Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the universe, who have made all things good and given the earth for us to cultivate. Grant that we may always use created things gratefully and share your gift with those in need, out of the love of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

Amen
September, 2018

Dear Friends,

On the last weekend of July the MSC Leadership Team traveled to South Bend, Indiana to participate in the Sunday Mass celebration of the arrival of the Marianites 175 years ago… remember there were no Sisters of the Holy Cross (1869) or Sisters of Holy Cross (1883). We were all Marianites! I had the opportunity to do a Reflection at the Mass. I share it in this issue of the magazine, believing that the history tells us so very much about the early days but it is also an invitation to each of us to be about service.

May, 1843 the Departure Ceremony:

One bright May morning, a little company of four sisters set out from Le Mans to join the Holy Cross colony in the New World. As the stagecoach drove away, Mother Mary of Seven Dolors whispered to them a last word of counsel. Sr. Cenacle waved, wishing she could go with them. Sr. Compassion pressed into one of the sister’s hands a little statue of the Blessed Mother, saying confidently, “She will take care of you.”

In July, 1843, four women arrived at Notre Dame du Lac… they were young, they were eager, they were filled with the Spirit of a young Congregation… zealous to share faith, to build the Church in the wilderness of America, to fulfill a dream of winning souls for Christ in America.

Sisters Calvary, Bethlehem, Nazareth and Sacred Heart, having been sent by our Founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, were responding to two letters stating “the Sisters’ presence is so much desired here”. These four women along with three Holy Cross men – one Brother and two Priests were willing to spend their lives in service.

The reading from the Book of Kings speaks of using the first fruits and grains – trusting God that what was necessary was already there and furthermore there would be leftovers. I wonder if our four sisters ever dreamed that their arrival would grow into this magnificent chapel where we share Eucharist today but more especially where we continue to be fed that we might feed others. In a world where there is so much need, we have a great deal to give. It may not seem like much to us but when it is shared it becomes more than we can ever imagine. The miracles worked by Jesus and Elisha needed someone to come along and offer what they had. Our generous God still needs us to do the same and still guarantees that if we do, great things will happen!
How often did our sisters pray, “Feed us, O Lord, and answer our prayers!” And for those of us gathered today, do we believe that we are being fed at this table? Do we share the good news of answered prayers? From the time of our baptism, we have been called! From our experiences of Church and community, we have been called! Throughout our lives we have been, are being, and forever will be called to be part of the body of Christ. Do our actions or lack of actions suggest we are worthy of such a calling?

Paul tells us to bear with one another through love. We need to work on seeing the goodness within the rest of the members of the body. In love, let us work to build others up, rejoice with what is good, and hurt when others experience pain and suffering. We read in the Chronicles of the first 100 years: “Rendering services in a hundred ways, and making their influence felt in creating a home-like atmosphere, these devoted pioneer Marianites performed incredible labors.” Do we think of others and their needs before our own?

John’s Gospel notes the detail that the bread blessed and shared with the crowd are barley loaves. This is the food of the poor. It reminds us that God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve the poorest among us.

The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy’s offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labors, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist. Our celebration is communal. It is more than just me or you! It is us!

Today as we look back and remember the arrival of our sisters, we are also commissioned to look forward:

Trusting God and each other – we have been blessed in abundance – today the Family of Holy Cross stretches around the world. While we are four congregations – we are one Family... trusting a God who is infinitely generous. We continue to discover the Vision of our founder who insisted that hearts and minds be transformed!

Believing in answered prayers - those seven individuals who arrived in a new world saw their prayers being answered....I believe that like them we awaken to a new world each day trusting that our prayers are answered when people like you and me join hands around the table with faith that there will always be enough and realizing our God gives more than we could ever imagine.

Loving in ways we never dreamed possible! Close your eyes for a minute and consider the ways in which you have been used by our God to be a vehicle of LOVE!

Each time we are sent forth from Eucharist we have been transformed into an image of God.... Let your life be a walking, talking image of Hope.

The challenges 175 years ago were different but our sisters and brothers were nurtured at the Lord’s Table... Today as we celebrate Eucharist we join with all who have gone before us and all who will follow us that our world may know zealous individuals who join together to win souls for Christ.

Your Marianite sisters remind us that today, like long ago, Mary, our Mother, is caring for us.

Sr. Ann Lacour, MSC
Congregational Leader
Marianites “Live Out”
The Mission Statement

The burning desire of the heart of Rev. Basil Moreau, founder of Holy Cross, was to help others. However, it was not just the act of helping that motivated him. It was the attitude of zeal that empowered him. He had a hunger in his heart for mission, an incarnational care and love.

