



### *Through Henriette's intercession*

Dear Sisters,

I had a plug in my leg that came loose after I had a heart procedure. I prayed to Mother Henriette after just reading about her in the *Clarion Herald*. The plug went back in place. I am grateful. Please pray for my heart. C.C., LA

Dear Sister,

The day the little girl was taken out of her yard in Missouri, I started praying to Mother Delille. I asked Henriette to please intercede for her so that the little girl would be returned to her mother unharmed.

Throughout the night I continued to pray for her safety and return to her mother unharmed.

The next morning I turned the TV on for the news and they were taking the little girl into the hospital. She appeared well. I prayed again to Mother Delille in thanksgiving.

I know it was Divine Providence through the intercession of Mother Delille. M.M.H., TX

# Servant of the Poor

Newsletter of Friends of Henriette Delille

## Venerable Henriette's practice of heroic virtue

"Mother Henriette was a very holy and heavenly soul . . . who took her fortunes to found our dear community . . . But Delille's capacity was much more valuable than the money, for she was a good beggar . . . It would be well to say we sometimes knew not from where the next piece of bread was to come." Thus says Sister Bernard Deggs in her Journal, *No Cross, No Crown*, p. 95.

Sister Bernard wrote this sentence over 100 plus years ago. It was true then and it is true today. We honor Mother Henriette as a woman who practiced heroic virtue. This is what prompted Pope Benedict XVI to declare her venerable.

What are some of Venerable Henriette's virtues? Truly her prayer, "I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God." is indicative of a woman who loved God with all her heart. As a result of this love, she practiced faith, hope, charity, the cardinal virtues, the evangelical counsels, humility, simplicity, to mention a few.

In this edition, Henriette's practice of faith will be explained. In subsequent issues, her other virtues will be considered. Now for faith: not only did Henriette believe in God, but she spent her life teaching others how to believe in God.

She and her companions' major work

was to evangelize and catechize "their people, slave and free." In doing this, they took risks. This took faith. Even though times were hard, Henriette, Juliette, and Josephine believed that God would provide and He did.

In addition, Henriette assisted in the role of Godmother in baptisms. She was involved in setting up and running schools for the benefit of the Black people in her city in which religious instruction played a central role. Finally, she founded a new community of religious, composed of Black Sisters, to serve the needs of her people.

Henriette's declaration, "I believe in God." coupled with her life's work is a demonstration of fervent faith on her part.

Let us, who love and appreciate Venerable Henriette Delille, try to imitate her practice of faith and pray often her prayer: "I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God."

## Venerable Henriette's Memorial Mass

The Henriette Delille's Memorial Mass is scheduled for November 20, 2010, 4 PM at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Holy Family. There is a

special celebration this year. Family members, Friends of Henriette Delille, friends and relatives of the Sisters are

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# Leadership Team installed August 16



Leadership team pictured left, photo 1, seated, Sisters Eva Regina Martin, Congregational Leader; Greta Jupiter, Assistant Congregational Leader, standing, left, Geneva James, sixth councilor, Angela Smith, fifth councilor, Alicia Costa, third councilor, Leona Bruner, second councilor, and Clare of Assisi Pierre, fourth councilor. Not pictured are Sisters Agnes Marie Sampia, treasurer general and Patricia Hardy, secretary. Photo 2, The Team receives a blessing from Bishop Shelton Fabre, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans

## Memorial Mass

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planning to meet in New Orleans, at this time, for a type of family and friends reunion.

The celebration will begin with the feeding of the poor in honor of Venerable Henriette Delille on November 13 and end with the celebration of the memorial Mass for Henriette Delille on November 20.

Other plans include assistance at Mass at both St. Augustine Church on November 14 and St. Louis Cathedral on November 21, where the pastors have promised to acknowledge the presence of the group.

In addition, there will be a tour of all of the sites connected with Mere Henriette. Talks on Venerable Henriette Delille are also being planned.

Hotel accommodations have been established at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel (former Motherhouse) 504.522.2222. The group is listed as "Friends of Delille" and the standard room rates are \$79.00. At this writing, many out-of-towners are planning to come to New Orleans.



## My Pilgrimage to Haiti

By Sister Sylvia Thibodeaux, SSF

We arrived in Haiti mid-morning on July 15th 2010. The plan was to arrive before Hurricane season in Haiti and to return to New Orleans before the peak Hurricane season here. We accomplished both.

