

SERVANT of the POOR

Newsletter of Friends of Henriette Delille

Vol. 13, No. 3

Winter 2011

Through Henriette's Intercession

I want to thank our extended family of folks who love the Sisters of the Holy Family, all those devoted to Venerable Henriette Delille. I count myself happy part of the Family.

I am a prisoner on death row. A fellow here is scheduled to be executed on December 6, the feast of St. Nicholas. I wrote to the Sisters and asked for prayers for the conversion of this man's heart, as he had been very anti-Christian and anti-Catholic. Well, Mere Henriette must have been listening!

As it turns out, the fellow was baptized Catholic as a child. Last week he asked for a priest, who came over to death row and gave this man the Sacraments of Reconciliation and anointing of the sick.

Angels must be singing, now that Jesus brought His lost sheep back into the fold.

Around the same time, the St. Joseph Sister, Helen Prejean, visited with me and two other of the men here. Knowing she is from Louisiana, I asked her if she knows the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans. Sister Helen piped right up, "Henriette Delille" and her smile lit up the whole room

I very much felt Mere Henriette's presence there in the room, even though I was locked in a wire cage. I felt great peace in my heart.

The next morning a guard told me there was a message, to call my lawyer. I did so, and learned that the appeals court had removed the death sentence in my case!

Thank God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our Blessed Mother, my Guardian See **LETTER FROM PRISON**, p.3

Celebrations honor Venerable Henriette Delille, SSFs

November is filled with activities to honor Venerable Henriette Delille and the Sisters of the Holy Family. During this month, the following activities took place. We observed the **anniver-**



sary of Henriette's death on November 17th, the Feeding of the Poor in her honor, the **Annual Henriette Delille Mass**, our **Tridium**, in preparation for **Founder's Day**, a **Congregational Assembly**, and this year the **Parade** to celebrate the **Blessing of Henriette Delille Street**.

It will begin with **Henriette's 149th Death Anniversary** with a summary of her funeral.

Venerable Henriette Delille died November 17, 1862 Her funeral Mass was at St. Augustine Church in New Orleans. She is buried in St. Louis #2 Cemetery.

The price of her funeral was \$31.75.

The receipt for Pere Rousselon indicates that the cost of the coffin and hearse was \$20.00. Five candles came to \$1.25 (beeswax candles for funerals). A veil for the cross cost \$1.50. The rental of three carriages was \$3.00 each.

Obituary notices did appear in the Catholic newspaper, *Le Propagateur Catholique* and *L'Abeille*. There was a very large crowd. She was identified as the Founder of the House of the Holy Family. It was noted that she had established her work a dozen years before, that is, about 1850. It was a poor person's funeral in a time of war." (Rev. Cyprian Davis, p.77)

The last line of her obituary states " . . . for the love of Jesus Christ she had become the humble and devout servant of slaves."

Special Feeding of the Homeless

Everyday at our Motherhouse we serve meals to those who come for dinner or supper, an average would be about six a day. However, on the second Saturday every November, the Sisters, Associates, and Friends of Henriette Delille go to Ozanam Inn and serve a special hot meal: red beans, rice, chicken quarters, green salad, dessert, and drinks. Dessert and drinks are compliments of Mr. & Mrs. Sidney St. Martin.

Each person leaves with a gift bag, T-shirt, with Mother Henriette's prayer, socks, a wash cloth and a Mother Henriette Delille prayer card. These are given by Mr. & Mrs. Dominick Sciortino.

A chorus, made up of SSFs and Friends, entertain the homeless with beautiful singing while they eat their dinner.

Celebrations -- events for which we are grateful!

This activity is very well attended and appreciated. We do this to honor Henriette because this is what she did when she walked the streets of New Orleans in mid nineteenth century.

See photos on page 5.

Annual Henriette Delille Mass

Every year the Sisters, Associates, Friends and relatives of Henriette Delille honor her with a special Mass.



Knights' honor guard for the procession

Archbishop Alfred Hughes was the celebrant and Monsignor Crosby Kern was the homilist. Also assisting were Father Howard Byrd, Deacons Harold Vincent, Graylin Miller, and Jesse



Archbishop Alfred Hughes, Celebrant

Watley; Notre Dame Seminarians, Daniel Green and friends.

