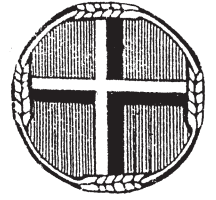


The Companion

Spring 2016



Word From Our President

Sister Carmelita Latiolais, SEC

The Kindness of Strangers

The alarm rang early on Saturday morning and I groggily got up, tired from my previous week's activities. I didn't want to go to a scheduled ordination in New Orleans later that day. I looked in the mirror and talked to myself, "This has been planned for months. You are going to go and enjoy yourself. This could be the last day of your life!"

I began my trip to New Orleans in a light rain and later, as I was traveling over the Atchafalaya Swamp, my car hydroplaned. It hit one side barrier and I thought, "Did I have a premonition? Is this REALLY the last day of my life?" In that moment, I didn't seem to mind dying; I just didn't want to go into the swamp water. My car swung around and hit the other side barrier and I was facing oncoming traffic. I jumped out of the disabled car and began to direct traffic towards the left lane. A trucker stopped and put out some flares and asked if I was ok. I said yes and, as he drove off, I thought "I'm not THAT ok."

Soon a car with a couple in it drove up and the husband, Hugh, got out and took over my job of directing traffic. His wife, Mrs. Rachel Jackson, talked to me and cleaned my glasses which were wet from the drizzling rain. Several other cars with people that I knew stopped to help. I asked them to call my friends to tell them I wasn't going to the ordination and that I wasn't hurt. Since some of the people I knew were calling me Sister, Mrs. Jackson asked me if I was a Catholic nun. I told her that I was and she let me know that she and her husband were Mormons. She remarked that she thought the two faiths were very similar but I chose not to dispute her claim.

Eventually the state police showed up, followed by an ambulance and a tow truck. All the while the

Jacksons stayed with me. They told me that they were on their way back home to Mississippi after attending a funeral for Hugh's sister. They offered to drive me anywhere so I suggested the next service station off the basin. I told them I would call and ask someone to pick me up and take me back to Lafayette but they insisted on driving me back themselves.

I thanked them many times over and offered to give them money for gas and for their trouble but they refused it. On the way to Lafayette, Rachel told me that when her youngest child was born the child was ill and she stayed in the hospital for a month. A friend of hers moved into Rachel's house during that time and took care of her other 6 children -- cooking, cleaning and washing. When Rachel offered to pay for the help her friend responded, "Just be kind to other people." So Rachel did, and I benefited from her friend's kindness.

In this Year of Mercy, called for by Pope Francis, I am reminded of the many blessings that I have received due to works of mercy done by others on my behalf. I pray that, when given the opportunity, I can be as kind as the Jacksons and their friend from Mississippi.



"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone--we find it with another."

--THOMAS MERTON

ETC., ETC., ETC.

February 19 Sr. Celeste Larroque retired from the State of Louisiana after 25 years. Most of those years were spent working for the Department of Health and Hospitals in the field of social work administration. Her years as a social worker and civil servant have been rewarding and she is currently enjoying a little time off.

March 1 Sister Jeannette retired from Parish ministry and moved to Jennings, LA. She is working with Sr. Camille and the Sabbath House Ministry. She is also

continuing her ministry with Bereavement Groups and has just completed her first 5 weeks sessions with 17 participates.

March 3 SECA Melanie Prejean Sullivan spent her annual Spring Break with University of Bellarmine students on mission in Lake Charles at Project Build a Hope. The group was treated to supper at the McNeese Catholic Student Center hosted by Sr. Shirley Gobert, and SECA Associates Janis and Leonard Guillory, Teresa DeVillier, Jean Hebert, Sr. Camille and Sr. Jeannette.

April 9 Fifty Associates and friends of the Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant gathered at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Student Center for the Annual SEC Morning of Prayer. Friend and teacher, Dr. Judy Savoie, facilitated the morning in reflecting on God's desire to transform each loss in our lives into a rich harvest, thereby moving us forward in gratitude and hope. Prayer, silence and sharing helped to make Dr. Judy's insights more our own. It was truly a rich time for all who attended.

April 16 Sr. Jeannette, SEC was the guest speaker at a gathering of people who have been affected by suicide. The meeting was sponsored by HALOS (Healing After Loved One's Suicide). It was held at the Governor's Mansion in Lake Charles.

April 21 Sisters Camille and Jeannette attended a presentation by Caroline Boudreaux, daughter of SEC Associates Robert & Leneta Boudreaux, and founder of The Miracle Foundation. The foundation was founded to provide orphanages for the many abandoned and homeless children in India. For more information on The Miracle Foundation go to www.miraclefoundation.org

April 26 A Celebration of Sister Camille's LIFE AND MINISTRY was held at THE STRAND in Crowley, LA. It was a fantastic gathering of over 200 people from the various places where Sr. Camille has ministered. People with whom she shared music and friendship.

This has been a very busy few months for Sr. Pat and family as she celebrated with three of her grandchildren. Blake Bernard, graduated from the Police Academy and is currently working for the Sheriff's Dept. in Abbeville, her granddaughters, Brooke, graduated with honors from LSU and is

planning to attend Medical School in Shreveport and Bailey made her Confirmation at St. Joseph Church in Milton. Congratulations and blessings go out to Sr. Pat's family.

May 3 SECA Ann Burton's son Curry presented his Senior Recital at the Tritico Theatre at the McNeese State University Department of Performing Arts. This recital was presented in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music in Performance Degree which he received on Saturday, May 13.

