From: Fr. John B+ [mailto:john.b@saintbarnabas.us]Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 8:25 AMTo: Ruth MeyersSubject: Same gender blessings

Ruth,

I was looking back over some information in getting ready for GC and found your message asking diocesan contacts to give you updates. I realize that this is pretty late for what you were trying to accomplish, but just so you know, on April 26th, the Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D., invited all congregations in Western Louisiana to go through an educational/discernment process in order to ascertain what their generous pastoral response should be to LGBTQ persons who seek the Church's blessing on their union. In his letter, he also announced that he has authorized my parish, St. Barnabas, Lafayette and Holy Cross, Shreveport to begin offering same gender blessings. I conducted the first in the diocese on May 20th, with a thrilled couple and their family and friends.

Thank you for the work you do.

Peace,

The Very Rev. John Bedingfield Rector