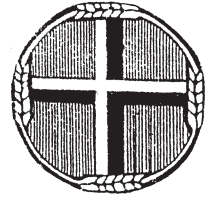


The Companion



Winter 2017

Word From Our President

Sister Celeste Larroque, SEC

In some years, the time between the Christmas Season and Lent seems to be such a transitory period. The colorful glitz of Yule decorations and gift giving are attempting to fade away into the muted rites of penance and introspection. During mass the other day I was saying to myself, "Thank God for Ordinary Time." It's that time of the year when we are assured that the celebrant will be wearing his green vestments, we will be singing the "Gloria," and everything will be more or less predictable until those forty days of Lent. I am definitely a creature of habit! Even so, I recently came across a poem that challenged me to reflect a little more about this time between Christmas and Lent. Interestingly, it is not about the subject at all. It is about a shipwreck and is called *The Wreck of the Deutschland* by Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.

Hopkins was a Jesuit priest and poet from England in the 19th century who was profoundly impacted by hearing the news of the wreck of the *SS Deutschland* off the coast of England in December of 1875. On that ship were five German Franciscan nuns who were sailing to America to start a new community there. All of them perished in the shipwreck. An added tragedy to this story is that they were being forced to leave Germany because of a new anti-Catholic law that was passed there as a result of conflict between Catholic religious groups and the Protestant controlled government. That being said, about 57 of the 200 passengers died that night and Hopkins created a beautiful 35 stanza memorial to the lives of the 5 nuns who drowned.

The *Wreck of the Deutschland* captures for me not only the terror of that fateful night, but also the fear and desperation we all feel during the "shipwrecked" times of our lives. There are times when our sailing over the blue seas is frightfully upended as we strike a hidden sandbank and become unbalanced and listing

just as the *Deutschland* did that dark winter night. Throughout his poem, Hopkins threads references to faith and hope as illustrated in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, as well as through the story of one of the nuns who drowned.

Hopkins is intent on relaying the total act of faith and sacrifice of that sister as she gave her life in a way that few of us can relate to these days. He describes her last moments during the fury of that terrible storm of her life and death:

*Away in the loveable west,
On a pastoral forehead of Wales,
I was under a roof here, I was at rest,
And they the prey of the gales;
She to the black-about air, to the breaker, the
thickly
Falling flakes, to the throng that catches and
quails
Was calling "O Christ, Christ, come quickly:"
The cross to her she calls Christ to her,
christens her wildworst Best.*

In faith (and in fact, she was heard to have uttered this) she saw her death as a final perfect union of every prayer she had ever said.

In reflecting upon this poem during this particular season, I have reached the conclusion that there is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. Each day presents its own challenges, joys, disappointments, and yes – shipwrecks. Seasons are just our attempts to memorialize monuments of events in an orderly fashion. But life happens whether it's in a season or not. In the last stanza of Hopkins' poem, there is a phrase that I love. He simply says: "Let him easter in us..." May that happen every day and in every season in hope and faith. Let us call to him to come quickly in all the wrecks of our lives so that we can give ourselves to him and he can be easter in us.



Remembering SEC Associate

JUDY ANN LANDRY

Feb. 8, 1957 – Dec. 21, 2016



Mrs. Landry was a lifelong resident of Andrus Cove. She was an active member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church where she devoted her life to music ministry. She was also a member of the Faith Renewal family, Our Lady of the Lake Choir and music director of Bella with Magnificat and a church Lector. She became an SEC Associate on June 21, 2014. Judy will be missed by many.

Mrs. Landry is survived by her husband of 42 years, Warren E. Landry; one daughter, Lorilee (Brady) Broussard; two sons, Corey (Nickie) Landry and Derrick (Elisabeth) Landry and three sisters, Kay (Elmer) Landry, Kathie Hibbitts and Loretta Broussard, all of Andrus Cove.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Wilbert and Rena Landry LeGros and brother-in-law, Stacey Broussard.

ETC., ETC., ETC.

Nov. 5, 2016 Sisters Carm, Celeste, Doris and Pat joined the other religious from the Lafayette diocese for a mass and brunch with Bishop Deshotel.

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2016 Sr. Pat attended the Advent Mission held at Sacred Heart Church in Broussard. The topic was “Come Journey with Us, Prepare for a Person, Not a Day” presented by Father Mark Toups.

Mar. 6-17, 2017 Sr. Carm and SEC Associate Fr. Louis Richard are going with a group to the Holy Land. During that trip the group will visit many holy sites in Israel and the ancient city of Petra in Jordan.

Jan. - Mar. 2017 SEC Associate Melanie Prejean-Sullivan is currently living in England as part of a sabbatical with the Margaret Beaufort Institute of

Theology which is part of the Cambridge Theological Federation. Her eight-week stay is covered by the Cardinal Hume Scholarship, and her research is focused on using spiritual practices for discerning retirement. As part of the creative process of discernment, Melanie is researching and practicing techniques of calligraphy, book-binding, and hand illumination to illustrate a workbook she hopes to produce. She also anticipates sharing her learnings with the SEC Associates this July 15, and eventually to offer retirement discernment as a continuing education course for Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY. Melanie’s time in Cambridge is a life-long dream as she was originally a history and library science major, and her first masters in history focused on the English Renaissance and Reformation. Margaret Beaufort, the grandmother of King Henry VIII, was considered by many to be the most powerful woman in England during her time—the time period Melanie studied in the 1970’s. She says she is walking around in a bit of a dream state and treasuring every second.



