

PASTOR'S COLUMN

St. Francis Parish is going to the Theatre on January 18

God created human beings for union and happiness with God. Sin threw a wrecking ball into God's plan, unleashing disunity, division and unhappiness in the world and in our relationship with God. God's plan to restore human communion and happiness involved Jesus becoming human. We will celebrate that great event at Christmas in two and a half weeks.

Ever wondered what the original state of communion and happiness with God was like, why humans ruptured it in the first place, and why God didn't give up on us when we did? Those questions are the subject of a wonderful musical production, "Garden," the story of Adam, Eve, God and Satan in the Garden of Eden. Based on Scripture and the teachings of St. John Paul II, the musical was written by a seminarian in collaboration with a talented team of musicians. I had the opportunity to attend the opening night of the musical a year ago and was blown away by the story, the theology and the artistry of the production. It made me think, pray, emote and laugh. I wanted to see "Garden" a second time but all the other performances were sold out.

Good news! "Garden" is back and will be performed on January 17-20, 2019 at Ursuline Academy Auditorium, 2635 State St., New Orleans. Fr. Thien and I plan to attend the 7:30 pm show on Friday evening, January 18. We have decided to have a "St. Francis Parish goes to the Theatre" night to see "Garden" that evening. Tickets for the show are \$45 each. If you would like to attend "Garden" with us, bring a check payable to "St. Francis Church" (memo: Garden Tickets) to our Parish Office by Friday, December 14. We will purchase the tickets next weekend and figure out, at a later date, transportation needs.

There is a flyer in this bulletin advertising a special matinee performance of "Garden" for school children. The flyer gives a summary of the show. Basically, "Garden" depicts the friendship between God, Adam and the animals in the Garden of Eden; the sense of incompleteness on Adam's part; the creation of Eve by God; the courtship and marriage of Adam and Eve; the hatred of the Devil for God and humans; the temptations and lies the Devil concocts to do in Adam and Eve; the sin of Adam and Eve; God's refusal to give up on Adam and Eve; and the revelation of God's plan of redemption. As I write this column, I am smiling at various scenes and songs from the musical that are playing in my head.

Join us for an evening of fellowship, faith and good theatre on January 18. Come see what necessitated Christmas in the first place. Come see "Garden."

God bless,

Fr. Joe