



# SERVANT OF THE POOR

Newsletter of Friends of Henriette Delille



Spring, 2010

## Pope declares Henriette Delille venerable

Please join us in thanking and praising God for this great news:

From our postulator: Dr. Andrea Ambrosi:

*This morning we were very, very, very happy to hear that the Holy Father has promulgated Mother Henriette Delille and approved that she lived a virtuous life of heroic virtue. The promulgation was passed this Saturday the 27th of March.*

And from Catholic News Service: March 29, 2010

**Pope brings African-American foundress one step closer to sainthood**

Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood cause of Mother Henriette Delille, a freeborn woman of African descent in 19th-century New Orleans, declaring that she had lived a life of "heroic virtues."

**Please join us in the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving to honor Venerable Mere Henriette Delille, St. Louis Cathedral, Sunday, April 25, 2010, 11 AM**

The process of canonization for Servant of God Henriette Delille is moving forward.

On March 2, 2010 the Ordinary Congress of Cardinals and Archbishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints cast 15 positive votes which determined that the Servant of God Henriette Delille practiced heroic virtue.

The report of the Cardinals has been given to the Holy Father who will declare Servant of God Henriette Delille venerable. The promulgation of the decree of venerability was signed March 27, 2010.

The *positio* of the alleged miracle will be sent to the medical experts in Rome to determine if the cure was a Divine intervention through the intercession of Servant of God Henriette Delille. Theologians will determine if it is a miracle. Dates must also be set for this process.

### REVIEW:

Seven historians approved the *positio* a compilation and defense of all of the documents pertaining to the life,

virtue, and reputation of sanctity of Servant of God Henriette Delille, on



October 7, 2008.

Nine theologians approved the *positio* on May 29, 2009.

Fifteen Cardinals approved Henriette's practice of heroic virtue on March 2, 2010

One miracle is needed for beatification.

Another miracle is needed for canonization.

The beatification will take place in New Orleans.

### Mark your calendar

You are invited to the annual celebration of the life of Mother Delille with her family, friends and associates.

We will start with feeding the poor on Saturday, November 13, 2010 and conclude with an evening Mass on Saturday, November 20, with many events in between.

Room rates are being negotiated and more information will be forthcoming.

If you think you may want to join us, telephone 951.203.1833 or email motherdelille@yahoo.com.

# Associate Mrs. Emily Figaro celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

By Wilma R. Bowles, ASSF  
Associates Prayer Leader

Emily Figaro, an Associate of the Sisters of the Holy Family, celebrated her 100th birthday November 14, 2009. She is the oldest surviving child of seven children born to Edmond and Daisy Martin.

To celebrate, Mrs. Figaro attended 4:00 pm Mass with family and friends from Louisiana, Nebraska and California. The occasion was further celebrated with a dinner and dance reception.

A long time member of Immaculate Heart of Mary

Roman Catholic Church in Lafayette, Louisiana, Mrs. Figaro is a familiar face in the church parish. She is known to many of us as "Ms T-Moon."

She has worked at church fairs, as housekeeper in the rectory, under the late Father Bowman, as usherette, and as cook in the school cafeteria.

Ms. T-Moon is still active as an usher, with the Bereavement Committee, the Rosary Group, and over fifty years of membership in the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver Court Number 76.



Sisters  
Joan Marie  
Alexander,  
Innocente,  
and Josita  
celebrate  
with Mrs.  
Emily  
Figaro on  
her 100th  
birthday.

## Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Ct. 325 salute January 2010 senior

The Senior Citizen Committee of KPCLA #325 from St. Katherine Drexel Parish began the new year by recognizing Sister Francella Jackson as "senior" for the month of January.



The announcer shared, "...this senior is fairly new to our parish and our family, but nonetheless, is very quietly working behind the scenes spreading the good news of our Lord

and Savior."

Sister is a computer teacher at Holy Ghost School; she serves as a lector, member of the senior choir and participates in the rosary before Sunday Mass.

Sister resides at Holy Ghost Convent.

"In the life and work of Henriette, one can touch with one's hand the power of faith that conquers the world by serving those who are simple and poor." Voto  
The votos refer to the summaries of Henriette's life given by the theologians.

## The Holy Spirit afire at Holy Ghost School!

By Sister Francella Jackson

On January 28, the Holy Ghost student body, faculty and staff celebrated with a Mass of Thanksgiving the 20 years of outstanding continuous leadership of Sister Angela Smith, SSF as principal of the school.

