

SEC
3413 Swanson Ln
Lake Charles, LA 70605

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
LAKE CHARLES, LA
PERMIT NO. 251



The Companion

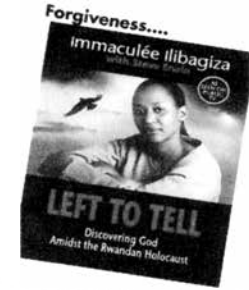


ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer 2014

Word From Our President

Sister Carmelita Latiolais, SEC



In March of 2014 I visited the beautiful country of Rwanda, Africa. The views of the hills, volcanic mountains, valleys, waterways and mountain gorillas were breathtaking. I was privileged to travel with fifteen people from

many areas of the United States. We loved the land of Rwanda, the spectacular gorillas and the lovely people. At the end of the trip we visited the genocide museum: The Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre. This visit brought a great deal of heartache to all of us.

The Rwandan Genocide was a mass slaughter of Tutsi and moderate Hutus. During the approximate 100-day period from April 7, 1994 to mid-July, an estimated 500,000-1,000,000 Rwandans were killed. Neighbors, friends and family members slaughtered people they had lived alongside of for years.

Several years ago I read Immaculée Ilibagiza's powerful story Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust. During the 90 days Immaculée spent hiding from killers in her pastor's 3' by 4' bathroom with seven other women, she heard how her family and many other countrymen had been slaughtered. Incredibly, she has forgiven the killers. Immaculée stated, "Forgiving the men who killed my parents and brother was a process, a journey into deeper and deeper prayer."

Many of us have hard-to-forgive hurts and sufferings in life. I find myself wondering how Immaculée could forgive those who slaughtered her family. Her example is a powerful witness to the forgiveness of Jesus. I hear both Immaculée and Jesus calling for a commitment to prayer to be able to forgive.

- I believe that we can heal Rwanda - and our world - by healing one heart at a time.
- Rwanda can be a paradise again, but it will take the love of the entire world to heal my homeland. And that's as it should be, for what happened in Rwanda happened to us all - humanity was wounded by the genocide. Immaculée Ilibagiza

*Remembering SEC Associate
Rita Anne Arceneaux Frederick
Feb. 27, 1928 – March 3, 2014*



Rita, 86, of Nederland, Texas died on March 3, 2014 at Regent Care Center in the Woodlands, TX. She was born in Sulphur, LA and resided in Nederland, TX for over 77 years with her husband, Wilson and their six children. She made a difference in so many lives by her love, her faith, her happiness and genuine willingness to render service. She was a Eucharistic Minister and helped in a number of committees and service groups like Meals-on-Wheels. Along with her husband they coordinated the Parish Renew Program, a number of discussion clubs, parent education, CCD, family enrichment groups, Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, ACTS, baptismal catechesis and Pre-Cana. She was President of the Altar Society, choir director and many other Parish Services. She also worked as Assistant Director of the Diocesan Office of Family Ministry for over 15 years. Rita conducted a number of workshops all over the state. She had friends everywhere and her presence will be greatly missed. Both she and Wilson were Associates of the Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant since 1996.

*Remembering SEC Associate
Patricia M. O'Brien
1934 -May 11, 2014*



Pat was born in Boston, Massachusetts and lived a life of service to her family and community. A flight attendant with American Airlines (AA), she married and raised a family in travels She is

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

Mignon Arton	Margaret W. Bateman	Paul Blanchet, Jr.	Wilda Brodhead	Claire Bonin,
Hollis Chretien	Ruth Colombia	Edna Conque	Irving Domingue	Elizabeth "Liz" Dugas
Katherine Duhon	Getty Faul	*Rita Frederick	Dolores Gueno	Patty Hernandez
James Hughes	Roberta John	Sylvia Johnson	Polly Lacy	Larry Miller
Leroy O'Brien	*Pat O'Brien	Michael J. Reed	Terri Richard	Gerald Savant
Tammy Thevis Siffert	Paula Simon	Johnny Suru	Clifton Vidrine	Judith White
Dolores Zimmerman	Gloria Zimmermann			

