

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

WHERE DO YOU FIND HOPE?

Last weekend, I was in Saint Louis for the Jesuit Ordinations at the College Church at Saint Louis University where Father Dan Finucane, SJ was ordained a priest. On Friday, June 12, the day before the Ordination Mass, we had a day of reflection for the Jesuits of the Central Southern Province. The theme of the day was where do we find hope in this troubled world. Two Jesuits from the East Coast Province joined us by Zoom and told us about their ministries in Beirut and South Sudan.

Father Dan Corrou, SJ works in Beirut in a Jesuit parish there. As the city was bombed by Israel, the church became a sanctuary for refugees fleeing the violence. Overnight and without any advance notice, they welcomed hundreds of people. When they had settled all the people, it dawned on them that they now had to feed the people. Several volunteers from the parish said, “Oh Father, don’t worry about that. We cooked and fed everyone. They are all set.” Father Dan said at that moment he realized that God was feeding his people just as Jesus had done when he multiplied the loaves and the fishes. He told a marvelous story of how they were having a staff meeting trying to strategize about sustaining the shelter, Suddenly, the door to the room opened and a boy who was always full of mischief and boundless energy, opened the door, came into the room, and danced wildly for about a minute, left, and closed the door. Fr. Dan said he saw this as God saying to him, “In the midst of the real suffering and pain around you, can you see me break into the real with a dance.” Father Dan said he finds hope by knowing that God is present in their midst, in the ladies providing a meal out of nothing, and a boy dancing amid war.

Father Matthew Ippe, SJ works in a refugee camp in South Sudan where there is a bloody and bitter civil war. He told the story of a woman who has lost her whole family to the violence, yet quietly and faithfully taught religious education every Sunday to the children. Through photos he introduced to many men and women who despite unimaginable loss and daily threats of violence carry on. He said that he finds hope in these men and women who know suffering but do not let that suffering have the final word in their lives.

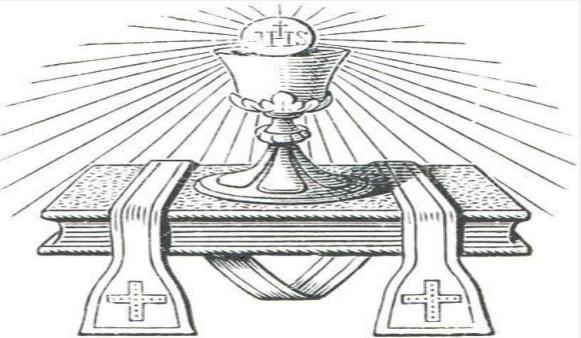
These testimonies made me reflect where we find hope in these troubled days. These two Jesuits began their reflection by thinking of how God looks upon this broken world with a long and loving gaze. They decided to join the Lord in this long and loving gaze. When they did so, they began to see hope amid the pain. I desire to do the same. I desire to look upon my world with a long and loving gaze. I desire not to see only headlines and breaking news, but rather individuals, children of God, who keep the flame of hope alive in their hearts. To see how some dance during the sorrow. By that I mean, they continue to show joy, compassion, and self-sacrificing love even as they weep and mourn. Others never give up even though they have every reason to give up. They quietly go about their days showing faithfulness and quiet strength because they will not let suffering have the final word.



TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ JUNE 21, 2026

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
1565 Curtis Street - Baton Rouge, LA 70807
Office Phone: (225) 775-7067 - Information: (225) 775-7062
Fax: (225) 775-0775 - Email: clarktf2002@yahoo.com
Web Site Address: www.immaculateconceptionbr.org
*Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church
serving the family of God and feeding the soul of the Community.*

PASTOR: Father Thomas F. Clark, S.J.(225) 775-7067/(225) 773-2036
IN RESIDENCE: Father Fred Kammer, S.J.(504) 343-9195
SECRETARY: Renae Welsh/John Edwards.....(225) 775-7067
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:
COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen(225) 936-8162
ASSISTANT TO COORDINATOR: Stephanie Yearby(214) 881-5663
OCIA COORDINATOR: Cathy Glover(225) 772-6099
MLK/SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER:
Joyce Johnson - Wilfred Johnson(225) 775-8691



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel
12:10 PM



HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

We wish all the fathers and those who have been like a father a Happy Father’s Day. We thank God for your commitment, your faithfulness, and your love. We pray that God will pour out upon you all his blessings so that you may continue to show young men and women the right path. May he strengthen you to be a shining example of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. May God bless your families with good health, safety, and peace! Thank you for all you do!

FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST THANK YOU

The **KPC Ladies and Junior Daughters of Wilfred B. Ricard Court 116** extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported their 2026 Father’s Day Breakfast. A very special thank you goes to Jerrell Worthy, owner of Worthy’s Barber Shop, who, as a father himself, generously shared his time and talent by providing free haircuts to attendees. His kindness and community spirit helped make the event even more memorable.

JESUIT DESCENDANTS AND SCHOLASTICS GUESTS NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday at the 8:00 AM Mass, Monique Tresclair Maddox, the President and CEO of the Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation, Fr. Jim Kesicki, SJ, and descendant scholars and Jesuit scholastics participating in a Dialogue on Race will be with us. You will see some old friends, Scott McKillup, Jose Lopez, Cory Jackson, and Jack McLinden.

FATHER CLARK WILL BE AWAY IN JULY

Father Clark will be away from July 1-20 for vacation and retreat. While he is gone, Father Juan Ruiz and Father Sean Toole will be filling in for him, celebrating the Masses and being available for all pastoral needs.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHOIRS AND MUSIC MINISTRIES

As our Gospel and Traditional Choirs take a well-deserved break during the month of July, we thank them for their ministry of praise and worship for us throughout the year. We take time to recognize the hours of practice and preparation that their ministry requires. We look forward to the Claver Family Choir during the coming month.



PAM	BENNETT	6/25
ELAINA	DEROUEN	6/25
CYNTHIA	IDUSUYI	6/25
ANDREW	NEWTON	6/25
PATRICK	CADORET JR.	6/26
ADREA	HEBERT	6/26
CHIZOMA	AKUJOBI	6/27
THELMA	DEAMER	6/27
ALAINA	ROSS	6/27
MEGAN	ABRAHAM	6/28
MORGAN	ABRAHAM	6/28
SHIRLEY	ENNIS	6/28
WALTER	LEE	6/28
JOESLIE	LOONEY	6/28
ANDREA	NEWTON	6/28
IHEANYI	AKUJOBI	6/29
JANISE	NAVARRE	6/29
ASHTON	THOMAS	6/29
JESSIE	GRAY	6/30
KAITLYN	WALKER	6/30



INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY TIPS

Parents and every member of a child’s “caring village” play an important role in helping young people navigate the Internet and social media safely. Have open, ongoing conversations about websites, videos, games, and content your child enjoys, and set clear expectations for what is appropriate to view. Establish family guidelines for when, where, and how long your child may use the Internet, apps, and social media platforms.

To help create a safer online experience, enable parental controls on your home Wi-Fi, mobile devices, and cellular network. Consider using tools such as Apple Family Sharing or Google Family Link to manage screen time, content access, and app permissions. Also, activate Safe Search and review safety settings on popular platforms like YouTube, Roblox, and TikTok. By combining technology safeguards with regular communication, families can help children enjoy the benefits of the digital world while staying safer online.

**Weekly Mass Readings
June 21st—June 28th**

Sunday
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20: 10-13
Romans 5:12-15
Matthew 10: 26-33

Monday
2 Kings 17: 5-8, 13-15a, 18
Matthew 7: 1-5

Tuesday
2 Kings 19: 9b-11, 14-21,
31-35a, 36
Matthew 7: 6, 12-14

Wednesday
Solemnity of the Nativity of
Saint John the Baptist
Isaiah 49: 1-6
Acts 13: 22-26
Luke 1: 57-66, 80

Thursday
2 Kings 24: 8-17
Mathew 7: 21-29

Friday
2 Kings 25: 1-12
Matthew 8: 1-4

Saturday
Lamentations 2: 2, 10-14, 18-19
Matthew 8: 5-17

Sunday
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time
2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a
Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11
Matthew 10: 37-42