The mission statement of the Marianites affirms that we are “to incarnate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ” and while “called to be a prophetic presence in an ever-changing world, we resolutely stand with those who are excluded.” The Marianites have a long history of serving those in need. Responding to the needs of the times with zeal continues today.

Two of our Sisters, Marjorie Hebert and Beth Mouch, have provided consultant services in the planning and development of a special project, a 100-bed homeless shelter newly opened on the second-floor of the former Veterans Administration Hospital in downtown New Orleans. The facility is a low-barrier shelter, referring to the lack of a sobriety requirement, entrance fee or minimum stay. There are no religious expectations or forced morning departures that other overnight shelters require. Access is 24-7.

Sr. Marjorie’s involvement with the shelter is to oversee Catholic Charities’ Social Services provided to the clients. A CCANO social worker will work with frequent emergency room users, many who are homeless. Clients will be assisted in accessing doctor’s appointments, having prescriptions filled, acquiring counseling services and finding transitional/permanent housing. The Health Guardians staff will assist clients in developing and monitoring individual care plans that will assist in improved health care and minimize visits to emergency rooms.

Sr. Beth will provide meals for those at the shelter. St. Jude Community Center will continue to serve breakfast and lunch to their clients at the North Rampart Street facility.

The directive Jesus set forth to have compassion and to strive to alleviate another’s misfortune is seen explicitly in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The “enfleshment” of these works are seen each day at New Orleans’ low-barrier shelter. “Whatsoever you do for the least….YOU DO FOR ME!

From the cover

Season of Creation
September 1 to October 4

This initiative is part of the Union International of Superiors’ General Campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet.

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation. It is celebrated by Christians of all traditions, and the leaders of faith traditions have encouraged the faithful to participate.

The theme of this year’s celebration is “walking together.” As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are on a pilgrimage to better care for creation.

“In walking together, we follow the role of Jesus, who walked with friends on the roads around Jerusalem.”

Let us strive to more deeply understand the lessons Jesus taught us through creation - the lilies of the field, the grain of wheat, sheep and shepherds, the fig tree, and so on. Welcome the opportunity to awaken anew to the wonders of the Earth, our common home, as Pope Francis reminded us in Laudato Si. For more info: SeasonsofCreation.org
Sr. Clarita often recounts an incident from her days as Instructor at the University of Holy Cross when she taught a course in Louisiana History. Many of her students were teachers who had recently moved to the state and this course was a requirement. They were not in a good mood, especially since the course was conducted on a Wednesday afternoon after a long day in their classrooms. Yet, something strange always happened around the third or fourth class. Someone would say, “This is great. Who else has pirates and octoroons and Creoles of Color!” How true! Louisiana does have a colorful, rather strange history.

When it was announced that New Orleans would be celebrating its Tricentennial in 2018 she thought it would be a good idea to offer a course in the history of our city. She realized she had more than one opportunity to do so. She was presently meeting with three groups: the residents of Chateau de Notre Dame (Women in Scripture), senior citizens at Holy Angels Apartments (at their monthly meetings) and Keepers of the Faith, a group of women parishioners at Holy Spirit Parish (Parables of Jesus).

The three groups have been meeting on the history of the city since February. Topics have included the importance of the Mississippi River in the development of the city, the establishment of the city by the French, the passage of the colony to the Spanish, the Louisiana Purchase, the contributions of immigrant groups which have come to the city, the War Between the States, the Reconstruction period and the influence of the Catholic Church in the region.

There will also be “lagniappe” sessions on items which make the city unique such as the celebration of Mardi Gras, our local expressions (Where ya at?), the architecture of the city, our burial rituals, our cuisine, groups such as the Mardi Gras Indians, and New Orleans music.

The history of New Orleans is a story of courage and resilience. Its citizens have survived wars, invasions, epidemics, poverty, hurricanes and flooding, among other things!

The classes have been well received. Mary Liuzza, a resident of the Chateau, finds the classes "extremely interesting". Mary says, "I’ve lived in New Orleans all of my life but I’m learning so much I didn’t know. I look forward to the sessions and I wish the classes were held more than once a month." Rosie Ryan of the Keepers of the Faith commented, "We’ve been celebrating the 300th anniversary of New Orleans at our monthly meetings dedicated to educating ourselves on the history of our great city. Sr. Clarita has spiced traditional history with little-known facts, very interesting and some quite humorous. We’re learning a lot and hopefully becoming more tolerant women as we understand what transpired in our city's past.”

