

CHURCHWORK



Creation Care:
Our Sacred Duty to Help
Save The Louisiana Coast



CHURCHWORK

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

IN THIS ISSUE

On the Cover

[Photograph by Eleanor Berault, All Saints', River Ridge] In February 2018, youth groups from the churches in the Jefferson Deanery planted 500 trees near Manchac, Louisiana.

Reflections

- 3 Bishop's Reflection
- 4 Our Sacred Duty to Help Restore the Louisiana Coast: Reflections by the Clergy of the Diocese of Louisiana
- 10 Sustain Island Home *by George Bond*

Out and About in the Diocese

- 12 Clergy Transitions
- 13 Photographs
- 24 Bishop's Journal
- 28 Calendar

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Our Vision

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is one church, faithful to our Lord Jesus, united in mission, reaching out through service and proclamation to all for whom Christ died. We live in joyous expectation of God's transforming power, compassion, and mercy in our lives.

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Subscriptions

Churchwork is a free quarterly magazine published digitally by and for The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. To be added to the mailing list or update your address, please email Karen Mackey at kmackey@edola.org.

Submissions

Churchwork provides news and information about the diocese and wider church; and is a medium of theological reflection. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word; photographs should have a resolution of 300. Letters to the editor will not be printed. Submissions should be sent by email to Karen Mackey at kmackey@edola.org. We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.



Invitation to Participate in the Work of Transformation, For the Love of the Earth

One of the Five Marks of Mission for the Episcopal Church is, "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth." We, in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, have made this one of our priorities.

In today's news we hear so much about the environment and especially climate change and the affect it presents to us. Our water, our food and our commerce all depend upon natural resources that were once so abundant in our state. But we have been neglectful and sometimes reckless with our resources.

We now find ourselves facing significant challenges. Our climate is changing and this shift is affecting our water, food and commerce. Our coastline is disappearing and with it wildlife. Extreme rainfalls have caused estuaries to overflow and flood homes and businesses, while also impacting the crab, fish, and oyster industries and the tourism trade. All this is to say we can no longer be complacent. We are being called to sit up and pay attention.

One of the greatest transformations humanity has the potential to experience will be the move from the lifestyle of the industrial period to one of sustainability. By making better choices in our own households, we not only make a substantive, measurable difference in addressing the climate crisis but we align our lives with Jesus' mission. One tool that has recently been developed to help Episcopalians lead more sustainable lives is the web-based tool, Sustain Island Home (www.sustainislandhome.org). Rebecca and I invite you to join us and explore this new platform which will help you assess your carbon footprint and take action to reduce it.

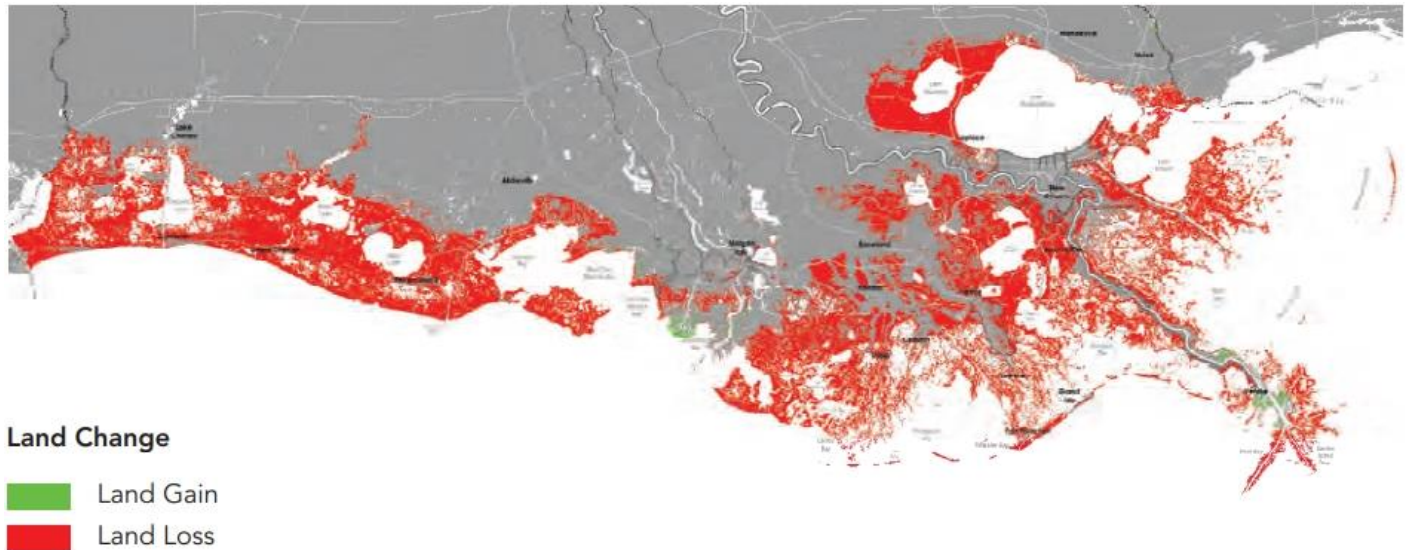
Our environmental commission is in the process of contacting your clergy and plans are being made to invite every member of every church in our diocese to learn about and participate in this great work of personal and corporate transformation, for the love of the earth.

We have been given a gift. Let us use it wisely with good intentions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Morris K. Thompson, Jr." with a cross symbol to the left.

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
Bishop of Louisiana

Our Sacred Duty to Help Restore Our Louisiana Coast



[Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana. 2017. Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana. Baton Rouge, LA.] The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority developed a "Future Without Action" scenario to predict conditions for the next 50 years that would be present throughout coastal Louisiana if we do nothing further to protect and restore the coast. This model above is the high scenario. To view the Coastal Master Plan, visit: coastal.la.gov

A recent poll conducted by BDPC, LLC + Pinsonat, shows that 98% of voters in Louisiana say officials should work to maintain as much of the Louisiana coast as possible, even if it's not possible to restore the original footprint. The poll results can be found here: mississippiriverdelta.org/coastal-poll-2019.

The Environmental Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana has discovered through conversation that coastal restoration is a concern to many parishioners throughout our diocese. However, many are not sure what actions they can take to help.

Our partners at Restore the Mississippi River Delta have brought several of the clergy from the Diocese of Louisiana out to the marshland to observe and learn more about coastal restoration. A few of them have written reflections on issues of coastal restoration from a faith-based perspective. In this issue of *Churchwork*, we share those with you. Restore the Mississippi River Delta has also provided a list of volunteer resources that you, as an individual, or as a church can be involved in.

Read, reflect, and act. Discover how you can you help restore our Louisiana coastline.

Restoring the Wetlands as Part of our Sacred Duty and History

by the Very Rev. Bill Terry

Originally published on the Restore the Mississippi River Delta website on June 8, 2016. Reprinted with permission.