WE PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OF HEALTH

*Mabel Anniboli	Stephen Ayers	Michelle Benning	Roland Bodin	Betty Broussard
Verlie Boudreaux	*Ginny Bushnell	*Bernice Ciambotti	Janice Coggins	Mary Costanza
Betty Eskin	*Lola Fontenot	Rose Fuselier	Daniel Gobert	Lori Gooch
Nina Guidry	Conrad Litel	Hayden Marshall	Wanda Miller	Beth Pharr
Fr. John Poerio	Colton Preveto	*Julia Robbins	Lena Roush	Rosalind Sarradet
Holden Stine	Mary Thompson	Nelda Travis	*Ella V Wakely	Debbie Warshaw
Patrick Weaver	Adaisia Zinselmeyer	Sr. B DeRouen, O Carm		

For all the men and women serving in the military

*denotes SEC Associate

survived by her husband of 53 years, Al O'Brien and her 5 children. A faith filled Catholic, Pat lived a Christ centered life in fidelity to her husband, her children, her grandchildren and her church. She loved to help people and did that formally as a volunteer in Galveston-Houston's AIDS Ministry, at Northwest Hospital and Birthright Houston. But behind the scenes she would take care of children, drive cancer patients long distances for treatment and help anyone in need. In January of 1996 while living in Beaumont she became an SEC Associate. Pat will sincerely be missed by many.

Etc. Etc. Etc.

February 23 On behalf of Rev. Wayne LeBleu, Rev. Rojo Antony and the Vocation Committee of Christ the King Parish in Lake Charles, LA, invited the Religious Sisters of the Diocese of Lake Charles to a luncheon. It was held at Christ the King Parish Hall. Each year the Sisters look forward to attending this event which is such an affirming contribution of the women Religious in the diocese.

March 29 The St. Philip Neri community honored SEC Associate ,Lola Fontenot, in the Monsignor A.J. Robichaux Hall in Kinder, LA, to celebrate the opening of a new door in her life. Ms Lola has been a lifelong friend, a pillar of the community and beloved to all. Recently she came to the decision that she could no longer live in her home alone. The community of Kinder came together to honor Ms. Lola with loving support as she made this transition to her new home. She is now living with her niece, Amy and her husband, Josh. You are welcome to visit or call. She would love to hear from you. Lola Fontenot, 2420 Greenlawn, Lake Charles, LA 70607 Ph. # (337) 240-8822

Ms Lola's Gala,

"An Act of Love"



May 3 **SEC ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER** was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Student Center in Lake Charles. The theme for the day was THE TRINITARIAN LIFE. Dr. Judy Savoie was the facilitator

and spoke of the richness and the **PROFOUND LIFE OF THE TRINITY**. Her guidance and insight invited us to consider how that mystery has played out in our own personal lives. There were beautiful moments of sharing as different people spoke of their experience of being awakened to the presence of God in their life - truly a blessed day.

Doctor
Judy
Savoie



SEC Associate Kay Dore' and her husband Bill were part of a delegation that recently went to the Vatican to see Pope Francis. Kay brought him greetings from the Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant. Kay also asked him to reconsider the investigation of the American Sisters and the Leadership Council of Women Religious by some Vatican offices. Pictured below is Kay with Pope Francis.



May 10 At the Mother of the Redeemer Monastery located near Opelousas, LA a small ceremony was held as Sister Pat, SEC became an Oblate, with the Olivetan Benedictine Monks. The monks meet every two months in prayer followed by fellowship with a meal.

May Sr. Carm participated in the Sacred Heart's Medical Mission to Honduras. Recently Dina Aguilar, director in Honduras of the Misioneros de Esperanza, visited Sacred Heart and St. Cecilia School. While she was here the St. Cecilia children were able to Skype with children from Honduras. A wonderful bond has been formed between the two communities.

