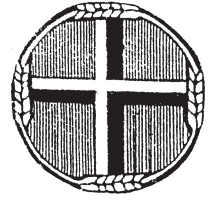


The Companion



Winter 2018

Word From Our President

Sister Celeste Larroque, SEC

In the last year or so we have witnessed much to criticize, much to complain about, and much to grieve over. The world has placed a tremendous burden upon our shoulders and we feel it more and more each day as media, be it fake or real, grinds its grist into our weary heads and hearts. The tonnage of informational snippets that are constantly bouncing in and out of our phones, TVs, and computers have whittled down our conversations to where we are forced to take sides rather than take stock and examine what is really being imparted.

Life is not a game. It is not a win or lose situation. I am afraid that we have come to a point in our culture where it is “us” against “them.” The strong versus the weak. The haves over the have-nots. This has led to a level of sin and depravity, the likes of which we have not seen in many decades, where the dignity of one person or the culture of many is sacrificed for the greed of another. We have become accustomed to living in a world where human life is undermined in the most unimaginable and sometimes insidious ways.

No, life is not a game. All life comes from God and is going back to God. Life has depth and meaning. When a society becomes lethargic in its beliefs and its desire to explore and examine its surroundings, it becomes an ignorant, complacent, and self-serving one. If it is all black or white, wrong or right, win or lose, then there is only anger, fear, and an insatiable drive to conquer. Maybe this is why we find it hard to accept some of the lessons in scripture. One of the many that come to mind for this reflection is this one from Proverbs 8:12-17:

I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence, and useful knowledge I have. (The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil); Pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth I hate. Mine are counsel and advice; Mine is strength I

am understanding. By me kings reign, and rulers enact justice; By me princes govern, and nobles, all judges of the earth. Those who love me I also love, and those who seek me find me.

Such is the Creator’s invitation to his creatures to delve into the mysteries of his creation. This invitation would include a RSVP of willingness and openness transcending the mediocrity of an unexamined life. Wisdom. How many of us really make use of its illumination of “useful knowledge”? It is a difficult companion to befriend because I think it involves a degree of suffering and humility in order to stand next to its outpouring of truth. Not for the haughty, indeed.

In the above scriptural passage, Wisdom is telling us that just as life itself, all rule and dominion come from and go back to God. Our earthly rulers, since the ancient codification of our covenant with our Creator, are instruments of enabling God’s justice and mercy in the land’s laws and people. At the end of the passage from Proverbs is the promise that “those who seek me, find me,” thereby indicating that the process of governance is a dynamic one always growing in wisdom for the purpose of strengthening and deepening the covenant with our Creator and with one another. We are a community founded on an eternal love, united by an ancient covenant, and governed by the laws of justice and mercy. Being the people of hope that we are, we look to our faith for a glimpse of what life holds for those who deem existence as precious in time, purpose, and community.

We are right to be shocked when we see and hear people, especially lawmakers, disparage people in their countries and the countries of others in a degrading manner. If we take our Judeo-Christian values to heart as described above then we are serious about our covenanted relationship with God and God’s holy will for our well-being and happiness. In Christian hope let us pray for Wisdom that it may touch the hearts and minds of all who lead that they may know their work is God’s work done in humility and prudence.

Remembering SEC Associates



Lillie Ashford

May 11, 1927 – Nov. 21, 2017

Lillie was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and devoted wife to her husband, Kelly, for 67 years until his passing in Oct. of 2014. She was a devout Catholic and woman of strong faith. She touched many lives through making rosaries that were brought to missionary countries. Lillie was very active in Catholic Daughters Association and Ladies Altar Society. She was a Regent of Catholic Daughters for two terms. She volunteered at a mental health clinic in Kinder for many years. Lillie enjoyed crocheting, gardening and sewing. She loved to cook and bake. Lillie enjoyed taking care of people. She enjoyed spending time with her family and loved to spoil her grandchildren. Lillie was an SEC Associate since February 19, 1996. She was a great woman and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.



