

WE REMEMBER THE DEAD

Donald Bernard	David Blackwell	Nona "T2" Bonin	Flo Boudreaux	Curtis Briley
Jeannette Broussard	Edith Burnett	Margie Daigle	John Ecuier	Hugh Kelly
Herman Granger	Mary Lou Guillory	David LeBleu	Cynthia May	Christine Moore
Emelie Raggio	Harrison Savant	Howard Smythe	Joseph Zimmerman	Pat Wagner
*Deacon Vernon Drummond	Honore "Totsie" Burton			



The Companion



Winter 2009

WE PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OF HEALTH

Jackie G. Austin	Dalilah Ayers	Ali Aucoin	Rosalie Babineaux	Sister Justine Baker
Jackie Balfa	Peggy Barremore	Carl Belaire	Donna Gail Berry	Elizabeth Blomquist
*Karen Bonnin	*Mable Boudreaux	Verlie Boudreaux	Kim Brame	Orlanda Calderon
Jenny Carrier	Ryan Carter	Helen "Dolly" Carter	*Bernice Ciambatti	Dolly Clement
Kenny Clement	Mary Constanza	Jan Craven	Louis Daigle	Sally Daigle
Sr. B DeRouen	Earl Devall	Laura Doucet	*Lola Fontenot	Rose Fuselier
Gabbi Gallemore	Barbara Gayle	Doyle Green	Alice Guillory	J.J. Guillory
Dr. Walter Guth	Willanna James	*Jean Hebert	Lee Israel	Rafaella Johnson
Jean Kelly	Bennett McNeal	Lee Miller	*Ann Musser	Charles Newman
*Louise Patin	Ida Rider	Jack Shively	Don Spano	Rena Reed
Patty Rue	Carolyn Sylvester	Sister Judine Theriot	Nona Thibodeaux	Mary Thomas
Deacon Joe Trahan	Effie Trouille	Sr. Miriam Ulm, O.P.	*Rita & Wilson Frederick	
*Andrus & Clara Martinez	*Terrell & Evelyn Bernard			

For all the men and women serving in the military.

*denotes SEC Associate

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Lake Charles, LA 70605

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WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Recently I was asked to give presentations to some of the students at St. Cecilia Catholic School in Broussard, LA on the topic of vocations. This caused me to revisit again the gift of my own vocation. I was attending Our Lady of Fatima elementary school and was being taught by Sisters. I remember thinking I would really like to be a teacher. Actually from 8th grade on, I was involved in teaching religion classes to the younger students who came to classes on Saturdays and after school.



During my freshman year of high school, one of my friends confided that she was going to go to the convent. I thought I would tag along. Actually she never went but I proceeded on and found my true niche. The Holy Spirit used that little ruse of my friend saying she was going to become a nun to get me thinking about the possibilities of joining religious life.

I certainly had many things to learn and many ways to grow during the past 48 years. I am so very grateful to have been led into this wonderful life. One of the books I received for Christmas was **Thomas Merton – A Book of Hours**. In the book Merton writes about vocation *"Our vocation is not simply to be, but to work together with God in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny. This means to say that we should not passively exist, but actively participate in God's creative freedom, in our own lives, and in the lives of others, by choosing the truth. To put it better, we are even called to share with God the work of creating the truth of our identity."* This is a lifelong work and vocation for every person. Let us pray for

one another as we actively work with God in creating the truth and in living our own identity and our own vocation in love.
 Sister Carmelita Latiolais, SEC

Sister Carm is planning a mission trip to Kenya in the summer of 2010. Anyone interested please contact her at carm@shbroussard.org or by calling 337-856-7863. Learn more about the organization Sister Carm works with at <http://kenyachildrenfoundation.org>

ETC. ETC. ETC.

Remembering SEC Associate
Deacon Vernon Drummond
May 3, 1938 – January 15, 2009



Vernon was born in Port Arthur, TX . and he worked as an electrician for 30 years. He was one of the first ordained Deacons in the Diocese of Beaumont in 1979. During the 29 years as deacon he worked in many of the parishes around the Port Arthur area. He was the founding Director of the Hospitality Center in Port Arthur. He worked with the poor as Director of St. Peter's Parish Food pantry in Roswell, NM. After retirement, he continued serving as a Deacon and working in numerous church ministries. He worked with Pre-Cana and *One in the Lord Marriage Preparation* Programs as well as other family life programs. He was very involved in the *Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement* and brought many different bible study programs to the area. The Cursillo and ACTS retreat movements were close to his heart. In 1998 Vernon

became an Associate member of the Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant. Vernon is survived by Diane, his wife of fifty-two years, four sons, nine grandchildren, and many faithful friends. He will truly be missed.

Oct. Sisters Jeannette and Ann, SEC and Sister Carol, OSU attended the annual CACE. (Chief Administrators of Catholic Education) held in Oklahoma City, OK. The theme of the conference was “*Nurturing the Call*.” Dr. Robert Wicks was the keynote speaker. Dr. Wicks has published more than forty books for both professionals and the general public and is a professor at Loyola College in Maryland. His two major areas of expertise are the prevention of secondary stress and the integration of psychology and spirituality from a world religion perspective. His message of balancing compassion for others with a deep kindness and reverence for our own inner self is one that all of us are in need of hearing.

