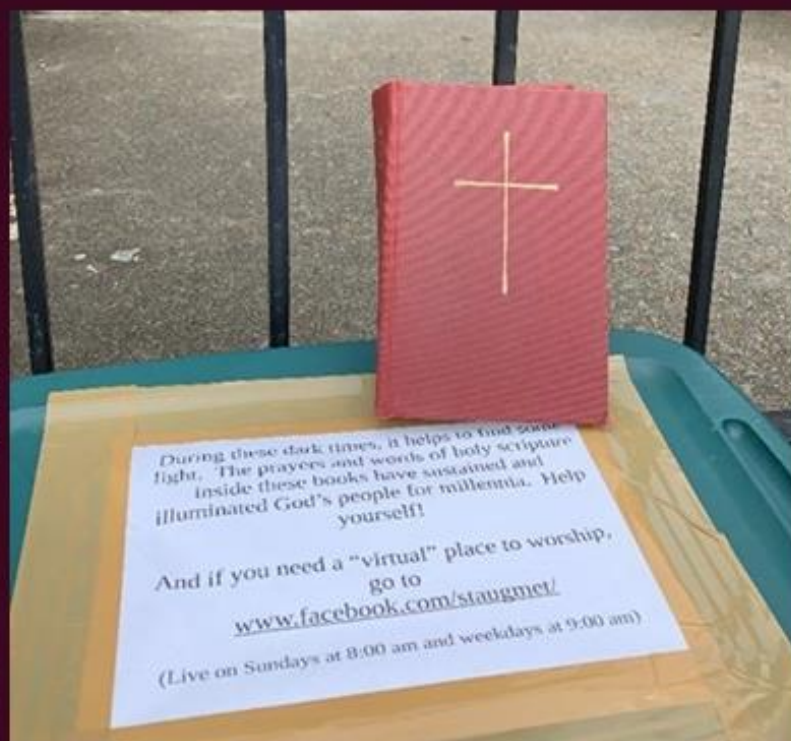


# CHURCHWORK



**MISSION AND MINISTRY  
IN THE TIME OF  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC &  
RACIAL JUSTICE**





# CHURCHWORK

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

We are living in extraordinary times. This past March, life turned upside down overnight as the COVID-19 virus began its deadly rampage. In order to protect one another, we were forced to keep physical distance from friends, neighbors, and loved ones. We only ventured out for essential supplies. We were not permitted to gather in our churches. However, the Church did not stop being the Church. We found each other in new and unique ways — mostly online. Our clergy and lay leaders worked hard to shine the light and love of God through Zoom calls, as well as live and pre-recorded videos. Our churches stepped out their doors to help those most affected by the virus and its aftermath. At the time of this publication, the virus is showing signs of winding down. We are exploring ways to gather again, knowing that we must continue to watch out for one another's safety.

On May 25th, a Black man named George Floyd was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Floyd's death has ignited a movement to dismantle systems of oppression that harm and kill our Black sisters and brothers. This issue of Churchwork includes letters from leaders in the Episcopal Church calling us to reflect upon issues of racial injustice.

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[Photograph from church Facebook pages] Signs from around the diocese telling their neighbors that the Church did not close during the COVID-19 pandemic. They can be found online.

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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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### 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](mailto:kmackey@edola.org). We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.

## Reflection from Bishop Thompson



Recently, I read an article written by a friend, entitled “Stop Looking Back.” The title took me back to the First Testament story of Lot and his wife who were warned not to turn back or they would perish. Lot did not turn back but his wife did and turned into a pillar of salt. Jesus tells us that salt that has lost its taste is useless. Part of what I’ve gleaned from these two stories is that we can’t reclaim our previous experiences. Oh sure, we can see a rerun of an old movie, or reread an old book, but the experience of our first encounter can never be repeated. Why? Because we are different. The moment an experience has occurred, we have been changed. We can’t relive that experience.

Congregations, clergy and lay leaders across the diocese are thoughtfully engaged in conversation around the ever-changing landscape of our common worship. When will we resume in-person worship? How will we continue to reach out virtually? How do we balance our theology with the safety protocols given to us? This Tuesday, I am gathering with the clergy for our annual Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows. I am not sure what the experience will be like, but I’m pretty sure it won’t be the same as the last Sunday I visited a congregation to confirm, baptize and celebrate the Eucharist. Too much has happened since my visitation to St. Andrew’s, Luling. For one, we will be wearing masks. We won’t be seeing faces without a covering over our mouth and nose. Passing the peace will be without hugs, kisses and handshakes. There might be other changes and that will be fine, too. What we will experience will be a new, new.

My friends let us leave behind what was and look to what is to be. There is resurrection when we don’t look back, but look with anticipation towards what is to be. I don’t know all the answers to what will be but one truth I do know is that God will be in the midst of us and we will give God praise for bringing us into another day.

Until we meet face to face, may God continue to hold each and everyone of us in the palm of God’s hand.

Brave Journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading “+ Morris K. Thompson, Jr.”

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



### COVID-19 Stories From Around the Diocese of Louisiana

#### Focusing on Connection and Community

*The Rev. Duane Wiggin-Nettles*

*Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans, and Mount Olivet, New Orleans*

I recently heard a colleague push back against what must already be the most tired marketing trope of the decade, "In these uncertain times..." "What times are certain?" he said. I agree. Life has always been full of uncertainty and change. There's a season for everything, as Ecclesiastes reminds us. But in every season, there is also a constant-God. Scripture describes a world born out of chaos into the hands of a loving and stable Creator and redeemed by the incarnational Christ Jesus. This idea has guided me and the leadership at both parishes where I serve as priest, Free Church of the Annunciation - Episcopal and Mount Olivet Episcopal Church, to shift the focus from chaos and uncertainty to connection and community with God and one another - to be present in this moment.



Rev. Duane Wiggin-Nettles  
The Sermon



Mothering God  
Voices Found #71 | Tune: Lady Chapel Singers

Jessica Holl  
Soloist

*Screenshots of a virtual worship service of Church of the Annunciation and Mount Olivet, New Orleans.*

Early in the pandemic, I read a theological reflection from a Jesuit priest inviting us to see ourselves as a people in exile, as during the Prophets, when ancient Israel was removed from the temple, the physical presence of God in their lives. The great stability in their lives. As we have been separated from the eucharist, the physical, stable presence of God in our own lives. While the Israelites mourned their loss, the Prophets invited them to consider how to be the people of God without the temple. I felt this was a time for us to do the same. Our Episcopal and Anglican traditions offer many ways in which to experience the physical and stable presence of God when we gather, even without eucharist.

We read in Ezekiel that the prophet literally ate the Scripture rolls, feasting on the word of God as an example to the people in exile. We decided we would also feast on Scripture during this time. I moved our services online to Morning Prayer. We could not pretend that nothing had changed. It was a different time. We could do nothing about what was happening, but we could do something about our response. We needed to find new ways to commune together with God.

I decided to stream services from my house. My parishioners were working from home, so I would do the same. We're all in this together. I also felt it was good to set an example to stay home. It's been an opportunity to show people that we can find God in places other than the church building. God is wherever and however we gather. While acknowledging our loss, I encouraged us to embrace new-found opportunities before us.

