

The Marianite

Winter 2024

A publication from
The Marianites of Holy Cross



*Celebrating 175 Years
LeMans to Louisiana*

LE TRP MOREAU FONDATEUR de S-CROIX BENIT LES
PREMIERES RELIGIEUSES PARTANT POUR LA LOUISIANE

a message from our Congregational Leader

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On the Cover

The plaque depicts
Fr. Moreau sending the
first Marianites to Louisiana.
You can see it at the
Congregational Center,
Covington.

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go online: www.marianites.org

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WYES



Dear Friends,

The Journey continues as we walk into 2024. For a moment, I invite you to look back in time to 1849. 175 years ago, three Marianites and five Holy Cross Brothers arrived in Louisiana. Each knew both Fr. Moreau and Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours. They had minimal training in meeting the needs of this unknown world! They were young, courageous, and filled with zeal.

Their arrival in Washington, LA and the trip to New Orleans was a four-day stagecoach ride that called for trust in God and each other. The arrival at St. Mary's Orphan Asylum is the beginning of a story of faith and trust in Divine Providence that continues today.

Family was always the Vision of Fr. Moreau! Family continues to be a hallmark of our ministries around the world. As with most families, there are the good days and the challenging moments. Today the Family of Holy Cross consists of 4

Congregations united with the same zeal that enabled ministry in Louisiana to grow.

Faithful to the Mission! Indeed, the first eight had every reason to pack up and return to France. Yellow fever and hunger were two of the many challenges they faced. Today, 175 years later, priests, brothers, and sisters continue to make a difference in the lives of people in Louisiana.

Collaboration with the laity! From the earliest of days, Holy Cross men and women depended upon the good will of men and women who worked side by side in carrying out the Mission. Today, our collaborators in ministry are the backbone of our efforts. Collaborative efforts carry the charism into the future.

Called to be a prophetic presence! Shortly after the Marianites arrived they became aware of the plight of women, especially young girls. In these 175 years, South Louisiana has known the presence of the Marianites. For many years we were known as the Sisters along Hwy. 190!

Resolutely stand with the excluded! The reason we came and the why we stayed has always been the people! We hope that as we grow older and the Congregation gets smaller, we leave lasting marks of compassion and trust in the Hearts and Minds of individuals.

Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours only visited Louisiana once, she was surprised at how the sisters had embraced the culture of New Orleans. She cautioned them to be prudent in the ways of the world. The Marianites have heeded her advice while continuing to be one with the people always attentive to hospitality and compassion.

As we celebrate the many lives that have been part of our journey, we give thanks for the untold ways in which Louisiana has molded us into women and men who daily acknowledge the faithfulness of God in our ever-changing world. May we be transformed as were the eight young religious who stepped on the land we know as Louisiana; knowing that we move forward with God's grace guiding the path.

Believing in the journey,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ann Lacour, MSC". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sr. Ann Lacour, MSC
Congregational Leader

**They were young, courageous,
and filled with zeal.**

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME

Decade of Days: January 20, 2024-January 29, 2024

History is filled with the names of people who forged lasting partnerships. Some are fictional: Romeo and Juliet, Scarlett and Rhett, and Jane Austin's Elizabeth and Darcy. Others came to fame in cartoons and fairy tales like Lucy and Charlie Brown, Beauty and the Beast, Bat Man and Robin. Still, others are flesh and blood folks: Josephine and Napoleon, Abbot and Costello, Michelle and Barack.

Our Catholic Church has also had it's share of women and men who combined their talents, their love of God, and their commitment to bring that love to others. You know 'em: Francis and Clare, Benedict and Scholastica, Vincent de Paul and Louise deMarillac are but a few in a long line of holy people who together led others to Christ and the Church. From their collaborative efforts came forth religious congregations to meet the needs of the time. Thus were born the Franciscans, the Benedictines, the Daughters of Charity, and the Vincentians.

