

# Servant of the Poor

## Through Henriette's Intercession

The Henriette Delille Commission Office receives many letters requesting prayers for special intentions: peace in the family, financial aid, healings, employment, housing, conversions, and for other problems in our world.

We also receive letters and oral reports telling about the favors received through Henriette's intercession.

During this year of faith and the new evangelization, we have received reports about how people are making a big turn around, that is, exchanging bad habits for good habits; turning back to Jesus and the Church; and realizing what is really important in life.

You will read a few of these in this edition of *Servant of the Poor*.

Dear Sisters,  
I'm writing to report what I believe could be a miracle toward the beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille.

My nephew, 27 years old, was very ill with both multiple drug addictions and hepatitis C. He was a family "outcast."

I began praying nightly for Mother Delille's intercession and continued this for several months time, especially focusing on her love for "the orphan and despised."

He was tested for hepatitis and none was found and has been successfully in recovery for addiction for one year now, with no "slips." This was after prayer for Delille's intercession. My nephew is now working full  
See **Through Henriette's ...**, p.3

## Celebrations held in Harlem, Dallas, Pasadena, Pittsburgh, Lafayette and NOLA

We honor the day on which Henriette died, November 17. It is a tradition in New Orleans and it has spread to other parts of the country.

Even though there are many observances we were not aware of, we appreciate those held in Harlem with Father Jim Goode and Faye Powell; in Dallas with Friends led by Mary Jane Drndack; in Pittsburgh, with Cecile Springer at the helm; in Altadena/Pasadena, Phyllis Beech; in Lafayette Immaculate Heart; at St. Mary's Academy with Sister Judith Therese adding scenes from the play about Mere Henriette; and the annual Mass celebrated at



Mass at the Motherhouse honoring Venerable Henriette Delille. Pictured, left, Deacon Harold Vincent, Father Chester Arceneaux, Deacon Larry Calvin, and Fr. Howard Byrd

the Motherhouse.

Rev. Chester Arceneaux was celebrant and homilist. He was assisted by Father Byrd and Deacons Calvin and Vincent. St. Augustine Soulful Voices directed by Ms. Carole LeBlanc provided

the beautiful music.

The Fourth Degree Knights of St. Peter Claver added dignity and grace, our faithful Associates, as well as relatives and friends of Henriette Delille were in attendance.

## Technology utilized to promote Henriette

"Calling for the Cause — Friends of Henriette Delille Unite" was the theme of the webinar held September 27, 2013.

Through the expertise, great interest, and love of Henriette Delille, Tracie Boutte, President of the SSF Development Board, made this night possible.

We believe we had 100 or more participants from

across the United States. The webinar opened with Tracie giving the welcome and the purpose.

Our local Vice Postulator, Fr. Philip Landry and our Friend, Fr. James Goode, OFM blessed us with their presence by prayers.

The status of the Cause was given by Sister Doris.

Three "Friends" gave

presentations on best practices for promoting Henriette: Dr. Gail Armant-Lemelle, New Orleans, Ms. Faye Powell, New York, and Mrs. Kim DeLay-Manning, Los Angeles.

In addition, planned events to celebrate Venerable Henriette Delille were given by Carolyn Mbong,

See **Technology**, p. 2

# Technology from page 1

Sisters in the Spirit, Houston, TX; Mary Jane Drndak, Dallas, TX; Millicent Hawkins, Washington, DC;

Cecile Springer, Pittsburgh, PA; Sister Judith Therese, St. Mary's, NOLA and Sister Laura Mercier, NOLA's local Church awareness of Henriette. A thank you from Sister Eva Regina Martin, Congregational Leader was offered.

A strategic plan was given by Tracie Boutte for "staying connected" for growing awareness of Mere Henriette:

- Documentation of devotion and intercession
- Connecting all Friends
- Dedicated web site to the Friends of Henriette Delille
- Social media connectivity

All upcoming events were shared. Explanations about how to grow *connections* among friends and followers of the cause were given.

Before the closing prayer, there was time for receiving a few phone calls. It was an exciting and very beneficial activity.

We thank everyone involved, especially Mrs. An-

toinette Boyle, Tracie's Administrative Assistant and Sister Sylvia Thibodeaux.

