**MISSION STATEMENT**

Responding to the call of the Gospel, Christopher Homes, Inc. strives to provide decent, affordable housing to vulnerable members of our community. All who are associated with Christopher Homes, Inc. have the right to respect, dignity and a sense of well being. Therefore, through the service and commitment of our staff and volunteers, we will enable our residents to grow spiritually, socially, and intellectually, empowering them to develop their optimal potential.

*Christopher Homes is a senior living ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.*

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Health habits brought to you by PEOPLES HEALTH

It’s important to see a doctor if you’re having trouble with your eyes. But do you know that there are different kinds of eye doctors?

An ophthalmologist handles eye surgery and treats serious medical problems, such as eye diseases. An optometrist does routine exams and helps with simple issues. The type of doctor you should see depends on the issue you’re having.

Below are some common eye complaints. Do you know the right doctor to see for each?

1. I have dry eyes.
2. I think I have cataracts.
3. I have trouble seeing street signs while driving.
4. I have an eye infection.
5. I need eyeglasses or contacts.

The answers are:
1. Optometrist
2. Ophthalmologist
3. Optometrist
4. Ophthalmologist
5. Either

If you’re not sure which doctor to see, call the doctor’s office. Tell the staff about your issue, so they can help you find the right doctor. You’ll avoid an unnecessary office visit, and your eyes will thank you.

To follow the Health Habits blog online head to www.christopherhomes.org.

You’ll find this article as well as previous health-related articles.

Also, follow Christopher Homes on:
Facebook: @christopherhomesano
Twitter: @chi_archno
Instagram: @christopherhomesinc
ROUQUETTE LODGE RESIDENTS VISIT ST. JOSEPH’S ABBEY

On February 8th several residents from Rouquette Lodge took a field trip to St. Joseph’s Abbey. They learned about the history of the church, dining room and grounds. They also had lunch in Covington at Martina Bella’s.

CONGRATULATIONS

Delille Inn received a superior rating for their MOR, their MOR (Management and Occupancy Review performed by representatives of Louisiana Housing Corporation)!

Here’s a “Congratulations” to the staff of Delille Inn! They received a Superior Rating for their HUD, Management and Occupancy Review conducted in January, 2019. The categories were, General Appearance & Security, Maintenance/Operating Procedures, Leasing & Occupancy, Tenant/Management Relations & Overall Rating. To the Community Manager, Sr. Agnes Sampia and team at Delille Inn, take a bow.”

WE'RE HIRING!

Please head over to our Careers link on www.christopherhomes.org.

There’s where you’ll find all of our available job listings.
Several properties hosted black history month programs. The residents at Nazareth Inn gathered on February 18th to honor those African Americans who made a difference in the lives of all Americans. The program was organized by Ms. Dolores White and featured poetry and song as well as Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream Speech”.

Also on February 18th, the residents of St. Martin’s Manor also gathered for an African American history month program.
MARDI GRAS INDIAN AT VILLA ST. MAURICE

Mardi Gras traditions for many across the New Orleans area include hitting the parade route with family and friends to catch beads and other throws, but for one Villa St. Maurice resident, Fat Tuesday traditions run much deeper.

On Mardi Gras, Michael Jordan will suit up. He will put on his more than one-hundred-pound intricate costume and get ready for his day as the “Big Chief” of the 9th Ward Warriors.

The costume is made his thousands of beads, dice and feathers among other items.

Michael Jordan has lived at Villa St. Maurice in the Lower 9th ward for about 6 months, but his carnival traditions run much deeper. He says he is the first person in his family to be a part of the Mardi Gras Indians, but his beginnings in the group were a family affair.

He was just 6 years old when he says, “I told my mom that I wanted to have an Indian suit.”

So along with his mother’s help, he made his first one. He went on for about 3 decades as a Mardi Gras Indian.

“I started as a flag boy and I worked my way up,” says Mr. Jordan.

Jordon says it takes about a year to build a costume. As for his inspiration he says, “I get my ideas from God.”