Before our city and coastlands were flooded by Hurricane Katrina, there was a cry to rebuild wetlands that were disappearing. Before I became a priest, I was involved in the shrimp-boat industry. I had the privilege to befriend Cajun and Vietnamese families that had been fishing for generations. "Saltwater incursion" was a term I learned about very early on. We knew then and did nothing or very little. The voices of a few fishermen echoed in an endless hymn of subsistence, in a void hemmed in by the greed of special interests.

I have also been involved with the offshore industry through various professional positions. My father was a marine surveyor, so I was brought along to shipyard after shipyard during my youthful summers. We were also a multi-generational boating family, so I came to know our coastlands

and learned about all the potential bounty it provided.

I can even remember when Cat Island was big, and we'd camp on its peninsula. I remember steaming out to Chandeleur Island when it was an island and not a reef. I remember seeing vast schools of fish in Mississippi Sound and trolling for mackerel, fishing for white trout and watching the pogie boats set out their nets. But as the song says, "It ain't der no more," or at least not like it was.

Then I became a priest. Now my experience is filtered through the sacred lens of my faith. That experience includes all things created. If you think for a moment that the bayous, wetlands or offshore islands are not sacred, then you haven't seen a sunrise in winter in a pond off of Lake Borgne. If you think that our linkage to nature is only a means to our personal ends, then you haven't read the Gospels.

Somewhere and somehow, we lost our communion with creation. Nature, even our wetlands, became an object to an end – no longer a co-participant in creation and the cosmos, but rather "a resource" to be used without consideration of moral, ethical and even sacred thresholds.

The heart of a faith-based eco-theology stretches back to the very start of Christianity. Indeed, the harshest critic of abusive power and thoughtless human consumption was that little Rabbi Yeshua. He gives us a constant critique of wealth on the altar rather than God and humanity. So it is with eco-theologians. In the 12th century, a nun by the name of Hilda critiqued and catalogued the pollution of the Rhine River and called for a unification and cooperation with nature in her writings. In the early and into the mid 20th century, holy scientists like de Chardin would say:

"The day will come when, after harnessing space, the winds, the tides, and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire."

Later in the 20th century, outspoken voices like Thomas Berry, a scientist-theologian, would seek to reunify nature and the sacred. He would claim that as Christians, our obsession with redemption history is out of sacred context and causes a chasm between God and humanity. He reminds us:



[Photograph provided by Restore the Mississippi River Delta] A visit to the Lemon Tree Mound in Plaquemines Parish. This is an ancient Native American site crumbling away into the Gulf of Mexico.

"The naïve assumption that the natural world is there to be possessed and used by humans for their advantage and in an unlimited manner cannot be accepted."

If the sunrise on the sea and the wind in salt marshes are sacred, then such is also a litany of sacred expression. Just as holy people everywhere are called to care for sacred texts, churches, mosques and synagogues, then too we are called as people of faith to care for the even greater sacred text that is Nature.

So, is there confession of sin in the wetlands? Is there a movement toward reconciliation with creation? Is there a desire to repent and to "sin no more?" I hope so. I pray so. I dream of a day when our wetlands heal and in their health, we find our health.

Stewards of Creation

by the Rev. Dan Krutz

Originally published on the Restore the Mississippi River Delta website on November 2, 2017. Reprinted with permission.

The Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC) was formed to serve in part as a collective voice of a significant portion of the Christian churches and faith communities in our state. In the 1980s the attention of the conference turned to the coast and the loss of land along the coastal parishes. The LIC

joined its corporate voice with others in advocating for ways to restore the coast and to draw attention to the call of all Christians to be good stewards of creation. At our Annual Assembly in March, Helen Rose Patterson, Greater New Orleans Outreach Coordinator with Restore the Mississippi River Delta, and Alisha Renfro, staff scientist with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), provided an update on the efforts to restore the coast or at least to slow if not stop the land loss. Their presentations were a poignant reminder to people of faith to exercise faithful stewardship so that generations to come will enjoy the beauty of our coast.

Earlier this month I was a guest of Helen Rose along with Bishop Morris Thompson and a colleague, Father Harry Jenkins, who were interested in working in partnership with those advocating for coastal restoration. The five of us were in the boat behind some trees near the Mississippi River as the winds of a fresh cold front swept around us moving some dark clouds away. Water was everywhere around us except for the new growth of grasses, trees and other vegetation nourished by the rich river sediment. In my imagination I went back in history several millennia to recover a description from a primeval story: "Darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit (wind) of God was moving over the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:2)

The creative process of the Spirit wasn't just a one-time event, I think. No, that day in the boat I saw along with my companions not just the resilience of creation in the life of the creatures and the elements sustaining this part of the world along the Louisiana



*[Photograph provided by Restore the Mississippi River Delta]
Land being built at the location of the Caernarvon freshwater diversion in Big Mar, Louisiana.*

coast; but also that creation is ongoing and ever changing and renewing itself. The coast may seem old, but on this day, it seemed so fresh and new.

So, the Church, its members and other people of faith are to serve as stewards of creation so that generations to come can enjoy the beauty that appeared before my eyes. Richie Blink, NWF's Plaquemines Parish Outreach Coordinator, and Helen Rose were wonderful guides and were so helpful in pointing out the need to restore our coast to the best of our abilities. That means for me to be an advocate, a voice for the coast, and to join with others who see a calling to help in sustaining the life and wonders of the Louisiana coastline.

In a way, we are called to be partners with nature, coworkers with the Spirit to enable a future for those to come. Everyone has a role to play from the scientist to the fisher, to the one who simply takes a boat ride with friends and discovers anew what it means to be a steward of creation. Nature and the Spirit say, "Come."

"Tree Planting in the Swamps," a Poem by Reverend Seamus Doyle

by the Rev. Seamus Doyle

Originally published on the Restore the Mississippi River Delta website on March 1, 2018. Reprinted with permission.

I first came to Louisiana from Ireland in 1974 and fell in love with the people, the food and the land. Over the next forty years, I have travelled most of the USA and lived for stretches in various places; but my heart was in Louisiana, and finally I returned home.

Some years ago, I read "Bayou Farewell" by Mike Tidwell and felt a great sadness for the loss of the land, for the forced migration of communities. It is easy to become angry at how this loss all came about by well-meaning people (corporations), but we now have to do something to mitigate the situation.

When I learned of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation tree planting project, I knew that this was something I could get into and planned a volunteer day for youth from three Episcopal churches along with the clergy and youth leadership.

On Saturday, February 17th, eighteen youth from 6th to 12th grade (including two youth from Honduras who are studying here) and adults put on work clothes and headed to the swamp in Manchac. After a demonstration of how to plant the trees, we loaded up the sleds and headed out working in teams of two or three.

