



Fête-Dieu du Teche

August 4, 2023

Dear Resident of Bayou Teche,

Grace and peace in Our Blessed Lord!

On Tuesday August 15 the ninth annual 37-mile Bayou Teche Eucharistic Procession by boat will be held. This year the celebration takes a southerly route by beginning at the Church of the Assumption in historic Franklin and then progressing north toward New Iberia. We are offering the procession and day of prayer and pilgrimage for an end of the increasing violence in our Bayou Teche towns. We are beseeching the Prince of Peace in the Eucharist to bring peace to our hearts, families, and communities.

I am writing you to invite you and your family to the 8 AM French Mass in Franklin with Bishop Deshotel and to the Rosary and Benediction at the stops along the way. I would also like to invite you to gather as a family for prayer along the banks of the Bayou Teche near your home and greet the Lord in the Eucharist as the procession passes. It has been truly moving to see over the years so many families gathered on the banks of the Teche with makeshift grottos and kneeling in adoration as Jesus passed by their homes. It would be great to increase that devotion this year. The Eucharist boat should leave the landing in Franklin at about 9:30 AM at the sound of a cannon blast and arrive in Baldwin at the boat ramp at about 11:00 AM. Departure from Baldwin after the Rosary and Benediction will be about 11:45 AM and arrival at the boat launch on the Chitimacha Reservation will be our second stop, arriving at about 12:30 PM. Departure from the reservation in Charenton will be about 1:15 PM with arrival in Jeanerette at about 2:30 PM. Departure from Jeanerette will be at 3:15 PM with arrival in New Iberia at the Park boat launch at about 4:45 PM. There will then be a foot procession to St. Peter Catholic Church for Solemn Evening Prayer and Final Benediction.

If you have access to a boat, there is still room for you to join in the boat procession. There is not cost but you must register your boat at <https://fetediuduteche.org/registration> More information can be obtained by visiting www.fetediuduteche.org or by visiting our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CommunityofJesusCrucified/

Bishop Maurice Schexnayder, once said: "The waters of the Teche will be drained to the ground before the people of Acadiana abandon their Catholic Faith." Let's help to fulfil his prophecy and keep the faith alive and well in our families and throughout Acadiana!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. Michael Champagne, CJC

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