A Light in the Darkness:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM

A collaborative effort of
Archdiocese of New Orleans Respect Life Office
University of Holy Cross and
Marianites of Holy Cross

Saturday, February 8, 2020
9am - 4pm
University of Holy Cross
New Orleans

(Everyone 18 or older is welcome BUT RSVP REQUIRED)
**Message from our Congregational Leader**

**January 2020**

**Blessings in 2020**

*These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace.* Zechariah 8:16. Will you stand with us? Over the last ten years the Family of Holy Cross’ International Justice Office has acted through the four Congregations and has challenged us to reflect and act! Members of each Congregation meet to collaborate in prophetic witnessing. We stand together as a family united in the hope that our world might one day know peace. We stand for the truth when we take small steps to learn the truth around an issue.

**FRACKING**

Fracking is short for hydraulic fracturing. It is an industrial process that breaks apart rock formations deep underground to extract fossil fuels like oil and methane gas. In Shreveport, La. there are acres of land that we are often approached to sell; consistently our Stand remains sound... if fracking will occur - NO SALE. We pray for all those who have been impacted by this misuse of the earth and ask others to make conscious decisions when approached about sale of property.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

“Human trafficking is one of the darkest and most revolting realities in the world today, ensnaring 41 million men and women, boys and girls,” said Father David Charters, second secretary of the Vatican’s permanent observer mission to the United Nations. “It is”, as Pope Francis has repeatedly stressed, “an open wound on the body of contemporary society.” The Marianites work with the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office to host opportunities for education. On February 8, 2020 we will sponsor a workshop on this issue at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans.

**CLIMATE CONTROL**

Our 27th General Chapter called us to be “Women of Fire—Seeing with New Eyes” in all our spheres of influence. . . Sustainability in light of our available personnel and resources is one of its challenges, reinforcing current actions and inspiring new ones. We continue to distribute the pamphlet *Earth Dolors* which links the suffering poor and suffering earth through meditation on Mary’s seven sorrows.

**IMMIGRATION**

The Catholic Church is an immigrant Church with a long history of embracing diverse newcomers and providing assistance and pastoral care to immigrants, migrants, refugees, and people on the move. Our Church has responded to Christ’s call for us to “welcome the stranger among us,” for in this encounter with the immigrant, the migrant, and the refugee in our midst, we encounter Christ. Do we see the face of Jesus in the stranger?

**NONVIOLENCE**

In his 2017 World Day of Peace Message, Pope Francis urged all of us to pray and work diligently to become nonviolent people and build nonviolent communities - artisans of peace. In October 2017, the leaders of the four Congregations of Holy Cross sisters, brothers and priests, having reflected on Pope Francis’s call and the signs of the times, issued a joint Statement on Nonviolence and Just Peace, declaring that “Jesus taught us to respond to violence with love and forgiveness” and committing to abide by his words and example. Your standing with us requires taking the time to become
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIG BROTHERS...

The Brothers of Holy Cross are celebrating their 200th anniversary!

There is a popular saying, “Life is better with brothers!” The Marianites will attest to this, especially when their older brothers are celebrating their 200th anniversary.

In 1767, a French couple living in Rennes-en-Grenouilles, a village in northwest France, the Dujaries, welcomed a son, Jacques. Thirty-two years later, seventy-eight miles south in Laigne-en-Belin, the Moreau family baptized their son, Basile. Twenty-one years later, in 1820, Fr. Jacques Dujarie founded the Brothers of St. Joseph. In 1835, Fr. Basile Moreau founded the Auxiliary Priests.

France, at that time, was still recovering from the French Revolution. There was a great need to restore the Catholic faith and to bring the teachings of Christ to France. Fr. Dujarie’s brothers were to educate young men in the Roman Catholic faith while Fr. Moreau’s priests were to preach parish missions, provide parochial assistance, and teach in the Diocese of Le Mans.

