

Servant of the Poor

Newsletter of Friends of Henriette Delille

Mass - Tribute to Henriette's Life of Heroic Virtue



Through Henriette's intercession

Dear Sisters,

For six months my brother was falsely accused of something that he did not do. He was arrested and went to several court hearings. I prayed everyday to Henriette Delille to intercede through our Lord Jesus Christ that this would be taken away from him and let justice be served to the person who did this.

Today my prayers were answered. The DA dropped all charges. It took six months of praying to her and the prayers were answered. In thanksgiving, I will light a candle in her honor this Sunday after Mass. Praise God!

JAR

My dear Sisters,

I received a note in the mail today from Sister Doris. She took the time to thank me for my small donation, and gave her assurance that the good Sisters of the Holy Family would be praying that a recent biopsy performed would conclude that I do not have cancer.

See **MORE PRAYERS**, P. 6

Eucharistic celebration, reverence, solemnity, admiration, enthusiasm, hierarchy, clergy, Sisters, relatives, friends, happy environment: all of these describe the celebration of the Memorial Mass held to honor Venerable Henriette Delille November 20 at the Sisters of the Holy Family Motherhouse Chapel.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond was celebrant and homilist. In his homily, Archbishop Aymond thanked God for the life of Mother Henriette. He explained how Henriette went through a conversion of heart. He compared Henriette to Christ the King because both of them were servants with compassion and mercy for the poor.

The Archbishop said, "Like Jesus, Henriette Delille was a woman of prayer." He praised Henriette for never giving up even though she faced great obstacles. He said we must show mercy and compassion, that is, imitate Henriette since Henriette imitated Jesus.

Archbishop Aymond also congratulated the Sisters on their 168th anniversary, celebrated November 21.

Other clergy present were Monsignor Clinton Doskey, local postulator; Monsignor Earl Gauthreaux, the first canon lawyer adviser for the Cause;

Father Victor Cohea, Chaplain; and assisting priests: Father Howard Byrd, SSJ, faithful friend; Father Alfred Ayem, SVD, Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church; Father James Pawlicki, SVD, videographer; Deacons: Larry Calvin, Graylin Miller, and Jesse Watley.



The Knights of St. Peter Claver, E.O. Moss Assembly #4 formed an impressive color guard in their blue and gold capes and multi colored hats. In addition, there were over 50 descendants/relatives of the Delille line. Many

SSF Associates, including 50 who traveled from Lafayette, Louisiana and Friends of Henriette Delille, both local and out of town, made up the worshipping community.

The music ministers, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Fitch, St. Raymond/St. Leo the Great choir members; Sr. Lucia Carl, SSF, Sr. Elizabeth Holmes, SSF; Eddie Espinosa (St. Augustine), Mrs. Irene Young with members of St. Mary's Academy Choir; and Mr. Dwayne Cruse, delighted everyone with inspired and melodious renditions.

St. Mary's Academy Dancers interpreted *I Can Only Imagine* beautifully.

Marcia and Sidney St. Martin donated flowers for the Mass and also souvenir bags.

Update on the Cause for the Beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille

Pope Benedict XVI declared Henriette Delille venerable on March 27, 2010. Since that time the *Positio* of the alleged miracle which contains the story of the alleged miracle and all the medical records, over 1000 pages, has been completed by our Roman Postulator, Dr. Andrea Ambrosi.

The *Positio* of the alleged miracle was sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The Congregation sent it to two medical experts to examine all the documents. Once these doctors have completed their

work, the *Positio* will be sent to a panel of seven doctors to render a review.

Once these seven doctors have rendered their findings, the *Positio* will then go to a panel of theologians to determine whether the miracle can truly be ascribed to the intercession of Henriette Delille. Finally, the combined work of the doctors and the theologians will be presented to the members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Congregation will make a

determination, which we hope and pray will be positive. They will present the final outcome to the Holy Father, who will then pronounce Henriette, God willing, **blesed**.

In the meantime, we ask everyone to join us in prayer and in the promotion of more devotion to Venerable Henriette Delille. Pray her prayer and ask her for favors and /or miracles. If you receive them, please send the report to the Commission Office, 6901 Chef Menteur Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

More Celebrations for Venerable Henriette Delille

Venerable Henriette Delille's celebration began with the feeding of the poor at Ozanam Inn on November 13 and

ended November 22 after Mass at St. Louis Cathedral with the family meeting at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel.



