

Prayers for all facing the effects of Hurricane Harvey



Louisiana Interchurch Conference

E-Newsletter August 31, 2017

“To live the faith we hold in common”

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In the Day of Trouble

Article from our Director

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Psalm 27:5

Sunshine has been scarce lately in our region, and when the first rays of the sun shone a couple of mornings ago, someone looking at me would see a face with a smile. The weather does have its effect on people’s moods. Those who live in the Northern parts of the planet recognize that the longer nights of winter can bring about depression and melancholy. Of course, folks in those climes have found ways to cope with the changes of seasons and limit its negative impact. What about those sudden, more immediate impacts of weather—like a hurricane or major storm.?

Like me, you may have come across people who were bused to Houston after Hurricane Katrina in 2005; now, twelve years later some of those same people are fleeing back to Louisiana. A common refrain among people in Louisiana’s capital area is something like this: “When the weather forecaster warns about the threat of ___ inches of rain, it brings it all back—the flood of 2016 and all that came afterwards. Oh, please, let us not go through that again!”

To a degree, the tragic weather events like Hurricane Harvey in all its manifestations

brings us back to the basics of life like surviving—finding safe shelter, food and clothing. For a brief moment, we forget about those other political and social storms like threats of war including the enduring remnants of the Civil War; racism unmasked and other legacies of slavery, like White supremacy and oppression. No wonder people want to find ways to escape and unfortunately learn too late the ill effects of addiction. Where does one go for healing?

Borrowing from Psalm 27 in offering Morning Prayer the other day my eyes came across these prayerful words: *In the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail.* Most of us would readily acknowledge that it is far easier to keep our faith and trust in God when things are going well, when the sun is shining. However, when the storm comes, the wind blows very hard and the waters rise and bad things happen—keeping trust, to say the least, can be difficult.

Some of you may remember lines from a tune by Simon and Garfunkel entitled *A Bridge Over Troubled Water*: “When times get rough, and friends just can’t be found; Like a bridge over troubled water I will lay me down.” In difficult and challenging times the Spirit summons the very best of humanity and really, miracles happen. For me though, these sonorous lines are a reminder of Jesus who lays down his life for you and me. It is Jesus, the Christ who is present with us in all times and places and is the bridge between heaven and earth. It is Jesus who calls us out of the darkness into the light. It is Jesus who stills the storms of our lives and brings peace.

Rev. Dan Krutz

Hurricane Harvey – prayers and help



Thousands of people have had to be rescued in the southeast Texas area.



Animal rescuers have saved many abandoned pets & livestock.

Our prayers remain with all affected by Hurricane Harvey.

The National Hurricane Center projects Houston will get 50 inches of rain total, causing "catastrophic and life-threatening flooding."

As of August 31st, Harvey has caused 35 deaths and 17 others are missing. The storm has forced over 32,000 into shelters thus far and necessitated over 18,000 rescues.

Want to help?

If you want to lend a hand to the victims of this historic storm, there are countless ways to do so. Many of the LIC member denominations have disaster programs that remain in a constant state of readiness for direct aid. These programs are always in need of donations and often in need volunteers. Please contact the LIC if you need information on any of these programs. Or you can donate \$10 to the American Red Cross by texting HARVEY to 90999 or donate to the Salvation Army by texting STORM to 51555.

Shelter status as of August 30th: There are currently two American Red Cross run shelters in Louisiana where Texas/LA storm affected individuals can go -

- Grace Christian Center, 1006 7th Ave, Glenmora, LA 71433
- Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, 5340 Jewella Ave, Shreveport, LA

American Red Cross shelters are listed/updated at: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter>

Harvey storm forecast update as of August 30th: Harvey is expected to produce additional rainfall accumulations of 3-6 inches from Southwestern Louisiana and the adjacent border of Eastern Texas northeastward into western Kentucky through Friday with isolated amounts up to 10 inches. While the threat of heavy rains has ended in the Houston/Galveston area, catastrophic and life-threatening flooding will continue in and around Houston eastward into Southwest Louisiana for the rest of the week. The expected heavy rains spreading northeastward from LA to KY may also lead to flash flooding and increased river and small stream flooding. Elsewhere, the outer bands of Harvey are expected to produce additional rainfall amounts of 3-6 inches over portions of the central and eastern Gulf States and 2-4 inches farther north into parts of the Tennessee Valley through Friday. These rains may lead to flooding concerns there.

Harvey storm forecast update as of August 31st:

Tropical Depression Harvey is moving toward the northeast and is expected to continue this motion over the next 48 hours. This forecast track takes Harvey into northern Mississippi by Thursday evening, middle Tennessee by Friday and into the Ohio valley States on Saturday as a post-tropical low. Tropical Depression Harvey is expected to produce 3 to 5 inches of rain from eastern Arkansas and northern Mississippi northeastward across western to central Tennessee, western to central Kentucky, southern Ohio and into west Virginia.