However, fifteen years after the foundation, Fr. Dujarie, at age sixty-eight and in ill health, turned over the leadership of the Brothers of St. Joseph to Fr. Moreau. (Twelve years earlier Fr. Moreau had preached the Brothers’ annual retreat. Fr. Dujarie must have been impressed!)

Two years later, in 1837, Fr. Moreau established the Association of Holy Cross by uniting the brothers and priests. The religious family of Holy Cross was completed in 1841 with the establishment of the Marianites of Holy Cross.

Fr. Moreau wasted no time in sending the “three branches” of Holy Cross to evangelize around the world. In fact, the first “missionaries” departed for the United States on August 5, 1841. Foundations were soon established in Canada, Rome and East Bengal. The priests and brothers became an official Religious Congregation. The sisters were separated as their own community. Fr. Moreau would continue to send the priests, brothers and sisters to many parts of the world.

New Orleans was one of those places. When the first Holy Cross Brothers and Marianites arrived in 1849, New Orleans was a city of 150,000. They’d come at the invitation of Bishop Antoine Blanc to assume the management of St. Mary’s Asylum, an orphanage for boys in a port city where many disease-contaminated ships docked. In one year, 11,000 citizens of the city died of yellow fever. New Orleans had more than its share of orphans.

When five brothers under the leadership of Brother Vincent and three Marianites arrived in New Orleans there were seventy-five boys at the orphanage living in deplorable conditions. The missionaries got to work immediately. The number of orphans grew steadily; by 1851 there were two hundred boys living at St. Mary’s. With hard work, faith in God, and the generosity of the citizens of New Orleans, conditions improved dramatically.

Diseases, however, continued to ravage the city. In 1852, fifty boys and two brothers died of cholera; the next year three brothers and one Marianite succumbed to yellow fever.

In just a few years, both the sisters and brothers were expanding their ministries. The Marianites opened an industrial school for girls, the forerunner of Holy Angels Academy while the brothers founded St. Isadore’s College which became Holy Cross High School.

Our “big brothers” have ministered in France, Canada, Italy, Bangladesh, India, Chile, Ghana, Brazil, Uganda, Peru, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania, Mexico and throughout the United States.

The Congregation’s sole canonized saint is Brother Andre Bessette. Brother Flavian Laplante, a missionary in Bangladesh was declared a servant of God in 2009 by the Bishop of Chittagong Diocese, Bangladesh. His cause remains in its initial stages.

The Marianites will be quick to tell you: Who needs superheroes when you have a big brother!

Rev. James Connelly’s “Holy Cross in New Orleans: The Crisis of 1850-1855”, a paper delivered at the Holy Cross History Conference, 1988 session, provided valuable data for this article.

Let us stand together,

Sr. Ann Lacour, MSC
In the words of Robert Frost, “two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference,” and what an adventure it has been! Little did I know that as I stood at the fork in the road and said yes to follow a certain path, I would begin the journey of a lifetime as a Marianite of Holy Cross. I entered on September 8, 1961, the feast of the Nativity of Mary, and it was a day like no other. With a new suitcase packed with “nun clothes” that I had never worn before and a smuggled joke book, I said goodbye to my family and walked through the entrance of Our Lady of Holy Cross into the novitiate without a clue of what was before me. Yet, one thing I knew.

It was my time to succumb to The Hound of Heaven which I had been introduced to by my literature teacher, Sister Mary Praxeda, MSC. When Sister handed me a copy of the poem and encouraged me to read it with no word as to why, it soon became apparent to me that in her wisdom, she knew I was running from my calling. In retrospect, I believe she used that poem to help me recognize God’s love for me. God was running after me, drawing nearer to me in the chase and yet, with an unhurrying and unperturbed pace. There was no force, only a persistence full of God’s grace. Gradually, God won the race and I conceded. I told my family that I would stay until December to find out if I had chosen the better road.