May 10



Sister Doris Roy, SEC

At the Lafayette General Health System Service Awards Banquet Sr. Doris Roy was recognized for 25 years of service as a chaplain at Lafayette General Medical Center. She joined numerous other employees in celebrating their contributions to healthcare in the Acadiana community.

The community of SEC and SEC Associates and friends has experienced the many unique gifts of so many people throughout the years. One individual who has shared her gift and love of words is SEC Associate Dr. Stella Nesanovich, Emeritus Professor of English from McNeese State University. Stella is a native of New Orleans who retired from university teaching in 2009 after 42 years. She is a published poet, the author of two full-length collections of poetry (Vespers at Mount Angel, from Xavier Review Press, and Colors of the River, from Yellow Flag Press) as well as four chapbooks of poems. Two of the chapbooks focus on the lives of the medieval mystics, a special interest of Stella's. She has published poems based on the lives and visions of Hildegard of Bingen,



Dr. Stella Nesanovich

Mechthild of Magdeburg, and Julian of Norwich.

In her writing and her friendship, Stella has been a faithful companion to the SEC community and mission. She is another wonderful example of how blessed we are to have so many members of our association who bring to life the Presence of Christ in word, deed, and prayer!



Something to Ponder

Sister Celeste Larroque, SEC

My brother once told me that he and a customer in his pharmacy were talking about vacations one day and the gentleman opined, “Vacations are good, they can make you change your mind.” Well, I have always thought that that was about the cleverest thing anybody could say about any type of situational change in everyday life. It can make you change your mind! The moment you step back from the ordinary routine, back away from the everyday fog of time taken for granted, something sometimes snaps to get our attention. Ideally, it could be a well-deserved vacation. It could also be a retreat or a day of rest. Many times, it could just be a glance in a different direction, an ear to a new sound, or a direction never taken before.

Summertime is the archetypal representative of stepping back and taking break from our routine. Schools are on break, families go on vacation, and people all over the world make plans for travel and sightseeing. We become all about rest and relaxation, but what about the part about “changing our minds?” Does all that R and R really help us to come back with changed attitudes – for the better? More positive? Refreshed? Have we become more attentive to what fills the hours of our days and are we more willing to attend to our tasks with more purpose and even more love? Have our minds really changed about the way we think about ourselves, our families, our co-workers, our world?

We probably need to examine more closely the whole concept of the everyday mind-changing that I was alluding to earlier. I am not talking about flip-flopping, willy-nilly I-can’t-make-up-my-mind stuff. I am talking about the challenge of not being bogged down every day in routine matters channeled by

mundane ideas and thoughts. No, everyday paying attention is where inspiration comes from. Heeding the new message is what will feed the psyche and the soul when we are faced with a decision to make or a trial to be faced. In short, it is in the moments of attentive listening to all the life around us that the Holy Spirit thrives.

The ordinariness of life is replete with mystery. We just have to look into it when it calls to us. The psalmist in Psalm 51:10 says, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; renew in me a steadfast spirit,” after he was overcome by his recognition of what needed to be changed in his own mind and heart. This particular psalm always speaks to me of the great mercy and redemption that awaits all of us whenever we take the time and the necessary grief to look at the wrongs we have brought into our midst. Often these wrongs are simply ones that we have committed by “not committing” – to the person, the situation, the need, the voice – that most needed our attention for one short moment. These sins of omission are spawned out of the deeper deficits of pride, envy, and the other usual suspects. We know them pretty well, don’t we? Reading and praying this psalm reveals that we are not a wicked people, but we can be quite inattentive to the world around us at times and hence unconnected with God’s good creation and the way it graces our everyday lives.

So vacations are good. They can restore us and bring us back to our regular routine refreshed and renewed. Or, they could only be a break in the monotony of our lives of which some parts we feel powerless to change. I would suggest that in between the vacations, pay attention to what is tugging at your everyday desires and hopes. Whatever it is that makes you smile, look twice, listen up – it just might make you change your mind!

The text "Mark Your Calendar" is written in a bold, black, cursive font. A small icon of a pencil with a checkmark is positioned over the word "Your".

July 16, 2016

Annual SEC Associate Assembly in Jennings at St. Mary Center across from Our Lady Help of Christian church. More info to follow

SEC

614 N Cutting Ave
Jennings, LA 70546

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

Verlie Boudreaux	Gerald Breaux	Kathy Coleman	Gerald Domingue	Gladys Duplechain
Sr. Valerie Dupree	Raymond Goodrich	Beryl Guidry	Yvonne Hernandez	Theresa Howard Bar-
bara Larriviere	Paul Lafleur	Rose Octave McMillin	Ben Miller	Elia Mouton
Catherine Navarra	Dean Nodier	Rosemary Pauley	Yvonne Pharr	Mike Quebodeaux
Anna Grace Richard	Jo Ann Scotola	Effie Sonnier	Edward Terry, Sr.	Betty Timpa
Dr. Charles White	Rev Archimandrite Herbert May			

WE PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OF HEALTH

Daniel Allemond	Dilbert Burleigh	Dolly Clement	Frank Cormier	Bryan Babineaux
Jerry Boudreaux	Theresa Boudreaux	Andrea Brodhead	Sean Doyle	Kristie Gaspard
Hailey Girouard	Hilda Henry	Elizabeth Larroque	Dolores “Dot” Pellerin	Hutch Pharr
Leola Rougeaeu	Lena Roush	Larry Themas	Alison Walters	
Sr. Patricia Otilio, RSM				

For all the men and women serving in the military

***denotes SEC Associate**