For the Healing of the Nations  (Article from our Director)

Through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:2)

We are living in a time when the nations are wounded not only by the Corona virus but also in many other ways. Some are struggling with authoritarian leadership. Others are bereft of the resources needed for the wellbeing of the people. There are many causes for the wounds that keep our nations from healing, wholeness and wellbeing. Certainly, there are other challenges like global climate change, wealth inequality and racism—all these causing hurt and pain. Yes, we look to our leaders, but everyone is called to be a part of the solution as all of us also need healing in our lives and in our relationships. Instead of shying away from each other, more than ever we need to be engaged with each other.
Though it is not easy to do, we need to be truthful, because only then are we sharing something authentic of ourselves. The first step of gaining trust is to tell the truth to each other. This assumes that we are doing our best to be good listeners. If someone is unable to listen to us, they aren’t able to begin to know anything about us or our concerns. An effective listener can hear someone else’s complaint or concern—her or his story—and not become defensive about it. You know, when someone has made a mistake, it is a special moment when that person says, “I’m sorry, I was wrong.” When we can admit mistakes, healing and reconciliation can happen.

It’s not just individuals who need healing, is it? At this moment in our national history, institutions that seemed so stable seem to me to show weaknesses and the foundations shifting. The checks and balances that are supposed to be there to keep our ship of state afloat are being blown apart by the political storms of hate and division. State and local politics are likewise being tested which has, of course, an impact on families and our personal identities. Anxiety and fear have wreaked havoc on our individual and corporate sense of security and well-being. Healing is desperately needed.

In Ecclesiastes the Preacher said that there is a time and a season for everything, and I humbly put forward the suggestion that we need a healing balm from Gilead. At other times we needed different gifts and graces, but don’t you think with the divisions and wounds within our society and now extending to several other nations; this is the season for peacemaking and reconciling that bring healing? Overcoming divisions is the main work of each of us in these times. It is beyond me really to think that we can overcome the divisions in our country right now, but maybe this is the time in history when God’s spirit might enter anew into our hearts and bring transformation. Yes, God can bring about the healing of the nations.

Rev. Dan Krutz

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**In Sympathy**

Our sympathies to the Bouldin family after the passing of William “Bill” Samuel Bouldin on August 8, 2020, at the age of 94. Bill was previously a member on the LIC Board of Directors and is well remembered for his jovial attitude and sense of humor. He served on numerous ecumenical committees throughout his life.

In 1991 after his retirement, Bill, along with wife Winkie, embarked on an adventurous post-retirement career by helping found the New Orleans chapter of the Ulster Project, an organization dedicated to fostering peace in Northern Ireland. Many of you may know this project involved taking Protestants and Catholics out of their country, and placing them in neutral settings including the United States. These exchanges helped change many hearts and minds and promoted peace in a different way. Bill was passionate in his desire for everyone to feel respected and included in all aspects of society.

Bill’s beloved wife, Winkie, passed away on May 9th of this year. We published that news in the May E-newsletter as she had always attended Board Meetings with Bill, until her health would no longer allow it. They were married for 68 years.

No services are planned at this time due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. To share memories or condolences, please visit [www.muhleisen.com](http://www.muhleisen.com). Here is the full obituary link: [https://www.muhleisen.com/obituaries/William-Bouldin/#!/Obituary](https://www.muhleisen.com/obituaries/William-Bouldin/#!/Obituary)

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**Bread or Stones Zoom Meeting Planned; Retreat Postponed**

Due to the on-going COVID health concerns, the in-person **Bread or Stones Coordinators’ retreat scheduled for September 11 & 12 at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA., has been postponed until November 12-13, 2021 (pending confirmation with the retreat center).
However, the mission and work of Bread or Stones continues in the meantime.

**Join us for a one-hour, internet Zoom meeting on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 6:30 pm.** The purpose of this Zoom meeting will be to discuss the history and ministry of Bread or Stones and how we can work together to effect real change in addressing the needs of poor children in Louisiana.

Please respond (see contact information highlighted in yellow below) by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 28, 2020, if you would like to sign up for the one hour Zoom conference on September 11, 2020. We will send you the link for the meeting. (Zoom is a free internet-based video platform that allows groups to hold face-to-face meetings through the internet. Audio-only dial-in is also available.)

Also, please forward this e-mail to anyone you know who is vitally interested in improving the lives of our children here in Louisiana.

Thank you for your work and commitment to better the lives of needy children and families in Louisiana. We look forward to hearing back from you by August 28.

For registration or more information contact: Fr. Dan Krutz, LIC executive director at licexecdir@aol.com or call (225)-344-0134 or email Robert Gorman, Bread or Stones Campaign Chair at rdfgorman@charter.net

***Bread or Stones Coordinators are volunteer church members who have a moral commitment to improve the lives of the children of Louisiana and a passion for bringing about change. Coordinators volunteer to work with local churches of all congregations in your communities, organizing the implementation of the materials that we have developed in the Bread or Stones Campaign. These materials are simple action plans that local churches can use to engage their congregations in promoting maternal and child health, school readiness and retention, child poverty reduction and marriage and family support. Coordinators will be networked and supported through the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.***

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**Lafayette area: Red Cross Sheltering during COVID**

The Louisiana Region of the American Red Cross would like to invite Lafayette Community Leaders to participate in a critical online (web or audio) conversation about sheltering during this COVID-19 pandemic. Due to predictions for an active hurricane season and the complexities of COVID-19, the American Red Cross will need hundreds of Louisiana volunteers to care for people when disasters strike. They are reaching out to communities in an effort to help them be safe and prepared.

