

# ILLUMINARE

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## ABOUT BEING AN EXAMPLE ..... TO YOUR CHILDREN

*From the Rector*

When I was a teenager, we used to spend a lot of time doing something called isometrics. The principle was that you could build muscle mass by pushing firmly against an unyielding object. Character and a healthy sense of self are built the same way, as most parents will readily acknowledge. The cost to parents of maturity-building includes eternal vigilance, daily dedication, challenging consistency and enough luck to break all the casinos in Vegas.

I think the toughest part is the business of “setting an example.” We know that integrity and responsibility will not “take” if the things we profess are different from the things we actually do. Of course, lecturing and preaching to our children is much easier than setting an example. However, sentences that begin, “When I was your age...” are hardly ever effective and frequently evoke rolled eyes from the addressee. Simply put, there are no short cuts. If we want our kids to tell the truth, we have to tell the truth too, even when we think they aren’t listening. If we want them to own up to their mistakes, we have to own up to ours. Which requires both honesty and humility and those, when taken together, are a bit like drinking charcoal. This is why character formation remains essentially a spiritual task. As with so many aspects of Christian faith, you’ve got to practice it when you don’t want to in order to have it when you need it.

Such a standard is severely tested in moments of stress, of which there are legion in most of today’s normal, chaotic family schedules. The winding down of summer break, preparing for school, and starting school are just such a stressful time. The tempter, as we church folk say, is near at hand, encouraging parents to be curt and cross and full of ... “because I said so’s.” A prayer pause helps when those parental feelings begin to erupt. Make no mistake: to admit in the presence of your children that you were wrong, or unfair, or overwhelmed, or just plain tired is a major moral achievement. To do it with a semblance of dignity and be able to talk rationally about it later is just as difficult as drinking that charcoal. Even so, it is to just such heroic deeds that we are called as parents.

Fortunately, children are usually very forgiving. If we as parents are not extravagantly unfair, dishonest, or capricious, they will usually give us the benefit of the doubt. So if we can have the good grace to apologize for our sins of commission and the good luck not to get hung on our sins of omission, our “example” may make a positive difference, may help them mature. More than that, the daily presence of children — others as well as our own — reminds us that we each are made in God’s own image and called to live with integrity — not merely to set an example because that is the best way to live! This is one expression of how children are a blessing (though sometimes well disguised): they not only keep us alert to our moral responsibilities, they also hug, exclaim, discover and imagine. They are splendid and daily examples to us of joy. Now, let’s have a prayer:

*O God, thank you for the gift of conscience.*

*Help us to live our lives in such a way that our children*

*will not be ashamed of us when we die.*

*We pray this in the name of him whose life was always exemplary. Amen.*

# A Christian call for the end of violence in New Orleans

## Archbishop Gregory Aymond

Published: Times-Picayune Saturday, July 16, 2011

As many readers already know, Walter Bonam, a member of the archdiocesan staff was shot in a home invasion last week in front of his wife and daughter. He remains paralyzed but in prayerful and hopeful spirits. In the subsequent days, four people were shot, one killed, on Bourbon Street.

A son is suspected of beating his elderly father to death. A Catholic priest was robbed and murdered. A mother, feeling as if there was no way out of her circumstances, is suspected of taking the lives of her three children and then her own.

Unfortunately, these are but a few of the violent and tragic acts our New Orleans area community has dealt with in the past two weeks.

Since Ash Wednesday, the Catholic churches of the Archdiocese of New Orleans have been reciting a prayer for the New Battle of New Orleans -- a prayer asking God to help us overcome violence, murder and racism in our community and for us to come together as one family. In the prayer, we ask God to give us his wisdom to "build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which gives respect to the life and dignity of all people."

Sadly, today's society does not value human life. Daily, we hear about another murder or another act of violence against a child, and there is much talk about the need to change this -- but what is being done? We live in a time when it's easier to get a gun than a job. We see parents unable to provide for their children. We watch as homeless camps spring up under bridges.

God calls us to both prayer and action, and today, I am calling on the entire community to pray for peace in our streets and to take action to work for peace. I call on all of us to work together toward a culture that respects human life and teaches each individual person to respect him or herself and treat others with dignity.

It is time to stop expecting someone else to bring about change. It is time for us all to stand together and work together to make our community a safe place to live, work and play.

In September, the archdiocese will implement an action plan as part of its New Battle of New Orleans campaign: a mentoring and parenting skills program to be based at church parishes. We hope to make our church parishes safe havens for young people -- a place they can go no matter their religion to escape the violence of the streets and, in some cases, their homes.

I pray that this program will be a success and that we will see its fruits in our neighborhoods. I challenge you to get involved or find some way to take action to fight this battle in our community.

May God have mercy on us and give us the grace to face the challenges of our time.

### ***Please use this prayer during the week.***

*Although we are separated from Orleans and Jefferson by big water, they are surely our city. I feel it after only three years and I know many of you feel it much more deeply. Certainly, the causes for crime and violence there are deeply rooted and complex. For Christians, however, that is no excuse for inaction or avoidance. Just the opposite, actually: Christ calls every one of us to be reconcilers however and wherever we have the opportunity. And I know that violence never finally settles anything. The Bible tells me so!*

*Our bishop and diocese are working with other faith community leaders to bring safety and peace to the city. How can you help? How can we help? I am working on some things, but there is certainly one critical thing all of us can do right now: we can pray. We must pray. Personally and corporately. Pray without ceasing for safety and reconciliation. To help you with that big work, here is a prayer we will be using on Sundays for awhile. Please use it (or some other prayer of your choosing) at home each day. And pray from your heart!*

ATB†

God of power and mercy, you have made, us your human children, into one family and bound us together so that when any suffer, all are touched. So fill the hearts and minds of every person with your holy and life-giving spirit that in our several communities — and especially in the city of New Orleans — anger, fear, and violence may be vanquished, suspicions crumble, and hatreds cease.