SEC Associate Fr. Louie Richard will be accepting a new assignment on July 1, 2014 and begin serving as pastor at St. Mary Magdalen in Abbeville. Fr. Louie is completing 12 years as pastor at Sacred Heart in Broussard. Sr. Carm is working with a committee to plan his farewell mass and reception on June 21st at 5 P.M.

Something to Ponder

Sister Celeste Larroque, SEC

In the daily Liturgy of the Hours, the Church prays the Canticle of Zechariah or the *Benedictus*, from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. The last stanza of the prayer reads:

*In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Life seems to be a tenuous art of light and darkness living side by side in everyday experiences. We discover our daily breath of meaning anew with each dawning day and turn it over to the exhaustive ruminations of a good or bad night's sleep. And in between all of that we encounter the light and darkness of so many moments that reveal so much to us about ourselves and our world.

Sometimes we are faced with issues that might cause us much internal discomfort, i.e., morally and faith-wise. We feel that we must make a choice. Recently, I have been reflecting upon the way there are certain global issues we hold up to the light at times and there are others at other times we keep in the dark. If you belong to any type of social media, that is a good place to look and see such diversity. Some people will post multiple articles about war, famine and political unrest. Other people prefer to make abused pets their cause. Is it all that black and white? Do people care more about their fluffy pets than human lives and social injustices? I prefer to think not. But we are quite hard on each other sometimes in trying to make one another choose a side when the truth lies somewhere in between. This is especially true in the political milieu, but that is a whole other column in itself!

I would prefer to think that people have faith. I prefer to think that you and I are people who have a relationship with God that is constantly seeking the balance between light and darkness. In faith, we know that darkness is always going to be a part of the journey. Indeed, we know that faith itself is dark at times. The great Carmelite mystic and Doctor of the Church, St. John of the Cross, based much of his spirituality on darkness. His most profound experience of God was found to be in darkness and he wrote about it extensively. For St. John, total abandonment lay in the emptiness and

nothingness of darkness. St. John wrote that this darkness was more illuminative than the light because this is where you found God and where God found you, thereby leading to perfect union. "Oh night more lovely than the dawn!" he exclaims in his poem, *Dark Night of the Soul*.

And then there is the light. Contrasting (seemingly so) St. John is another Carmelite saint, Therese of Lisieux, who lived her life in living, vibrant color and is remembered for her saying, "I want everything!" But what that "everything" meant for her was the same abandonment to the will and love of her God. Therese's life was an open book to her family, her community, and shortly after her death, to the world. It was all about being in the light. Without being able to go into the detail about their lives, John suffered his inner conversion through the fruits of darkness and Therese suffered her own in light. These are just two short examples of persons and personalities who we believed achieved two very fulfilling prayer and daily lives in two very distinct ways.

So we are all so different in faith, prayer, spirit and the ways we choose to live our lives each day. Indeed, everyday from the shadow of death we draw hope from the Dawn from on high. We should not worry about being ourselves, we should not be fearful of the shadows or of being overwhelmed by the light because there is a tender compassion to guide our feet into the way of peace at the end of each day and the end of our lives.

Saturday, June 21, 2014

SEC Associate Assembly – Our Lady Help of Christians St. Mary's Center– Jennings, LA
Sister Camille, SEC will share with us the "Sabbath House Ministry" and Sister Bernie Barrett, SHpS, ministering in Lake Providence, LA will be with us to update us on the happenings in that area.

Book of Interest

Jesus: A Pilgrimage by James Martin, SJ



James Martin, SJ is a gifted storyteller and spiritual director and invites readers to experience the stories of the Gospels in a *completely new, vivid, and exciting way*. He recreates the world of first century Galilee and Judea and reveals how Jesus speaks to us today.