Nothing could have prepared us for what arriving in Haiti is like. Sights and sounds, smells, human movements reminded me of a typical West African city. Though centuries and distance away, the *joie de vivre* of peoples of African descent still prevails in Haiti.

Port-au-Prince is a city of about nine million people. Most are small merchants and traders. Goods come in and out from the country side and are traded in small markets along narrow streets. Children are everywhere. Sad to say the prevailing common denominator is poverty.

The earthquake which destroyed Haiti on January 12, 2010, did not have to work very hard to achieve its goals. The best image I saw to describe Haiti is the room of a religious brother in the middle of

nowhere surrounded by destruction everywhere, adorned with a small bed, a chair, a cat and small modern radio. That's Haiti.

Music, animals (especially dogs) abide. People go about their lives as though normal. They have tried for centuries to better their lot, but without success.

"Le tremblement de terre," the earthquake brought massive destruction on a country already deprived of basic human needs. I do not attempt to try to say what the solution for Haiti's problem "should be". All I know is that this global community we call world, has a responsibility to heed the gospel mandate to be our neighbors keeper.

The Gospel is not a simple series of worded beatitudes, it is the way God would have us live as Christians, Muslims, Jews, whatever our faith tradition might be.

Our mission to Haiti was to do what little we could to bring hope to

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a few people. I think we accomplished this.

We met and visited with religious men and women who are indigenous to Haiti. We offered them small donations in the name of the generous people of the Church of New Orleans. They are teaching children of all ages under the most inhumane circumstances. They are leading people in prayer, retreats, and long vigils. They are caring for the sick and wounded in the most primitive circumstances.

They are feeding the hungry, and sheltering the homeless. These Religious are doing this out of conditions of their own, which are no better than their neighbors.

The rains have come. God's children of Haiti are once again doing battle with nature. The temporary shelters are a mere drop in the bucket for the over million and half people who are homeless, with no promise of FEMA or Road Home Money. The medical equipment and supplies are locked up expiring, because providers must pay a duty to the government. Doctors are no longer caring for those who are sick with simple illnesses that are treatable with antibiotics.

We saw aid workers, especially Jesuits Relief workers, offering counseling to people who are traumatized; especially, we saw children looking for their parents. Children who are Restavek (literally slaves). This is a large population of Haitian children who are used for child labor.

We met a parish priest who lost the entire parish plant. The priests continue to minister and offer space for prayer to the people who continue to come to the sacred grounds. We proposed parish twinning with some of our parishes in the archdiocese.

We heard talk of the upcoming elections in November, of the number of and candidates running for president. Each has an agenda to make Haiti better. Some speak of decentralization, moving some services to the country-

side, like hospitals and universities. This will provide jobs and remove the strain on Port-au-Prince, some say. Or make Port-au-Prince, green space. We heard this plan before.

But for the people, life goes on: "long days turn into night and the sun also rises" So is daily life for our Neighbors next door.

### Henriette's Help

Lynn writes, "I will be praying for good news on Venerable Henriette's cause. She has helped me many times. When I needed to sell H's car and I needed extra money, I prayed to her and she came through for me. I am grateful.

### Thank You!

I thank all of our Sisters for the many prayers during my serious illness. Thank you also for the visits, blood drive, cards, flowers, and other goodies. Please know that I will be forever grateful.

*Sister Rebecca Carlos Castillo*



Twelve thousand eight hundred stitches are incorporated in this cross stitch canvas accomplished by Sister Agnes Marie Sampia, SSF.

Sister Sampia worked five months, using every free minute to capture our Foundress, Henriette Delille, on the above cross stitch canvas. This labor of love was presented to the Sisters at our Chapter in July.

**Congratulations Sister!**

## Serra Club welcomes SSFs



Pictured left standing: Sisters Elizabeth Ann Holmes, Regina Amos, Laurita Oliver, Francella Jackson, Mrs. Madeline Jeansonne Marie de Montfort Breaux seated: Hilary Daigle, Eva Regina Martin, Doris Goudeaux, Cornelia Hall, and Gloria Lewis.

The Serra Club of Alexandria celebrated the Sisters of the Holy Family July 19 and focused on Venerable Henriette Delille.

Sister Doris Goudeaux gave a talk on Venerable Henriette Delille. Prayer

cards and other literature were given to the participants.