Special presentations and commendations were given by Father John Cisewski; Ms. S. Thomas told of Sister Angela's commitment to the school. Sister Eva Regina, introduced by Sister Theresa Sue, explained how Mother Henriette's charism continues through Sister Angela.

Mrs. Sheryl Boudy spoke of how Sister Angela allowed her

to participate in the school as parent and council member.

Mrs. Barbara Duhe' told about Sister's participation in the parish.

The Student Council presented Sister with a dozen red roses and the entire student body closed with the Alma Mater.

Congratulations Sister Angela on a job well done!

## Reflections from a loyal correspondent. . .

I am excited about tomorrow's meeting of the Cardinals in Rome ... It's wonderful that the princes of the Church will meet on (the) matter during Lent. ... I see the plight of the slaves as a life long struggle, a Lenten-like suppression ... I see Mere Henriette representing Christ (as His chosen vessel) to bring the Easter gift of "new

life" to those poor slaves through love and charity of heart. Thus, her life and her acts of love became an allegory, a reflection of Jesus' own life, suffering and ministry to the poor. If the imitation of Christ is the key to sanctification as a saint of God, methinks Mere Henriette stands in good stead. J.T., OR

"Hers was a contagious charity."

# Through the intercession of Henriette Delille...

Two letters were received about this favor through Mere Henriette's intercession. Read below.

January 7, 2010

To the attention of  
the Sisters of the Holy Family:

My name is S. F. M., sister of J. F. Mc. The following is a narration of what happened to my sister, as I witnessed it.

On August 30, 2009, I received a phone call from my brother-in-law that my sister had passed out and was at the Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge. I went right away to the hospital in Baton Rouge where I found my sister unconscious and near death.

The doctors worked on her for a long time. They brought her back four times from cardiac arrest, which in itself was a miracle because they are only supposed to do that three times. It was said to us, in so many words, that if she lived she might be brain damaged.

We waited all night until mid-day when she awoke. I went in to see her and she looked at me puzzled. Then I told her a secret that only she and I knew and I told her to squeeze my hand if she knew what I said. She did and then we knew that she was not brain dead.

The doctors told us she still had blood clots and they would have to put in a screen. We prayed and waited and finally, the doctors told us to go to a private room because he needed to talk to us. That was the longest walk for us. They told us they had put in the screen and she was fine.

She had been taking pain medicine intravenously that was stronger than morphine and a few days later they took her off the shots. The pain was so intense that she was unable to cope with just the pain pills.

She cried out loud and prayed to Mother Delille so hard, telling her

how much she needed her to intercede for her; that she was her child and that she has always prayed to her. She begged her for relief. She kept telling her she was her child because she attended St. Mary's Academy.

Within about a half hour, the nurse came in with the medicine that she had been taken off of and she received the relief she prayed so hard for.

A few days later, she had a temperature so high that she was put on an ice mattress that was unbearable.

She prayed again to Mother Delille. After a day, she was removed.

A month later she was sent to rehab, and two weeks later she was sent home.

Two weeks after that she had a mini stroke. They rushed her to the hospital in a helicopter. She remained only one day. Again she prayed to Mother Delille.

She is now doing very well, doing her daily duties at home. She promised Mother Delille that she would go back to Church, which she has done.

I have never prayed to Mother Delille, but after all the miracles we attribute to her, I pray to her every day. The miracle was not only the healing of her body, but also her spiritual healing, which I have prayed so hard for; and the healing of her family.

They are a changed family.  
**S.F.M., Louisiana**

## A confirmation of Henriette's intercession

To the attention of the Sisters of the  
Holy Family:

My name is J. A. F. M. On August 30, 2009 I was taken to Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, because of a blood clot in my left lung. By the time I reached the hospital I went into Cardiac Arrest four times. The doctor told my husband if it happened again they would not be able to arrest me again because of brain damage.

Well, I came through thanks to the good Lord and the help of all, the wonderful doctors help.

After going to Critical Care Unit, I went to the 4th floor Cardiac Unit for more help. I would like to thank all the staff for their help. I could not name just one person each and every one was there for me and my family.

After about two weeks in the hospital the doctors decided it was time for me to be taken off of the pain shots and go on the pain pills. Well that

night the pain got so intense it was unbearable.

I prayed to Mother Delille so hard asking her to help me with the pain and please let the doctor okay the pain shot. The nurse called the doctor and he okayed the request.

