

SERVANT of the POOR

Vol. 11 No. 2

NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF HENRIETTE

Winter, 2009

Because of Henriette . . .

After trying to conceive and losing several babies to miscarriages we finally got pregnant. Three months into the pregnancy my wife started to have bleeding and was put on bed rest by her doctor. It was at this time we began praying to Mother Delille. My wife promised to name our baby after Mother Delille if she protected and allowed her to carry the baby to term.

After six months of bed rest, on the morning of the birth, I told my wife the Sisters had elected Sr. Eva Regina Martin as their new superior. So on July 7, 2006 at 8:54 a.m. Eva Regina Delille Shaw was born. She looked perfect in every way but internally she was not.

She had a swallowing disorder that went undetected for several weeks; every time she was fed it went into her lungs. After weeks of hospital stays and surgeries, doctors still did not know why and decided to feed her through a feeding tube directly into her stomach. Weeks later it was discovered that this was not working so doctors decided to bypass her stomach and to go straight into her intestine.

After almost three years of Eva being fed by a feeding pump, she was healed. The feeding pump is gone now and she is perfect inside and out. Thanks to the many prayers of the Sisters and the intercession of Mother Delille. Eva is a happy and healthy child of God and says she is going to be a Sister of the Holy Family someday.

Thank you Mother Delille and Sisters for all your prayers. May God bless you as you continue the work of this holy woman.

We love you all. CS, LA

“Hers was a ‘contagious’ charity,” one of the theologians wrote about Mere Henriette Delille

New insights about Servant of God Henriette Delille are revealed as we read the theologians’ report. One of them is contained in the headline, “Hers was a contagious charity.” The nine theologians who approved Henriette’s practice of heroic virtue wrote their reports and votes which we are sharing with our Sisters.

Review:

1. The positio, a compilation and defense of all documents pertaining to Henriette’s life, virtue and reputation of sanctity, was overwhelmingly approved by seven historians on October 7, 2008.
2. The positio was approved by nine theologians on May 29, 2009.

This is where the Cause is:

“The summarium, a summary of the depositions of witnesses questioned during the archdiocesan investigation is being prepared, that is, a timeline of about 1000 pages.

“It will go to the Cardinals at the Congregation of the Causes of Saints. They will affirm whether or not Servant of God Mere Henriette Delille lived a life of heroic virtue. Then it will be presented to Pope Benedict XVI, who, if everything is in order, will name her venerable.

“A positio of the medical records of the alleged miracle has been prepared and it will be sent to medical experts in Rome to examine. However, the theologians will determine whether it is a miracle.

One miracle is needed for beatification and a second is needed for canonization.

If the alleged miracle is accepted and

all other documents found favorable, then the Pope will pronounce Henriette blessed.

Pope Benedict XVI has said that beatifications should take place in the candidate’s place of birth; therefore, Henriette’s beatification ceremony will take place in New Orleans.

We are, in the meantime, hoping, praying, and waiting for the day to be set for the Ordinary of Cardinals and Archbishops to make their judgment as to whether or not Mother Delille lived a life of heroic virtue.

Our prayers answered

Dear Staff of Henriette Delille office:

I am writing you concerning the matter of my son being imprisoned for the crime of murder which he did not commit. He was finally released and all charges dropped just short of a year from the date he was put in last year.

The real perpetrators have been discovered but not yet posted in the paper. Blood DNA (not the victims) found at the scene was matched to a suspect that was seen the day the murder was to have taken place.

The body was found on a Saturday but the murder was determined to have taken place on a Wednesday. Decomposition studies were done to determine this.

I asked for your prayers last year concerning this and you

See **Prayers Answered**, page 6

"Son" role model of compassion, gratitude, generosity

By B. C. Duhe

"At the core of who we are is the roots of those that have influenced our lives the most and the impact of what they have exposed us to is always there and when the foundation is laid with love and commitment, our lives at some point will reflect that of which we have been taught." Aja Graydon

In these inspirational words, Mr. Edward J. LeBoeuf, Sr. of Suffolk, Virginia finds the essence of his heartfelt appreciation for all that the Sisters of the Holy Family have done for him in his formative years.

