

THE PURPOSE OF MISSION KREWE 2017

A **krewe** (pronounced just as the English equivalent “crew”) is the organization that creates and hosts balls and parades during the Mardi Gras season. Members of these krewes are assessed fees in order to pay for the annual festivities – from thousands of dollars a year for elaborate schemes to as



little as \$20 for marching groups. Criteria for membership varies; some krewes are exclusive – you have to “know someone who knows someone,” while others are open to anyone who can pay membership fees. For parades, krewe members who march usually pay for their own throws, doubloons, and trinkets. Finally, each krewe elects its own *Rex*, or king, of Carnival. One of the most popular krewes in the city of New Orleans – The Rex Organization – was formed to create a daytime parade for the residents of the city; their motto is *Pro Bono Publico*, or for the public good.

Starting with a vision of Fr. Jamin David, a priest of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and Fr. Michael Vuky, a priest of

the Archdiocese of Portland, to collaborate to provide missionary assistance in each respective diocese, the *Mission Krewe* was formed. Its purpose is to assist families who own residences in each respective diocese to repair and rebuild their homes and properties that have either been damaged by natural disaster or due to the passage of time with the assistance of young people from both communities of faith; preference is given to those with disabilities, the elderly, those with financial difficulty, and parents of children who are 18 years of age or younger. The experience provides young Catholics the opportunity to grow in their image of a Church that extends far beyond the confines of Oregon or Louisiana while working together as Church to assist the needy and vulnerable in each community.

Membership in the *Mission Krewe* does not require large fees, but instead, all members must have a heart open to assist and witness to the poor and vulnerable in our communities and hands willing to work toward rebuilding the lives of those who suffer. Nor do krewe members pay for the materials used in renovation projects; the contributions of kind donors assist in the krewe’s missionary efforts. Our *Rex* is the Crucified Christ, and we pick up his cross in the work that we do for the vulnerable in our communities. Our motto is similar – *In hoc signo vinces* – “In this sign, you will conquer.”

The *Mission Krewe* will converge on St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Parish and its chapel of ease – St. Thomas – in Albany and Springfield in 2017 to witness to the people of southeastern Louisiana the saving power of God at work in His *krewe* from Oregon and Louisiana.

Laissez les bons temps rouler!