

Venerable Henriette Delille

1812-1842

- Henriette Delille is the first United States native-born African American whose cause for canonization has been officially opened by the Catholic Church.
- Henriette Delille, born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1812, was a real-life person like you and me. She lived all of her life in New Orleans and had family and friends.
- Henriette was very devout and loved God very much. Because of her love for Jesus and for the sake of the Gospel, she was determined to help those in need.
- Henriette, as she made her way through life, bore many crosses, encountered obstacles, and suffered personal illness.
- By her example she taught us that perseverance and sanctity can be attained by following the path of Jesus. It was in this manner that she dealt with her major obstacles and troubles to achieve her goals.
- Some of the troubles Henriette Delille faced were the resistance of the ruling population to the idea of a black religious congregation; the lack of finances to more fully serve those in need; the taunts and disbelief of people in her mission; the lack of support from both the Church and civil authority and poor health.
- However, Henriette practiced heroic virtue. She had faith, lived in hope and love, and was compassionate, forgiving, and merciful. She believed in justice and was not afraid to do what was right in the eyes of God.
- God blessed her efforts and in 1842, she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family.
- Henriette died November 17, 1862. Her funeral was held at St. Augustine Church.
- Her obituary states, “. . . Miss Henriette Delille had for long years consecrated herself totally to God without reservation to the instruction of the ignorant and principally to the slave”
- “. . . Worn out by work, she died at the age of 50 years The crowd gathered for her funeral testified by its sorrow how keenly felt was the loss of her who for the love of Jesus Christ had made herself the humble servant of slaves.”

“I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God.”

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS FAMILY PRAYER

Loving and faithful God, through the years the people of our archdiocese have appreciated the prayers and love of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in times of war, disaster, epidemic and illness. We come to you, Father, with Mary our Mother, and ask you to help us in the battle of today against violence, murder and racism.

We implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which gives respect to the life and dignity of all people.

Bless parents that they more form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence.

Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Mother Henriette Delille, pray for us that we may be a holy family.