

Servant of the Poor

Through Henriette's Intercession



On March 18th my Mother felt a "little ill," just a cold and stayed home from work the next day. She was still sick but planned to teach on Friday since it was the last day before Spring vacation. I talked her into taking the day off and to watch her great grand children in the house.

She decided to take a shower. I asked her to leave the door open in case she needed help. I barely heard as she called my name. Shockingly, she was on the shower floor. I tried to help her, but we couldn't maneuver her around - wet people are slippery. I called my daughter. Then I noticed my mother was turning a sickly black color. I called 911. I said a quick prayer asking for Mother Delille's assistance with God's intervention.

At the hospital, I placed a Mother Delille lapel pin on her robe. After four hours in emergency, she was admitted and diagnosed with pneumonia and a slight heart attack. Three hours later she had coded, (died) been revived, and was in CCU.

Things went from bad to worse. Within days a huge hematoma formed and she went from 184 to 214 pounds without eating. She could not

See FAVOR, page 2

Postulator investigates possible miracle for the Cause

This inquiry is opening in the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas. As soon as the interviews, inquiries, medical records, and examinations have been completed, the documents will be sent to the medical experts. We will inform you, our readers, of the results.

Until then, we ask that you continue to pray for a favorable outcome so that we can experience the beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille.

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

Venerable Henriette Delille lived her prayer.

Skulls from Henriette's grave could hold a first class relic

During April of 2004 we conducted an exhumation of Henriette Delille's remains. Because the tomb had remains of other persons buried in it, we could only get skeletal remains, specifically skulls. These skulls were brought to the LSU (FACES) Lab to analyze for DNA to see if any matched with Venerable Henriette Delille's DNA.

Messages were exchanged between the Lab and the Sisters concerning possibilities, expenses, and other things from 2004 until January 2015. Then news came that the time had come for the testing. There would be no charge to the Sisters. A mitochondrial analysis would be done. A female descendent agreed to the testing.

The results so far show viable nuclear DNA in the skull tested. We await the next step. When we receive news of the results, it will appear in *Servant of the Poor*.

A Booth at the World Meeting of Families for Venerable Henriette

You are invited to visit the Sisters of the Holy Family's booth displaying our ministries and honoring our Foundress, Venerable Henriette Delille, in Philadelphia this September, 2015. Of course, the big attraction will be the Papal visit. We join all of you in welcoming Pope Francis.

Favors granted through Venerable Henriette's help

FAVOR from page 1

be stabilized. She was given insulin even though she is not diabetic. She was bleeding. The doctors went back and forth between anticoagulants and coagulants as her blood dropped to the point where she was hallucinating. Embolisms were found in both lungs.

I texted the Sisters of the Holy Family asking for prayers. The Sisters put her name on the list and began praying through the intercession of Venerable Mere Henriette Delille.

My Mother was given a transfusion of six units of blood. Feeling better, she was sent home. She was trying to recover, but she was having trouble breathing, low grade fever, and her edema was at 4. This time, we took her to Little Company of Mary in Torrance.

They found her very sick and started working on her pneumonia and all the side diseases, masses and nodules that were popping up. The hematoma had begun seriously communicating with her bladder and she was bleeding from the urethra. Somewhere along the line she had contracted VRE. They were aggressively treating it.

After a couple of weeks of fighting with the insurance carriers, she was well enough to be transferred into her network. Still the Sisters prayed.

My Mother was stabilized enough to get some work done at St. Bernadette's Hospital. They placed a mesh in her to keep a clot in her leg from heading towards her brain, heart, or lungs. An angiogram was given to find out why she kept bleeding. Two stints were placed in her heart. She began to feel better. Still the prayers were coming.

We moved her to a skilled nursing facility to recuperate before coming home this time. The bleeding slowed. She was x-rayed everyday. Her chest cavity was filling with fluid. Back to San Antonio's. This time they removed fluid from her back, around her lungs.

Blessings - things were rapidly resolving themselves - blood clots were disappearing - both embolisms were gone - VRE gone - high blood pressure stabilized - hematoma no longer communicating with the bladder - no longer bleeding. But they were sending her home with CDif - contagious and dangerous.

Luckily, I was not working. We are working towards her recovery. She is still on the long road to recovery. We appreciate all the prayers and the intervention of Venerable Delille. We have enclosed checks in appreciation for the prayers and will send more as finances allow.