The majority of the youth had never done anything like this and, when it was all over, there was a feeling of satisfaction as they looked across the land that, a few hours earlier, had no trees and was now home to 566. I was asked more than once, "Can we do this again?" and "This was a great idea," said others.

For my part, it was an interesting day for one at my age and unsteady of balance. The soft ground brought memories of digging turf with my uncle in Ireland. There is something sensuous about this land. It has a beauty all of its own and its own aroma.

The following day, the memory of participating in the ongoing creation of the earth, of saving a piece of land for future generations continued to wander through my mind and my attempt to capture it resulted in the poem below.

TREE PLANTING IN THE SWAMPS.

With sole on shovel I bowed
with respect to the land and
felt the web of grasses rip apart
like a surgeon's knife exposing
the lungs of the swamp which
gasped a sucking final intake of
air as the soil split open, water
pooled in the gullet, oxygen
laden bubbles danced for the
new tree descending into the
exposed earth in which the roots
will weave a path into the marsh,
bind it together against the rising
water and storm, saving the coastline,
and the creatures of the wild will soon
awake and learn to adapt to their
new environment of five hundred and
sixty-four trees and more planted
while they hibernated.

(C) SEAMUS P. DOYLE.
2/18/2018



*[Photograph provided by Restore the Mississippi River Delta]
Baby cypress trees on the land being built at the location of
the Caernarvon freshwater diversion in Big Mar, Louisiana.*

Like the youth, I look forward to another day of tree planting, knowing that this small action by a few people across the swamp may not save everything. However, every small positive action we do to protect this beautiful coastline means that we are committed to preserving our heritage for generations to come. I strongly believe what these youth (and many others at other times) did in planting trees will create a barrier to the wind, slow down the surging water, and give a new home to our sentient brothers and sisters who call this place their home.

A Quick Jaunt from New Orleans Reveals the Opportunity to Restore Louisiana's Coast

by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg

Originally published on the Restore the Mississippi River Delta website on November 26, 2018.

Reprinted with permission.

Early on a recent Monday morning, Bishop Thompson and I made our way down the east bank of the Mississippi River to hop on an airboat and learn about the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion. Having spent the prior weekend in meetings, it was a gift to enjoy a sunny morning out on the water. There are few places that rival the natural beauty of south Louisiana. I am reminded of that every time I take a drive outside of the city.

After boarding the airboat, we glided across the top of the water as we learned about the Caernarvon

Freshwater Diversion. When the gates of the diversion are open, the river is able to flow into the surrounding low-lying area. Originally intended to help the local oyster industry by controlling the salinity of the area, this diversion has inadvertently captured enough sediment to produce a new wetland area—which I found fascinating. This gorgeous wetland is now a thriving ecosystem (we missed out on seeing any alligators but were visited by plenty of butterflies) and provides protection against storm surge.

Though I am broadly interested in coastal preservation, I knew nothing about the purpose of diversions. This tour taught me that projects like the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion provide the benefits of building new wetlands and creating a barrier against hurricanes. While Caernarvon was never built or operated to build land, indeed it has, demonstrating the importance of sediment diversions that will be designed and operated to build and maintain wetlands in our region. In other words, diversions can both restore and protect our coast—a win/win—and are the type of forward-



[Photograph provided by Restore the Mississippi River Delta] There's no single solution for Louisiana's land loss crisis. From barrier island restoration to sediment diversion, we support a suite of restoration solutions including terracing. The two photos below are of a terracing project near Fort St. Philip, located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish. A natural crevasse opened in this area in the 1973 Mississippi River flood. To maximize the land building potential, a terracing project has been built in this area. The first photo was taken in 2012, the second was taken in 2019 of the same location. You can see land growing naturally around these terraces, converting what was open water into new wetlands.

thinking project that we need more of! Every time I gather with Helen Rose and the Restore the Mississippi River Delta team, I realize that I have much to learn, and that there is so much more that I want to learn. I look forward to our next trip and to helping our Episcopal congregations plug further into environmental stewardship efforts.

Losing Ground & Gaining Perspective

by the Rev. Fred Devall

Originally published on the Restore the Mississippi River Delta website on April 23, 2019. Reprinted with permission.

Flying over the Mississippi River Delta brought back a flood of family stories. My grandfather spent some of his childhood living on a houseboat near Port Eads. His father was a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Both men helped build the levees that I hope will soon host the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Many hunting and fishing stories, theirs and mine, surfaced.

As we flew down the river on the east bank, we could see the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion. In a very good way, it stood out. It was green and vibrant in a way most of the surrounding marshes and swamps were not.

Further down we went, and we could see the chocolate waters of the high river as they came through the Mardi Gras Pass, over the natural levee and through the cuts near Fort St. Philip. On one side of the plane – a dynamic system with greens and browns and a vibrancy sorely lacking on the other side.

That other side was the west bank of the river that forms the east bank of the Barataria Basin. Not only does it lack intentional or unintentional diversions, its man-made levee goes much further than the east bank, meaning the annual river rises bring no benefit to the starving wetlands.

Having fished both sides of the river most of my life, I knew the land was drastically changed, especially around Empire. What used to be a beautiful patchwork of wetlands was now open water. Further along on our flight home, we could see Lafitte. There was very little separation between that town and big water, but before I could even process that, we were looking at the Greater New Orleans area.



[Photograph by the Rev. Fred Devall] Viewing the disappearing wetlands while flying over the Mississippi River.

My grandfather's last project before retiring from the Corps was the French Quarter floodwall. I wondered how much it could withstand should a hurricane come up the mouth of the river – everyone's worst fear. When they made their calculations, were they banking on wetlands that are now diminished to slow a storm surge?

As a child, the Gulf seemed very far away. That bird's-eye view really gave me different perspective. Some of the surprise is the natural change of perspective that comes from growing up. Things are closer together than we realized. That's normal. What's not normal is the lost land that has brought the Gulf much closer than most of us would like to admit. Thankfully, some folks are calling us out of our denial, calling us to act while we still can.

The Coastal Master Plan is the best way forward. It seems to be the best science for the best price. All of us will have to pay; some through taxes and others through changes in the ways we live and work, but it's worth it. To do nothing is to abdicate the future of generations who would succeed us. Flying up in the air reveals that we don't have as much time as we thought. All those places and names on the maps, the memories, and the adventures are connected through the lives of real people. I hope my descendants will have the privilege of recalling their own coastal memories when they fly over these marshes in future decades.

Volunteer to Restore the Coast

Our partners at Restore the Mississippi River Delta recommend the following organizations to help restore the coast.

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is a non-profit organization whose mission is to drive bold, science-based action to rebuild Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration and advocacy.

Volunteer opportunities include marsh grass planting, swamp tree reforestation, and oyster shell bagging for reef restoration. You can learn more at www.crcl.org/how-to-get-involved.