Pictured are our Sisters, our Associates, relatives and friends of Venerable Henriette Delille. They participated in the Feeding of the Poor.

Photos by Sister Laura Mercier, SSF

Venerable Henriette Delille was compassionate and kind to the enslaved and the poor. Therefore, in her honor, every November, we formally feed the homeless, but our Sisters do this everyday at our Motherhouse.

The menu consisted of seasoned red beans, buttered rice, garden salad, and baked/smoked chicken leg quarters. This is provided by the Delille Office. Cold drinks and cookies have been generously donated, for years, by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney St. Martin. Marcia St. Martin also supplied space

for parking and the overall set up of the activity.

Mr. and Mrs. Dominick Sciortino have, for years, given Delille T-shirts, socks, and/or toiletries to each person as she/he leaves the building.

The music ministers, Sisters and Friends, entertain the entire time. Everyone seems to be happy serving others.

Everyone present makes some type of contribution. They greet. They serve. They clean.

See **CELEBRATION**, p. 3

Venerable Henriette Delille's Celebration continued

The next day, **Sunday**, November 14, all gathered for Mass at St. Augustine Church. This church was special to Henriette. Not only did she minister from here, but our oral history tells us that she, Juliette, and Josephine made vows in this church.

After Mass, the Sisters, relatives, and friends joined the parishioners for breakfast. Two power point presentations: *Henriette's Life* and *The Process of Canonization* were shown and explained by Sisters Laura Mercier and Doris Goudeaux.

Monday, many of the relatives and friends visited Grand Marais and other parts of ancestral Louisiana. They were hosted by Joyce Olivier, a relative who lives in Jeanerette, Louisiana.



Tuesday, Dr. Mary Gehman gave details about *Travels Between Mexico and Louisiana*. This was quite enlightening because some of the early relatives of Henriette went to Mexico and still live there.

Greg Osborn filled **Wednesday** with *A Daytime Cemetery Tour* and chaired a *Genealogy Meeting* in the evening.

A *Tour of the Sisters of the Holy Family Facilities*: Motherhouse, Lafon Nursing Facility, St. Mary's Academy, Delille Inn, and St. John Berchmans Manor, by Sister Laura Mercier, filled **Thursday** morning. In the evening, Dr. Virginia Meacham Gould explained the *Family History* from

Claude Joseph Dubriel and Nanette to Henriette and her siblings.

Friday, a *Tour of the Locations Ministered by and Honoring Venerable Henriette Delille*, was conducted by Barbara Trevigne. *The Catholic Cultural Heritage Center* and *Le Musee de Free People of Color* were visited.

Saturday was the most important day with the Memorial Mass. It was the largest crowd we have had. A reception after Mass made for getting together. See page 1 for more details.

Relatives and friends came and went through out the week. However, on **Sunday** the family assisted at Mass in St. Louis Cathedral. They also visited Venerable Henriette's Prayer Room and received an explanation of the baptismal font, the one Henriette used, by Monsignor Crosby Kern.

The last event was a family meeting at the Bourbon Orleans.

From all indications, it appears that the family enjoyed themselves and also learned a lot about Henriette and each other. I heard they are planning for next year. We plan to put more pictures on our web site.

We thank God for the life of Venerable Henriette Delille and for a beautiful celebration with her Sisters, relatives, and friends.

Pictured are the relatives, the choir, and reception. See more Mass pix on the web. www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com



Henriette Delille on Sunday Night Live with Fr. Groeschel

The Sisters of the Holy Family are grateful to Father Benedict Groeschel for having Sisters Eva Regina Martin and Doris Goudeaux on his show "Sunday Night Live with Father Groeschel" October 31, 2010 to talk about Venerable Henriette Delille.

The Sisters traveled to New York to appear on EWTN. They stayed at the Trinity Retreat House in New Rochelle for two nights. The other days were spent with the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary in Harlem.

After the appearance on EWTN, the Delille Office received letters, donations, orders for the book advertised, emails, requests for prayers, informational materials, and form submissions from the web site.