I feel that Mother Delille heard my prayer and that the request was answered. I feel that this was a miracle for me to pray so hard and the doctor said yes. I keep a picture of Mother Delille on my body and pray to her all the time to intercede to our Lord and his mother the Virgin Mother for me. I was in the hospital for seven weeks then sent home.

I would like to also add that I am a graduate of St. Mary's Academy, my years of 1958-1962, from 8th grade to my senior year.

**This letter is signed by both the patient and a nurse from Cardiology.**

# Henriette Delille -- A Haitian Connection ...

By Barbara C. Duhe

## Henriette in Grand Boulage, Haiti - 2008

Along with Fenelle Guillaume, Coordinator for the Haitian Catholic Community here in New Orleans (HCCNO), and two other friends, I went on a mission trip in December 2008 to bring Christmas cheer to about 300+ school children of Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs (Our Lady of Seven Sorrows) Parish in the village of Grand Boulage, Haiti. Grand Boulage is 25 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince, between Tomazo and Mirebalais and has approximately 250 families with about 2,000 people.

Because the HCCNO worshipped at my church parish, our parishioners joined in the mission experience by sending Christmas gifts and toys for the children and giving financially to the We Care Charitable Foundation which allowed the children to receive tuition, books, uniforms and most importantly a hot meal every day. I also brought a couple hundred

addition to gifts and donations from the Sisters, the mission trip brought **150 Henriette Delille T-shirts** for the little children and pastor as well as supplies of pencils, crayons and **pictures of Henriette Delille** for coloring. That was a treat for the children.

Who would have thought that approximately a month later this beautiful area with its vibrant and creative people would suffer such devastation.

I am so pleased to share that there was no mortality among the children of Grand Boulage but all of the homes in the village were either demolished or uninhabitable. The church, which also was used for classrooms, was fractured down the center. The pastor's escape would make for another story; it was truly Divine intervention.

## Henriette's Mission Carried Out 2010

The Henriette - Haiti connection has



Children in Grand Boulage with Delille T-shirts

her services to the people in the community in need of her help; she was found after two days under much rubble. Sister indicated that they received water and food during the short term but there is a need for long-term help especially psychological help for the children and adults to help them manage their stress.

Sr. Marie Evanette Onésaire was the principal of Saint François de Sales, a primary and secondary school with a student population of 1,350. It was a sacrifice for the people to send their children to the school; many could not afford tuition and books. It was also a hardship to pay teachers. Sister shared that 3 teachers and 150 of her students died. Of the 3 teachers that were lost, one had 6 children, one had 2 children and one was single. Many of her other teachers are now amputees. Sister's hope is that her school will re-open in April 2010, with the use of tents as classroom space. I know you join me in praying for their recovery and healing from such a traumatic experience.

As a last bit to our connection, Fenelle's three Haitian cousins, Patricia, Belinda and Cedric, who are now residing with her, are enrolled at St. Mary's Academy. It was a joy to see Patricia meet Sr. Anilise and Sr. Marie Evanette and converse in their Kreyòl language. I feel that from all of this trauma, sadness and destruction something very positive will emerge.



Left, Mr. Charles, Sister Anilise, Sister Marie Evanette, and Barbara Duhe

**Henriette Delille prayer cards** in French; they were given to the pastor, Fr. Tristant, for distribution to his community.

## Henriette in Grand Boulage, Haiti - 2009

Following the trip I shared my experiences with everyone I encountered. Fenelle was invited to share the story and pictures with the Sisters at the Motherhouse. For Christmas 2009, in

not ended. Currently, in residence at the Motherhouse are two Sisters from the Congregation of Little Sisters of Sainte Thérèse; they are from Rivière Froide, Haiti. I was able to speak with them through the gracious help of Mr. Gerard J. Charles as interpreter.

Here for a respite are Sr. Anilise Jean Simon who was the accountant for her Congregation. Sister also extended

# From the Development Office: You are GIFT. . .

Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, the Sisters of the Holy Family (S.S.F.) were blessed with more than \$700,000.00 for the restoration of our Motherhouse Chapel.

That level of giving followed immediately *after* the storm, when many were moved to respond in the face of its devastation and *before* the economic climate worsened throughout the nation. After returning to New Orleans last May, I was honored to be asked to continue the fundraising efforts begun earlier. God is so very good and since that time S.S.F. have received approximately \$42,020.00 in gifts to help with refurbishing the Motherhouse.

