those intentions and persons for at least one week.

BIBLE-DAY

Every day we try to post a Chapter of one of the Books of the Bible on the ML for discussion. This began with Genesis, Chapter 1, and continued to the end of Genesis, and so on to the next Book. Discussion is not limited to the Chapter posted each day. We use the Douay-Rheims translation which, while it sometimes has editorial comments biased against the Orthodox Church, is a basically a good, non political translation.

SERMONS

A place to exchange sermons by Christians. POSTERS must be, and certify they are: male; duly ordained Priests, Deacons, Ministers, or seminarians of, a Christian Church, Jurisdiction, or Religion; that the Creed of the Council of Nicea is the Creed, or expresses the basic dogma, of the Church of which each participant is a member. Rabbi may participate and post. (Us Christians may learn something). ANYONE may RECEIVE the ML.

When you post in this ML you must provide your church/religious affiliation in the post.

STUDIES

The STUDIES ML is a list which studies Orthodoxy and the Theology/Dogma of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church. We attempt to have the text of what ever book/publication we are using posted in pertinent parts during the discussions. This is a slow moving ML, primarily because most people do not wish to or have the time to or are not inclined to read and study as is required for participation in a ML

such as this. However, for those who do, it is well worth the effort.

ONE-BODY

This is a mailing list designed to promote and further reunification of the Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church with the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church and all other Jurisdictions of the Body of Christ; and to bring each and every human being into union with Christ Jesus our Lord.
Activity - very light.

REU_PUB

This ML sends REUNION (publication) to its subscribers, without the pictures and graphics which are in the paper publication. The ML does support discussion, and discussions encouraged. Mainly used for those who desire to receive the Newsletter but do not have access to the WWW (each issue is available on-line), those for whom telephone access to the BBS part of the system is not readily available, and those to whom we can not send a free print copy.

If you are already registered to use the message and file center for the Basilian Fathers, you may link to the listserver directly by logging in, selecting SUBSCRIBE MAILING LISTS in the menu and entering your e-mail address for the ML to which you wish to subscribe. If you are not already registered as a "user" you may go to the log-in menu, register, and then use the automatic system.

Or,

You can e-mail commands to the listserver using the addresses and commands below:

BasilNet ReuNet HIOC BBS Listserver E-mail Commands

If you experience problems with the ML or listserver you may contact the system administrator (sysop) via e-mail to Sysop@reu.org

User Commands

subscribe
Subscribe to an email list.

E.G.:
To subscribe to a mailing list, send a message to:
listserver@reu.org
In the message area put:
subscribe studies
subscribe sermons
subscribe prayers
subscribe bible-day
subscribe one-body

unsubscribe
Unsubscribe from an email list.

inactive
Make yourself inactive on the list. This is good for when you leave on vacation, or just don't want any email for a while.

active
Make yourself active on the list again.

get
Request an information file from the server. The list administrator may set up files for you to retrieve that may contain various information. Do not use a file extension.

help
Retreives this information.

info
Retrieves information on email lists hosted by this server

Please note: our e-mail system uses spam filters which are set very strictly, to the extent they even block out entire networks if those networks have a history of sending, relaying, or otherwise being involved in sending spam to our system. Many of the words in our spam filter are sometimes used in non-spam e-mail. If your e-mail is bounced, you may log on to the BBS and contact whomever it is you desire directly in Conference mail area 0 (zero), so we can add your e-mail address to our filter by-pass.

+

THE BASILIAN FATHERS

(The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil)

NEWS AND CONVERSATIONS

From Archbishop Paul, S.S.B.

HYURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA:

The main adverse effect of hurricanes Katrina and Rita has been the loss and displacement of loved ones. Even though someone did not die, a person can be lost through the shock of the devastation and the cruelty they received not from the storms but from family and those they counted as friends. This loss even of one person is more severe than the loss of all physical facilities and all deaths and physical injuries combined.

Obviously we have experienced severely negative effects to our facilities along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. And the hurricanes and tropical storms which effected Central America causing mud slides and flooding also severely effected our facilities and brothers and sisters in that part of the world.

Several of our Priests in Guatemala were caught in mud slides, but all survived.

The main house at Saint Joseph's in Guatemala was flooded but is now serviceable.

Saint Mary Magdalene in Waveland, Mississippi, was totally destroyed, as can be seen from the "before" picture at the top of this page, and the "after" picture on the next page.

What happened at Saint Mary Magdalene?

A solid block (sometimes inaccurately called a wall) of water thirty to fifty feet high and perhaps several miles deep and many miles wide along the coast, came inland at a speed of five, ten, or even more, miles per hour, smashing everything in its path, and carrying the



This Saint Mary Magdalene prior to the destruction of hurricane Katrina

debris of its destruction inland and also out to sea as the waters receded.

The loss is total.

The headquarters of The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil was located at Saint Mary Magdalene. All of our records were there, but not all of them were lost because at Holy Innocents we have "back up" copies of all Basilian documents and some originals.

Basilian headquarters have been temporarily moved to Holy Innocents, but it is planned that it will eventually return to Saint Mary Magdalene.

Because Holy Innocents was not "set up" the same way as Saint Mary Magdalene, we will be delayed in producing the end of year material we normally provide during the last and first quarters of the year. We have the basic ability to produce such things as the Liturgical Calendar and Celebrates for the year 2006 A. D. But production is hampered by the need to repair the facilities

at Holy Innocents, obtain contractors, deal with insurance companies and adjustors, as well as provide the material.

The flood insurance claims adjustor has inspected Saint Mary Magdalene, received our itemized list of contents, approved a limits of policy claim on the building and contents, and sent the approval in to be paid.

However, flood insurance is paid by FEMA. FEMA ran out of money with which to pay flood insurance claims. Even with congressional approval of additional funds, it is uncertain when the claims will be paid.

When the claim is paid, the funds will be banked until a decision is made as to how to proceed with Saint Mary Magdalene in light of whatever government regulations may be put into effect as a result of the hurricanes.

Holy Innocents in New Orleans (Harahan), fared much better than Saint

(Continued SSB NEWS on page 5)



And this is the same portion of ground, after hurricane Katrina. Only the slab remains, with three floor tiles still on the floor where the bathroom was.

(Continued SSB NEWS from page 4)
 Mary Magdalene.

Virtually all the shingles on the chapel roof were torn off. The rain came in and damaged all of the Western rite vestments, some of the Eastern rite vestments, and some of the chalice veils. Some icons were damaged, as was the iconostat, carpets, and flooring. Vinyl siding was torn off of the exterior and may have to be completely replaced.

The rectory roof sustained damage, as did roof vents. Some siding was torn off, but not to the same extent as on the chapel. Sofet "siding" was also damaged and torn off, and will have to be completely replaced.

Insurance should cover all of these losses,

but to date we have been unable to have a claims adjustor come to the property. In fact, we have been unable to talk with a claims adjustor at all.

Communications antennas were also damaged.

We have no idea as to when we will be able to begin repairs because we do not have any idea as to when we will finally have a claims adjustor come out to inspect the damage.

If the flood insurance proceeds for Saint Mary Magdalene are received in a timely manner, Saint Mary Magdalene may loan Holy Innocents the money required to effect repairs sufficient to prevent further damage. If not, may have funds sufficient to at least repair the chapel roof - but first we have

to find out how much that will cost and to do that we have to be able to finally have a roofing contractor come out and give us a price.

ANTIMINS:

We received relics from Archbishop Victor for use in the antimins, and we thank him very much.

Production of the antimins themselves has been delayed by hurricane Katrina. The process requires our artwork be computer printed onto a clear film and a silk screen made from that film. This had been done prior to Katrina, but the clear film image was not the proper size. It had to be enlarged.

It was scheduled to be printed the week

(Continued SSB NEWS on page 6)



Holy Innocents also sustained severe damage to the roof of the Church and Rectory, and rain damage to the Church interior, vestmants and other items.

(Continued SSB NEWS from page 5)

Katrina came ashore. The silk screen plant was not severely damaged by the storm, but the artist who provided the silk screen plant with the image on clear film, had operations in New Orleans near the Seventeenth Street Canal, and was flooded.

We will be checking with the company in the next few days to ascertain the status of the work.

FATHER DCN. DISMAS, S.S.B., is in very poor health. I visited him in Houston (New Caney), Texas a few weeks ago, and found him to be generally in good spirits. But he is in very poor health. Please keep him in your prayers.

GUATEMALA:

We had planned to have **Father Fernando**, and **Archbishop Andres**, come to New Orleans so that Father Fernando would be consecrated Bishop, to assist Archbishop Andres. The consecration was scheduled for November. However, the hurricanes in Central America and their resulting damage caused cancella-

tion of the trip. We were prepared to have the consecration at Holy Innocents despite the damage caused by hurricane Katrina, but Archbishop Andres thought it best to delay due to the damage in Central America, which requires his attention.

+



At Holy Innocents the rain water filled vigil lamps - ate away their coloration.

(Continued MARY'S SON from page 1)
attain union with God.

That is why the entirety of creation, all the good persons and all the evil persons, awaited the coming of the Messiah, of the Savior. The good awaited in anticipation of the fulfillment of the purpose for which man was created, for the glorification of God by humans and the union in everlasting happiness, of those good humans with God. The evil awaited in anticipation of destroying that union and glorification.

It is the memorialization of the actuality of that event, the birth of the Son of God, the Son of Man, that we anticipate in this season.

And that which caused the evil angels pride to separate them from God, may well have been that God would take on the full and complete nature of a human, a nature which was below that of the angels. The angels must worship God in that human nature, and acknowledge the superiority of the mother of God made Flesh, and to do that the pride of the evil angels would not permit.

But none of creation realized or understood the magnificence of what God had designed. It was not until it was accomplished that mankind and perhaps even the angels understood what God had made happen.

God re-created the world with the conception and birth of The Word Made Flesh. But He made this re-creation take place through Mary, for just as God is the Father-Creator of the world, so too is the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary the mother of the re-created world. It is God the Father who gave life to all that lives, and it is through Mother-Mary that all living things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to the same Son as the Savior of the world. "Without God's Son, nothing could exist; without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed." (St.

Anselm).

The evil persons of the material world and of the spirit world know that because of Mary's great holiness, the redemption of mankind took place in the Son of Man who is the Son of God. Evil therefore attacks her and attacks every concept of honoring her. Evil persons, devils and men, quite successfully shroud human intelligence with stupidity, stiff kneckedness, pride, and even hatred, regarding Mary the Mother of God; for evil persons hate her more than they hate God. Evil persons hate Mary the Mother of our Salvation not only because she is the Mother of our Redemption, Jesus Christ, but also because she gave birth to the God-Man whom evil persons must acknowledge as their superior and worship in His human form. Because she gave birth to her only Child, evil persons, including spirits, must also acknowledge her as their superior, and acknowledge that because of her perfection in holiness, she is the Queen of all creation; for it is her perfection in holiness that made her to be the Mother of her own Creator.

Christians understand this. Even if this is the first time these truths have been presented to them, Christians understand these things, for they have not just belief, they have Faith. For Christians, this makes sense, it is logical. But for those who have attained the use of their reason for whom this does not make sense, for whom this is not logical, it must be that they are not truly, really, Christians. They may speak the words, but their words are empty, while for a Christian, the same words are full.

Though evil persons disguise all the holiness of the all the Saints who we celebrate at Christmas time, though they pretend Saint Nicholas is a salesman for greed instead of the Saint who was so like Christ that he calmed the sea when sailors were in peril, though they pretend and attempt to make the world believe that the Word of God Made Flesh was just a man with a nice philosophy of life, they never will

be successful.