His group will mask on Fat Tuesday, St. Joseph’s Night and on Super Sunday. Those are the only times of the year that he’ll wear his heavily beaded attire.

When asked what the atmosphere is like he said, “I know how Victor feels,” referencing the character Victor Newman from “The Young and the Restless”.

As for why he does it, “they come from all over the world to see us. One time some people from out of town were watching and a little girl asked for my autograph. That brought tears to my eyes. It gives you chills.”
UPCOMING EVENTS

St. John Paul II Foundation
Converging Roads: A conference that equips health care professionals to practice the highest ethical and medical standards.

March 16, 2019
Notre Dame Seminary

Mass for the Elderly, Infirm and Those Who Serve Them

March 31st.
St. Louis Cathedral

Archbishop Gregory Aymond will celebrate the Mass with special intentions for those in the community who are elderly or infirm.
Special thanks to Christopher Homes, the Archdiocesan Healthcare Chaplaincy for coordinating this special mass.

St. Joseph’s Day

March 19th

Several Christopher Homes properties will be holding altars in honor of St. Joseph.

Metairie Manor will host their altar on March 18th and 19th. Metairie Manor’s altar is open to the public.

Rouquette Lodge will have an altar on March 15th.

St. Patrick’s Day

March 17th
Rodney Hebert  
*Waitlist Coordinator, Wynhoven*

He's been at Christopher Homes for just 4 months, but his impact has been widespread. He was nominated for this recognition by 3 separate CHI employees.

Before coming to Christopher Homes, Rodney in Jefferson Parish Housing.

"*I like working with seniors because I feel they listen to you more. They are more settled.*"

- Rodney Hebert

In his free time: He studies the Bible and goes to Bible school every week.

Favorite Thing To Eat: Fried Chicken, he says Brother’s has the best fried chicken.

Recently he donated 20 turkeys to residents at St. John Berchman’s.
Dear Residents and Staff,

“when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.” Mt 6:6

It seems we just celebrated Twelfth Night and I sent the first king cake to my daughter’s office in Manhattan; those New Yorker’s love our NOLA delicacies. And now Mardi Gras is upon us and we are mere days away from Lent.

Our Christian beliefs and scripture call upon us to practice the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, especially during Lent. In that greatest of sermons, the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord follows the presentation of the Beatitudes with teachings about how we should live his Gospel message. Included in those teachings is the call to practice those three disciplines.

In his teaching on prayer, our Lord is not calling us to be exclusively private in our prayer life but not to be prideful in prayer. This teaching is emphasized in the Gospel of Luke with the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. “I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Christ is calling us to humble, reverent, and persistent prayer and we must trust that God will hear and answer us.

I take my four year old grandson Noah to breakfast a couple of times a week. On our way to IHOP we pray together the Lord’s Prayer. One morning, his mother reported this conversation with Noah.

Noah: “Hey, God? . . . Mom I think God is sleeping.”
Noah’s Mom: “Why do you say that?”
Noah: “Because I was trying to talk to Him, but He didn’t answer.
Maybe I’ll talk louder and wake Him up!”

From the mouths of babes! Noah touched on a point of very deep theology, often written about over the centuries. St. John of the Cross, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and, in our lifetime, St. Teresa of Calcutta each had spiritual experiences they described as the “dark night of the soul.” St. Teresa wrote, “I am told God lives in me and yet the reality of darkness and coldness and emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul.” The dark night of the soul is a feeling that, while we know God is there, we are not hearing Him or feeling Him acting in our lives. And this is where trust comes in. We must trust in His love. We must trust that He hears us and knows what we truly need.

And so, we are called upon to continue in our prayers and other spiritual disciplines; fasting and almsgiving, as we are able, Scripture studies, the Sacraments, and the practice of our faith.

In prayer, we may feel we need to “talk louder and wake Him up” as Noah does, but more so, we must trust in His love and mercy and that He will, when He knows we are ready, lead us out of any darkness into the light of His Glory.

With God’s Blessings,

Deacon Dennis F. Adams
Executive Director, Christopher Homes