Downtown Houston after Buffalo Bayou flooding, **1935**. *Photo Source: Houston Press:*



A look back in time: The flood of 1935 came after 40 years of increasingly worse flooding and spurred the building of the Buffalo Bayou flood-control dams in the 1940s, 17 miles upstream from Houston.

Before and after photos – Houston, August, **2017:**



Today: Even with the Buffalo Bayou dams holding back tons of water, Houston is still inundated with water after Hurricane Harvey, with drainage expected to be slow.

LHFMBSC celebrates 100 years!

 <p>The logo features the number '100' in a large, blue, serif font. A gold banner with '1917' is on the left, and another with '2017' is on the right. Below the '00' is the word 'Years' in a cursive font. In the center is a circular seal with a map of Louisiana and the text 'THE LOUISIANA HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION INC. SINCE 1917'. Below the seal are the words 'REUNITE · RECONNECT · REJOICE'.</p>	<p>On July 27th, our Executive Director, Fr. Dan Krutz was privileged to be able to join in the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Baptist State Convention at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Lake Charles, LA.</p> <p>Around 2,000 adults attended and events included a children's convention with 800 children participating as well. It was an exciting time for all!</p>
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Rev. Sam Tolbert, Rev. Dan Krutz, & Rev. Mallery Callahan
*Rev. Callahan is a current LIC Board Member and President of the LHFMBSC.
Rev. Tolbert is a former LIC Board Member and still a close friend of the LIC.*

Working hands give to help Bread or Stones

The Bread or Stones Campaign relies on donations and grants to fund the costs required to effectively coordinate and promote this anti-poverty initiative for children. We appreciate EVERY kind donor be it large or small gifts – every gift helps and is important to the needful cause.

Recently a group in Lake Charles, “In Our Company,” sent in a contribution from proceeds of their hand-crafted items. This small fundraising group was originally founded some years ago through Immaculate Conception Cathedral, by two of our Board Members, Mrs. Ann Romero and Mrs. Catherine Townsend with an objective to raise funds for special needs by creating and selling handmade items. Kudos to Ann and Catherine for their work with this group and the lives they have touched.

Thanks to all who give in so many ways to help our children!

Remembering Grandparents on September 10th

 <p>The First Sunday in September AFTER LABOR DAY is Grandparent's Day</p>	 <p>Forget-me-not flowers symbolize National Grandparents Day in the U.S.</p>
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Fall Board Meeting Sept 25-26 in Alexandria

 <p>All business sessions and the evening worship service to be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral</p>	<p>Guests are welcome at all speaker sessions and the Monday evening worship service</p>	 <p>Denis R. Janz, Ph.D. Provost Distinguished Professor of the History of Christianity</p>
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The Board of Directors of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will gather for their fall meeting on **September 25-26, 2017**, at **St. Francis Xavier Cathedral**, 3900 St. Charles Ave., in **Alexandria**. [Click here](#) for the overall tentative schedule.

The meeting theme is:

“The Church, the Reformation and the Quest for Unity”

Our Keynote Speaker will be **Dr. Denis R. Janz**. Dr. Janz has written & edited numerous books/publications, & is currently in the process of writing another book about Luther. Some of his books include: Luther and Late Medieval Thomism, Luther on Thomas Aquinas, and World Christianity and Marxism.

His research and lecturing have taken him to Germany, Austria, France, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo, Albania, the former U.S.S.R., China, and so forth. He was appointed scholar-in-residence by the Tantur Institute for Ecumenical Studies in Jerusalem, Israel and traveled to the institute in the summer of 2011 to study the religious roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Professor Emeritus, Department of Religious Studies at Loyola University, Dr. Janz

received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1979. Since coming to Loyola in 1979, he has served terms as Department Chair and Director of Graduate Studies. Recently retired from his teaching duties, he still maintains an office at Loyola.



Rev. Irma Bañales

Evening Worship:

On Monday Evening, September 25th, an ecumenical evening worship service will be held at the historic St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The Cathedral opened in 1899 and is located at 626 4th Street, Alexandria, LA. Hosting pastor is Fr. James Ferguson, JCL, with homily to be given by the Rev. Irma Bañales, Director of Evangelical Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Service will begin 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!**

National Children's Sabbath October 22nd

Make plans for your congregation now!

The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths is an annual event held each year, typically during the third weekend of October. (Some choose to hold observances in May *and* October, and we encourage this.) Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, this event is a way for faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine, and provides the opportunity for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care, protect and advocate for all children. This celebration is a part of a broader children's movement that aims to unite communities and religious congregations of all faiths across the nation in shared concern for children and a common commitment to improving their lives and working for justice on their behalf.



Please see the Bread or Stones website <http://breadorstones.com/home>, for more ideas on how your church can be involved with sermon ideas, prayers, and activities in commemoration of this event for children.