Darcy Jemison

Sept. 5, 1928 – Jan. 10, 2018

Darcy Jemison, 89, of Kinder passed away Wednesday, January 10, 2018. She was a native of Oberlin and resident of Kinder. She was a member of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Catholic Daughters – Grand Regent for one year. Darcy had been a Cub Scout Den Mother and was an Honorary Board Member of Kinder Cemetery Association. She loved her children & provided them with adventures still remembered. Darcy was an SEC Associate since February 19, 1996. Her presence will be missed greatly.

ETC., ETC., ETC.

Spotlighting SEC Associates

On December 17, 2017 Associate Bob Marcantel presented a fabulous Concert of Christmas Music celebrating the 25th Anniversary of The Immaculate Conception Cathedral Chorale founded by Bob when he became the Cathedral's Director of Music. A total of 171 persons participated in the Chorale during Bob's tenure. All were invited to sing for this concert. It was truly a gifting experience. Congratulations Bob! Srs. Camille & Jeannette attended along with several Associates.

Associate Linda Saltzman and her husband of Kinder celebrated 50 years of marriage with a trip to Marco Island, Fla. What a great way to celebrate such a beautiful occasion. Blessings for the next 50 years!

Associate Kay Vaughn Dabelow has been keeping us informed as to whom has a special need for our prayers. Kay has been doing this since 2006 when she became an Associate and a very big thanks goes out to her for keeping us connected. Our new Associate Kelly Presley has graciously offered to take over this ministry. So if you have a special prayer request simply e-mail her at kpresley69@yahoo.com Thanks, Kelly, for your willingness to serve so generously.

One of our new Associates, Sue Burke, has been a tremendous help in getting "The Companion" mailed. This is by far not an easy task but she somehow manages to do it with a gracious smile. Thanks Sue!

Finally, we recognize and thank Associate Amy Ogea. Since 2001 she has been mailing the Associates the SEC birthday card to let them know that they are being remembered. Thank you Amy for your faithfulness.

Dec. 1-2 Srs. Camille and Jeannette were treated to a Contemplative Conference with Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr at Tulane in New Orleans. It was based on Rohr's book *Divine Dance*. It was an amazing fit which blessed, informed and encouraged. Twelve hundred persons attended!

Nov. 28 Sister Celeste attended the Louisiana

Catholic Conference of Bishops meeting in Baton Rouge with representatives from all the Religious communities in Louisiana for an afternoon of dialogue and reflection with the state's bishops. The bishops were interested in hearing thoughts on what issues Religious women and men in their dioceses were addressing, such as immigration, racism, and other pastoral issues.

Dec. 2 Srs. Carmelita, Doris, Pat, and Celeste attended an Advent Morning of Reflection in Lafayette, sponsored by the Diocese of Lafayette, Office of Religious Brothers and Sisters. Sr. Celeste led the group in a reflection on the video of Sr. Constance FitzGerald, OCD's presentation at the 2017 Leadership Conference of Women Religious assembly, where she received the 2017 LCWR Leadership Award.

Jan. 9 SEC Associates Joel and Donna Richert and Pat Guidry along with Sisters Camille and Jeannette hosted a meal for Sr. Shirley, SEC and the girls' basketball players from St. Louis Catholic High School following their victory over the Jennings Bulldogs in Jennings.

Dec. 10 Sr. Camille was privileged to participate in the Annual BIG LOVE WALK with SECA Don & Annette McSpadden's family members benefiting children affected by cancer. BIG LOVE also honors the memory of children who have died from cancer. We walked in memory of their grandson Aidan McSpadden.

Jan. 12 Sister Jeannette facilitated the Morning of Reflection for the faculty at St. Mary Learning Center in Lafayette, LA. The morning began with prayer based on St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 4:7-11. Paul reveals that while we are earthenware jars, clay pots, fragile and insignificant, yet we hold a great treasure. The lives of people such as Helen Keller, Malala Yousafzai, and Amy Wright - the 2017 CNN Hero of the Year - were shared to illustrate how ordinary people, recognizing their frailties and weaknesses, refuse to destroy their belief that within them, each holds a great treasure. In accepting this, we allow God to transform our lives, discover our enoughness, and say: "I am enough".