So, a long story made short, my heart was captured, and the elements of surprise and wonder were amazing. With each day in the novitiate, I grew to love religious life. I began to experience what I had
observed about the Marianites of Holy Cross. Let me explain. My twelve years of elementary and high school education was under their guardianship. My Sisters, as I fondly called them at St. John Academy, in Franklin, Louisiana were full of life. Even though the old convent had indescribable cracks in the walls, making it cold and uncomfortable in the wintertime and hot and humid in the summer, I never heard a complaint from any of them. They were my heroines and I was particularly attracted to their love of teaching. It was during those years that I knew I wanted to be like them.

While in the novitiate, I began my studies and graduated from Our Lady of Holy Cross College, now known as the University of Holy Cross. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree and began my first ministry as a classroom teacher. For the next six years I taught in many different places that I equally loved and considered living with the sisters a blessing.

In my seventh year of ministry I was asked to be the principal at St. Francis de Sales School in Houma, Louisiana. When I arrived, I was 27 years old -- excited and filled with zeal for this new ministry. I felt that being a principal was a privilege and despite the daunting challenges, every day felt like Christmas. At the same time, I was being led into a new spiritual experience. I made my first directed retreat. Being an extrovert, in the beginning I found it hard to settle down and go deep within. However, blessed with a patient director, I began to meet Jesus of Nazareth in a deep and profound way and my spiritual journey was never to be the same.

When I completed my eight years as principal, I was asked to join the staff of the newly-established diocese of Houma-Thibodaux as the Director of Family Ministries. It was an exciting time but equally challenging. After twenty-two years in the diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, I said goodbye and began my sabbatical in New Orleans. At the end of nine months, I was back in active ministry at Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center. I fell in love with the residents and staff and believed it was the ministry God wanted for me. After eleven years I began feeling the effects of “compassion fatigue”. I was tired and not feeling well. So once again I said goodbye.

Now what was before me I could have never imagined. After routine tests, I was called to do more extensive testing and soon learned that I had many cancers – and the reality began to sink in. This new path laid out before me was going to be painful. So, before my first of many surgeries, I was awakened the first night to a beautiful full moon shining through the slats of the faux blind. As I looked up, I heard God’s voice saying to me, “I have my eye on you.” From that day forward I knew all was well. I soon had a new companion, Suffering, who would walk beside me and teach me how to live with and let go of pain. With suffering, I learned the great lesson of receiving help graciously as well as forgiving myself for not taking better care of me. In response, I felt God’s liquid light of love being poured over me and I was filled with gratitude.

After two years, I was back in active ministry. I served as a consultant for the Archdiocese of New Orleans nursing facilities and I assisted in the integration of their mission, vision and values. After five years, I felt God nudging me to move on, to work more closely with care providers in both nursing facilities and at home who care for people with dementia. It is no secret that we live in a society where there is an estimated 5.8 million Americans of all ages living with Alzheimer’s dementia. Because dementia is incurable, mean and ugly, I want to continue helping people learn to change their minds about people whose minds have changed.

In closing, I am grateful to the Marianites of Holy Cross for sponsoring this ministry and I pray these words for you: “Let your roots go down into Christ, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:7)
In Memoriam

Marianites, like all women religious, possess varied talents and, during their lifetimes, are engaged in a variety of activities as they carry out their ministries. Our dear departed Sisters listed here were musicians, artists, gardeners, Irish dancers, bus drivers, teachers, administrators, and many other things. But most of all, they sought to do God’s will and to advance God’s kingdom here on earth. We will miss them but they will continue to inspire us.

Sr. Mary Joan Barry
1928 – April 2, 2019

She was born in Kilshinihan, Bandon, County Cork, Ireland. Sr. Mary Oliver, as she was known early in her religious life, was a teacher at elementary schools in the New Orleans area and in Eunice, Franklin and Port Allen.