Give us all the courage and stubborn patience to replace guns and drugs with safety and opportunity; revenge and reaction with forgiveness and forbearance. Help us to work together across barriers of race and status that safety may prevail and order be maintained with justice; all these things we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave his life that we might live in peace. Amen.

### Diocesan Men's and Women's Retreat September 23-25, 2011

This traditional silent meditative retreat will begin with supper at 6:30 on Friday, September 23, 2011 and end at lunch on Sunday, September 25, 2011. During the weekend there will be several meditations as well as private spiritual direction. Participants are free and encouraged to take full advantage of the scenic grounds of the Solomon Center for walking, meditating, fishing, reading, and relaxing. Attendance at meditations, voluntary spiritual direction, and all aspects of the Retreat is optional.

### Joy Conference October 7-9, 2011

The 17th Annual Joy Conference for Women begins after dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 7 and ends before lunch on Sunday, October 9. Come for the weekend and gather with other women who seek a deeper relationship with our Lord. Spend time singing and praying, worshipping and learning, creating and resting (and, of course, enjoying the wonderful meals). Put the date on your calendar now and be a part of this joy-filled weekend in October.

### Cursillo November 3-5, 2011

This event begins after supper on Thursday, November 3rd and concludes on Sunday, November 5th. During these three days, talks are given by lay persons and clergy who have spent time working together planning for the Cursillo. The teachings of Christ are discussed with others on their faith journey. The talks and discussions are interspersed with prayer, songs, recreation, laughter and moments of reflection and quiet. The Eucharist is celebrated daily.




### SHOP BLUE PEW FOR SCHOOL

Do some good for Christ Church by doing well for yourself. BluePew.com is a shopping web site that features over 400 merchants offering clothes, groceries, electronics, toys, etc. and features such brands as Adidas, Bass Pro, Sony, Pet Smart, Borders, Brooks Brothers, Skechers, and North Face. When you purchase on Blue Pew, each merchant sends a percentage of your purchase to Christ Church. The percentage varies from merchant to merchant – their decision – but there is no administrative cost to you or the parish. Twice a year, Blue Pew will send Christ Church an accounting and a check. If you're regularly buying children's clothes, pet food, fishing gear, or printer ink, you can stay with your favorite brands and augment our budget at the same time. For more information go to [christchurchcovington.com](http://christchurchcovington.com) and click on "resources". Give it a try!

### SERVICE SCHEDULE CHANGE

On Saturday, August 6 there will be no 9:00 a.m. service. The clergy will be participating in the ordination of Rev. Sharon Alexander at St. Michael's Church in Mandeville.

### KUDOS

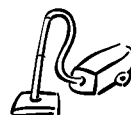
- Thank you to **Lloyd Magee** for his help hanging the bell in the chapel. 
- A special thank you to **Suzanne Duggan** for her extraordinary work performed on our church grounds during her tenure on the vestry! **Suzanne** and **Don Duggan**, **David Campbell**, **Carol White**, and **Beth Drown** deserve another thank you for their work on the church grounds this summer. We will have another work day in late August or early September. If you wish to be a part of the ground crew, please contact Linda Wendle 845-1479.

### A GOOD SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making our recent drive for the Covington Food Bank such a success. We received 72 bags of food as well as checks totaling \$1,071. Special thanks to Laura Robert who prepares flyers for the bags, David Lynd who regularly delivers the food collected and those who passed out bags including Michelle Prather and her daughters, Beverly and C.J. Voelkel and David Moore. Our volunteers make these drives possible and your donations insure there is food available for the needy of our community!

Liz Bedikian

### We need a vacuum



Do you have a vacuum you would like to donate to the church? If so, please call the church office at 892-3177.

# Christ Church, Covington

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Benjie Branson *Assisting Organist*  
Max Welch *Organist*  
Buddy Anderson *Nursery Coordinator*  
Chuck Aversa *Facilities Coordinator*

### VESTRY

2009-2012—Jeff Bell, Mark Berry,  
Michelle Gallagher, Lucie Thornton  
2010-2013—Bill Batson, Mel Elliott,  
Jim Valliant, Paul Vining  
2011-2014 — Mary Thomas Coady, Patterson Conner,  
Michelle Prather, Judy Shopf

Scheduled to Serve Sunday, August 7		
	7:30	10:00
MC		Barbara Magee
EM	Anne Butts	Melissa Elliott Fran Phares
Acolytes		Philip James William James Evan Baham
Lectors		Philip James John Dubreuil
Ushers	Don Kieffer Charlie Stahr	Ray Kelley, Skip Scoggin, John Dubreuil, Burns Crotty, Steve Savage, David Lynd, Bobby Coxe, Rick Poirier, Cindy Schmidt
Greeters		Melissa Elliott Michael Willis Tom Jacks Adrienne Landry
Altar Guild Team I		
Caring Ministry Leader Ann Geiger 792-1128		
Lessons For Sunday, August 14, 2011 Genesis 45:1-15, Psalm 133, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28		