

SERVANT of the POOR

Newsletter of Friends of Henriette Delille

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Spring, 2011

Through Henriette's intercession

I believe I have been helped by praying to Henriette Delille during a time of illness. In August of 2009 I was in the hospital with pericardial effusion, which I had surgery for, and after that eosinophilic pneumonia set in which nearly killed me.

I held her prayer card, about her possible consideration for sainthood, that I picked up at our church-Christ the King, in Gerin, NE, most of the time in the hospital. This was at Heart Center of the Rockies in Loveland CO. I also had a prayer for the healing.

I hope this might help. My lungs started improving after this. I am a 39 year old married mother of two children and am so grateful.

JBS, NE

Dear Sisters,

Here are my stories.

Whenever I lose my purse, can't find my keys, forget where I put things etc., I say my prayer to Sister Henriette. Immediately I can find or remember things. These special favors I ask of her are always granted.

I have family and friends who are going through difficult times either with their children, spouses or health. I made copies of her prayer for them to say, and they also have had their requests answered.

I believe in her prayer and will continue to pass it along to those who are in need. I know that she would be pleased

See **MORE PRAYERS**, page 4



Venerable Henriette Delille

Coming Events

April 16, 2011

- ~ Raffle Results 6pm
- ~ Dinner - 11am -6pm
- ~ Motherhouse

June 11, 2011

- ~ Jubilee Celebration - 10am
- St. Maria Goretti Church

June 12, 2011

A Heavenly Concert

- ~ to get funds for the beatification of Venerable Henriette
- ~ Sugar Mill on Convention Center Blvd.
- ~ Featuring some of New Orleans' finest performers and restaurants.

Waiting, praying, getting closer to Venerable Henriette Delille

At this time we are waiting - waiting for news from Rome. Waiting for Mere Henriette to be named **Blessed**. What do we do while we wait? We pray and try to get closer to Mere Henriette. And at the same time, we get closer and closer (hopefully) to Jesus.

While we wait, we also think about the journey that got us to March 27, 2010, the day Pope Benedict XVI declared Mere Henriette venerable.

We began this journey in 1988. Once the petition was accepted, our job was to make Mere Henriette known and to promote devotion to her. Every means possible was used to get this done. Of course, the historical commission did their work. Books were published. Many people began praying through Henriette's intercession for many favors and miracles. Many answered.

By 2005 two tribunals were held: first for the life, virtues, and reputation of sanctity in New Orleans and second the tribunal for the alleged miracle in the

Galveston-Houston Archdiocese.

In 2007, the *Positio*, a compilation and a defense of all the research, was completed by our postulator, Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, which had to be approved by the following.

- ❖ October 7, 2008, seven historians approved the *positio*.
 - ❖ May 29, 2009, nine theologians gave their approval.
 - ❖ March 2, 2010, 15 Archbishops and Cardinals from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints affirmed that Henriette Delille practiced heroic virtue.
 - ❖ March 27, 2010, the Holy Father declared Henriette venerable.
- The research into Henriette's life is now finished with a positive decision
- ❖ 2010, the *Positio* on the alleged miracle was completed.

This *positio* must be studied and approved by

See *POSITIO*, page 2

Venerable Henriette Delille's life, reputation of sanctity, and practice of heroic virtue expands

Venerable Henriette Delille is becoming better known and loved. There are many reasons for this. One reason is that Archbishop Gregory Aymond has included her in the "Family Prayer for the 'New Battle of New Orleans' against violence, murder, and racism."

This prayer is said in all the churches of the Archdiocese at all of the Masses during the Lenten season. The prayer follows:

Our Family Prayer

Loving and faithful God, through the years the people of our Archdiocese have appreciated the prayers and love of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in times of wars, disaster, epidemics, and illness. We come to you, Father, with Mary our Mother, and ask you to help us in the battle of today against violence, murder, and racism.

We implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which gives respect to the life and dignity of all people.

Bless parents that they may form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence.

Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to

help us.

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



In addition, the newly revised book, *Henriette Delille: Servant of Slaves* by Virginia M. Gould and Charles Nolan is making its way through many states. Thanks in part to the publicity on EWTN's *Sunday Night Live with Father Benedict Groeschel*.

Requests for prayers, brochures, and prayers come in almost every day, through regular mail, email, and telephone. In addition, we also receive mail telling us about the favors granted through Venerable Henriette's intercession.

Below are excerpts from Dr. Marie Best in San Diego, California: "Thank you for your gracious and prompt response to my request for literature on the cause of Venerable Henriette Delille. I have often asked the Christ the King congregation to keep the Sisters in prayer. I was so pleased to announce the Mere Henriette's advancement to the VENERABLE stage. A prayer card and



short bio of Mere Henriette were featured in a circular during the Black History Month in our church.

"In addition to Mere Henriette, our exhibit featured Augustus Tolton, Thea Bowman, and other Black Saints. I expect to continue to spread the word as I try to further greater knowledge about our own holy people."

Frequently talks on Mere Henriette are given: recently at Notre Dame Seminary and St. John the Baptist Church in Edgard, Louisiana by Sister Eva Regina; St. Joan of Arc Church by Sister Laura Mercier.; and to the visiting students and sponsors from the University of Oregon by Sister Doris.

Positio from page 1

- ❖ First, two doctors appointed by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.
 - ❖ Then a panel of seven doctors
 - ❖ Next seven theologians
 - ❖ The combined work of the doctors and theologians will be presented to the members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.
 - ❖ The Holy Father will make the announcement for blessed.
- We continue to pray for a "saintful" conclusion.

Incarcerated brother's response to reception of revised book

Tonight I received from you, the beautiful book, *Henriette Delille, Servant of Slaves*. Thank you so much for this precious gift!