Sr. Joan could dance an Irish jig like no one else and yet, once she became an American citizen, she was passionate about her voting responsibilities and in the teaching of social studies to her students. Her even-tempered spirit made her very popular with students and faculty. She could laugh very easily at a joke, even when it came at her expense.

Always eager to serve wherever needed, Joan ministered as a missionary in Chile and, later, she served in pastoral care visiting patients in hospitals in New Orleans and at Prompt Succor Nursing facility in Opelousas. We will remember her easy temperament, quick wit and cheerful demeanor.

Sr. Keri Burke
1969 – April 21, 2019

She left us too soon. Sr. Keri, a member of our Congregational Leadership Team, was born in New Orleans to a highly respected Irish family. A well loved teacher, Keri was involved in high school education in New Orleans at Cabrini and De La Salle High Schools; at St. John Paul II in Slidell and at San Juan Diego in Austin, Texas. In 2014 she returned to New Orleans to serve as Campus Minister at the University of Holy Cross.

Keri is survived by her parents, Deacon Harold and Leah Burke, a brother, Donovan and two sisters, Kelly and Kasey along with nieces, nephews and grandnieces. Her dedicated service to people of all ages was the treasure she generously offered knowing full well that “We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

Sr. Helene Marie Berson
1921 – April 23, 2019

Helene was born in St. Hilaire du Maine, Mayenne sector of France. Because of her mother’s poor health she was placed in an orphanage in Ernee at the age of four. She remained there until she was twenty-one years of age. She met her first Marianite in Oisseau-le-Petit. She felt called to the religious life and entered the Marianites in 1947. She was given the name Sr. Mary of St. Denis.

She worked in the laundry of the Preventorium and always enjoyed caring for the children. Later she served the sick and elderly and taught catechism classes in the parish. From 1954 to 1957 she became the coordinator of a specialized group at the Préventorium. She then returned to the Mother House to work in the laundry. From 1968 to 1974 she assisted in the Tourneville and Pontvallain communities serving the elderly, sick and convalescent. Blessed with a beautiful singing voice, she assisted the parishes with their choirs.

Helene retired in 2002 and participated actively at La Solitude. She was known for her good humor and her readiness to assist anyone in need. She was hospitalized in 2018 after a fall. She died peacefully on April 23.

Sr. Hannah Marie O’Brien
1931 – May 10, 2019

Hannah Marie was born at Baharoon, Kilbrittain, County Cork, Ireland, one of twelve children. Imbued with her Irish family values of hard work and commitment to duty, Sr. Hannah Marie (Sr. Mary Albeus) served faithfully in a variety of ministries over the years. She was an elementary school teacher in schools throughout Louisiana and as principal of Immaculate Conception School in Plaquemine, La. She also served as librarian at Holy Angels Academy.

In addition, Hannah rendered community service at Our Lady of Princeton Provincial House for several years. Always eager to serve, especially those most in need, she spent the last years of active ministry at St.
Mary of the Angels Parish in New Orleans and at St. Rita Parish in Alexandria, La. where she developed social outreach programs. She was greatly loved by those who came to her for assistance. She treated everyone with respect and dignity.

Sr. Hannah Marie’s generosity, her fidelity to prayer, and her dedication to her religious congregation are the lessons she passes on to us.

Sr. Mercedes Spotorno  
1924 – May 28, 2019

Sr. Mercedes was born in New Orleans. She entered the Daughters of the Cross in 1944. Her love of children was evident to all as she taught in schools throughout Louisiana. She transferred to the Marianites in 1997 and continued her ministry as a primary teacher.

Sr. Mercedes was an accomplished musician and artist. She explored various and unique forms of artistic expression through her rock collection, her sketches of people and flowers, her inspirational ink drawings, and the unique jewelry she created. She was always eager to share her creations with others.