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If you would like to be a part of this social media event, contact us by e-mail [delillecomoff@yahoo.com](mailto:delillecomoff@yahoo.com)

and make us aware of your desires.

## Sisters promote devotion to Venerable Henriette Delille



Sister Laura speaks to a group in Los Angeles

The Black Catholic Center in Los Angeles, California invited the Sisters of the Holy Family to give a presentation on the Life of Venerable Henriette Delille in Los Angeles, California on August 10, 2013 at St. Eugene Catholic Center.

Sister Laura gave the presentation to about 250 people, many of whom were taught by the Sisters of the Holy Family.

The audience was happy to learn about our Sisters and the legacy of Mere Henriette.

A total of \$1000.00 was given for the Cause of Venerable Henriette Delille. In addition, we sold over \$500.00 of books, lapel pins, and other items



Christ the King Parish in Jackson, Mississippi, pastored by Rev. Ricardo Phipps, invited Sr. Laura Mercier and Sr. Geneva James to visit and speak with the parishioners at a 9:00 A.M. Mass about Venerable Henriette's legacy. He felt that not enough people know about Mere Henriette nor her religious community, the Sisters of the Holy Family.



Audience in Los Angeles

## Fr. Philip Landry named Vice Postulator for Delille

The Sisters of the Holy Family are so happy to have Father Philip Landry as the local Vice Postulator for the Venerable Henriette Delille Cause. As we shared in our last newsletter, Father Landry was former pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, but now Rector of St. Louis Cathedral.

We acknowledge and appreciate our other vice postulators: Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux, Msgr. Clinton Doskey (RIP) and Msgr. Crosby Kern (RIP).

Father Landry is willing to work with us and has already participated in our webinar. Father said he will do whatever he can to cooperate with us to promote Henriette's Cause.

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

*Ven. Henriette Delille*

# THROUGH HENRIETTE'S INTERCESSION continued - from page 1

time, active with new friends and is now a young man full of health and mental and moral vitality.

I reported a favor on your web site a year ago and now I believe a full blown miracle has taken place with my nephew's life.

I thank you from the depths of my heart for your continued prayers and espe-

cially to Venerable Henriette Delille! God is the healer!

**D.B., OR**

Dear Sisters,  
While I was at the Motherhouse in September I prayed for Mother Henriette's intercession for my 20 year old son who had stopped going to church and stopped praying. For three years Z has been very angry at God be-

cause of a tragic death in our family.

I returned home on Tuesday evening. Later that night a friend of our son's texted me that Z had gone to a youth group meeting and felt God speaking to his heart. He signed up for Bible Study and is wearing his Miraculous Medal again! Thank you Jesus and Henriette! **K.C., Texas**

## NORMAN'S STORY

Norman has shared the following with us. In June 2012 cancer was detected in a portion of my left lung which required surgery. That portion of the lung was removed and I did not need to receive chemotherapy nor radiation at that time but I was checked very regularly

See NORMAN, p.6

## SSFs Travel to join others who celebrate Venerable Henriette



Poster designed by Fr. Rey Culaba for the Mass held in Harlem.



Father Jerome Ledoux, Sr. Laura and parishioners from Our Mother of Mercy Church in Fort Worth, Texas—Far right, Mary Jane Drndak from St. Peter the Apostle



Sister Laura promotes Venerable Henriette Delille's Cause at St. Peter the Apostle, Dallas, TX



The Race and Reconciliation Dialogue Group hosted a Mass, celebrating three African American Sisters who are progressing toward sainthood, at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. These are Venerable Henriette Delille, Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Servant of God, and Sister Thea Bowman, FSPH. In the photo are left, Fr. Taylor, Cecile Springer, representative for Thea Bowman, Bishop Zubik of the Pittsburgh Diocese, Sisters Clare of Assisi and Alicia, and Father Carmen D'Amico.

Sr. Clare of Assisi addressed the congregation telling them of the life, struggles, and legacy of Venerable Henriette.



Taken before the Mass honoring Venerable Henriette Delille at which Sister Laura spoke. Left, Father Albert Becher, Sister Laura, and Deacon at Our Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Irving, Texas



Sister Geneva assisting her priest brother, Father James

## Our Lady's appearance remembered

Our SSF twins, Sisters Canice and Canisius brought this note to me, in Sister Dolores' handwriting.