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's mission is to drive environmental sustainability and stewardship through scientific research, education, and advocacy. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin is a 10,000 square mile watershed encompassing 16 Louisiana parishes. The land use of the region is both rural and urban and is the most densely populated region in Louisiana, including metro New Orleans and the state capital, Baton Rouge. It is one of the largest estuarine systems in the Gulf of Mexico containing over 22 essential habitats. The Basin's topography ranges from rolling woodlands in the north to coastal marshes in the south, with the 630 square mile Lake Pontchartrain as its centerpiece.

Volunteers are needed to join the restoration team to plant marsh grass and trees or to join the educator and outreach team. Learn more at saveourlake.org/volunteer.

National Audubon Society

Audubon Louisiana welcomes volunteers in nearly all of their program areas. From helping one of the chapters across the state, to performing annual bird surveys, to participating in the Coastal Stewardship Program, there are many ways to contribute your time. Through the Bird Conservation Programs, volunteers engage directly in conservation by adopting an Important Bird Area in their community, participating in bird monitoring programs and getting involved in other activities designed to restore or protect these critical areas for birds. More information here: la.audubon.org/get-involved/volunteer

SUSTAINING EARTH, OUR ISLAND HOME

A Call to Action for All Episcopalians

658 Households
Participating

264 Tons CO₂e
Reduced/Year

1355 Actions
Completed

Sign up for the Episcopal Church Carbon Tracker: Sustain Island Home

Sustainislandhome.org

by George Bond, Parishioner, St. George's, New Orleans, and Member of the Environmental Commission

"God so loved the world that he gave his only son ..." is not a pious platitude or a simple religious refrain. It is a declaration of God's purpose and mission in the world from the beginning to this very day. "God so loved the world." That's not just about us who are human. It's about the whole of God's grand and glorious Creation.

The Most Reverend Michael Curry

Thanks to the Diocese of California, the Episcopal Church has a carbon tracker all can use. Sustainislandhome.org is a site linked to wenew.net, which is open to all faiths.

What does the tracker do and how hard/easy is it to sign up? As to the difficulty, the hardest part is adding your utility data. In New Orleans, it can be obtained by logging into your Entergy New Orleans account and looking at past usage. Then you decide on which tasks you will do, ranging from turning off lights to solar power and as you complete the task savings are calculated by the program.

Bishop Thompson has endorsed Sustain Island Home as he wrote: "One of the greatest transformations humanity has the potential to experience will be the move from the lifestyle of the industrial period to lives of sustainability. By making better choices in our own households, we not only make a substantive, measurable difference in addressing the climate crisis but we align our lives with Jesus' mission. One tool that has recently been developed to help Episcopalians lead a more sustainable life is the web-based tool, Sustain Island Home (sustainislandhome.org).

Rebecca and I invite you to join us and explore this new platform which will help you assess your carbon footprint and take action to reduce it."

So far, the data of total nationwide saved energy tallies:

- 658 Households participating
- \$50,164 dollars saved
- 264 tons CO₂ reduced/year
- 1355 Actions completed
- 29,494 KWH saved
- 7,379 gallons gas saved
- 1,564 therms saved (a unit of heat equivalent to 100,000 Btu or 1.055 × 10⁸ joules)
- 131,757 gallons water saved

This shows that individually we can do little but united we can achieve a lot more!

Once you log on, you are assigned to the community of your parish. I am part of the St. George's Community. So far there are 6 of us out of the 17 members in our Diocese. There is also the

opportunity to pair up with select friends so you can run a friendly competition to outperform the others.

The program also compares me to the US in general, New Orleans specifically, China, India and the European Union (EU). I am doing far better than the US, a little better than New Orleans, and I have some to go to meet the EU. The goal they have set for me, presuming I do everything is less than half of my current usage. I have a ways to go but the main factor would be for me to go solar. Which I hope to do in the near future.

Sustain Island Home gives you a broad listing of activities as I have noted above. One is installing a rain barrel and Green Light New Orleans has them to offer. I first got the basic one which has flowers. Wanting one with a nautical flavor I found that by paying twice as much I could work with an artist for my design. I have one with Portland Head Light and CGC SPAR turning into Portland harbor. My wife used to go to the lighthouse to see us both leaving and returning home. I have put in double-paned windows and replaced one door, one with a screen so in mild weather I can open the windows and door. These are only two of their listed activities.

I have become more involved in environmental issues since moving to New Orleans. I read about Chesapeake Bay islands flooding but not the extreme land loss we experience here. I have planted marsh grasses for the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and I want to plant trees and bag oyster shells for them as well. I have taken an airboat tour of the Caernarvon Diversion with a scientist from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. The Environmental Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana works closely with Restore the Mississippi River Delta who is a conduit for all the potential ways to help preserve our area.

I invite you, as does Bishop Thompson, to log on and sign up.

How It Works



Create your profile

It's easy to get started. Create your household profile and enter some information on your current activities so we can track your success!



Take sustainable actions

Browse a list of actions that will help reduce your impact, then add them to your dashboard. We'll help with next steps, costs, and questions.



Work together

When you create your account you will automatically be added to your local congregation group! Work together and help each other succeed!

Sign up at www.sustainislandhome.org

The Clericus (June 15—September 15, 2019)



[Photograph by the Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr., Bishop of Louisiana] The TIP Class of 2019 has graduated. The TIP class is made up of the newly ordained and those in new cures in the diocese. It is led by the Rev. Tommy Dillon and the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning.

New Clergy in the Diocese

The Rev. Marigold Brown is a new deacon in our diocese and comes from the Diocese of St. Thomas. She has been assigned by Bishop Thompson to serve at St. Luke's, New Orleans, effective July 7.

Transitions in the Diocese

The Rev. Seamus Doyle has been called as permanent supply priest of St. Timothy's, Laplace, effective June 9.

The Rev. Don Brown has resigned as priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge, effective July 31. He and his wife have moved to Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

The Rev. Elaine Clements stepped down as diocesan disaster coordinator effective May 2019. She is now a non-parochial deacon living in Alabama.

The Rev. Canon John Kellogg has been named the diocesan disaster coordinator.

Deacon Jay Albert has been named the diocesan disaster educator.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Kuhn has been called as the interim head of school of St. James Episcopal Day School, Baton Rouge.

Clergy Deaths

The Rev. Floyd Knox died on July 19 at the age of 93. A graveside funeral was held on July 25 at Alexandria #1 Baptist Cemetery, Oak Ridge, Louisiana. A Celebration of Life service was held on August 2 at St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge.

The Rev. Jerry Rogers died on July 19 at the age of 83. A funeral was held on July 24 at St. John's, Thibodaux.

The Rev. Canon Bill Ziegenfuss died on August 18 at the age of 86. A Requiem Mass was held on September 6 at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.



