



Louisiana Interchurch Conference

E-Newsletter Aug. 26, 2016

“To live the faith we hold in common”

More than 28 parishes are affected by the flooding, with 20 of those parishes being declared federal disaster areas thus far.



More than 119,000 families/individuals have registered for federal disaster aid after Louisiana's devastating flooding.

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The Stories We'll Tell

Article from our Director

The Great Flood of 2016 will provide many stories to share for generations to come. Last week I offered Communion at a local Retirement Home with the flooding of Baton Rouge and South Louisiana on our minds. In my homily I referenced the passage in Exodus of God's deliverance of Israel when Moses stretched out his hand, the waters parted, and the people walked across the Red sea on dry land to freedom! In sharing the evacuation from my home on the Sunday afternoon of recent flooding, I told the residents, "Well, God didn't part the waters, but God did send the Cajun Navy to save us!" As it turns out we were able to return to our home and discover that we were "high and dry." On Sunday at Church I shared that God provided a boat to save our family, and a lady quickly piped up, "Well, for us a boat was not big enough; we needed an ark!"

Yes, there are those stories that we will remember and share again and again. For people we haven't seen since the flooding, we might ask, "How did you fare?" or "Did you flood?" or, even, "Were you high and dry?" From there the stories begin. In my neighborhood of Baton Rouge most of us could walk our pets through our habitual paths in short order. Now, neighbors stop, talk with one another and share their experiences. Getting to know my neighbors in a much deeper way, to care for them, and to share—that's one of the good things to come from the floods that otherwise brought such devastation. On social media friends and acquaintances shared their raw, unfiltered feelings. We were connected even though waters, roads, and miles separated us all.

Another good that came from the flooding this August is that sharing our stories has given us glimpses of the Grace and Presence of God working in our lives and through the response of our community and all who have come to be with us and help as recovery gets underway. For me grace came in the face of a man at the Riverside Convention Center. He was sitting at the perimeter of the Center as I walked by and motioned for me to come over. I sat next to him and realized he was shaking and tearfully trying to put words together to tell me his story. We held hands as he told of the boat that came for him and his partner as they fled their North Baton Rouge apartment in the darkness of unlit streets. As his story came to a close I noticed a calm beginning to come over his face. Was it peace that flowed between us? As I left we stood up, and embraced. I really think I experienced an Emmanuel moment—God with us.

The Bible is full of stories, and those stories—like the ones we've been experiencing—provide us with encouragement, hope, meaning and purpose. Bible stories also help us to acknowledge our fear, confess our inadequacies and to rediscover our need for others and the Other who dwells among us. We all see the truth in the saying that a picture is worth a thousand words. We also know that there are times when words fail us, and we share a hug or embrace that can make all the difference in the world. In times like these it is well for us to recall that Matthew's story ends with Jesus, the Risen Christ, saying to the disciples and to us: "I am with you always." Amen.

Fr. Dan Krutz

[Prayer Requests](#)

Please keep in prayer:

The large section of our state that has received major flooding, understanding all of the individual lives that represents. We also want to remember in prayer all of the people who are trying to help those affected.

LIC Executive Committee member, Rev. Margaret Simms, is one of the many who flooded without having any flood insurance. They had never flooded before and had four feet of water in their home. Please keep Rev. Margaret and her husband, Rev. Andrew Simms, in prayer. LIC Executive Committee member, Fr. Mike Moroney's rectory in Greenwell Springs also flooded. Please keep him in prayer as he tries to help many of his parishioners who also flooded.

Bishop Brown reports that one CME Church in Crowley was flooded. St. Alphonsus Catholic Church & School in Greenwell Springs took on up to 40" of water in various buildings; fortunately the Family Center survived so they can still hold services there. The office of the Presbytery of South LA in Baton Rouge got over 10" of water. We are not sure yet about the

number of other church facilities and also church members that are in the LIC membership which have been affected but we are keeping all of them in prayer.

Welcome to Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.



Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.



We welcome Bishop Michael Frencher as the new Judicatory leader for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, S.W. Delta District. He replaces Bishop Mildred Hines who has now been assigned to a different district. Bishop Frencher transfers here after his recent assignment in Nigeria for the Eastern West Africa Episcopal District. He and his wife, Galenia, have two children. Bishop Frencher is a graduate of the University of Detroit in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He received his M.Div. degree from Hood Theological Seminary in 1981 and his D.Min. in 1992 from the Pittsburg Theological Seminary, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

WELCOME!

