

ADVENT



Louisiana Interchurch Conference

L-Newsletter

November 2020

"To live the faith we hold in common"

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Director's Corner

*Article from our
Executive Director,
Rev. Dan Krutz*



Standing on the Promises

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. (Mark 13: 24-26)

More and more churches are celebrating the season of Advent as the beginning of a new church year. In that observance and hearkening to the meaning of *Advent*, two understandings of that word about *Coming* emerge. As we move through the early part of the season covering four Sundays, our attention is drawn to the Second Coming Christ; and there are a number of graphic descriptions in scriptures of this Coming in the genre of what we understand to be apocalyptic literature. Of course, the focus of Advent then begins to shift more clearly to the first coming of Christ with the Babe in the Manger in Bethlehem accompanied by his parents, a number of animals with other visitors on their way!

That First Coming of *the Word made flesh* is the fulfillment of God's promise to us that we receive a Savior, but that other promise of the Son of Man (the Messiah, Christ) coming at the fulfillment of history should not be cast aside, minimized or dismissed as the preoccupation of Christians of another era. Indeed, the images may seem foreign to us, even incredulous, but behind those images almost hidden is the promise of not only a series of stark scenes of

judgment, as it is a vision of setting things right. Indeed, there are signs of Christ returning again and again, rending the heavens, and penetrating the very depths of creation bringing redemption, justice and peace.

There has been no year as a nation and world that people wanted so desperately to be over, to be part of the past, as this year. There is the promise and hope for the future. For months we have wandered around in a kind of darkness, stumbling here and there, vulnerable to the corona virus. Often too late we have seen its horrible impacts on untold numbers of souls. There have been treatments, and now there is the promise of a vaccine. Of course, there is that other virus-like killer, racism, that continues to demand an equally decisive search for a cure—a way to bring healing and eliminate this deadly disease infecting the human spirit. Even with this spiritual pandemic of racism there are signs of hope and promise.

It's difficult, but we are asked to live with patience as we consider these two powerful comings of the Lord into the world. After all, Jesus once compared the revelation of the kingdom like a mustard seed, so tiny, and yet grows and grows beyond anyone's expectations. This Advent is another opportunity to witness to the promises of God and once again to take note of that beautiful hymn of promise:

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

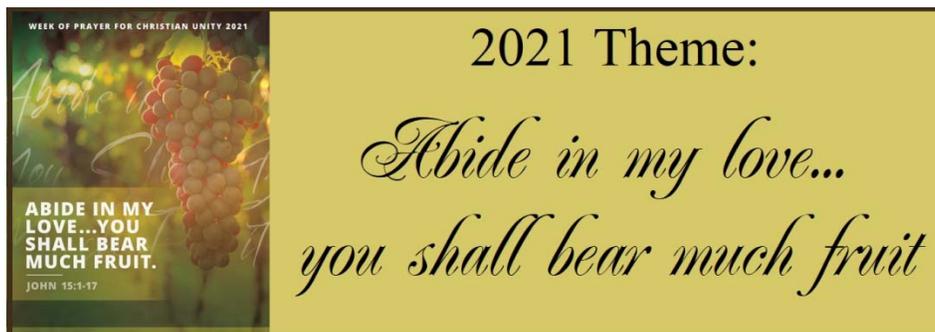
Fr. Dan Krutz

Advent radio messages from Order of St. Lazarus

The Order of St Lazarus has created four, week specific, radio spots for Advent. The pleasant voice of Fr. Chris Decker, Assistant Chaplain of the Order (and priest from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge), leads you through these encouraging one minute radio clips. They will be airing on some south Louisiana Catholic radio stations. You can also [email us](#) and we can send you the MP3 files. Mr. Hugh Straub of the Order invites LIC member judicatories to use them as they may find helpful.

Week of Prayer – events listing needed

If you haven't scheduled an event yet, please start the process!



Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18 - January 25, 2021

The theme for this coming year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is: "Abide in my love...you shall bear much fruit," from John 15.

Find out more and how to order supporting materials, at:

https://geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/theme_announcement_2021.html

We ask that all member LIC churches take the lead in planning for 2021 Week of Prayer services in their communities. *Please let us know as soon as you know of events occurring in your area, so that we may post them in the LIC newsletters and/or on the LIC website.*

Giving Tuesday and the LIC Friends Mailout

Giving Tuesday is tomorrow, December 1, 2020, a time to extend generosity around the world. We hope that you can remember the LIC as you consider your charitable giving possibilities. Our November "Friends of the LIC" postal mailing was sent out last week – please be watching for your letter in the mail!** Additionally, we can take credit card contributions at: <http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm>

***As is our customary practice, we did not send the November contribution request mailing to those who have already recently given. Thank you!*

November is National Adoption Month

Each November, this special month of awareness building helps to increase the number of families considering adoption and celebrates the joys of creating families through foster care adoption. The LIC's Bread or Stones program seeks to improve the lives of all of our children.

Not ready to raise a small child? There are many TEENS that need forever homes as well. There are also various ways that you can also help support a family who is adopting or has adopted. For more information visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/faq/adoption14>

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 October 28, 2020 through November 30, 2020:

During the above listed time period, the only contributions we have received were from our member Judicatories - which we greatly depend upon – thank you!

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>.

Board Meeting Dates to Calendar

Fall Board meeting dates:

2021		Sept. 20-21 , Houma, LA CHANGED to September 27-28, 2021
2022		Sept. 19-20, Alexandria, LA

Annual Assembly meeting dates:

2021		March 1-2, Lake Charles, LA – 51st Annual Assembly
2022		March 14-15, Baton Rouge, LA – 52nd Annual Assembly

“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*