In nineteenth-century France, there was, without doubt, an overwhelming need. The French Revolution had crippled the Church. Schools had been closed, Church property seized, and religious orders suppressed. Into this vacuum came a humble French priest, Basil Anthony Mary Moreau. "His genius," writes Gary MacEoin in his biography of Fr. Moreau, "was he could get people to come together and pool their efforts to accomplish the purpose he proposed." This ability became a reality in his leadership of the Holy Cross Family – Brothers of St. Joseph, ordained priests, and the Marianites.

In 1840 while attending a retreat in a nearby parish with Fr. Drouelle, Leocadie Romaine Gascoin was greatly moved and told her father of her desire to enter religious life. This good and holy man received the news with some hesitation, but in May 1841, he insisted on accompanying his daughter to Le Mans to meet Fr. Moreau.

Although Basil Moreau was Superior of the Good Shepherd Sisters at the time, after much thought and prayer, he announced to Leocadie, "You are for Holy Cross..." Following three

months of prayerful preparation, Leocadie Gascoin became Sr. Mary of the Seven Dolours. In 1845, at the age of 27, she was appointed Superior General of the women's fledgling community. Four years later she was sent to Canada because Fr. Moreau felt that her presence would infuse a more intense religious spirit into the Marianites in St. Laurent, Canada. In

long-distance communication with the Founder spanning 14 years, Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours kept him aware of multiple discrepancies with which she was dealing. Three years after she returned to France, Fr. Moreau resigned as Superior General of the men. How devastating for Mother Mary and the Sisters and matters only worsened as the Sisters suffered

a financial collapse.

The archives highlight much pain and misunderstanding among the local communities, but the bond between Basil Moreau and Mother Mary remained strong until his death in 1873.

For over 40 years now, the Marianites of Holy Cross have set aside ten days each new year to reflect on their lives as apostolic religious women and commemorate the lapse of time between the death of Fr. Moreau (January 20, 1873) and the death of Mother Mary (January 29, 1900). Their witness in faith, hope and love continues to form the Holy Cross Family as 2024 unfolds. The DECADE OF DAYS, a phrase coined by Sr. Mary David Hecker, is a special time of prayer and renewal for Sisters and our MSC Associates, in our fast-paced and ever-changing world.

For Decade of Days prayers over the years, go to marianites.org, Spirituality tab .

"I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance." Ep. 1: 18



TURNING THE TIDE: A Story of Hell, Healing, and Hope

For more than a decade, the Marianites of Holy Cross have actively sought information about HUMAN TRAFFICKING and how to STOP it. We have supported efforts to promote awareness, provide advocacy, and initiate action against this scourge. We've produced the green prayer cards, collected toiletries and feminine products for local safe houses, hosted a workshop in collaboration with the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the University of Holy Cross, joined the Alliance to End Human Trafficking as allies with religious across the USA, published a nationwide update from the organization "STOP TRAFFICKING," placed periodic articles in *THE*

MARIANITE MAGAZINE, and made financial contributions.

WYES exposed the horror of the sex-trafficking trade in Louisiana in a 30-minute documentary, **Turning the Tide: A Story of Hell, Healing, and Hope**.

The program is produced, written, and narrated by Emmy Award-winning journalist Karen Swensen and directed, photographed, and edited by Peabody Award-winning photojournalist Aaron Brownlee.

We approached Karen Swensen when we learned she brought this story to WYES after being informed on the issue by Louisiana First Lady Donna Edwards. Karen proposed a documentary that would not only expose the depth and breadth of the problem, but also the hope that exists thanks to victims turned survivors and a hidden healing center called METANOIA. Metanoia, which translates to "change of heart" is a secret healing center run by five Hospitaler Sisters of Mercy – Catholic nuns who love the girls back to a place of well-being while also providing therapy and life skills. "We just welcome them and love them as they are when they

come," said Sr. Norma Nunez of the Hospitaler Sisters of Mercy.

