



Peace Lilly in bloom

E-Newsletter

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

January 19, 2017

“To live the faith we hold in common”

Website links: [HOME page](#) [About Us](#) [Resources](#) [Daily Prayer Calendar](#) [Newsletter archive](#)

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

[*The Love of Christ Compels Us \(Article from our Director\)*](#)

[*MLK March for Peace held January 16th in Baton Rouge*](#)

[*In Sympathy*](#)

[*January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*](#)

[*18th Annual World Religion Day Shreveport-Bossier*](#)

[*Bridging Congregational Racial Divides—January 26th event*](#)

[*SEE - A warm break in Florida*](#)

[*Lafayette Listening Post – time now announced*](#)

[*Annual Assembly – making plans for March 6th–7th*](#)

[*Prison Ministry Conference in Baton Rouge March 27th-29th*](#)

[*Offering thanks to our recent contributors*](#)

[*Dates to calendar*](#)

[*The Love of Christ Compels Us*](#)

Article from our Director

A number of our Christian traditions share The Peace during the service of the Eucharist (Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion). As I understand it, this practice of sharing the peace as a sign of reconciliation with God and one another is the recovery of a practice of an earlier age in the Church. In my tradition there was a period of “trial usage” of services that were later codified in what is now the *Book of Common Prayer, 1979*. In one of the churches where I served, the trial services had been underway for some time. One of the more awkward moments in the new services being tried out was this moment in the service of the Exchange of the Peace. I can remember a person who was a faithful church attender finding this new experiment very uncomfortable. I think this church member represented a number of people who would just as soon not shake hands, and *God forbid!* be hugged by somebody in Church!

A bishop leading a retreat was telling about an incident when his life was changed when he shared the Peace with a member. The bishop had found himself at odds with someone else in the community, and after the meeting there was a worship service, the

Eucharist. At the sharing of the Peace the bishop turned around and all of a sudden he found himself standing face to face with this person with whom he'd had a disagreement. After a pause they reached out to one another and shook hands. It was quite a surprise for the bishop because something came over him at that moment of sharing, and he realized that he was changed or at least he had a different attitude toward this person. He was at peace.

Recently, I visited a church leader whom I very much respect, and we were discussing racial reconciliation. As I recall our visit, he stated that before racial reconciliation can take place, there needs to be repentance. I think we all realize there is also confession (of sin.) Part of repentance may mean helping victims of racism in whatever way we can to make things right because the love of Christ compels us. No one said that being a Christian would be easy or that reconciliation is not without its challenges. We know from his letters to the Corinthians that St. Paul faced very difficult challenges in ministry, and his letters are, in part, a response to those challenges.

As we prepare for the inauguration of a new President, our nation is facing the challenge of a divided populace. People of faith will be called upon to serve as reconcilers in a time when many people of faith are also divided. This is not the time for people to "take their toys and go home." It is a time to reach out with a hand toward those who differ from us and with whom we may have vehement disagreements. Of course, we must always hold our leaders accountable by making sure we see the decisions that reflect the evidence of Gospel values that bring about justice and peace. This is a new and different day to which we are called to minister. More than ever we need to hear the words of St. Paul in a personal way. We are called to the ministry of reconciliation because the "love of Christ compels us."

Rev. Dan Krutz

MLK March for Peace held January 16th in Baton Rouge



The Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service & March for Peace was held in Baton Rouge on January 16, 2017, beginning at 8:00 am at Mt. Zion First Baptist Church. Smiling faces of various races and occupations were seen in the gathering. One wise person really had the answer to our desire for peace, with a sign they were holding, **"GIVE JESUS A TRY."**

18th Annual World Religion Day Shreveport-Bossier

<p>January 22, 2017 1–5pm World Religion Day The Highland Center 520 Olive Street, Shreveport, LA</p>	<p>Keynote One Light, Many Windows</p> 
<p>Hosted by the World Religion Day Committee, in this annual event booths are set up portraying aspects of various religions and Christian denominations from around the world. The celebration of World Religion Day is open to the public for learning general information that will be shared by representatives of various world religions in the Shreveport/Bossier area.</p>	
	<p>Statement of Purpose: "To foster world peace, harmony, and understanding, we, the members of various world religions, will establish an area-wide observance of World Religion Day. We will accomplish these goals through education and communication via exhibits and demonstrations of music, spirituality, cultural foods and arts. We will offer information about origins, basic beliefs, religious feasts, and observances in a manner fully respectful of everyone's beliefs without intent to proselytize or convert." For more info. go to: http://www.worldreligiondayshreveportbossier.org/</p>