It's been a time of creativity for me. I took the approach that online is a different medium than in-person so it should look different. Our streaming devices (phones, tablets, TVs) call for a more intimate experience. We do a live-stream at 10 a.m. each Sunday to foster community and connection in a way I felt pre-recording could not. We sometimes have technical issues, but in-person worship isn't perfect either. Mics go out. Readers sometimes cannot be heard. The wrong hymn might be played. Once we got over the need for perfection, we instead focused on having a shared experience. A friend of mine summed it up well when he observed that we are about "connection, not perfection." We follow the service with coffee hour on Zoom. We usually see about 20-25 people join in for time of fellowship, from all over the country and even from Canada. We end with prayer requests.

## Mission and Ministry in the Time of COVID-19

Instead of retracting, we've expanded our small group offerings using Zoom. We have formed new parent groups and retiree groups that people have been talking about for years but could never seem to get off the ground before. We are meeting people where they are, as Jesus and the early church went to the people wherever they were.

I make a point to attend most small group meetings over Zoom in order to see and connect with folks since the opportunity for casual conversations before and after service is not possible. I also spend a great deal of time on the telephone to stay in touch or provide pastoral care. The length of phone calls has surprised me the most. They last much longer than a pre-pandemic call. While I had to adjust my schedule to this, I've welcomed it. The one-on-one conversations offer an opportunity of deep connection.

For all the disruption at this time, my parishes and I have learned new ways of being that we will carry into the next phase of our life together. Tomorrow won't look like the past or the present. The future will bring its own challenges and joys. Chaos will certainly be there. As in every age, we will be faced with the choice between shrinking from it in fear or stepping out into the light of Christ in the hands of a stable Creator.

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### The New Normal at St. George's Dragon Café

*Chip Duncan*  
*Parishioner, St. George's, New Orleans*

We thought we were somehow immune to the problem in a country far away. We were getting ready for a St. Patrick's Day filled with hugging friends and strangers and sharing drinks outside of Tracey's. We had just bounced back from our successful Mardi Gras Spirits fundraiser complete with parades and celebrations before the soberness of Lent. Coming off of Mardi Gras no one seemed to even be talking about the virus. Life seemed normal.

Then the St. Patrick's Day Parade was canceled. Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser agreed that precautions should be taken to stop the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, but he thought the City of New Orleans went too far by canceling the parades. Then things got weird.

On Sunday, March 15th, it was Team One's day to



*[Photograph by Chip Duncan] Preparing meals to go at the Dragon Café Feeding Ministry.*

prepare and serve breakfast at Dragon Café. We were all hearing about COVID-19 and coronavirus. At that time, the state only had three presumptive COVID-19 cases reported. Dusty Porter, Ph.D. Vice President for Student Affairs at Tulane had been briefed all week regarding the coronavirus and knew what precautions had to be taken. Under Dusty's guidance, we quickly rearranged our tables and reconfigured the first floor of the church to accommodate more tables so we could space our guests six feet apart.

We served the breakfast in our leftover Styrofoam "take away" boxes in order to avoid handling the plates and flatware. Dragon Café had gone "green" a year ago under the direction of Deacon Joey Clavijo and George Bond and their sustainability program. We purchased dishes, glasses, and supplies from a local restaurant that was closing and stopped our order of paper plates and Styrofoam coffee cups. Due to safety and health concerns, we had to put health over the environment for the time being. This development prompted a trip to Restaurant Depot to stock up on "carry out" supplies. Three hours were spent in line to buy take out boxes, gloves, and other supplies. Everyone there was looking for the same things to service a new "takeout" world.

After much discussion and a flurry of e-mails regarding safety and concerns, the decision was made to carry on with our standard breakfast every Sunday morning as we have done since Katrina. On average, we serve about 75 to 100 meals between 8:30 and 9:30 am every Sunday morning. Dragon Café has not missed serving a meal since its inception after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Our

## Mission and Ministry in the Time of COVID-19

volunteers have walked through flooded streets and ignored police curfews in order to serve our guests every Sunday morning. Hurricanes Gustav, Isaac, Barry, and Tropical Storm Lee did not prevent us from serving every Sunday morning. Gehrig had played 2,130 games and Dragon Café has served over 767 meals since Katrina. We will break his record. A worldwide pandemic would not stop that door from opening at 8:30 every Sunday morning to serve our guests.

Our system has changed slightly since mid-March. We have asked all at-risk people to take a break from serving so as not to expose them to unnecessary risk. All of our volunteers show up early to prepare the food donning face masks and gloves to now cook and plate the food inside and then roll the take-a-way boxes to the front door where they are positioned so the guest can come by and grab the box off of two long tables.

Our guests are polite and grateful. They understand the need to stand six feet apart and line up on the orange tape Claudia Denson has carefully placed on the sidewalk on St. Charles and Cadiz. We have a large Purell pump hand sanitizer that our guests use first as they move down the line.

Our number of guests has remained constant since the onset of COVID-19. We do have more requests for extra boxes so the guest can take food back to those in quarantine.

Everyone is looking forward to the day when we can all sit together and hug hello and goodbye every Sunday morning.

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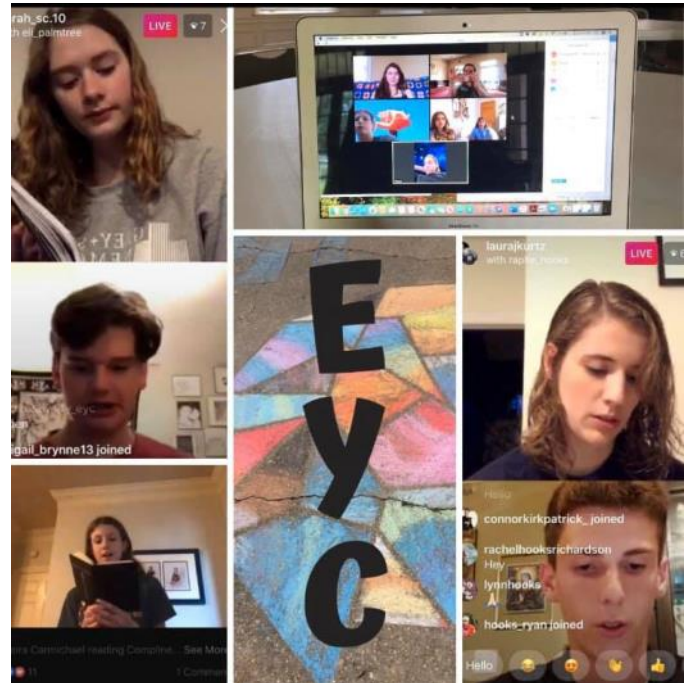
### Adapting to Change – A COVID Story

*Julia Golding*

*Youth Formation Director, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge and Trinity, Baton Rouge*

These have been extraordinary times and change has been difficult. It can be unnerving but adapting to new and innovative ways of reaching youth has been life-giving for our youth team.

As soon as we were no longer able to meet in-person we established a virtual game plan. Within a week we had weekly ZOOM meetings with our Jr. and Sr. EYC members which then expanded into a meeting for all of our college students who had come home. It became evident that we were tapping into a wider audience than we expected



*Virtual Compline with the EYC of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, and Trinity Church, Baton Rouge.*

to. We in turn connected with youth all over the country, from those who had moved away to those who had moved back. It was great that we were able to reconnect again.

There were moments of grieving the things/events that had been lost but we focused on the positive and prepared events for the youth to look forward to.