Online event, **Tuesday, August 25th at 9:00 AM**

- Join the online meeting by clicking this link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
- You do not have to download the program. Select join on the web instead.

Please mute yourself for the presentation. There will be time for Q&A at the end of the presentation where you can unmute your line. You can also use the chat box to ask questions throughout the presentation. If you cannot join the video call, there is an **audio option**. Dial +1 231-282-9932  Conference ID: 925 853 257#

For more information on this or future meetings, contact:

**Kara Murphy**, Disaster Program Manager  kara.murphy@redcross.org  or  
**Katelyn Stewart**, Volunteer Services Specialist  katelyn.stewart@redcross.org
Working Theme is:
“Reimagining the Louisiana Interchurch Conference”

Reminder -- Save the date!

The first Business Session will begin at **10:00 am that Tuesday**; followed by introductory work with our Consultant. The Zoom call **will end at Noon**. **ALL Board Members are encouraged to call/Zoom in.** Call in information will be sent out later, along with specific time/s where **Guests may listen in during the Consultant Session.** Please email us at Lainterchurch@aol.com if you would like to be added to our guest list for this Zoom call.

Dr. Craig Gilliam is the LIC’s consultant to help guide the Board Members and attendees in collaborating to review LIC’s current ministry and imagine the future direction/s of LIC’s mission and ministry. This is a step along the way of a transition to a new Executive Director, as Fr. Dan Krutz is scheduled to retire at the conclusion of the Annual Assembly in 2022. The results of our work during this Zoom Board Meeting (and it’s follow up conferences) will be presented for consideration at the 2021 Annual Assembly. *Your input is wanted/needed!*

Save the date – September 22nd!

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**(Online) Coastal Community Cookbook**
Check out our online Coastal Community Cookbook! We’ve been working all summer on this project and we’d love for you to contribute your own recipes to this growing collection. Our coast, food, and culinary traditions are so important here in Louisiana, whether you were born and raised here, or decided to make your home here later on. So we invite you to cook up some frog legs, stuffed shrimp, and duck to celebrate our culture and our coast. Go to: [http://mississippiriverdelta.org/recipes/](http://mississippiriverdelta.org/recipes/)

**Comment period for the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion and Scoping**
The Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion is a cornerstone project in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan. As the Army Corps of Engineers opens the scoping period, the public has an opportunity to suggest questions about the project impacts and benefits that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ultimately inform the way the project moves forward. For more information or to sign up in support, go to:
Solitary confinement – panel on Facebook August 25th

The Moral Imperative to End Solitary confinement:
a Discussion by Survivors and Faith Leaders

This month there will be a faith panel discussing the moral imperative of ending solitary confinement in Louisiana. The panel will be aired Tuesday, Aug. 25th, from 12 noon to 1:15 pm on Facebook live. LIC Board member and Judicatory Leader, Bishop Shelton Fabre and Executive Director, Fr. Dan Krutz, will be on the panel, along with Rabbi Bauman, Rev. Ron Stief, Albert Woodfox, Consuela Gaines, and Ben Wortham.

All are invited to listen in.

Meet A.L.I.C.E. – virtual meeting August 27th

More than half of Louisiana families were already struggling to meet survival needs when the pandemic began. When including households in poverty, there were just over 891,000 households below the ALICE Threshold (ALICE and Poverty combined) in Louisiana before the pandemic...over half of the state’s total population. ALICE is a collaborative effort to address the needs of these at-risk families.

To learn more about ALICE and how you can help, join Capital Area United Way at a virtual Annual Meeting on August 27th featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ashley E. Anglin, Director of Research & Strategic Analysis, United For ALICE. Go to: www.cauw.org/ALICE (scroll down once you get on the page – a registration link should be available soon for the August 27th meeting)

With income above the Federal Poverty Level, ALICE households earn too much to qualify as “poor” but are still unable to cover the basics of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology in the parishes where they live.
The Census is important – you can file online

As you may know, the 2020 Census will determine Louisiana’s share of Federal dollars to improve our state roads, hospitals, fire departments, and schools based on the number of legal residents. The results of the census also determine congressional representation & much more. Every citizen and legal resident should be counted – from infant to elderly – our congregations count. The deadline is September 30, 2020 – **right now, state leaders say that Louisiana’s participation is lagging behind the rest of the country.** If you haven’t already, you can complete the Census now by either going online to [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020.

Offering thanks to our recent contributors – we couldn’t make it without you all!

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 depend upon partners to supplement the needs. Our thanks to the below contributors:

**Contributions received from July 29, 2020 through August 17, 2020:**

**Donations to help with Consultant Fee for LIC:** ELCA TX/LA Gulf Coast Synod; and Presbytery of South Louisiana  

**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](http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm).

Board Meeting Dates to Calendar

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“To live the faith we hold in common”  
President: The Most Rev. Douglas Deshotel; President Elect: The Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton;  
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz