

# SERVANT of the POOR

Newsletter of Friends of Henriette Delille

Vol. 13, No. 2

Summer, 2011

## Because of Henriette

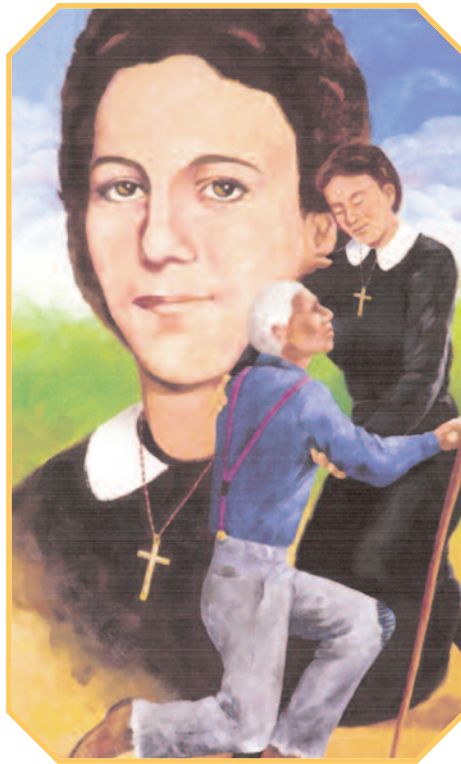
Dear Sisters,

I am writing this letter on behalf of our friends and their little 18 month old boy in Wuxi, Jiangsu, China. Their names are Lou Zheng Ping, Liu Ying and their little son is Robbie (his American name). Little Robbie was diagnosed with Spinal Meningitis, through a spinal tap approximately one and one half weeks ago and has been in the hospital since his diagnosis. He was a very sick little boy. His parents were told he might not make it and if he did he may have brain damage.

Luo Zheng Ping (his chosen American name is Robin) and his wife phoned us and told us that Robbie was so very ill and asked us to say prayers for him to get well. We immediately phoned our sons and daughter and their families and all of our friends and asked for prayers for little Robbie.

I began my prayers to Mother Henriette Delille for her intercession for Robbie. We kept in contact with Robin about Robbie's health. Robin called us the next day and said that Robbie's fever was much lower and even though they were still worried, he was getting his temperature back to normal.

Robin phoned us the next morning to tell us that Robbie opened his eyes and said Ma and Da. Robin said that it was a miracle. The doctors at the hospital could not believe it. The doctors said they would have to do an MRI on this Thursday and spinal tap on Friday to check for brain damage. The doctors checked his MRI and today checked his spinal fluid and there was great news - See **ROBBIE**, page 2



## Coming Events

**October 2, 2011**

~ Celebration of 170th Anniversary of St. Augustine Church- 10:00 A. M.

**November 12, 2011**

~ Feeding of the Poor in honor of Henriette Delille - Ozanam Inn, 1PM

**November 19, 2011**

**Special Mass to Honor Venerable Henriette Delille**

~ Motherhouse , 4:00 P.M.

~ Relatives, Friends of Venerable Henriette Delille, and also the general public are invited. Please join us.

**November 20, 2011**

**Celebration of SSF 169th**

**Founder's Day and**

**Henriette Delille Street**

**St. Augustine Church**

~ Mass - 10 A.M.

~ Parade follows

## Beatification cause on track

**This article from the *Clarion Herald* is used with permission from Peter Finney, Jr.**

For a quarter century, the beatification of Henriette Delille, who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans in 1842 to minister to and educate slaves, has seemed like a distant, nearly unattainable dream.

Now, the ecclesiastical finish line - along with a glorious liturgical celebration that would accompany the first beatification of an African American Catholic and the first beatification ever on American soil - seems tantalizingly close.

Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, the distinguished Roman postulator for Mother Henriette's beatification cause, told Tulane University historian Dr. Virginia Gould during a recent visit to Rome that her beatification cause remains on track.

Always cautious never to presuppose

a Vatican action, Ambrosi is decidedly upbeat, although the timeline ultimately rests with the process used by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints

"He told me every time he goes to the congregation, they are all abuzz about her cause - they really can't stop talking about her," Gould said Aug. 25, shortly after updating the Sisters of the Holy Family about the status of the cause.

"The congregation is dealing with hundreds of causes, but she is very important to them. They recognize how important she is to the international community."

Mother Henriette is now declared venerable, meaning the Vatican has determined that she lived a life of sanctity and heroic virtue. In order to be declared blessed, the Vatican's saint-making congregation must approve as

See **CAUSE ON TRACK**, p .2

## Happy supporters, outside City Hall, after witnessing St. Claude renamed Henriette Delille Street - Signs go up



Photo by Jim Belfon

The Sisters of the Holy Family are rejoicing! The City Council of New Orleans unanimously adopted the resolution to change the name of eight blocks of "St. Claude Street" to "Henriette Delille Street."

This is the street that passes in front of St. Augustine Church in the Treme section. Venerable Mother Henriette Delille spent many years in the service of the people of Treme. It is indeed fitting that a street be named for her. It is St. Claude Street, not St. Claude Avenue.

This street name change occurred through the efforts of the Faubourg Treme Historical Association, headed by Naydja Dominigue Bynum, niece of our

late Sister Fortunata, residents of the Treme neighborhood, Father Quentin Moody, parishioners of St. Augustine Church, friends, and the Sisters of the Holy Family.

A few of the reasons why Mere Henriette was chosen for this street name change are: (1) In addition to founding the Sisters of the Holy Family there was need for a street to be named for a woman of color in Treme. (2) In this area Henriette provided care for the sick, elderly, orphans, and cast off abandoned slaves. (3) She catechized and taught fun-



damentals of education, although it was against the law. (4) Henriette spent her life working for social justice. (5) She dignified and elevated the status of women of color in New Orleans. (6) Henriette loved God very much and her life encompassed healing, liberation, compassion, and empowerment for the less fortunate. (7)

Her canonization will benefit, not only New Orleans, but the whole world.

**"I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God."** This prayer guided her life.

## Beatification Cause on track, from p. 1

### Robbie from p. 1

Robbie will be fine. He has no brain damage and his spinal fluid was clear.

We thank you God and Mother Henriette Delille for this miracle.

The even greater miracle is that our friend (Robin) Luo Zheng Ping said he did not believe in God or that prayers could be heard, now said he will become a Christian. He and his wife are going to go to a church in Wuxi, China to thank God for the good health He has given to their sweet little boy. Robin told my husband Bill he knew we were Christian and Bill said we were and that we were Catholic. Robin said he, his wife and Robbie will go to church each week to thank God for their little boy.

Again we thank God and Mother Henriette Delille for this miracle of healing of little Robbie Luo and also for the conversion of our friends.

God Bless you!! **W. B. , SC**

miraculous the healing of Marilyn Groves, now a freshman at Rice University, from life-threatening double pneumonia and bacterial infection as a 4-year-old.

Groves, the grand niece of Sister of the Holy Family Doris Goudeaux, began to rally from her serious illness after her family prayed for her healing through the intercession of Mother Henriette.

One doctor already has given his opinion that the healing cannot be explained medically, and a second doctor is scheduled to give his report to the congregation, Gould said.

### Celebration would be in N.O.

Once the congregation votes on the miracle, it would then be up to Pope Benedict XVI to declare her blessed. There is no firm timetable for how quickly the actual beatification Mass would follow, but it would be celebrated in New Orleans. Since Pope Benedict assumed his pontificate, beatifications have been held in the blessed's home diocese, a departure from Pope John Paul II's custom of holding beatifi-

cations in Rome.

No beatification ceremony has ever been held in the United States, which would add even greater significance to the event for the American church.

"He was extremely enthusiastic and very upbeat the whole time I was talking to him," Gould said, noting that Ambrosi has a strong track record as a postulator for the causes of St. Andre Bessette and Blessed Basil Moreau. He is working on the causes of Pope John XXIII, Cardinal Terence Cooke, Cardinal John Henry Newman, Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Father Augustus Tolton, Father Emil Kapaun and Father Patrick Peyton. "He said this was a very important cause," Gould said.

### Other signs of devotion

Gould delivered to Ambrosi the Family Prayer for the New Battle of New Orleans, which includes a reference to Mother Henriette and a brief biography of her by Gould and former archdiocesan archivist Dr. Charles Nolan.

See **CAUSE ON TRACK** p. 5



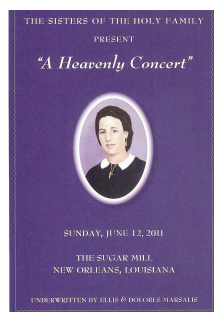
# Heavenly Concert - an immense success

## Thanks to all supporters of Mere Henriette

The Sugar Mill was the perfect setting for the Heavenly Concert. It was spacious and inviting. The sound system was excellent. The 500 concert goers were smiling and happy. The food from 18 of New Orleans' finest restaurants was delicious.

The entertainers were exceptionally good. They included Sisters of the Holy Family, Lucia Carl and Elizabeth Ann Holmes who entertained for the patron party.

Other artists who made the evening extra special were Judy Spellman, Charmaine Neville, Amassa Miller, Ellis Marsalis, Irvin Mayfield, St. Raymond /St Leo the Great Voices of Greatness Gospel Choir, Sharon Martin, Irma Thomas, who raised over \$1,000.00 during her performance; Connie and Dwight Fitch, and Clark Knighton and



The 4X4 Connection Band.

Norman Robinson, anchor from WDSU, was the emcee. The Honorary Chair Couple were Mr. and Mrs. Alden J. McDonald.

Talent coordination and stage management are attributed to Rouzan Entertainment Inc. and Lyrae Norman.

Special thanks go to Sheriff Marlin Gusman, our sponsors, and our Development Board, without whom this would never have taken place.

The SSF Development Board consists of Tracie Boutte, Michael Bruno, Gretta R. Burns, Ronald V. Burns, Sr., Emmett B. Chapital, Jr., Most Rev. Shelton J.

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Sisters who worked closely with the Development Board are Congregational Leader, Sister Eva Regina Martin, Sister Greta Jupiter, Assistant Congregational Leader, and Sisters Philomena Malveaux and Doris Goudeaux.

## Sisters of the Holy Family Raffle and Dinner successful

On April 16, 2011 the raffle fundraiser ended with an old fashioned Holy Family Day dinner and the announcement of the winners.

Winners included Mrs. Lois Vallet of Baton Rouge, LA, \$1,000.00; Beverly M. Williams of Compton, CA, \$500.00;

Barbara Carmon of New Orleans \$250.00; Lille Joseph of Baton Rouge, two nights in the Bourbon Orleans Hotel; and Sylvia Thomas, dinner for two at Sassafras Restaurant.

We are especially grateful to all of our supporters. Since we are trying to

raise funds for the Beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille, we depend on your prayers and your generosity. God bless you and we will keep you in our prayers. God bless you.

## Riding with Venerable Henriette Delille

By Joycelyn Hyman, SSFA



As part of my ministry for the year 2011, I decided to make Mother Henriette Delille known in every church throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

After packing my car with boxes of prayer cards in four different languages and retrieving the Mass schedule from the Clarion Herald, I said a prayer that

Mere Henriette would accompany me on this journey. Pastors and church personnel have been very receptive in accepting the prayer cards in their parishes.

When Lent started, an even greater opportunity arose to promote her cause for sainthood because her name appeared in "Our Family Prayer".

As of this writing, prayer cards have been delivered to the following churches, houses and schools: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Blessed Trinity, Center of Jesus the Lord, Corpus Christi-Epiphanay, Good Shepherd, Holy Name of Mary, Holy Spirit, Immaculate Conception (Jesuit), Mary, Queen of Vietnam, Mater Dolorosa,

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. David, St. Dominic, St. Gabriel the Archangel, St. James Major, St. Joseph, St. Katherine Drexel, St. Clement of Rome, St. Louis Cathedral, St. Louis King of France, St. Maria Goretti,

St. Peter Claver, St. Pius X, St. Raymond/St. Leo, Transfiguration of the Lord (UNO Newman Center), St. Rita, Visitation of Our Lady, Notre Dame Seminary, Catholic Worker (St. Thomas Hospitality House, Duchesne House (Religious of the Sacred Heart), Jesuit House, St. Augustine, Brother Martin, Holy Cross, Mt. Carmel Academy, and Xavier Prep.

