

Love your  
neighbor as  
yourself

-Jesus



I want to  
accustom  
all the  
inhabitants  
...to look on me  
as their brother

-Br. Charles de  
Foucauld

September, 2006

To my brothers and sisters in Christ,

I apologize for the delay in sending out this newsletter, but I have been extraordinarily busy at the Beau Rivage, the casino that I work at. We have finally opened, and I am back on a normal schedule. I am a strong advocate of moderation in this age of overwork, but this was a special situation. However, the large number of hours has taken a spiritual and physical toll. Yet, the experience has made me sensitive to those poor souls who work at such a pace for their entire lives.

I am proud to announce that Biloxi, and the entire Coast in general, is rebounding well. I pray that we might end this hurricane season without any storms, as it will give the whole population a boost of energy and commitment. I have had to come to terms with my own anxieties in recent months. I found myself wondering what I might do should another disaster strike, or how might I pay for insurance. Yet, as in all things, the will of God makes itself known through daily events and movements in our hearts. So, I found great peace through simply committing myself to staying here in Biloxi no matter what may come.

In other news, I planted several trees in my yard to replace several that were damaged in the storm. I have a Red Maple and a Magnolia in my front yard, and a Live Oak in my back yard. The Bishop of Biloxi, Bishop Thomas Rodi, has encouraged all of the parishes to plant Live Oaks in remembrance. These stately trees are a fixture along the Coast, and many here are hundreds of years old.

I have also adopted a cat from the local shelter. She is a young adult Siamese named Roxy (the shelter gave her this name, and I like it), and she is settling in well.

Please don't forget to keep praying for all of those who are still struggling with rebuilding and planning for the future—we are certainly not out of the storm yet, but we are all hanging in there!

In peace and love,

Matthew

Please send all  
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Prayers are needed and appreciated!  
(no postal fee required)