We partnered with Thee Heavenly Donut which created donut packages to be sent to our youth at home, we sent them all letters of encouragement and sent packages to our graduates. The biggest surprise was our online service for graduating seniors. We had 30 families attend.

Throughout this experience I saw the presence of God manifest deeply within our youth. The church never closed but was alive and well. The youth started to lead services of Compline via Instagram and Facebook. They had taken the reigns to spread the love of Jesus.

This experience has given me hope that we will get through this. Just as Christ rose on the third day, we will rise as a global community through this shared experience.



### Chapel on your Phone?"

*The Rev. Bobby Hadzor  
Chaplain, Trinity Episcopal School, New Orleans*

In the Spring of 2014, I was finishing my second full year as chaplain of Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans. Our parent's group was working on their spring fundraiser, "Trinity Follies," an event where parents performed SNL-style skits parodying the year that had passed.

I, along with our head of school, Rev. Michael Kuhn, was approached to see if we would be willing to do something for the show. The vision was to parody a popular Super Bowl ad at the time. The commercial starred Eli and Peyton Manning singing a song called "Football on Your Phone". The ad was for Direct-TV who was beginning a new streaming service to customers' phones. Michael and I both quickly jumped at the chance.

Shedding my bow tie and Michael shedding his collar, we dawned outfits similar to those of Eli and Peyton in the commercial and got to work. With the help of some parents and children from the school, our version of the song was born - it was aptly called "Chapel on Your Phone".

At the time the idea was absurd - chapel on your phone? Yeah right. The song included lyrics like: "It's chapel on your phone that's what I said - if you fall asleep while praying you can watch it in your bed." - and - "Look at this guy using his phone as a phone! Don't use your phone as a phone, use your phone to atone!" The video was a hit during that year's Follies, and I hadn't thought about it since.



*Screenshot of a prayer video the Rev. Bobby Hadzor recorded for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.*

Fast forward to March of 2020. I have been ordained for three years and continue to serve Trinity Episcopal School, celebrating my 8th year as chaplain. I woke up one morning to an email from a parent. The email included a link with a simple message - "Remember this? Not so crazy now!". The link brought me to a Dropbox folder where a video had been stored since 2014 - a video I had honestly forgotten about - a video called "Chapel on Your Phone." The song was about the absurd concept of digitally watching Trinity's morning chapel from the comfort of your home.

One of the great traditions of Trinity Episcopal School is our daily morning chapel. Every day, our students gather for a time of peace and reflection before the day begins. When our school transitioned to online learning in mid-March, I needed to find a way to continue this tradition. My conclusion was that I would film our morning chapels from different locations in the school, releasing them each morning via YouTube.

To be honest, I thought we would only be out for a week or two. By filming the chapels from different locations at school I thought I could provide a temporary connection to the school for those who were increasingly feeling disconnected. However, as the weeks went by, my computer folder entitled "Trinity at Home - Chapels" grew and grew.

The biggest test was during Holy Week. Our school always holds a special mid-morning Good Friday service before sending our children off for Easter break. Would we still be able to read the passion narrative? Well, what if we just got everyone on a Zoom meeting and I recorded the audio? Could we still sing "Old Rugged Cross" and "Were You There" as a community? Well, what if we got our music teacher to sing the songs acapella from her porch and I added the words to the screen. What about the Stripping of the Altar? What if I set my camera lens to wide-mode and kept the suggested 6-feet apart from the co-officiant, our head of school, the Rev. Gary Taylor?

This time at home has called us to reimagine our ministry. What seemed overwhelming at first has now become my spiritual practice. We have been holding "Trinity at Home" for 8 weeks at this point. We are still unaware of when, or if, we will be returning as a school community before the school year ends. Yet, I still drive to school every day and film our morning chapels. I have begun inviting children and parents to record themselves reading the prayers that I now add to my recordings.

## Mission and Ministry in the Time of COVID-19

At first, it felt odd speaking to a camera alone in rooms that were once filled with the voices and laughter of children. However, as the weeks have gone by, I no longer feel alone in these spaces. I am encouraged by the emails I have gotten from alumni, families, and children. I am inspired by the strangers who write to thank me for my work and ask if they can be added to the mailing list for the chapels. I recently had an email from an alumnus who had long since graduated from Trinity but still remembers the School Prayer and the songs from our beloved "Green Book".

I don't know what will come of all these videos once this is all done. The years will probably quickly pass by without any notice. However, maybe 6 years down the road an alumnus or parent will write an email with a link in it - a link to one of these morning chapels with a simple message attached - "Remember this?" I look forward to that time but until that happens, I rest in the peace that God will never stop pushing us to find new and innovative ways to encounter the sacred with one another.

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### Throwin' Out a Lifeline

*Martha McDowell-Fleming  
Parishioner, St. Andrew's, New Orleans*

I spent every summer growing up either in the water or in a boat. Tossing out lines was part of our everyday routine: pitching out the anchor, tying up to a dock, throwing out the ski rope, rigging our Sunfish sailboat, or pulling someone behind or into the boat. Lines secured us in a fluid, sometimes bumpy environment.

As parishioners at St. Andrew's, NOLA, we've been tossed a lifeline of daily connection by our priest, Father Jim Morrison, during this bumpy, lonely time of quarantine for COVID 19. Every day since late March, each family has received a short upbeat "rope of hope" from Father Jim.

Sunday services from St. Andrews began online March 22nd, matching the "stay at home" orders from Governor Edwards and Bishop Thompson.

Creative, upbeat, and encouraging messages have been delivered daily, during the rough weather of COVID-19's unrelenting deadly statistics and dire warnings. Visual symbolism carried us into the story of the resurrected Jesus.

So, what has worship been like during this quarantine?



*Screenshot of the April 17 daily reflection of the Rev. Jim Morrison.*

Every day, parishioners from St Andrew's and anyone interested in following the YouTube uploads have been tossed a lifeline of prayerful and hopeful messages from our clergy leadership. These words and images have anchored us in Christ's love, bound us together in these uncertain times of anxiety and fear, and helped us weather these uncertain times, these storms of life.

Thanks be to God!

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### Reflecting on God's Goodness at St. Mark's

*Carol Martinez  
Senior Warden, St. Mark's, Harvey*

Initially, the sequestration required by COVID-19 provided an opportunity to catch up on correspondence, complete overdue tasks, and have time to reflect. As we learned that we would not be able to meet for worship and Christian fellowship, however, the focus changed. As the weeks go by, I've begun to reflect on my church, St. Mark's in Harvey, and what a great part it plays in my life. I miss being there, and I miss my St. Mark's family.

In mid-March Father John Kellogg called to say that, based on the great need caused by the virus, some parishioners had asked to open our food bank every Saturday, as opposed to our regular schedule of once a month when we fed about 25 families. Everyone agreed.

On the first Saturday of the new schedule, we provided



food for 50 families. The second Saturday there were 60 families. The third Saturday 80 families. The need continued to increase! On Saturday, May 9th, St. Mark's provided food for 265 families in need! Our continuing posts on Facebook have brought prayers, notes of appreciation, and donations from as far away as Maine and Utah! I am overwhelmed that our little church has had such a great positive impact on our community.