Former First Lady Donna Edwards made the fight against human trafficking a key part of her outreach work. She not only raised awareness nationwide and helped initiate change through various legislative and educational efforts, but also played an active role in the survivors' healing process. "They deserve for us to stand up for them, to talk about what they're going through, to save them, to bring them back," she says in the documentary. (By the way, in recent years, Mrs. Edwards distributed more than 3,000 MSC green prayer cards at forums she held across the state.)

In a phone conversation with Karen Swensen, she pointed out, "Although our documentary focused on the problem in Louisiana, its main purpose was to show that it happens everywhere. It's not just a border crisis or a city problem; human trafficking is happening in our own backyards." She shared her shock at the statistics her research had revealed. "As a journalist and as a mother," she said, "I had no idea how pervasive or insidious the problem is."

- Human sex trafficking is a 99 billion dollar global industry. (humanrightsfirst.org)...with 4.8 million victims. (Source: *International labor organization*)
- Globally, over 50% of child trafficking victims are recruited by family and friends. (Source: *Harvard*)



*Dani, a survivor of HT
with Karen Swensen*



*Hospitaler Sisters of Mercy
(who run Metanoia) Karen,
Megan, and former First
Lady, Donna Edwards*

University and the Int'l Organization for Migration. Aug 3, 2023)

- A 2016 review of sex-trafficking cases reveals nearly one-third of victims have an intellectual disability (Source: Reid, J.A. (2016). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*)
- An estimated 60% of sex trafficking victims in the U.S. are in the foster care system (Source: *National Foster Youth Institute*)
- 40% of sex trafficked victims in the U.S. are recruited online. 83% are sold online. (Source: *Human Trafficking Institute*)
- 68% of sex trafficked victims wind up in the ER. (Source: *National Human Trafficking Resource Center*)

As many as 90% of those go unrecognized as victims by their healthcare team.
 “It’s a lot easier to sell a human and make money than to sell drugs.”
 – Trooper Amy Juneau, an investigator with the Louisiana State Police

Here is a [link to the documentary](#) and [resources](#) available to survivors:
www.turningthetidefilm.org. In astonishing transparency, the brave survivors of sex trafficking share their

journeys into the depths of depravity, explaining with the clarity of hindsight what made them vulnerable and the dangers that lurk so close to home. It’s a film that will likely leave you angry and frustrated, but also better informed and *hopeful*. The tide is turning. As society becomes more educated on what to look out for, more survivors become advocates, and places like Metanoia flourish and multiply, traffickers face a growing and formidable foe: humanity.



Survivors, Ally and Megan, in front of the LA Governor’s home.

REFLECTION: *What did I learn from viewing the documentary or at least from reading this article? Am I willing to become an “unlikely warrior” through prayer, raising awareness of the issue, being observant and reporting suspicious behavior, and donating to Metanoia or other such service agencies?*

MARIANITES OF HOLY CROSS
www.marianites.org

Daily Prayer to Stop Human Trafficking

5 enslaved in the garment industry.

6 ...for the men who teach their sons to be respectful of women.

7 ...for ourselves that we recognize trafficking in our midst.

8 ...for those who are abducted at sport's events.

9 ...for caregivers and law enforcement.

10 ...for those enslaved in agricultural fields, mines, and factories.

11 ...for the boys lured into gangs who become pimps.

12 ...for the conversion of hearts for those who are traffickers.

13 ...for the children exploited through pornography.

WE PRAY...

1 ...for the women and children that will be sold today.

2 ...for the enslaved restaurant workers in our community.

3 ...for those who survived for they will show us courage and hope.

4 ...for the young men and women who are

5 ...for the men who teach their sons to be respectful of women.

6 ...for ourselves that we recognize trafficking in our midst.

7 ...for those who are abducted at sport's events.

8 ...for caregivers and law enforcement.

9 ...for those enslaved in agricultural fields, mines, and factories.

10 ...for the boys lured into gangs who become pimps.

