



# Louisiana Interchurch Conference

*E-Newsletter* April 29, 2016

*“To live the faith we hold in common”*

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*Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'* (John 20:21-22)

As I have done so for many years, so just a week ago I attended the annual gathering of many involved in ecumenical ministry called the National Workshop on Christian Unity. This year we met at a familiar landmark and downtown treasure of Louisville, Kentucky, called the Galt Hotel. We were also gathering with what seemed like thousands of high schoolers from around the Bluegrass State who came to compete for prizes and scholarships in business and economics. These young people were a real inspiration as they were preparing to begin their careers while many of us were old timers seeking renewal.

The seminars are always timely and well done, and there are usually a few locally sponsored. This year an excellent presentation was made by a Merton Scholar, Dr. Paul Pearson, doing a comparison between the teachings of Pope Francis and Thomas Merton on the topic of **Apostles of Mercy**. Before his death Thomas Merton spent a number of years at the Abbey of Gethsemani not far from Louisville. Our Bible Study leader this year was the Rev. Dr. James Forbes who was for 17 years the Pastor of The Riverside Church, New York City. Dr. Forbes during the first Bible study shared with us his

experience becoming the first Black Pastor of this esteemed Church on the upper Westside of New York City alongside the campus of Columbia University. His personal stories of experiencing racism and other abuse set the stage for casting his vision of a church seeking unity as it strives to serve as a spiritual instrument for the Healing of the Nations.

This popular and venerable Preacher struck a resonant chord with everyone, I think, as he described our Workshop as one of those times when all of us want to get away; to get charged and refreshed, to come back and be renewed; and, hopefully, find something or some inspiration that will help us bear fruit in our work once we return home. That's why we come year after year. That's why many of us year after year gather in a place that is home to few of us. We share, commiserate, learn, and become inspired and renewed. That is always the hope. And once again we were not let down. The Preacher sent us away on a mission to join others in the Healing of the Nations and to find the unity that comes with justice and peace.

Of course, the Holy Spirit was with us, the Spirit of the Lord was breathed upon us. In just a matter of days the Church under many banners will celebrate Pentecost Day. People will come to their local churches. Some will be tired from their struggles, some will be searching for confirmation of their intentions and thoughts, and all will be sent forth. In this meeting with God, in this Holy Gathering we pray the Spirit will be breathed upon us, blown over us and send us out to share the love of Christ, to witness to justice and mercy and to proclaim the Peace of the lord. Amen!

Rev. Dan Krutz

### *Prayer Request and a Special Recognition*

***Rob Gorman, Chair of the Louisiana Bread or Stones Campaign, and Region 8 Coordinator.*** Rob has been having difficulties with his eyesight. He's consulting with doctors and undergoing tests. We pray for his healing.



Robert Gorman,  
LCSW, ACSW

On a happier note, we'd also like to congratulate Rob...

Story Source: Bayou Catholic Magazine:

Robert D. Gorman has been named 2016 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter. This award honors a member who exemplifies the best of the profession's values and achievements through specific accomplishments. A candidate for this award must make a demonstrable difference in areas such as advocacy for clients, impact on social policy, exceptional practice, program creation, administration development and more. Rob has been involved in and/or initiated numerous community service activities/organizations through the years and most recently is chairing the Bread or Stones Campaign focusing on practical improvements in many aspects affecting the well-being of children in Louisiana.

## *Congrats to Rev. Susan Lassalle*

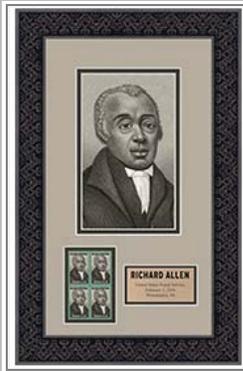
We offer congratulations to Rev. Susan Lassalle on her installation of April 17th as the Senior Pastor at Little Farms United Church of Christ in River Ridge, LA (about 30 minutes west of New Orleans.)