As I reflect on this turn of events, my thoughts go back in time to the Summer of 2013. Donna Hurley was senior warden, and I was assisting her as the immediate past senior warden. St. Mark's had not had a full-time priest since the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Our interim priest, who was with us for three years, had passed away in May 2012, and we could not afford a full-time priest. Supply priests were in short supply, and many Sundays we held Morning Prayer led by our deacon. Our numbers, already decimated by Hurricane Katrina, continued to dwindle. We had no Sunday school because we had no children – not one. Visiting families with children never returned. Donna and I despaired that it might be too late to reverse the trend. I remember a weekday when we were at church handling paperwork, and we began to discuss how you close a church. What happens to the sacred vessels; church records; vestments; furnishings? What about items donated by parishioners still active in the church? How is the church deconsecrated? Do you notify public officials? I'd never been associated with a church that closed, and I felt a deep personal failure. I knew that our church was needed on the West Bank. I went home and prayed to God to help us keep St. Mark's doors open.



*[Photograph from the St. Mark's, Harvey, Facebook Page] A St. Mark's parishioner prepares grocery boxes to help feed people who lost their jobs after the COVID-19 stay-at-home order.*

A short time later the vestry authorized a letter to Bishop Thompson asking him to please help us find a priest. He and Canon Manning met with Donna and me for a lengthy discussion of logistics and finances, and when we left, we were greatly encouraged.

Finally, in August 2014, Father John Kellogg was assigned to St. Mark's on a part-time basis. Within a few weeks of his and his wife Tait's arrival, it was clear that St. Mark's would not close. Every week there were more people attending services. Families with children came to stay. We publicized the fact that we welcomed everyone, and our congregation grew both in numbers and diversity. We have baptized and confirmed new members; continued our annual pumpkin patch; resurrected our annual auction; planted a community garden; re-decorated the church interior; hold regular adult Sunday school; employ a paid nursery worker for children during services; and much more. A year ago, we started the once-a-month food bank mentioned above, and our blessings are overwhelming. We are all so anxious for St. Mark's to open again.

And so, this sequestration has provided a time for me to reflect on God's goodness and the assurance that if we come to Him in faith, He will never abandon us.

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### What I've Been Up To

*Ruth Maxwell*

*Parishioner, Christ Church, Covington*

4/17: Today I'm home alone as is usual these days, but so far it hasn't been so bad. I spend a lot of time looking out of my second-floor window, especially observing my magnolia tree that I call my nature lab. Never before have I seen what goes on inside a tree. I've seen birds, squirrels, rats, lizards, insects, among other things, doing their thing. But what I like most are the beautiful blossoms my tree puts forth every spring. To me, there's nothing prettier than its white, waxy buds that I like to watch open to full bloom. Although I like the acrobatic squirrel that visits often I was really ticked off when I saw him/her land on a branch, break off a bud, peel it like a banana, and help himself to its petals or whatever he/she was looking for! Quite a sight to see but once is enough of that.

My best phone buddy is my daughter Marian who calls me every day--something that hasn't happened before, and I love it. She suggested that her school friends and students write to me and I've received a number of their

letters brightening my day. During the day I work on Bravos, our scrapbook, next season's operas. Yesterday I saw a Great Performance on TV of one of the operas we previewed last fall. I telephone our Bravo members and my Bon Vivants dining group. I celebrated Easter virtually in my previous beautiful Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas and the Duke University Chapel in Durham, NC. I take a break or two outside each day for fresh air and to enjoy the flowers, birds, and chats with whoever is doing the same. I think I've about learned the new dining routine and the Beehive rules and look forward to receiving my meals and other things I need. I find comfort in the ladies coming every day to see if I have symptoms of the dreaded virus. So far, so good! I spend lots of time on my computer: corresponding, working on projects, using the Christwood App, listening to music. Sometimes I drop by the Garden Room to tie a ribbon on the Prayer Catcher. I love prayer, it gives me the most peace. I pray often for Christwood, for Steve, our fearless leader, the residents, staff, and caretakers. I feel blessed to be here.

### A LIMERICK

Out of my window I was thrilled to see  
Two redbirds in my magnolia tree.  
Busily doing their very best  
To build a safe and comfortable nest  
Just for their soon-to-be family.  
-- Ruth Maxwell

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## Do You Know What Angels Look Like?

*The Rev. Morgan MacIntire  
Associate Rector, Christ Church, Covington*

There are at least 30 we know of living right here on the Northshore! Our Errand Angels have been running small essential errands to the grocery store, pharmacy, and post office for elderly residents who need to stay home right now to protect their health. Not only have they been caring for about 20 of our own parishioners, but they have also helped around 40 residents of Roquette Lodge, a senior apartment community in Mandeville. Another interesting fact about our angels is that not everyone on our team is a member of our church. Some people in our community who saw our posts on social media called the church or emailed me to see if they could help. This ministry is truly about neighbors helping neighbors!

Coordinating this amazing group of servants has been a



*[Photograph from the Christ Church, Covington, Facebook Page] Christ Church, Covington, served as a drop-off site for the Northshore Food Bank.*

humbling experience and I am constantly in awe of their generosity and love. Many of our angels have gone above and beyond – adding fresh flowers and birthday cakes to resident orders, calling them every week to check in and sometimes just to chat, making wellness calls when phones go unanswered for a period of time – and so much more. All of this has proven to me that ministry at its very heart is all about relationship. Trips to the store have developed into friendships. Help at the end of a telephone line has borne witness to the fact that we are not alone in this difficult time. The chance to put God's love in action and do small kind things have given us purpose when every day seems to bleed into the next. I am grateful to be part of a community that is mindful of their neighbors and I look forward to seeing where these new relationships lead us in the future!

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## Making Groceries for the Food Bank

*Chandra Gordon  
Parishioner, Christ Church, Covington*

Each week in the online Christ Episcopal Church publication, there has been an article about the Northshore Food Bank and how our church is a drop-off station during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was something about that article that stayed with us. Then one evening, we saw some news clips about ordinary people who were making a difference by helping others during these crazy times. We talked about their actions. The next day, we went to Lake Emfred where some of our neighbors had recently placed a large wooden cross in time for Holy Week, and stood in front of the cross overlooking the water and prayed the Lord's Prayer. The words, "Give us this day our daily bread," really started to

resonate. When we got home, we talked about what our church was trying to do for those in our community who needed groceries, and we decided to help by doing a mini-food drive in our neighborhood. If other people wanted to join us in this effort by donating food items, we could gather much more than just our family alone could do.

Supplies: 60 brown bags which we picked up from the Food Bank; 60 fliers which we created with the who, what, when, where, and why; and 60 colorful rubberbands. We allowed 4 days for our drive. We started on a Wednesday, concluded on Saturday at 5 pm. We printed the fliers on our home computer and stapled them to the Food Bank's brown bags. We used rubber bands to attach the rolled up bag and flier to our neighbors' mailbox posts. We only did three streets to keep it manageable and about 60 houses. In the flier, the instructions were straightforward: To make a donation, place non-perishable food items in the brown bag and leave on your front porch. Twice daily we drove the streets looking for bags. Each trip out, we picked up a few more. We kept the bags in our SUV until Monday — when we took them to the Church drop-off site at 8:30 a.m. Total Time Investment: About 8 hours.

Results: Thanks to the generosity of our neighbors, the food drive resulted in 42 bags of food and \$400 in checks for the Food Bank. Thank you! When the Northshore Food Bank truck arrived, they asked us to express their gratitude to all parishioners at Christ Episcopal Church for their donations, especially over the past several weeks. A special thanks also to the many families who live on Wren Road, Riverdale, and Greenbriar and a few other friends and neighbors for their generosity and support of our mini-food drive. Also many thanks to Mother Morgan for her support.