Sr. Lillian Pawlik, OSB, a resident of Holy Angels Apartments and a San Antonio transplant, observed, "The lecture series is interesting and so informative. What a unique and colorful history we have. No wonder we are such a unique and colorful city today.”

Sr. Clarita says, "I can’t take the credit. It would be almost impossible to conduct a boring class on this city. There is so much color and vibrancy and joy.”

Chris Rose writes in his work, 1 Dead in the Attic: Post-Katrina Stories, that he received an e-mail from a reader, Judy Deck in which she stated, “If there was no New Orleans, America would just be a bunch of free people dying of boredom.” How true, who else has second lines, parades all year long, pirates, octoroons and Creoles of Color? Tennessee Williams would agree. He wrote, “America has only three great cities: New York, San Francisco and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland.”
At the annual assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), held August 7-10, in St. Louis, approximately 800 participants explored the assembly theme of “Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion.”

The assembly focused on the urgent need to foster communion and connection in a world plagued by polarization, division, and fractures of communion. Speakers explored insights from new understandings of Trinitarian theology and how those insights might help in the creation of new and more effective ways of strengthening and supporting the global community.

Our Marianite Leadership Team was part of the assembly that unanimously recommitted to its 2016 assembly resolution which states:

In the presence of constant and painful reminders of the deep roots of racism in our country, we the Leadership Conference of Women Religious reaffirm the 2016 assembly resolution and pledge to go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.

Following the passage of the resolution, drums punctuated a silent march as participants demonstrated their commitment by leaving the meeting area and walking to the steps of St. Louis’ Old Courthouse where Dred Scott sued for his freedom in 1846. There, sisters stood in silent prayer to remember victims of racism and to pray for the systemic elimination of racism throughout the country and the world.

The Marianite Leadership Team joined delegates to the LCWR Assembly in their stand against racism.
Exaltation of Holy Cross — September 14
Feast of Seven Dolors — September 15

Mary, Mother of Sorrows and the Family of Holy Cross

The origins of the liturgical feast of Our Lady of Sorrows reach back to the early sixteenth century when Pope Julius II proposed a feast honoring Mary’s sufferings. The Friar Servants of Mary (Servites) initiated the feast in Italy, reflecting their devotion to the grieving Mary in the seventeenth century. The feast was established officially in the whole church in 1814 by Pope Pius VII in thanksgiving for his return to Rome after being held captive in France by Napoleon. Early in the twentieth century Pope Pius X designated September 15 as the annual celebration of the Feast of Seven Dolors (Sorrows).

In 1835, Blessed Basil Moreau, a priest of the Diocese of LeMans, France, founded a group of Auxiliary Priests to preach missions and to assist parishes that were still recovering from the aftermath of the French Revolution. In the same year he was appointed as superior of the Brothers of St. Joseph, a group of laymen founded fifteen years earlier by Fr. Jacque Dujarie, to assist in education and pastoral ministries. Two years later Fr. Moreau united these groups and settled them in a section of LeMans known as Sainte-Croix (Holy Cross). With the founding of the Marianites in 1841 and the naming of (Leocadie Gascoin) Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors as the first Superior General, Fr. Moreau realized his vision - a community of women and men dedicated to the service of the church.

“After the humanity of the Eternal Word, Mary’s heart is the finest masterpiece ever to leave the Creator’s hand.” Fr. Basil Moreau.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a patronal feast for the Holy Cross Family. Our Lady of Sorrows is the particular patronal feast of the Marianites of Holy Cross. Mary, Mother of Sorrows, is a living example of the motto Fr. Moreau gave to the Family of Holy Cross: Spes Unica – the cross is our only hope.

Prayer/Reflection:
Hail Mary, full of grace, all generations call you blessed. Upon hearing Simeon’s prophecy, a sword pierced your heart…
You made the journey to Egypt with Joseph to ensure your Son’s safety…
You searched for Jesus in the Temple…
On the road to Calvary your eyes of compassion looked lovingly at your Son…
At the cross you witnessed Jesus’ total giving of self…
Across your lap, you embraced the lifeless body of your Son…
You were there when Jesus was laid in the tomb…
Hail Mary, Mother of Sorrows, may all people proclaim you blessed for all generations. Amen.

