



**For Immediate Release Contact:**

Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC

fetedieuduteche@gmail.com

www.fetedieuduteche.org

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(337) 394-6550

**Bible Marathon to take place night and day in St. Martinville. Come Marinate in the Word! The Annual 100 Hour Non-Stop Public Bible Reading will begin on Ash Wednesday and conclude Sunday**

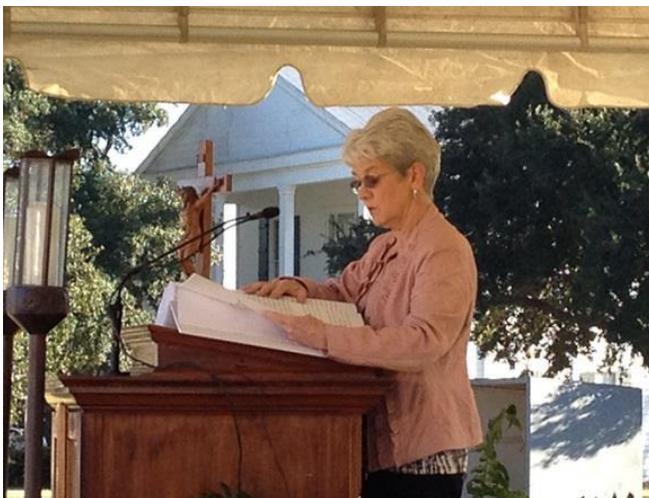
Fête-Dieu du Teche will host the annual Bible Marathon in the Town Square of St. Martinville beginning on Ash Wednesday March 6 at 12:30 pm and concluding on Sunday, March 10 at 4:30 pm. The event drew over 3000 people last year. This year marks the third time that the Holy Bible will be read publicly from cover to cover without pause in the square of the Diocese of Lafayette's oldest church parish, St. Martin de Tours. The parish was erected in 1765.



During the four days of continuous reading, 300 lectors from the various 121 church parishes in the Diocese of Lafayette as well as faith leaders from other denominations

from across Acadiana will be employed. The Bible Marathon will help to accentuate the rich cultural heritage of the region by including various nationalities and languages

represented in the region. In addition to English, selections of the Bible will be read in French, Italian, German, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.



The special event is intended to help “prime the pump” and re-ignite a love for the Word of God and its practice in life. “People everywhere love to exercise. It’s important to stay in physical shape, which is why many participate programs such as CrossFit and compete in Iron Man races, triathlons, and marathons.

And we wanted to provide a way for people to spiritually exercise,” says Fr. Michael Champagne, of the Community of Jesus Crucified, organizer of the event. “We, as Christians, and all men and women of good will, need to ‘shake the dust off’ our Bibles and begin to ponder God’s plan for our lives. In these chaotic times we often get confused about how we are to act in our personal lives, in our families, at work, and in our dealings with others. God’s pre-eminent way of speaking to us is through the Sacred Scriptures. Every page of the Bible recounts God’s burning and fatherly love for us, and the Bible Marathon is a reminder of that love.”



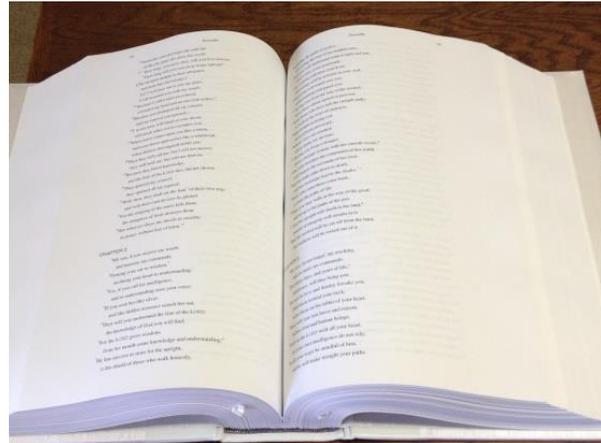
Over 3000 people were in attendance at the Bible Marathon held last year. Sr. Anne-Marie, a novice of the Community of Jesus Crucified, attended as a volunteer. She recounts, “It was very peaceful just to sit and listen to the Word of God. It was wonderful to see all the different faith groups coming together to proclaim the love of God for His people.” “The love and reverence of those who attended the Bible Marathon inspired me to grow deeper in my faith,” reports Br. Damien Daigle. Lisa Schmidt commented, “Reading the Bible again just reminds you how important and rejuvenating it is to read always. Scripture is eternal like God because it is alive.” Miranda Kidder was in attendance at the first Jubilee



of the Word Marathon three years ago and reflects, “The Bible Marathon brings together different denominations around the Holy Scriptures which unite us.” Many Bible studies were spawned as a result of the public Bible Reading in the square and the event has inspired other Bible Marathons such as the one last year at McNeese State University and just recently in New Orleans on Carrollton Avenue.

During the Bible Marathon priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation by means of the Spiritual Care Unit (SCU – Mobile Confessional). Catholics who are properly disposed can obtain a plenary indulgence by reading or listening for 30 minutes from the Holy Bible in the Square during the event. Organizers are asking all lectors to invite at least 10 people to come along with them and listen to the Word while it is being proclaimed in the Square. “We need proclaimers of the Word, but also hearers of the Word, and most importantly Doers of the Word” recounts Fr. Champagne.

Lectors will be reading from a very special, handmade Bible during the Marathon. The Bible measures 12” x 18” in its closed position and weighs nearly 25 lbs. The Bible was blessed by Pope Francis for the first Bible Marathon held during the Year of Mercy in 2016 and has since been used in other Bible Marathons hosted across Louisiana.



### **Additional Information**

For more information, visit the website [www.fetedieuduteche.org](http://www.fetedieuduteche.org) or Fete-Dieu du Teche on Facebook, or contact Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC, by telephone at (337) 394-6550 or email at [fetedieuduteche@gmail.com](mailto:fetedieuduteche@gmail.com)

### **About Fete-Dieu du Teche, LLC**

Fête-Dieu du Teche, LLC is a non-profit Catholic association directed by Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC. It is dedicated to preserving and promoting the Catholic Faith in the Acadiana area. It is devoted to the New Evangelization - the preaching of the Gospel of



Jesus Christ anew, with a new zeal, a new vitality, a new credibility, with new methods, to those who may have drifted from the Church and are in need of a re-evangelization. Fête-Dieu du Teche has implemented several initiatives to help promote and revitalize the Faith. In 2015 it began an annual Eucharistic Boat Procession down Bayou Teche on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15. Last year, to commemorate the centennial of the Diocese of Lafayette, the Boat Procession was held on the Vermilion River, beginning at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Abbeville and culminating with a two-mile foot procession to the Cathedral. This year the annual event returns to Bayou Teche Thursday, August

15 with a French Mass at 8 AM in Leonville presided by Bishop Douglas Deshotel and culminating in St. Martinville with Solemn Vespers at Mater Dolorosa Chapel at 6 PM.

At the beginning of the Year of Mercy an old ambulance was converted into a mobile confessional and put into service traveling throughout Louisiana and making stops where people gather. Fête-Dieu du Teche, LLC now operates three units. To date the mobile confessional has traveled over 12,000 miles, making over 300 stops across the State of Louisiana, hearing over 7000 confessions on the road.

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