In 1930 his dying mother asked her husband to put their children in the Catholic orphanage. Mr. LeBoeuf (Ed), age 7 at the time, and his three brothers were placed in the Thomy Lafon Orphan Boys' Asylum and his four sisters were sent to the nearby St. John Berchmans' Home; both facilities were operated by the Sisters of the Holy Family.

In addition to his chores, Ed was taught skills for daily living, how to love and take care of one another - especially the younger children, how to pray and how to give to the poor. His expression of giving has remained with him as evidenced in his many endeavors of serving the poor; one ministry close to his heart is the Oasis Pantry List of which he is a monthly contributor. The Oasis Social Ministry's "Soup Kitchen" prepares and serves over 200 persons daily.

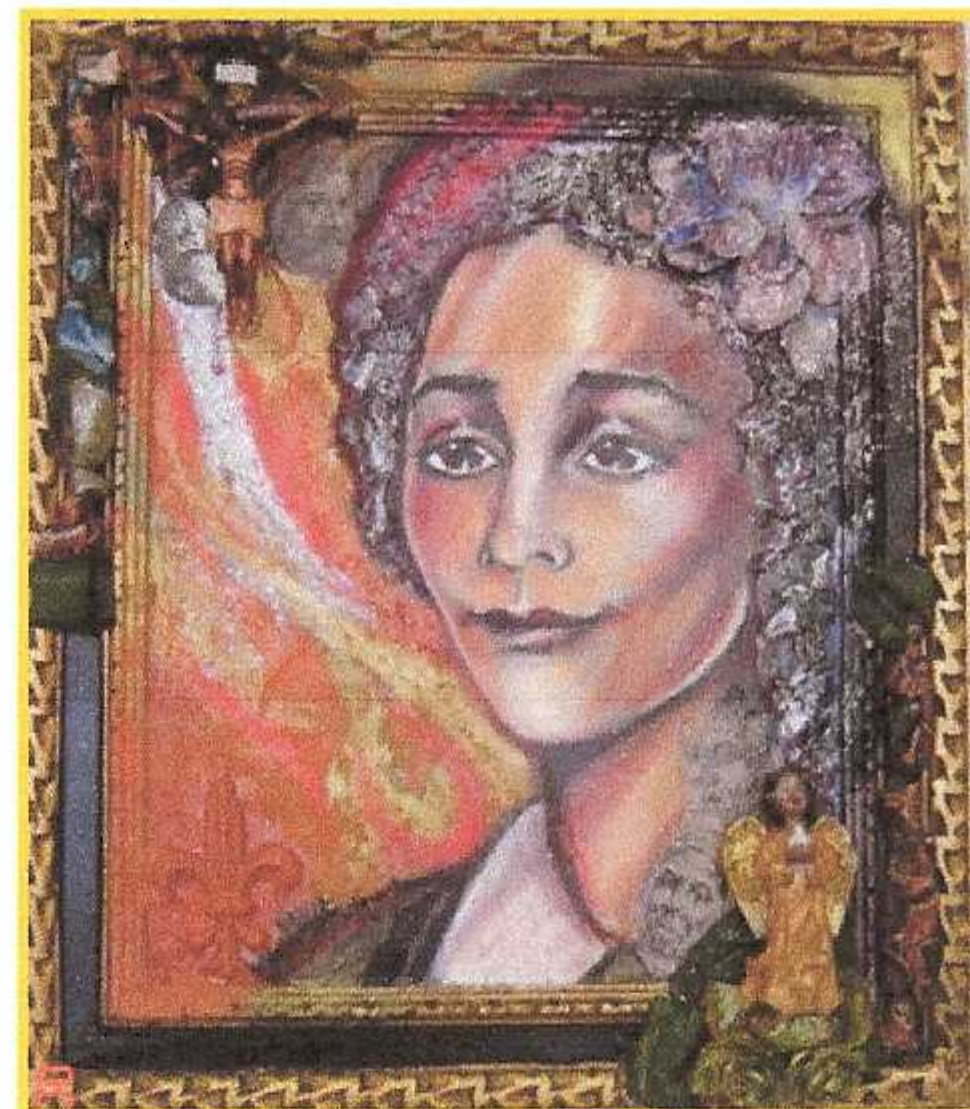
He remembers with great love and affection the words of Sr. Mary Cyrilla Eaglin, SSF upon his departure from the orphanage, "...be life as it may, whatever the path you pursue, wherever you roam, your mothers at home will be waiting and praying for you." {Servant of the Poor, Spring 2008}