First Responders Luncheon (left)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Morgan City, Facebook Page] First Responders from around St. Mary's Parish attended a First Responders Luncheon hosted by Trinity Church, Morgan City on June 5.



Missional Voices National Gathering (right)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] The Missional Voices Gathering was held June 13-15 at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. The Missional Voices National Gatherings bring together church leaders, seminarians, church planters, entrepreneurs, artists, and everyday innovators to discuss innovative ministries and missional communities both within and outside of the traditional church context. The gathering featured a few local leaders including Deacon Elaine Clements who presented with the Episcopal Relief and Development Disaster US Disaster Program, Nicole Barnes of Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, and the Rev. Peggy Scott who spoke about prison ministry at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. During the closing Eucharist, the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning preached and the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson celebrated.



St. Augustine's Mission Trip to Honduras (left)

[Photograph from the St. Augustine's, Metairie, Facebook Page] Parishioners of St. Augustine's returned to Tela, Honduras, to work with their sister church, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church/ Iglesia Episcopal Espíritu Santo. For several years, parishioners travel to Honduras to work on projects that include repairs to the church and building stoves for the people of Tela.



Saying Goodbye to the Tober Family (right)

[Photograph from the Trinity, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] On June 16, Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, said farewell to the Rev. John and Amy Tober. Fr. John was called to serve as the rector of St. James' Episcopal Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Out and About in the Diocese



The Coalsack String Quartet (left)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] The Coalsack String Quartet held a recital at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, on June 16.



St. Paul's Youth Mission Trip (right)

[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] The youth of St. Paul's, New Orleans, travelled to Houston, Texas, on a mission trip in June. They volunteered at non-profits around the city. On this day, the St. Paul's Youth Mission Team sorted clothes for The Cottage Shop to benefit their women's shelter.



Small Church Leadership Days (left)

[Photograph by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg] Leaders from small churches of the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at All Saints', River Ridge, and St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, in June to discuss the issues facing small congregations and to offer support.



Passing of the ECW Gavel (right)

[Photograph by Sudee Campell, Christ Church, Covington] Diocesan ECW President Jeanne Roques receives the gavel of her office from Past President Ann Ball during the ECW's Board Orientation meeting held at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center June 26-27.

Out and About in the Diocese



Vacation Bible School & Summer Camps

[Photographs from Facebook pages] Top Row: (left) CEEP at Christ Church, Covington; (center) VBS at Grace Church, St. Francisville; (right) VBS at St. Francis, Denham Springs; Second Row: (left) Camp Able NOLA at St. Andrew's, New Orleans (center) TEEP at Trinity Church, New Orleans; (right) VBS at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge; Third Row: (left) Anna's Place NOLA Summer Program at St. Anna's, New Orleans; (center) Summer Camp at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge; (right) VBS at Christ Church, Covington;



Ordination of the Rev. Caroline Carson (left)

[*Photograph provided by the Rev. Caroline Carson*] The Rev. Caroline Carson was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on June 27 in the Diocese of New Jersey by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wm "Chip" Stokes on behalf of the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr. She is serving as the rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents, Beach Haven, New Jersey.



St. Matthew's Youth Mission Trip (right)

[*Photograph from the St. Matthew's, Houma, Facebook Page*] The youth of St. Matthew's, Houma, travelled to the Hinton Center in North Carolina. On this trip they disassembled a home donated to the Hinton Center to recycle materials to be spread out through the community to people in need.



A Visit From Her Majesty The Queen (left)

[*Photograph from the Mount Olivet, New Orleans, Facebook Page*] Queen Elizabeth dropped by the Mount Olivet Independence Day celebration on June 30.



St. Michael's Welcomed the Rev. Robert Beazley (right)

[*Photograph by Kristen Wheeler, Christ Church, Slidell*] The Rev. Robert Beazley celebrated his first Sunday as priest-in-charge of St. Michael's, Mandeville, on July 7.



Banana Pudding Contest (left)

[*Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page*] On July 7, St. Margaret's held their first annual Banana Pudding Contest. Parishioners vied for the tastiest desert award judged by St. Margaret's Banana.



Flooding at Chapel of the Holy Spirit (right)

[*Photograph from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans, Facebook Page*] All of our churches made it through Hurricane Barry without damage. However, during the torrential rain in New Orleans on July 10, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit flooded a couple of inches throughout the building.



Summer Clergy Gathering (left)

[*Photograph by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg*] On July 17, the clergy of the diocese gathered at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, for a day of fellowship and education.



Summer Sounds at St. James (right)

[*Photograph from the St. James, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page*] Chris LeBlanc returned to St. James for the annual Summer Sounds concert on July 17.



Backpack (left)

[Photograph from the *St. Luke's, Baton Rouge Facebook Page*] St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Greater St Luke's Baptist Church partnered for the Back to the Books backpack/school supply giveaway on July 28.



Stumbling Through the Mozart Requiem (right)

[Photograph from the *Christ Church Cathedral Facebook Page*] Nearly 50 strings and voices gathered for a fun filled musical evening "Stumble Through" the Mozart Requiem. "Stumble-Through" is a fun focused gathering of musicians orchestrated by Christ Church Cathedral's Betsy Heimburger.



Trinity and St. Luke's Lock-in and Volunteer Day (left)

[Photograph from the *St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page*] The youth of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, and Trinity, Baton Rouge, held a combined lock-in on Friday, August 4. They volunteered the next morning and Thrive Academy the following morning.



Columbarium at St. Paul's Holy Trinity, New Roads (right)

[Photograph from the *St. Paul's Holy Trinity, New Roads, Facebook Page*] St. Paul's Holy Trinity, New Roads, has installed a new columbarium. It was completed in August.



Back to School Drive at Trinity, Morgan City (left)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Morgan City, Facebook Page] Trinity Church, Morgan City, parishioner Elizabeth Blatt delivering Trinity's back to school offering to Stephenville Elementary.



New Organ at St. Margaret's (right)

[Photograph by Jenn Ocken, St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge] On August 14, St. Margaret's Celebrated the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin and blessed their new organ dedicated to Robbie Giroir.



Happening #83 (left)

[Photograph by the Rev Jane-Allison Wiggin-Nettles, Diocesan Youth Coordinator] Youth of the diocese gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center August 16-18 for Happening #83. Happening is a youth-led spiritual formation weekend designed for high school teens in grades 9-12. The purpose of the Happening program is to be one of the instruments within the Anglican Tradition to renew the Christian Church in the power of the Holy Spirit, in order that the Church may respond more readily to its call to spread the Kingdom of God throughout the world.



Blessing of the Backpacks (right)

[Photograph from the St. Patrick's, Zachary, Facebook Page] Churches across the Diocese of Louisiana sent children off to school with prayers and blessings in ceremony called The Blessing of the Backpacks. This adorable photograph is from St. Patrick's on August 18.