Bread or Stones Prayer

Most gracious heavenly Father, you give us all good gifts, loving us each as your own. Strengthen our resolve to ensure that all of the children of Louisiana receive the food, education, health care, and opportunity they need for growth and fulfillment of the lives they deserve. Bless the Bread or Stones Campaign as we work to improve child well-being, serving your children with the tenderness you have first shown us. We ask these things in the Name of your holy Child, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Click here](#) for the Louisiana Children's Sabbath Litany
(PDF version available via that link as well).

[A historical solar eclipse and a little fun with stamps](#)



On August 21, 2017, many across the nation donned special glasses or made other protective apparatus for the viewing of the first total solar eclipse to cross the nation from the Pacific to the Atlantic in totality since June 8, 1918 (back during World War I).

Even those who were not in the path of the 2017 *total* eclipse were afforded views as portions of the eclipse could be seen from all of the lower 48 states.

Not all of us had protective glasses or the opportunity to see the eclipse. However, the U.S. Postal service created its first ever thermographic stamp in commemoration. One of our contributors sent in a donation with such a stamp on the envelope and sparked a little bit of fun in the LIC office building with this 'new toy.' We found that if you have somewhat 'cold fingers' that you get little or no response from the stamp. That same aforementioned donor gave us a tip, "Put it up against your chin and hold it there." She said that worked for her! Okay, we can just picture all of these folks using their chin... we could all laugh together! We also found that going outside in the warm sunlight does the trick as well. So if you have cold fingers, don't despair!

And eclipse watchers, you won't have to wait so long for the next one! **The next total solar eclipse** over North America visits Mexico, the United States, and Canada on **April 8, 2024**. This will be the Great North American Eclipse!

[Dr. Marian Schwab sends news from Portugal](#)



Setting up a Prayer Tent at the 2017 IGA



Interpreters for the five different languages spoken at the 2017 IGA. Representatives attended from 21 different countries.

Dr. Marian Schwab is a long-time friend of the LIC and a former member of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. She moved to Ohio in 2010, after having served the LIC for 26 years in various capacities. She stays in touch and recently told us of her recent participation at the International General Assembly of the Grail.

In July, she spent three weeks at the IGA at Fatima in Portugal. Among the events were two Sunday ecumenical services involving 80 women from 21 countries and ministers who were Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic -- in five languages.

Marian sent us this note to LIC: "I am so glad I had the background to work with them -- background I had gained in working with you in Louisiana."



Above Photo courtesy of Dr. Schwab

Dr. Marian Schwab is on the right, with Zodwa Mabaso from South Africa and Maria Carlos Ramos from Portugal, her teammates on the International Presidency Team of the Grail Movement.

About the IGA:

Spirituality remains at the very heart of who they are as an international movement. At the International General Assembly in September, 2011, they adopted a vision statement. What follows is an excerpt from that document. "Born in the Catholic tradition, the movement is grounded in the Christian faith and challenged by the radical call of the teachings of Jesus. Today we are women of various religious traditions and on life-giving spiritual journeys. We recognize that in each of our Grail countries, our expressions of faith, religion and spirituality reflect our own realities and cultures. We respect and acknowledge these differences."

They are engaged in ongoing dialogue and reflection about faith, religion, spirituality, spiritual expression. It is a dialogue reflected in a process called Txintxa (moving forward – Mozambican concept) in which all Grail groups in every country have reflected on some common papers. Themes have included women in early Christianity, culture and spirituality, inter-religious dialogue.

[Offering thanks to our recent contributors](#)

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon. Additionally, we offer our sincere thanks to our ministry partners who have contributed as listed below.

[Contributions received from July 27, 2017 through August 30, 2017:](#)

[Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributors:](#) Mrs. Ann Romero.

[Endowment Fund Contributors:](#) Dr. Marian Schwab

[Bread or Stones Contributors:](#) Roman Catholic Diocese of Lake Charles; Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans; In Our Company; and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shreveport.

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>.

Various Dates to calendar

Reformation Anniversary Services

October 29, 2017 is Reformation Sunday (500th Anniversary).

A 500th Anniversary ecumenical worship service is to be held in conjunction with the LIC Fall Board Meeting, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 626 4th Street, Alexandria, LA, beginning at 7:30pm on Monday evening, **September 25, 2017**.

A 500th Anniversary Commemoration Service at St. Louis Cathedral, 615 Pere Antoine Alley, New Orleans, LA, beginning at 7:00 pm on Monday evening, **October 23, 2017**.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

Annual Assembly meeting dates:

2018		March 5-6, Baton Rouge
2019		March 11-12, Lafayette

Fall Board meeting dates:

2017		Sept. 25-26, Alexandria
2018		Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles

More Dates To Remember

September 17, 2017 - Constitution Day (230th Anniversary). Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have come to our country and become U.S. citizens.

September 21, 2017 -- [International Day of Prayer for Peace](#)

September 27, 2017 -- [See You at the Pole](#)™ Global Day of Student Prayer

November 8-10, 2017, [NCCCUA Christian Unity Gathering](#), Silver Spring, MD

“To live the faith we hold in common”

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

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President: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; President Elect: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey;

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.