

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

LXXV 6/20/03 No. 25

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## Victorian

## Religious

### Prints exhibit

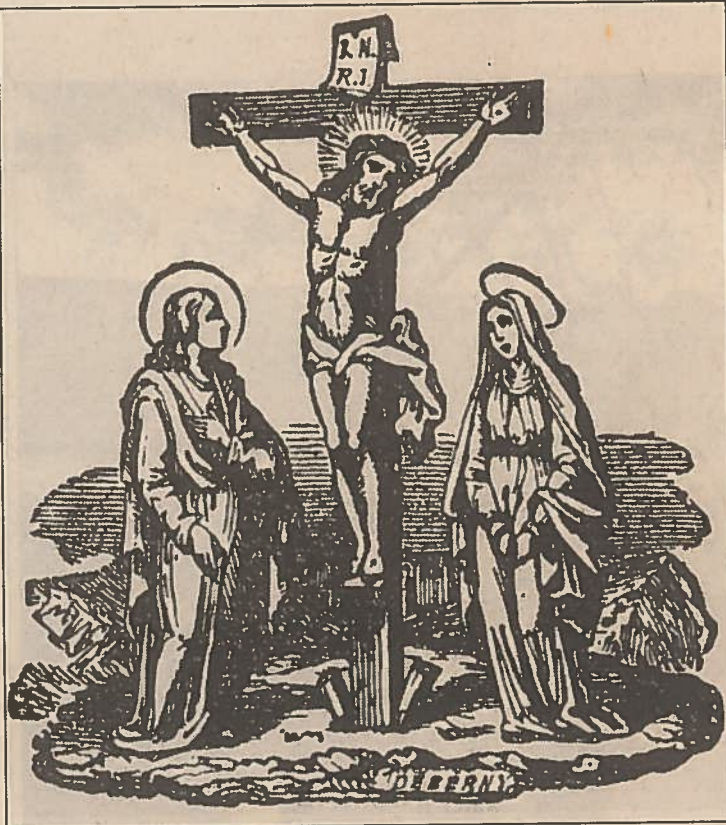
The featured seasonal exhibit this year at the Cobblestone Museum is titled Victorian Religious Prints.

The exhibit, with close to 100 prints displayed, is located in the Danolds Room on the second level of the Cobblestone Church in Orleans.

The first day of regular museum hours begins Wednesday, with hours from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and Sundays through Labor Day, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibit will, however, be highlighted with a reception from noon to 2 p.m. on June 29. At that time Jean Warner, who is most knowledgeable on religious themes in art, will be present to discuss various prints in the exhibit. This will follow the annual June worship service at 11 a.m. in the Cobblestone Church.

The Victorian prints making up this exhibit are not really great works of art in themselves. Rather, these are pictures that were made available to middle class people through a variety of printing techniques by numerous publishers.



These images flooded the market in the second half of the 19th century. Some are reproductions of great or famous paintings while others are the creations of artists and printers long forgotten. Most all of the prints displayed appear to be mounted in their original frames.

By the mid-20th century, many of the more sentimental subjects seen in these prints were considered passe. But during the Victorian era almost every household contained the likenesses of sacred personages hung up like pictures of members of the family. These images were constant reminders of favorite stories and showed the devotion people had to their religious beliefs so paramount in 19th century daily life.

The pictures in this exhibit

represent both Catholic and Protestant tendencies in religious art of the Victorian Era (1837-1901).

The exhibit contains lithographs by Currier and Ives as well as works done by German printers for export to this country.

Several early examples, however, are photographic images of religious subjects. Popular subjects such as the "Good Shepherd" by Bernard Plockherst and "The Child Jesus in the Temple" by Heinrich Hofmann will be familiar to many while other prints represent less popular themes such as a funerary print and a marriage certificate.

While all the prints are more than 100 years old, they continue to be instructive not only for their content but for what was of interest to our ancestors.