"His mothers at home", the Sisters of the Holy Family, have been the recip-

ient of Mr. LeBoeuf's generosity for many years. His guiding philosophy is based in the Scriptural passage as follows: Jesus said, "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Luke 12:48).

As a frequent donor, his giving has enabled the Sisters to help with post-Katrina restoration, to carry out services to the poor and to aid in the Cause for canonization of Henriette Delille. Labeled as a "champion in sainthood effort," Edward LeBoeuf helped to create an awareness of Henriette Delille through an article that appeared in the Catholic Virginian of the Diocese of Richmond Virginia in 1997.

Mr. LeBoeuf became a widower December, 2008; yet despite hardships and set-backs he remains truly devoted to the Sisters, "his mothers at home". They are still waiting and praying for him - their role model "son" of compassion, love and generosity.



The above portrait is the third artistic work of Servant of God Henriette Delille by David Ciampichini. This one was made specifically for the Delille Commission Office.

David gives his explanation of the portrait: Grace is symbolized by the cross. Blossoming of her ministry by the flower in her hair. Heritage is imaged through the "fabric" of the Afro-Diaspora experience. Dr. King, Frederick Douglas, Mandela, and Harriet Tubman are shown through collaged images.

To all of our friends and Friends of Henriette Delille .

*"He shall be peace." - Micah 5: 4
May all the blessings and good wishes for the Christmas Season and the New Year be yours!*

Mrs. Helen Williams Visits the Sisters

At the request of her daughter, Vanessa Williams, actress (*Courage to Love* and *Ugly Betty*), Mrs. Helen Williams visited the Sisters at the Motherhouse, October 11, 2009.

She traveled to New Orleans with members of her book club. Mrs. Williams was given a tour and photographs were taken with the Sisters.



Pictured with Mrs. Helen Williams are: left, Sisters Doris, Cornelia, Eva Regina, Marian, Clare of Assisi, Frances Cabrini, Josephine, Agnes, Esther, Angela Merici, Henriette, Frances Therese, Evelyn, Elma and Bonaventure

Annual Servant of God Henriette Delille Memorial Mass celebrated November 21 at the Motherhouse



Most Rev. Shelton Fabre



Macie Lafonta, soloist



Jennifer Broyard Bonam and Corpus Christi Epiphany Catholic Church



Ladies of Grace



SSF Associates



Knights of St. Peter Claver



3 Msgr. Doskey



Father Byrd



Photos by Sister Laura Mercier, SSF



This picture was taken at the Tri-Parish Community Nursing Center in Palmetto during a visit in November 2009. Front row, left: Sisters M. de Pazzi Andry, Eva Regina Martin, Congregational Leader; Margaret Mary King, Maddalena Marie Payne, Thomas More Rochon. Second row, left: Sisters Anthony Allen, Doris Goudeaux, Josephine Francisco, Edna Mae Jones, Lucille Stelley, and Theresa Wiltz.

Photo by Angela

Servant of God Henriette Delille

Since the last issue of *Servant of the Poor*, Servant of God Henriette Delille has received recognition and devotion to her has spread.

Listed are the places we know about. If your name is not here, let us know.

► Henriette Delille was featured prominently at the Celebration of Black Saints November 7. There was a parade and a prayer service honoring our Black saints.

