

# Servant of the Poor

## Through Henriette's Intercession



### Dear Sisters,

I am writing this letter to acknowledge and report a favor that was granted through the prayerful intercession of Mother Henriette Delille.

In November of 2011, my Mother was diagnosed with bladder and kidney cancer. A friend suggested that we pray to Mother Henriette. As a result of the surgeries to remove the cancerous tumors, a week later my Mother developed pneumonia and went into life-threatening respiratory distress.

I was told by the physician that my Mother would not make it. I asked the doctor if I could see her and have a moment with her thinking it was the end. I was allowed to see her, so I held her hand, cried, talked to her, thanked her for being such a wonderful Mother, and prayed aloud over her with a friend. Two priests came to give her the last rites, one was the hospital chaplain

See FAVOR, page 2

## Venerable Henriette Delille honored by special events

Since our last newsletter we have experienced exciting activities surrounding Venerable Henriette Delille. First, the unveiling of a new painting by famous artist, Ulrich Jean-Pierre. This painting, commissioned by the late Sister Eva Regina Martin, is masterfully done and seemingly appreciated. It is an inspiration to those who have seen it personally, on Facebook, in the *Clarion, Times Picayune*, and other media.

The annual **Eucharistic Celebration** honoring Venerable Henriette Delille was held Saturday, November 15 at the Motherhouse at 4 pm. It was a sacred and holy time.

In his inspirational homily, Very Rev. Philip Landry praised Venerable Henriette Delille for her love of God and His people, for her determination and perseverance in the midst of adversity, for doing "the right thing" for the glory of God, and for her willingness to believe, to hope, to love, and to live and die for God. Landry said that Venerable Henriette Delille's beatification will benefit everyone, the whole Church. He encouraged all to continue to pray for Henriette's sainthood. Father Landry added that whenever that event happens it will be a joyful time for all of us.

Flower arrangements donated by Marcia and Sidney St. Martin, made the sanctuary even more beautiful.

The Fourth Degree Knights of St. Peter Claver, E. O. Moss Assembly #4, formed the colorful honor guard for the entrance procession and added to the solemnity.

After the welcome by Sister Greta

Jupiter, Congregational Leader, the entrance procession, led by the cross, carried by Sidney St. Martin, IV; candles by Associates Elizabeth Malone and Carolyn Washington preceded the Leadership Team: Sisters Greta Jupiter, Leona Bruner, Clare of Assisi

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Painting by Ulrich Jean-Pierre

## Favors granted through Venerable Henriette's help

### FAVOR from page 1

and the others, a priest and deacon from St. Jude Shrine. It was touch and go. My Mother coded twice and went through several procedures to save her and it was not guaranteed that she would make it. She even was on a ventilator to help her breathe because she could not breathe on her own.

Family members and friends were called to the hospital from all over the country to see her. Each moment, each day that she was alive was a blessing. And we never stopped praying.

My Mother spent 25 days in the hospital, of which 14 days were spent in ICU. It was confirmed by her physician that she is cancer free. She has had a very long road and is still on oxygen intermittently from the effects of the pneumonia.

My Mother's healing is truly a miracle. She has told me of the angels she had seen on the day she was coded, the day I was told that she wouldn't make it. The doctors and the staff at the hospital have marveled at her recovery and have acknowledged the miracle of her restored health.

I would like to thank Mother Henriette Delille for hearing my prayers and interceding on behalf of my Mother's health crisis.

G.A., LA

**Our beloved Henriette Delille** never stopped interceding for us. I know she helped me when I asked her help so that I may pass the Licensure exams for nurses in 2011. She was there when I overcame my two years of desolation, the cure from my past illness, including the time I experienced demonic oppression.

I know she echoed our prayers tirelessly to God, especially when my best friend almost died during the time she gave birth to her first child due to excessive loss of blood. Both she and the baby are healthy.

We asked her intercession for my Mother's healing and she didn't fail us.

With full confidence, I know she will continuously help us as our tireless intercessor.

J.R.R., Philippines

Dear Sister,

Good news! I found a job!! Yes, full time, no layoffs, 40 hours a week, and I can walk to work. . . .

God has blessed me. All of the years of praying for a better job paid off.

Thank all of you for the prayers and keep praying for me.

L. C. PA

## Sisters continue to tell Venerable Henriette's story: Visiting churches

The trips began the last Sunday of September, 2014. **Sisters Maria Gonzales and Geneva James visited St. Nicholas Church in Lydia, LA.** They were very well received and felt comfortable among some relatives of Henriette. Some of the parishioners came for the Annual Henriette Delille Mass in November.



Sisters Maria and Geneva with a group of Friends from Lydia, LA

The last weekend in November, **Sisters Sylvia Thibodeaux and Carmen Marie Bertrand** traveled to Houston, TX to **St. Nicholas Church** at the request of the Sisters of the Spirit, a group of lay women who promote devotion to Henriette.

