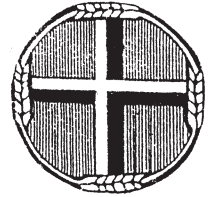


The Companion

Winter 2016



Word From Our President

Sister Carmelita Latiolais, SEC

We All Fall



During the fourteenth century, Julian of Norwich was a mystic who lived outside the walls of St. Julian's Church in England. Within her community she was considered to be a spiritual authority and she served them as a counselor and advisor. In 1373 she experienced sixteen revelations and she wrote about them in Revelations of Divine Love -- her work covering the love of God, the Incarnation, redemption and divine consolation. In an excerpt from her book, Julian states "...we need to fall, and we need to be aware of it; for if we did not fall, we should not know how weak we are ... nor should we know our Maker's marvelous love so fully..."

Many of you know that I had a fall in December of last year. My arm broke below the wrist in several places and I underwent a surgery during which a plate and screws were implanted. This was indeed a revealing experience. I received impressive care from the nurses, the emergency room doctor, the surgeon and the physical therapist. During the healing process the sisters took excellent care of me and many of our associates and friends pitched in to help. I met the most wonderful people in this whole experience and I really came to know the 'Maker's marvelous love.'

Is this God's design for me, or for all of us -- to meet wonderful people when we most need them? Life difficulties and falls are part of everyone's experience. We grieve losses, injuries, unfulfilled dreams, world and local troubles, etc. To withstand all of these it takes an attentive faith, a faith that can let us also experience **revelation** with Julian of Norwich and come to know the Maker's love through such difficulties. With such a faith we can find ourselves agreeing with Julian's most often-quoted line "*All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.*" (Julian of Norwich 1373)

Remembering SEC Associate

Melba Anniboli

Dec. 17, 1925 - Jan. 1, 2016



Melba Fae Anniboli, age 90, passed from our world on Saturday, January 1, 2016 at her home in Groves, Texas surrounded by family and friends. She was born in Camden, Texas December 17, 1925 the only child of Dora and Bergman Stringer. During her lifetime Melba nourished the people around her with faith and love. She enjoyed reading, cooking and spending time with friends. Melba was a member of St. Peter's The Apostle Catholic Church in Groves, TX. and attended daily worship there. In service to her faith and church she was a member of the altar society, and a minister of communion to the sick and homebound. Melba was an Associate of the Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant for the last 13 years. Her presence will be dearly missed.

ETC., ETC., ETC.

Oct. 24 Sisters Camille & Jeannette attended a Women's Day of Reflection at St. Charles Retreat Center in Moss Bluff. Patricia D. Fox was the facilitator basing her reflections on Micah 6:8 "*Prepare your heart for the Year of Mercy: Walk Humbly with your God.*"

Month of Oct. Sister Jeannette made her annual visit to the different classrooms at the Cathedral school in preparation for All Saints Day. Through stories and activities she introduced a different saint to each grade level. As always it was a wonderful experience!

Nov. 1 & 4 Sister Jeannette had the privilege of giving a teaching on the saints to the participants in the RCIA process in Kinder and in Jennings. Both groups enjoyed the presentation and had many questions.

Nov. 11 Sr. Pat Gauthier, SEC attended the, "Morning of Reflection" celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life presented by the Lafayette Diocese. The morning began with Mass followed by a presentation by Pattie Harris and Sr. Judith Gomila, MSC, ending with lunch.

Nov. 14 Sisters Camille & Jeannette along with many other people attended presentations given by Michael Kelly at Our Lady Queen of Heaven. It was an invitation to **BE BOLD BE CATHOLIC**- each of us has a role to play in working toward a future for the Church.

Feb. 1 SECA & SEC will host SECA Melanie Prejean Sullivan's Bellarmine College Students on *Springbreak Mission Trip* at McNeese Catholic Student Center for 6p.m. supper.

Jan. 1 SECA Don & Annette McSpadden, have a new granddaughter, Sarah Catherine McSpadden. Congratulations on beginning 2016 with such a precious gift!