After being admitted to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility in 2010, she continued to enjoy the presence of children. They, too, were attracted to her as they recognized in her a loving and compassionate presence. Cheerful and kind, we give thanks for the gift she was to us. She will remain a constant reminder of the words of Jesus: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Sr. Raymonde Castignola  
1925 – July 9, 2019

Sr. Raymonde was born in Paris. She became acquainted with the Marianites while a patient at the Preventorium in Precigne. She was so impressed with their care and concern for their patients and with their holiness of life that she asked to enter the congregation.

Her leadership skills were soon evident. She became superior of the Preventorium and of the local community. In 1972, with the tuberculosis epidemic coming to an end, it became evident that a new ministry for the facility was needed. Under her leadership, in 1978 the Preventorium became the Medical Center Eugene Plaisant dedicated to the psychiatric care of area residents.

In 1998, Sr. Raymonde was awarded the Legion of Honor and in 2004, the Officer Cross of the Legion of Honor. A humble individual, she attributed the honors to St. Joseph, her faithful friend. In 2015 she became a resident at St. Joseph Retirement Center. After years of intense activity, she devoted herself to prayer and contemplation. Sr. Raymonde’s earthly life ended July 9, 2019.

Sr. Marie-Renee Moreau  
1924 – August 29, 2019

She was born in Anger, France. Sr. Marie-Renee ministered as a teacher and directress of two schools. In 1977, she left France to serve as a missionary in Haiti. She served in Cap-Haitien, Haiti for thirteen years. Her heart was with the poor. She stated, “There among the poorest, I really discovered and lived the Gospel. The most wonderful event that has radically changed my life is Haiti”. During her missionary years, she formed lasting relationships with members of the family of Holy Cross.

Later, she ministered as a member of the pastoral team of a Haitian parish in Paris. She was very active in assisting those who were exiled and seeking refugee asylum. She returned to the Solitude in 2002 where she collaborated in the writing of the chronicles of France.

Sr. Marie-Renee died August 29, 2019. At the funeral liturgy, a priest who had known her in Haiti thanked Sr. Marie-Renee again on behalf of the Haitian people and asked her to continue to intercede for the Holy Cross Mission in Haiti.

Sr. Linda Galyean  
1941 – September 16, 2019

A native of Opelousas, Louisiana, Sr. Linda ministered as an elementary school teacher in Lake Charles, New Orleans, Houma and Port Allen. She was very popular with her students as she always displayed a deep interest in their lives as well as in their studies.

In a Family Literacy Program at Our Lady of Holy Cross College she tutored adults who wished to complete their high school education. She had a reputation as a patient, caring instructor who was always ready to assist her students in every way possible.

At Chateau de Notre Dame, where Sr. Linda spent her final days, she made many friends and actively engaged in activities sponsored by the facility. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her Marianite sisters at Chateau de Notre Dame. Her life was celebrated with a Mass of Christian Burial at Jacob Schoen Funeral Home. She was buried at the Marianite Mausoleum in New Orleans.

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Do You Hear What I Hear?
Sr. Joyce Hanks Delivers the Associate Steering Committee's Advent Reflections

The Advent Reflections in Opelousas and Covington opened with a prayer by St. Julian of Norwich. Sr. Joyce Hanks, MSC, the presenter, gave an overview of how she decided upon the theme captured in the song, *Do You Hear What I Hear?* and she explained a bit of its history pertinent to her presentation. The song was written in October 1962, with lyrics by Noël Regney and music by Gloria Shayne Baker, around the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, in response to the existential dread they felt because of the Cold War.

Sr. Joyce admitted that although the carol is usually considered popular at Christmas, (lyrics recall the birth of Jesus and the events surrounding the traditional Christmas story) she proceeded to match the verses with the Scripture from the four Sundays of Advent. In addition, she used a variety of grace-filled stories or quotes to bring home her message.

Using the last verse of the song, Sr. Joyce closed her presentation with the challenge to be peace-makers allowing Christ to be born anew in us making us bearers of goodness and light as 2020 unfolds.

