Shrimp Festival Comes To Close After Fun, Ceremony

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DELCAMBRE — Brightly decorated boats floated down the bayou in Delcambre yesterday for the annual Shrimp Festival’s blessing of the fleet.

Each year residents of Delcambre, shrimpers, festival royalty and visitors congregate along the bayou in Delcambre for a mass and the blessing of the fleet. The traditional blessing of the shrimp boats is performed in order to insure good shrimp catches and no accidents for the shrimpers. The mass and the blessing have been part of the festivities for 32 years.

"The blessing definitely helps the shrimp crops. Besides, it is a time for the community to get together and celebrate," said Tim Touchet, a Delcambre native.

"Shrimping is the way of life in Delcambre. The community lives on the bayou and it is fitting that we give thanks for a good living," said Delores Vitor, president of the Delcambre Shrimp Festival Association, said. "During the blessing, we ask the good Lord to give us a good season. I think the blessing helps the crops."

"It is a good feeling to be in the blessing," said Captain Abbie Pierre, a shrimper from Houma. "We always have a big party and a good time. Everybody gets together and has a lot of fun."

"I’ve been shrimping since I was 11 years old and now I’m 56. I make a good living and enjoy doing it. I can’t seem to enjoy doing anything else, so I guess I’ll do this as long as I can."

In addition to the blessing, people enjoyed carnival rides and games, dancing, bingo and eating boiled shrimp and shrimp etouffee.

The funds collected from the Shrimp Festival are used for community improvement, according to Mrs. Vitor. "After we paid off the Festival Building, we began to donate funds for various worthy causes in the community," she said. "We have donated money for playground equipment, water pumps that are used by the shrimp boats and for a new football scoreboard for Delcambre High School. We have also donated money toward the building of a boat dock."

Priest Blesses Fleet As It Leaves Port

Photos By Ross Heard

Shrimp Fleet Lies In Wait For Blessing

Eating Shrimp Is Half The Fun