"Our Lady of Grace, whose statue we have in our convent grounds, condescended to pay an unusual visit for a period of three days which ended on the day before the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, 1975.

Our Blessed Mother requested that for the future, at the

shrine's ground which is sanctified and holy, we should come there to pray and remember her beloved spouse, St. Joseph. That, if we do this, he will protect the Sisters of the Holy Family. She gave us her blessing. She also blessed some rose petals."

We treasure this and believe that we are protected.

**Editor's note:** I do not have answers to your questions. I just believe the story.

Check out our web site:

[www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com](http://www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com)



## Deceased Sisters since 2007



The Newsletter of Summer 2006 featured the last listing of deceased Sisters of the Holy Family. Many readers have sent notes or inquired about several Sisters. With their date of death, the following Sisters are no longer with us:

**Sr. Marie Francine Thomas** (8/12/07); **Sr. M. Mildred Cooper** (9/30/07); **Sr. M. Providencia Cruz** (12/3/07); **Sr. Barbara Marie Francis** (2/12/08); **Sr. M. Theresa Vincent Rousve** (4/22/08); **Sr. M. Delphine Townsend** (9/25/08); (8/23/09);

**Sr. M. de Chantal St. Julien** (4/22/09); **Sr. M. of the Paraclete Alsandor** (7/12/09); **Sr. M. Thecla Bonner** (8/23/09); **Sr. Maddalena Marie Payne** (6/3/10); **Sr. Theresa Wiltz** (12/9/10);

## Fr. James makes Henriette live

Father Thomas James, SVD, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lafayette, LA and brother of Sister Geneva James, preached a powerful three day retreat to our Sisters, November 17-19.

The presentations were loaded with material for thought, spiritual and practical. He emphasized the place of Venerable Henriette Delille in our lives, not only in the past, but also currently.

Father James made us more aware of Henriette's presence with us today and also with those who know her and who ask for her help in their endeavors.

We thank Father James for his knowledge, energy, and love for Venerable Henriette Delille.

*Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are. St. John Chrysostom*



We remembered our 356 Sisters, "those who are where we are now" at a special Mass Nov. 17, Henriette's death date.

**Sr. Marie Fidelia Washington** (12/14/10); **Sr. Mary Camillus Durald** (1/16/11); **Sr. Thomas More Rochon** (2/18/11); **Sr. Margaret Mary King** (5/17/11);

**Sr. Timothy Lancelin** (6/14/11); **Sr. M. Aquinas Judge** (1/11/12); **Sr. Catherine Henrietta Ferguson** (2/20/12); **Sr. M. Madeline Sophie Jolivet** (10/25/12); **Sr. Zita Andrades** (10/25/12); **Sr. M. Anthony Allen** (3/5/13); **Sr. Patricia Ann Williams** (4/23/13); **Sr. M. Bonaventure Jackson** (5/27/13) and **Sr. Evelyn Estrada** (7/17/13).

Please remember our Sisters in your prayers. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



SSFs at the Congregational Meeting, September 23, 2013. In addition to information about the June Chapter, two presentations were given by Father Douglas Doussan and Deacon Larry Oney.

### Favor from Venerable Henriette

Dear Sisters, released.  
I drove myself to the emergency room because I was suffering so much with breathing problems. My whole body was in pain. I was diagnosed with pleurisy. I at once started praying to Mother Delille while in ER. I felt a "great relief" at once.. I was given some meds and

Henriette helped me with my other problems also. First I wanted to cry, but I started praying once again to Mother Delille and I started smiling. The doctor looked at me as if I was crazy. I am a true believer, no matter what the situation may be I know who is in charge. **M.A., LA**

#### THANK YOU!

This is a special thank you for Andre Verrett and his brother, Peter, nephews of Sister Laura Mercier.

Andre constructed and hand-carved a beautiful frame for the portrait of Henriette Delille by Charles Chaisson.

It is beautifully showcased in the Motherhouse lobby.

### Sister Doris says "Thank You."

To all of those who worked hard to keep the Delille Office working beautifully while I was recuperating, I say a big thank you. Specifically, I must mention a few names: Sister Laura, Ms. Barbara Duhe', Mrs. Carolyn Washington, Mrs. Elizabeth Malone, Sister Judith Therese, and Sister Eva Regina.