Tonight when the tier quiets down, I will delve into the history of your order, your Foundress, and the Church in New Orleans via this book.

I can't thank you enough for allowing me to come closer by knowing you better. I already carry you in my heart, Sister Doris, as well as all of the SSF Sisters, and Barbara Duhe.

To learn your history, I believe, is to learn the foundation of your heart songs: the songs that called you to holy vocations, the songs that well up through love for Henriette, and the grand chorus you all create through works of love and mercy.

Yours is a Christ-like song that goes out to put smiles in the hearts of all who hear it. Thank you for allowing me a happy heart through such friendship

Be assured that all of you are in my prayers, as well as many happy

applications for the beatification of Mere Henriette.

May the Holy Family, who surely must hold you especially dear, fill you with abundant love.

You are loved!
Your brother in Christ,
JDT, OR



We invite all of our readers to pray for our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

Continuing the vision with praise and thanksgiving

After almost six years, the new St. Mary's Academy is a reality. The beautiful \$43 million dollar structure was blessed and dedicated April 4-5, 2011. The Mass, offered by Archbishop Gregory Aymond and assisting priests, was accompanied by beautiful singing and music by St. Mary's students.

An enactment of the history of St. Mary's, written by Sister Judith Therese, was beautifully done.

The Archbishop, priests, many Sisters of the Holy Family, other religious, alumnae, parents, friends, the Mayor, council members, FEMA, State representatives, architects, members of the construction company, almost everyone involved in the restoration- was present and acknowledged.

Of course, the major thank you was given to Almighty God "who makes a way where there is no way" according to Sister Jennie. And the God "who has lots of money" according to Sister Clare.



Photo by Sister Laura Mercier on the day of blessing.

We congratulate Sister Clare of Assisi Pierre, president, Sister Jennie Jones, principal, faculty, staff, and students. We wish them many happy days - years of learning and growing closer to God.

Members of AmeriCorps grow vegetables for Sisters

Under the direction of Mr. Ronnie Moore, four members of Americore-Core, part of the mission of Cornerstone Builders, administered by catholic Charities' Office of Justice and Peace, are growing vegetables for the Sisters.

This program helps to ease formerly incarcerated folks back into society. The Director says that Cornerstone's mission is to reduce violence and recidivism by giving former inmates education, support, and the opportunity to do commu-

nity service.

The Sisters are happy to benefit from this project. Not only for the flowers and fresh vegetables like broccoli, greens, celery, beets, and carrots, but also for the blessings we receive as we give

Sister Charlotte Rubit said that the members who come to the Motherhouse to help have a tremendous spirit of ministry and take great pride in what they do. We are grateful!

Called to minister for Jesus

The Claveries grow gardens all year and give the vegetables to religious communities and the poor. Members of St. Maria

Goretti Church and organizations, they are involved in many ministries.

Some of their activities have included the making and serving of hot vegetable soup to the homeless on the very cold nights and joining over 3,000 volunteers in cleaning and helping citizens in New Orleans since Katrina.

We applaud them and ask God's blessings as we thank them for their goodness to us and to all people they help.



Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Claverie

Thank You! Sisters and Friends

Our raffle for funds for the Beatification of Venerable Henriette Delille was a success.

It was successful because of all of you who supported us. We want you to know that we do keep you in our prayers. Again, **THANKS!**

New Orleans Black Chorale Honors Sisters

At each concert, the New Orleans Black Chorale honor the achievement and contributions of individuals or groups who have made a great impact on the community.

In February 2011 at Xavier University, this group honored the Sisters of the Holy Family. Sister Eva Regina Martin, Congregational Leader, accepted the plaque.



Sr. Judith Therese

Sister Judith Therese Barial Get Awards

Sister Judith Therese received two different awards: "Most Inspirational Teacher" and "for selfless and dedicated work for others."

For the first, Sister was nominated by two former students for being an inspirational and influential part of their secondary education. It was held at Nicholls State College.

The second was from the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Links held at a Jazz Brunch. Enjoying this activity with her, with 500 guests, were Sisters Clare Pierre, Cynthia Marie, AgnesMarie, de Ricci, and Patricia Hardy.

***"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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More prayers answered . . .

and I encourage all to do the same. It will make a difference!

My son was diagnosed with pneumonia and sent home with antibiotics from the emergency room. A day later he was coughing up blood and was brought back to the hospital.

Doctors felt that he might have a blood clot in his lungs and needed to be placed immediately on blood thinners.

I began saying her prayer and within approximately five minutes the doctor came back and said the radiologist had just called to say that he checked his test again and realized it wasn't a clot after all but just a bad case of pneumonia.

My son and I were so relieved! I left her prayer at

his bedside and told him to pray to her daily.

I'm happy to report that he was released four days later and is now back at work. I do believe in miracles and I know that she has bestowed one on me.

L.W., CA

Dear Sister,

On October, 2010, a parishioner and also an Associate of the Sisters of the Holy Family, was diagnosed with several tumors on the brain. She told the sisters at I.H.M., who promised to pray to Mother Henriette, for a cure. She had a number of treatments, We continued to beg Mere Henriette for her. Sometime in February the doctor examined her again. This time the tumor had shrunk and it would not be

necessary to continue chemo therapy or radiation.

She is presently doing very well. Thanks be to God! We are still praying for a complete healing and wish to honor and thank Mother Henriette Delille for this. Please join with us as we continue to pray for her and the Cause of beatification for Mother Henriette Delille.

SSFs, LA

Every day I pray for Henriette Delille's beatification. I have become very close to her and I ask her for help all during the day.

I feel confident that she answers my prayers. Not only am I able to perform my job, but I also experience great peace.

Pray for all of us Mere Henriette Delille.