Knights of St. Peter Claver E.O. Moss Assembly #4 always add pageantry. The music was beautifully presented by St. Augustine Catholic Church Choir, under the direction of Carol LeBlanc.

Mr. Raymond Lewis, an alumnus of Lafon Boys Home, sang an original tribute to Mere Henriette.

The beautiful flowers that adorned the worship space were given by Mr. & Mrs. Sidney St. Martin. The food for the reception was prepared by KL&M

Caterers.

We thank all those unnamed persons who contributed to making this event such a success.

God bless you.



Msgr. Crosby Kern, Homilist

Tridium

In preparation for our 169th Founder's Day observance, we were privileged to have Very Rev. Vernon Huguley from Montgomery, Alabama

give us inspiring and challenging talks.

Assembly

Our Congregational Assembly focused on vocations presentations given by members of the Formation Team, Sisters John Mary Jackson and Theresa Sue Joseph. Talks and summaries from cluster meetings by members of the Leadership Team, Sisters Angela Smith and Geneva James, were also added. A DVD on vocations, prepared by Alethea Bragg, ended the session.

The dialogue and suggestions were lively and encouraging. Everyone is determined to pray hard and work hard to promote vocations.

169th Anniversary Mass at St. Augustine Church

Almost all of our Sisters participated in the Mass at St. Augustine. Fr. Quentin Moody, Pastor, gave a spiritual, historical, and personal homily which included the past and the present.

The singing was marvelously presented by the home choir and a solo, *Ave*

Maria, by Father Moody.

Street Parade

The line up for the parade: bands, St. Mary's Academy and St. Augustine Marching 100, convertibles, limos, trolley, horse drawn carriage, cars, and marchers, was ready to roll.

Father Quentin Moody blessed the street and the Sisters threw souvenir cups and rosaries with Henriette Delille prayer cards to the parade watchers. It appeared from the happy smiles and happy well wishers, that the celebration was very successful.

Sponsors and Donors

We are especially grateful to our sponsors and donors for the parade.



St. Augustine Catholic Church Choir directed by LeBlanc

Sponsors

- Charbonnet Mid-City Carriages
- Liberty Bank & Trust
- Majestic Mortuary Services
- Rhodes Limousine Service
- Sheriff Marlin N. Gusman

See Donors on page 3.



SSF Associates

Photos on this page by Sr. Laura and Pearl Cantrelle

See more photos on pages 4 & 5

Shawn Thomas Wins Contest, Chapel named for Henriette

In August, Shawn wrote the following letter:

Dear Holy Family Sisters,

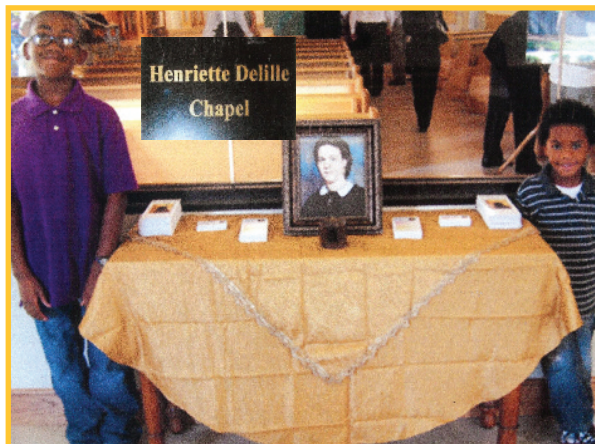
I was wondering if you all had any material on Henriette Delille that I could have to share information about her with fellow parishioners and church visitors. The reason I'm asking is because I won a contest to see what they shall name the chapel. I won because God enlightened my mind and told me to name it the "Henriette Delille Chapel."

I am 11 years old and in the 6th grade. I first found out about Henriette Delille from my mother, grandmother, former pastor at Star of the Sea (Fr. Tony), and the Sisters who taught me at St. John Berchmans Preschool. We moved to Baton Rouge after the Hurricane and have relocated here.

If you have anything I can have, please write or type back anytime. The chapel is currently empty and I would like to fill it with devotionals to Mother Delille and also information regarding Holy Family Sisters -- My grandmother was a member of your sisterhood many years ago as well. My mother is even looking for a large picture of Henriette Delille to put on the chapel wall.