They will not be successful for what is, is, and truth will never change. And the simple truth is, that the Eternally Begotten Son of God was born of one of His creatures, Mary, and that He did open to all who will follow His Way, but only those who follow His Way, the doors to eternal heavenly union with God The Blessed Trinity.

Rom 15:4-13; Mat 11:2-10; Saint Anselm, Bishop

+

(Continued FATHERS from page 1)
seeking the savior of their souls.

Since it was but thirty years earlier that the Star had told of the birth of our Lord, and the Magi had arrived with great fanfare, and Herod had killed the Holy Innocents seeking to kill Christ, and the angels had proclaimed the birth of our Lord to the shepherds, one would think that the Jews, Levites and Pharisees would know that the Christ was somewhere, that he was the Savior of their Souls and not of their Earthly desires, and that the prophecies had foretold of the role Saint John the Baptist would hold in announcing the coming of the Messiah. One would think they remembered the beautiful Canticle of Zechariah, and the Magnificat of the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary. But, of course, they did not.

It is difficult to accept that the Jews did not remember that magnificent star which announced the birth of the Christ, but it really should not be difficult to accept their lapse of memory. Each of us constantly forgets to worship God always, or we ignore it if it is inconvenient. If the star had continued to follow our Lord wherever He went, perhaps then the Jews would have remembered that the Savior was present, and their inquiry would be

(Continued FATHERS on page 8)

(Continued **FATHERS** from page 7)

prayer for His beginning His public life. But the star was not continually present, and so His birth was forgotten.

We, today, also tend to forget many things about The Way, and about the many Saints our Lord has provided to us as guides and intercessors over the centuries and millennia. One who is both forgotten and derided is Saint Joseph, the step-father of our Lord, and the most chaste spouse of the Mother of God.

Saint Joseph is the only one God the Father desired to be the step-father of His only begotten Son, and Saint Joseph accepted the request of the Father without reservation. Saint Joseph is the only one who was ever requested to defend and protect our Lord, and the only one ever allowed to defend and to protect our Lord.

Saint Joseph disrupted his life without hesitation and without reservation, taking his family to Egypt at God's request, so that God's Son would be protected from those who sought his death. Then, when Saint Joseph was told it was safe to return, he disrupted his life, again closed down his business, again lost all his customers and business references, and returned his family to the land of David.

Who was there at the birth of the Christ; who wrapped the Babe in swaddling clothes; who was the first person to hold our Lord as He was born; who clothed and fed our Lord from the time our Lord was born, and who provided for our Lord's needs even after his own death? Saint Joseph.

And how is Saint Joseph honored in the USA? By having statues of him buried head down in the front yards of houses which people wish to sell quickly and at a high price. Truly, Satan has attacked Saint Joseph just as Satan attacks the Blessed Virgin - for just as pornography attacks the representation of the Blessed Virgin which is in ever woman, so too does this disrespect for the

representation of Saint Joseph attack he who is the most trusted servant God has ever had. But not just Saint Joseph is thereby attacked, for in it is also attacked every father.

In this, all fathers share, for very few are the fathers who are not forgotten; very few are the children who respect their fathers; and most few are those children who really appreciate what their fathers have done for them and what was required in the doing of it.

It is not just the human fathers who are forgotten; it is also the one Heavenly Father who is forgotten.

Do you think you are an exception? Perhaps you are, but that is not likely. God's name is constantly taken in vain in your presence - do you tell the obscene to behave? People you know take what does not belong to them - do you tell them to behave? Immorality is taught in virtually every commercial movie and television program - have you opposed this? Have you made your opposition known to those who make, distribute, and broadcast this trash? God's babies are being murdered by their mothers and by men and women who call themselves healers - have you made your opposition known to your politicians, or did you vote for the pro-abortion candidate and vote for him because he might put some money in your pocket?

Have you recently thought of what you could do to make your Heavenly Father, and your Earthly father, happy, and then done it? Have you ever thanked Saint Joseph?

Ref: Phil 4:4-7; John 1:19-28

+

(Continued **PREPARE** from page 1)

though every day is a day of the end of time, for each day surely is part of our individual end of time.

To do this we must prepare ourselves every day to receive God, to be with the God, to be acceptable to God. We must show our love of God not just as a feeling, as an emotion, but as obedient servants. It is very important to remember that love of God is found in, founded on, and expressed in, following His will, and in following His will we obtain Charity, the permanent and Divine Love.

We all wish to hear those words, "Come share in your Lord's joy." (*Mat.25:21*) However, it is very important for us to remember that the fullness of joy will not enter into all of those who rejoice, for there are many who rejoice without cause, or prematurely. It is those who rejoice upon union with God in Heaven who will receive the fullness of joy.

There are things which we do in private which we do not do in public. Some of these are harmless and necessary, such as taking a bath. Other things which we do in private we do not wish others to know we do, for they are evil. In today's world, Satan has convinced an uncountable number of people that the most degrading of sins can be committed in public and can be freely acknowledged in public, with no adverse effects or results. Thus it is that we hear of celebrities and famous people having children out of wedlock, even to the extent the father is not known. We learn that a leader of a country engaged in licentious sexual relationships; and that when the leader died his wife and his mistress both attended the funeral with their children born of the deceased.

Is that the kind of life which prepares one to greet Jesus Christ? No, obviously it is not, for such a life is totally contrary to what Our Lord taught us.

So prepare yourselves to greet the
(Continued **PREPARE** on page 9)

(Continued **PREPARE** from page 8)

Saviour in the Divine Liturgy when we renew the sacrifice of Calvary and of the Last Supper, and as we anticipate the celebration of His birthday, and most especially in every day of your life.

Ref: Rom 13:11-14; Luke 21:25-33; St. Thomas Aquinas; St. Augustine of Hippo; Mat. 25:21

+

(Continued **MARY** from page 1)

Savior, not awaiting His actions as Savior, for that He has accomplished. We anticipate His coming into us, each individually, so that we may be united with Him, and Our Father, and the Holy Ghost, for all eternity.

Pascha, Easter, is special for in the resurrection of Our Lord is the proof of His teachings, and the promise of their application to us. Death of the soul is overcome by death of the body which is resurrected in glorification. Death of the soul caused by sin is overcome by death of the person to sin, resulting in deification of the person.

Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Our Lord, is anticipated with great joy for the resurrection could not happen until the Savior was born. That is why we prepare to celebrate Christmas with such anticipation. He who is older than the ages, the invisible, incomprehensible, incorporeal, definition of the word of the Father, whose Nature is completely without reference, took on our nature solely for the good of our nature, solely for the purpose of uniting His soul to the soul of each human being, so that He would purify each soul with His soul.

He who made this world and all that is in it, who established both the Natural Law and the Divine Law, came to ex-

plain them in their fullness, knowing well that He would die the most horrible tortured death because of His teaching. He was born because He was needed to make atonement for that which mankind could not make atonement - sin.

“Holiness had to be brought to man by the humanity assumed by one who is God, so that God might overcome the tyrant by force and so deliver us and lead us back to Himself through the mediation of His Son. The Son arranged this for the honor of the Father, to Whom the Son is clearly obedient in all things.” (From a sermon by St. Gregory Nazianzen.)

We anticipate the celebration of the Son’s birth. This celebration is of a birth which took place when horses were the fastest means of transportation; before much of mankind accepted that the Earth is round and not flat; a birth which occurred during the time of ancestors whose names we do not know. And we celebrate this birth and will celebrate this birth throughout all the ages for it is this birth which fulfilled the hopes of mankind to be removed from the yoke of oppression which is founded in sin.

Therefore we not only celebrate the birth of the Saviour. We also celebrate the conception of the one who gave birth to the Savior of mankind; for it is through her perfect acceptance, perfect obedience, and perfect Charity, that Perfection itself made the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary perfect from her inception, and gives us the opportunity to be made perfect.

Ref: Prov 8:22-35, Luke 1:26-28, St. Gregory Nazianzen

+

MUSLIMS MUST PROVE THEMSELVES

Christians have proven themselves to be decent. Muslims must also prove themselves to be decent.

When there is a natural disaster anywhere in the world, no matter who is affected, even enemies of Christians, even Muslims, even atheists, Christians respond with aid, assistance, expertise, and gentleness. Muslims rarely so do, even when other Muslims are the victims, and almost never when non-Moslems are the victims.

When Christians discover or are made aware of abuses, crimes, or improprieties by Christians - without regard as against whom these are committed - Christians condemn these deeds, take measures to correct them, and take measures to prevent the one who committed the deeds from committing them again. When Moslems commit such deeds, other Muslims rarely condemn the deeds, almost never take measures to correct them or to prevent the one who committed them from committing them again, especially when non-Moslems or women are the victims.

When Christians say these things, we are not Pharisses saying, “I am so great and good, God, not like this no-good Moslem.” We are not Pharisees, because in general Christians are aware of how spiritually inadequate we are, and we constantly attempt to conform ourselves to God’s will.

And if Moslems ever expect Christians to trust them, respect them, and accept them, then Moslems must also assess their spiritual strengths and inadequacies, and determine whether or not what they consider strengths are the same as what Christians consider strengths, and whether what they consider inadequacies are the same as what Christians consider inadequacies. If they are not, then Moslems can never expect trust, respect, and acceptance

(Continued **MOSLEMS** on page 15)

CHILDREN'S PAGE

BIBLE HISTORY FOR CHILDREN

38. Descent of the Holy Ghost

The apostles went again to the supper-room in 1 which they usually assembled. There they prayed fervently. Mary also, the mother of Jesus, and many disciples were with them, so that they numbered about one hundred and twenty persons.

2. On the tenth day, suddenly, there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared to them cloven tongues as of fire, and it came down upon every one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in divers tongues.

3. Now at the sound of the wind, the people of Jerusalem gathered together. And Peter stood forth, and said: "Jesus is risen from the dead and sits now at the right



THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST

hand of God, the Father." Many believed and were baptized; and that same day about three thousand were received into the church.

QUESTIONS

1. *How many persons were assembled in the supper-room?*

2. *What happened on the tenth day?*

3. *What did Peter say to the people?*

39. The Church of Christ begins to Spread all over the Earth

Pentecost being over, the apostles went out into the world, and preached the good tidings of sal-

vation. In the name of Jesus they also wrought many miracles. And the number of those that believed increased from day to day, and the Church of Christ was established in many lands. The apostles consecrated bishops and ordained priests.

2. The head of the Church was Peter, whom the Lord had made first in pastorship. When people who were not Jews begin to believe in Jesus, the decision had to be made whether these people, known as Gentiles, had to become Jews before becoming Christians. St. Peter asked St. James, who was the Bishop of Jerusalem, to call a Council of all the leaders of the Church. In that Council, called the First Council of Jerusalem, it was decided that Gentiles did not have to become Jews to become Christians. This showed that Christianity was the New Covenant, and it also showed that when all the Bishops join in a Great Council and ask Jesus to guide them in making decisions, that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to guide the Bishops. The

successor of St. Peter is the Pope in Rome, who is also the Bishop of Rome and the Patriarch of Rome, and also the Patriarch of Antioch, which is where St. Peter first ruled as Bishop. The other Patriarchs of today are the successors of the Apostles and Dis-



CHRIST GIVES THE KEYS TO PETER

CHILDREN'S PAGE

ciples, except for the Russian Patriarch, who was made a Patriarch by the other Patriarchs. The Bishops of today are the successors of the apostles, and the priests of today are the successors of the disciples.