Nov. 21-22 The SEC Community Days gifted us with a renewed and reclaimed vision, and a plan of action for embracing it. The next step was to discern who would lead the community in its implementation. The discernment process was a graced time of communal reflection and sharing. In our sacred circle, we learn so much about ourselves, one another, and the action of God in our midst. It was a time punctuated with prayer which led to the election of Sister Carmelita Latiolais to serve as SEC President. The community is truly blessed with her commitment and acceptance of leadership. Sister Carm invited Sister Ann Middlebrooks to serve as her assistant. We are indeed grateful to Sister Celeste for her service as President during the past eight year.

Dec. 2 Sisters Camille, Shirley and Jeannette with several SEC Associates attended an evening of recollection at St. Charles Retreat Center in Moss Bluff, LA. facilitated by Father Whitney Miller. It was entitled, “A Grief Observed” and was held

on his mother’s first birthday in heaven. It was a most powerful follow-up of the SEC Day of Prayer Father Whitney presented to our community in April ’08.

Dec. 6 The Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant commemorated their 25th Anniversary at a Eucharistic Celebration. The liturgy took place at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Broussard, LA. Father Louie Richard was the main celebrant and homilist with Father Ed Degeyter, Msgr. Jace Eskind, Msgr. James Gaddy, and Msgr. Harry Greig, concelebrating. Under the direction of Sister Camille, several of the SEC Associates and friends provided beautiful music for the celebration. A reception followed.

Dec. 7 Several SEC Associates and Sisters Camille and Jeannette attended Paula D’arcy’s play “The Long Road Home” on McNeese Campus. SECA Father Keith Pellerin’s parish, St. Martin de Porres, hosted this event.

Dec. 9 Sisters Shirley and Jeannette attended the annual Serra Club social held for the priests and religious of the Diocese of Lake Charles. As always it was a delightful evening with great food and enjoyable entertainment provided by Kent Gonsouin from Baton Rouge. Kent had everyone laughing as he shared some Cajun humor.

Dec. 27 Sisters Ann and Jeannette SEC, and Carol, OSU spent Christmas in Kentucky. Instead of playing in the snow time was spent helping Sister Carol’s family strip tobacco. What an adventure! The first thing to learn was, tobacco is stripped, not shucked! While probably the girls from Louisiana could not make a living stripping tobacco, it might be something good to know!

Jan. 6 **CONGRATULATIONS** to SEC Associates Andrea and Jim Blanchard who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Jan. 11 Sister Camille attended the annual Appreciation Dinner for Religious Women hosted by Father Wayne Lebleu and Christ the King Parish’s Vocation Committee. This year Bishop Glen Provost attended as well.

Jan. 22 Sister Jeannette and several SEC Associates were among the hundreds of pro-life supporters who participated in the Pro-Life *March for Life* held in Lake Charles, LA. The evening began in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with the praying of the rosary followed by an Ecumenical Prayer Service led by Bishop Glen John Provost. At the conclusion of this service a candlelight walk was taken to the steps of the Calcasieu Parish Courthouse at which time presentations were made.

Feb. 1-5 Sister Jeannette and Associates Deacon Glen Viau and Rose Viau were members of a team that helped with a “Busy Adult Retreat” sponsored by Our Lady of Good Counsel.

March 15 Sisters Doris, Celeste and Carm will host a Lafayette area SEC Associates’ Lenten Gathering at Sacred Heart Church in Broussard, LA. Sr. Carm will talk about St. Theresa of Avila, and will show pictures of her recent pilgrimage to Spain including Avila, Alba de Tormes, and Segovia, sites significant in the lives of Sts. Theresa and John of the Cross. Also anyone in the Lafayette area interested in becoming an Associate is welcome to attend.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else.” So declares the great 19th century poet, Emily Dickinson. What I find myself surprised by is the fact that Ms. Dickinson was a recluse during most of her adult life. But here she was, in her solitude, able to capture much of life’s mystery and challenge in a verse that is both innovative and touching. Apparently her solitary life was cheered by the ordinariness of each day. Her gratitude for all of her single-hearted constitution was expressed in her poetry.

Life indeed is startling if we look outside of ourselves with the eyes of one who is not prone to claiming absolute knowledge as unshakeable and universal truth. Too numerous throughout one day are the times we are startled by its events. We feel sidetracked by chance and tossed about in numerous directions. Our deepest need is to make sense of it all so that balance will once again be the order of the day.

Solitude does for us what we cannot do for ourselves during all the minutiae that tug at our time and talent each day. Solitude is the place we go to make sense of silly reactions, hurt feelings, or wishful thinking. Those who shun the silence of time spent alone can only live each day bouncing off of the whims of other people, places and events. They sprint from height to height to avoid the self-annihilation of loneliness. For the person who has friendship with the curative factors of solitude, there is much to be gained. It is the election as true companion to God – the sole source of nothingness from which all life has been established.

A good time to ponder solitude and the mysteries it begets is the season of Lent which is soon upon us. It is a time to recollect our thoughts concerning our actions and to examine how such actions are or are not instruments of God’s saving grace for us and others. In the loneliness of Gethsemane and the darkness of the tomb, Christ’s example is for us to fix what is broken and to give thanks for all that has been. In his resurrection, he opened the door for us to be forever surprised by the ordinariness of our times and the redemptive power of such everyday freedom. The upcoming days of fasting and praying are an excellent time to turn to solitude and look for that interior language that produces the verse of our lives. Be the poet that you are and write about how your name will always rhyme with “God.”

Sister Celeste Larroque