

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility
C'est la Vie Apartments
Newsletter ~ February 2020
A ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross

Happy Valentine's Day!

Each year on the 14th of February, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged all in the name of St. Valentine, a Catholic saint who lived in the third century. The facts of the life of St. Valentine are shrouded in legend. One story tells that he was arrested on orders from the Roman Emperor for being a Christian and that he actually sent the first "valentine" greeting.

The legend explains that while in prison a young girl, who may have been the jailor's daughter, would visit and encourage him. They fell in love and before his death it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine." Although the history of his life is unclear, each of the stories emphasizes Valentine's appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and beloved figure.

Today images of hearts, flowers, doves, winged cupids reflect the sentiments of this commemoration. While each of these objects has meaning attached to it, we are blessed to have symbols of affection and friendship present on our property each day of the year in our residents who live in our apartments which are affectionately known as "*C'est la Vie.*"

C'est la Vie Apartments

Traveling east down Prudhomme Street past Opelousas Catholic School, you might miss the apartments nestled behind the pine trees. Thirty-four apartments for Senior Citizens are surrounded by a walking path and individual patios which proudly display a variety of seasonal plants and flowers. Located on the same property as our nursing home, C'est la Vie Apartments provide a unique and enriching environment. The apartments offer gracious living in a caring and Christian environment.

Each of the thirty-four units includes a fully equipped kitchen and central air and heat. The outdoor courtyard invites residents and visitors to sit and relax while enjoying the beauty and majesty of God's creation. Invited to participate in the spiritual and cultural activities at our nursing home on the same property, each resident is able to choose his or her level of involvement. There are also activities offered at C'est la Vie including Bingo, card and board games, holiday and birthday celebrations. In safe surroundings, residents are offered the independence and freedom to live life to the fullest: *C'est la Vie!* To schedule a visit, please call Sr. Ann Louise Arno, Coordinator, at 337-942-8154.

□Birthdays in February□

<i>G. Aucoin</i>	<i>2/20</i>
<i>Sr. A. Donnenfelser, MSC</i>	<i>2/19</i>
<i>H. Fontenot</i>	<i>2/08</i>
<i>E. Jarrell</i>	<i>2/18</i>
<i>C. Lalonde</i>	<i>2/12</i>
<i>A. LeBouef</i>	<i>2/25</i>
<i>Sr. M. Mallet, MHS</i>	<i>2/01</i>
<i>C. Vallee</i>	<i>2/12</i>

Residents Recently Deceased

Sr. Shirley Anthony Richards, MHS

1/11/2020

Phillip Zernott

1/12/2020

May their spirits rest in the peace and joy of the Lord!

February 11th – World Day of the Sick

When we, or those we love, become sick, everything changes. Routines are upended, roles are changed, and the future seems uncertain and sometimes it is forever changed. February 11th is the World Day of the Sick, a commemoration introduced by Pope John Paul II over 28 years ago. It is one way for us to offer special prayers and outreach for those suffering from any type of illness.

There are so many kinds of grave suffering: incurable and chronic diseases, psychological diseases, situations calling for rehabilitation, conditions requiring palliative care, numerous forms of disability for people of all ages. In each situation, what is needed is a personalized approach to the person and to their families, not just of curing but also of caring, in view of an integral human healing.

In experiencing illness and suffering, individuals not only feel threatened in their physical integrity, but also in the relational, intellectual, affective and spiritual dimensions of their lives. For this reason, in addition to therapy and support, they need care and attention. In a word, they need love. At the side of every sick person, there is also a family, who also suffer and who are in need of support and comfort.

Jesus does not make demands of those who endure these situations of frailty, suffering and weakness, but offers his mercy and his comforting presence. He looks upon wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person. That gaze embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, disregarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experience his tender love. “Come to me, all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light!” (Matthew 11:28-30) The day and this month is an important opportunity for us to reflect on the spirit of our caring for those who are sick as well as those who provide care to them. As part of our reflection, we offer this prayer:

Tender and merciful God, you watch over your creatures with unfailing care, keep us ever in the safe embrace of your love. We bring before you those suffering in mind, body and spirit. Touch and make holy their suffering. Give them the strength of your power and the stillness of your peace. Minister to them through the compassionate service of others. Fill those who care for them with your strength, courage, and joy for the good they do in your name. Amen.

MSC History and Heritage

Memorial of the Approbation of the Constitutions of the Marianites of Holy Cross

This month we commemorate the approval of the Constitutions of the Marianites by the Vatican in Rome. The Constitutions rooted in the Gospel, in the values of apostolic religious life, and in the spirit and charism of our Congregation are the expression of the will of God in our lives as Marianites of Holy Cross.

In her 69th Circular Letter in January of 1886 announcing the **final** approbation of the Constitutions, Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, superior general, exhorted the Sisters: *“It is an honor, indeed, for us to see what many have longed to see and what those who come after us will look upon with joy.... The great favor of Approbation brings with it an obligation of gratitude making our lives a continuous act of thanksgiving. Please understand me, I do not mean a prayer of thanksgiving, but an ACT. Promise this to God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit....”* (Circular Letter #69)

While many difficulties marked the beginnings of our Congregation and many endeavors seemed hopeless, the approbation of the Constitutions reaffirmed the hope of these first sisters and encouraged them to pursue enthusiastically the foundation of our spiritual family. Today we face challenges of different sizes and proportions. As we journey with our present call to fidelity to our Constitutions, may our lives be rooted in God’s providential care of us and be that ACT of thanksgiving which flowed from the heart of our first superior general. *Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, hold us in your prayer before the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen.*



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