

Honorable Justice, Judges, Sheriff, Assessor, Clerk of Court, Coroner and other fellow elected officials, veterans of armed forces, family & friends.

Today, January 9, 2012, we embark on a new chapter for the residents of St. James Parish. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the public for placing upon me their confidence and trust for this opportunity to serve as the next parish president.

Together, my administration along with members of the parish council, are prepared and eager to accept the challenges that lie ahead, and ready to set the tone and direction of the Parish for a better tomorrow and a brighter future. Although we have experienced economic hardships, Nucor & Petroplex, along with other industries are readying for a new start as we approach an exciting time in our parish.

The parish council, with my administration has tackled existing issues in efforts to properly steer parish growth in the right direction. Enhancements to procedures and departments are already in progress, as others will be initiated soon for the best interest of our residents.

As elected officials, we must keep an open mind and be receptive to all possibilities. Moving forward, we will continue to forge ahead with enthusiasm, humility and compassion with an overall goal in mind to improve the quality of life in St. James Parish.

Pastor Ferdinand Gaines and the First Community Antioch Family, thank you for allowing us to use this venue. I would like to thank everyone that had anything at all to do with this inaugural ceremony. All of you are to be commended for an outstanding and wonderful job.

I'd also like to thank the citizens of this great parish for their support today in attending our ceremony. Input and participation from the public in the political and work-application processes is valuable and always welcomed. Your concerns are vital to the democratic process we live by and so much enjoy. We should all remind ourselves that (in Abraham Lincoln's own words) 'this is a government of the people, by the people, for the people, and shall not perish from the earth.'

Again, thank all of you and may God Bless each & every one of you.