(Materials adapted from Accompanying Mary of Sorrows booklet produced by The Holy Cross Institute, St. Edward University, Austin, Texas)
a perfect gift

Christ our Light, remain with us.
Help us to meet you in the Scripture that we read, in the bread that we break, and in the neighbor that we welcome into our hearts.
Grant this prayer that your reign will come, that your will be done in us as it was in Jesus, now and forever.
Amen

(People’s Companion to the Breviary, Week IV)

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Marianite Guild Cards

What’s that, please?
The woman replied, “This is a battery-operated marshmallow roaster that has three prongs to evenly cook three marshmallows at a time. How handy is that as a really unique gift for someone who has everything!”

Today you can purchase items from the absurd to the up-lifting, from the bizarre to the beautiful. Remember when gift-giving was a gesture of affection and thoughtfulness? Sharing the joy of a special occasion, celebrating Christian holidays, providing comfort or support in time of difficulty, need not be a sticky situation or predicament.

Below are messages we’ve received regarding our Marianite Guild cards …

…”Thank you for the azalea birthday card. It reminded me of my family home as a child and with so many prayerful good wishes.” New Orleans, LA

…”I am comforted to know that Marianites and Associates from Alaska to Africa are holding me in their prayers.” Lake Charles, LA

…”Please send one of the Brother André healing cards to my godmother in Seattle. I want to promote devotion to the little saint.” Austin, TX

…”The novena of Christmas Masses was absolutely the best and most practical gift I received in 2017.” City Island, NY

No need for a return policy! Nothing to re-gift! Bring back the genuine meaning and simple joy of remembering another whether you think “they have everything” or not. Enrollment in the Marianite Guild gives the recipient a lovely card (Birthday, Anniversary, Sympathy, Get Well and more) with a powerhouse of prayers of the Marianites of Holy Cross. Indeed, one size fits all!

Visit www.marianites.org, Support tab, and click on Guild Cards.
Academy of the Holy Angels

All Class Luncheon

Sunday, November 4, 2018, 11:00 a.m. • 2:00 p.m.

Chateau Estates Golf and Country Club
3600 Chateau Blvd • Kenner, LA 70065

Special honoree classes: ’30-’40’s, ’58, ’68, ’78, & ’88 but all are welcome!

LIMITED SEATING - FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

GENERAL ADMISSION FOR LUNCHEON – DOORS OPEN AT 11:00.

$45.00 per person due by Monday, October 29, 2018
Reserved tables of 10 will be $450.00.
NO RESERVED TABLES AFTER October 15.
No registration taken after October 29.
All registrations and checks/money orders should be sent to Smith Road.
RESERVE SEATING UNTIL OCTOBER 15, 2018.
OPEN SEATING AFTER OCTOBER 15TH.

This year meals will be plated and served at table beginning at noon. No buffet line.

- MENU -

More info and forms are available at www.marianites.org/alumane
Associate Relationship Open to All

Marianite Associates are lay women and men (and a handful of clergy) who are dedicated to collaborating with the sisters in their ministries. Associates commit themselves to assist in the fulfillment of the mission of the Marianites of Holy Cross through prayer, service and community building through retreats, celebrations and outreach. Associates are invited to make a commitment annually on September 15, Feast of Our Lady of Seven Dolors. There are no legal or financial obligations for MSC Associates! Currently we have active Associate branches in Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington and France.

The Associate pin denotes those who have made the annual commitment and is given at that time. The cross emblem is rich in symbolism. Please take a closer look. The cross is a reminder both of our common salvation through Baptism in the cross of Christ and our Family of Holy Cross heritage. The tree rooted in Divine Providence, a value so important to Blessed Basil Moreau, has three branches representing the sisters, brothers and priests of the Holy Cross Family. Intermingled and variegated leaves recall both the vowed religious and the associate relationships. This is placed over a yellow circle to portray the Congregational charism of unity in the Son, Jesus Christ.

"Holy Cross will grow like a mighty tree and constantly shoot forth new limbs and new branches." (Moreau) A full brochure and other information on the Associate relationship is available on our website www.marianites.org under the Associate "tab".

The Eyes To See

The participation of Associates in the Mission of Holy Cross can be traced back to its roots. A sense of solidarity has existed between religious and lay Associates in the Holy Cross Family, long before that word “solidarity” became popular. Fr Moreau saw Associates as collaborators and participants in the expansion of his Holy Cross Congregation. As a matter of fact, lay Associates were organized four years before the Marianite Sisters were founded in 1841.