Jan. 1 We congratulate SECA Ken & Karen Chamberlain on their new home!

Jan. 11 Governor John Bell Edwards requested a prayer be sung in French at his inauguration. Sr. Camille and her sister Julie Brunet were invited by Representative Jack Montoucet to participate. FUN but VERY COLD!



Left to right: Tommy Benoit (violinist), Sr. Camille, Julie Brunet, Rep. Jack Montoucet, Charles Mayard, (not pictured are Dave Domingue and pianist Taylor Guidry)

YEAR OF MERCY

Sr. Camille will be leading several groups as they ponder the gift and the invitation of mercy. Feb. 13, St. Lawrence Parish, Hathaway; March 15 Immaculate Conception Cathedral Ladies' Altar Society, Lake Charles; and March 20 Ladies of St. Jude, Beaumont.

Feb. 27 Sister Camille will present the Women's Day of Recollection at St. Louis Catholic High School in Lake Charles. It is sponsored by the Theresians of SWLA.

Feb. 28 Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Jennings will celebrate its Centennial the last Sunday of February at 2 pm. Sr. Camille will direct the parish music ministers in punctuating the historical event.

Sr. Carm and associate Pam Zuschlag are working on fundraising for a dorm in Kenya for teenage girls. **The project/mission is: Kibera Girls Education Fund - Protect and Elevate the Lives of Girls in Kibera by Providing Safe Housing.** We are raising funds for education of teenage girls in Kibera, Kenya. The girls are in need of safe housing and education. Girls in Kibera are at risk of abuse, including sexual abuse. If they become pregnant they are often forced to marry the abuser. At home girls often have many responsibilities and are not able to study and finish their schooling. Staying in dorms has improved the probability that the girls are able to complete their education. If you are interested in participating write or call Sr. Carm srcarmlatiolais@gmail.com or 337-856-7863 or Pam Zuschlag pzuschlag@cox.net or 337-857-4300 or <https://www.gofundme.com/kthv39kk>

Something to Ponder

Sister Celeste Larroque, SEC

Most of us are aware by this time that we are in the midst of the Holy Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis. It was no surprise that he made this proclamation as since day one of his papacy he has been all about preaching a loving and merciful God who only wants to see us in full communion with him. In a new book, *The Name of God is Mercy*, the author, Andrea Tornielli, sits with Pope Francis and interviews him regarding his thoughts on mercy. In the beginning of the interview, Francis states, "She (the Church) does not wait for the wounded to knock on her doors, she looks for them on the streets, she gathers them in, she embraces them, she takes care of them, she makes them feel loved." This is

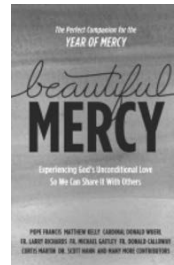
a beautiful pastoral image of the Church, but you and I know that it is not always the way things work. We have seen members and leaders alike turn a blind eye where there was need, where there was woundedness.

Consider the wounded and the fact that we are among them. Many lives are scarred by numerous misunderstandings and various instances of grief and alienation at one time or another. Many are dogged by persistent misfortune and heartache. Faith, relationships and lives are questioned. It is difficult not to be fearful or to lose hope. In any event, whether we are the wounded or the healer, we have the gift of mercy acting as a window into my life and yours.

Maybe the most liberating verse in scripture comes from the Beatitudes, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt. 5:7). Each time mercy is shown to another the window is open to the universality of God’s infinite love again and again. It lets in the light of the true knowledge of what redemption and salvation mean to our faulty existence. Over and over we are treated to a glimpse of not only what it means to truly be Christ-like or Christian, but also what it means to be embraced in a circle of true friendship with the One who has sustained our faith throughout our journey.