3. In the year 1054 AD, the Patriarch of Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople, got into an argument. They did not use a Great Council of the Church to settle the argument, and the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church split into two parts, the Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church and the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church. There are also other parts of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church which had problems because of differences in languages and in the great distances people had to travel to talk with each other. But even though these differences exist, they still form One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

4. Jesus is not happy with these differences, and has let the leaders of the Church know He is not happy with these differences. Still, it is proof that the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, even though it is governed as Orthodox, Roman, Assyrian Orthodox Church of the East, and the others, is Jesus's Church, because it has existed now for over nineteen hundred years. It is built upon the rock -- that is upon St. Peter and the members of the First Council of Jerusalem and their successors, but most important, it

is built upon the Foundation Stone, Jesus, which was rejected by the builders, the Jews. It will never cease to exist until the divine founder returns to judge the living and the dead. Happy are they who believe and act as the Church believes and teaches.

QUESTIONS

1. *What did the apostles do after Pentecost?*
2. *How are the successors of Peter, of the other apostles, and of the disciples called?*
3. *Is Jesus happy with the differences in His Church?*
4. *How long will the Church last?*



CHILD'S BIBLE HISTORY



The Orthodox - Basilian Catechism

Q. 361. Who were among the first to adore the Infant Jesus?

A. The shepherds of Bethlehem, to whom His birth was announced by Angels; and the Magi or three wise men, who were guided to His crib by a miraculous star, were among the first to adore the Infant Jesus. We recall the adoration of the Magi on the feast of the Epiphany, which means appearance or manifestation, namely, of

Our Saviour. Since the Magi traveled a great distance, they must have began being guided by the miraculous star before the Infant Jesus was born, or it may be that the Magi adored the Infant Jesus later at His home, but we depict them as adoring Him in His crib in the stable because tradition tells us that is when and where it happened.

+

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ISRAEL IF IT DOES NOT MEND RELATIONS WITH ITS NON-JEWISH POPULATION AND THE NON-JEWS IN LANDS IT CONTROLS? AND IF IT DOES?

From Jeremias

7:1. The word that came to Jeremias from the Lord, saying:

7:2. Stand in the gate of the house of the Lord, and proclaim there this word, and say: Hear ye the word of the Lord, all ye men of Juda, that enter in at these gates, to adore the Lord.

7:3. Thus saith the Lord of hosts the God of Israel: Make your ways and your doings good: and I will dwell with you in this place.

7:4. Trust not in lying words, saying: The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, it is the temple of the Lord.

7:5. For if you will order well your ways, and your doings: if you will execute judgment between a man and his neighbour,

7:6. **If you oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, and walk not after strange gods to your own hurt,**

7:7. I will dwell with you in this place: in the land, which I gave to your fathers from the beginning and for evermore.

7:8. Behold you put your trust in lying words, which shall not profit you:

7:9. To steal, to murder, to commit adultery, to swear falsely, to offer to Baalim, and to go after strange gods, which you know not.

7:10. And you have come, and stood before me in this house, in which my

name is called upon, and have said: We are delivered, because we have done all these abominations.

7:11. Is this house then, in which my name hath been called upon, in your eyes become a den of robbers? I, I am he: I have seen it, saith the Lord.

7:12. Go ye to my place in Silo, where my name dwelt from the beginning: and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel:

7:13. And now, because you have done all these works, saith the Lord: and I have spoken to you rising up early, and speaking, and you have not heard: and I have called you, and you have not answered:

7:14. I will do to this house, in which my name is called upon, and in which you trust, and to the place which I have given you and your fathers, as I did to Silo.

7:15. And I will cast you away from be-

fore my face, as I have cast away all your brethren, the whole seed of Ephraim.

}



Dear Basilian Fathers, O
 Please include and remember

 in the Divine Liturgy and Prayers for the (living - dead) at Holy Innocents Orthodox Church and its sister and mission places of worship, on the occasion of _____

 If special date enter MM/DD: _____ / _____
 Requested by: (optional) _____

 (Name)

 (Address)

 (City, State Zip)
 Please mail this slip to:
 The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil
 Holy Innocents Orthodox Church
 311 Hickory Avenue
 Harahan, Louisiana 70123
 or telephone (504) 738-3502
[Please note that prayer requests are also normally posted in
HOLY INNOCENTS ORTHODOX CHURCH BBS
http://www.reu.org with world wide access] / /

PRODUCTS REQUEST FORM

***PLEASE PRINT !!! THIS FORM WILL BE PHOTOCOPIED AND ADHERED TO YOUR SHIPMENT
AS THE SHIPPING LABEL***

REQUEST PLACED BY:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Country (if not USA) _____

SHIP TO (If same as above, please enter "same" on Name line):

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Country (if not USA) _____

Each of these publications is available on our web site for free download. Since you can obtain them free, if you wish to obtain a copy of any of these publications from us, it is obvious that you wish to do so for the purpose of making an donation - which we deeply appreciate. Propriety requires the total requested donation amount accompany your products request. Send product request with donation in US funds to:

Holy Innocents Orthodox Church
311 Hickory Ave.
Harahan, Louisiana 70123
U.S.A.

SHIPPING & HANDLING (USA) *

*Subject to change without notice

Value Add

PUBLICATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT EACH *	QUANTIT Y	\$ TOTAL THIS ITEM
CATCSM2.PUB	The Orthodox - Basilian Catechism No. 1	\$ 15.00		
CALENDAR2005.PUB	Basilian LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2005 A.D.	\$ 7.00		
CALENDAR.PUB	Basilian LITURGICAL CALENDAR	\$ 7.00		
MISSALET.PUB	Gregorian Divine Liturgy (Western Rite) Pew Size	\$ 7.00		
REQUIEMMS.PUB	Gregorian Western Rite Divine Liturgy for the Dead - Requiem - Pew Size	\$ 7.00		
WEDDINGMS.PUB	Gregorian - Western Rite Betrothal Liturgy and the Wedding or Marriage Liturgy combined with the Western Rite Divine Liturgy - Pew size	\$ 7.00		
ORDAINITIONSMS.PUB	Rites of Office: Taper-bearer, Setting Apart of Readers, The Manner of Ordination of Sub-deacons And of Deacons (And of Elevation of Archdeacons), And Priests (And of Making Archpriests, Institution of Abbot and Elevation of Archimandrite and Mitered Archpriests), and of Consecrating a Bishop Within the Gregorian Divine Liturgy - as used by the Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil, Pew size	\$ 7.00		
DEACONSLITURGYMS.PUB	Gregorian - Western Rite Deacon's Liturgy / Liturgy of the Presanctified - Pew size	\$ 7.00		
PALMSUMS.PUB	Gregorian Divine Liturgy for the Second Sunday of Passion Time Palm Sunday - Pew size	\$ 10.00		
TRIDUUMMS.PUB	The Triduum (Parts One and Two) Liturgies for Holy Thursday and Good Friday Pascha (Easter) Being in a Separate Volume - Pew size	\$ 10.00		
PASCHAMS.PUB	THE TRIDUUM (Part Three) LITURGIES FOR PASCHA (EASTER) Including those for Holy Saturday Evening the Liturgies for Holy Thursday and Good Friday being in another volume. - Pew size	\$ 10.00		
BAPTSMMMS.PUB	The Office of Holy Baptism Including Prayers at the Reception of Catechumens and the Office of Holy Chrismation with Litanies as Used by the Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil - Pew size	\$ 7.00		
CH_BI_H5.PUB	Child's Bible History - A Bible History for Children	\$ 7.00		
STATIONBENE.PUB	Stations of the Cross and Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Mystery According to the Western Rite of the Holy Eastern Orthodox Church - Pew size	\$ 5.00		
SSBHISTORY.PUB	THE SOCIETY OF CLERKS SECULAR OF SAINT BASIL (The Basilian Fathers) HISTORY OF ITS FORMATION (History of the Formation of The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil) - Second Edition	\$ 15.00		
	CD with the above publications plus the Altar Book (Missal) in Adobe PDF format and several additional files and programs. This is not a "self starting" CD.	\$ 10.00		
	SUB TOTAL			
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (USA)			
	TOTAL			\$

(Continued MOSLEMS from page 9)
from Christians.

Christians practice religious tolerance. If someone wishes to be a Moslem, Christians will not interfere with that decision. Unless Moslems adopt the same level of tolerance towards Christians, they will never be respected or accepted by Christians. Christians will often look at a situation and simply state the facts, as is being done here. When this is done to Christians, and what is being pointed out are deficiencies in Christianity or in the practice of Christianity, Christians usually will assess what is being made known in an attempt to become better Christians. Unless Moslems do the same, they will never be accepted or respected by Christians.

Many decades ago there was a disaster in Japan. A city in Northwest USA adopted a Japanese city and sent it supplies, food, money, and people to assist though the disaster. Decades later, that USA city suffered a disaster, and the Japanese city sent it assistance. This was done by non-Christian Japanese.

Throughout the history of the USA, when there has been a disaster anywhere in the world, Christian USA has sent assistance to those effected. In many instances those Christians were tortured and killed by the Moslems whom they sought to help. But when there is a disaster in the USA, Moslems, even those who reside in or are citizens of the USA, rarely help, and then, usually only help other Moslems.

On September 11, 2001 A. D., when live TV showed the WTC in flames, a plane plowing into the second tower, people falling to their deaths from the towers by the hundreds, the towers collapsing, and thousand of persons being killed, Moslem shop owners and employees in the New Orleans French Quarter crowded in the streets in large groups, crowding and blocking the streets, yelling and screaming with joy.

(Continued MOSLEMS on page 20)

CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH

Do not be concerned how others celebrate Christmas, how they celebrate the birth of Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Concern yourselves with celebrating His birth, and pray for those who attempt to deny Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. It is by our living as Christians that we will help them to be converted to Christianity.

There are those who promote various ideas about Christmas and what it means. Some promote its being love, some a time for giving, some a time to give presents, some a time for toys. We know it is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ Who is God and Who is the Savior of all of members of mankind who will follow Him to the Father.

So, celebrate! Be filled with joy as would be filled with joy at celebrating the birthday of whomever it is you love most in all the world.

Retell the story of His birth. Retell how mankind was separated from the union with God which is the union for which mankind was created. Retell how mankind had been given instructions by God the Father, but how mankind as a whole constantly moved both towards God and away from God. Tell how God the Father sent His only begotten Son to become a complete man while remaining completely and totally God, and how even at His birth, born of the only Virgin to ever conceive of a child, the world was partially ready for Him and mostly desirous of ignoring Him. But that He came anyway!

Retell the story of His being born in a manger because there was no room for the Holy Family in the inn, but that all of creation revered His birth, and of how the Angelic Choir of Heaven came to Earth in celebration to announce His birth. Of how all of the Heavenly Angels and all of Heaven rejoiced at His birth, for now it would be possible for the creatures known as mankind to

become one with them in glorifying God.

Think of your being there, of holding the baby Jesus in your arms like one of the wise men, or one of the shepherds or one of their wives. He is warm, with the smell of a baby, snuggling against your heart and into your warmth. Perhaps his fingers curl around your finger. It is warm where he lays against you, and when His mother reaches to take Him from you, you feel where He was and it brings you warmth of love and a smile to your face.

Your mind knows this is the Creator and the Son of the Creator and the Holy Spirit, for where is One, there are the other Two, but there also is only the One who is there. And this you can not comprehend for when God comes only in His Divinity He come in a manner which you can not comprehend. But as man he comes in a form you can comprehend and understand. You can respond to Him in His human nature, where responding to Him in His Divine Nature may have been difficult.

We know what will happen to Him, and how He will overcome sin and correct the downfall of man, but that is not what we celebrate at this time. What we celebrate at this time is His birth and all the wonderful mystery associated with His birth.

So be happy and rejoice. Let there be joy to the world, for the Savior has come, and with His birth He brings the Magnificence to those who accept and follow Him.