Participants were invited to create a simple, fold-over booklet. Moved into prayer after each verse, MSC Associates and Marianite Sisters reflected on questions Sr. Joyce offered around seeing, hearing, knowing and being a peacemaker. In pairs, they shared their personal reflections.

Sr. Joyce quoted Dr. Howard Thurman, an influential African American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, preacher and civil rights leader. He spoke at a baccalaureate for young women about to

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**Do You Hear What I Hear?**

**Said the night wind to the little lamb,**
*do you see what I see*

**Way up in the sky, little lamb,**
*do you see what I see*

**A star, a star, dancing in the night**
*With a tail as big as a kite (2x)*

**Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,**
*do you hear what I hear…*

**Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,**
*do you know what I know…*

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**Said the king to the people everywhere**
*Listen to what I say*

**Pray for peace people everywhere**
*Listen to what I say*

**The child, the child**
*Sleeping in the night*

**He will bring us goodness and light (2x)**
Dr. Stanton F. McNeely III was inaugurated as President of the University of Holy Cross on Friday, December 6 with university faculty, Marianites and many friends in attendance. Below are excerpts from his inaugural address:

…I must begin with an expression of my deep love and gratitude to my Godmother and Aunt, Sr. Mary Bertilla McNeely, Marianite of Holy Cross; I pray to her daily for energy, guidance, and inspiration… She taught me to expend every gift I have to help lift up others and not to be afraid to answer the call of service … and to leadership. That is my commitment to you as President of the University of Holy Cross.

… We are a family. A family that reaches out and engages others, just as Jesus did with the apostles and the disciples, the women, the poor, the excluded, and everyone around him. We are women and men of God united in a family that is the University of Holy Cross.

… The University of Holy Cross will continue to be a light that shines and “meets the needs” just as our predecessors did. The light of the UHC difference will continue to transform and evolve so that we can – and we will – be a prophetic presence in an ever-changing world. We will continue to be the light of example for what is needed in our world and be a beacon of hope and opportunity in this world. We will live the missions of the Marianites and of this University.

Elsie Mae Vidrine
1926 – September 20, 2019

Sr. Elsie Mae entered the Marianites in 1944. She began her ministry in food services in the kitchen and cafeteria of Holy Angels Academy. Holy Angels students fondly remember Sr. Maurice’s loose hamburger sandwich! She was also involved in the supervising of food services at Ville Platte General Hospital before moving into Pastoral Care services there and at Humana Hospital, Our Lady of Prompt Succor and C’Est la Vie Independent Living Center. From 1995 to 2001 she served as a clerical assistant at St. Michael Catholic School in Crowley where she was chosen “Nun of the Year”. Sr. Elsie’s last years were spent in the ministry of prayer and presence at Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

Sr. Elsie had a great love for children. She welcomed every child as though he or she was the only one that mattered. To celebrate her life, a wake service was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at St. Landry Church, 1020 N. Main St., Opelousas, Louisiana followed by the Mass of the Resurrection at 10:00 AM with burial in St. Landry Cemetery in Opelousas.

Sr. Mary Verda Frederick
1930 - December 9, 2019

Bernadette Teresa Frederick was born in Port Arthur, Texas. She entered the Marianites September 2, 1951. After teaching in various schools in Louisiana she served as Administrator of Opelousas General Hospital and as Assistant Administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette, Louisiana. A woman of many talents, Sr. Verda also ministered as the Director of Social Apostolate in the Diocese of Lafayette and as Associate Director of Catholic Charities for the Galveston/Houston Diocese.

In 1985, she was named Congregational Assistant of the Marianites and served at the General Administration Center in LeMans, France. She was named Congregational Leader and served from 1989 to 1995 in that capacity. (She has the distinction of being the only Marianite who spoke French with a Texas accent!) Upon her return to the United States, she served in the health systems in Alexandria, Louisiana and Houston, Texas.