See **RIDING WITH HENRIETTE**, p.5



### **"Child of Haiti, Child of God"**

by David Ciampichini

I felt compelled to create this piece in response to the Haitian earthquake.

Our Lady in traditional Haitian attire holds the wounded heart up of this devastated country. Faces of anguish and hope pulsate within it. Haiti's heart is connected to Mary by a flame of mutual love.

Butterflies, archtypal symbols of rebirth, flock around Jesus and His Mother. Mary wears the name "Haiti" as an armband - a visual symbol of God's covenant with His people. The Holy Spirit hovers over the globe in Jesus' hand.

God's Spirit can recreate, not only Haiti, but the world through humanity's shared efforts.

***"I believe in God. I hope in God. I love."***

**The following note is from the Principal of St. Michael School for Exceptional Children**

Dear Sister Eva,

We want to thank you so very much for the prayer cards and pamphlets on Mere Henriette Delille. All of our students received one to take home and share with their families.

We will be following her road to sainthood very closely and will keep her in our daily prayers.

Again, we thank you and want you to know that all of the Sisters of the Holy Family will be remembered in our daily prayers.

## **Notes from our guest book**

By Barbara Duhe'



We hope that you are visiting our website and being kept abreast of all the latest information concerning the Cause for Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Henriette Delille. Our site also updates you on the activities sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family. With permission, we are sharing some of the e-mails we received in our guest book.

**My name** is Stella Williamson formerly Stella Jordan. I was raised at St. John the Berchman when Sr. Alicia Costa and her sister were there. I left New Orleans over 35 years ago. ... I am looking to reconnect with some of the girls/women that lived at St. John Berchman during the time I was there.....

**Stella4starr8@yahoo.com**

**Dear sisters,** I just watched the movie about Sister Henriette Delille and I really liked it. I'm from Mexico and I think it is the first time I heard about a religious order founded in the USA, and it made me very, very happy to know that our beloved church has produced fruits in the states. I promise you that I will make a prayer for the canonization of Sister Henriette. 'Specially after Katrina, New Orleans needs to have a saint of their own.....**SG, México**

**I cannot** remember where I got your e-mail address, but I am very happy to do so. I am reading up on the Sisters and the Foundation...May God continue to bless you all greatly with all that is good..... **ML, Trinidad & Tobago**

**Bless Henriette** Delille on her way to Sainthood. Bless the sisters for all they do for all mankind. Thank you....**PAGB, GA**

**I went to** Holy Rosary Catholic School in Galveston in my early years...and my teachers were some of the nuns of the Holy Family. I especially remember Sr. Joseph Ann Gilbert. She was my favorite teacher and a great person. My love to her. **MR-S, CA**

In gratitude (a check for \$150.00) for my safe drive from Washington to Cleveland, Ohio - during night time - and especially directing me to the Cleveland Clinic so I could visit my 97 year old ailing cousin. Venerable Henriette Delille was certainly my companion. **D.H., Washington**

### **Thank you, Henriette**

Because my spleen was removed, I was supposed to be a diabetic. After praying to Venerable Henriette Delille for healing, I am not diabetic after surgery. Many of my friends helped me to pray. Thanks to God. This was truly a miracle.

**Sister M. Frances Cabrini Turnbull, SSF**





**Sister Letitia Senegal celebrates 75 years as a Sister of the Holy Family**

## Sisters of the Holy Family observe jubilees, 75, 60, and 50 years



**Celebrating sixty years are Sisters, left, Concetta Augustine, Edna Mae Jones, Josephine Francisco, Hilary Daigle, Philomena Malveaux, and Sheila Marie Williams**

On June 10 at 10 A.M. Mass at St. Maria Goretti Church, eleven Sisters of the Holy Family celebrated 635 years of service to God and His people.

Bishop Carmon was celebrant and homilist Father Victor Cohea. Other priests were in attendance.

St. Raymond/St. Leo the Great Choir and the Sisters pre-sented beautiful music.

Relatives and friends joined the Sisters at Mass and the reception that followed. Congratulations!