Ref: 1 Cor 4:1-5; Luke 3:1-6

+

ANTICIPATION OF WHAT IS TO COME

To thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul. In thee, O my God, I put my trust; let me not be ashamed. Neither let my enemies laugh at me: for none of them that wait on thee shall be confounded. Shew, O Lord, thy ways to me, and teach me thy paths.

Advent is the time during which we anticipate the birth of Our Lord, His coming to teach all mankind, His taking on of human nature while retaining His Divine Nature. In our very anticipation we begin to make ourselves ready to fulfill our salvation, for we seek salvation and anticipate its requirements and attempt to fulfill its requirements in that anticipation.

Just as someone who anticipates failure will prepare for failure, and therefore will have a greater probability of failure, so too is it that those who anticipate success will prepare for success and will have a greater probability of success.

In this the season of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the Birthday of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, anticipate not only celebrating His birthday, but also anticipate your successfully following His teachings, reaching their fulfillment in eternal union with God in Heaven.

Ref: Rom. 13: 11-14; Luke 21: 25-34; Ps. 24:1-3,4

+



PREPARING FOR CHRIST

Saint John the Forerunner, known also as the Baptist, and his followers, wanted to know if Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour. But it is reasonable to expect Saint John already knew that Jesus is the Messiah, for when Saint John was still in his mother's womb, and the blessed Ever Virgin Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, made her Visitation, Saint John leapt in his mother's womb in recognition of the Divinity of Jesus, and at that time Saint John was freed from sin so he could fulfill his place as the Forerunner. Saint John and Jesus were cousins, and knew each other all their lives. Saint John Baptized Jesus, at which time God the Holy Ghost appeared in the form of a dove, and God the Father appeared and said of Jesus: ***Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased*** (Mark 1:11), all of which Saint John saw and heard. Obviously the inquiry as to whether Jesus is the Messiah was for the benefit of the followers of Saint John.

Today, we have the advantage of Wisdom founded in Faith, which tells us Jesus is the Messiah, God, the Son of God, and we will soon celebrate His birthday, which is the day he began His active public life - God, fully Divine and yet fully human. He began this public life with the announcement of His birth by the Angels to the shepherds.

But for those whose wisdom is not founded in Faith, who have but natural wisdom, the celebration is meaningless. Such people celebrate a calendar date, a social date, a holiday, a marketing season, a time for making profits, making merry, a time of secularism.

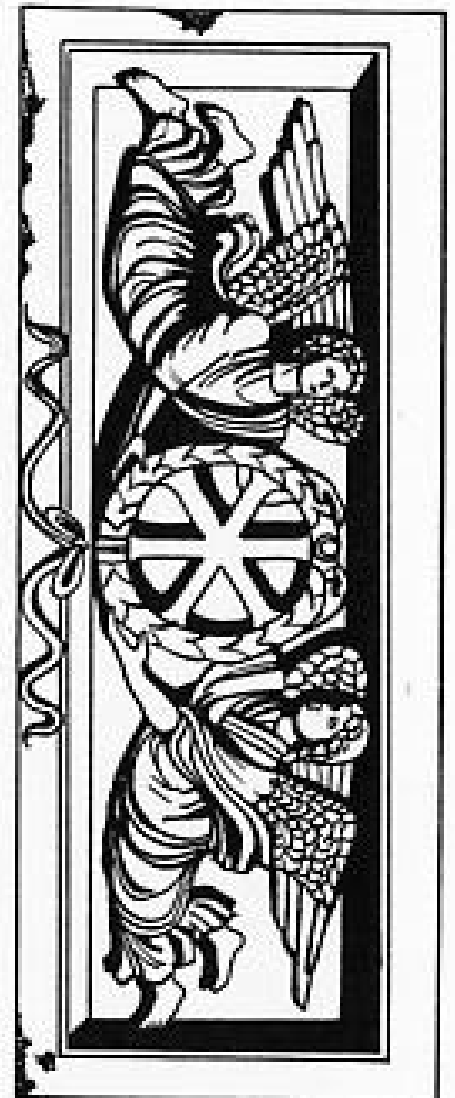
As Christians we need but avoid the mercenary aspects of the secular celebration, and are free to make merry, be happy, socialize, provided all are part of and not in conflict with the religious aspects of the celebration, for it is the religious aspects which are important.

As we prepare to celebrate the birthday

of Our Lord, we can grasp the opportunity to also prepare ourselves for the rest of our lives. We can begin to fulfill the prayer which pleads to God the Father: ***O Lord, stir up our hearts to prepare the way of your only-begotten Son, so that, through his coming on earth, we may serve you always with a pure intention.*** In the Wisdom of Faith, we do not wish to just prepare ourselves for a Holy and therefore joyous celebration of the birth of Our Saviour. In that Wisdom we wish to also prepare ourselves to be true followers of Christ, and to actually be true followers of Christ.

Ref: Romans 15:4-13; Mat. 11:2-10

+



**WHICH WORLD IS YOUR FOCUS?
HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE ANSWER GOD MAKES TO YOUR PRAYERS?**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and enlighten the darkness of our minds by your coming on earth: Ps 79:2,3,2 Thou that sittest upon the cherubims, shine forth. Give ear, O thou that rulest Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses. Stir up thy might, and come to save us.

This is what was prayed, and it also is what happened. God came and saved us.

But it seems that most of us are like a person who is walking on the shore of a lake, and carrying a large sum of money in his hands. He becomes stuck in the mud on the shore of the lake. The water begins to rise and the person is in danger of drowning. He calls for help, and someone comes to rescue him, throwing to him a rope with a loop in it. All he has to do is put the rope over his head and under his arms, and his rescuer will pull him to safety - but to handle the rope the person in danger must first drop the money he has in his hands.

Is the money in your hands more important to you than being rescued? Would you rather be poor and live, or hold on to the money and drown and have the money be washed away?

We all know this world and its things are very temporary, and that the next world and its things are totally permanent. But which world is our focus?

The treasury which God has opened for each of us is the treasury of His Own Heart. Its riches are His very essence. He offers to fill us to complete capacity with Himself, and to instantly and forever expand and increase that

capacity and to continually and instantly fill that increased capacity with Himself - with that which is the most valuable and desirable.

There is an elderly lady who recently celebrated her one hundred and first birthday. She really wanted to have a party, and she did. All of her descendants to the fourth generation were there. She can purchase anything which can be bought, but the one thing which she desired could not be purchased - the physical presence of her family. And she received that present. (She did like the candy made of strings of orange flavored jelly covered with dark chocolate.)

We are about to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ. We will celebrate the birthday of the answer to all of our prayers, the fulfillment of all of our hopes. Ask yourself and answer these questions. What gift will you bring to His birthday celebration? Will you even attend?

How do you respond to the answer God makes to your prayer?

Ref: Philipp 4:4-7; John 1:19-28

+



LEARN FROM THE SAINTS IN WAYS YOU NEVER ANTICIPATED

All of creation had looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Saviour of all the world - even Satan awaited His coming, but for reasons different from those of mankind. Very few people knew what the Messiah would really do, or why He was really coming. And while everyone knew it was the most important thing which would occur in the history of mankind, very few people contemplated His coming to any extent.

And when He came, and redeemed mankind through His offering of Himself to His Father for our sins, very few people accepted the fullness of His gift, for it did not correlate with the glory and majesty they deemed appropriate for the most significant occurrence in history. And to this very day, most people are just like Saint Thomas the Apostle was before he saw the risen Christ. Most people, even those who call themselves Christians, simply do not accept the magnitude of what has been wrought for them by Christ who is God and the Son of the living God. Most people accept only their own concept of Christ, and of God, and their concept is no different than a carving of wood covered with gold and unable to do anything. Yet most people worship this, their idol god, a god made in their own image and likeness - a wooden, gaudily gold covered piece of uselessness.

When Saint Thomas said, "My Lord and my God," he was not only acknowledging Christ's identity; he was also acknowledging that he comprehended the enormity of what Our Lord had done for us. He was acknowledging the comprehension that his own concept of the majesty and glory which accompanied the Messiah had no place in the actuality of the Messiah. He was rejecting the idol he had worshiped, and accepted the true identity and purpose of the Messiah in the humble form which is the reality in

(Continued THOMAS on page 18)

(Continued THOMAS from page 17)

which Our Lord presented Himself to mankind.

Saint Thomas became, at that instant in time, part of the only holy temple, the temple which is in the Lord and of which the Lord is the cornerstone. He became part of the foundation of that temple of which the Messiah is the cornerstone - that very same temple which is the Church of which you and I are a part.

And we are a part of that Church, the very Body of Christ, because we accept our role as servants, as creatures, of those who neither control nor are controlled, as persons who voluntarily follow Christ's teachings, who seek not temporary reward in this temporary world but permanent reward in the permanent world to come.

Those who seek their own goals: who pursue homosexual acts and bestiality and who make excuses for such sins and actually promote such sins as being natural and good; who seek money and worldly pleasure things and their own temporal gain, and especially those who so do in the name of God; those who pursue power and especially those who abuse that power which has been loaned to them by God; who call themselves members of the True Church and then promote killing unborn children; and those who abuse the trust placed in them and harm little children; those who steal from those who would follow Christ by promising miracles if the follower just offers enough money for the use of the false servant; and those who believe they can manipulate God, who believe they can control Him, who seek the things of this world and believe they can get them by manipulating God; these are the ones who worship the false idols they have made in place of the real God **and they are not part of the True Church.**

The true Christian, the true follower of Christ, is just that, a follower of Christ. He is not a leader of his own religion, but a follower of that one religion

established by God - not of one established by some man or woman or group of people. He does not care what the world says is permissible, but only cares about what God says is permissible. He does not care about what the world says is forbidden or sinful, but only cares about what God has said is forbidden or sinful. And he knows that what God has said is good and what God has said is bad, never changes: that what God has said is bad, was, is, and always will be bad, and that nothing else is bad; that what God has said is good, was, is, and always will be good, and that nothing else is good.

Remember these things as you contemplate these words of Our Lord: "Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood you shall not have life in you." Then ask your self where you can obtain His Flesh and Blood, and you will realize the answer is, only in this the True Church.

Join Saint Thomas in acknowledging the Messiah, and join Saint Thomas in accepting Him as He Is and in following Him as He has stated He is to be followed. Then your concerns about your failures and about the opinion the world has of you will all be of no significance, for the only failures which will be of concern to you will be those which disappoint God, and He will assist you in putting those failures behind you. And the only opinion which will concern you will be God's opinion of you, and He will assist you so that you will make God proud of you.

Ref: Eph. 2:19-22; John 20:24-29

+



THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH IN US ALL

Before the creation of anything there was God, whole and complete in and of Himself; the Trinity of three Persons yet One; the One God. There was no time, no darkness, no light, no matter, no energy, no material things, nothing visible, and nothing invisible - only God, The Trinity of Three Persons yet only one God. God willed His Son to be manifested - we can not say "Then God willed His Son to be manifested," for there was not yet time, it had not yet been created; the concept of time had not yet been implanted in the minds of creatures for there were no creatures, only God. And God created the spiritual and the physical world through His Son.

God created the Angels to be timeless, to exist in a manner almost like being in the eternal now which is of God. To some extent, but we do not know to what extent, God revealed to the Angels that mankind would sin and become separated from God, and that the Son of God would become man yet remain completely God. Perhaps, but only perhaps, we do not know for certain, perhaps it was because of this that Lucifer, the most magnificent of the Angels, fell from grace. Again, perhaps, but only perhaps, Lucifer refused to worship the Son of God made Man. Perhaps Lucifer was the one who was to speak those most desired words to the Ever Virgin Mary, "**Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.**" (Luke 1:28), and he refused, for these words would acknowledge the Ever Virgin Mary is greater than he, Lucifer. In his pride, in his refusal to accept the ordering of things by God, Lucifer fell from grace and became Satan, the father of all evil.