Thank you and remember Henriette said, "I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God." God bless,
Shawn Thomas

Thank you Shawn. The Sisters and Henriette are very grateful to you for promoting her Cause.. We believe Henriette is smiling down on you and those you love.



Left, Shawn Thomas, 11 years old, right Michael Thomas, 4 years old, at the display table in front of the Chapel

Thank you

Dear SSFs,

This is my opportunity to thank you publicly for your generosity in supporting the Cause of our beloved foundress, Venerable Henriette Delille.

For years now we have appreciated your monetary gifts. You have shared your jubilee money, your birthday and feast day gifts, and any extras you have.

I know you believe in Henriette's practice of heroic virtue and her holiness and together, we will continue to pray, wait, and make sacrifices so that one day we can say: Saint Henriette!

Letter from Prison from page 1

angel, and all of the saints, including our beloved Henriette. And thank all of you who have offered prayers for me. Your presence in my life is a great grace.

Trust in the saints for their intercession. Trust in Mere Henriette. And trust in the divine mercy of Jesus. All things are possible in God.

J.T. , Oregon

Song for Venerable Henriette Delille by Raymond Lewis



Before the Annual Henriette Delille Mass Raymond Lewis, an alumnus of Lafon Boys Home, sang a special song for Henriette. The lyrics are below.

Henriette, pure and humble, showed her love for all mankind.

Beg the Lord to give her strength to do His will at last.

Her love spread out aloud, to give comfort, to thee, to the unved, to the sick, to the orphans, and the poor.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

We invite you to visit us

www.sistersoftheholymfamily.com

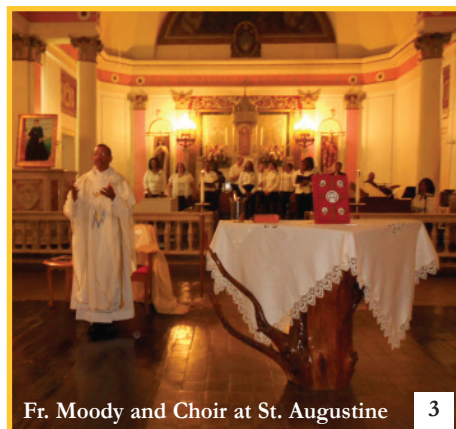
Donors from page 3

Donors

Dr. Gail Armant, Pearl M. Cantrelle, Gerard Johnson, King Zulu 2004, Wayne Lemelle, Joseph St. Martin, Dr. & Mrs. Percy Pierre, Shelton Rayford, Jane Tureaud, and Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Williams.

169th Committee

Kathy Taylor Ancar, Alvin J. Ancar, Jr., Dr. Gail Armant, Dr. Naydja Bynum, Pearl Cantrelle, Connie Fitch, Sr. Doris Goudeaux, SSF, Linda Harris, Gail Johnson, Sr. Greta Jupiter, SSF, Wayne Lemelle, Sr. Eva Regna Martin, SSF, Sr. Laura Mercier, SSF, and Rev. Quentin Moody.



Fr. Moody and Choir at St. Augustine

"Mother Henriette Delille, pray for us that we may be a holy family."

Taken from "Our Family Prayer" by Archbishop Gregory Aymond

Recognition and thanks to Dr. Naydja Bynum for a job well



This photo of Naydja was taken during the 169th Anniversary Mass by Sister Laura Mercier,

Dr. Naydja Bynum, assisted by the Faubourg Tremé Neighborhood Association, Father Moody, members of St. Augustine Church, the Sisters of the Holy Family and other friends, led the way for the renaming of eight blocks of St. Claude Street to Henriette Delille Street.

From the signing of petitions to the signing of the ordinance to the parade, Naydja did not falter.

Henriette Delille Street will make Venerable Henriette Delille better known and loved. We, the Sisters of the Holy Family, thank Naydja and all those who worked with her.

Again,
THANK YOU!



SSFs at At. Augustine Church for the 169th Anniversary Mass



Photos by RandolphSquare

Two new books on Henriette available by Easter 2012

The two books dedicated to Mere Henriette are *Henriette Delille* by Dr. Virginia Meacham Gould and a **Comic Book on Henriette Delille** by Mary-Cabrini Durkin.

The book by Dr. Gould has a hardcover and a jacket. It is a coffee table book. It will sell for \$15.00.

