

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:
September 1-2, 2018

Donation Envelopes to our **HVAC (heating and cooling) System Replacement Project** can be found at all entrances to our Co-Cathedral church. Copies of my Appeal Letter are posted in the Bulletin Board at all entrances of our church for those who missed my personal appeal. Please use the envelopes for your donations. *Merci beau coup!* The Asbestos Abatement work in our church basement is done and the initial work of our HVAC Project has begun. As I've mentioned in last weekend's Bulletin, we are done with **Phase I** of the project which is the removal the old small Generac Generator and Boiler, and last week **Phase II** -- the Asbestos Abatement -- was completed. We should be starting **Phase III** of this project which is preparing one side of the crawl space (below the church) with new duct work and the installation of the 1st set of new units. This project is moving along well.

Many **thanks** for keeping the priests of our diocese in your prayers this past week as we all gathered at Lumen Christi for our 3rd Convocation of Houma-Thibodaux Priests (August 27 to 29th). I will share with y'all an update on the Strategic Plan "Programs" and how it will apply to us later on.

Please keep Deacon Joe and all our permanent deacons and their wives in your prayers next weekend (September 7-9) as they go for their Annual Permanent Deacon (and Wives) Retreat at Lumen Christi. May the good Lord continue to inspire them all to be always at the service of God and His Church. We also ask for your continued prayers for Deacon Ambrose. Thanks!

My introduction to Canon Law (the laws of the Roman Catholic Church binding the Latin Rite throughout the world) began with a conversation I had in 1988 with Msgr. Bill Koninkx, one of my esteemed mentors and one of the "founding fathers" of our diocese. In explaining the function of the "law," the good Monsignor told me: "Remember Vic, *salus animarum suprema lex Ecclesia*" (meaning: "the salvation of the soul is the supreme law of the Church"), from canon 1752, the last canon of the Code of Canon Law. And it is; the Scriptures this weekend say so.

My studies and work in the field of canon law for the last 24 years of my 28 years of priesthood had been to

interpret this mandate of the Church to all of us (canonists and priests) that she received from Jesus Christ, Himself. I find that many of us canonists who really have been trained under the inspiration of *mens legislator* ("the mind of the legislator," i.e. the Holy Father), have been trying to interpret the laws of the Church with pastoral zeal than legal rigidity. However, I cannot say that about all especially those who do not understand the law or have forgotten the precepts of the Lord.

In introducing the commandments of the Lord in the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses told ALL of Israel the **spirit of the Law** that what would make them "a great nation" and a "truly wise and intelligent people" is their faithful adherence and loving observance of God's laws. Sadly though, throughout the centuries up to the time of Jesus, Israelites have forgotten the "spirit" and simply interpreted "the law!" Their lives and faith were simply obeying the laws devoid of God's Spirit. Such was their case that when Jesus tried to bring the "Spirit" back to their "laws," the so-called keepers of the law (Pharisees) criticized Him (Gospel of Mark); of them Jesus quoted the Prophet Isaiah: "*This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.*" And He continued to say, "*You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition.*" Ouch!

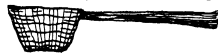
Once the "Spirit" is removed or forgotten in the observance of anything (laws, doctrines, rules, teachings, guidelines, etc.), then its purpose is lost including the "soul." Laws, guidelines, policies, rules, etc. are needed to maintain order the goal of which is the good (or common good) of person/s. The good of individual or many is what saves us from chaos and destruction. This was the intent (or spirit) of the law and many other things similar to it. Before anyone can interpret any law, that person must first know the "spirit" whence it came from. Here, the Letter of St. James reminds us: "*Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.*" Always keep in mind, before the law was given, the Spirit spoke first!

Father Vic+

August 18th/19th

Weekly Collection	\$ 10,536.50
Weekly Loose	1,748.57
ACH Monthly	4,217.00
ACH Weekly	335.00
	\$ 16,837.07

Assumption \$2,341.93

Weekly Offering

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Our Sunday Bulletin is supported by the advertisers who are listed on our back page. What better way to say THANK YOU than to remember them the next time you go shopping.

Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer for Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude; you are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a storm less eternity awaits us. Amen

C.E.N.T.S.

C.E.N.T.S. will be offering the Small Business Course beginning in September, 2018 through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. This course is designed to help people who are interested in starting a small business. It will be held one evening a week for six weeks. There is a \$20 fee associated with this course. Anyone who is interested in participating, please call 876-0490 to register.

Hospital Ministry

If you or your family member of our church parish is in the hospital, please call the office at 446-1387 to inform us.

Missalettes

September 2nd-8th, 2018
Donated In Memory of



Warren & Doris Mae Ledet

By: Connie & Barry Ledet

CURSILLO MASS

All are welcome to the
Houma-Thibodaux Diocese
Cursillos in Christianity Movement's
ANNUAL BISHOP'S MASS
Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 PM
St. Gregory Barbarigo Catholic Church
1005 Williams Ave. Houma, La

**If you have questions about Medicare,
Humana can help.**

Medicare Educational Workshop
St. Luke's Community Center
300 East 11th Street
Wednesday, Sept. 5
10:00 AM

Here you can ask questions and learn about your Medicare options. You can even bring your friends. If you're newly eligible for Medicare or will soon be turning 65, please join us and let us help simplify Medicare for you.

Wedding Banns

Kaitlyn Blanchard & Matthew Glover (3)
Elizabeth Roques & Spencer Constant (1)

**Boy Scouts Pack 330
Popcorn Sale**

The boy scouts will be having a popcorn sale after all masses on the weekend of September 15th/16th

Thank you for your support!

**Altar Servers**

Calling all who would like to SERVE!!!

Must have received their First Communion and is in third grade or above.

If you are interested, please contact
Mr. Richard Lasseigne, III at (985) 413-8708 or at
stjoaltermass@ gmail.com

**Training will take place on
Saturday, September 15th
9:00 AM
in Church**