But those words *were* spoken; spoken by the angel Gabriel in accordance with God's will. When Gabriel asked Mary in the words given to him by God, to be the Mother of the Son of the Most High, to be the source of Christ's human nature, the whole of creation, even the

(Continued BIRTH on page 19)

(Continued **BIRTH** from page 18)

devils, and especially the Angels of heaven, awaited her answer in the stillness of anticipation. When Mary said, **“Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to thy word,”** (Luke 1:38), when she said, “Yes,” the Angelic world rejoiced for at that instant the Messiah was conceived in the womb of the Ever Virgin Mary by the coming of the Holy Ghost and the overshadowing of the Most High.

This “overshadowing” is so mysterious that while we know this happened, we really have no idea as to what this “overshadowing” really and fully means.

Satan watched all these things in great anticipation, for he knew that with the coming of the Messiah his control over mankind would be broken. He wanted to kill the child before it was born, so from the beginning of his influence on mankind he taught mankind to have abortions, to kill as yet unborn children and offer them to himself on his altars, the altars of Baal. Satan instilled selfishness in kings and rulers, so that they opposed anyone who could possibly be a threat to their kingly power. Satan did not and to this day does not think of power as something to be used to benefit others - he thinks of it as something to be used to make the powerful feel powerful; something for the pleasure of the powerful.

So Satan followed the progress of the conception of Jesus Christ. When Satan saw Jesus being born in a manger, Satan could not reconcile such a humble birth as being proper for any manifestation of God. It just did not make sense to him.

But the Angels of Heaven knew this Child is God, the only-begotten Son of God, the Word Made Flesh, the Word by whom they themselves were created.

The Angels knew the fall of sin was at hand; that mankind was in the process of being redeemed; that evil was being conquered. This made all of heaven fill

with joy and happiness, for the will of God was being fulfilled, and mankind was being enabled to join its proper place.

In His birth in such a humble place, the Messiah told all of creation that power, authority, and ability exist to benefit, to do good, and not for the pleasure of the one wielding power, authority, and ability.

With this understanding of the coming of the Messiah we can comprehend the canticle which Zachary spoke at the birth of his son Saint John the Forerunner, the Baptist:

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: because he hath visited and wrought the redemption of his people. And hath raised up an horn of salvation to us, in the house of David his servant. As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, who are from the beginning. Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all that hate us. To perform mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy testament. The oath, which he swore to Abraham our father, that he would grant to us. That being delivered from the hand of our enemies, we may serve him without fear: In holiness and justice before him, all our days. (Luke 1:68)

Let us learn from our Saviour, and as He serves us, let us serve Him.

+



SATAN AND EVIL WIN A BATTLE WITH EVERY ABORTION

The Holy Innocents is the name given to the some fourteen thousand babies murdered by Herod in his attempt to kill Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout all of history, the murder of the Holy Innocents is one of the most blood thirsty and horrible events. But it is only an easily visible manifestation of the lust to inflict horrible death which evil has always manifested.

Throughout the history of the Jews, God constantly had His prophets tell the Jews to stop having abortions, and to stop forcing labor and then killing the just born babies on the altars of Baal. But the Jews paid God no heed, they did not obey Him, and they do not obey Him to this very day. But the Jews are not alone. So-called Christians have abortions in numbers so great as to make the doctors who kill the babies very rich. Ireland and Italy, two of the most Christian nations in the world, have recently legalized abortions. And in the United States, at least four million babies are killed by their mothers in abortion every year.

It is impossible to explain why people kill babies before they can be born. The horror is so great in killing the most defenseless in the most horrible manner possible, as to make it unimaginable. It sometimes seems that the only evil greater than abortion is the killing of Jesus and the refusal to honor and obey God - but then, an abortion is a refusal to honor and to obey God.

It is difficult to comprehend the evil that can kill, and even more difficult to comprehend the evil that kills a child or anyone who is unable to even attempt to protect themselves. It is impossible to comprehend the evil that kills children before they are even born.

Since the early days of the Church, The Holy Innocents have been honored

(Continued **THE HOLY INNOCENTS** on page

(Continued **THE HOLY INNOCENTS** page 19)
 immediately following the celebration of the Nativity, because they are so closely tied to the birth of Our Lord. They became martyrs because of His birth, and in these modern days it is still appropriate because the anniversary of legalization of abortion by the United States of America occurred on January twenty-second, immediately following the Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

When the United States of America made it legal to kill babies, the doors to this form of legalized murder were opened throughout the world. It is as though Adolph Hitler and the Nazis and the Fascists had won World War II and were continuing their reign of terror.

But it is very important to realize that legalization of abortion did not begin with the United States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade. It began with the legalization of the birth control pill, for the birth control pill works by causing an abortion - it works by not allowing the newly created baby to nestle in its mother's womb, forcing it to be expelled from its mother's body and die of starvation and exposure. The morning after pill makes no pretense of doing anything other than killing a baby.

With all this legalized, bloody, horrible, and torturous killing happening every day, is it difficult to understand why so many people have no respect for life? Most of the children of today are taught there is no need to respect the lives of babies, and that babies can be killed through abortion just because the mother wants to do it. With more than seven babies being killed every minute in the United States of America, the number of people killed in drive-by shootings, robberies, and other crimes, is small in comparison.

Until abortions are outlawed, with no exceptions, there will be no peace in this country. Nor will there be peace in any country which allows abortions, no matter what the reason for the abortion.

Always remember that when Christ was born, the angels sang a message God had given them to deliver to mankind. It was a blessing. In that blessing from God, the angels did not wish peace and good will to all men. They gave the blessing of peace, to men of good will.

Those who kill unborn babies, and who allow unborn babies to be killed, and those who do nothing to stop the killing of unborn babies, are not people of good will, and they will not receive the blessing of Divine Peace. But also remember that those who kill abortionists, are just as evil as the abortionist.

Let us always remember and honor The Holy Innocents of Our Lord's time, and the innocent victims of abortion which continues to our time. Let us do all we can to oppose this evil, and all we can to encourage the following God's law and will.

Ref: Apocalypse 14:1-5; Mat. 2:13-18

+



(Continued **MOSLEMS** from page 15)
 Some New Orleans police officers told these people they had best stop because if their actions became known by the people of New Orleans and the surrounding area the police would not be able to protect the Moslems from retribution by the non-Moslem population. It was only fear of terrible retribution by non-Moslems that brought the Moslem population of the New Orleans area to its senses. New Orleans was not the only place where this occurred, but in countries outside of the USA, the joyful celebrations by Moslems lasted hours, and even days. Christian USA is still waiting for Islamic religious leaders to condemn the September 11th terrorist acts.

If Moslems expect respect and acceptance from Christians, considering the world wide Islamic joy over the September 11th attacks, Islamic expectations are not reasonable.

Moslems (including those who are American citizens) often depict Americans (Christians) as being arrogant, rich, having stolen Moslem oil, being decadent, insulting, and deserving of every evil which has been or can be inflicted upon them.

Arrogance should not be confused with confidence.

Rich? Most Americans are not rich. But even the American poor often have a higher standard of living than the average Moslem in many parts of the world - but Americans also often have a higher standard of living than non-Moslems in those parts of the world. Non-Moslems are not trying to kill and enslave Americans. Non-Moslems generally would appreciate the opportunity to move to America and attempt to attain the "American dream". What is being expressed is envy. If those who do not have decent standard of living desire to live like Americans, then they should engage in governmental, societal, and personal endeavors which allowed America to

(Continued **MOSLEMS** on page 21)

(Continued **MOSLEMS** from page 20)

provide the opportunities which it provides.

Steal Moslem oil? Payment is made for every barrel, every drop. And most of the oil fields were developed by Christians - mainly British, Dutch, and French, not American. The amount paid for oil from Moslem (and Arab) areas is controlled by the sellers, not the purchasers.

Decadent? There is much decadence in America. But Christian Americans constantly fight against this decadence, not with bullets and bombs, but with ideas, persuasion, and most especially, with prayer. Even decadent Americans do not generally engage in or condone treating women as pleasure things and slaves for men - but Islam condones such practices. Even decadent Americans do not hope to obtain a sloe eyed, swelling breasts, self perpetuating virgin, and a little boy, and a mermaid, in heaven - but Muslim men do.

Insulting? Perhaps. Especially if just stating the facts, stating the truth, about what Islam does, propounds, and advocates is insulting. If Moslems do not like having the plain facts about Islamic beliefs stated in plain language, then Moslems are saying they want Christians to lie either by ignoring what the Koran states or by stating the Koran states something other than what it states. They are saying they want Christians to lie about what Moslem practices actually are, or to lie by ignoring what Moslem practices actually are.

Deserving of every evil which has been or can be inflicted upon them? Did the firemen who went into the WTC trying to save lives deserve to be killed? Did the janitors in the WTC deserve to be killed. Did the Moslems who died in the WTC deserve to be killed? Did their families deserve to have these people be killed. Did the English lady who spent thirty years in Iraq helping poor Moslems deserve to be tortured and killed? Not according to any reasonable

standards.

This is plain, non-diplomatic, communication. What Americans term "straight talk". During the 20th Century, Christian Americans have attempted to establish peaceful relations throughout the world. Often they have made mistakes, but they have attempted to rectify those mistakes. Taken as a whole, the record of Christians, and particularly that of American Christians, is one which is greatly on the side of peace, of allowing people to practice what ever religion they desire, of assisting people everywhere to live in a manner which they desire, of helping people in necessitous circumstances without regard to a anything except the existence of need, even without regard as to whether it is friend or foe who is in need.

The record of Moslem and Moslem religious leaders, is one totally opposite that of Christians, especially Christian America. It was Arab Moslems who supported Nazi Germany in World War II. It was Ottoman Empire Moslems and Turkish Moslems who raped and murdered their way through the Armenian Christian population, who had policies of exterminating the Assyrian Church. Today, in the Sudan, Moslem leaders wage a war of genocide against the Christians in that country.

Christian reasoning guesses there must be Moslems who desire peaceful co-existence with Christians without domination of those Christians. There are even words from some few Moslem religious leaders which indicate this may be a reality. But there are few or no actions by Moslem religious leaders, which support this concept.

Moslem religious leaders have a lot of house cleaning to do before Christian - Islamic relations can, **can**, improve.

+

CHRISTMAS AND KATRINA - RITA LOSSES

+ *Paul, S.S.B.*

Loss of material things and even loss of lifestyle and things familiar due to the hurricanes would be much more tolerable if they were not compounded by the loss of friends and relationships.

The loss of friends and relationships is so severe and extensive that it numbs the mind and emotions, and can even numb the soul.

We learn to live with relationships which are disrupted by death - even death due to these storms. But living with relationships which have been disrupted in the manner which they have been disrupted by these storms, and not by death, is a form of double death.

Nothing seems to come to mind which would be of use in reestablishing such relationships. Even if there are familiar people, places, and things, everything is different and there is an underlying level of discomfort with the difference. The loss of relationships in the midst of this discomfort can be somewhat stupefying as well as disheartening.

The only solace one can find is in Christ. The only solace one can find is Christ.

When we know and believe that our relationship with Christ, with God, with God's angels and saints, and with the Body of Christ on Earth - the Church - is one which we can control, one which we can make stable, then we have begun to grasp the only relationship which can not be damaged by a storm.

We should hope and pray, and do what we can to reestablish those other, lost relationships. And hang on to God.