M.O.J., CA

Please pray for the continued survivorship of my mother, a person who recently completed breast cancer treatment. I submitted a prayer request in 2014 and would like to thank everyone for their prayers. She has completed treatment and no more cancer is present. **L.K.**

Thank you, Sister of the Holy Family, for praying for my daughter. Her surgery was a huge success. She underwent emergency surgery on Easter. Now she is at home recovering. She was in a Catholic hospital in Tucson, Arizona named St. Joseph. My daughter received Communion when she was in the hospital. Thanks

G.O.M., the Web

Sister Sylvia Meets with D. C. Friends of Delille

Sister Sylvia was a guest for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Black Awareness Holy Redeemer Parish at the naval base.

Sister was recognized as an "unsung hero" by the parish and Father David Bava.

While in D.C., Sister met with the Friends of Henriette Delille. The members miss the Sisters, but promised to try to revitalize the "Friends."

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART ,

Benin City Nigeria, West Africa

on the celebration of their 40th anniversary

Our Sister Sylvia Thibodeaux attended the celebration in Nigeria. She is considered, with Archbishop Patrick Expu, the Co-founder of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She spent over 18 years with them teaching the fundamentals of consecrated life. Therefore, we have a kinship with them.

We also extend congratulations to Sister Sylvia.



Celebration picture

More ways and more people promoting Ven. Henriette



Sean receives the sacrament of Confirmation from Monsignor Mauricio West 6/17/15

Sean Hall, 13 year old son of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Hall of Clemons, NC is probably one of the youngest promoters of Mother Henriette Delille.

While Sean was in his preparation class for Confirmation, his teacher asked the students to research Black saints Sean chose Mother Delille. His studies led him to dig deep into the times in which she lived.

Bravely, Sean stood before his congregation on Sunday morning and told her story. As a result of Sean's efforts, parishioners of St. Benedict the Moor learned of Mother Henriette. They requested prayer cards and brochures. When asked about the Sacrament, Sean said, "Through the gifts of the Spirit, it makes me a stronger Catholic Christian."

Sean is Sr. Sylvia Thibodeaux's nephew.

Gratitude to Dr. Virginia Meacham Gould

The Sisters of the Holy Family give special thanks to Dr. Virginia Gould for her faithful and relentless dedication to the promotion of the cause for Canonization of Mother Henriette Delille.



For almost a quarter of a century, Dr. Gould has used her intellectual gifts and talents to research and write creatively and publish books and articles on the life and times of Mother Henriette. Her latest book, *Henriette Delille*, published by Editions du Signe, is available for purchase from the Commission Office.

She is recognized as an expert on women's history. As a specialized historian, she is known throughout the country and beyond as one of the premier historians on the 19th century's women's history in the Gulf South.

We feel blessed to have Virginia as a trusted friend and a committed advocate for the cause of our beloved founder. Thank you Ginger.

Sisters continue ministry to promote Henriette's Cause

Since the last edition of *Servant of the Poor*, our Sisters have continued to tell Venerable Henriette's story. The following places were visited primarily by Sisters Geneva James and Maria Gonzales. However, at times, they were accompanied by Sisters John Mary Jackson, Laurita Oliver, and Doris Goudeaux. Father Thomas James, SVD was instrumental in their success.

St. Joseph Church and Mission, Broussard, LA, Fr. Kim Arockiam; St. Anthony Church, Lafayette, LA, Fr. Lambert Lein, SVD; Our lady Queen of Peace, Lafayette, LA, Fr. Hampton Davis, III;



Our Mother of Mercy, Rayne, LA

Our Mother of Mercy Church, Rayne, LA, Fr. Richard Wagner, SSJ; St Edward Church, New Iberia, LA, Very Rev. Msgr. Ronald Broussard; St. Joseph Church, Maurice, LA, Fr. Mike Sucharski, SVD; Our Mother of Mercy Church, Church Point, LA, Father Henry Davis, SSJ; Our Lady of the Rosary & St. Peter the Apostle, Jeanerette and Four Corners, Father Dismas Mauk, SVD; Holy Cross Church, Lafayette, LA, Father Howard Blessing.

Other presentations included Alexandria, LA, the People Program, Sankofa Conference, KPC Louisiana Conference, and NOLA, groups visiting our Motherhouse.



Holy Cross, Lafayette, LA



Jeanerette, LA

An invitation to St. Mary's Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina is a destination for September.

It appears that the audiences are very interested and pleased to hear Mere Henriette's story. They ask questions, send petitions, buy her books and promotional items. The church parishes have also been quite generous to Henriette's Cause.