Even though it's good to be back, it's also comforting to realize that even if one is missing, "life goes on."

Of course, I must also give thanks to almighty God, His Mother, Henriette Delille, all SSFs, my friends, and members of my natural family, especially Kory, and my sister Marilyn.

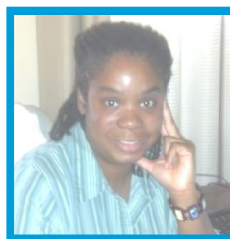
### Another way we honor Henriette

True to our promise to keep Venerable Henriette Delille's legacy ongoing, we served a hot meal at Ozanam Inn on November 16.

In addition to the food and drink, bags with helpful materials were also given to each person.

The choir entertained the group during their meal. We appreciate the Sisters, Associates, and friends who came to help and also those who made great contributions.

### Tina Carter's Bracelet Ministry



Ernestine "Tina" Carter and bracelet

my bracelet. ... I created my first bracelet that contained heroes and she-roes from my beloved Catholic faith that looked like me.

My first bracelets were given to some of the teens that I work with at my parish. They wanted to know who the people were on the bracelets and wanted to share this information with others.

"My journey began with an observation and then a directive. I had always loved bracelets that showed the Blessed Mother, angels and the saints. However, I noticed that the ones that I purchased did not have any of the African saints. "I couldn't find one vendor who carried bracelets with people of color on them. It was at this point that God put on my heart and mind that I should make one.

The questions prompted me to share stories about Venerable Henriette Delille, Mother Mary Lange, Servant of God Augustus Tolton and Venerable Pierre Touissant, introducing these trailblazers to a group of children that may not have heard of these luminaries in our faith."

With the use of a computer And laser printers, I created Tina's email address is [tinalcarter@gmail.com](mailto:tinalcarter@gmail.com).



The Year of "Faith" and the "Family" was celebrated with a Mass and a picnic at the Motherhouse. Everyone enjoyed the Mass, their families, their friends, the delicious food, the fun and games.

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“I believe in God.

I hope in God.

I love.

I want to live and die  
for God.”

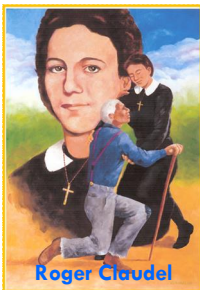
Venerable Henriette Delille

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### *Servant of the Poor*

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### *Staff*

Sister Doris Goudeaux  
Ms. Barbara Duhe'  
Sister Judith Therese Barial  
Sister Laura Mercier  
Mrs. Elizabeth Malone  
Mrs. Carolyn Washington

## Prayers for the Philippines

### TYPHOON HAIYAN

Quite a few of our readers are from the Philippines. Mr. Barrera said the typhoon Haiyan was overwhelming. The estimates of those deceased given by the Philippine National Red Cross were below the actual numbers.

The greatest needs at the time of his report were for food and water. There is a possibility that electricity will be restored by the start of 2014.

This reader lives in the province of Pampanga which was not struck by the typhoon but his province and Archdiocese are assisting in relief efforts for the country's areas that are affected.

In the pictures of the af-

termath of Haiyan many people could be seen clutching their statues and religious artifacts. They are a people of strong faith. We keep them in Our prayers.

### *Servant of the Poor* READERSHIP

**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.**

**As a means of future cost reduction we are planning to have the newsletter forwarded by way of e-mail. If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail, send your request to us at [delillecomoff@Yahoo.com](mailto:delillecomoff@Yahoo.com)**

### NORMAN'S STORY from p. 3

with no changes detected.

It was around the time of the surgery that my friend in New Orleans, a former Maryite, sent me a Henriette Delille T-Shirt. She told me to put the T-shirt on my pillow, never take it off and pray to Venerable Henriette.

I did that. It was not until September of 2013 that activity was detected in that lung again. I am currently undergoing chemo and radiation to shrink the area where the cancer is so that additional surgery can be done if necessary.

I still have the T-shirt on my pillow and I still pray to Mere Henriette. I feel well and I am of good spirit. I will not let this get me down.

N.C. H., TX