She had great devotion throughout her life to her patron, St. Teresa of Avila. Like Teresa, her life’s journey took her in many directions, but her eyes remained firmly fixed on the Lord of her life.

Sr. Verda’s funeral was held in the chapel of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home with burial in St. Landry Cemetery in Opelousas.
Welcome to the new decade!

10

Suzanne Talbot Isaacs

A NOUN, A VERB and AN ADJECTIVE

Excerpt of Homily – Given by Pope Francis – October, 2019 – Vatican Basilica

I would like to reflect on three words: a noun, a verb and an adjective. The noun is the mountain: Isaiah speaks of it when he prophesies about a mountain of the Lord, raised above the hills, to which all the nations will flow. We see the image of the mountain again in the Gospel when Jesus, after his resurrection, tells his disciples to meet him on the mount of Galilee; the Galilee inhabited by many different peoples: “Galilee of the Gentiles”. It seems, then, that the mountain is God’s favorite place for encountering humanity. It is his meeting place with us, as we see in the Bible, beginning with Mount Sinai all the way to Jesus, who proclaimed the Beatitudes on the mountain, gave his life on Mount Calvary and ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives. The mountain, the place of great encounters between God and humanity, is also the place where Jesus spent several hours in prayer (cf. Mk 6:46) to unite heaven and earth…

As we enter 2020, here are ideas our readers may choose to use as resolutions for the new year.

IDEAS FOR YOUR 2020 RESOLUTIONS

1. Ask your eye doc if you have 20/20 vision
2. Take advantage of a Leap Year
3. Explore the cemeteries
4. Attend a ballet
5. Dine at a new restaurant
6. Stop buying plastic containers
7. Climb into the basket of a Hot Air Balloon
8. Ride the ferry to visit Algiers Point (if the ferry is in operation!)
9. Travel to the Whitney Plantation
10. Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote
11. Enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival

12. Reserve a seat at Buffa’s on Esplanade for great music
13. Ascend the Arch in Saint Louis
14. Drink to the 100th Anniversary of the start of Prohibition
15. Go to the races
16. Take thee to a Shakespeare play
17. Zigzag to the new Children’s Museum in City Park
18. Cheer the Cubs at Wrigley Field
19. Flock to the SXSW Music Festival
20. See what’s new at the Historic New Orleans Collection
21. Hire a carriage and tour historic Charleston, SC
22. Discover the Jazz Hall of Fame
23. Walk around the Dry Tortugas National Park
24. Tour the Backstreet Cultural Museum with Sylvester Francis
25. Touch a red wood tree
26. Observe National Wear Red Day
27. Drop a coin into a Las Vegas slot machine
28. Search for the Red Bridge
29. Don’t miss the Grand Ole Opry
30. Cruise alongside the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race
31. Find your way to the Modernist Cuisine Gallery
32. Applaud Mayflower Pilgrims who arrived here 400 years ago
33. Cruise the Mississippi River by steamboat
34. Eat a taco on Cinco de Mayo
35. Participate in Constitution and Citizenship Day
36. Visit the NAPA Truffle Festival
37. Dance the night away at Rock n Bowl
38. Place your bet in person at the Kentucky Derby
39. Hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon
40. VOTE!

happy new year!
“mountain”: the verb to go up. Isaiah exhorts us: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord”. We were not born to remain on the ground, to be satisfied with ordinary things, we were born to reach the heights and there to meet God and our brothers and sisters. However, this means that we have to go up: to leave behind a horizontal life and to resist the force of gravity caused by our self-centeredness, to make an exodus from our own ego.

If the mountain reminds us of what matters – God and our brothers and sisters – and the verb to go up tells us how to get there, a third word is even more important it is the adjective all, which constantly reappears in the readings: … God desires “all to be saved”, writes Paul (1 Tim 2:4); “Go and make disciples of all nations”, says Jesus in the Gospel (Mt 28:19). The Lord is deliberate in repeating the word all. He knows that we are always using the words: my things, our people, our community...