UPDATE

407 2nd St., Jennings, LA (337) 998-9114

Webpage – sabbathhouseministry@gmail.com

Dec. 4th - 8th Sabbath House hosted Evening Prayer: Welcome Faithful Presence during the first week of Advent. Over one hundred persons shared this meaningful opening of the New Church Year!

Jan. 5 Sr. Camille was the guest speaker at the monthly East Deanery Serra Club Meeting at the Pioneer Club in Lake Charles. Her topic was Stepping Stones to Sabbath House.

Jan. 20 - 22 Sr. Camille facilitated a Sabbath Retreat in Galveston for a "Team of Our Lady Group" (5 couples) from St. Martha's parish, Houston. She hopes it is the first of many to follow. It is a way to share and encourage living a Rhythm of Sabbath.

Bereavement Support Group - Sr. Jeannette offered her five week process on Tuesday evenings from Jan. 23 thru Feb. 21. Attendees were from Lake Charles, Moss Bluff, Welsh, Kinder and Jennings. This is offered three to four times each year.

Sabbath Seekers will gather weekly at Sabbath House during Lent to share the series Keeping the Fire Alive – Navigating Challenges in the Spiritual life by Franciscan Fr. Albert Haase.

Check Sabbathhouseministry.com to stay informed of our ongoing ministry!

**Mark
Your
Calendar**

April 14 SEC Annual Day of Prayer will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Lake Charles. Msgr Jace Es-kind will be our

Presenter so be sure to treat yourself and join us!

SEC
614 N Cutting Ave
Jennings, LA 70546

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE,
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, EVEN IF HE DIES, WILL LIVE ...” (Jn 11:25)**

*Lillian Ashford	Leslie Blanchard	Shirley Cassidy	Joseph Darbonne	Ralph Dartez, Sr.
Jared Daigle	Judith DeGravelle	Erroll Deshotel	Cathy Desormeaux	Michael Doise
Annette Domingue	Sally Fournet	Daniel Girouard	*Darcy Jemison	Jeanette Gaudet
Rose Liprie	Norris Guidry	Alice Hamilton	Una Hargrave	Hilda Henry
Jackie Labauve	Juanita Lantz	Melba Portinause	Ray Marcantel	Clay Miller
Mary D. Miller	Wanda Miller	Claire Mire	Dr. Robert Pavy	Rolley “Mel” Person
Terry Robideaux	Shannon Savoy	Bonita Taylor	Gene Wakefield	Everett Wild
Montez C. Ducote	Sr. Justina Baker, MHS	Sr. Gabriel Bertrand, MHS	Sr. Therese Schexnider, MHS	

WE PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OF HEALTH

Dr. Alleman	*Orville Augustine	Bryan Babineaux	Jerry Boudreaux	Phil Boulet
*Jack Brooks	Freida Broussard	Michael Ceballos	Suzanne Cautney	Shawn Cormier
C.P. & Betty Crochet	Alvin Fruge	Richard Hebert	Alice Kate Heck	*Elizabeth Larroque
Barbara Lippoldt	Marie Lupo	Bill & Jean Mancuso	Lou Marcanel	Elsa Paredes
Lee “Butch” Perez	Marie Prejean	Rev. Don Piraro	Natalie Rodrigues	Lena Roush
Leola Rougeau	*Peggy Roy	Josh Sonnier	Rita Stutes	Pat Theunissen
Mikey Toombs	Jimmie Touchet	Vida Trahan	Nelson Waguespack	
Archbishop Harry Flynn	Rev. Gary Schexnayder			

Let us remember in prayer and compassion all who have lost so much due to weather, those who have suffered due to war and violence and all the men and women serving in the military.

**denotes SEC Associate*