11 ...for the conversion of hearts for those who are traffickers.

12 ...for the children exploited through pornography.

Marianite Prayer Card.



TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN’ From a pyramid of all male clergy to circles of laity and clergy

For the first time in the history of the Catholic Church, 54 women were among the 363 voting delegates at a Synod of Bishops. Among the 30+ remaining, 23 served as experts and facilitators. Without doubt, the best line from the Synod is “Excuse me, Your Eminence, she has not finished speaking.” At its end, the synod released

a synthesis report brimming with the hope and the promise that the church would be a more listening church. The Synthesis report can be found at <https://www.synod.va/en/news/a-synodal-church-in-mission.html>. A video of the Women at the Synod can be found at <https://futurechurch.org/uncategorized/a-tribute-to-the-women-of-the-synod/>

“Living the Church’s mission... requires a style of presence, service and proclamation that seeks to build bridges, cultivate mutual understanding and engage in evangelization that accompanies, listens and learns.”
Synthesis, 5c



For a Century ‘CHARITY’ is

By Judith Gomila, MSC

Our name is charity, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO). We value every donation received from our generous donors and assure that these dollars go directly to programs that serve the most vulnerable among us: programs like Pregnancy Services that help women “choose life”; Padua House, which provides loving, 24-hour care to the disabled; and Food for Seniors, which assures the elderly do not go hungry.

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, Catholic Charities remains committed to our tradition of providing hope, help, and loving care for the most vulnerable and needy in the eight civil parishes we serve, putting our faith into action every day.

Our holistic approach to programming serves the entire community and meets the full range of human needs. Catholic Charities currently encompasses 23 programs and affiliated ministries. We provide services for housing, homelessness, seniors, children, families, health and behavioral health, immigration, justice, employment, and disaster response.

We sincerely thank all supporters of Catholic Charities and pledge our continued commitment to use every dollar of our resources to support the 73,000 individuals we serve every year.

The above excerpt is from a letter that the President and CEO of CCANO, SR. MARJORIE HEBERT, MSC, had published before Christmas (2023) in the Clarion Herald. Sr. Marjorie has served in this position for 10 years engaging her God-given leadership gifts and creative insights gleaned from her ministries as a Marianite of Holy Cross for over 60 years. Sr. Marjorie served in the ministry of education as an elementary school teacher in New Orleans and Metairie. At age 26, she also served as Principal at Christ the King School in Terrytown. She then became a Regional Superintendent in the Archdiocesan Department of Education. Howard Jenkins, Catholic School Superintendent, quickly noticed Margie’s skills in asking tough questions and offering creative ideas. He wisely invited her to join the staff. In the 1980s she served as Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport. Thereafter she served in various positions on the leadership team for the Marianites of Holy Cross. In 1997, Sister Marjorie was a major player in conceptualizing Our Lady of Wisdom Health Care Center. Later she brought new life as the Vice President of Our Lady of Holy Cross College (now University of Holy Cross).

Sr. Owen Quintana, MSC, remembers Margie as a high school senior at Holy Name of Mary, Algiers, LA. As Coach of the ball teams, Sr. Owen offers these observations, “Marge was a generous, dependable 17-year-old. As our “Molly Bag Girl (team supplies), she was far-sighted in anticipating the needs of the team and was the most precise scorekeeper. Nothing was ever too much to ask of her.”

The literature on leadership that fosters highly effective teams of deeply engaged and motivated employees, identifies diverse qualities, such as accountability, vision, communication, adaptability, gratitude, authenticity, compassion, sense of humor, and self-awareness. Those who work closely with Sr. Marjorie were invited to share their experiences and perceptions of the qualities she mirrors.