Of course, all of our Sisters work to promote Venerable Henriette Delille's Cause for canonization. Next issue I will recognize the names of Sisters who specialize in "going the extra mile" for Mere Henriette..

S.S.F. welcome, congratulate, support, love, pray for newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, Fernand J. Cheri, O.F.M.



A native New Orleanian, welcomed graciously and happily home, was ordained March 23, 2015 as Auxiliary Bishop.

He is a long time friend of the Sisters of the Holy Family. He held the prayer service the night before his ordination at their Motherhouse. It was a beautiful ceremony followed by a reception for family and friends. Bishop Cheri, for many years, especially since Hurricane Katrina, has made our Motherhouse a place for the students from Quincy University to spend their Spring break by helping with the cleaning and rebuilding. We appreciate the students

and the Bishop. Already Bishop Cheri has made himself at home with us. He will be the celebrant and the homilist for the Annual Henriette Delille Mass on November 21, 2015.

Room named for Sister Patricia Ann

During its 50th Jubilee Celebration of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Maringouin, LA, 2014, a conference room was dedicated in honor of Sister Patricia Ann Williams, SSF.

The parishioners recognized and appreciated Sister's service and dedication to God, her Church, and the people she called family.

The Sisters of the Holy Family attended the Mass and ceremony. We humbly acknowledged Sister's contributions through the years. May she rest in peace.

"Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are."

St. John Chrysostom

Mary Janet Peters (nee Shirley Rita) the daughter of the late William Peters and Orilea Alphonse Peters entered eternal life on February 16, 2015. She was 82 years of age. Sister Janet, a native of New Orleans, entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family on September 8, 1942, made First Vows June 15, 1955, and Perpetual Vows June 15, 1960.



Sister Janet has served in ministry to the people of God in Louisiana, Texas and Tennessee as an elementary teacher. She perfected her art of teaching and became a preeminent second grade teacher. Sister ministered in Louisiana's schools at St. Francis Xavier in Baton Rouge, St. Catherine of Sienna in Donaldsonville, Our Lady of Grace in Reserve, St. Raymond and All Saints in New Orleans, and Holy Ghost in Marksville. She also served at St. Nicholas and St. Philip Neri in Houston, Texas. Sister's assignment to these various schools often resulted in her returning at a later date to begin serving again with an added responsibility to her local house as its local leader and/or local treasurer.

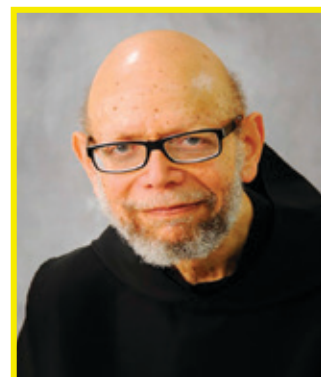
She also served as Alumni Coordinator for Houston. The energetic Sr. Janet was among the first group of Sisters of the Holy Family to minister at Our Lady of Africa School in Memphis, TN.

Sr. Janet loved little children and continued working with them when she returned to the Motherhouse. She leaves to cherish her memory two sisters: Orilea P. Lear and Bernadine P. Reimonenq and several generations of beloved nieces and nephews.

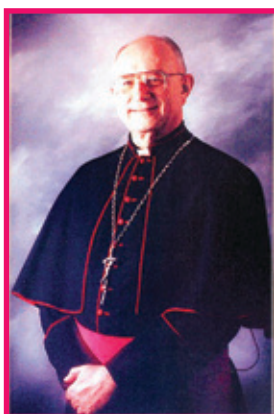
Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, died on May 18, 2015, at Memorial Hospital in Jasper. He was 84 and a jubilarian of both profession and ordination.

In addition to dozens of articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia and dictionary entries, Fr. Cyprian wrote six books. But it is his 1990 work for which he will be especially remembered. *The History of Black Catholics in the United States* is a 350-page study of the American Black Catholic experience.

The Sisters of the Holy Family appreciate, love, and remember Father Cyprian Davis for his 10 years of research and his biography of Venerable Henriette Delille, *Henriette Delille, Servant of Slaves, Witness to the Poor*. Sr. Greta represented the SSF at the funeral.



A Memorial Mass was celebrated for Father Cyprian at the SSF Motherhouse, June 18.



Most Rev. William B. Friend died April 2, 2015. He was installed as Auxiliary Bishop of Alexandria-Shreveport in 1979; installed as Bishop of Alexandria-Shreveport 1983; installed as first Bishop of Shreveport in 1986.