The Sisters are ever grateful.



New York Chapter honors Venerable Henriette Delille

Under the leadership of Ms. Fay Blakely-Powell and Spiritual Advisor Father James E. Goode, OFM, the New York Chapter of Friends of Henriette Delille held a Day of Prayer honoring Venerable Henriette Delille, September 18, 2010 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle Parish Center.

The day consisted of talks by Father James Goode, OFM, the leading Black Catholic Evangelist in the United States. He is the guardian of St. Clare Friary and director/ founder of Solid Ground Ministry, a Franciscan ministry assisting African American children, youth and families- www.solidgroundministry.com.

It was a celebration of Mother Delille's life, her practice of heroic virtue, and her rise to venerability.

Books about Delille and T-shirts with her prayer, "I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God." were sold. Sister Loretta Theresa, FHM assisted Fay in this endeavor.

In addition, every third Saturday of the month Mass intentions are said

for the cause of Venerable Henriette at Church of St. Paul the Apostle, 59th Street, New York City. Fay is



Left, Srs. Eva Regina and Doris, Fay Blakey-Powell, Sr. Loretta, Father Goode having lunch in N.Y.

responsible for this activity. We thank all of you. Quoting Fay, "This is what we hoped for. Our prayers have been answered. We are witnessing history." Keep up the good work New York!

Delille Helpers get Delille Award from St. Mary's Alumnae



Honorees are left, Carolyn Washington and Elizabeth Malone

The "Henriette Delille Award" is given to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding and unselfish service to the cause of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

Every Monday and Tuesday mornings Mrs. Carolyn Washington and Mrs. Elizabeth Malone come to assist in the Venerable Henriette Delille Office. They bring their talents and experiences and make great contributions.

Carolyn and Elizabeth are Associates, therefore, their involvement is more concentrated.

Congratulations! You deserve it!

Activities and programs celebrating Venerable Henriette Delille

Since the last newsletter **two new books have been published.** The first, a revised edition of *Henriette Delille "Servant of Slaves"* by Virginia Gould and Charles Nolan. This beautiful book with many more pictures and completely updated may be bought for \$5.00. We have them in the Delille Office.

The other book, a fictionalized story written with the young reader in mind, *Henriette Delille, Rebellious Saint* by Elsie Martinez and Colette Stelly may be found on Amazon.

At St. Augustine Church's 169th anniversary, a **portrait of Venerable Henriette Delille was unveiled** to find its place in the

church where she ministered.

Venerable Henriette Delille was remembered at **Holy Rosary Institute's Alumni banquet** in September. At this time the Sisters of the Holy Family were honored, thus honoring the Foundress. Sister Eva Regina gave an update on her cause.

St. Francis Xavier School observed its 90th anniversary of Catholic education. At the banquet Sister Doris brought the life of Henriette Delille to the group.

Our Sisters at **Holy Ghost in Opelousas** had a special vocation day program. Vocation was the main topic, on which Sister Judith Therese

spoke, but some emphasis was placed on Mere Henriette.

In November, there was a ceremony for the blessing of the new mausoleums at St. Augustine Church in **Cane River**. One of the walks was named for Mere Henriette. The Sisters attended and Sister Greta gave an update on Henriette's Cause.

A **table promoting Mere Henriette** was setup at the Women's Conference sponsored by the Office of Black Catholic Ministry. The Sisters of the Holy Family were also honored.

Mere Henriette was honored at the **Black Saints Celebration** sponsored by the Office of Black Catholic Ministry. This is a sacred and educational event.

Bless The Sisters Of The Holy Family

*Blessed be the Sisters of the Holy Family,
For whom the bells are ringing,
Bless them in His Holy name,
And for all that they are bringing.*

*Blessed be the sister of the Holy Family
For they are filled with grace,
They distribute Love and care,
To the entire human race.*

*Blessed be the sisters of the Holy Family,
Who share with us their faith,
They also share a path,
Which is eternally straight.*

*Blessed be the sisters of the Holy Family,
For their biblical emotions,
We thank God for all you do,
As you spread your earthly devotions.*

By
Captain Robert Mitchell of
the Natchez

Captain

Lafon Nursing Home Back

For those who have been asking and so that everyone may know, Lafon Nursing Facility of the Holy Family is in full operation, fully certified.