In Like a Mighty Tree, Sr. Graziella Lalande, CSC reminds us that for Basil Moreau, to be an Associate was to be Church with a level of commitment and sense of belonging, as dictated by the customs of the times. Indeed, Fr. Moreau was ahead of his time. Vatican II affirmed our common Baptism as the starting point for all followers of Christ. The Document Lumen Gentium insists on the complementarity of lay and religious. The first Gospel imperative given the family of Holy Cross by Fr. Moreau, including lay Associates, was to be a witness for Christ wherever they are. Home with the family, at work in the office or field, at play in the stadium, he proclaimed all offered fertile soil for living the Gospel. Moreau wrote, "In Baptism, we received the seed of spiritual life which needs to grow and to be strengthened … What we need is to become another Christ."

I saw Jesus today, he was standing in line at the food bank… I saw Jesus today, he was teaching a 7th grade class… I saw Jesus today, visiting someone who had serious surgery… I saw Jesus today, he was preparing an evening meal for a family… and you know, when I look in the mirror, I’m learning to recognize Jesus there as well.

Today, each Marianite Associate must discover for herself/himself what it means to “become like Christ”, to reveal Jesus in our day- to- day activities, our comings and goings. It entails a Christian way of behaving, a quality of presence, seeing with new eyes. In this sense, we recognize in our Blessed Mother her experience as the “first Associate”. Think about it. Mary does not preach nor does she baptize; but Mary is there with her strength, courage and compassion. Sisters, MSC Associates, family and friends, may we, too, have the eyes to see.
Through our lives of prayer, through our reading and meditation on Holy Scripture, we seek to encounter God challenging us to grow in the spiritual life and furthering the mission of Christ today. Each of us devotes a substantial period of time to personal prayer in an attitude of silence and recollection. Our prayer life is enriched by reading, reflection, sharing, spiritual direction, and ongoing renewal.

– MSC Constitutions #17

Editor’s Note:

In 1813, when Sam Wilson, a meatpacker, provided beef for the army he stamped the barrels “U.S”. Soldiers labeled the barrels, Uncle Sam. In the 1860’s, Cartoonist Thomas Nast drew an image of Uncle Sam with a white beard and red, white, and blue suit. Later he was given a tall hat. The poster, Uncle Sam wants you, became famous in World War I. September is Uncle Sam Month!

Pictured here is our version of Uncle Sam with a law-abiding citizen trying to look as patriotic as possible.

Stay in touch at www.marianites.org

Order Guild cards. See where Mass is said for you in Burkina Faso, Africa. Keep up with Marianite activities. Like us on Facebook!
Do You Remember WWJD?

Many of our readers remember the phrase which we all learned in Catholic elementary school. Remember, WWJD? Yes, of course, its “what would Jesus do?” It was meant to remind us that, as Christians we were followers of Christ and therefore, we had an obligation to act as He would in difficult circumstances. And, the great thing about Christianity is that we have a God who actually lived among us and taught us, in no uncertain terms, how we were to respond to complex and sometimes harrowing situations.

In these very trying times, it may be a good idea to return to the WWJD rule. This is especially true when we are confronted with global situations in which our nation’s citizenry is so divided. The immigrant question is certainly a perfect example of this. Should we allow individuals and families attempting to flee poverty and violence to find refuge in the United States? Pope Francis reminds us that this is a pro-life issue! What would Jesus do?

Even a quick glance at Jesus’ actions in so many situations indicate very forcefully how He would react in the ongoing debate regarding immigration. He ate and socialized and took the side of the poor, the outcast, the sinner. In your wildest imagination, can you picture Jesus saying to an immigrant family seeking asylum, “We don’t have room for you. We have to take care of our own people.”

In the July issue of Living with Christ, Claire J. King made the Christian and Catholic view very clear. She wrote: Specifically as a Catholic Christian, my worldview must be characterized by its “universal” scope. It is not enough for me to simply enjoy the rights and privileges that my country has afforded me by the accident of my birth. By my thoughtful civic choices, I must work to ensure that others everywhere may someday experience the dignity of being human and the rights and responsibilities that this gift implies.

“By my thoughtful civic choices…” This is exactly what seems to be lacking in the current immigration debate. It is a very complex situation but there are certainly a variety of solutions which should be explored without dividing families, accusing good people of being criminals, of seeking admittance to our country simply to take advantage of us, of name-calling and of racism. Those actions are certainly not the Christian response. Jesus said, “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you…” (John 13:15) It can’t be any clearer than that!

But, if you like to receive direction from the Old Testament then remember this passage from Leviticus 19 where God is quoted reminding His people to emphatically care for foreigners because they too knew what it was like to be foreigners and afraid. When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them… Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.