



For Immediate Release Contact:

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www.facebook.com/pages/Fete-Dieu-du-Teche

3rd Annual Fête-Dieu du Teche Eucharistic Procession down Bayou Teche on August 15

Fête-Dieu du Teche will host the second annual Eucharistic Procession down Bayou Teche on Tuesday, August 15. The date is important for Roman Catholics as it is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also a day that marks the bicentennial of St. Martinville and the 252nd anniversary of the arrival of French Canadian immigrants who brought the Catholic faith to Acadiana after enduring great trials and suffering. Hundreds will travel by boat to celebrate this occasion in honoring the Blessed Sacrament and Acadian heritage. Last year thousands travelled from throughout south Louisiana to gather along Bayou Teche in the inaugural event.



Bishop John Douglas Deshotel, D.D., a native son of Acadiana and the current Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, will begin the event by celebrating the Mass of the Assumption in French at St. Leo the Great Church in Leonville at 8:00 a.m.

“After Mass, we will process with the Blessed Sacrament with a special monstrance built for the occasion to the Leonville boat landing and embark in a boat procession down the Teche toward St. Martinville,” explains Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC, native son of the Diocese of Lafayette and lead organizer of this unique event.



Breaux Bridge, and Parks, and finally in St. Martinville. Four priests and stations will be available at each stop for Confessions.”

“Traveling down the Teche is highly symbolic, because it replicates what our ancestors did,” observes Bishop Glen Provost, a native son of Acadiana and the Bishop of Lake Charles. “The Jewish people never forget their deliverance from Egypt and their arrival in the Promised Land. Acadians should never forget their passage from exile to a new home.”



“The boat procession will arrive at the Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville at about 4:45 p.m.,” Fr. Champagne stated. “We will disembark behind Notre Dame de Perpetuel Secours Church and process into it for Benediction. At about 5:00 PM we will process a few blocks into St. Martin de Tours Church for Benediction. From there the procession will continue down Main Street to Mater Dolorosa Chapel for the celebration of Solemn Vespers of the Assumption and Final Benediction at 6:00 p.m.”



Itinerary for Eucharistic Boat Procession Down Bayou Teche August 15, 2016 (Feast of the Assumption)

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass in French with Bishop John Douglas Deshotel, D.D. at St. Leo the Great Church, Leonville
 9:00 a.m. Procession from St. Leo’s to Leonville boat landing
 9:30 a.m. Boat Procession departs
 10:20 a.m. Rosary and Benediction, Arnaudville

11:45 a.m. Rosary & Benediction, Cecilia
 1:35 p.m. Rosary & Benediction, Breaux Bridge
 3:15 p.m. Rosary & Benediction, Parks
 4:45 p.m. Arrival @ Evangeline Oak, St. Martinville; Procession to Notre Dame de Perpetuel Secours for Benediction.
 5:00 p.m. Procession from Notre Dame to St. Martin de Tours Church for Benediction
 6:00 p.m. Procession down Main Street to Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel for Solemn Vespers & Final Benediction



*Confessions will be available at all stops along the Teche

Boat Registration

To register a boat for the procession, send an email to fetediuduteche@gmail.com. Once the email is received, the registrant will be sent a registration packet with further details. Boats may represent families, church parishes, Cursillo groups, Knights of Columbus or Knights of Peter Claver councils, or any other religious groups or communities. Participants are also encouraged to identify themselves by designing and displaying a special banner or other type of decoration on their boat during the procession, as an expression of their Catholic faith and Acadian heritage. Catholic schools are encouraged to send a representative group to be present at one of the stops along the procession.



Additional Information

For more information, visit the website www.fetediuduteche.org or contact Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC, by telephone at (337) 394-6550 or email at fetediuduteche@gmail.com

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