St. James Ministry Fair (left)

[Photograph from the St. James, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] A choir member demonstrates how fun it is to sing the choir during the St. James Ministry Fair on August 18.



New Member Luncheon at Grace Church, St. Francisville (right)

[Photograph from the Grace Church of West Feliciana Facebook Page] On August 9, the ladies of Grace Church, St. Francisville, welcomed new members with a delicious luncheon, style show, and delightful music.



7th Street Dinner Church (left)

[Photograph by Kristen Wheeler, Christ Church, Slidell] In September, Christ Church, Slidell, began a new service called the 7th Street Dinner Church. The service combines ancient practices with modern times. Parishioners prepare and savor a meal together, enjoy fellowship around a common table, and partake in this holy experience. The service is held on the first and third Wednesday of every month.



Stepping Stones Young Adult Retreat (right)

[Photograph from the Stepping Stones Facebook Page] On Saturday, September 7, at Molly's House of Trinity Church, New Orleans, Stepping Stones Young Adults Retreat had a day of exploring the spirituality of relationships. The next Stepping Stones Retreat will be held on November 16 at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, and will explore the spirituality of ministry and vocation.



Discipleship & Formation Workshop (left)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On September 7 at St. Paul's, New Orleans, Bill Campbell, executive director of FORMA, and Sarah Stonesifer, digital missionary, Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary, were with us to talk about discipleship in the 21st Century.



Lunch with C.S. Lewis (right)

[Photograph from the St. Alban's Instagram Page] St. Alban's kicked off their popular lunch series called CS Lewis. Every Wednesday, parishioners of St. Alban's cook lunch for students while the Rev. Drew Rollins teaches a lesson from the works of CS Lewis.



110th Birthday of Mr. Lawrence Brooks (left)

[Left and Center photograph by Karen Mackey; Right photograph from the St. Luke's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] Mr. Lawrence Brooks, the oldest living American World War II veteran and the oldest parishioner in the Diocese of Louisiana, turned 110 on September 12. There was a grand celebration to honor this now supercentenarian. The National World War II Museum threw a party with military honors, well wishes from Governor John Bel Edwards and other elected officials, and a ton of media attention. The Victory Belles sang the "Birthday Song." St. Luke's, the parish where Mr. Brooks is a faithful member, held an Evensong and party for him on September 13. The preacher at the Evensong was the Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf, her first time back to our diocese since becoming bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee. During the party following the service, we were surprised with a video of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry wishing Mr. Brooks a happy birthday. St. Luke's also celebrated the 100th birthday of Mervis Hewitt this month. Here she is with Lawrence Brooks. When this picture was taken, Lawrence leaned down and said to Mervis: "I hope you live to be my age!"



Out and About in the Diocese



Learning Each Other's Languages at St. Augustine's (left)

[Photograph from the St. Augustine's, Metairie, Instagram Page] On September 12, St. Augustine's kicked off their new LOL (Learn Each Other's Language) dinner. Every Thursday, the Spanish speaking and the English speaking members of the parish gather together over food to converse and break down barriers.



Visiting the Lemon Tree Mound in Plaquemines Parish (right)

[Photograph by Helen Rose Patterson, Restore the Mississippi River Delta] Fr. Rob Courtney and Canon Shannon Manning listen as a tribal elder from the Grand Bayou Community shares some of her people's story under the canopy of the Lemon Tree Mound.



Yappy Hour and Eucharist in the Park (left)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook Page] On September 12, Trinity Church, New Orleans, hosted Yappy Hour and Eucharist in Coliseum Square Park. Parishioners were invited to bring their dogs, friends, and food to share. An outdoor Eucharist followed at the end.



Climate Strike (left)

[Photograph by Deacon Joey Clavijo, St. George's, New Orleans] On September 20, Deacon Joey Clavijo, chair of the Environmental Commission, participated in the Youth Climate Strike to stand in solidarity with the youth of New Orleans bringing awareness to the climate crisis.



Walk to End Alzheimers (right)

[Photograph from the Trinity, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] On September 21, parishioners from Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, participated in the Walk to End Alzheimers.



The Service-Service (right)

[Photograph by Kristen Wheeler, Christ Church, Slidell] On September 21, Christ Church, Covington held the first of their monthly Service Service. One Saturday a month, parishioners participate in volunteer work at a local non-profit. The day concludes with enriching worship and a chance to give back to their hosts financially through a special collection. On this day, they volunteered at Equine Reflections: Horses Helping Hearts and Minds in Folsom, Louisiana.



Stewardship Workshop (left)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] People from across the Diocese of Louisiana took their lunch hour to attend the Stewardship Resource Workshop on September 25 at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. Members of the Congregational Consultants on Stewardship presented programs that have worked in their parishes.



Smells, Bells, and Magical Spells (right)

[Photograph by the Rev. Jane-Allison Wiggin-Nettles, Diocesan Youth Minister] After being sorted into their Houses, the youth spent the last weekend of September with Harry Potter and the Gospels, playing games, and having a blast! Junior High Youth Rally was held at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center.

Bishop's Journal: June 1-September 14, 2019

June 1: Travel to Morgan City and stay at the Hampton Inn. My visitation the next day is in Franklin.

June 2: I travel to St. Mary's, Franklin, where I confirm and receive several new parishioners. Following the service, I am treated to a fried chicken lunch.

June 3: I take my day off.

June 4: Canons Manning and Kellogg meet at my house for a day retreat. Without phones ringing, we get a good bit of work done.

June 5: Staff meeting and then office work that has been neglected. Also, today is my 37th wedding anniversary with Rebecca.

June 6: In the office most of the day.

June 7: Sermon writing at home.

June 8: I drive to the Solomon Center to speak with the director and then stay for the Board meeting. In the evening I walk in the New Orleans Pride Parade. It is amazing to see the support from so many for the LGBTQ community.

June 9: I did not have a visitation because of the drive to Sewanee for the Regents meeting. Our meeting begins with dinner at the vice-chancellor's home.

June 10: Our meeting begins early with Eucharist and then a full day of meetings.

June 11: The Regents continue to meet through lunch. I have been asked to serve on the search committee for the new chaplain of Sewanee. This meeting takes place right after the dismissal of the Regents meeting.

June 12: Rebecca and I are up early to drive back to New Orleans. It's a long, all day drive.

June 13: I meet with the TIP group for their last gathering and then have a meeting with Fr. Stephen Shortess.

June 14: I spend the day with my sermon preparation.

June 15: I celebrate the closing Eucharist for Missional Voices, a group from across the U.S. that gathered at the Cathedral for their conference. Rebecca and I drive to Baton Rouge for my visitation.

June 16: Rebecca and I drive to Nativity, Rosedale, for my annual visitation. It is a nice Sunday.

June 17: I take my day off.