Welcome - Board Member at Large - Ann Romero



Mrs. Ann Romero, working behind the scenes at the 2014 Annual Assembly.

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Recently elected as a Board Member at Large.  
**WELCOME!**

Ann Romero may be a familiar face to some of you as she has attended previous LIC Board meetings as a delegate. In March, she was elected as a Board Member at Large. We are so happy to have her "on Board!" As we now have some bio info. on her, we would like to more formally introduce her:

Ann is a Houston-born transplant to Lake Charles where she lives with her husband John and, at one time, their four children who are now on their own. She is a one-time English teacher who "likes to keep her hand in" by doing various volunteer teaching and regular tutoring at one of the district elementary schools. Besides worrying about the upcoming election, she is currently overseeing the progress of a pilot program on the Racial Divide in the United States and working to implement the study throughout the Lake Charles diocese. She is an almost life-time member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, presently a cantor and member of the choir. She spends her free time reading, sewing, writing stories for her granddaughters, and occasionally dusting the furniture (lol).

### *Flood Recovery Faith Gatherings Schedule*

The Governor's Office of Programs and Planning is partnering with the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships to provide information sessions to Clergy, Pastors, and other Faith Leaders in communities that have been impacted by the recent flooding. These sessions will include representatives from state and federal agencies, such as the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Attendees will be provided with information relevant to their own church as well as their parishioners. Please RSVP to Dr. Shanta Proctor at [shanta.proctor@la.gov](mailto:shanta.proctor@la.gov) (225) 335-0164.

**Parishes: East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Point Coupee, West Feliciana**

**Friday, August 26 at 6pm**

Contact: Reverend Rene Brown, Location: Mt. Zion First Baptist Church  
356 T.J. Jemison Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA

**Parishes: Avoyelles, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, St. Landry**

**Saturday, August 27 at 3pm**

Contact: Reverend Allen Ben, Location: New Zion Baptist Church  
251 Nimitz St., Eunice, LA

**Parishes: Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin, Vermillion**

**Monday, August 29 at 6pm**

Contact: Reverend Rickey Carter, Location: New Hope Baptist  
1501 East Willow, Lafayette, LA

**Parishes: Ascension**

**Tuesday, August 30 at 6 pm**

Contact: Reverend Richard Raborn, Location: Christian Assembly  
42158 Highway 941, Gonzales, LA

### *Flood supplies distribution this Saturday in Baton Rouge*

While there are many distribution areas where generous volunteers/donors are stepping up to help (thanks be to God!), we did want to make you aware of this one that will be a one-time event this weekend:

**Supplies for individuals and non-profits in the areas impacted by the recent floods who are available to come to Baton Rouge:**

Southwire Company, LLC, based in Carrollton, Georgia, has undertaken a large-scale effort to collect and donate an assortment of items needed by flood victims. They expect to have around four large truckloads of supplies to donate and will be distributing these items **this Saturday and Sunday from 7am-7pm from the parking lot of the Home Depot located near the Mall of Louisiana (10300 Coursey Blvd., Baton Rouge).**

The items include the following:

- Baby Items (diapers, formula, baby food, nursery water)
- Hygiene Products
- Cleaning Supplies (mops, brooms, gloves, buckets)
- Snack Food Items (individually packaged)
- Ready-To-Eat Food (non-perishable items, cans with pop-top lids)
- Beverages (bottled water, energy drinks, soda, juice)
- Blankets (new, unwrapped)
- Paper Goods (toilet tissue, paper towels, paper plates)
- Ice Chests And Coolers
- Pet Food

Please help in getting the word out to any area non-profits and to any individuals you know who may need such supplies.

Our thanks to Spencer Preis, Attorney/Senior Counsel of Southwire Company for

helping to initiate/coordinate all of this. We know that there are others who have done or who are doing similar donations. All are appreciated!

### Film Screening – “The Return” – August 31st



On Wednesday evening, **August 31**, the Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) at Loyola University is co-hosting a screening of the film, *The Return*, in **Nunemaker Auditorium** (located in **Monroe Hall** on Loyola's campus). In 2012 California amended its “Three Strikes” law, shortening the sentencing of thousands of “lifers.”