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### A River Does, in Fact, Run Through it All

*Nicholas Manning*  
*St. Martin's Episcopal School, Class of 2020*

Every spring, I go to the White River in Bull Shoals, Arkansas with my grandmother. This has been our tradition since I was five years old. From a young age, I was fascinated with the water and what dwelled below its surface. I always found that being on the water was peaceful. The staple fish of this river is the freshwater trout, and I have caught more than I can possibly count. The first time I took a trip to the White River, I went on a guided fishing excursion with a man named Frank. In most scenarios, you fish with the guide for the day and

say goodbye. Little did I know that he would be a life-long friend and mentor who would shape many aspects of my life. We fished for many years like this; catching fish after fish and being able to really enjoy the beauty of the river and its wildlife. The White River is fed by Bull Shoals Lake, only a few miles upriver. Since I did most of my fishing on the river, I never really got the chance to go up on the lake and fish all that it offered. One day, as Frank and I were fly fishing, he said: "Hey, why don't we go fish up on the lake after I get off of work?" To some, this might just seem like a kind gesture, but to fish on the lake with Frank was a right of passage.

I loaded up in the car and drove over to the lake to meet Frank at the dock. I put the rods in the boat and we set off to fish new waters. Once we got to fishing, I wasn't talking to the guide Frank, I was talking to the man Frank. I was able to really connect with him on a deeper level and get to know the man who had been my fishing partner on that river for so many years. Once we were done fishing for the evening and began to head back in, he told me "Mr. Nick, most adults I take up here think they can catch fish just like they do on the river and most of them fall short. You fish it well and you understand that there are challenges of catching fish on such a difficult body of water." This moment had me thinking-- what he said doesn't only apply to fishing, but to life as a whole. This year, my grandmother was in a life-altering accident a week before our annual pilgrimage, and our trip was postponed. Whenever she recovers, and we are able to go back, I know that I will surely be looking forward to wetting a line with Frank once again.

There are bodies of water like the White River that are fun to fish, just like there are times in my life that are easy to traverse. There are also challenging places to fish like the lake, just as there are unstable and difficult patches that I go through. With the COVID-19 crisis and an uncertain future, I've been able to think back on those easy days out on the water and know that there are going to be more in the future. I'm unsure what the fall holds with college. Whether it happens on or off-campus, I know that I will give it my all and build valuable life tools for a lifetime of success. I plan to study computer science at Mississippi State University in the Bagley College of Engineering. This field of work has interested me for a long time, and I had the opportunity to take multiple AP computer science courses in high school to prepare for this future. This field of work is in high demand, and I feel that I can contribute in a meaningful way to many businesses. Guided by my faith, I look forward to college as it will present a new array of challenges for me to overcome, just like the lake.



### More COVID-19 Related Outreach Ministries in the Diocese



#### **Trinity Loaves and Fishes (left)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity Loaves and Fishes Instagram]* Trinity Loaves and Fishes has partnered with Culture Aid NOLA to distribute groceries at 15 sites in New Orleans. They are also distributing 1,000 bags of lunch at locations feeding the hungry and children. Volunteers are parishioners of Trinity Church, New Orleans, and from the New Orleans Uptown neighborhood.



#### **Snacks for the Front Line Workers (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. John's, Thibodaux, Facebook Page]* St. John's, Thibodaux, parishioners delivered snacks to healthcare workers at Thibodaux Regional Hospital.



#### **Trinity, Baton Rouge, Food Pantry (left)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, has continued to feed people seeking assistance from their food pantry.



#### **St. Anna's, New Orleans, Serves Meals to the Hungry (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Anna's, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* St. Anna's, is distributing food from their food pantry as well as feeding hot meals to the people of the Tremé Neighborhood of New Orleans.

## Mission and Ministry in the Time of COVID-19



### **Anna's Place NOLA Virtual Classes (left)**

*[Photograph from the Anna's Place NOLA Facebook Page]* Anna's Place NOLA is continuing to provide virtual tutoring and art enrichment for the children of the Tremé neighborhood. They have also loaned laptops to the children enrolled in their programs for remote school work. They will offer a virtual summer camp starting in June 2020.



### **Feeding Front Line Worker (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Paul's School, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* St. Paul's School and school families partnered with Gazebo Cafe to provide meals to front line workers at New Orleans East Hospital.



### **Feeding the Community in Morgan City (left)**

*[Photographs from Trinity Church, Morgan City, Facebook Page]* Trinity Church, Morgan City, partnered with M.E. Norman Elementary School to help feed the needs of families in the community.



### **Mask for Front Line Workers (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Luke's, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* The St. Luke's Sewist are sewing masks for healthcare workers.





*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On Sunday, June 14, people of the houses of faith along St. Charles Ave, the most privileged avenue in New Orleans, gathered to admit their own complacency in the sin of racism, to repent, and to commit to the long term work of dismantling systems that have hurt and killed our brothers and sisters of color. Every Episcopal church along St. Charles Ave plus others from around the Diocese of Louisiana participated in the Interfaith Walk.*

## Letters from Church Leaders Following the Death of George Floyd and the Social Justice Protest

### Statement from the Province IV Bishops of The Episcopal Church

We, the Bishops of The Episcopal Church in Province IV, lead dioceses most of which were historically part of the states of the old Confederacy. As bishops in this region, we are well aware of the historic persistence of racism toward our black sisters and brothers. While such racism is not confined to our southern geography, its history with “Jim Crow” under its various guises over the years reminds us of the profound work left undone by our continued failure to fully address the sins of racism and white supremacy in our country.

Recent events are a shocking reminder of what we have left undone. The white vigilante murder of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia; the unwarranted killing by police of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky while she

was sleeping in her own bed; and now the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota also at the hands of police, scream out to us of our work left undone. Sadly, these racist murders are by no means the only ones, and they were not committed simply by a few bad actors. What we are seeing is the work of a conscious and unconscious system designed to deny dignity and safety to some of God’s children.

The demonstrations across our country indicate that people have had enough. We believe all people of good will and love of neighbor should insist that this behavior by police and white vigilantes end now. Their actions tarnish the reputations of the many wonderful women and men who serve as police officers. We need national leadership who will work to make the changes necessary in our justice system, so such brutality becomes a thing of the past.



