

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center**  
**C'est la Vie Apartments**  
*News-Notes ~ August 2011*

**Celebrating the Life of Sr. Rita Hardy, MSC – *The Wind beneath our Wings***

In the summer of 1994, Sr. Rita Hardy, MSC arrived at Prompt Succor Nursing Home along with Sr. Joan Barry, Sr. Audrey Fontenot, Sr. Zita Guidry, Sr. Regina Nunez. For many years these Marianites of Holy Cross were the leaders in promoting a cohesive network of compassion and caring at Prompt Succor Nursing Home.

Before Sr. Rita's arrival, she was involved in education in various schools in Louisiana and Ocean Springs, Mississippi and in community service for the Marianites in New Orleans, Louisiana; Princeton, New Jersey; and at the Marianite Mother House in Le Mans, France. While ministering in France she was able to visit Beaucens, France, the birthplace of her mother and to meet many of her relatives in that region.

Bringing with her to Prompt Succor a wealth of knowledge of the Marianites as well as her organizational skills and generous spirit, she quickly became the person to ask if there was a question about when something occurred; or when it was due; or where it could be found. Long before GPS, she was the key for how to drive anywhere in Southwest Louisiana. With her detailed instructions, she joyfully shared a bit of history and a cultural lesson specific to the area.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, Sr. Rita made her final journey home and this time it was the Lord who gave the directions and led the way. In memory of her and in gratitude for her lasting impact on all of us at Prompt Succor, some excerpts from an article written by her family on the occasion of her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a religious are included below.

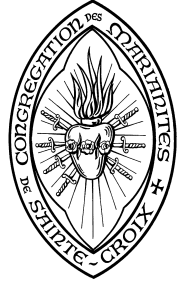
***Sr. Rita, a native of Arnaudville, is the eleventh child of twelve children. She entered the Marianites in 1940 and in her 60 years as a religious she has been a dedicated teacher and generous minister in her Congregation. As she celebrates her jubilee, we, her family, would like to pay tribute to her shining qualities of mind and heart, which have endeared her to the many lives she has touched and inspired through the years. With random acts of thoughtfulness, encouragement and support, she inspires her nieces, nephews, cousins with joy and spiritual values. Always the Good Samaritan, her happiness comes from her dedication and devotion to God, her family and her selfless service to the needs of others. She lets her radiant love of God shine upon the people in her life with kindness and compassion. Her warm and winning smile capture the heart of all who know her. Her presence in our lives is as refreshing and gentle as a snowflake. Throughout the years of separation, in every joyful reunion, we experienced a newfound closeness. We wish to thank her for her loving ways, her prayers, and continued inspiration. She remains "the wind beneath our wings."***

Now, as Sr. Rita enjoys resurrected new life, we ask her to intercede for us, to continue to encourage and support us as we are also led gently and kindly into the arms of our loving God.

**Welcome – Sr. Cynthia Knowles, MSC**

Joining our pastoral care team in August is Sister Cynthia Knowles from New Orleans. When asked to share a bit about her life, she enthusiastically responded:

*I was born and raised in Algiers, but most people know it as the Westbank of New Orleans and many refer to it as the “best bank of New Orleans!” I received my degree in education from Our Lady of Holy Cross College and my Masters in Religious Education from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. For thirty years, I was privileged to share the lives of young people by teaching religion and math in elementary and high schools in Louisiana and Mississippi. Following those years in teaching, I enjoyed serving for twenty years as campus minister at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans. After leaving the College, I ministered for three years in pastoral care at Chateau Notre Dame in New Orleans.*



*Growing up I was strongly influenced by my Dad and two brothers and, at a young age, I became an avid sports fan devoted to the LSU Tigers and the New Orleans Saints. However, the Sisters who have lived with me know that I like to watch any two good teams play – whether it is high school, college or professional! What many people don’t know about me is that I love to listen to light classical music. I find it both inspirational and relaxing.*

*During my fifty plus years as a Marianite, I have never lived in Opelousas so I am excited and happy about coming and ministering at Prompt Succor and C’est la Vie. I enjoy people and I am looking forward to getting to know the staff, our residents and their families.*

***Please join us in welcoming Sr. Cynthia when she arrives in the middle of August!***



**Celebrating birthdays in August:**

<i>Rounie Beaugh</i>	<i>8/13/26</i>	<i>Dorothy Nezat</i>	<i>8/20/24</i>
<i>Frances Breaux</i>	<i>8/2/20</i>	<i>Helen Ortego</i>	<i>8/13/26</i>
<i>Kizy Devillier</i>	<i>8/10/12</i>	<i>Irma Quirk</i>	<i>8/18/21</i>
<i>Gerdie Doucet</i>	<i>8/22/33</i>	<i>Jerelyn Robinson</i>	<i>8/25/43</i>
<i>Sr. Madeleine Hebert, MSC</i>	<i>8/29/12</i>	<i>Irma Speyrer</i>	<i>8/16/23</i>
<i>Lizzie Landry</i>	<i>8/6/17</i>	<i>Pierre Wartell</i>	<i>8/20/38</i>
<i>Sr. Joyce Michel, MSC</i>	<i>8/15/33</i>	<i>Asuncion Williams</i>	<i>8/17/24</i>

Wishing you birthday blessings and praying in gratitude for each of you!

**† In Memoriam – We remember our dear residents who died in July –**

- Beatrice Bourdier 7/9/2011*
- Sr. Rita Hardy, MSC 7/21/2011*
- Dorothy Lafleur 7/23/2011*
- Rose Ryder 7/27/2011*

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

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