



Louisiana Interchurch Conference

E-Newsletter Sept. 30, 2016

“To live the faith we hold in common”

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[Things We've Never Seen Before](#)

Article from our Director

The purple petals of flowers on a plant that was laced with something that looked like cotton swirls or cotton candy all through it really caught my attention along with other flowers new to me. We were on a walk through a park near the hotel where we'd spent the night. I'd never seen anything quite like it before. Throughout our trip we saw these flowers again and again, but my guess is they thrive in Alaska but not in Louisiana. On what some describe as the trip of a lifetime, we were able to tour at least a portion of Alaska and see things we'd never seen before.

It was great to have a change of scenery, but on our return it's amazing how quickly the drive through the neighborhood on the way home brought me back to reality. They are mostly gone now, but I'd never before seen piles of debris in front of home after home in our neighborhood. I'd never seen water covering our street and be unable to leave by car. At 4 a.m. the morning of the flood I got up to silence as I looked out and saw the water everywhere and up our walkway toward the front door! The boats going up and down our streets was something completely new to me, a sight none of us in the neighborhood had seen before and hopefully won't see again. No doubt, you've seen new sights too, and most of them I hope have been pleasant and some even giving you a sense of wonder and discovery.

On a recent Monday evening in New Orleans, St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church served as an unusual setting when a Lutheran Bishop, Michael Rinehart, preached a sermon to a diverse audience coming from several Christian traditions, and the bishop included a number of laudatory comments regarding Redemptorist Father

Francis Seelos, who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Fr. Seelos lost his life from Yellow Fever as he ministered to stricken citizens in the Irish Channel of New Orleans, and the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is at that same church. There are strange and wonderful things going on in a world whose inhabitants desperately needs to see signs of encouragement and hope.

Going back to our experience of the Great Flood of 2016, an unforgettable moment was my family being evacuated and rescued by the Cajun Navy, a loose knit organization of men in boats from the bayous and bays of South Louisiana who responded to the flooding with their own mission literally to save lives. As many have already said, these Cajuns and others like them didn't discriminate; whoever needed help got it regardless of any of those things that normally divide us or keep us from reaching out to help. Disasters have a way of bringing people together and unify them. It seems to me that this is a good time for people of faith to come together in unity as well. You can probably think of lots of reasons why we should come together as well as I. For a time such as this, God's Spirit is beckoning us to demonstrate the unity to which God calls us in Christ, "that the world may believe." May God show us a vision we've never seen before, that justice and peace may come to a world at unity with itself.

Rev. Dan Krutz

### *Prayer Requests*

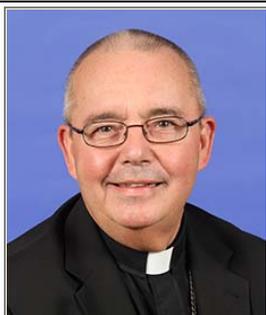
*Please keep in prayer:*

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

**Debbie Sutto Vetvick** – scheduled for heart valve replacement surgery today. Debbie is the daughter of General Presbyterian Ron Sutto. The surgery was previously postponed while she regained strength following a life threatening illness. Rev. Sutto has traveled to Plano, Texas for the surgery which will be conducted at Plano Heart Hospital.

LIC Treasurer, **Rev. Jan Curwick**, was involved in a major car wreck while down in New Orleans for the Fall Board Meeting. She is bruised up and sore and her car had to be hauled away.

### *New Coadjutor Bishop for Alexandria*



Bishop David Talley

On September 21st, Pope Francis announced the appointment of Bishop David P. Talley, auxiliary bishop of the Atlanta Archdiocese, to serve the people of the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana, as coadjutor bishop to Bishop Ronald P. Herzog, the current bishop there. As coadjutor bishop, Bishop Talley will assist Bishop Herzog, working in harmony with him in governance of the Alexandria Diocese. A coadjutor bishop has the right of succession, and so Bishop Talley will succeed Bishop Herzog at the time of his retirement. Bishop Herzog has served the Diocese of Alexandria as bishop since 2005.

