

That Will Be \$1.00, Please!

Sr. Judith Gomila, MSC



I grew up devoted to Woolworth's five and dime. My allowance could stretch from the candy to the jewelry counter and over to the stationery aisle for poster paper and I'd still get change for the gum machine. Aaaah...were those the good old days? 'M'm'm now there's the Dollar Tree, Family Dollar, Dollar General... to name just a few. Of course I'm speaking about the modern rash of self-serve, cash and carry neighborhood discount stores in low and middle-income neighborhoods where low-overhead and good quality can stretch your money.

This is not an article, however, about being an entrepreneur with keen interest in merchandising or exercising any expertise as a bargain hunter. I'll leave those skills to others. Rather, I'd ask you to consider, both Marianite Sisters and our MSC Associates, what \$1.00 can do if we pool our efforts and our finances for a greater good.

Currently the Marianite Associate Steering Committee is following up on two outreach service projects. The first project is to erect a Peace Pole to enhance one of the lovely gardens at Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Located in Opelousas, Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home and C'est la Vie Independent Living Center are ministries of the Marianites of Holy Cross. The non-profit facilities are designed to meet the needs for long term health care, short term rehabilitation services and independent living for seniors in a spiritual and loving environment. Residents, visitors and passers-by will be reminded of Christ's message, "My peace I give to you..." (John 14:27) as well as the cause of world peace.

The second outreach project is directed toward Our Lady of Holy Cross College. Founded in 1916, it is located on the West Bank of the Mississippi River minutes from downtown New Orleans. OLHCC, another ministry of the Marianites, offers smaller classes, a faith-based atmosphere and personal attention from a responsive team of professionals who, in the spirit of Blessed Basil Moreau, seek to educate both the minds and the hearts of their students. The MSC Associates would like to sponsor a bench in the newly created Labyrinth Meditation Courtyard.

Our Associate branches are spread across Louisiana and beyond. Our spiritual union gives rise to action and "faith and love pass into our hands to direct our work." (Moreau's Sermons, p. 89) Please consider sending \$1.00 to assist in these worthy service projects suited to the needs of both of our community-owned institutions as well as to the geography and physical capabilities of our MSC Associates and Sisters. In these difficult financial times, together we can s-t-r-e-t-c-h our dollars for long-term improvements. When you have the opportunity to see the results of these projects, you'll be more pleased than getting a bargain at the Dollar Store!

Please send to: Associate Outreach, 1011 Gallier Street, New Orleans, LA 70117