



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Office of the Archbishop

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To: Clergy, Religious, and Laity of the Archdiocese of New Orleans:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On September 14, the universal Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. As Catholics, the cross of Jesus becomes a sign of God's love and His triumph over evil. Through His death on the Cross and resurrection, Jesus opened the gates of heaven so that everyone once again has access to an eternal life of bliss with Him and all the saints.

For over a decade, parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans have opened their doors on the Wednesday closest to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross for an Evening of Confession, an opportunity for Catholics across the archdiocese to receive God's mercy and forgiveness and the grace that comes from the Sacrament of Penance. Of course, you are free to go to your parish or to another one for the sacrament.

This year, as we live our recent consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, this beautiful practice offers us a unique opportunity to give ourselves anew to Jesus through encountering His merciful Heart in this sacrament. All churches in the Archdiocese of New Orleans will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, September 16 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. or until the line for confession has come to an end. Whether we have been to confession recently, or perhaps it has been many years, our good priests will be waiting for you and the Sacred Heart of Jesus is ready for you, inviting you to know and accept anew His mercy and love. Why not invite a family member or friend to come and encounter Jesus through the sacrament too?

Know of my prayers, love and gratitude for you, and please pray for me in your kindness.

With renewed best wishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Archbishop of New Orleans