+ *Paul, S.S.B.*

(Continued **KATRINA** from page 1)

Oil and gas production in the marshes and in the Gulf are supported by boats, barges, and pipelines. Channels and canals were dredged and forced into the marshes so that the boats and barges could get from place to place in a timely manner. This was also done so that pipelines could be laid. The canals and channels damaged the marshes and swamps along virtually all of the coast of Louisiana (From Mississippi to Texas), and also provided ready access for Gulf water to enter the marshes and swamps and all the land inland from the marshes and swamps. Gulf water, being salt water, kills all vegetation in marshes and swamps, allowing the soil to be away.

The marshes and swamps which surround New Orleans and of which Saint Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes are composed, and the offshore barrier islands, had therefore been heavily damaged by lack of silt deposits from the Mississippi River, and by intrusion of Gulf of Mexico salt water through the canals built to facilitate the needs of the oil and gas industry.

These marshes, swamps, and barrier islands act as buffers protecting that which is inland from the coast against hurricanes. Their weakening and destruction over the past one hundred years left everything inland from the coast more vulnerable - including New Orleans, and the sugar cane, rice, citrus, cattle and produce portions of Louisiana within fifty to one hundred miles of the coast.

Katrina's interior low pressure raised the level of the water within the eye of the hurricane to many feet above sea level. Waves inside the eye increased the height of the water. Thus a block (not a wall, but a block) of water which was "only" twenty feet high in some places and possibly as high as fifty feet in other places, came ashore at the speed at which the hurricane was traveling (not the speed of the winds - 150 MPH - but the speed at which the storm

was traveling across the water, 6 to 10 MPH). This block of water was possibly as thick as the interior of the storm, and stretched many miles along the coast (all of Mississippi and of Louisiana, and virtually from Alabama to Texas).

On the coast itself this block of water smashed everything in its path. As the block of water traveled inland, it broke up but remained strong enough to carry far inland almost everything it had inundated. Except for tree stumps and things rooted in the ground and things caught up in that debris, what was not carried inland was carried out to sea by the returning water.

In the New Orleans area, the water traveled up a shipping channel named The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (the MRGO), creating a block of water (not a wall, but a block) thirty feet high. The water spilled over the levees of the MRGO flooding Saint Bernard Parish and the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans on one side, and New Orleans East on the other side. The levees were around twelve feet high, so they were easily topped. As the block of water traveled through the MRGO it increased in speed since the water which was within the canal was compressed by the sides of the canal. This increase in speed strengthened the force of the water as it slammed into levees, houses, and people.

The water also came into Lake Pontchartrain, and thence into the Industrial Canal at one end of New Orleans, and into the Seventeenth Street Canal at the other end of New Orleans.

In the Industrial Canal the water overtopped the levees in some places, causing the levees to partially wash away on the land side of the levees as the water poured over the top of the levees, thus allowing a larger flow of water into the city and Saint Bernard Parish.

On the Seventeenth Canal the levees had been reinforced with steel sheeting which extended seventeen and a half feet into the ground. When the sheeting

was installed the canal was approximately nine feet in depth.

Also, the soil in some places under and near the canal, at about fifteen or twenty feet deep, is composed of sand, which allows water to seep around it, creating a wash when pressure is increased.

After the metal sheeting had been installed, the Orleans Parish Levee Board caused the canal to be dredged to a depth of approximately twenty feet, to increase the water flow out of the canal. This removed the clay bottom of the canal, allowing the water to more easily seep under the levees. It also made the depth of the canal lower than the sheet metal which had been placed in the levees to strengthen the levees. The water was now three feet deeper than the sheet metal.

The beach sand composition of part of the subsoil under and near the canal provided a path through which the water could and did percolate, providing a path for the water to flow into the City, destabilizing the surface and causing it to collapse thus providing another path for water to enter the city.

Annual inspections of the levees by Corps of Engineers officials and New Orleans Levee Board officials were more of a luncheon excuse. Indications of problems with the Seventeenth Street Canal levees, such as water seeping under the ground and into back yards, when reported by residents to officials, were investigated, and the water found not to be sewerage or drainage runoff from the streets, but salt water coming from Lake Pontchartrain into the canal. But nothing was done to further investigate the situation.

At the Seventeenth Street Canal, the water seeped under the levees, rupturing the ground underneath the levees causing them to collapse, and the water inundated the city from the side opposite where it had been inundated by the water which came in through the MRGO.

(Continued **KATRINA** on page 23)

(Continued **KATRINA** from page 22)

SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS:

OVER \$100,000,000.00, HAS BEEN COLLECTED by retired Presidents Bush and Clinton for hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief. An estimated six million to ten million people were directly effected by the hurricanes. FEMA and the SBA have not been as effective as they could have been in providing relief. The Churches, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other charitable organizations have been hard pressed in providing relief. Suggestion: **Give one million dollars of the over \$100,000,000.0, to each person effected by these two hurricanes** and let the recipients rebuild their lives with the assistance of that money. Do not have a means test for the distribution. Make the only qualification for receipt of the \$1,000,000.00, be that the recipient lived in the effected area at the time of either hurricane, even if they were away from the effected area at the time of either storm, or that the recipient was in the effected area at the time of either storm. The mayor gets a million and the mayor's spouse gets a million and each of the mayor's minor children living at home gets a million, as does the homeless guy living under the bridge, the radio announcer, you, your spouse, each of your children living at home even if they were away at school at the time of the storm, your mother, each news reporter and staffer even if only visiting to cover the storm, the ones who are already millionaires and the ones who are paupers and everyone in between. If someone died during or after either hurricane the money goes to their estate. The one million dollars should be tax free, totally exempt from income and all other taxes Federal, State, and local (except for inheritance taxes since exemption from inheritance taxes would be very difficult to track) - sales taxes will eat up the money fast enough.

The rich, powerful, political types, government, and various organizations will

still have over \$90,000,000.00, to split amongst themselves, while actually allowing those harmed by the storms to rebuild their lives.

SWAMP AND MARSH LANDS RESTORATION and FILLING IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET (MRGO) could receive significant assistance by using the U.S. Dredge Wheeler. According to a June 19, 2005, article by Adam Nossiterap in *The Advocate*, (a Baton Rouge, Louisiana newspaper), the Wheeler, owned by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the nations largest dredging ship, capable of sucking up 7,000 dump-truck loads of muck, silt, mud, and sand every day. But it is only allowed to work fifty-five days each year, so that the private dredge companies can obtain contracts to dredge the Mississippi River passes below New Orleans.

The MRGO is a canal dredged by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in the mid 1960's. It was to provide a shipping short cut from the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of New Orleans, but it never was used to any great extent. Over the years storms and the few ships which do use the MRGO have washed away the marsh and even the firm land on either side of the waterway, killing vast areas of marsh and swamp which once protected Saint Bernard Parish and the City of New Orleans from flooding and storm surge. The waterway regularly silts up and has to be dredged to maintain a useful depth. If it were not dredged, it would continue to provide a virtually straight path for storm surge from the Gulf of Mexico to Saint Bernard and New Orleans, for while it will silt, it will not silt closed. The waterway has widened from erosion, to more than twice its designed width.

During hurricane Katrina a thirty foot high wall of water from storm surge came up the MRGO, over topped the levees, flooding all of Saint Bernard Parish and a major portion of New Orleans which abuts Saint Bernard.

If the MRGO were closed, it is possible that some local shipping might have to be provided with alternate waterways, particularly shipping from the NASA Michoud facility, but it seems likely that such could be provided through a waterway named Bayou Michaud, and other portions of the Intracoastal Waterway (or modifications to the Industrial Canal). That can all be worked out.

Seven thousand dump truck loads of muck each day, dumped into the MRGO, and used to rebuild the marshes and swamps of Southern Louisiana, obviously will not by itself remediate the problems caused by wetlands loss and the MRGO. But projects such as this one could be used to rebuild the marsh and swamps of all of Southern Louisiana, Western Mississippi, and Eastern Texas. The U.S. Dredge Wheeler, is already crewed, ready to sail, and to work. But it is not and does not because the United States Congress is throwing money into the private sector - read graft, corruption, pork barrel, and situation normal.

THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF NEW ORLEANS is logically tied to its position as the port at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Agricultural commerce from the midlands of North America easily and logically flows on the River, as do certain mineral and manufactured products. Not only does New Orleans have its international port, one of the largest in the world. It also has excellent rail road and motor vehicle transportation systems (even though its local roads are in deplorable condition). It also has access to virtually unlimited water, and every type of energy (gas, electric, nuclear, etc.). These, combined with a labor force, and honest government, are the ingredients necessary for industry and manufacturing.

Unfortunately, New Orleans does not have good elementary and high school education systems. But it does have several universities and colleges, and the area supports a good industrial / technical education system. The labor force

(Continued **KATRINA** on page 24)

(Continued **KATRINA** from page 23)

required by manufacturing and industry is available, and can be supplemented through additional education of the existing labor force, as well as by importation of experienced or qualified labor.

Economic development therefore hinges on the honesty and integrity of the New Orleans and Louisiana government officials. New Orleans has an abundance of natural resources. It does not have an abundance of politicians who possess the qualifications required for economic development. Obtaining such politicians will depend on the will of its people . . . **Would it not make sense to have an engineer on the Orleans Parish Levee Board and the other levee boards in Louisiana?????**

OFFSHORE OIL REVENUE SHARING would provide a source of revenue which could be used to rebuild the environment destroyed by oil and gas exploration and development. Inland states receive as much as fifty percent of the tax revenue generated from oil and gas exploration, development, and production on federal lands within the state. This is to compensate the state for the roads, schools, infrastructure and services provided by the state and required as a result of the oil and gas related industries, and the maintenance of the roads and other infrastructure used by the industry.

Louisiana was offered fifty percent of such revenues from federal lands offshore production during the 1950's. Plaquemines Parish political leader Leander Perez used his political clout to have Louisiana reject the offer and to demand one hundred percent of the tax revenues. The matter was litigated in what came to be known as The Tidelands Dispute, with the result that all revenues were denied to Louisiana.

Currently those revenues are being used for numerous federal projects, from preservation of redwood forests in California to parks in New England. But Louisiana coastal preservation and

restoration receives nothing from those revenues.

Louisiana has been requesting federal assistance for coastal restoration and preservation since 1975. Those requests have been answered during the past two or three years, with nominal projects.

If Louisiana were to receive fifty percent of the revenues generated from oil and gas production in federal lands off of its own shores, and from the ports off of its own shores, it would have funding sufficient to provide for its own storm protection, and for preservation and rebuilding of its own wetlands and coast. Since fifty percent is what other states receive from comparable federal production, this proposal not only is reasonable, but proper and just.

ORGANIZED RESPONSE TO THE DAMAGE:

There is a weariness in the population which is far beyond that imposed through the trying times the people have experienced. It is a weariness of soul - there is very little joy in the population as a whole.

This is partially caused by the unsettled situations in which most of the population finds itself.

Many of the people and officials of Southern Mississippi and Louisiana outside of New Orleans almost immediately began attempting to clean up and rebuild, to do what they could to re-establish themselves and their communities. In some instances temporary plans were made, then changed as the situations changed or demanded. In other places the immediate needs were addressed, and then the immediate needs were addressed with contemplation of short range plans, and long range plans. People, organizations, and governing bodies *did* things and continue to do things.

But New Orleans waited and continues to wait for someone else to do something, and to tell it what to do.