This was accomplished with the talents of a generous and dedicated Board and many other precious people who chose to give so that the S.S.F. and their ministries might continue. Thank you for being such a wonderful gift to us and for your confidence in our stewardship of your investment.

I recently came across a quote from Archbishop Thomas Murphy who in reflecting on the theology of fundraising,

spoke of it as a way of fulfilling "... the need for love to come alive." Jesus comes to us at Easter to remind us that we do indeed see love come alive, especially by giving our time, talent and treasures to build God's Kingdom.

There is still much to be done, but with your continued prayers and giving, we will see love come alive. It would be an honor to take you on a tour of the Motherhouse to see first hand the benefits of your care and compassion. To learn more about ways you can help S.S.F., please contact me at 504-240-3260. Have a blessed Easter!

*Sr. Charlotte Rubit, S.S.F.*

Sr. Charlotte Rubit, S.S.F.  
Development Director



We invite you to visit our renovated chapel any time. Be blessed.

## Houston Associates celebrate recommitment

"These were happy and high spirit-ed events," said Sister Clare of Assisi Pierre, Associate Director, in reference to the day of recollection and recommitment ceremonies of the Houston, Texas Associates of the Holy Family at Our Mother of Mercy Church, February 27, 2010.

Under the direction of their president, Mrs. Ruby Dugas, the 22 returning members and two new members commit themselves to prayer and good works in the spirit of the charism of the Sisters of the Holy Family. They also paid tribute to their recently deceased member, Mrs. Mary Alice Roberts.

The Associates meet every third Wednesday in the old convent for prayer and spiritual reading.

Among their many activities are an Easter egg hunt for children up to 13

years old. Real eggs and plastic eggs are used. The plastic eggs contain money gifts.

They participate in many of the Church activities, for example, the

and dessert. Grandparents, parents, and children partake of the meal. They feed over 100 each year.

At Christmas time, the Associates turn their attention to the senior citizens. Ten dollar gift cards for Walgreens, Walmart, and Krogers are given to them.

It must be noted that there is no fund raising, so these activities are paid out of pocket. However, sometimes a "secret bag" is passed around for anonymous donations for small necessities.

We congratulate our Houston Associates and wish them God's blessings as they continue their good works for the glory of God and the love of His people.

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



Lenten Revival. Of course, their presence is found at the annual Church Bazaar.

At Thanksgiving they feed the poor in honor of Mother Henriette Delille. The dinner is complete with drinks

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

*Henriette Delille*

## Inside . . .

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Sisters of the Holy Family



Staff

Sister Doris Goudeaux  
Sister Judith Therese Barial  
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Sister Laura Mercier  
Sister M. Cornelia Hall  
Barbara Dube  
Carolyn Washington  
Elizabeth Malone

## More prayers answered . . .

To Whom It may Concern:

This coin, a gold piece valued at \$220.00, is in thanks-giving for prayers to Mother Delille for my son's new job.

Please keep us in your prayers.

**V. W. Dubuque, Iowa**

Dear Sisters,

This is my testimony: I requested that Henriette Delille intercede for me as I traveled back to a parking lot where I had forgotten my purse in a shopping cart. The purse was turned in to the store and I retrieved it in tact, all contents still in it.

**M.F., Louisiana**

Dear Sister,

I came in contact with Mother Delille about 20 years ago. I pray to her for many things, but especially

for my daughter to have a happy life.

Mother Delille has answered my prayers. So I want to write to you about the blessings I have received, not only for myself, but also for my daughter.

Today my daughter is well and happily married. I do attribute this to many prayers to Mother Delille.

With love from a poor sinner rich in God's mercy.

**S.C., Louisiana**

Dear Sister,

I have asked for prayers and I have sent small donations for the beatification of Mother Henriette Delille.

I have also received blessings and answers to my prayers. I asked that my daughter would pass tests that she was having difficulty with. Not only did she pass the tests, but with high grades.

I asked for prayers for other members of my family and these intentions are also being answered.

Thank you for joining me in prayer.

**R.N., Louisiana**

Our Loyal Friend and reader in **Oregon** shares the following: If you have old and or broken rosaries and costume jewelry that could be restrung into rosaries for the missions please forward them to: Loretta Matalich; P.O. Box 1212, Oregon City, OR 97045-0091.

If you have small statues or holy cards that you no longer need, they can be sent to Patricia Murray; 2144 Market St., Friendship, WI 53934-9653 who sends them to the missions. She also collects and repairs Mass vestments, sacred linens for the missions, all with her bishop's approval.