The Mass of Welcome in Alexandria is planned for Monday, Nov. 7th. A native of

Columbus, Georgia, Bishop Talley, 66, was ordained a priest in 1989. He earned a licentiate and doctorate in canon law from the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome, Italy and a master's degree in social work at the University of Georgia. His episcopal motto is "He will give you a new heart." When he was director of vocations, the Atlanta Archdiocese initiated a cross-cultural immersion program for seminarians where they spent time living in El Paso, Texas, and in Juarez, Mexico, to learn Spanish and be more knowledgeable about Hispanic culture and more skilled at ministering in a variety of communities. He has also done extensive work with people with disabilities and as a caseworker protecting children from abuse.

Bishop Talley was raised as a Southern Baptist but has said he left the church as a teenager over the issue of racial segregation. At Auburn University he met Catholics and read the writings of Thomas Merton, which led him to become Catholic, he said. He was 24 when he joined the church at St. Mary Church in Opelika, Alabama. Family members remain faithful Baptists, including a brother who is a deacon, and he says that background gives him a broad view.

The Alexandria Diocese, consisting of 13 counties, includes some 50 parishes, 22 missions and more than 44,000 Catholics.

*Welcome Bishop Talley!*

### *Shelter At Home Application Deadline October 15th*

## **The deadline to apply for the Shelter at Home Program is October 15th.**

The application can be done over the phone in 10 minutes or less.

The SHELTER AT HOME program began on 8/30/16. Designed mainly for homes that had 2ft or less of flood water, other homes can be considered. Homes must be OWNED by the resident and be a single-family unit (condos attached to others do not qualify). It does NOT matter if you have or have not applied to FEMA or do or do not have home insurance and the SAH program will not affect (is entirely independent of) any determinations from other such FEMA or insurance programs.

The program offers cleaning, gutting, inspection, and very limited repair of basic living quarters with one functioning bathroom so that homeowners can continue their repairs while staying in their own homes. They do NOT install sheetrock though in some cases they will provide a privacy wall for one bathroom. The program can provide: inspection and repair of basic electrical and plumbing needs; building a simple wood base with legs for one bathroom and one kitchen sink; sanitizing your toilet; replacing exterior entry doors if necessary; install a basic water heater if necessary; and providing up to \$500 in basic cooking or refrigerating appliances. This work will be provided at no out-of-pocket cost to the eligible homeowner.

Go to: <https://shelterathome.la.gov/> for more info.

## [More Flood Resources](#)

**Be Careful how you repair/rebuild:** FEMA and the Red Cross have published a 56-page booklet, [Repairing Your Flooded Home](#), offering step-by-step advice for immediately following the flood, drying out, cleaning up and financial assistance. It also offers safety precautions and guidance on rebuilding a floodproof home and preparing for future floods. [Download the booklet](#).

**LA Tax Returns:** If you suffered damage to your home or personal property in the 2016 Louisiana Flood, you can deduct the loss on your 2016 tax return or you can elect to deduct the loss on your 2015 return. You have until the due date of your 2016 tax return (April 17, 2017) to make this decision. [Read more](#). For more information on flood recovery, tax filing and payment relief, go to: <http://revenue.louisiana.gov/NewsAndPublications/Flood>

**Flooded Documents and Photos:** After a serious flood, you may be scrambling to find or replace important documents lost in the debris. Documents and Photos can be put in zip lock bags and FROZEN to stop mildew growth and allow you more time to possibly salvage them later. Taylor Porter Attorneys at Law of Baton Rouge has compiled a list of phone numbers and websites you can use to start replacing lost documents, tax forms, etc. [Read more](#).

**Beware of Scam Artists:** FEMA will NEVER ask you for money. Unfortunately, natural disasters attract con artists and scammers hoping to prey on people who are down on their luck. Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry has compiled a booklet of tips to help protect the state's citizens. [Read more](#).

## [National Children's Sabbath October 23rd](#)

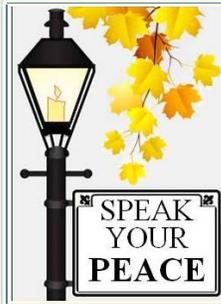


### *Make plans for your congregation now!*

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.