Saturday April 29, 2017

SEC DAY OF PRAYER

SEC Associate Camille Claibourne will be the Presenter for this Day of Prayer.

Mark
Your
Calendar

She is an RN, a writer, a speaker, an artist and is passionate about healthy living at all ages with a focus on spirituality and family. She is committed to helping families and individuals face aging and life’s many transitions. Camille will share some of the insights she has gained from her life experiences and her research in aging, care giving, spirituality and the longing for reunion with God – the universal and ultimate aspiration of the soul. Camille has authored two books.



Camille Claibourne

Dying in God’s Hands a book about dying and death, and about what we learn from the terminally ill. It is intended to provide fresh insights into the hearts and minds of the dying and provide solace and comfort

to people who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, whether in the immediate future or in the recent past.

Purses and Shoes for Sale This book is about the author's journey as a caregiver to her elderly parents in the twilight of their lives.



SABBATH HOUSE OFFERINGS

407 2nd St. +Jennings, LA (337) 998-9114

Sabbath Seekers held two important gatherings in January 2017. The first was an organizational meeting to encourage maximum participation with minimal time constraint. Dana Williams facilitated, and the process afforded clearer naming of needed services and ownership by the Sabbath Seekers.

The second gathering was a Memorial Service for Sabbath Seeker Judy Ann Landry who had been a vibrant, committed and gifted Sabbath Seeker. Judy was buried on Christmas Eve at age 59. Her family gathered to share the Memorial Prayer and a reception. It was a most fitting and deeply gifting evening.

We commend Judy and her loving family to your prayerful remembrance.

In November, John Schnake launched the Sabbath House Ministry Webpage. It may be accessed at sabbathhouseministry.com. It is one means to access ongoing planned events. We are indeed grateful to John for sharing his gifts and time to serve our mission. Also, Rhonda Marcantel of Kinder has agreed to coordinate our facebook page. The address is the following: sabbathhouseministry.

Lenten Series: Saying Yes

By Fr. Albert Haase, OFM

Discerning God's will is an ongoing process – not a static one-time decision! What is God asking of me? How do I know if this is really God and not simply my imagination?

On the Thursdays of LENT, Sr. Camille Martinez

will facilitate Franciscan Fr. Albert Haase's series offering clear, and practical spiritual advice. Together we will explore the following:

- Session 1: God's Dream of the Kingdom
- Session 2: Ten Attitudes for Discernment
- Session 3: Listening: The Heart of Discernment
- Session 4: A Discerning Lifestyle
- Session 5: Discerning the Designs of the Devil
- Session 6: Wrestling with God

Place: St. Mary Center, Jennings

Dates: March 2,9,16,23,30 and April 6

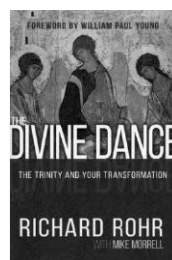
Time: 11 a.m. and repeated at 6 p.m.

To register text or call 337-998-9114 (please leave your name when registering)

Bereavement Support Group

Sr. Jeannette Touchet began a Bereavement Support Group on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017. There are 5 sessions that will be held on the four Tuesdays in Feb. and the first Tuesday in March. You do not have to be a Catholic and there is no cost. Each session last about one hour. These sessions will be held at Sabbath House at 5:30 pm. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at 337-304-6383.

A Good Read



THE DIVINE DANCE

by Richard Rohr and Michael Morrell

A book that delves into the central doctrine of Christian belief and demonstrates how a deeper conception of Father, Son and Holy Spirit will transform our relationship with God and renew our lives. On speaking about this book James Martin, SJ, wrote: "The Trinity will of course always remain a profound mystery, but after reading Father Rohr's book, you will experience it as a mystery that can, and will, transform your life".

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

Robbie Alleman	Wesley Begnaud	Gilroy Broussard	Melissa Y. Doucet	Rowan Duhon
Houston Fontenot	Suzanne Fontenot	Eva Dell Guilbeau	Bill Kennedy	Maxine Krielow
Betty Landry	*Judy Landry	Frances Langley	Ada Lee	Edgar G. Martin,Sr
Audrey Miller	Juanita Miller	Aline Moore	Allen Mouton	Chris C. Perales
Howard Poche	Scott Romero	Patricia Sigur	Alita Stewart	Tom Stoma
Benjamin Todd Vienne	Courtney Jane Pratt	Lyle Voss	Cathy Anne Rankin Grant	

WE PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OF HEALTH

Ginny Aucoin	Bryan Babineaux	Francis Baudoin	Phyllis Benoit	Jerry Boudreaux
Theresa Boudreaux	Kim Bourgeois	Flo Broussard	Jerry Conque’s	Eva Dell Comeaux
Jeffrey Crane	Msgr Charles Dubois	Ben Fredrick	Aaron Griffith	Dee Higginbotham
Lynn Howell	Bob Landry	J.V and Luby Landry	Weezie LaFleur	*Elizabeth Larroque
Audrey LeBlanc	Judy LeBlanc	Melba Laborde	Sue Matthieu	Ida Lou Meaux
Doris Olivier	Vickie LeBlanc	Fr. Don Piraro	Lena Roush	Leola Rougeau
*Rita Savoie	James Skinner	Josh Sonnier	Joey Stockstill	Jimmie Touchet
Elizabeth Trahan	Gail Wadsworth	Patrick Weaver	Lena Weaver	Cindy Welsh

Let us remember in prayer and compassion all in Louisiana who have lost so much due to September rains, those who have suffered due to war and violence and all the men and women serving in the military.

**denotes SEC Associate*