Lafon was rededicated on April 12, 2010. It is renewed and fully furnished with the latest medical equipment.

The Sisters of the Holy Family are grateful to all who have been a part of this important and necessary restoration. Lafon welcomes visitors.

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

Our Heavenly Mother honored on her feast day

By Sister Frances Cabrini Turnbull

On October 13, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the Sisters of the Holy Family celebrated with all day exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the Motherhouse.

The Sisters thank the many people of God for joining them to honor Mary.

Members of church parishes: Resurrection of Our Lord's Right to Life group, St. Leo/St. Raymond, the Ladies Auxiliary and Rosary members from St. Paul the Apostle, St. Peter Claver Parish, St. Mary of the Angels Church and our own Associates

participated.

Students and staff from St. Mary's Academy came to honor Mary. Principal, Sr. Jennie Jones, brought the first through sixth graders to pray the "Living Rosary."

The intentions of the day were many: vocations, beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille, peace, the sick Sisters, friends and benefactors, the deceased, end to abortions, peace in the city of New Orleans and others.

May God continue to bless all who dedicated this day to His Mother.

Three Who Made A Difference



John Fleming, SFO, sent this picture of the Black History exhibit for St. Aloysius Church in Detroit, 2009.

Mr. Fleming writes: "An attempt was made to portray the contributions of three religious communities, Oblates, Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Family, that worked to make a difference in the lives of a people and a society.

"The exhibit was a huge success as evi-

denced by the many positive comments made by viewers. Our little girls were fascinated by the dolls dressed in traditional garb.

"Again, our thanks for your part in making better known the contribution of your foundress and community in today's world."

Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille

O good and gracious God. You called Henriette Delille to give herself in service and in love to the slaves and the sick, to the orphans and the aged, to the forgotten and the despised.

Grant that inspired by her life, we might be renewed in heart and in mind. If it be your will, may she one day be raised to the honor of sainthood.

By her prayers may we live in harmony and peace, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Nihil obstat: Rev. Msgr. Franz Graef, STD
Imprimatur: Most Rev. Francis B. Schulte
Archbishop of New Orleans,
August 23, 1997

Thank You

We thank those of you who responded to a request for mission rosaries that appeared in our newsletter several issues ago.

The contact person shared with us the words of Sr. Loretta. "I wanted you to know that when I needed more rosaries to fill a box for India and Tanzania, I received two more parcels in the mail from people here in the West and on the East Coast.

The one from the East wrote that he had read the request for rosaries in the newsletter of the Sisters of the Holy Family. I think that is at least three people who have responded with rosaries who said they read that newsletter notice. Mere Henriette must be working overtime.

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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*

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Servant of the Poor

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More prayers answered . . .

I'm very pleased to inform the dear Sisters that the biopsy did, in fact, report (just yesterday), that I have NO CANCER.

I will continue to pray for the canonization of Mere Henriette, and for the wonderful Sisters of the Holy Family.

My sincere thanks for all your kindness. **JH**

I made a prayer request via your web site. Thank you so much for the prayers for my daughter. She has been having major problems in her life. I received some great news from my daughter. She stated that she enrolled in school. I am so happy about this. **GM**

Dear Sisters,
Hello and God bless you

all. This is my testimony. I wrote and requested prayer for my mother.

Mother Delille answered my prayer. I am so filled with joy, happiness, and blessings. My 81 year old mother is much stronger. She is eating very well and talking much more.

Please continue to pray for her and for my special intentions.

Enclosed is a gift of \$5.00.

May God continue to keep and bless all the Sisters of the Holy Family. **MA**

Dear Sister,

Mere Henriette has been and is still very good to me. She has been especially helpful with my sister's illness. Since I have been

praying to Henriette, the care has become much easier both physically and emotionally.

Since Henriette and I have become such good friends, I can share much with her. I treasure her friendship and love. **FP**

Please write the favors you receive. Send them to us. Then give us permission to use them in the newsletter. Thank you.

**A Blessed
Christmas and
A Happy New
Year
from Venerable
Henriette Delille
Commission Office**