Rev. Susan Lassalle has been a longtime friend of the LIC, at one time serving as a Board member and Faith and Order Commission member, and then still attending LIC functions through her role with Church World Service before returning to full-time pastoring.



*Little Farms UCC in River Ridge*

## *A new plaque on the wall at LIC*



Last month we had told you of the participation of some LIC members in the unveiling and associated ceremonies involved around the issuance of the Forever Stamp honoring the Rev. Richard Allen. Fr. Dan Krutz, the Executive Director of the LIC, purchased a plaque commemorating this and has generously donated it to the LIC, where it proudly hangs on the wall in the Baton Rouge office.

Rev. Richard Allen was the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

## *April is Genocide Awareness Month*

April is Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. Genocide, mass atrocities, and crimes against humanity are often linked to kleptocrats fomenting violence in nations they are supposed to lead.

**What can you do?** Pray, and encourage legislation that discourages finance, trade or support for governments who perpetrate such crimes. And remember those who suffer from the effects of racism all around the world – just because ‘they look different’ from someone else, while tyrants take advantage of such attitudes.

## *May 5th – National Day of Prayer*

A special day to pray for our Nation...

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for our nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Since its inception, this day has continually united Americans



from all socio-economic, political, and ethnic backgrounds in prayer while also encouraging personal repentance and righteousness in the culture. The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans and is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens to celebrate our most beloved freedom; the freedom to humbly come before God and seek His guidance in prayer.

The Theme for 2016 is **Wake Up America** and is based on Isaiah 58:1

### Children's Sabbath at Your Church in May



The members of the LIC Bread or Stones Commission encourage you to hold a Children's Sabbath at your church sometime in May -- a day set aside in special remembrance and prayer for the needs of our children.

The LIC website has printable Litanies for Louisiana and several other area states, as well as many other resources available at: <http://www.lainterchurch.org/BreadOrStones-ChildrenAndPovertyInLouisiana.htm>.

We also encourage you to use and remember the Bread or Stones Prayer:

*Most gracious heavenly Father, you give us all good gifts, loving us each as your own. We thank you for calling us into families and blessing us with the joy and care of children. Help us especially to remember that every child in Louisiana is one of your own and that you have called us to care for and protect your children following the example of your Only Son, Jesus.*

*Raise up among us prophetic voices to proclaim your justice on behalf of the children of Louisiana. Strengthen our resolve to ensure that children receive the food, education, health care, and opportunity they need for growth and the fulfillment of the lives they deserve.*

*Bless the work of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference and the Bread or Stones Campaign that seeks to remove poverty and other barriers to a child's well-being.*

*Finally, let us be unwavering in our commitment to improve the lives of all of your children, for by serving them we serve you most tenderly. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls us to become as children that we too may enter into your kingdom. Amen.*

[Click here for a printable copy of this Bread or Stones Prayer](#)

### Relocation grant for a bayou Indian tribe



The tiny Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribe has called the coastal marshlands of southern Louisiana home ever since their ancestors settled there to avoid forced relocation under the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

But a potent combination of accelerating sea level rise, salt water intrusion and subsidence of the land has caused devastating erosion and flooding, and this has been exacerbated further by regional oil and gas development and the shipping industry.

As the waters swallowed Isle de Jean Charles decade by decade, the tribe reluctantly began to face the possibility of another relocation. In 2000, they began drafting a plan to resettle on the mainland, in a location that would offer protection from hurricanes and flooding yet allow them to maintain their cultural identity, including access to traditional fishing and agriculture. The plan doesn't force anyone to leave the island. Some residents say they won't go, although it's unclear how much longer their homes will remain standing before the water completely consumes the land.