The film examines this unprecedented reform through the lives of those most impacted.

At a time of reckoning for Louisiana on mass incarceration, what we can learn from California's experience? The movie will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Norris Henderson, Executive Director of Voice of the Ex-Offender (VOTE), and Dr. Rae Taylor, Chairperson of Criminology and Justice at Loyola.

The film begins at **7PM** and is 80 minutes long. Here is a link to a map of Loyola's campus: [http://apply.loyno.edu/sites/apply.loyno.edu/files/file\\_attach/campus-map-april-2016.pdf](http://apply.loyno.edu/sites/apply.loyno.edu/files/file_attach/campus-map-april-2016.pdf)

An official movie synopsis, trailer, and more information can be found on the film's website. <http://www.pbs.org/pov/thereturn/>

### World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation – Sept. 1st



We encourage you to be good stewards of all of the resources that God has given us on this Earth: re-use, recycle, give to others, compost, and discard wisely.

Pope Francis is once again calling all to observe a **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, as celebrated each year on September 1st. We invite you to watch an encouraging and thought provoking video, narrated by the Pope himself in one of the foreign languages that he speaks fluently (English words are printed on the screen) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19v0A19DDXs&feature=youtu.be&list=PL4E3334A13E5C9C74>

### National Grandparent's Day – Sept. 11th



Whether your own grandparents are here or not, we encourage you to spend some extra time with the elderly in your area. While offering them our love and time, remember to listen as well. They are often a wealth of wisdom – waiting to be shared!  
**Don't wait until it's too late!**

Forget-me-not flowers are not only beautiful but they also symbolize National Grandparents Day in the United States.

Grandparent's day falls on the First Sunday in September AFTER Labor Day each year.

Join us in New Orleans for the Fall Board Meeting!



Rev. Lindy Broderick, CCE

Guests are welcome at all speaker sessions!

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will gather for their fall meeting on **September 26-27, 2016**, at **Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church**, 3900 St. Charles Ave., in **New Orleans**.



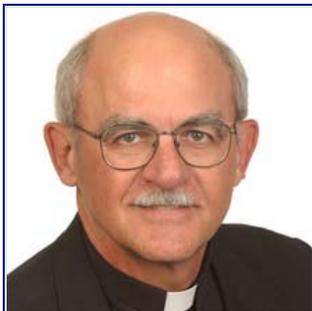
The meeting theme is:  
**“Civility in Public Discourse”**

**On Monday, beginning at 3:15 pm, Keynote Speaker, Rev. Lindy Broderick**, will present on “Speak your Peace”, based upon the publication ‘Choosing Civility’ by author P. M. Forni. Rev. Broderick has made similar presentations around the country. She holds two undergraduate degrees and a Master’s Degree (Human Relations & Supervision) from Louisiana Tech University. Her current ministry appointment is in her full-time secular career through the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce with a specialized ministry of Peace and Justice, to encourage a more civil discourse in the business community and in the legislative arena. (So, Yes! The Shreveport Chamber of Commerce has its own minister!) Rev. Broderick also assists in worship each Sunday at Broadmoor United Methodist Church in Shreveport.

**On Monday Evening, September 26th**, an ecumenical evening worship service will be held at the historic St. Mary’s Assumption Catholic Church at 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please join us!



**As always the public is invited to all speaker sessions & the Monday evening worship service. Hope to see you there!**

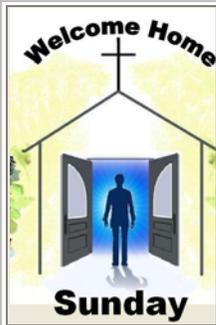


Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J., J.D.

**On Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:45 Fr. Fred Kammer** will lead in a discussion on tolerance and review/edit of a possible open letter to go to people of faith for tolerance of others.

Fr. Kammer is a Roman Catholic priest, an attorney, and a member of the Southern Province of the Jesuits. He holds degrees from Spring Hill College, Loyola University in Chicago, and Yale University. He has been director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute since March of 2009.

