

WE REMEMBER THE DEAD

Raymond Badeaux	Sherry Roy Barton	Anna Mae Breaux	Robert Christman	Kenny Clement
Lynn Desselle	Dora Ferguson	C.J. Fontenot	Adele Girouard	Steve Guilbeau
Anna Hanks	Jean Kelly	Walter Landry, Sr.	*Andrus Martinez	*Ann Musser
*Louise Patin	Buggy Shuff	Joann Starks	Sr. Miriam Ulm,O.P.	
Lawrence "Tut-Tut" Conque				

WE PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OF HEALTH

Jackie G. Austin	Audrey Algero	Sister Anita, RSM	*Del Babineaux	Rosalie Babineaux
Rev. Michael Barras	Peggy Barremore	Carl Belaire	Liz Blomquist	*Karen Bonnin
*Mable Boudreaux	Verlie Boudreaux	*Bernice Ciambatti	Dolly Clement	Mary Constanza
Sally Daigle	Julie Davis	Ruby Davis	Whitney Dorise	Sr. B DeRouen
Laura Doucet	Lori Duhon	Buddy Engert	*Lola Fontenot	Normel France
Rose Fuselier	J.J. Guillory	Walter Guth	Lena Harrington	Charles Hausen
Cathy Hidahl	Willanna James	Rafaella Johnson	Marjorie King	Julie Landry
Vivian Langley	Faye Luke	Louis Maloz	*Clara Martinez	Bennett McNeal
Rev. Joe McGrath	Carlton Mertz	Lee Miller	Jackie Morris	Charles Newman
Ida Rider	Jack Shively	Bee Smith	Donnie Spano	Carolyn Sylvester
Sister Judine Theriot	Nona Thibodeaux	Deacon Joe Trahan	Effie Trouille	Dee Dee Vanbergen
*Terrell & Evelyn Bernard	*Rita & Wilson Frederick	Carmen & Trent Roebuck		Frances Haymark Handy

For all the men and women serving in the military.

*denotes SEC Associate

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The Companion



Spring 2009

WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Andrus Martinez, Sr. Camille's father, died on April 27th. He was the last 'dad' of our community. My own dad, Bob Latiolais, died as a young man of 37 in 1952 and Sister Jeannette's dad, L.B. Touchet, died in 1962, before I knew her. None of the other Sisters knew our dads but we all knew Dan Roy, Sr. Doris' father, Adolphe Larroque (Papa Tô), Sr. Celeste's dad, Laney Gobert, Sr. Shirley's dad and Hadley Middlebrooks, Sr. Ann's dad.



We celebrated the lives of all these fathers. We enjoyed their homes, their unique gifts, their stories, their humor, as well as, our mutual idiosyncrasies. The one character trait that all these dads shared was a deep commitment to their family. Commitment was a pledge each of these men made to their families. Their commitment provided refuge and support for their families.

Jesus told scripture stories of God's commitment to us; the Shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to seek out the one that has gone astray; the woman searches her house for the missing coin, and the Father rushes down the road to embrace his lost son. The comfort of God's parenting of us mirrors the comfort we received from these fathers. We cherish their memory and the memory of all the 'fathers' who have nourished us and have given us a refuge and a secure fortress. There is a prevailing sadness as we go forward without our earthly fathers at our sides. My childish heart wants them back and yet we go forward in faith. Our open hearts are committed to nourish, to support, and to provide refuge for others, as our fathers did for us. In honor of all our

fathers, we review our own commitments, and we live in immense gratitude for the time they spent with us.

Sister Carmelita Latiolais

"As you come to know that you are loved fully and unconditionally, you will also come to know that you do not have to fear death. Love is stronger than death; God's love was there for you before you were born and will be there for you after you have died. Jesus has called you from the moment you were knitted together in your mother's womb — love is stronger than death. (taken from: The Inner Voice of Love by Henri Nouwen)

ETC. ETC. ETC.

Feb. 23 SEC Associates in the Lake Charles region met for their annual Mardi Gras Party. It was held at the Sisters' residence on Swanson Lane. There was lots of revelry, great food and wonderful camaraderie. The King and Queen chosen for Mardi Gras 2009 are Associates Ann Marshall and Father Keith Pellerin.



March 21 The Lake Charles area SEC Associate Lenten Gathering was held at our Lady Immaculate School in Jennings, LA. The topic was *The Labyrinth* and the presenter was Associate Sue Cagle. Sue shared with us her story of how she got certified in working with the Labyrinth. A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but

purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. For most Christians, holy places are reminders that we are on the way to our ultimate home in God. In the Middle Ages, many churches had labyrinths set in the stone floors, often called 'Jerusalems'. If one could not go to Jerusalem, because it was too expensive or dangerous, then one could make one's pilgrimage by going to church to walk the path of the labyrinth. The most famous of these remaining labyrinths is at Chartres Cathedral near Paris, France. The labyrinth at Chartres was built around 1200. Following Sue's presentation we were invited to walk the Labyrinth.

To conclude our time together we had a service welcoming and commissioning several new Associates.



(left to right- seated) Anna Claire Daughenbaugh, Donna Richert, Sheila Fox, (standing) Dolores Tuminello, Janis Guillory, Annette McSpadden, Tiny Regan and Bill Clement (not pictured are: Leonard Guillory, Joel Richert, Tommy Tuminello and Don McSpadden)

May 2 Sister Ann Middlebrooks, SEC and SEC Associate Sister Carol Shivley along with over 24 other religious from the Diocese of Shreveport participated in a **Retreat Day** which was hosted by the

Franciscan Friars of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and students of LA Tech University in Ruston, LA. The guest speaker for the event was Bishop Michael Duca, Bishop of the Shreveport Diocese, and the topic was entitled **Called & Sent**. Bishop Duca referenced the topic to Vocation and Mission. A call being something beyond our own self-understanding that we form into our vocation. Mission being something that we don't necessarily always want but definitely helps to define us, where we grow and mature spiritually. He noted that religious life as in all of life has tension which can be defined as *not needing something but in letting go of something*.