► The annual mass held at the Motherhouse November 21.

► The feeding of the poor at Ozanam Inn November 21.

► Theology on Tap, New Orleans, explaining the process of canonization, using Servant of God Henriette Delille.

► Meeting with relatives and friends - and meeting new friends of Henriette Delille in El Segundo, California.

► Talk on Delille at a youth rally at St. John the Baptist Church in Clouterville, Louisiana.

► A conference call with Phyllis Beech's book club telling Henriette's story and encouraging them to become *Friends of Delille*.

► Through the aid of Phyllis Beech, a news story on Delille will appear in the December issue of the newsletter of the Catholic Colleges and Universities.

► A Mass honoring the anniversary of Henriette's death, November 17, at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Dallas, Texas.

► The children's Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where the saints were celebrated. A little girl was Henriette.

► A memorial Mass during November in Washington, ► Father Tom Clark, SJ, brought Henriette and her prayer to great heights during our tridium, November 18-20.

Our missions and schools also celebrate Delille.

In Delille's honor

Annually, the Sisters of the Holy Family celebrate Servant of God Henriette Delille by a special feeding of the poor, usually at Ozaname Inn.

The Commission Office provides the dinner: baked chicken, red beans and rice, and green salad. Famous Amos cookies and soft drinks are supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney St. Martin.

In addition, Henriette Delille T-shirts and socks are given by Mr. and Mrs. Dominick Sciortino.

Singing is presented by the Sisters and friends.

The SSF Associates help to serve the meals.

All of the participants greet the guests and provide a pleasant and happy atmosphere. This is evident by the reaction of all present.



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

Delille Honored

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► A memorial Mass during November in Washington, DC.

► The feeding of the poor at Thanksgiving at Holy Ghost in Opelousas, Louisiana.

► A special celebration at St. Francis Xavier in Baton Rouge.

► An active club and general promotion of Henriette Delille at St. Mary's Academy.

► A special celebration at St. Francis Xavier in Baton Rouge.

► At Holy Ghost School in New Orleans, Henriette has a special place and celebrated annually.

► A Mass, skit, and songs honored Henriette at St. Joan of Arc School in New Orleans.

► Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lafayette celebrates Henriette every year. Children dress as Henriette and our early Sisters.

► All of the Sisters of the Holy Family are committed to promoting Delille.

Join the *Friends of Henriette Delille*

"For where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst." Matthew 18:20

"Friends of Delille" from the towns of Geismar, Napoleonville, New Orleans and Opelousas in Louisiana; Peoria, AZ; Hartford, Ct.; Holyoke, MA; Philadelphia, PA; Washington, DC. and many more towns have been promoting, gathering and praying for the Cause of Canonization of Servant of God Henriette Delille, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Additionally,

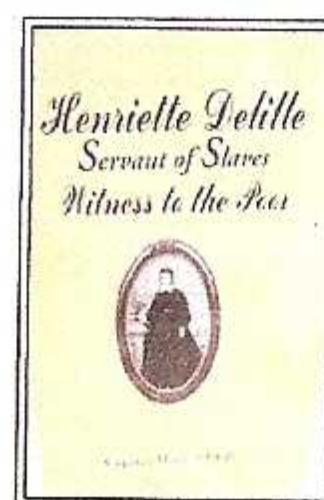
Friends meet with organizations and groups to encourage them to join the Sisters in prayer for the Cause.

The Friends distribute

prayer cards, strive to establish local groups, sustain a public awareness of the Cause of Henriette Delille, encourage receipt of the quarterly newsletter, participate in a memorial Eucharistic celebration on or near the patronal feast day (November 15-22); pay an annual membership fee (\$5.00 for individuals & \$10 for families) and pray regularly Henriette's prayer - "I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God."

Perhaps you would consider gathering with a few friends and inviting God into your midst as you pray for the Cause of canonization of our dear Henriette.