June 18: The day begins with a staff meeting. Later this morning I meet with Fr. Quoi about opportunities in our diocese. I celebrate and preach for the staff Eucharist. In the afternoon I meet with Deacon Carol Stewart and Brod Baggert regarding Together New Orleans. After this meeting, I drive to Jackson, halfway on my way to Memphis.

June 19: I continue my drive to Memphis where I meet with Bishop Phoebe Roaf, Bishop of West Tennessee. Bishop Roaf treats me to a wonderful dinner at McEwen's and then drives me around Memphis to orient me to her new surroundings. I will be Bishop Roaf's coach for the next three years.

June 20: I meet with the diocesan staff of West Tennessee in the morning and then end my visit spending time with Bishop Roaf then drive to Jackson.

June 21: I drive the second leg of my trip to New Orleans.

June 22: No meetings today.

June 23: Rebecca and I pack up the car and head to Destin for the annual family summer beach trip.

June 24-28: Vacation

June 29: We drive back to New Orleans

June 30: I don't have a visitation, so we worship in the congregation at the Cathedral.

July 1: I'm technically still on vacation but I have a few phone calls to make.

July 2: We have our weekly staff meeting and then it's pretty quiet.

July 3: After work, Rebecca and I drive to Jackson for the 4th of July holiday.

July 4: 4th of July holiday.

July 5: Vacation

July 6: Rebecca and I have dinner with Bishop Brian Sage and his wife Kyle.

July 7: No visitation

July 8: I take my day off.

July 9: Before the staff meeting, I meet with Tanja Wadsworth regarding the Solomon Center. The staff meeting follows and



[Photograph by Kristen Wheeler, Christ Church, Slidell] Clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana walk in the New Orleans Pride Parade on June 8.

Out and About in the Diocese

then I call Fr. Van Windsor regarding St. Andrew's, Clinton. In the afternoon I make several calls and then meet Deacon Mark Hudson for dinner.

July 10: The morning is spent making phone calls and other office matters. In the afternoon I take part in the Chaplain Search Advisory Committee phone conference.

July 11: This is my anniversary of going into the Marine Corps. It was a hot day when I entered Paris Island, SC. Most of the day is spent on office catch up.

July 12: I spend much of the day doing something I don't often get to do, read!

July 13: We cancel the Executive Board meeting due to the fact we didn't have much to discuss and several people are on vacation.

July 14: No visitation.

July 15: I take the morning off but have a conference call in the afternoon. Dr. Merry Sorrells, the headmaster of St. Martins School, comes by for a visit. In the evening I have another GCO phone conference.

July 16: We have the usual staff meeting and then I drive to Lambeth House where I preach and celebrate their service. After the service, they invite me to have lunch in the penthouse. The view is amazing looking over the Mississippi River. We watch the rain approaching and it is magnificent. I love watching the rain. In the afternoon I have a meeting with Fr. Paul Bailey and enjoy his gentle spirit. My day ends with a meeting with the Environmental Committee where they give me my marching orders of writing a message to the diocese and making a video. I'm not keen on making videos and they seem to enjoy my anxiety.

July 17: I drive to Baton Rouge to the gathering of all the clergy. Our discussion is about proper office decorum and harassment. We invited Clyde Jacob to be our speaker. Clyde has been so very helpful when we have employment questions. He is well received among the clergy. Before I leave, I meet with Fr. Capaldo then drive back to New Orleans.

July 18: Rebecca and I fly to Kansas City to see our daughter and son-in-law. For some strange reason, our flight is delayed many, many hours. In the Delta Crown Room, they have an open bar, i.e., no bartender. It is a help yourself bar. I say to Rebecca that if they delay us again, I'm headed to the bar. Fortunately, after five hours, we head to Kansas City. The frustration of flying and delays is softened when our daughter Virginia surprises us with the news, they are expecting their first child. We, of course, are elated!

July 19: Kansas City.

July 20: Kansas City.

July 21: We fly back to New Orleans.

July 22: I take my day off.

July 23: I have an early morning dental check up and make it to the office in time for the staff meeting. My first appointment is with Fr. Fred Devall for his annual



[Photograph from the St. Francis, Denham Springs, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation at St. Francis, Denham Springs.

consultation. In the afternoon I meet with Fr. Rob Beazley for his annual consultation. Fr. Beazley has just been called to be the priest-in-charge of St. Michael's, Mandeville.

July 24: I drive to Thibodaux for the funeral for Fr. Jerry Rodgers. On my way, I listen to the Mueller report and am embarrassed for our country. Our elected leaders are acting childish and disrespectful towards one another. I am so frustrated that when the service begins, I still have an unpleasant image in my head until I hear the gospel reading which begins with, "I am the good shepherd." I needed to hear those words.

July 25: I have an early meeting with Fr. Jay Angerer for his annual consultation. Jay is busy and doing a fine job. My next appointment is with Todd van Alstyne, a Dominican who is seeking permission to preach in our diocesan. We have a very pleasant visit.

July 26: Rebecca and I leave for Jackson for the weekend.

July 27: I have no meetings for today.

July 28: This is my last Sunday in July with no visitation.

July 29: I have an eye appointment and for the first time in my life my doctor used a machine to look into my eyes without them being dilated.

July 30: I spend time with an early phone call, and we cancel the staff meeting since so many are out on vacation. Later Cassandra and I do some calendaring for next year. Making the visitation calendar is a bit tedious.

July 31: Fr. Stephen Crawford pays a visit for his annual consultation. My next appointment is with Fr. Bill Terry for his annual consultation. Following Fr. Terry, I have lunch with Mother Morgan MacIntire for her annual visitation. My day ends with a couple of phone calls.

Out and About in the Diocese

August 1: My day began with Fr. Craig Dalferes' annual consultation. We should have met on the water to wet a hook or two. Later in the morning, I meet Mother Liz Embler-Beazley for her annual consultation. I learn a lot about chickens! In the afternoon I have a coaching conference call with Bishop Phoebe Roaf.

August 2: I drive to Baton Rouge for the memorial service for Fr. Floyd Knox. Fr. Stewart Cage preaches a fine sermon.

August 3: Rebecca and I drive to Baton Rouge for the night and have a fine dinner Fr. Chris Capaldo.

August 4: My visitation is with Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, where Fr. Chris Capaldo serves. We have a nice service and afterward a wonderful reception lunch. Rebecca and I are able to get back to New Orleans in time to hit a few golf balls.

August 5: I take my day off and run errands before my doctor's appointment.

August 6: The day begins with our weekly staff meeting and that is followed up by a meeting with both my canons. In the afternoon I meet with Canon Steven Roberts for his annual consultation. Before I can go home, I have a phone call to Dr. Catherine Meeks who is guiding the Racial Reconciliation Commission through small group conversations. She continues to be invaluable.

August 7: In the morning I have several phone calls to make and it takes up most of the morning. In the afternoon I drive to Baton Rouge for a board meeting at St. James Place then dinner with Robert Bishop.