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

Highlights from the Fall Board Meeting



**“Civility in Public Discourse”** was the theme of the LIC Fall Board Meeting held September 26-27, 2016

Forty religious leaders and lay persons gathered in New Orleans at Rayne United Methodist for two days of provocative sessions inspiring action in areas of [civil discourse](#), racial reconciliation, the [Bread or Stones](#) children's anti-poverty initiative, criminal justice reform, [disaster/flood relief](#) and more.

**We will be receiving presentation information from our Speakers soon and will be posting this on the LIC website, along with more photos and other info from the meeting. Please keep a lookout for it at: [www.lainterchurch.org](http://www.lainterchurch.org).**

**On Monday, Rev. Lindy Broderick**, presented on “Speak your Peace”, based upon the publication ‘Choosing Civility’ by author P. M. Forni. How often do we not think about our responses or lack of responses? From the literature she handed out, often “It’s not What you say, but How you say it.” She also handed out some wallet cards that had the Speak Your Peace logo on the front. The back of the wallet cards listed nine practices of civility to follow. Saying, **Today, I Will:**

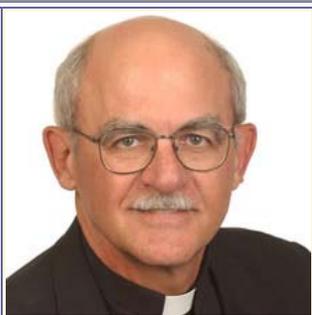


Rev. Lindy Broderick



1. Pay Attention.
2. Listen.
3. Be Inclusive.
4. Not Gossip.
5. Show Respect.
6. Be Agreeable.
7. Apologize.
8. Give Constructive Criticism.
9. Take Responsibility.

After Morning Prayer on Tuesday, attendees were treated to hot beignets – New Orleans style!



Fr. Fred Kammer

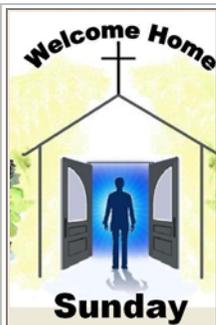
**Then, on Tuesday, Fr. Fred Kammer** gave a presentation: “*On Racial Reconciliation and Solidarity*” that included many of his own real-life experiences. Group table discussions followed and the Board approved a **“Statement of Civility and Tolerance”** calling all candidates for office (and media) to refrain from utilizing speech that reflects hatred of others and results in the division of society as a way to promote their candidacies.

Attendees enjoyed a scrumptious Monday evening banquet in a private room at the “4141 Restaurant” (NOHSC). And while the Presidential debate and the Saints hometown game certainly drew crowds to watch those respective areas, many others chose to join us for the Monday evening Ecumenical Worship Service at the historic St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church of St. Alphonsus Parish, New Orleans. *Almost \$400. was collected for the Endowment Fund for Christian Unity. Thank you!*



Thanks to all who chose to pray and worship with us!

### Welcome Home Sunday – Location change (again)



Sunday **October 9th**, 3 to 5 pm  
**NEW location (again)**

To be held at: **The Wesley Foundation**  
748 Harding Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA  
(a part of Southern University & A and M College)

**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 this will get you to Harding Blvd.*). Parking is available in the front parking lot of the Wesley Foundation right off of Harding Blvd.



<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.*

### *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 August 27, 2016 through September 30, 2016:*

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Dr. Jim & Rev. Annie Etheredge; Mrs. Catherine Townsend

Contribution to help with expenses at the Fall Board Meetings: Rev. Wayne Carter

Disaster Flood Relief Donation: Eric Krutz

Endowment Fund For Christian Unity: Rob Gorman; Rev. Jan Curwick; Ann Middleton; and many anonymous contributors who gave at the evening ecumenical worship service in conjunction with the Fall Board Meeting.

*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>.

### *Dates to calendar*

**Sunday, October 2, 2016** – Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem

**Sunday, October 9, 2016** – Welcome Home Sunday – Baton Rouge

**Sunday, October 23, 2016** – Children's Sabbath

**Sundays, November 6th & 13th, 2016** – Days of Prayer for the persecuted Church  
<http://idop.org>

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

**Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

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

**Fall Board meeting dates:**

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

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Louisiana Interchurch Conference

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

Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz

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