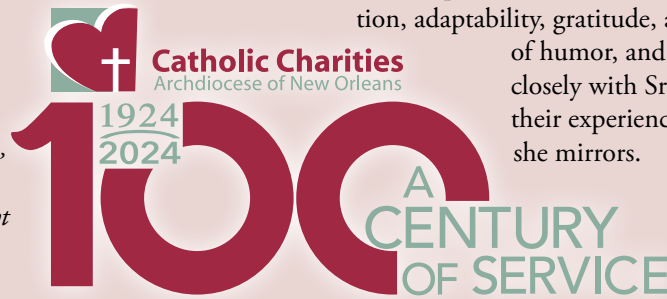
“Sixty-plus years ago I met Marge, then, Sr. Mary Clayton! Over the years she has become one of my closest friends and confidant. We have had

numerous occasions to minister together! The line of our Mission Statement: prophetic presence in an ever-changing world, best describes who Marge is today! Life often asks that we make leaps of faith. Going to Catholic Charities has called forth in Marge profound faith, hope, and trust in our ever-faithful God!”

—Ann Lacour, MSC, Congregational Leader, Marianites

“Sr. Marjorie is a woman after God’s own heart, who leads with love. She is capable, humble, honest, and kind, and her focus is to help suffering humanity by lifting the least. Her commitment and dedication to God and CCANO are the same as Jesus’ to serve and not to be served.”

—Renee L. Davenport, Director of CCANO Food for Seniors



Their Name and Mission

With less than a year on staff, Samuel Rottman, Director of Institutional Advancement, has observed, “Sr. Marjorie leads with humility, care, and compassion. She is inclusive, prioritizing others, especially those who find themselves in need. Her vocation is a gift to those around her and a model of how to live out faith-in-action.”

Loyal readers of THE MARIANITE, are YOU aware that in 2014, Margie was selected as a Role Model by the Young Leadership Council (YLC) and Woman of the Year by New Orleans CityBusiness? She was honored as one of the recipients of the CityBusiness Icon Award in 2019 and 2022. In 2024, Sr. Marjorie was named one of the most influential, involved and inspiring business leaders in New Orleans by BIZ Magazine. Her work ethic keeps her actively involved in a wide network of partnerships. She serves on the Marillac Community Health Centers Board of Trustees and Operation Restoration Board of Directors. Margie currently serves as a member of the Marianite Legacy Committee.



“Sister Marjorie is a true blessing in her role as President and CEO of Catholic Charities. Her dedication and perseverance on behalf of those most in need in our community are widely recognized, but equally important are the grace and calmness with which she handles the many obstacles that regularly arise in pursuit of this mission.”

–Mark Spansel, Former Chairman of Catholic Charities Board

“With a twinkle in those Hispanic eyes, Deacon Martin O. Gutierrez, CCANO VP Mission and Community Engagement, said, “Sister has a special place in her heart for the vulnerable and voiceless in our community.”

He continued, “I have witnessed Sr. Marjorie share God’s love through her words and her actions many times during the years that I have worked closely with her. Believe me, her commitment, energy, and dedication are sources of inspiration.”

We dared to sneak a peek at the Catholic Charities President and CEO, Sr. Marjorie Hebert. She has been with CCANO for 1/10 of the 100 Anniversary years. The traditional 10th anniversary symbol is tin or aluminum, representing the strength and flexibility needed to sustain a long relationship. The gemstone, a modern decade anniversary symbol, is the diamond. Need I say more?

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, we bless you! Thanks for continuing the work of those who have gone before you: re-assessing the signs of the times with vision and good humor, assembling and leading dedicated, competent, caring employees in various roles of service to the wider community of South Louisiana.

Congratulations and Happy 100th Anniversary, Sr. Marjorie and the entire staff of Catholic Charities.



To better appreciate their services to our community, take a tour of the phenomenal CCANO website: ccano.org

Fighting against “America’s Original Sin” by Leveling the Praying Field



By Dr. Ansel Augustine

Whenever I speak anywhere, or whenever I am around people of another race than me, people always ask, “What is up with all that ‘Black’ Stuff?” or “Why does something have to be labeled as ‘Black and Catholic’ and not just ‘Catholic?’” Most of the time these questions are asked out of respectful curiosity, and I thought this would be an appropriate forum to briefly address this question.