What instructions does the Lord give us for going forth to others?

Only one, and very simple: make disciples. But, be careful: his disciples, not our own. The Church proclaims the Gospel well only if she lives the life of a disciple. And a disciple follows the Master daily and shares the joy of discipleship with others by witnessing, humbling oneself alongside other disciples and offering with love the love that we ourselves received. We go up to the mountain to show by our lives, and perhaps even by our words, that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone…

— REFLECTION —
How does the Pope’s homily on noun, verb and adjective touch me?

From the Owl’s Perch: Looking ahead

- Holy Angels “Girls” and former teachers, the AHA Alum Committee has arranged for a Spring Mass at St. Louis Cathedral on Saturday, April 25 at 5:00 p.m. Individuals or classes are free to plan something on their own before or after the liturgy celebration. RSVP’s will be gathered closer to the event so pews may be reserved.
- The AHA Alum Committee is combing through the returned evaluations (less than 100 received) from the ALL CLASS LUNCHEON, 2019. All we are able to announce at this time is the date for 2020 – November 1st.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

There’s an Icon in this photo! Yes, but it isn’t “a painting of a holy figure”, but it is “a person regarded as a representative symbol or as worthy of veneration”. That’s what City Business, the New Orleans magazine, says about our own Sr. Marjorie Hebert! She was honored with nine other outstanding citizens for “her energy, innovative ideas and commitment to excellence in moving our community forward.” (She serves as CEO of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.) Those two bookends in the photo are trying to take the credit. Judy reminds us that she was Marge’s Senior Novice when she was in formation and that she taught her clowning routines which would come in handy at tough meetings and when visiting Head Start programs. Clara says, “So what!” She wants to remind everyone that, like herself, Marge is a native of Algiers, over on Gawd’s side of the river, where icons are born and bred.

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See where Mass is said for you.

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The Decade of Days, 2020

AUTHENTIC, INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Have you ever been driving when suddenly you roll over something totally unexpected? Immediately you wonder, “What was that?” Quickly you glance in the rear view mirror to get a glimpse of what might have caused the jolt.

We are inviting you to join us in looking in a rear view mirror, so to speak, at the lives, vision and perceived values of Blessed Basil Moreau, illustrious Founder of the Holy Cross Family, and Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors, the esteemed First Superior General of the Marianites. Annually, we celebrate the Decade of Days, the term coined by Sr. Mary David Hecker, MSC, decades ago to highlight the death of Blessed Basil (January 20, 1823) and Mother Mary (January 29, 1900); yes, seventy-five plus years ago but ten days apart in January. Their lives of faith, courage and compassion were the jolt that brought Holy Cross into being in post-revolution France. Holy Cross continues its forward thrust in four international and multicultural Congregations that share their vision and a spiritual heritage.

In 2020, through the Holy Cross International Justice Office and the creative work of Sr. Gretchen Dysart, MSC, the theme will focus on AUTHENTIC, INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. The good of every person, the whole person and the good of our world calls us to reflect on our mission and ministries as they affect the spiritual, cultural, economic, political and social aspects of our lives which today bring both challenge and joy. Reflections for our Marianites and our MSC Associates during the Decade of Days will integrate prayerful silence, Scripture stories, Congregational resources, Church documents, as well as thoughts from ordinary people, poets, and mystics that affirm the legacy of Blessed Moreau’s emphasis on the work of resurrection.

Authentic, integral human development equips us to seek the light – whether in a broken piece of glass or a diamond; to appreciate music - in a dripping rain spout or a piano concerto; to reach out in service – within the family, the neighborhood, the shelter, the hospital. Multiply the ten days into a lifetime of authenticity in human development and genuine holiness. Sometimes we don’t see where we are going until we look in the rear view mirror to recognize the Holy Spirit has been leading us. It was as true for our Founding Father and Mother as it is for us today!