Many individual citizens and government employees in New Orleans acted with courage, determination, and great success during the initial part of the crisis. And many continue to find innovative methods and means by which the City is enabled to function, to an extent. But city officials prevented and continue to prevent residents return, citing the lack of utilities and services. If a person is not allowed to even take a look at where he once lived, he has no means of knowing what he needs to do to continue or rebuild his life. By only allowing people who resided or worked in selected portions of the City to return and assess the damage, city officials have delayed assessment of what must be done to rebuild and rebuilding. The combination of waiting for someone else to do something, and preventing the return of its citizens and business owners thereby preventing their making a determination of what each needs to do or a decision as to whether or not they will return, will not be fatal to New Orleans because of its port. Economics will see to the survival of New Orleans as a port. But these delays will have a strong negative effect on the rebuilding and growth of the City.

NEW ORLEANS AND AREA FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS, COAST GUARD, NATIONAL GUARD, ETC.:

Every fire department in New Orleans and the surrounding area responded to the storms and flooding with heroism. There is no other word which is capable of describing their response. For many days, these fire departments, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and some police officers, were the only source of rescue to those trapped by the flooding. Their response along with that of civilian volunteers, and the Coast Guard, was heroic, saving tens of thousands of lives. The United States Navy had vessels near New Orleans, many of which vessels provided electricity, water, and fuel for rescue operations during the first weeks.

(Continued **KATRINA** on page 25)

(Continued **KATRINA** from page 24)

When FEMA threatened to take over selected retail outlets and prevent the populace from obtaining needed food, bottled water, and other necessities, Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee blocked FEMA's plans. Sheriff Lee is a multi term incumbent of Chinese ancestry much beloved in the supposed racially biased South Louisiana. His straight forward methods and policies had made him a favorite in his Parish. His saving Jefferson Parish and the surrounding area from being trampled by FEMA's thoughtless and harmful plans may have made him the most (and possibly only) popular elected official in Louisiana.

BUT IN NEW ORLEANS, THE POLICE CHIEF BROKE WITH REASON. Not only did New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass report that dozens of people were killed and raped in the Superdome (which did not happen), he also took no action against police officers filmed looting stores. Some two hundred plus New Orleans police officers deserted their posts during Katrina. Under Chief Compass, New Orleans residents who remained during the storms and whose homes had not flooded, or whose homes had flooded but not to the extent the residents had to leave, had police officers break into their homes, supported by National Guardsmen from different parts of the country, and the residents' arms (guns) confiscated by the police. In one instance a police officer body slammed a frail old lady who was showing officers her home protection hand gun at their request - something quite legal for her to own and very necessary even in pre-Katrina New Orleans. With the looting, and other crimes which spread throughout New Orleans and remained for several weeks, attempting to disarm the law abiding citizens was stupid.

The order to confiscate guns was not enforced against private security guards. So, if someone was rich, that rich person could hire a security guard, and obtain the protection which the police failed to provide. But is a person was

not rich, that person was expected to turn their only means of self protection over to police officers who possibly had been involved in looting, and who had been proven to be generally ineffective in maintaining law and order. It is reasonable to expect the police would have had difficulty in maintaining law and order. It was not reasonable to have the same police remove the citizen's only means of self protection.

In some towns around New Orleans, the police chiefs unofficially "deputized" the citizenry. In most areas outside of New Orleans, and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and in Southern Louisiana, residents "watched out" for each other, and in many places patrolled their neighborhoods all with the support of local law enforcement.

But not in New Orleans.

RACIAL HATRED INHIBITS RECOVERY: Not only are the elected and appointed New Orleans City officials still reacting instead of planning; some such officials, such as School Board members, appear to be concerned only with preserving their positions and political clout. This is indicative of the most severe problem the City has in its governance, which is overt racism. New Orleans suffers from severe racism - not just racism by Whites against Blacks, but by Blacks against Whites and other non-blacks.

There is a culture in New Orleans that views any attempt to better the community, and which also is any manner detrimental (not disparaging but detrimental) to any Black person, or causes any Black person to have to do something, anything, as being based in racism against Black persons in general and as being something which that black culture will not allow to happen. By way of example, this culture opposes testing children in school to determine the effectiveness of the schools for at least two reasons: First, it may indicate the teachers, most of whom are Black, are incompetent; Second, it may indicate a large portion of the student popu-

lation, most of which is Black, is not educated to the level at which it should be educated. This culture has demanded that high school seniors who do not pass their final exams, be allowed to attend and participate in high school graduation ceremonies, and to receive a paper that states the recipient has attended high school. This is so that the students who fail will not feel like failures since they will receive a piece of paper along with those who receive a diploma.

This culture is a culture of failure, incompetence, and immorality. The elements of failure and incompetence are obvious. The element of immorality may not be as obvious. It is a culture of immorality because it obscures the truth; the truth being that those who receive an attendance certificate are made to appear to be receiving a diploma - and that is a lie and a lie is immoral.

Some Black civic leaders have said they saw White people blowing up the Industrial Canal levee. Others have said White people bombed the Seventeenth Street Canal levee. Others have said Black people were left to die with no attempts to save Black people.

These are lies. The pictures, television coverage, and science of hydrodynamics, all make the lie of these accusations, just as the film footage and reports of hundreds of thousands of Allied troops make a liars of those who state the Holocaust of WWII did not happen.

But these lies by Black activists cause a backlash of disgust by Whites, and an inclination to just let the City of New Orleans rot.

These Black racists do not represent the majority of Black citizens of New Orleans. But just as in the past, White racists were perceived as being representative of all Southern Whites, so too are these Black racist perceived as being representative of all Blacks in New Orleans.

The decent White Southerners fought

(Continued **KATRINA** on page 26)

(Continued **KATRINA** from page 25)

against their misrepresentation and fought against racial discrimination and for racial equality and justice. Until Black New Orleanians (and people in general) do the same, they will be painted with the same brush as the Black racists.

This culture is pagan. While great numbers of the citizens of New Orleans profess to be Christians, often saying "Sweet Jesus", and "Amen", and some even attending a church with a Christian name, the city has lost its Christian foundation. A few years ago several Protestant "Christian" pastors lead a series of prayer services against crime where the main activity was to beat drums to seek the intervention of their deceased ancestors from Africa. Some black Roman Catholic priests allowed the drum beating to take place at their churches. In the second week of November, 2005, some faculty of Southern University in New Orleans and community leaders held a prayer service for the recovery of New Orleans - the prayer service being held before and around a "prayer pole" erected on their campus. A prayer pole, for those who are not aware, is a phallic symbol. Neither of these activities was Christian.

The culture of immorality is not second nature to New Orleans (not in New Orleans, but to New Orleans). It is the prime nature for a significant portion of the City. The City promotes homosexuality, sexual promiscuity and perversions, drunkenness, gluttony, gambling (called gaming to get around anti-gambling laws), outright paganism, and other excesses as a means of obtaining revenue from visitors and residents alike. This attitude of immorality continues into the operations of government and financing, where those dealing on a large scale with financial institutions, and those who desire to have dealings with government facilitated in any manner, are expected to pay. But public corruption is not the bane of the City of New Orleans and the State of

Louisiana. Immorality is is the bane of both City and State. AND IT IS COMMON TO ALL "RACES" AND ETHNIC GROUPS.

Elected and appointed officials in Louisiana continue to do everything possible to protect their individual turfs. In protecting their individual turfs they maintain their power, even though in many instances it is akin to being the biggest fish in a dried up pond. In protecting their individual turfs, the officials are leery of working together, because working together may weaken an official's power in his own bailiwick. So Louisiana does not speak with a unified voice. Louisiana does not have a unified policy of recovery. Louisiana simply does not have a recovery policy.

One of the effects of this is that New Orleans officials complained for two months, that FEMA was not supplying trailers and campers for the returning citizens. However, City officials had closed New Orleans to returning citizens - and had actually had issued an evacuation order prior to hurricane Katrina's landfall. When portions of New Orleans were reopened, so that citizens could return, New Orleans officials failed to issue written notice to FEMA, that the City was open for return of its citizens. Without official notice, which means written notice, FEMA could not release trailers and campers to the citizens for their use while rebuilding. The officials simply are not accustomed to working with anyone, nor with accepting advice from anyone. As a result, the citizens suffered and continue to suffer.

Another effect of this turf protection mentality is that Orleans parish public schools have not yet reopened, while those in Saint Bernard Parish have reopened. Many Orleans Parish (City of New Orleans) school facilities were not damaged by the hurricanes, yet none of those schools have reopened. All Saint Bernard Parish public schools were destroyed by the hurricanes, yet Saint Bernard Parish public schools have reopened, using an assortment of

mobile and temporary buildings, and the upper floors of the damaged school buildings. This does not mean that Saint Bernard Parish is immune to the "protect your turf" attitude which permeates Louisiana. But it does mean that the school and other Parish officials made a decision to fulfill their duties themselves, while Orleans Parish school and other officials have not, or are incapable of fulfilling their duties.

If it seems as though New Orleans is the seat of immorality, what is happening in Mississippi is equally immoral. Hispanic workers, many legal, some illegal, and many native born citizens of the USA, are having their wages stolen from them by their employers. Thousands of Hispanics came to New Orleans to obtain employment in the clean up activities. As of this time it appears they are being paid properly. But in Mississippi, many are not being paid at all, and others are being paid less than the agreed upon wages. The employers - contractors are just stealing the labor of these people and pocketing the money which should be paid to the workers as compensation for their labour. Civil litigation to obtain the wages due them by the laborers would take years, and even if the laborers win, stealing an employee's wages (called withholding wages) is not a crime in Mississippi.

FEMA's response was totally inadequate. It continues to be totally inadequate. It was inadequate last year in Florida, has been inadequate in the past, and will continue to be inadequate. While there are many people who work for FEMA who attempt to and some who do perform their duties, the vast majority of FEMA employees seem to be doing nothing more than occasionally putting in their time and collecting a pay check. There are thousands of FEMA trailers waiting to be distributed to victims of Florida's hurricanes of last year, while the victims live in automobiles and in tents where their homes once stood. And there are thousands of FEMA trailers waiting to be distributed

(Continued **KATRINA** on page 27)

(Continued **KATRINA** from page 26)

to victims of Katrina and Rita who are living under the same conditions.

FEMA distributes flood insurance proceeds. It did not even realize it was running out of money, or if it did, it did not request additional funding from Congress until the money was virtually gone.

It is possible that if FEMA retained its employees who actually work, and fired those who do not, it would have fewer than one hundred employees - and only one of them would be in management. That one is the man from FEMA (name forgotten) who went to New Orleans and stayed during Katrina, sending e-mail and other messages to the head of FEMA requesting specific assistance, while the head of FEMA worried how he looked in his suit as he planned dinner.

The stricken area should look only to itself for assistance, because FEMA's track record indicates it will be of assistance only insofar as it operates through the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS dropped the ball in construction and maintaining New Orleans levees. But it has been doing a reasonable job in debris removal and coordination of debris removal. The sheer mass of material which must be removed is beyond the ability of anyone to comprehend. Apparently the Corps has focused on clearing those areas which can most rapidly return to some level of function, and then it will focus on those areas which can not quickly return to functionality. Thus, the inland portions of the Gulf Coast are being cleared while the coastal areas have not. The more heavily damaged areas of New Orleans and its SMSA are only now being cleared, because the Corps focused on clearing the areas which could be quickly brought back. This is logical because the more heavily damaged areas can be served by the more lightly damaged areas.

SOME EFFECTS ON THE POPULATION:

While they attempt to work, or find employment, shelter, and the necessities of life, much of the population remains in severe shock. Even those who have employment and the necessities of life, and even those with little or no damage or adverse economic effect, **are also in shock.**

Destruction of this magnitude has never before been experienced in the United States of America.

Some cope with the situation by doing whatever they can.

But some, because of training, habit, selfishness, lack of morals and moral fiber, or other reasons, expect others to take care of the situation for them. When these people do not receive the kind of assistance they deem to be appropriate, they often lash out or attack those whom they consider to have been deficient in providing what ever is needed or perceived as being needed. These selfish individuals have caused more harm in the breakup of relationships and families, than have the destruction of houses, businesses, employment, and deaths directly caused by the hurricanes.