We call on all in civil authority to step back from military-style responses to these demonstrations because they only serve to escalate tensions even further. What will reduce those tensions is a commitment by our elected leaders to lasting, tangible changes in law enforcement methods and in the laws governing them. We also invite our clergy and parishioners to recommit themselves to live into the Beloved Community, as Dr. King articulated it. We believe that this is what justice and mercy require as they are reflected in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Province IV Bishops signing (In alphabetical order)  
John Bauerschmidt, Bishop, Diocese of Tennessee  
Scott Benhase, Bishop & Vice-President, Province IV  
Greg Brewer, Bishop, Diocese of Central Florida  
Brian Cole, Bishop, Diocese of East Tennessee  
Peter Eaton, Bishop, Diocese of Southeast Florida  
Russell Kendrick, Bishop, Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast  
Frank Logue, Bishop, Diocese of Georgia  
Jose McLoughlin, Bishop, Diocese of Western North Carolina  
Henry Parsley, Visiting Bishop, Diocese of South Carolina  
Phoebe Roaf, Bishop, Diocese of West Tennessee  
Sam Rodman, Bishop, Diocese of North Carolina  
Brian Seage, Bishop, Diocese of Mississippi  
Rob Skirving, Bishop, Diocese of East Carolina  
Kee Sloan, Bishop, Diocese of Alabama  
Dabney Smith, Bishop, Diocese of Southwest Florida  
Morris Thompson, Bishop, Diocese of Louisiana  
Mark Van Koevering, Bishop, Diocese of Lexington  
Andrew Waldo, Bishop, Diocese of Upper South Carolina  
Terry White, Bishop, Diocese of Kentucky  
Rob Wright, Bishop, Diocese of Atlanta

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### Presiding Bishop Curry's Word to the Church: When the Cameras are Gone, We Will Still Be Here

A word to the Church from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:

"Our long-term commitment to racial justice and reconciliation is embedded in our identity as baptized followers of Jesus. We will still be doing it when the news cameras are long gone."

In the midst of COVID-19 and the pressure cooker of a society in turmoil, a Minnesota man named George Floyd was brutally killed. His basic human dignity was stripped by someone charged to protect our common humanity.

Perhaps the deeper pain is the fact that this was not an

isolated incident. It happened to Breonna Taylor on March 13 in Kentucky. It happened to Ahmaud Arbery on February 23 in Georgia. Racial terror in this form occurred when I was a teenager growing up black in Buffalo, New York. It extends back to the lynching of Emmett Till in 1955 and well before that. It's not just our present or our history. It is part of the fabric of American life.

But we need not be paralyzed by our past or our present. We are not slaves to fate but people of faith. Our long-term commitment to racial justice and reconciliation is embedded in our identity as baptized followers of Jesus. We will still be doing it when the news cameras are long gone.

That work of racial reconciliation and justice – what we know as Becoming Beloved Community – is happening across our Episcopal Church. It is happening in Minnesota and in the Dioceses of Kentucky, Georgia and Atlanta, across America and around the world. That mission matters now more than ever, and it is work that belongs to all of us.

It must go on when racist violence and police brutality are no longer front-page news. It must go on when the work is not fashionable, and the way seems hard, and we feel utterly alone. It is the difficult labor of picking up the cross of Jesus like Simon of Cyrene, and carrying it until no one – no matter their color, no matter their class, no matter their caste – until no child of God is degraded and disrespected by anybody. That is God's dream, this is our work, and we shall not cease until God's dream is realized.

Is this hopelessly naïve? No, the vision of God's dream is no idealistic utopia. It is our only real hope. And, St. Paul says, "hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5). Real love is the dogged commitment to live my life in the most unselfish, even sacrificial ways; to love God, love my neighbor, love the earth and truly love myself. Perhaps most difficult in times like this, it is even love for my enemy. That is why we cannot condone violence. Violence against any person – conducted by some police officers or by some protesters – is violence against a child of God created in God's image. No, as followers of Christ, we do not condone violence.

Neither do we condone our nation's collective, complicit silence in the face of injustice and violent death. The anger of so many on our streets is born out of the accumulated frustration that so few seem to care when

another black, brown or native life is snuffed out.

But there is another way. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, a broken man lay on the side of the road. The religious leaders who passed were largely indifferent. Only the Samaritan saw the wounded stranger and acted. He provided medical care and housing. He made provision for this stranger's well-being. He helped and healed a fellow child of God.

Love, as Jesus teaches, is action like this as well as attitude. It seeks the good, the well-being, and the welfare of others as well as one's self. That way of real love is the only way there is.

Accompanying this statement is a card describing ways to practice the Way of Love in the midst of pandemic, uncertainty and loss. In addition, you will find online a set of resources to help Episcopalians to LEARN, PRAY & ACT in response to racist violence and police brutality. That resource set includes faithful tools for listening to and learning from communities too often ignored or suppressed, for incorporating God's vision of justice into your personal and community prayer life, and for positively and constructively engaging in advocacy and public witness.

Opening and changing hearts does not happen overnight. The Christian race is not a sprint; it is a marathon. Our prayers and our work for justice, healing and truth-telling must be unceasing. Let us recommit ourselves to following in the footsteps of Jesus, the way that leads to healing, justice and love.

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### Bishop Thompson's Word to the Diocese: Finding God in All of This Disorder

I watched with interest as President Trump stood in front of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square, holding up a Bible. This followed his statement from the Rose Garden that he was our "president of law and order."

Somehow this statement and this photo-op did not make sense to me. The Bible describes God's love for all of God's creation. From beginning to end, the Bible tells how God's love is the foundation for our existence. Mr. Trump's rhetoric of law and order juxtaposed against these scriptures of love baffled me. I have since wondered: what was Mr. Trump trying to say in this photo op? I honestly do not know. One thing I am sure of is that he missed an opportunity to connect with the

American people who are in need of words of hope, encouragement, and healing.

I served in the Marine Corps and was privileged to serve under and learn from many capable people. Leadership is about listening and being aware of those who serve under you. Leadership is about building others up when they face great odds and giving people courage to meet their hardships. Where can we find this kind of leadership?

I Kings 19 tells the story of Jezebel attempting to kill Elijah. He is fearful for his life and so he runs away to Horeb. God instructs Elijah to go stand on the mountain and wait for God to pass by. So he does. First, there is a great wind but God is not in the wind. Next, there is an earthquake but God is not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there is a fire but God is not in the fire. Following all of this, Elijah experiences sheer silence. It is in this silence where Elijah meets God.

We find ourselves in the midst of so much chaos: COVID-19, the absence of being able to gather together for worship, another senseless killing of a black man by a policeman, and peaceful demonstrations that have transformed into burning cars and buildings. There are now two storms in the Gulf potentially headed for Louisiana. Where can we find God in all of this disorder?

I believe that God is found in the silence of our hearts. No matter how out of control these days may seem, God is in the midst of it all.

What do you hear your heart speaking to you? Are you able to release your anger for a moment and listen? Can you step away from your frustrations so that you can kneel at the throne of grace and weep? To seek a word of hope? A word of healing? I do not know where these moments will take us but I do know from experience that in the midst of darkness God is present. Do not believe for one moment that you are alone or that all is in vain. The God who delivered Elijah, the God who saw the Israelites through to the Promised Land, the God who raised Christ from the dead will also see us through. This is God's gift to you and to me.

Take courage, my friends. God is in the midst of us.

### The Clericus (January 1—June 15, 2020)



[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] Ordination of Ben Nobles to the Sacred Order of Deacons on June 10, 2020, at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.



[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On April 7, 2020, the clergy of the diocese gathered via Zoom for the annual Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows. Under ordinary circumstances, the service would take place at Christ Church Cathedral. After the service, all would gather on the front steps for a clergy group photo. Here is what that photo looks like in the days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Transitions in the Diocese

*The Rev. Jerry Phillips* is no longer serving as priest-in-charge of St. John's, Kenner. He continues to serve as chaplain of St. James Place, Baton Rouge.

*The Rev. Seamus Doyle* was called as priest-in-charge of St. John's, Kenner, effective February 2020. He continues to serve as permanent supply priest of St. Timothy's, LaPlace.

*The Rev. Tommy Dillon* was appointed dean of the Baton Rouge Deanery effective March 14, 2020. He serves as the rector of St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge.