Bishop Friend was a true friend to the Sisters of the Holy Family. He provided shelter for us at the Catholic Center and Holy Angels after Hurricane Katrina. We appreciate and will never forget his kindness to us. Sisters of the Holy Family were represented at his funeral in St. John Berchmans Cathedral in Shreveport.

Jubilarians celebrate 675 years



Sr. Canice Lastrapes



Sr. Canisius Lastrapes

Eleven Sisters of the Holy Family celebrated jubilees, June 13 at St. Maria Goretti's Church totaling 675 years.

Celebrating 75 years, top row, Sisters Canice and Canisius Lastrapes.

Seventy years celebrants are second row left, Sister Esther Marie Estero, accompanied by Sister Jean Martinez, Sisters Romuald Cormier and Tekakwitha Vega. Third row, Sister Innocente Wiltz, ushered by Sister Theresa Sue Joseph. Third row, 60 years celebrants are Sisters Augustine McDaniel and Benjamin Auzenne. Fourth row 50th jubilarians, left, Sisters Laura Mercier and Greta Jupiter, our Congregational Leader.

Last in fourth row. Sister Andria Donald, 25 years.

Photos courtesy of Michelle O. Jolly

Mark your CALENDAR

August

- 2 - Heavenly Host of Stars Gala
The Hyatt Regency, NOLA
- 15 - Profession of First Vows

September

- 26-28 - Pope Francis' Visit to
Philadelphia

October

- 18 - Family Day

November

- 14 - Feeding of the Poor
Ozanam Inn
- 21 - Annual Delille Mass
Motherhouse
5:00 P.M.

More about Mere Henriette

Through the efforts of **Sharon Aguillard**, the local Chapter of the **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** accepted a resolution to tell Venerable Henriette Delille's story and to pray for her canonization.

Paul Delille requested a Mass for **Mere Henriette Delille's canonization** at St. Louis Cathedral, July 5. Paul is proving to be a true advocate of Ven. Henriette Delille.

Visit ourrichhistory.com



Sr. Esther Marie Estero



Sr. Romuald Cormier



Sr. Tekakwitha Vega



Sr. Innocente Wiltz

Sr. Augustine
McDaniel

Sr. Benjamin Auzenne



Sr. Laura Mercier



Sr. Greta Jupiter



Sr. Andria Donald

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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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Correspondence — Near and Far

Dear Sister,

Enclosed is a \$500.00 donation to the Sisters of the Holy Family. Please use this donation toward the canonization of Mere Henriette Delille.

Reading the most recent *Servant of the poor* newsletter, I learned that feeding the poor is a daily activity of the Sisters at the Motherhouse. I have enclosed a \$200.00 donation to be used for the Sisters' Feeding of the Poor Ministry."

A.J.G., CA

Hello,

Since my visit in 2008 to the Sisters of the Holy Family Chapel at Chef Menteur Blvd. in New Orleans, I have been receiving the newsletter. I met each of you because of my friend, now deceased, Mr. Edward J. LeBoeuf, Sr. Mr. LeBoeuf and I sat next to each other in church and we got to know each other. He always spoke highly of the Sisters so when my work took me to New Orleans I had to visit the Chapel and make some prayers.

He told me when he was seven his Mother died so he and his three brothers were raised at Lafon Boys Home and his four sisters at St. John Berchmans Orphanage. I miss my conversations with my friend. Your newsletters remind me of him and his gratitude to the Sisters.

Please keep the newsletters coming. I will visit again my next time in New Orleans. **L.R. VA**
Dear Sisters,
Peace of Jesus!

We, the Knights of the Altar here in our parish, would like to join you in promulgating the legacy of Ven. Henriette. With that we humbly request holy cards/relics, if possible, to be venerated by the public in our newly built Chapel of Saints here beside our parish.

Faithfully in Christ.

G.K.O.R., Philippines

Greetings of peace and love of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I received the box 3 weeks ago. I distributed the prayer cards to

nine locations. Each area received 10 brochures and 100 prayer cards. I still have prayer cards.

Please take care. Thanks and God bless.

Respectfully,

P.R.S.B, Philippines

Servant of the Poor

We have been striving for accuracy with our newsletter mailing list. Please let us know if there are any errors on your mailing label or if you are receiving duplicate newsletters at one or more addresses.

To cut costs, we offer you the newsletter via email. If you have received both by email and postal mail, let us know so adjustments can be made. Also, if you wish to receive the email version, send your email address to :

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