In addition to the members of the Serra Club, Bishop Herzog, seminarians, and religious were also in attendance. The message was received with

enthusiasm.

It was also obvious that the Sisters of the Holy Family are loved and appreciated in the Diocese of Alexandria because of the many complimentary expressions given.



# Garifuna Sisters honored

By Sister Josita Olgaldez, SSF

The activities were carefully prepared and organized by Mrs. Anita Martinez assisted by a group of energetic, outstanding Garifuna women.

These educated and dedicated women of God contributed their talents, shared their gifts and gave their full support in celebrating and honor-

The guided tour was most rewarding and exciting. When we were all seated inside the limousine, we were given the rare opportunity to share our thoughts with one another. There was fun, laughter and prayers for vocations.

It is my sincere hope that the presence of the Garifuna Sisters from Belize and Central America at the



Pictured are the honorees. Left, Sisters Mary Avilia Avila, OSP, Jean Martinez, SSF, Joan Flores, SSF, Barbara Flores, SCN, Macaria Narcisa 'Flory' Leiva Neri Escolares de san Francisco, Esther Marie Estero, SSF, Juana Nolvía Manaiza, Misionares de Nuestra Señora de La Presentacion, Evelyn Estrada, SSF, Josita Marie Olgaldez, SSF, and Rebecca Carlos Castillo, SSF.

ing Garifuna Sisters. They showed their sincere appreciation to the Garifuna Sisters who have served their respective religious communities for many years.

This memorable occasion has really reinforced my realization and appreciation to embrace fully my ethnicity. I am a Garifuna Sister who belong to an ambitious and beautiful culture that was created by God. Regardless of race, color and creed, we are all children of God.

The program consisted of the following items: Welcome Reception, Thanksgiving Mass, Awarding Ceremony, Dinner Banquet and Limousine Tour. These activities were well-organized and enjoyable.

Participation in those activities gave me an opportunity to reunite with my family, relatives, friends and all those who came from other States to support us.

"Recognizing Garifuna Sisters" event held in Los Angeles, has, perhaps, attracted the attention of and inspired some young girls to consider leading a religious and consecrated life.

In the name of all the Garifuna Sisters, I do express my sincere thanks to and prayers for Mrs. Anita Martinez and her generous committee members for a job well-done. It's an event that we will always remember and cherish with prayers for the rest of our life.

(The Garifuna Sisters, descendents of Arawak and Carib Indians and Africans, cherish their history and culture of Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and along the coast of Central and South America.)

**With God  
all things  
are possible!**



Venerable Henriette Delille has captured the imagination of many artists; therefore, we have received a number of artistic interpretations of her. Pictured is our latest acquisition.

The statue pictured above, a gift to Sister Alicia Costa, was made by Dr. Fay Stevenson-Smith. Sister gave the statue to the Motherhouse.

## Thank you!

We, Sisters of the Holy Family, and the Henriette Delille Commission Office, thank all of you, bishops, clergy, religious, and laity, who sent beautiful congratulatory messages to us regarding the declaration of venerable to our foundress.

We ask you to continue to pray, to spread devotion to Venerable Henriette Delille, and to continue your support.

In the meantime, we await news from Rome in reference to the alleged miracle, which, when accepted, will make it possible for Henriette to be declared blessed.

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



# A story to tell: How Henriette Delille led me to find the Sisters of the Holy Family.

By Sister Teresia Muendi, ASN

I landed in St. Paul Minnesota May 8, 2010 where I had come to do Mission Appeals that was assigned to our community by different dioceses. In the month of June, the Mission Appeals was to be in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and I knew that I had to look for a place to stay during this time. I knew no body in New Orleans that I could contact.



As the days came nearer to come to New Orleans, I was getting worried, filled with fear and anxiety of where I was going to stay. I kept praying that God may open a place for me to stay. Finally I decided to call the Director of the Society of the Propagation of Faith to assist me in getting a place to stay. On the day that I was going to call, I looked at wall and there was a calendar that portrayed the picture of Henriette Delille.

I started reading what was written of her and to my surprise it said that she was a native of New Orleans and was the founder of Sisters of Holy Family. Straight away I felt peace and said here is where I am going to stay. From that time I strongly believe that Henriette watched me in my room as I worried where I would go to stay and finally she said in my community.