*The Rev. Ralph Howe* will retire as senior associate priest of St. James, Baton Rouge, effective the end of July 2020.

### Transitions Out of the Diocese

*The Very Rev. Dr. Roman Roldan* accepted a call to serve as rector of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Houston, Texas. He celebrated his last Sunday at Grace Church, St. Francisville, on March 1. He served as rector of Grace Church for 11 years and as the dean of the Baton Rouge Deanery since 2016.

### New Clergy in the Diocese

*The Rev. Reid T. McCormick* was called as the interim rector of Grace Church, St. Francisville, effective May 1, 2020.

*The Rev. Ben Nobles* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on June 10, 2020, at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. He is assigned to serve at Trinity Church, New Orleans.

*The Rev. Andrew Harmon* has been called as senior associate priest of St. James, Baton Rouge, effective August 2, 2020.

### Clergy Deaths

*The Rev. Canon William Barnwell* died on March 27, 2020. He was 81 years old. He will be remembered for his work in social justice causes, his work with the Kairos prison ministry, and as an author. He served as the canon missionary of the National Cathedral, associate rector of Trinity Church, Boston, associate rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans, chaplain at Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans, and as a supply priest at St. Luke's, New Orleans.

*The Rt. Rev. James Coleman* died on May 4, 2020. He was 90 years old. Bishop Coleman was the 20th rector of St. James Church serving from 1975-1989. He also served churches in Tennessee, Georgia, and Virginia. After his retirement in 2001, he returned to St. James to serve as bishop-in-residence.



## Out and About in the Diocese (January-June 2020)



### **Celebrating Epiphany at Christ Church, Covington (left)**

*[Photograph from the Christ Church, Covington, Facebook Page]* On January 5, 2020, Christ Church, Covington, celebrated Epiphany with a Choral Evensong.



### **Epiphany House Blessings (middle)**

*[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* Throughout the Epiphany season, the clergy of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, visited parishioners houses for an Epiphany house blessing.



### **College of Presbyters (right)**

*[Photograph by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg]* The priests of the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center at the beginning of January for the College of Presbyters. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Karoline M. Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary.



### **Celebrating the Feast of Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* On January 12, St. Luke's, New Orleans, held an Evensong to celebrate the feast of Blessed Frances Joseph-Gaudet. During the service, the recipients of current Gaudet grants and scholarships were acknowledged. Music was provided by a combined choir from St. Luke's and St. Paul's, New Orleans. The Rev. Rob Courtney delivered a homily and the Rev. Canon Ron Clingenpeel celebrated.



### **Stewardship Summit (middle)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* A Stewardship Summit was held at St. Augustine's, Metairie, on February 1, 2020. The keynote speaker was Kristine Miller of Horizons Stewardship.

### **Senior High Youth Rally (right)**

*[Photograph by Brother Todd van Alstyne]* Senior High Youth Rally was held February 7-9, 2020, at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. The theme was *Revive: Be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reawakened to the love of Jesus.*

## Out and About in the Diocese (January-June 2020)



### Coins for Christ

*[Photograph from the Facebook Pages of St. Augustine's, Metairie, St. Patrick's, Zachary; and St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge]* During Christmas and Epiphany the children of St. Patrick's, Zachary, and St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, challenged St. Augustine's, Metairie, and All Saints', River Ridge, to a Coins for Christ challenge. The children of the churches collected coins with all proceeds being donated to the United Thank Offering. The winning team was treated to an ice cream social.



### Mardi Gras Festivities in the Diocese

*[Photograph from the various church Facebook pages]* It was another festive Mardi Gras season in the Diocese of Louisiana.





### **Burning of the Palms for Ash Wednesday (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. James, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* St. James, Baton Rouge, demonstrated how to make ashes from the blessed palms from Palm Sunday.

### **The Very Rev. Roman Roldan Last Sunday (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Mark's, Harvey, Facebook Page]* On March 1, 2020, the Very Rev. Dr. Roman Roldan celebrated his last Sunday as rector of Grace Church, St. Francisville.



### **Episcopal Tree Planting Project (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Michael's, Mandeville, Facebook Page]* In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, the Rev. Robert Beazley, priest-in-charge, St. Michael's, Mandeville, challenged the churches of our diocese to plant 50 trees on Episcopal properties. The goal wasn't met this year, but the challenge will be made once again in years to come.

### **Ministry Architects (middle)**

*[Photograph provided by the Rev. Jane-Allison Wiggin-Nettles]* Clergy and youth ministers responsible for the prayerful planning of diocesan youth events gathered at Advent House in early March with Ministry Architects consultant Mary Beth Abplanalp for a fun filled summit.

### **Stepping Stones Young Adult Retreat (right)**

*[Photograph from the Stepping Stones Facebook Page]* Young adults from the Diocese of Louisiana and the Diocese of Western Louisiana met at St. Alban's Chapel on March 7, 2020. for a one-day retreat on prayer and growing in faith and fellowship.





### **Gumbo Fundraisers**

*[Photograph from various Facebook Pages]* In the beginning of Lent, several churches held their annual Lenten gumbo fundraisers. Pictured is Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine; St. John's, Thibodaux; St. Mark's, Harvey; and St. James, Baton Rouge.



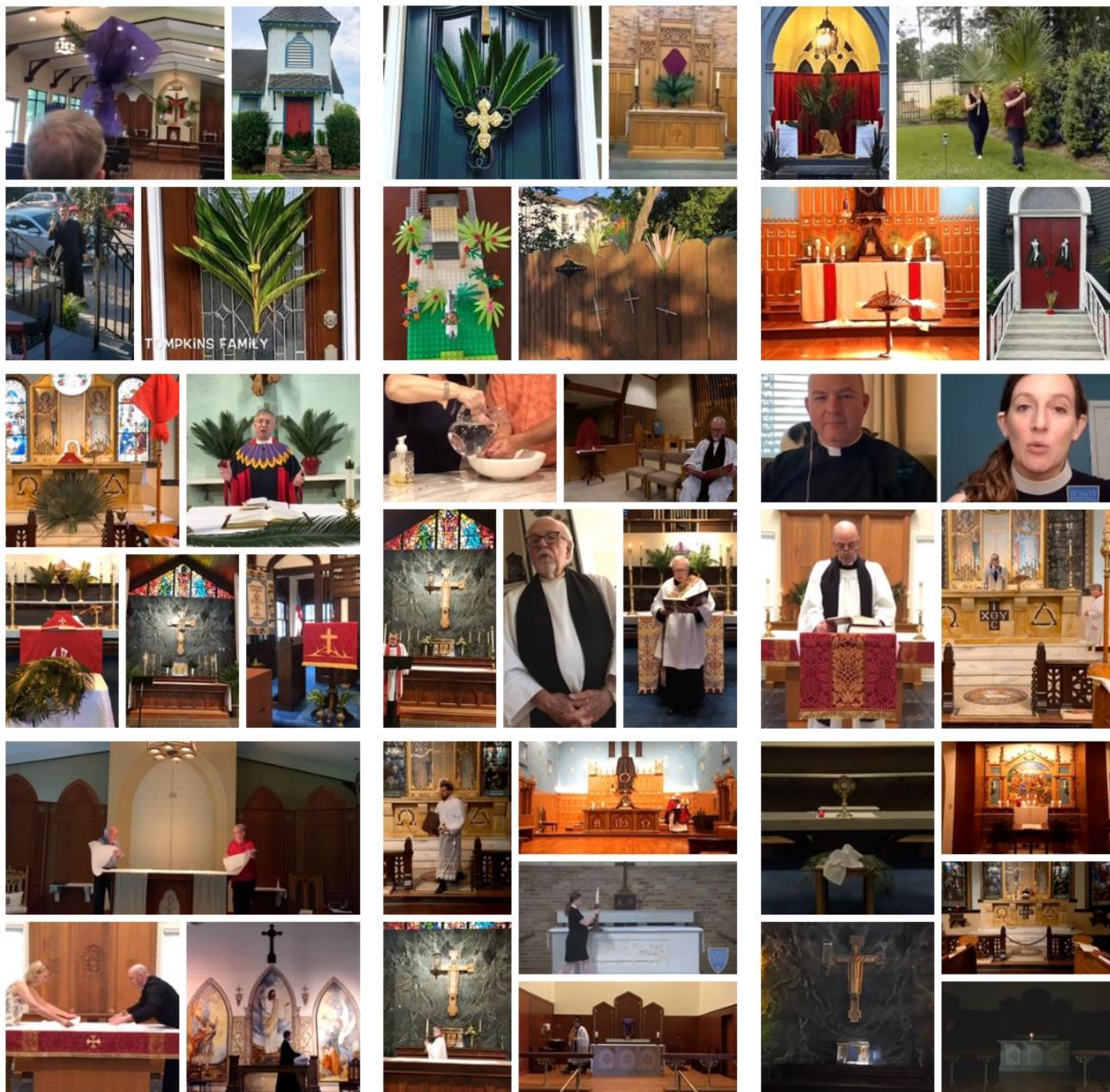
### **Behind the Scenes of Virtual Worship**

