

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center**  
**C'est la Vie Apartments**  
**Newsletter – January 2017**  
**A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross**

***Happy New Year!***

Throughout antiquity, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically dedicating the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. In Egypt, for instance, the year began with the annual flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising of the star Sirius. The first day of the Chinese new year, meanwhile, occurred with the second new moon after the winter solstice. The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each New Year beginning at the vernal equinox. According to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He then introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today.

As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, and decorating their homes with laurel branches.

In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (the celebration of Jesus' birth) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation). However, Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

As we welcome in the New Year at *Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home*, we are praising God for the many gifts of 2016. We are grateful for the new staff and residents who have joined our family and for those residents who continue to make Prompt Succor their home. In addition, we have been blessed to welcome residents who have come for a short visit in order to take advantage of our rehabilitation program which is fully staffed with licensed Physical, Occupation and Speech therapists offering various modes of therapy five days per week. With the many gifts and skills of these professionals, we are able to assist with both short and long term rehabilitation needs. As an added benefit, our staff is specially trained in working with seniors to help them reach and maintain their optimum level of performance. All of our services are guided by our mission statement:

***Inspired by the zeal of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau,  
we, Marianites of Holy Cross, along with our staff  
are committed to providing quality, holistic care, and support services  
in a Catholic and Christian environment.  
We share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with those  
entrusted to our care, respecting the uniqueness of  
each individual while promoting and enhancing quality of life.  
We commit ourselves to foster dignity in this life***

*and to provide an environment that supports a holy  
and peace-filled journey to eternal life.*

We also want to add New Year greetings from *C'est la Vie Apartments*, our independent living center for Seniors, which graces the front of our property! Attentive to each resident, the Marianites, administration and staff at C'est la Vie provide our residents an affordable living environment in a friendly and secure community. The lovely walking path around the facility and comfortable outdoor courtyard are wonderful opportunities for sharing with family and friends as well as for quiet reflection. Endeavoring to enhance the quality of life for each resident, opportunities are offered for companionship and independence in a gracious setting which our residents love to call their home.

As we step into the New Year, let it be for each of us a call to be grateful for the past and hopeful for the future. Let it be a time to choose to live in the present moment while making memories as we embrace and reverence the changing seasons, the songs of the birds, and the sacredness of our planet. May we strive each day to be people of peace who appreciate the simplest and most precious gifts of life.

We begin 2017 with the certitude that our God who was with us in the past is preparing the way for us into the future. With confidence that we are held in the Lord's loving care, we wish each of you a Happy, Holy and Peace-filled New Year!

***Michael Purser, Administrator, The Marianites and Staff of PSNH & C'est la Vie***

#### **New Year and New Roof and Facade**

If you have visited the nursing home in the past few weeks, you have seen construction activity in the area of the original two wings. This part of the facility was built in the 1960s with a flat roof. The roof has served us well for a long time but now is in need of major repairs. After considering many options related to repair of the roof, it was decided that the best thing to do was to put up steel trusses and pitch a new roof on top of the existing flat roof. The original entrance to the nursing home is also being repaired and the exterior area is being refurbished. When all of this is complete, all the structures will have a similar roof structure and exterior facade.

The construction is projected to take approximately six months. During this time, we ask that you avoid going near the construction sites and that you park in other spaces on the property including the area adjacent to the Marianites Archive Building.

#### **Celebrating Birthdays in January**

A. Berard 1/26

J. Duncan 1/12

M. Fox 1/05

M. Landry 1/22

D. Martin 1/27

E. Pitre 1/07

Sr. M. G. Pusateri 1/10

M. Ragsdale 1/06

F. Venable 1/31

#### **URecently Deceased ResidentsU**

Fr. Thomas Tierney, SJ 12/6/2016

Cecile Berube 12/11/2016

Ames Robin 12/23/2016

John Reinert 12/25/2016

**954 E. Prudhomme St., Opelousas, LA. 70570**

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

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### ***Marianites of Holy Cross ~ 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

January 20, 2016 ~ January 20, 2017 the Marianites of Holy Cross celebrate 175 years as a Congregation of women religious. In 1838, Father Basil Moreau worked with a group of devout laywomen who wanted to be of service to the people of Le Mans, France. These sisters became the Marianites of Holy Cross in 1841 when they pronounced religious vows and received their rule of life from Father Basil Moreau. At first, the Sisters assisted the Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross in France, also founded by Fr. Moreau. They began their service by doing domestic work and then were trained as nurses and teachers as their ministries quickly extended by the borders of France. From their origins, the Marianites were dedicated to Mary and in particular to Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows, or as she is also known, Our Lady of Seven Dolors. Today, under the patronage of Mary, the women of Holy Cross form 3 distinct congregations: Marianites of Holy Cross, Sisters of the Holy Cross, and Sisters of Holy Cross. Together with the Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross they minister in Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia. They are engaged in a variety of ministries fulfilling their commitment to continue the mission of Jesus Christ after the example of their founder, Blessed Fr. Moreau.

***Prayerful congratulations, Sisters,  
on 175 years of service to the people of God!***

### ***Let there be light!***

In many traditions lighting a candle is a sacred action. Often, this simple action declares more than words can express. It may signify gratitude, grief, hope, happiness, relinquishing pain and embracing new life. Sometimes a candle is lit in a private space; at other times, it is enkindled in a public gathering. Whatever the setting, it is a moment to slow our pace, to connect to inner stillness, to focus on the light casting out the darkness. Some spiritual writers explain that if we regularly focus our attention on a holy desire for a short time each day, an inner process of change and transformation begins in our hearts.

As we begin 2016, we could initiate a new family tradition. Ask each family member to choose a candle and before he/she lights the candle, have each one share their dreams and hopes for the New Year. Leave the candles in a prominent place in the home as a reminder of each person's aspirations. At special times during the year, like a birthday, re-light the candles and share together how the journey of 2017 is leading to the personal dreams expressed at the beginning of the new year. ***Let there be light!***

## **Celebrating Birthdays in January**

D. Martin 1/27

E. Pitre 1/27

M. Ragsdale 1/06

L. Says 1/15

## **URecently Deceased ResidentU**

N. Harris 12/18/2015

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### **Brother André**

January 6<sup>th</sup> is the feast of Saint Brother André Bessette who is the first canonized saint in the Family of Holy Cross Priests, Brothers, and Sisters. Even before he was canonized in 2010, his reputation for holiness crossed frontiers and influenced generations of people. Early in his religious life as a Holy Cross Brother, he was assigned to be doorkeeper at College Notre-Dame in Montreal, Canada. As doorkeeper, he soon became known for his humility and faith in God and welcomed thousands of distressed people in need of hope. He listened to them and recommended that they go to Saint Joseph in whom he had full confidence. With his prayerful and faith-filled assistance, miraculous healings took place and countless hearts turned toward God. Today, Saint Brother André continues to be an inspiration and a friend for women and men around the world of various faiths and walks of life. *Saint Brother André pray for us!*