

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

**Marianites of Holy Cross – 179 Years of Service: August 4, 1841 – August 4, 2020**

As the Marianites celebrate 179 years of apostolic service, we gratefully remember our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau (1799-1873). He was born in France following the French Revolution. During the Revolution, Church property was seized by the government, priests were arrested and executed, and religious communities were expelled. The departure of religious communities resulted in the closure of many schools and church parishes. As a result, many in France suffered the loss of formal education and faith formation.

Following his priestly ordination in 1821, Father Moreau began to seek ways to respond to these pressing needs of the people of France. He organized a group of Auxiliary Priests from his brother priests in the Diocese of Le Mans. These Auxiliary Priests responded to the needs by preaching parish missions, by instructing the youth, and by teaching in newly developed seminaries.

Father Moreau also had responsibility for the Brothers of St. Joseph who earlier had been founded by Father Jacques Dujarié for the education of young boys. For the sake of their common mission as educators in the faith, Father Moreau joined together the Brothers of St. Joseph and Auxiliary Priests on March 1, 1837 in the Fundamental Act of Union thus uniting the two societies. The newly established Association of Holy Cross took its name from the Sainte-Croix neighborhood in Le Mans in which it was founded.

However, Father Moreau's vision for Holy Cross was not yet complete. In 1838, he gave a rule of life to a group of devout laywomen. On August 4, 1841, these women became the first Marianites of Holy Cross when they received their religious names and the religious habit. From their origins, the Marianites were dedicated to our Mother Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows or Our Lady of Seven Dolors. The first woman in leadership, Léocadie Gascoin, received the religious name Mother Mary of Seven Dolors. In the beginning, the Sisters assisted the priests and brothers by doing domestic work. However, due to the pressing needs for education and health care, the Sisters were soon trained and then ministered as teachers and nurses.

Today, 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, religious of Holy Cross 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 in the spirit of Fr. Moreau.

☪Celebrating Birthdays in August☪

F. Breaux	8/02	Fr. J. Paul	8/16
Sr. M. Cervantes	8/26	M. Robert	8/08
M. Dupré	8/07	W. Sibille	8/18
L. Fontenot	8/02	I. Speyrer	8/16
J. Matte	8/22	I. Wohlers	8/25

**Resident Recently Deceased**  
Sr. Marie Michelle Geerken, MHS 7/18/2020

### **Window Visits at PSNH**

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected everyone's life situation and residents are especially affected by their isolation from their families. To offer some degree of connectivity, we have been encouraging window visits. We are blessed with our large windows and ground level access. We want to keep the window visits safe so please remember to wear a mask and do not ask the resident to open the window and hand anything to the resident through the window. All of these are infection control measures.



We offer some helpful hints to make the experience more enriching for families and residents.

1. Ensure that a window visit is right for your loved one. Will he/she understand why you are outside the window? Is their vision clear enough to see you and their hearing acute enough to listen to you? Do they need a staff person to be with them during the visit to assist with the process?
2. If you bring a sign for the window, ensure that it is written in large letters and simply stated. Secure it to the window but not in such a way to block the resident's view. Remove it in about a week as the heat distorts the message. Bring some window cleaner to remove any sticky tape from the window as the tape also distorts the resident's view.
3. If your loved one needs assistance with a cell phone during the visit, please arrange this ahead of time so that someone is assigned to render the assistance. If you need the use of a staff cell phone for connection with the resident, please be considerate and limit the time of the call.
4. Share short stories and family updates with the resident. They want to know what is going on in the family. Include humor and funny stories that will brighten their day. Refrain from discussing issues that will cause them concern or issues which they cannot fully understand. Start with the positive, continue with the positive, end with the positive!
5. For many residents, their attention span is usually about 20-30 minutes so plan your visit with this in mind. When possible, avoid late afternoon and evenings. During the day, they have more energy to process the visit and also to process your departure when the visit is over. Refrain from making promises about the specifics of the next visit. Keep this information general, e.g., we will be back in a few days.
6. We are having small group activities during the day so if your loved one is involved in one of these activities, e.g., Bingo, you would want to visit at another time as they treasure these activities!
7. If you bring personal items when you visit, please wipe them off with antiseptic wipes and put them in a plastic bag with the resident's name on them. They need to be left on the front porch on the table. Explain to your loved one what has been left and that it will probably be delivered the next day.
8. If your loved one enjoys reading or puzzle games, these are good items to bring when you come to visit. We are doing one time use of these items for sanitary reasons and once he/she is finished with it the item will be discarded so an ongoing supply is helpful.
9. If your loved one enjoys a favorite type of music; you can bring a small CD player and their favorite CDs and these will be marked and placed in his/her room. Music has been shown to be very helpful for residents with dementia especially music that is known by them from their earlier years. (*Resource: Alive Inside, a film by Michael Rossato-Bennett*)
10. In between window visits, send cards of encouragement and humor! Both are important and our residents love to receive mail! Again, make sure the writing is large and clear. Of course, nothing can compare to hugging your loved one tight and holding a hand. However, a

window visit can be helpful and assist to mitigate the loneliness and uncertainty you and your loved one are experiencing.

Let us know what we can do to assist and let us remain united in prayer.

954 E. Prudhomme St.

Opelousas, LA 70570

PSNH – 337-948-3634

C'est la Vie – 337-942-8154

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

[www.marianites.org](http://www.marianites.org)