August 8: I take the car in for routine maintenance, then on to work. Today is mostly catch up work.

August 9: I spend the day working on sermons.

August 10: I get up early for the Solomon Center Board meeting. The drive is beautiful going across the Causeway.

August 11: My visitation is with St. Mark's, Harvey, where I baptize, confirm and receive. After the service, we have an ice cream social.

August 12: I take my day off.

August 13: I begin the day with our staff meeting and then go over convention material with the two canons. I also visit with a parishioner who is discerning a call to ordained ministry. In the afternoon I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

August 14: My first meeting this morning is with Fr. Drew Rollins, chaplain at LSU for his annual consultation. Next, I meet with Fr. Skully Knight, chaplain at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, for his annual consultation. After lunch, I meet with the Rev. Johnathan Kolawole from Nigeria.

August 15: My first appointment for the day is with Fr. Harry Jenkins for his annual consultation. This is followed by a luncheon I have for the New Orleans clergy to discuss Together New Orleans.

August 16: I attend to some business out of town and work on my sermon for Sunday.

August 17: No meetings for today. Rebecca and I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

August 18: My visitation is with St. Francis, Denham Springs, where I first meet with the confirmands. I meet for the first time a set of triplets. The service goes well and afterward, we have a very nice reception.

August 19: I take my day off.

August 20: The day begins with a staff meeting followed by Eucharist at the Cathedral where I preach and celebrate. In the afternoon I lead the Executive Board phone call where we must deal with land transactions.

August 21: The SECC board meets with architects to go over plans for the proposed youth facilities at the Solomon Center. While the meeting was 12 hours long, we have a good conversation. I get home late that evening.

August 22: In the morning I meet with Fr. Watson Lamb for his annual consultation. Fr. Lamb is the chaplain at Holy Spirit, Tulane. In the afternoon I meet with Deacon Joey Clavijo and Canon John Kellogg regarding my Sustain Island Home letter to the diocese.

August 23: I spend time writing and reading. I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

August 24: I drive to Episcopal School of Baton Rouge for their Board retreat.

August 25: My visitation is at St. Augustine's, Metairie, where I receive and confirm several people. St. Augustine's has begun a service in Spanish and two who are received are Latino. It is a great day for the diocese and St. Augustine's. A very nice reception follows.

August 26: Rebecca and I attend the funeral for Deacon Mark Hudson's mother. It is difficult to say goodbye to our mothers.



[Photograph from the St. Augustine's, Metairie, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Augustine's, Metairie.

Out and About in the Diocese

August 27: We have our weekly staff meeting and then I have a conference call with Bishop Phoebe Roaf. In the afternoon I meet with Brother Todd Van Alstyne.

August 28: In the morning Canon Manning and I meet with two women from St. Andrew's School. Later in the day, Lee Crean comes by to "just catch up." I like those kinds of meetings!

August 29-31: I take the next two days off for the Labor Day holiday.

September 1: No visitation.

September 2: I spend the weekend with our grandchildren. Our grandson caught four breams. His first!

September 3: Early morning signing of legal documents and then staff meeting. Following the staff, meeting is the budget meeting. Chris Speed has done a terrific job forming our budget.

September 4: I have an early morning meeting with Fr. John Craft and in the afternoon the whole budget committee will be here to discuss the budget.

September 5: The day begins with a two-hour conference call followed by Mother Kit McLean's annual consultation. In the afternoon I have an appointment outside the office then dinner with Deacon Mark Hudson.

September 6: In the morning I officiate at the funeral for Fr. Bill Ziegenfuss. He served the diocese well for many years. In the afternoon, I work on my sermon.

September 7: My day begins with welcoming everyone who has come to the Evangelism Formation teaching at St. Paul's. In the afternoon I watch Miss. State play football on TV then head to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

September 8: My visitation is with St. Stephen's, Innis. The drive is beautiful and very little traffic. After the service, we have a very nice brunch. In the evening Rebecca and I host the condo association's gathering. Dinner with friends is a nice way to end the day.

September 9: I take my day off and go for a long walk. In the middle of my walk, it is clear I need new walking shoes. The day ends with a nail biter of a Saints game.

September 10: The day begins with our staff meeting then a catch up with both canons. Following this meeting, I have a wonderful conversation with a college student who is discerning a call to some type of ministry. It is refreshing to hear a young adult speak about her joys of faith.

September 11: Today is 9/11 and I am acutely aware of where I was on that day and the tremendous shock and horror I felt and then utter sadness. I spend some time reflecting on that day before I go to work. In the office, I spend time on the phone and then meet with Marsha Wade and Raul Esquivel to talk over some canon revisions. In the afternoon, I have more phone calls to make and then drive to the north shore where I work with some of the parishioners at St. Michaels. I thoroughly enjoy my time with them and their priest-in-charge, Robert. The drive across the Causeway is peaceful and relaxing.



[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] Bishop Thompson with Mr. Lawrence Brooks at his 110th birthday party at St. Luke's, New Orleans.

September 12: My morning walk is somewhat unsettling. I usually leave around 5:30 and it is uneventful. But today I encounter several people sleeping in the middle of the sidewalk and have to walk around them. One individual was a young woman nicely dressed but sound asleep or so she seemed. I wonder what brought her to the place where she slept out on the sidewalk? At work, I continue to wonder about the people I passed along the street early in the morning. I have one appointment to speak with a man who is listening to a calling to ordained ministry. It is a good meeting and I am glad he is in the process. Later Canon Manning and I meet to talk over the Executive Board agenda for Saturday. I make several more phone calls before I head home.

September 13: I spend the day working on sermon material and then get ready for the 110th birthday celebration for Mr. Brooks. The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf preaches at the evensong at St. Luke's and Bishop Brown attends. Fr. Richard Easterling is the officiant and Fr. Ron Clingenpeel assists. The night is grand. Imagine living for 110 years. Mr. Brooks has witnessed so much through those years.

September 14: The Executive Board meets today at the Solomon Center and while the meeting is long, we are productive. Hard decisions are spoken and acted upon and we say goodbye to three members.

182nd Annual Convention



182nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana will be held November 1-2, 2019, at Christ Episcopal School, 80 Christwood Blvd, Covington. Our keynote speaker is Mary Foster Parmer, director of Invite Welcome Connect.

Due Date for registration, nominations and resolutions is October 1. To see the offices to be filled by nomination [click here](#).

The Pre-Convention Meeting will be held on October 8 at 6 p.m. at St. Augustine's, 3412 Haring Rd, Metairie. We will live stream the meeting. Details on how to access the live stream can be found by [clicking here](#). We will also record the meeting and post the video to our Facebook page and website.

All are invited for an Invite Welcome Connect Workshop led by Mary Foster Parmer on November 1 at 12:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal School.

All information regarding Diocesan Convention can be found here: www.edola.org/2019-convention