## Welcome Home Sunday – New Date & Location October 9th



### Sunday **October 9th**, 3 to 5 pm

To be held at: Southern University & A and M College,  
in the F. G. Clark Activity Center (the "Mini-Dome"),  
801 Harding Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA

**INVITING:** ALL Clergy, Congregation  
Members, Formerly Incarcerated Individuals &  
Community Leaders

Welcome Home Sunday is a multi-faith event devoted to welcoming back formerly incarcerated persons into our communities. The event is free and open to the public and will demonstrate the community's willingness and eagerness to change the narrative for these individuals, through resources, recidivism reduction strategies and fellowship. We will hear stories from returning citizens. Participants will include the Mayor's office, area Faith Leaders, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Legislators, LA Department of Corrections officials, as well as numerous faith organizations.

The below link provides directions to Southern University (*these directions are targeted mainly for those going to the adm. office, but once you get to Harding Blvd., you will easily see the mini-dome*). There is an entrance to the dome directly from Harding Blvd with parking available there.



<http://www.subr.edu/assets/AdmissionRecruitment/DrivingDirectionstoSUBR.pdf>

Come to learn, inspire, and be inspired. Opportunities available for you to find out how you can join in this ministry with those who are currently involved and committed to re-entry programs. Contact: [WelcomeHomeSunday@gmail.com](mailto:WelcomeHomeSunday@gmail.com) for more information or go to [www.lainterchurch.org](http://www.lainterchurch.org).

*Sponsored by a coalition of churches and agencies.*

Also, save the date – Welcome Home Sunday -- New Orleans area!

### Sunday **September 4th**, time t/b/a

Dillard Chapel  
Dillard University, New Orleans, LA

## Angels on the streets

### Our thanks to the many 'angels' helping out

Some are going through flooded neighborhoods dropping off bottled water, sandwiches, pizza, or even hot chicken. Some are giving away bleach, trash bags, or other cleaning supplies. Most offer a smile and a kind word without ever saying their names or where they are from. These kindnesses are all seen and known by our Father in Heaven.



Blessings as well on all of our First Responders who saved countless lives and all of the volunteers who stepped in (or boated in) to help in those efforts. Kudos to all who are rolling up their sleeves to help flood victims clean and gut out their homes. Shelter volunteers and donors – the list goes on and on – and each and every one is so appreciated!

Everybody can do something – and thanks be to God, many are!

### *Grants to help flooded farmers*



As many of you know, the LIC has a Farm Advocacy program that has been in place since 1986. Through the generosity of Farm Aid, Inc., we do have limited emergency grant funds available for farmers impacted by the recent catastrophic flooding.

We encourage you to spread the word to farming communities in your parishes. Grants are available in amounts of up to \$500. per farm family.

LIC has an online grant application form at:

<http://www.lainterchurch.org/resources/documents/FA-GrantApp-pdf-online.pdf>

Here is a recent newspaper article beginning to assess the impact this flood will have on the Louisiana farming industry:

[http://www.theadvocate.com/louisiana\\_flood\\_2016/article\\_a7689806-6946-11e6-a681-ab59c458f55c.html?sr\\_source=lift\\_amplify](http://www.theadvocate.com/louisiana_flood_2016/article_a7689806-6946-11e6-a681-ab59c458f55c.html?sr_source=lift_amplify)

### *Congrats to Rev. Annie Etheredge*

We offer congratulations to Rev. Ann B. Etheredge (Executive Committee Member of the LIC, serving Region Five and representing the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana). Madre Etheredge has been serving as an Interim Priest-in-Charge and is now set to be installed as the Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Opelousas, LA. The installation service will be held on August 31st<sup>t</sup> in Opelousas, with a reception to follow. We pray that the Lord will continually direct her in her ministry. Congrats, Madre Annie!

### *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.

*Contributions received from July 30, 2016 through August 26, 2016:*

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Rev. Paul Masquelier

Bread or Stones Anti-Poverty Initiative for Children: Women of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church – designated for Prenatal Vitamins

*Thanks to all of our supporters!*

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>.

### *Dates to calendar*

**Welcome Home Sunday – New Orleans:** Dillard Chapel, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA, September 4, 2016

**Welcome Home Sunday – Baton Rouge:** Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, October 9, 2016

### 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, Garden District |
| 2017 |  | Sept. 25-26, Alexandria                   |
| 2018 |  | Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles                 |

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

*Louisiana Interchurch Conference  
527 North Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(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.