

LGBT PERSONS & THEIR FAMILIES - In God's Image. the Gay and Lesbian Faith Sharing Group at Sacred Heart Church, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM in the Parish Annex (behind the school). Our meetings will resume in September. For more information call 908-822-5895, OR contact Fr. John at x125 OR email: sacredheartigi@gmail.com. And look for the IGI icon on the parish website. All are invited to view and share the video presentation at OwningOurFaith.com.

A Note from Sr. Kathleen

Dear friends.

As many of you have been inquiring, I wanted to share with you a little bit about my new ministry and my new convent address. I live with four other Sisters of St. Joseph at Petra House, which is the convent for Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Middlesex. My address is Petra House, 610 Harris Avenue, Middlesex, NJ 08846. I work at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Clinton, where I serve as one of the prison chaplains. (Edna Mahan is the only correctional facility for women in New Jersey.) This ministry is extremely fulfilling and I find myself in awe and gratitude at the work God is doing in the hearts of these women. As chaplain, I work with women of all faith backgrounds, both Christian and non-Christian alike. Immaculate Conception Parish in Annandale is the church responsible for the Sacramental needs of the Catholic inmates, and I work with those volunteers and clergy as well.

When I was at Sacred Heart, I had volunteered at the prison one day a week for almost a year. When I left ministry here, I was offered this position shortly later. God closes doors and God opens them! I am very happy and grateful to be where I am. I continue to remember all of you in my prayers and ask you to pray for me. Let us meet in the Sacred Heart of Jesus! — Peace. Sr. Kathleen Rooney, SSJ

SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S SUMMER DRAMA WORKSHOP PROUDLY PRESENTS: "Once

Upon A Mattress" August 4, 5, & 6 at 7:00PM, and Sunday August 7 at 2:00PM. Roosevelt Elementary school auditorium (air conditioned!) Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children. Come out and see a great show!

NEW JERSEY RIGHT TO LIFE'S ANNUAL CAR AND SHOP RITE GIFT CARD RAFFLE - Proceeds go to New Jersey's largest pro-life organization, whose work saves the lives of the unborn, elderly, and disabled from conception to natural death. Tickets are \$10 each. 1st Prize - 2017 Volvo XC60 AWD SUV valued at \$42,000, 2nd Prize - \$1,000 Shop Rite Gift Card, 3rd Prize - \$750 Shop Rite Gift Card, 4th Prize - \$500. Tickets will be available for purchase in church August 13 & 14.

Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM — SACREDHEARTSPNJ

DAILY INTENTIONS

Sunday That the Gospel message of Joy, Mercy and Reconciliation, may open hearts and minds to Christ

Our Savior

Monday For the Sick and Persons with Disabilities

Tuesday For Those who Suffer Discrimination regardless of its source (Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, National

and Ethnic Origin, Sexual Identify, Social Status)

Wednesday For Military & Emergency Response Services Personnel

Thursday For all Pregnant Mothers and their Unborn Children

Friday For all Civil and Religious Leaders

Saturday For our Families, our Bishop James & his intentions, and

the intentions written in our Parish Intention Book

WITNESSES TO FREEDOM VEN. HENRIETTE DELILLE



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

Servant of Slaves. Witness to the Poor. Declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI on March 27, 2010.

Henriette Delille, a free woman of color, lived in New Orleans in the early 19th century. She affirmed the God-given dignity of persons of African descent during the era of slavery. With immense love and courage, she confronted the dehumanizing conditions that the Black population, slave and free, endured.

Descended of an enslaved African woman and white slave owner, Henriette was born into the precarious class of Creoles or free Blacks of mixed heritage. They lived resourcefully by purchasing property, working as entrepreneurs, and finding ways to creatively secure financial resources. For many women in this situation, such

avenues included concubinage. Rejecting that option, Henriette promoted sacramental marriage.

A devout Catholic, Henriette worked to bring religious education and the sacraments of the Church to the many enslaved as well as free persons of African descent. Consequently, Henriette served as the godmother, sponsor, and catechist for many infants, youth, and adults presented for Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Holy Matrimony.

Using her meager personal resources, Henriette devoted her adult life to exercising Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. She enlisted the support of two other free women of color, Juliette Gaudin and Josephine Charles. Together, they sought and cared for orphans, the aged, disabled, infirm, and indigent in the community.

As honorable as these efforts were, Henriette confronted many obstacles. Most of the ruling class, including Church officials, opposed a Black religious association. There was never enough money. Further, Henriette suffered poor health. However, Henriette's efforts were supported by *zelateurs* – lay men and women donors and associates, both free and enslaved. Named the Association of the Holy Family, the laypeople advanced a common mission: "to teach catechism to the poor and to prepare them for first Communion."

Henriette, Juliette, and Josephine did not wear an official habit, and they made no public vows. Nevertheless, their service, mercy, and love was the catalyst for founding of the Sisters of the Holy Family congregation, which continues to serve the people of God throughout Louisiana and neighboring states, as well as Washington, DC, California, and areas of Central America and West Africa.*

In the midst of struggle, Henriette persevered. She was determined to serve, and her persistence leaves a legacy for all Catholics who seek to overcome racial division in our country.

Venerable Henriette Delille, Servant of Slaves, pray for us!



Cyprian Davis, *Henriette Delille: Servant of Slaves, Witness to the Poor* (Archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, 2004), p. ix, 51.

Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty www.usccb.org/freedom | Twitter: @USCCBFreedom Text "Freedom" to 377377 to receive updates