Mercy, then, is a gift. It was freely given when Jesus bowed his head and said, “It is finished!” There is a beautiful painting by Salvador Dali called Christ of St. John of the Cross. The viewer is gazing from the heavens over the crucified Christ after he has died but is still on the cross. The cross is serenely suspended over the sea and fishing boats and the colors are the dark, soft colors of the natural earth and its waters. It has always spoken to me of the great, great price paid for our happiness and our freedom. The muted colors supporting the devastation of a crucifixion which is taking place under God’s heavens is a scene to behold. The suspension of the cross also speaks of the hard and painful work that must take place in our everyday lives to healing wounds and making whole again. Mercy happens when there is a love that goes beyond what is humanly rational. Mercy is what takes us beyond forgiveness when it is difficult to offer it. It has to be supernatural. Like Dali’s painting, we feel the pull between heaven and earth as we are anchored in our daily lives while at the same time we are reaching for our one true home. Prayerfully remembering the sacrifice that is also suspended between our lives and our hearts desires, especially during these days of Lent, we come to some growing understanding of how mercy has been shown to us, and how in turn, it begs to be shown to others.

A Good Read



BEAUTIFUL MERCY

MATTHEW KELLY AND
TWENTY-SIX OTHER
INCREDIBLE CATHOLIC
AUTHORS

Giving and receiving mercy is central to living the life God calls us to. We all need mercy at different times in our lives, and we all have an obligation to give mercy to others at different times in our lives. If you think about it, God’s mercy is overwhelmingly generous. He calls us to respond with the same spirit of generosity.

Beautiful Mercy provides an encounter with the heart of God. By focusing on the seven spiritual and seven corporal works of mercy, it inspires readers to realize that extraordinary acts of love are possible for us all--no matter where we are in life.

Mark
Your
Calendar

April 9, 2016

“DAY OF PRAYER”
sponsored by SEC --- more
information will follow

July 10, 2016

“SEC Associate Assembly”
in Jennings --- more
information will follow

But what I would like to say is that the spiritual life is a life in which you gradually learn to listen to a voice that says something else, that says, “You are the beloved and on you my favor rests.” ...I want you to hear that voice. It is not a very loud voice because it is an intimate voice. It comes from a very deep place. It is soft and gentle. I want you to gradually hear that voice. We both have to hear that voice and to claim for ourselves that that voice speaks the truth, our truth. It tells us who we are.
(Henri Nouwen)

SEC

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

*Melba Anniboli	Paul Begnaud	R.J. Bonnin	Audrey Broussard	Robert Chiasson, Sr.
Gerald Domingue	Cathy Edley	Mary Godfrey	Charlotte A. Griffith	Dorothy Hanson
Kathryn Hatch	Flo Hatcher	Dwayne Hebert	Dr. Reno Petry	Konrad Kirsch
Yvonne Hernandez	Wilma Lafleur	Andree’ Macaluso	Richard Moore	Charles Morvant
Patricia Orgeron	Pat Ortego	Dr. Reno Petry, Jr.	Ruth Savant	Russell Stutes
Brian Theunissen	Sean R. Thompson	Alfred “Al” Brame		

WE PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OF HEALTH

Jean Ancelet	Wy Ardoin	Brian Babineaux	Francis Baudoin	Jerry Boudreaux
Andrea Brodhead	Nola Broussard	Dilbert Burleigh	Gloria Clark	Dolly Clement
Cathy Coleman	Dorothy Collins	Lois Crnkovic	Dorothy Dillon	Michelle Falgoust
Michelle Fontenot	Pat Fournet	Abbie Weber Gilder	Cohen Grinton	Cathy D. Guillory
Mary Harrell	James Higginbotham II	Lee Israel	Carla Keneson	Bill Kennedy
Linda Kimball	Jim Kincel	JV & Luby Landry	Vickie LeBlanc	Joe Livers
Elizabeth Larroque	Bobby Latiolais	Alex Martin	Nadin Meaux	Brittney Moore
Connor Morgan	Dolores “Dot” Pellerin	Fr. John Poerio	Natalie Primeaux	*Donna Richert
*Julia Robbins	Leola Rougeaeu	Lena Roush	Steve Russell	Helen & Morris
Tirpitz	Kathryn Trahan	Alison Walters	Lena Weaver	Pat Weaver
Casey White	Arthur Wyble	Kathy Yates		

For all the men and women serving in the military

*denotes SEC Associate