Black Catholics have been around since the foundation of the church. Many scholars have said that black people were all through the Bible (from the Old Testament tribes, Simon of Cyrene that helped Jesus carry his cross, to the Ethiopian Eunuch in the Acts of the Apostles, etc). Also, Black Catholics were here when the first Catholics set foot, and established cities, in this country in St. Augustine, Florida in 1513 and Los Angeles, California in 1765. The reason things are labeled “Black and Catholic” is no different than when our brothers and sisters of other cultural backgrounds (i.e. Hispanic, Asian, etc.) uplift their expression of Catholicism. A difference in culture assumes that there is a difference in verbal language, but the “language” among Black Catholics, specifically African-American Catholics, extends beyond our linguistic to our artwork, dress, history, music, and other forms of expression. Although we have been here since the beginning, many times the church has viewed us as “second-class citizens” with the treatment of when we could receive communion and where we could sit in certain churches in the past. Also, at times, the church has viewed our expression of faith as not “authentically Catholic,” or it has ignored our historical contributions to the faith. This is why many of my elders left the faith years ago, but many others chose to stay despite these factors.

This is why positions like mine, Offices of Black Catholics, and organizations like the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver exist to make sure that we, as Black Catholics (African-American, Caribbean, African, etc.) have a place

where our voices can be heard, but also a place for us to share our gifts with the wider church. These programs that are labeled “black” are not a way to separate, but an avenue to enrich and educate all about our rich history. Our history, our dedication to the Faith, our contributions to the church remind all of us that Black Catholics are not a problem to be dealt with, but a gift to be shared.

“Can you come do a workshop on diversity for our faculty and staff?”

“How can we talk to our youth and young adults about racism?”

“Can you put together a list of anti-racism resources that we can share on our website and with the members of our organization?”

These are just some of the questions I’ve been asked over the past 20-plus years of my full-time ministry work.

These requests have come more often since the murder of George Floyd and the racial reckoning that has been facing the world, and specifically the United States of America, since then.

Catholicism is no stranger to racism. In fact, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) refers to racism as “America’s original sin.”

Even though there have been countless documents, prayer services, book clubs, discussions, town halls, and other events concerned with cleansing us of this original sin, it is still prevalent in our society and within our Church.

Thus, in response to the requests I have received, I wanted to create a resource for our Church to have these discussions. It comes in the form of a book, “Leveling the Praying Field: Can the Church We Love, Love Us Back?”.



Mardi Gras Indians in front of Big Chief Tootie Montana statue in Congo Square.

Archdiocese of New Orleans Delegation at the National Black Catholic Congress.



In it, I share some of my own experiences with our Church while also giving various discussion questions at the end of each chapter so that readers (individuals, groups, or classes) can go deeper into the discussion.

The book is for all ages, but there was a specific focus to create a resource for catechists, theology/religion teachers, and campus ministers to use for their ministry with young people. This book is also a companion to the Emmy-nominated “Black Faith Matters” video series I participated in.

Ultimately, 3 years of work went into writing this material, and I was blessed to include personal reflections from two of my friends and mentors: Fr. Bryan Massingale of Fordham University wrote the foreword, and the late New Orleans’ auxiliary bishop Fernand Cheri III, OFM, wrote the afterword.

I have witnessed the sacrifice that these two men have given to remain authentically Black & Catholic in a world that tries to deny the dignity of both. My hope is that this book continues their work.

Hopefully it will also help us, as a society and Church, move from asking questions about, to taking effective action against America’s Original Sin. Action that will create a better world for future generations as we truly level the *praying* field.

Dr. Ansel Augustine is the Director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He is also an Emmy-Nominated Producer and Award-Winning Author. You can learn more about his ministry at www.holyhotboy.info.