While some scheme to profit by the effects of the hurricanes, others focus on taking care of what must be done. Some seem to have lost their faith, and others seem to just be having their faith tried to an extreme. But some few seem to have had their faith strengthened, whether they have suffered loss or not.

When your world has fallen apart, it is easy to despair, and it is easy to be strengthened in faith and to shake off despair. What is not easy is to overcome the shock.

Even the strongest faith, most viable hope, devout love, and the strongest Agape Love (Charity) will not mitigate the shock of what has happened, nor should they. But a viable participation

in Christ through His Church will assist one to deal with the shock in a workable manner. In fact, this is the only means any person has by which the shock can be managed, dealt with, or otherwise viably handled.

Will the areas destroyed by the hurricanes recover?

Yes, they will materially recover.

But their spiritual recovery is much more important.

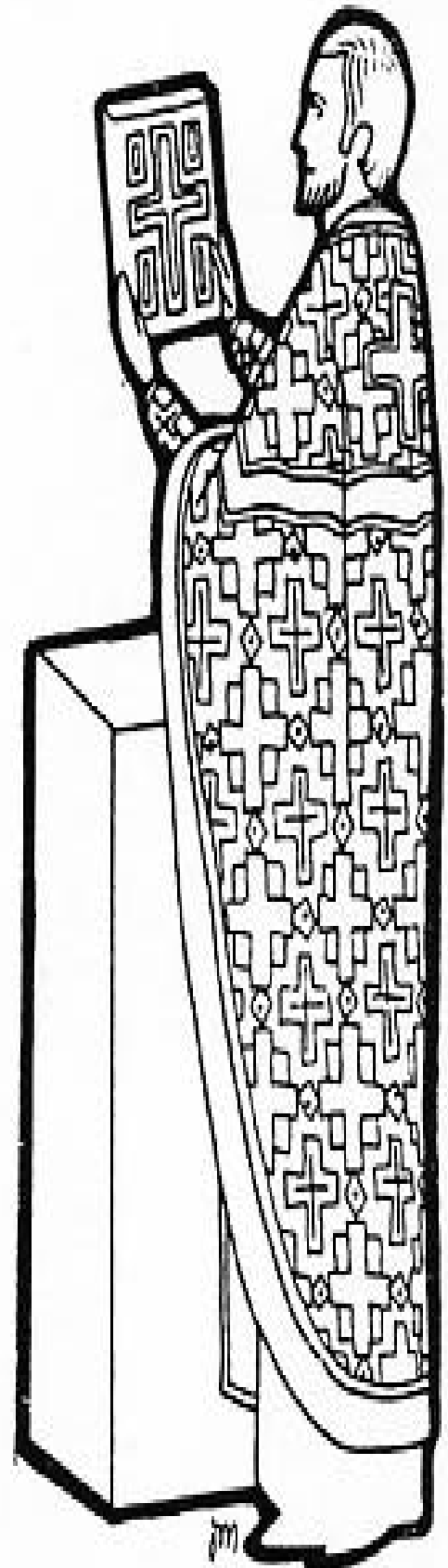
Their spiritual recovery requires the populations establish morality - not legal or social ethics, but morality, which is established by God. It requires the populations not attempt to modify the morality established by God, but follow it as established by God.

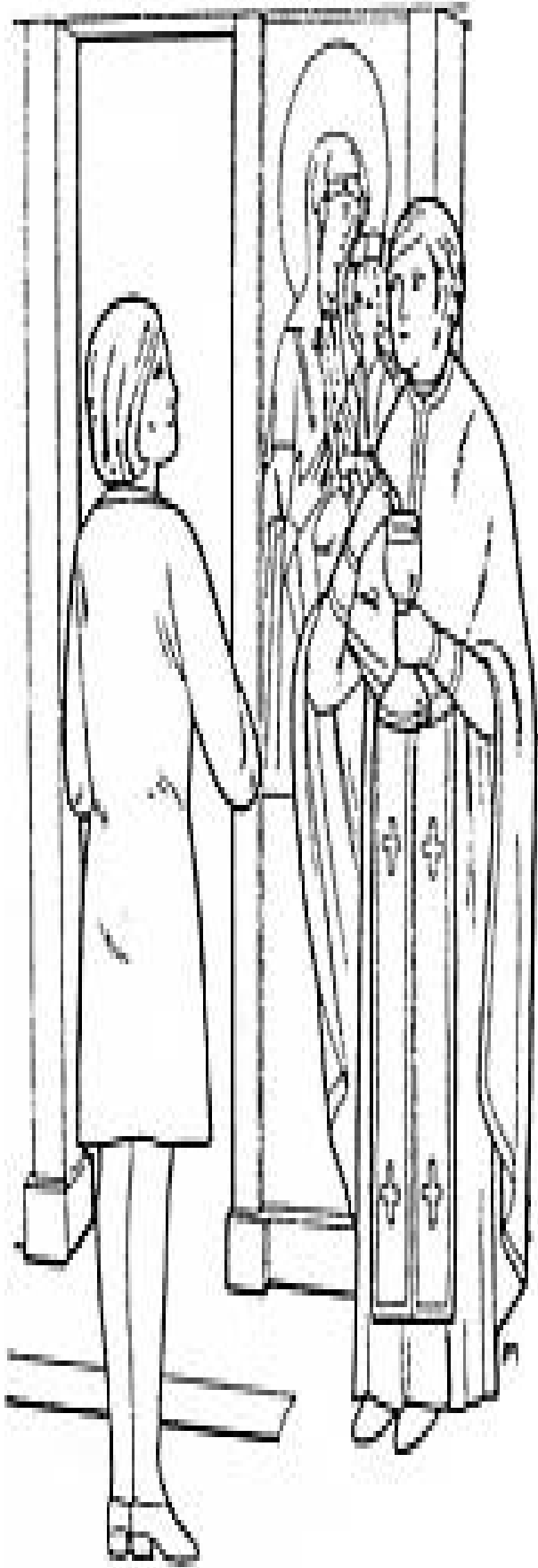
Since the Mississippi Gulf Coast has modified its gambling casino laws so that the casinos no longer must be structures which float on barges, but can now be established on land, it is obvious Mississippi values money more than Godliness.

Since Louisiana continues its corrupt government practices, and New Orleans focuses on tourism based on tourist being able to engage in every form of immorality known to mankind, and its civic leaders and educators openly worship the symbol of the male sex organ, it is obvious the official policy of Louisiana and New Orleans government and civic leaders is Godlessness.



+ **Paul, S.S.B.**







(Continued CONTENTS from page 32)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ISRAEL IF IT DOES NOT MEND RELATIONS WITH ITS NON-JEWISH POPULATION AND THE NON-JEWS IN LANDS IT CONTROLS? AND IF IT DOES? From Jeremias Page 12

PRODUCTS REQUEST FORM Page 13

CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH Do not be concerned how others celebrate Christmas, how they celebrate the birth of Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Concern yourselves with celebrating His birth, and pray for those who attempt to deny Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. It is by our living as Christians that we will help them to be converted to Christianity. Page 15

ANTICIPATION OF WHAT IS TO COME *To thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul. In thee, O my God, I put my trust; let me not be ashamed. Neither let my enemies laugh at me: for none of them that wait on thee shall be confounded. Shew, O Lord, thy ways to me, and teach me thy paths.* Advent is the time during which we anticipate the birth of Our Lord, His coming to teach all mankind, His taking on of human nature while retaining His Divine Nature. In our very anticipation we begin to make ourselves ready to fulfill our salvation, for we seek salvation and anticipate its requirements and attempt to fulfill its requirements in that anticipation. Page 16

WHICH WORLD IS YOUR FOCUS? HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE ANSWER GOD MAKES TO YOUR PRAYERS? *Hear our prayers, O Lord, and enlighten the darkness of our minds by your coming on earth: Ps 79:2,3,2 Thou that sittest upon the cherubims, shine forth. Give ear, O thou that rulest Israel: thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep. Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses. Stir up thy might, and come to save us.* This is what was prayed, and it also is what happened. God came and

saved us. Page 17

LEARN FROM THE SAINTS IN WAYS YOU NEVER ANTICIPATED All of creation had looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Saviour of all the world - even Satan awaited His coming, but for reasons different from those of mankind. Very few people knew what the Messiah would really do, or why He was really coming. And while everyone knew it was the most important thing which would occur in the history of mankind, very few people contemplated His coming to any extent. Page 17

THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH IN US ALL Before the creation of anything there was God, whole and complete in and of Himself; the Trinity of three Persons yet One; the One God. There was no time, no darkness, no light, no matter, no energy, no material things, nothing visible, and nothing invisible - only God, The Trinity of Three Persons yet only one God. God willed His Son to be manifested - we can not say "Then God willed His Son to be manifested," for there was not yet time, it had not yet been created; the concept of time had not yet been implanted in the minds of creatures for there were no creatures, only God. And God created the spiritual and the physical world through His Son. Page 18

SATAN AND EVIL WIN A BATTLE WITH EVERY ABORTION The Holy Innocents is the name given to the some fourteen thousand babies murdered by Herod in his attempt to kill Our Lord Jesus Christ. Page 19

+



CONTENTS

TOPIC/TITLE

Page

CHRISTMAS AND KATRINA - RITA LOSSES + Paul, S.S.B. Loss of material things and even loss of lifestyle and things familiar due to the hurricanes would be much more tolerable if they were not compounded by the loss of friends and relationships. Page 21

~ **HURRICANE KATRINA (and RITA) ~ From Metropolitan Archbishop Paul, S.S.B. To the flock entrusted into my care:** We all know hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage in every State of the United States of America which borders the Gulf of Mexico. Mississippi, Louisiana, and Eastern Texas were the hardest hit. Page 1

MARY AWAITED THE MESSIAH AS THE PERFECT CREATED HOST FOR PERFECTION The Ever Virgin Mary was the perfect vessel for The Eternally Begotten Son of God the

Father, to take and combine total human nature into Himself so that He has both the Divine Nature and human nature, Divine Will, and human will. Upon being requested by God, she freely accepted being the mother of God. Her perfection was dependent upon the perfection she was to bear, the perfection to which she was to give birth. Page 1

WITHOUT GOD'S SON, WITHOUT MARY'S SON It can not be that God is the God of some people and not the God of others, for He is the only creator, the only God, and therefore the God of all. Page 1

THE FORGOTTEN STAR, THE FORGOTTEN FATHER How short are our memories when it comes to things of God? Very short. Saint John the Forerunner was asked if he was the Christ, and he answered that he was not, that he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord. Page 1

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM CHRIST'S COMING What should we

expect from Christ's coming, be it His birth which has come, or His teaching, which has come, or His second coming, which is yet to come? Page 1

PUBLICATION NOTICE Page 2

LETTERS Page 2

WORLD WIDE WEB: Page 2

THE BASILIAN FATHERS (The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil) NEWS AND CONVERSATIONS From Archbishop Paul, S.S.B. :HYURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA; ANTIMINS; FATHER DCN. DISMAS, S.S.B.; GUATEMALA Page 4

MUSLIMS MUST PROVE THEMSELVES Christians have proven themselves to be decent. Muslims must also prove themselves to be decent. Page 9

CHILDREN'S PAGE: BIBLE HISTORY FOR CHILDREN; The Orthodox - Basilian Catechism Page 10

(Continued CONTENTS on page 31)

REUNION

311 Hickory Avenue
Harahan, Louisiana 70123
U.S.A.



FIRST CLASS MAIL