*[Photographs from various church Facebook pages]* In mid-March, the first cases of COVID-19 appeared in Louisiana and Governor John Bel Edwards issued a stay-at-home order on March 22, 2020. Our churches had to close their doors to in-person worship for the safety of their parishioners. Bishop Thompson encouraged all churches to begin offering virtual worship services. In these photographs: Christ Church, Covington; St. Patrick's, Zachary; St. James, Baton Rouge; and St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, demonstrates how they produce their virtual worship service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

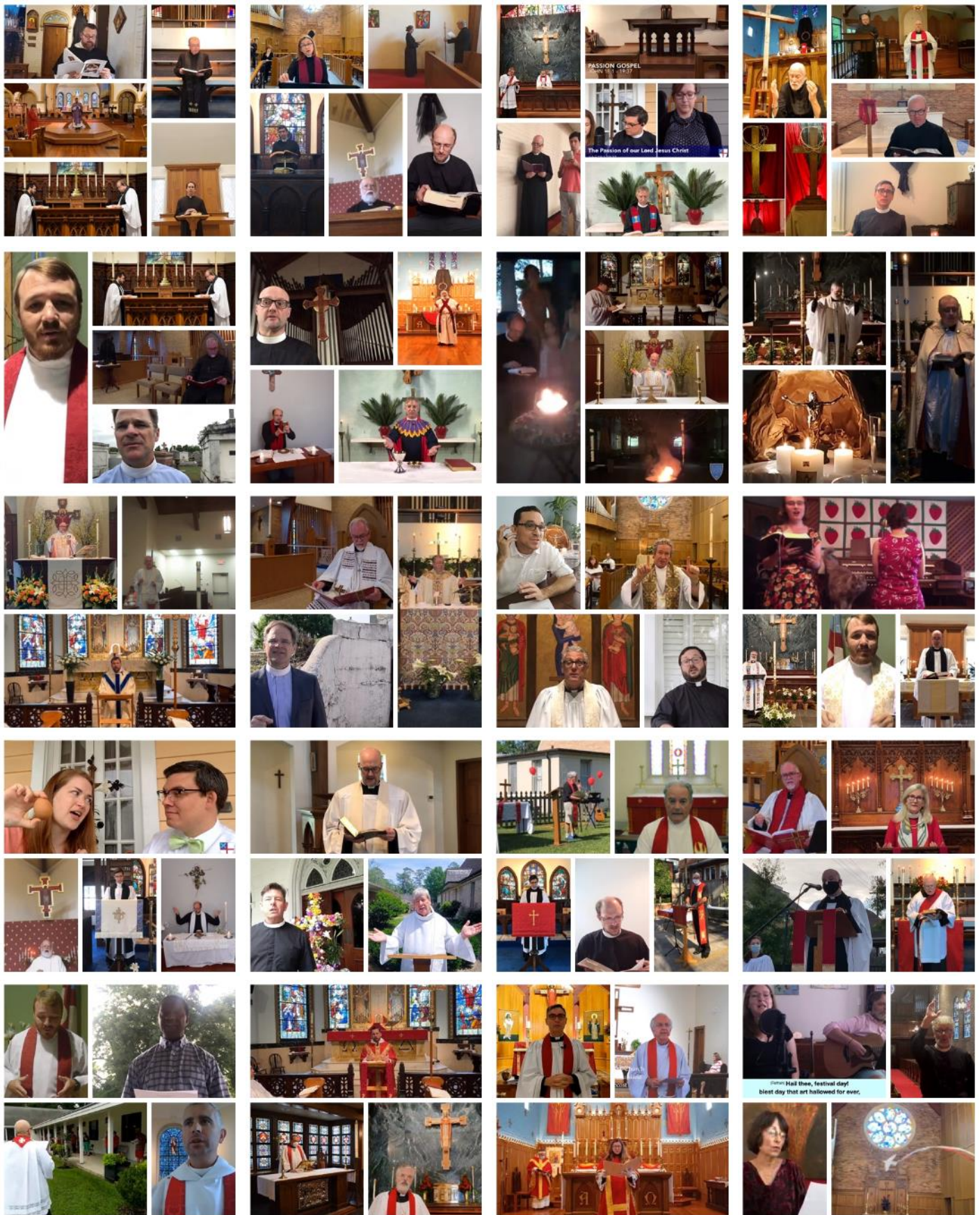


## **Celebrating the Holy Days During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

This was no ordinary Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost in the life of the Church. Who could have predicted we would have spent months quarantined at home protecting each other from a deadly virus? While we could not be physically with each other to celebrate our holy days, the clergy and church staff of our diocese did a remarkable job connecting us to each other and the liturgy we love. On these pages are screenshots of virtual services held by our churches from a virtual palm procession through Holy Week and Easter and Pentecost.











**Returning to In-person Worship in the Diocese of Louisiana**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* By mid-June, all churches in the Diocese of Louisiana entered phase 2 of the return to in-person worship. This allows for groups of people to gather using no more than 50% capacity of the worship space and required physical distancing of 6 feet between family groups. Mask are required to be worn by everyone unless preaching or reading and only if proper physical distancing can be maintained. Eucharist will be celebrated differently than how we are accustomed, but all to keep us safe as we navigate our way through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In the future, as cases of the virus continue to diminish, we will ease our way back to full celebration of liturgy and life together as the Church. What a celebration that will be!

In this photograph: Just before the ordination of the Rev. Ben Nobles to the Sacred Order of Deacons on June 10, 2020, the clergy and presenters pose for a photograph outside the Harris Memorial Chapel of Christ Church Cathedral.