After that I got into the internet and searched who are the Sisters of Holy Family. Here came a video that played the mass of April 25, 2010 honoring the venerable Henriette Delille. I then looked for the leadership. I then called Sister Eva Regina and asked her if I could come to stay with her community and she accepted my request. I followed with a written

letter because I was afraid that she might not have understood me due to my accent. She called me back to assure me that I am welcome to stay with her Sisters.

I then called my superior and told her that I had a miracle to tell her and she was very happy that I got a place to stay.

Ever since I came, the Sisters have been very kind to me and welcoming. It is a story I have been telling many and will ever remain to tell.

I thank the Sisters very much for their warm welcome and hospitality. I wish you all God's blessings all the time.

(Sister Muendi is a member of the Assumption Sisters in Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa.)

## 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

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Archbishop of New Orleans,  
August 23, 1977

## Venerable Henriette Delille, Pray for us.

### Jubilarians celebrate 835 years of service and love



"To God be the glory" was the theme of the jubilee celebration June, 12, 2010.

The jubilarians are top, left, Sisters M. Camillus Durald, 75 years; M. Bonaventure Jackson, Canice M. Lastrapes, Canisius M. Lastrapes, 70 years; Angela Merici Luis, M. Lucille

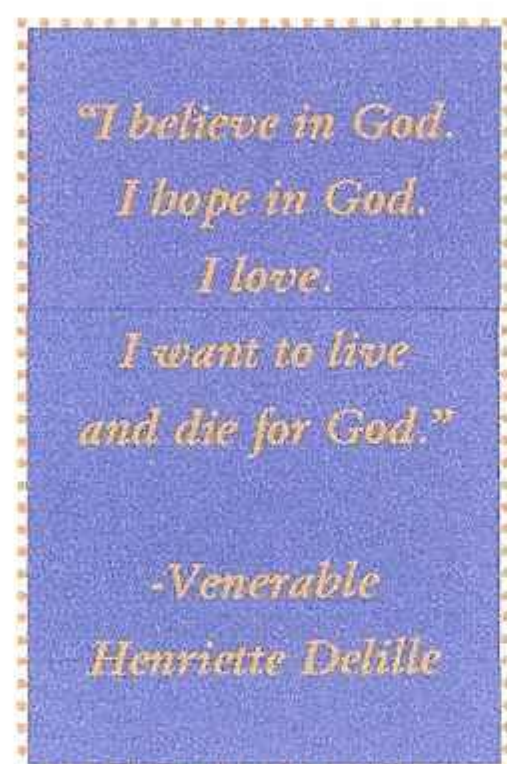
Stelley, Maria Consilia Saizan, M. Theresa Wiltz, M. Laurita Oliver, Gloria Lewis, 60 years; M. Rachael Williams, Clara Mae Jackson, Clare Thomas, and Patricia Hardy, 50 years.

We congratulate them on their years of service and love.



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## More prayers answered . . .

Dear Sisters,

I am writing to let you know that I am still praying for Mother Henriette Delille's sainthood.

She has answered lots of my personal prayers. I give her prayer cards to other people that I meet.

Sisters, please continue to pray for me and my family. A.B., LA

**An answer to pray:** I had one of Henriette Delille's coin purses in which I kept money and ID cards. I lost the purse.

After praying to Mother Henriette Delille, I found the purse with the money and the cards.

The purse was on the floor of my car, so close to the door it could have easily fallen out of the car and remained lost.

I attribute this action to the intercession of Mere Henriette Delille. G.R.,  
Dear Sisters,

I am writing to let you know that Mother Henriette Delille hears and answers my prayers. I pray to her for my sons and their medical need. I also pray to her when I lose something.

I locked my keys in my car and I could not find another set of keys. I prayed to her for two days and she helped me find my keys.

Please send me more prayer cards. I gave all of mine away. A.B., LA

#### **Henriette's help:**

I attribute the following lost and found favorable outcome through the intercession of Mere

Henriette Delille.

A not too expensive purchase was made and the package was sent through the mail. The owners never received the package although it had been delivered and signed for. After days of looking, there was no success. The return date had expired.

Another, much more expensive, purchase was made. A new 30 days was added. The two people involved, very seriously implored Henriette Delille to help them find the mailed package in order to get a refund before the deadline.

The package was found and the refund given. This was through Henriette's intercession. D. G., LA