TO ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL

“Earth and the life it sustains are precious gifts of God, now radically threatened by climate change and ecological exploitation. Safeguarding these sacred gifts for future generations is a moral responsibility integral to the Family of Holy Cross.”*

In September 2009, this was the opening paragraph of our Holy Cross statement on Climate Change. The document was crafted and signed by the leadership of
Marianites of Holy Cross,
Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross,
Sisters of Holy Cross, and
Sisters of the Holy Cross

The seven-point statement went on to include specific ways the four Congregations pledged to work together as a matter of justice and solidarity. Some of the stated actions include: to foster among their membership, colleagues, and institutions an ethos of care for God’s creation; to resist the culture of consumerism and to reduce energy consumption; to utilize both their financial and human resources to support the development of an ecological economy. Each Congregation, in its own way and interfacing with one another, has followed through on that commitment.

Pope Francis published his encyclical *Laudato Si’* with the appealing sub-title, *The Care of Our Common Home*, in 2015. This urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. In re-visiting our patterns of consumerism and consumption, we can help to heal our earth. This teaching document synthesized Christian tradition with contemporary environmental sciences and social analysis. It proposed that all people on the planet engage in dialogue and become educated on ecological matters and incorporate that into their spirituality.

Pope Francis stated, “Here I want to recognize, encourage, and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home that we share. Particular appreciation is

owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world’s poorest. Young people demand change and question, ‘How can anyone claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded?’ ”

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight” (*Lk* 12:6). How can we not admire this tenderness of Jesus for all the beings that accompany us along the way!

In the eight years since the publication of “*Laudato Si’*,” what has changed is that global climate change has become a climate crisis as the title of the apostolic exhortation indicates. “*Laudate Deum*,” published on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, 2023, is a precisely focused call to action, urging all people of goodwill to make greater efforts about the climate crisis. The exhortation also appeals for increased involvement from civil society to partner with multilateral organizations in holding politicians and businesses accountable to their publicly stated commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With each new weather-related catastrophe, climate-change evidence surrounds us. Quoting from a recent issue of *America Magazine*, “On the positive side the encyclical, [*Laudato Si’*], validated in Catholic Church teaching, our Christian – human – vocation to care for our common home. Thus it galvanized the earth-loving engagement and spirituality of millions of people around the world, giving ecological activists a new lease of energy and sense of purpose as we are becoming more aware of and sensitive to the fragile nature of our home.

Let each of us, with the Family of Holy Cross and people of all faiths work toward the on-going protection of our planet. “Earth and the life it sustains are precious gifts of God.”

**For further information about *Laudato Si’*, *Laudate Deum* and the recent COP28 meeting see: AMERICA magazine, ‘*Laudato Si’* to ‘*Laudate Deum*’: What has changed in Pope Francis’ climate teaching?’*



msc|associates

Cheerleaders Wanted

“A good cheerleader is not measured by the height of her jumps but by the span of her spirit.”



Honestly, most of the readers of THE MARIANITE are not cutting flips, making high jumps, or constructing human pyramids as cheerleaders do today. Muscular football players may lift weights but perky cheerleaders lift spirits. We exhibit a great spirit of love and deep appreciation for the Sisters who taught us in elementary, high school, and college. We want to honor our MARIANITES OF HOLY CROSS and send out a rousing cheer as they celebrate their 175 years in Louisiana, in 2024.

So, who are the proverbial “we” and what are we proposing? WE are Marianite Associates and Holy Angels “girls” who are inviting YOU gentle reader, along with family, friends from Lake Providence to Plaquemines Parish, former MSC students, and graduates from the University of Holy Cross (formally OLHCC), to literally “pitch in”. Join us to match the good works of our MSC Sisters over the years and lend support to our outreach effort. In the name of the Marianites, whose mission statement calls them “to stand with the excluded”, we propose to collect items or checks of any amount. Both will make a difference! Organizations – including, but not limited to: Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, Metanoia (safe house from human trafficking), or Project Lazarus (persons with HIV/Aids) will be among the recipients.