In January of this year, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$48m for a resettlement plan, part of an initiative to help communities stricken by natural disasters. It makes Isle de Jean Charles one of the first communities in the lower 48 states to undertake a complete relocation due to climate change. HUD, the state and the tribe hope the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw plan will become a model for other tribes and communities facing imminent climate threats. The Rev. Kris Peterson of the Presbytery of South Louisiana and Pastor at Presbyterian Church of Bayou Blue wrote the grant that has led to the resettlement plan. She along with her husband, the Rev. Dick Krajewski, has consulted with the LIC in numerous capacities including the Commission on the Stewardship of the Environment, and we congratulate her on her continued efforts to assist the Indian Tribes and other residents along the Louisiana coast! (Additional information can be found at [www.coastalresettlement.org](http://www.coastalresettlement.org).)

### *What's in your shoe?*



Fr. Dan Krutz (LIC Executive Director) and his son, Morgan, had a surprise on the morning of April 13th. Morgan felt something wiggling in his shoe when he went to put it on. It was a Baby Opossum! (Fr. Dan at first thought it might be a baby raccoon until he was informed otherwise.) Perhaps something the cat brought in through the trap door?

The little one is in a trash bag in this picture, on his way to a temporary home at LSU – where he'll eventually be turned loose in the wild. ☺

### *Offering thanks to our recent contributors*

Approximately 90% of our operating income comes from Judicatories. Their faithfulness in prayer and financial support is always appreciated. Additionally, we offer our sincere thanks to our ministry partners who have contributed as listed below.

*While we don't have any non-Judicatory contributions to report from March 25, 2016 through April 28, 2016, we do want to offer recognition for the following contributions:*

Endowment Fund Contributor: Anna Ham (contributed via PayPal in February, but not listed previously as it was posted in March on our books). Thank you!

For those who gave at the March 7th Annual Assembly Worship Service. Last month we told you the offering was just over a Thousand Dollars! While this included many anonymous cash contributors, we do have records from those who used envelopes or checks and we'd like to list those kind contributors: Aaron Washington; Chris Cooksey; Rev. Barbara Driscoll; Marie Ducote-Comeaux; Rev. Stanley Larson; Dr. Curley White; Catherine Townsend; Rev. Denise Anders-Modest; Marilyn Donald; Rev. Nancy Andrews; Hugh Straub; and Robert Gorman.

*Thank you all!*

Please pray for this ecumenical ministry. If you would like to help financially, please mail contributions to: Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 N. Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or contribute online via PayPal at

<http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm>.

### *Additional dates to calendar*

**Workers Memorial Day:** April 28, 2016. More than 4,000 people die on the job each year in the United States. That's eleven people each day; many occur from avoidable accidents.

**Yom HaShoah** May 4, 2016

**Yom HaZikaron laShoah ve-laG'vurah** (יּוֹם הַזִּכְרוֹן לַשּׁוֹאָה וְלַגִּבּוּר; "Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day"), known colloquially in Israel and abroad as **Yom HaShoah** (יּוֹם הַשּׁוֹאָה) and in English as **Holocaust Remembrance Day**, or **Holocaust Day**, is observed as Israel's day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust .

National Council of the Churches of *Christ* in the USA **Christian Unity Gathering:** Double Tree Hotel - Baltimore-BWI Airport, May 4-7, 2016.

**Day of Pentecost:** This year the Day of Pentecost falls on May 15, 2016. May you be open to the Holy Spirit!

### *Upcoming Board Meeting Dates*

#### **Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

2017		March 6-7, Monroe
2018		March 5-6, Baton Rouge

#### **Fall Board meeting dates:**

2016		Sept. 26-27, New Orleans
2017		Sept. 25-26, Alexandria
2018		Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles

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*Louisiana Interchurch Conference*

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*(225) 344-0134 [www.lainterchurch.org](http://www.lainterchurch.org)*

*President: The Rev. Dr. C. S. Gordon, Jr.; President Elect: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca;*

*Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*

You are receiving this message because you have previously expressed interest in the work of Louisiana Interchurch Conference. ***We hope you enjoy our newsletter!*** However, if you'd like to discontinue receiving this e-newsletter, please [click here](#) or call us at: (225) 344-0134.