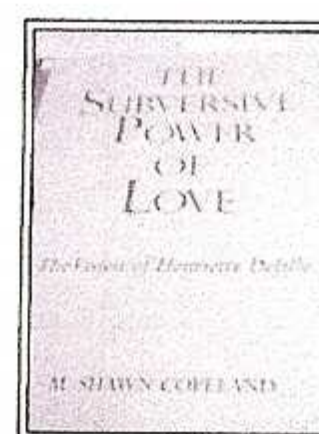
DELILLE CATALOG



*Henriette Delille,
Servant of Slaves
Witness to the Poor*
by Cyprian Davis, OSB
Price: \$15.00
\$3.00 shipping/handling

*No Cross, No Crown, Black
Nuns in 19th-Century
New Orleans*

by Sister Mary Bernard Deggs, SSF
Edited by Virginia M. Gould and
Charles E. Nolan
Price \$22.95



*The Subversive Power of
Love, The Vision of
Henriette Delille*
by M. Shawn Copeland
Price \$10.00
\$2.00 shipping/handling

Servant to the Slaves, The Story of Henriette Delille by David R. Collins Price \$4.00 - \$1.00 shipping/handling

Other book and Video available on Line

Henriette Delille, A Historical Novel by William Kelly
Courage to Love, Lifetime Movie starring Vanessa Williams



*Official Commemorative
Envelope for "A Celebration of
Faith" honoring the Sisters of
the Holy Family and Mere
Henriette Delille*

designed by the U.S. Post Office
Price \$20.00 - Limited edition

Sculpture by Judith Nolan

Size: H 12", L 8", W 7" Limited edition of 135, an adaptation of Nolan's original stone sculpture, *Homage to Delille*. The piece reflects the African belief that life is a process without beginning or end, a seamless continuum that folds back upon itself. The mudra of the the finger and thumb touching to form a circle represents that continuous process.



Price: \$280.00
includes shipping



Henriette Delille
by Roger Claudel
in a 5x7 acrylic frame
Price \$3.00

Henriette Delille lapel pins
\$3.00



T-shirt with
Delille's
prayer
\$10.00



Coin/Rosary Case
Price \$2.00

Brochures and prayer cards, in English,
French, Spanish, Vietnamese are free.

All items are presented to make Mere Henriette Delille better known and to promote devotion to her. It is with this in mind that we offer the items included in this catalog.

The money received from these purchases will be used to pay for the expenses of the office and for the canonization process.

Thank you for your help. We also remember our benefactors in prayers.

God bless you



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"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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Prayers answered of Mary meeting.

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asked me to write to you when we heard of any results. I believe that with much prayer, our prayers have been answered.

Many people (some of different faiths that know us) have prayed for his release and it has happened. I believe, in time, that the whole story of what actually happened will be revealed.

Thank you and May God Bless you for your prayers and support for our Joseph!

C.V. G., Email

Dear Sisters,

I was given information about Mother Henriette Delille, by my loving sister in Christ of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, here in Ocala, Florida, at a Legion

My daughter was expecting her fourth child and had an inducing date of June 19th 2009. She was worried about her child being born prematurely like her first born who almost didn't make it. She was also concerned about a bed being available on that morning because even though they give you a date, you have to call to see if a bed is available.

I told my daughter about Mother Henriette and she prayed the prayers. On the morning of June 19th 2009 she called. A bed was available and she delivered a bouncing healthy 8lb baby boy

We all thanked God and Mother Henriette for her intercession.

M.R., Ocala, FL.

Dear Sister,

Yesterday, I got one of the books you sent me in the mail about Sr. Delille and I prayed the prayer for her canonization and her personal prayer (20 times).

I asked God for His intervention and Sr. Delille's help so I could find a job since I had not worked for nearly two weeks and the only money I had to my name was in my shoes.

Do you know after I prayed, later that day, I got a call for one job and possibly jobs. One job was for one day and I am here right now and the other job has not confirmed, but my hope has been restored and I believe deeply in my heart my prayers were heard and answered.

PJ, CA