



# May God continue to bless our great City of New Orleans



Archbishop  
 Gregory M.  
**AYMOND**

January 6, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We are excited in New Orleans as we celebrate the Tricentennial of its founding. We have received a blessing from our Holy Father Pope Francis and a letter from his personal representative, the Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre (see page 4). It is a blessing to know that in Rome we are being remembered and prayed for as we celebrate.

It is a time for us to recall our history even before New Orleans was founded in 1718. Missionaries were



Photo by Frank J. Methé | CLARION HERALD

*St. Louis Cathedral, also established in 1718, has been the icon of the City of New Orleans for the last 300 years.*

here ministering to the Native American people of the Mississippi Valley. Our roots go back many generations, and certainly the Catholic Church has influenced the city and has helped us to develop who we are and what we believe in spiritually.

### A city of saints

Please join me in remembering the lives of those who have gone before us and who have worked in New Orleans: St. Frances

Xavier Cabrini; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne; Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, who has been beatified; and Venerable Henriette Delille, for whom we are awaiting beatification.

They, along with many others, have continued to foster the kingdom of God among us in our great city.

I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all priests serving in our archdiocese who give of themselves so generously to lead

and shepherd the people of God. I am also grateful to the women and men religious who are an important part of our ministry and who have labored here since the city was founded.

### Ursuline Sisters out front

We remember with gratitude that it was the Ursuline Sisters who opened the convent on Chartres Street, which became the first Catholic girls' school in the United States as well as

what now is called Catholic Charities. The religious communities who have served in our archdiocese have, in many ways, helped to shape who we are as the people of God in New Orleans.

I am also grateful to the lay faithful. Thank you for your faith and for the ways in which you grow in your relationship with the Lord Jesus and faithfully serve in your parish that it may become a more alive community of faith. I am particularly grateful to so many who have participated in our Ninth General Synod and are helping us to become a stronger and more welcoming church.

We are blessed to have the statue of St. Pope John Paul II outside of our cathedral. The statue, which was commissioned for the Tricentennial, is our gift to the city. It was blessed by Pope Francis in November of 2017 and will be blessed at the cathedral on January 7 at the opening Mass for the Tricentennial.

May God continue to bless our great City of New Orleans and help us to continue to make it a faith-filled place where the church is alive and is led by the Holy Spirit.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend  
 Gregory M. Aymond  
 Archbishop of New Orleans

**CLARION HERALD**  
 Official Newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

The Clarion Herald (USPS 115-520), published every Saturday (September-May) and published every other Saturday (June-August) by the Clarion Herald Publishing Company, is the official publication of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

**ARCHBISHOP GREGORY M. AYMOND**  
 Publisher and President

**FATHER RONALD L. CALKINS**  
 Moderator

**PETER P. FINNEY JR.**  
 Executive Editor and General Manager  
 OFFICE  
 1000 Howard Ave. • Suite 400  
 New Orleans, LA 70113  
 MAIL  
 P.O. Box 53247 • New Orleans, LA 70153  
 504-596-3035 • FAX: 504-596-3020

General E-Mail:  
[clarionherald@clarionherald.org](mailto:clarionherald@clarionherald.org)  
[www.clarionherald.org](http://www.clarionherald.org)

Cover photo courtesy St. Louis Cathedral

Postmaster send address changes to Clarion Herald,  
 P.O. Box 53247, New Orleans, LA 70153

Subscription rates: \$20 per year inside the Archdiocese of New Orleans; \$25 per year outside the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Remittances should be made payable to Clarion Herald Publishing Company. Periodicals Postage Paid at New Orleans.

*The Clarion Herald thanks **First Bank and Trust** for its generous sponsorship of this 64-page special supplement, "River of Faith: 300 Years as a New Orleans Catholic Community."*

Go to [www.fbtonline.com](http://www.fbtonline.com)