They had a packed house because the Galveston- Houston Archdiocesan Catholic newspaper put Henriette's picture on front page, told her story, and advertised the Mass. Henriette's relatives and many of Sister Sylvia's relatives were present. They were so happy to greet and meet with the Sisters.

**Libby Newman** of Houston had a photo album made of the activities.

Sisters **Sylvia and Carmen** plan to go to St. Francis of Assisi in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana as soon as a date is set.



Sister Sylvia  
Thibodeaux at St.  
Nicholas Church in  
Houston, TX.

See SISTERS CONTINUE, p.3



## More ways and more people promoting Venerable Henriette

Acknowledgements and thanks go to the following persons who have committed to Venerable Henriette's Cause as part of their ministries.

- ♦ **Father Jim Goode** for celebrating a special Mass for Henriette on the anniversary of her death in St. Bakita's Chapel.
- ♦ **The Catholic newspaper of Galveston-Houston** for putting Henriette's photo on front page, telling her story, and advertising the Mass in her honor.
- ♦ **Sister Joan Marie Alexander** collects bags to be used for promotional items sold from the Delille Office.
- ♦ **Imelda August**, at their Family Day, asked EWTN, to use their facilities to promote Henriette's Cause.
- ♦ **Lafayette Louisiana Chancery** for naming one of their conference rooms in honor of Venerable Henriette Delille.
- ♦ **St. John Berchmans Church** in Cankton, Louisiana for honoring Delille by placing her portrait over the space in the church where Black people entered (pre-integration).
- ♦ **Vanessa Williams**, her Mother, and friends visited the Motherhouse. We associate Vanessa with Henriette because Vanessa starred as Henriette, directed, and produced the movie, *Courage to Love*.
- ♦ **Libby Newman** for making a beautiful album to commemorate the celebration of Henriette Delille at St. Nicholas Church in Houston.
- ♦ **Jay, Ray, and Gee**, of A'cappella New Orleans, for coming to Sisters Carmen and Sylvia's assistance when they were on their way to talk about Venerable Henriette.
- ♦ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** in Washington, DC for honoring Venerable Henriette Delille during Black Catholic History Month.
- ♦ **Chuckie Lopez** for making Henriette known by selling promotional items.
- ♦ **Evelyn Wright**, President of the Sisters in the Spirit, Houston, TX, for helping to publicize Henriette through different mediums.
- ♦ **Sister Rosalind Barbeneaux**, for the bulletin board exhibit of Mere Henriette at Cabrini School in Alexandria, LA.
- ♦ **All Sisters of the Holy Family** who pray daily and talk frequently about Henriette to those we meet.
- ♦ **Everyone** who supports the Cause, but do not find their names here.
- ♦ **Every Sister of the Holy Family** for her prayers and Faithful support.

- ♦ **Paul Delille** for being a faithful advocate
- ♦ **Family and friends** who know who you are, for your continued support.
- ♦ **St. Columba Church in Oakland, CA** for a beautiful spread in their February bulletin: picture on the cover, her story on a pull out sheet, plus information on the back of the cover.

### SISTERS CONTINUE from page 2



Srs. Sylvia and Carmen with Delille's relatives and friends

Sister Geneva James, with the help of the Associates and her family, told Henriette's story at five Masses at **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lafayette, Louisiana** on the Feast of the Holy Family.

The next destination was **St. Joseph Church in Broussard, Louisiana** where they were told that some of the parishioners had not heard about Mother Henriette,

Scheduled are seven more talks for the Diocese of Lafayette by **Sisters Geneva and Maria**. Two other Sisters: **Laurita Oliver and John Mary Jackson** will join them.

The pastors and parishioners have been overwhelmingly generous, for the Cause, at all of the churches visited.



**Sr. Marie Faubert, CSJ.**, hosted Sisters Sylvia and Carmen in Houston. She decorated her door at **St. Thomas University** to honor Mere Henriette during the year for consecrated life.

Thank you Sister.

# Events honoring Delille from page 1

Pierre, Alicia Costa, Geneva James, Angela Smith, Richard Francis Daigle, and Theresa Sue Joseph. The active participants were: Readers, Marcia St. Martin, Pearl Cantrelle, and Sister Geneva James; Deacon of the Gospel, Graylin Miller; Deacon Harold Vincent; Father Howard Byrd, SSJ, and the Celebrant and homilist, Very Reverend Philip Landry, Local Postulator and Rector of St. Louis Cathedral.



Fr. Byrd, Deacon Vincent, Deacon Miller, Fr. Landry

Adding to the celebration was the beautiful music, with very inspiring songs, rendered by Dwight and Connie Fitch. Sister Lucia Carl sang the *Henriette Delille Song* by Laquita Andrews Baldwin, for meditation.



Selfie by Dr. H. M. Guidry, left, Sr. Doris, Fr. Landry, Pearl Cantrelle, Sr. Sylvia, Marilyn Guidry, Ethel Marie, in corner

The SSF novices, Sisters Mary Francis Bard, Marie Elizabeth Jerry, and Judithmarie Udofia, presented the gifts and Sister Leona Bruner thanked everyone and invited them to the reception. Sister Laura Mercier was the photographer and the food was prepared and served by K L & M Catering.