May 2 **SEC Annual Day of Prayer** was held at St. Charles Retreat Center in Moss Bluff, LA. The topic was **Faithful Citizenship & the Vigilant Catholic** and Msgr. Ronald Groth was the speaker. He spoke about the vision of the Founding Fathers' regarding Church and state, the role of the Church in Social/Political conscience, challenges of Catholics in public office and that political decisions have moral content.



The day was well attended and was beneficial for all present.

Food for Thought

The Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant recently held their Day of Prayer. Monsignor Ronnie Groth was the presenter and he provided a most thought-provoking and timely reflection on what it means to be a faithful citizen and a Catholic at the same time. His knowledge and theology on the subject really challenged me further to reflect on the reality that we cannot go anywhere today without hearing of or presenting our own politicizing of the present state of affairs. The values and

morality learned from my parents and teachers were ones that I believed were to be examined within the context of what was good for a greater good, what was needed for those with a greater need. Back then, this was what my government gave me responsibility for and this was the wide-open mission of my Catholicism. Today, it seems there is constant polarity between government and religion which at one time, co-existed as two next-door neighbors. As life has gotten more complex and the world has gotten smaller, we are faced with making difficult choices when it comes to government and religion. This runs the gamut from a decision made by nine justices in Washington, D.C. to our own individual consciences. Some people will do hours and hours of research before making a decision; others will spend hours and hours in prayer before making theirs. And who's to say if those people researching are not also praying at the same time and vice versa? Indeed, what would Jesus do? I don't know, but I know what he did. He extended mercy to sinners, tolerance to his friends, peace to his followers. He exposed the scholar and chided those who did not use their wealth of knowledge and money for others. He was the true leader of the free world simply because he saved it from its own misery and hopelessness. And he did all of this not as a politician or a synagogue official. Jesus' own values and morality are timeless. Historians will agree it is largely Jesus' ethics that became the paradigm for intelligent governance ever since he walked the earth. Granted, many such moral principles existed before his time, but in the three years of his public ministry his teachings codified the foundational beliefs that remain in modern day Christianity.

On the night before he was assassinated, Dr. Martin Luther King presented one of his most moving speeches. The speech is often called, "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. He was in the city of Memphis to help organize support for the city's

sanitation workers who were on strike. During his speech he revisited the parable of the Good Samaritan. We all know the story. Dr. King said that the difference between the Levite and priest and the Good Samaritan was that the Levite and priest asked themselves, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" The Good Samaritan reflected, "If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" Dr. King asserted that the Samaritan projected the "I" into the "thou." Dr. King said that this is only what he imagined happened on the road to Jericho. But I am tending to believe that this is exactly what Jesus was talking about. Putting the "I" into the "thou." I believe we are all called as Christians to look beyond the structures of politics and the people who identify with only a "left" or "right" opinion. We need to take a very healthy break from the talk shows and media personalities whose opinions we have surrendered to. We should step forward into being good stewards of our faith and government by reclaiming the spirit in which we were established. Speak out when we must and pray when we will. But don't scorn those with whose opinions you differ; just try to walk with them in this fragile world we live in. We are all on the road to Jericho.

Sister Celeste Larroque

*Mark
in
Your
Calendar*

*SEC Associates
Saturday, July 18, 2009
Associate Assembly & Commissioning
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Life Center
Topic: The Art of Discernment
(more than decision making)*

Remembering SEC Associates

May they come to the fullness of glory in the presence of the Risen Lord.

Theresa Ann Musser
April 6, 1928 - Feb. 21, 2009



Theresa Ann Harwood Musser, 81, passed away Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009. She was a native of Paducah, KY. and was reared by the Albert C. Gravel family while living in Alexandria, but lived most of her life in the Lake Charles and Moss Bluff area. She was a member of the Lake Charles Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, serving as the volunteer Gift Shop manager and buyer for 18 years. Ann was an active member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. In 2006 Ann became an SEC Associate.

Marie Louise Patin
July 24, 1924 - April 6, 2009



Louise was born in Port Arthur, TX. She graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1942 and worked for Standard Brass and MFC. CO. for 47 years. Louise was an active member

of St. Peters Catholic Church in Groves, Eucharist Minister, member of the Altar Society, Secretary for 18 years and member of the DCCW and bereavement committee. She was awarded the *Labor of love* award in 2001 and the *Benediction of Love* award in 2002. Louis was an avid flower gardener and loved working in her yard. She twice won the Groves *Yard of the Month*. Louise was an Associate of the Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant since 1996. She was truly a beautiful, loving person who will be missed by many.

Andrus Martinez
May 30, 1916 - April 29, 2009



Andrus Martinez, the father of Sister Camille Martinez, was a native of Vatican, and a resident of Scott since 1939. He was a graduate of Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now ULL), where he was a three-sport letterman in baseball, track and basketball. He was the founding president of the Scott Lions Club and organized the original 1940 Scott fast-pitch baseball team. Mr. Martinez served faithfully on the Lafayette Parish Juror Commission for 50 years, and was a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Scott. He was well known as a cook for several church and civic organizations. He proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Army during World War II and later retired as an independent insurance agent. Mr. Martinez was an SEC Associate since 1996. He will be greatly missed by family, friends and all who knew him