Not only is the story interestingly presented, but it also contains many beautiful and intriguing pictures.

The comic book is very well done. Much research and careful preparation went into

the production of this book. The illustrator is also very talented. This book will sell for \$5.00.

The books can be purchased from the Henriette Delille Commission Office.

We plan to have a book-signing program. The date will be given later.

If you would like to get your order in early, email: delilleoffcom@yahoo.com; call: 504.241.3088; write: 6901 Chef Menteur Blvd.; New Orleans, LA 70126; web page: send through the catalog or the request form.

We depend on your generosity!

As you know, we have begun to do special fundraising in preparation for the beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille.

Most of you on our mailing list have been generous to us and, of course, we are

most grateful, but we will be asking for more help.

We plan to try to get an estimate on how much a beatification costs, so we can have a goal and even a capital campaign to raise the funds.

We will need your help.

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



Mass at St. Augustine



Annual Henriette Delille Mass, Motherhouse

Photos tell the story: See more on our web site: www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com

Photos from the Feeding of the Homeless - top, left, singers; right, Sister Eva assisting a blind participant.



Participants enjoying their meal. Below: an after the meal photo of all persons who came to celebrate with the Feeding of the Homeless in Mere Henriette Delille's honor, November 12, 2011.

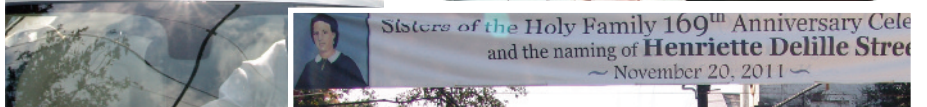


Sister Clare of Assisi Pierre represented Mere Henriette Delille at the Foundation Mass and parade. Her dress was bought and beautifully constructed by Dr. Naydja Bynum.



Photos by Sister Laura Mercier

Sisters ride in and enjoy the parade



Photos by Mookie Square *



Photos by Kathy Ancar



Sisters of the Holy Family
Henriette Delille Commission Office
6901 Chef Menteur Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70126-5290

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 908
New Orleans, LA

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

*-Venerable
Henriette Delille*

Inside:

- ~ November Celebrations, pp. 1-6
- ~ Chapel Honors Mere Henriette, p. 3
- ~ New Books for Henriette, p. 4
- ~ More Photos, pp. 4-5

Servant of the Poor

published by
Sisters of the Holy Family
and
Friends of Henriette Delille

Imprinti Potest

Sister Eva Regina Martin

Copyright 1999

Sisters of the Holy Family



Staff

Sister Doris Goudeaux
Sister Judith Therese Barial
Sister Shiela Marie Williams
Sister Laura Mercier
Sister M. Cornelia Hall
Ms. Barbara Duhe
Mrs. Carolyn Washington
Mrs. Elizabeth Malone

www.sistersofthehollyfamily.com

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

More thanks . . .

The following letter came in 2005, but inadvertently not recorded until the writer asked about it.

"Last night we heard Father Groeschel speak about the Sisters of the Holy Family. He spoke about how wonderful they were and how wonderfully they work with the elderly. He also said they needed help due to Katrina.

At the same time, I had a very difficult time with my Mom. She sat on the steps going down stairs- from 9:30-11:30 p.m. and would not get up.

I was afraid she would fall. She could not spend the night there. I prayed

through Henriette's intercession.

I was expecting Chris, but I was not sure he would come. I was desperate. I promised money if help would come.

Chris came and the problem was solved. We are very grateful."

A \$100.00 check was mailed to us.

P. B., NY

Dear Sisters,

My siblings and I are Methodists, but we attended Holy Family School in Covington, LA until each of us "graduated" from 8th grade. We were then transferred to Rosenwald High School. This was

from 1940-1957. We were blessed to receive a wonderful beginning at Holy Family. I shall always remember and thank God and those Sisters for their love, care, and knowledge. We have all completed college with master degrees.

My two sisters and I are retired educators. My two brothers, deceased, were accountants and administrators. Both were in the Navy during the Vietnam war.

I'm sending a donation and ask your prayers for us.

I am so happy my best friend sent me this newsletter.

Love, **I.T.J., LA**

See more photos about our November celebrations on our web site.

www.sistersofthehollyfamily.com