**Feeding of the Poor** is a daily activity of the Sisters at the Motherhouse; however, once a year the Sisters host a larger event where the needy are invited, not only enjoy a meal, but also to listen to and/or join in the singing and to spend more time with the Sisters.



Happy servers

The activity was held at Ozanam Inn, a shelter for the homeless sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Society. Baked chicken, rice, red beans, green salad, bread and butter, dessert, and soft drinks made up the meal.

A gift bag with a Venerable Henriette Delille T shirt, socks, and toiletries was given to each person.

Associates, Friends of Henriette, and volunteers assist the Sisters.

Not only do they help to serve, but also make contributions.



Singers entertain



Gift bag givers

Photos from Feeding by Pearl Cantrelle



# More good news

**Skulls** from Venerable Henriette’s grave, discovered in 2004 when an exhumation was tried, are now being tested for DNA. We are praying that the DNA will match with one of Henriette’s relatives. If this happens we will have a definite first class relic.

We realize that this takes time, but we will keep you posted.

**Possible alleged miracle** has been reported and our Postulator, Dr. Andrea Ambrosi hopes to open an inquiry soon.

## Sisters Awarded



Holding the award is Sr. Greta Jupiter, Congregational Leader

The Oblate Sisters of Providence, Sisters of the Holy Family, and Franciscan Handmaids of Mary were given the **Sankofa Award** for excellence in education in the Black community by the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX.

Auxiliary Bishop-Elect of New Orleans, Friar Ferdinand Cheri, was presider at the Mass.

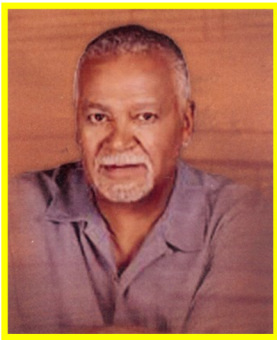
**Joe Sample** died on September 12, 2014 in his hometown of Houston, TX.

Mr. Sample was an accomplished musician who performed nationally and internationally.

He was a good friend to the Sisters of the Holy Family by participating in fund raisers and writing songs for a musical on Mother Henriette’s life.

The Sisters pray for the repose of Joe’s soul, for his family and for those who mourn his passing.

Sr. Sylvia Thibodeaux represented the Sisters at his funeral.



### CORRECTION

*Appearing in the Summer 2014 issue of Servant of the Poor was a poem from an inmate who we indicated was on death row in an Ohio prison. J.M.D. is currently serving a life without possibility of parole sentence in Connecticut. Apologies for our errors.*



This portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. was done by Artist David Ciampichini, of New Jersey. David has done two portraits and a doll of Venerable Henriette Delille.

We honor Martin Luther King, Jr. during this month of Black history and show our appreciation to David by presenting this painting.

## Sister Marie George Henry,

daughter of the late Edgar Henry and Pearl Pollingue Henry, entered eternal life on December 8, 2014.

She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family September 8, 1945, professed first vows March 19, 1947 and perpetual vows on August 16, 1953.

Sister Marie George served the people of God with a listening ear and compassionate heart as a professional educator. She ministered in Houston, TX and various cities in Louisiana: New Orleans, Covington, Lake Providence, Marksville, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette serving as teacher and/or principal. She also served as Community local leader, treasurer, and alumni moderator.

Even in her retirement she served God’s people through prayer ministry at Lafon Nursing Facility. Until her death, she was known for visiting with and praying for both residents and employees at Lafon.

May she rest in peace.



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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

Letters are received from far and near concerning Venerable Henriette Delille. Below are samplings of the contents of these expressions with necessary adjustments to length.

**Greetings in Christ,** I am a physician from Manila. Inspiring is the story of Venerable Henriette Delille, how she took care of the orphaned, the elderly and homeless. She has loved beyond race and color. The Filipines being a country that was placed in a rule of different conquerors also have experienced different kind of discrimination due to our race and color. Her love for colored people is remarkable and warms the heart. She is, however, not known to us Filipinos, and no postulation is available here. In this regard we hope to make connections with her through her relics. We hope

that through her relics many people may pray to her and their prayers may also pave a way for her beatification.

P.J.A., MD Philippines

Please send me more information about Sr. Henriette Delille. Is she a saint yet?

E.M., Bronx,

Peace be with you.....Pace Bene! Please kindly send me some important materials on VENERABLE HENRIETTE DELILLE for an upcoming exhibition of the lives of saints/blessed/venerables/ servants of God next year February 2015 in my parish. I am happy to include her for the first time in this exhibition in conjunction with the year of Consecrated Life 2015. Please send me books, booklets, more prayer cards, posters, medals, relics, anything that's good for the exhibition. Thank you for the great help.

E.C.V., East Malaysia

*Venerable Henriette  
Delille, Pray for us.*

*Servant of  
the Poor*

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