We’ve done our homework! These are the types of donations in demand for the needy.

- **Baby Diapers** (all sizes)
- **Adult Diapers** (all sizes)
- **Toiletries** (soap, body wash, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/brushes, lotion, razors, comb/brush, etc.)
- **Feminine products**
- **Adult white socks**
- **Paper products** (toilet paper, paper towels/plates, napkins)
- **Towels, washcloth**

Should you choose to write a **check**, please make it **payable to the Marianites** for this outreach effort. Mail to 175 OUTREACH - 75520 Hwy. 1081, Covington, LA 70435. Checks/cash will be totaled, divided, and disbursed among multiple agencies. We’ll report in April.

We are offering **two dates** and **three drop-off centers** for your generous response.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18: 1-5 P.M.
SUNDAY, MARCH 24: 1-5 P.M.
NOLA

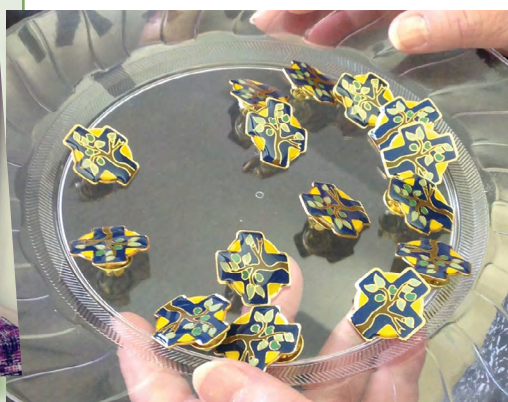
Margaret Duhon Fitzpatrick’s home
 1900 Metairie Court • Metairie, LA 70001

NORTH SHORE
 MSC Congregational Center
 75520 LA Hwy 1081 - Covington, 70435

WEST BANK
 University of Holy Cross
 4123 Woodland Dr. • NOLA, 70131

Ready? OK... Cheerleaders, get the spirit-building going in gratitude for our Marianite Sisters.

Rejoice in the rhythm...Clap your hands ... Open your hearts = Outreach:
Donation! Celebration! Jubilation!



save the date



FAMILY OF HOLY CROSS

Sunday, April 28, 2024
11:00 am Mass
St. Louis Cathedral • New Orleans

— DATES WITH JUDY —

BE BLESSED in 2024

You don't have to place your hand on Mary's heart to get strength and consolation and rescue, and all the other things we need to get through life. You can place it right here on your own heart. —*Secret Life of Bees*

MARIANITES OF HOLY CROSS



Stay in touch at www.marianites.org

Order Guild cards. • Keep up with Marianite activities. • See where Mass is said for you.
Like us on Facebook!



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A Gift That Keeps On Giving

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” –Romans 12:12

MARIANITE GUILD CARDS

Through enrollment in the MARIANITE GUILD, the Sisters invite you to give a gift of PRAYER. It fits all sizes and occasions and one can never have too much spiritual empowerment! A membership in the Guild is a form of intercessory prayer that welcomes the enrollee to share in the Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marianites of Holy Cross. Prayerful remembrance continues every Wednesday from the time of Annual Enrollment (1 year - \$5.00 offering) or Perpetual Enrollment (“forever” - \$10 offering but only available in Sympathy).

Guild Membership is commemorated with a lovely card of your choice. Note some of the options on this page for 2024; you

can go to our website (Marianites.org) for more information. To place an order, please call Evelyn Figueredo at 985-893-5201. Send the card yourself adding your personal message or cards can be sent from our central office at the Congregational Center in Covington.

You might consider enrolling yourself in the Marianite Guild as a wonderful way to embrace the New Year. Offer prayerful support to friends, family, and co-workers for special occasions: funeral, birthday, anniversary, get well, thanksgiving, pregnancy, encouragement, thinking of you.

Enrollment in the Marianite Guild is a gift that keeps on giving!