Bridging Congregational Racial Divides—January 26th event

<p>Believers for Baton Rouge event <i>to bridge congregational racial divides</i></p> <p>Event is FREE – All are welcome <i>(There may be a parking fee if you use garage parking, we at the LIC have not yet had confirmation on that.)</i></p>	 <p>Baton Rouge River Center</p>
<p>Thursday, January 26, 2017, begins at 6:30pm. Raising Cane's River Center arena, downtown Baton Rouge</p> <p>Pick any Sunday morning and it is easy to see that many of America's churches remain segregated. This bothers many Christians -- as it should. Praying together overcomes many divisions. Baton Rouge area church leaders hope a Jan. 26 event, <i>Believers for Baton Rouge</i>, will be a catalyst to bridge the community's racial divide — starting in the church pews.</p> <p>The Rev. Tony Evans, pastor of a multicultural Dallas megachurch and president of The Urban Alternative, will be a keynote speaker at the event which will include prayer and a mass choir. Some of the organizers are: Rev. Kevin McKee, senior pastor at The Chapel on the Campus; New Beginning's pastor, the Rev. Donald Hunter, Rev. Jesse Bilberry, former president of the 4th District Baptist Association, and Rev. René Brown, pastor of Mount Zion First Baptist Church and the current 4th District president.</p>	

SEE - A warm break in Florida

During the weekend of January 5th, while Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was dealing with ice and freezing temperatures in the low 20s, the LIC Executive Director was taking a well-deserved break at the State Ecumenical Executives (SEE) Retreat held at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Tampa, Florida.



SEE group picture 1/6/17
Fr. Dan Krutz, LIC Executive Director, is in the back row in a white shirt, slightly to the left of the center of the group.

Temperatures in Tampa that day were in the high 70s.

Fr. Krutz picked a great time to go to Tampa!

Lafayette Listening Post – time announced



January 29th - LAFAYETTE LISTENING POST

The Bread or Stones Campaign is a Christian coalition of churches and concerned individuals working together to improve the lives of children in Louisiana.

Church members and leaders concerned with childhood poverty and child well-being in Lafayette are encouraged to attend our listening post at **First Presbyterian at 1130 Johnston Street** on **Sunday,**

January 29th, from **2pm to 3:30pm.** This will be a time to learn about the issues effecting children in poverty and what the religious community can do to help.

Come voice your concerns and collaborate with others for the good of our children.

Want more info on the Bread or Stones Campaign?

Please contact [Samuel Rottman](mailto:Samuel.Rottman) or lainterchurch@aol.com

Annual Assembly – making plans for March 6th–7th



The 47th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will be held **March 6-7, 2017,** in Monroe, LA.

Working theme: **"Reformation: Watching the change in our Church and in our Coastline."**

This year's Annual Assembly will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 4915 Pecanland Mall Drive, in Monroe, LA.

Our thanks to the Judicatory leaders who have thus far replied to our requests for contact information of delegates to whom they would like for us to send registration packets to. We are eagerly awaiting more replies and will soon be sending out these packets.

As always, **Guests** will be invited to all speaker sessions. More information on the Assembly will be posted in upcoming newsletters.

Hope to see you there!

Prison Ministry Conference in Baton Rouge March 27th-29th

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana invites all who support Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Reform to a three-day conference on prison ministry: "Proclaiming Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration."

March 27 - March 29, 2017
St. James Episcopal Church
205 N. 4th St., Baton Rouge

PRISON MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Proclaiming Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration

Monday-Wednesday, March 27-29, 2017

St. James Episcopal Church in downtown
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

<http://www.stjamesbr.org/2017Conference> Registration is limited, apply online at:
https://secure.accessacs.com/access/eventlogin.aspx?id=Eoudro/EY48AwthOXtubXA==&site=91377&ReturnUrl=events%2fwz_people.aspx&ChurchID=3885&EventID=119360&sn=91377 or phone 225-638-8433 for additional information.

Please note that at this time the St. James website is in the process of being updated. It will soon reflect the following corrected SCHEDULE:

Monday, March 27th, the conference begins at noon with worship. The first speaker presentation begins at 2:00pm. Includes evening dinner, to end at 8:30pm for Monday.

Tuesday, begins at 7:30am with morning prayer and 1st speaker session begins at 8:30am. Ends at 6pm on Tuesday.

Wednesday, begins at 8am with a trip to Angola, to return for 2pm end of conference.

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 December 21, 2016 through January 20, 2017:

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Maude Saunders

Sharp; and John and Ellen Pecoul

Bread or Stones children's anti-poverty initiative: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Shreveport

Endowment Fund for Christian Unity: John and Ellen Pecoul

Thank you!

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

Bread or Stones Listening Post: **Sunday, January 29, 2017** at First Presbyterian Church, 1130 Johnston Street, Lafayette. 2pm to 3:30pm.

Bread or Stones Task Force Meeting: **Thursday, February 2, 2017** at the UMC Conference Building in Baton Rouge, beginning at 10am. Guests are welcome! Contact the LIC at LaInterchurch@aol.com for more information.

Commission on Criminal Justice Meeting: **February 9, 2017** at Catholic Charities in Baton Rouge beginning at 12:30pm.

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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***“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*

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