**Fifty years are celebrated by Sisters, left, John Mary Jackson, Francella Jackson, Lucia Carl, and Joseph Ellen Cavalier**



## Prayers of thanksgiving to Venerable Henriette Delille

Dear Sisters,

In June of last year, I requested prayers to Mother Delille for the unborn baby boy, Jacob Eli Serigny, who had been diagnosed in utero with Spina Bifida. We prayed for a miracle, God delivers his miracles in many ways.

When he was born, his spine was closed and he needed a shunt for spinal fluid. He is now 5 1/2 months old and his prognosis is excellent. The doctors say he will walk and he is beginning to exhibit feeling in his feet. He is doing everything that a baby his age should be doing cognitively. His prognosis before birth based

on ultra-sounds was far more dire.

I believe that Mother Henriette interceded on his behalf and continues to intercede for him. I continue to offer prayers of thanksgiving and continue to pray that God through Mother's intercession will continue to bless him.

I will continue to pray to Mother Henriette for favors, blessings and thanksgiving. I ask the prayers of the community for the continued intercession of Mother Henriette on Jacob's behalf and I truly believe she is holding him in her arms.

**C.R.B.,**

### CAUSE ON TRACK, P.2

He did not know that St. Louis Cathedral had created a prayer room in honor of Mother Henriette and that the New Orleans City Council had agreed to rename eight blocks of St. Claude Street in Tremé in her honor.

"He was excited because all these things are so important to demonstrate to the congregation that there is a very big devotion to her and that she is important in the city," Gould said.

Sister Doris said the sisters who gathered at the Motherhouse in early August to receive the status update from Gould include former superior, Sister Mary Rose de Lima Hazeur, who asked Archbishop Philip Hannan to formally initiate the cause in 1986.

"We were all very happy to hear the news," Sister Doris said.

**Peter Finney Jr. can be reached at [pfinney@clarionherald.org](mailto:pfinney@clarionherald.org).**

*"I want to live and die for God."*

## Riding with Henriette Delille from page 3

Thanks to Father John Tran of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in LaPlace for his kindness in distributing the prayer cards to churches in the St. Charles/St. John Deanery.

A very special thanks to Father Tony,

parishioners and visitors at Our Lady of Guadalupe where over 2,000 prayer cards have been taken to their homes.

Our journey continues as we spread devotion to Mere Henriette throughout the Archdiocese.

## Prayer of Ven. Henriette Delille

If we have not visited your parish yet and you would like to receive prayer cards, please call 241-3800 or email [delillecomoff@yahoo.com](mailto:delillecomoff@yahoo.com) and we will get them to you immediately.

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*"I believe in God.  
I hope in God.  
I love.  
I want to live  
and die for God."*

*-Venerable  
Henriette Delille*

## Inside:

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### *Servant of the Poor*

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## More prayers answered . . .

Dear Sisters,

I want to report favors granted to me through Mother Henriette Delille. I will always be grateful to her and to all my teachers at St. Mary's Academy.

**A.M., LA**

Dear Sister Doris,

My name is Joesph A. Honegger, and I, as you know from past communications, have a great devotion to Mere Henriette Delille.

Recently a friend told me about his sister's many health problems and the stress the situation was causing him. I told him about Venerable Henriette and that I would pray for him and his sister requesting her intercession. The doctors were preparing them for a series of biopsies and a

colonoscopy that would have to be taken, and this was creating a great deal of anxiety.

My friend called me the next day to say that the biopsies would not be necessary and that the colonoscopy results were clean. He and his sister were elated, and I couldn't help but see the loving concern of Mother Delille.

Also, I have been dealing with the pain of gout and that seems to have been contained through prayer to Venerable Henriette. She stirs gentle reminders when I'm about to eat or drink something that could be harmful.

Thank you for your time. I pray that God will bless you and all the Sisters. Please remember my intentions in

your prayers. **N.Y.**

Thank you, Sisters of the Holy Family, for praying for my daughter. Her surgery was a huge success. She is now at home recovering.

Since she was in a Catholic hospital, she was able to receive Holy Communion there. **G.M. AZ**

Dear Sisters,

I'm writing to let you know of all the prayers that were answered from Henriette Delille.

On April 14, I prayed to Henriette for the missing country star who was found. And on May 21, I prayed for the professor who was lost in Jean Lafitte Park and Henriette heard my prayer. She also has heard lots of my personal prayers.

Thank Henriette for her help. **A.B., IA**