Reverend: Reunions prod people to think about faith

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 cares — Before the food, drinks, music and dancing started, the Guilbeau family gathered to pray Saturday.

Like many other families during Carnival, the world's largest festival, the Guilbeau family — not to mention the Guilbeaux family — began its festivities with a Mass. The Rev. Stanley Guilbeau of Lafayette blessed and prayed at Mass and confirmed the Mass at St. Peter Church in Carencro, along with the Rev. Guy Leblanc, Guilbeau's cousin, and the Rev. Margaret Loeb of St. Margaret's Church in Lake Charles.

Most of the people descended from "Maisie," a French Catholic, Guilbeaux and Guilbeau family.

"To work, to play and to pray: Cajuns are strong in all three," said the Rev. Johans.

Guilbeau said the Mass was an opportunity to think about their faith and the faith of their ancestors.

American people in Nova Scotia during the 19th century were persecuted for both their French heritage and their adherence to Roman Catholicism. In Louisiana, they could practice their faith freely.

That history is apparently still relevant today's Catholics.

"Too many people are losing faith and people are doing bad things and getting things they want," said the Rev. Johans. "But after the Mass, the idea of faith and the basic family values of the faith were still present at the mass."