

*Lenten Reflection**By Sr. Jane M. Nesmith*

Do you remember the true story about the man who found the cocoon of a butterfly? Well, one day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further. The man felt sorry for the butterfly so he decided to give it a little help. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. He anxiously waited for the butterfly to emerge; but when it did, the body was real fat and the wings were real small and wrinkled.



The man continued to watch the butterfly because he just knew that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, and that the body would get thinner. Much to his surprise neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

As we continue our Lenten journey let us be reminded that this journey will end a couple of days before Easter Sunday when we will renew our baptismal promises...and begin anew to be about doing the things that God has called us to do in life. Now, then, is a preparation time for a better living of the gospel message of forgiveness and a better living of the gospel message of love.

God does not want us to be overcome by hard times. We can remember that there is a rainbow after the storm. We can believe like W.E.B. Dubois that "If there is no struggle there is no progress." We have God's promise of resurrection in His Word! We can read John 14 to get through the sorrowful times. We can read Psalm 27 to get through our disappointments. We can read Psalm 126 to help us through a difficult job situation. We can read John 15 to help us deal with feelings of rejection. We can read Mark 8:35 to receive courage and assurance to keep on keeping on. We can read Psalm 34:7 when we find it hard to confront our fears to move into places where no one else has ever been.

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Lenten Reflection (Continued)

Didn't He promise to be with us through it all? Didn't He promise to be the Way, the Truth and the Life? Didn't He promise in Revelations 21:4 that He would wipe away every tear from our eyes? Didn't He promise in Matthew Chapter 6 that He would give us all things as we seek the Kingdom of God? Didn't He tell us in Matthew Chapter 7:7 that He would open the door to those who knock, that He would give to those who ask and that He would see that we find those things for which we are searching? Didn't He promise in John Chapter 3 that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish?

God continues to give us Blessed Assurance through His Word. God continues to bring us out of the wilderness with amazing grace. God continues to call us out of our cocoons so that we can live out the beauty of who we are and whose we are.

I don't know about you, but I always look forward to the rainbow after the rain just as sure as there is a spring after the winter. Resurrection after the death is a blessed assurance indeed!

May you have a Blessed Lenten Season and a Happy Easter!

BOSTON ASBS LEAD FEAST DAY CELEBRATION BY SR. CHRISTINE SMITH, SBS

Since 2005, the Boston ASBS have collaborated with St. Katharine Drexel Parish parishioners in honoring the parish's patron saint, St. Katharine Drexel on her feast day of March 3. We process in at the beginning of Mass and take up the Offertory gifts, serve as lectors, Eucharistic ministers and choir members.

Jacqueline Townes, ASBS, gave a reflection on St. Katharine, as our first Women's History Month speaker. As always, through prayer and research, Jacquie's sharing was excellent! Our parish Administrator, Rev. Oscar J. Pratt II, preached a powerful homily, centered on our patron saint. Our celebration concluded with joyful singing and the parishioners joined in enjoying a reception.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Sr. Christine was recently awarded the Robert L. Ruffn Award at the 24th Annual Bishop James Augustine Healey Award Dinner for her "selfless sacrifice, creative vision, and significant service to the Black Catholic Community." See the full story on the website for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at www.katharinedrexel.org.

NEW IBERIA HOSTS ST. MARTINVILLE AND RAYNE AT ANNUAL RETREAT *BY ASBS MARY VALSIN*

On January 26, 2019 New Iberia ASBS hosted the ASBS from St. Martinville and Rayne for our annual retreat. The highlight of the retreat was a presentation by Sister Gilda entitled “The Awakening of God’s Spirit.” Like St. Katharine, we are God’s Eucharistic Women. We are God’s Masterpieces, works of art. But God is not finished with us yet. We must continue the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in order to continue to develop our spiritual lives and help develop the spiritual lives of others. Make time for prayer about concerns rather than worrying. Meditate, repeat and rehearse what God says about your life. Have faith—”Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ”*Hebrew 11:1*

The day also included a delicious gumbo lunch, prayer, discussions, singing, sharing , the availability of Confession and a closing Mass.



Sister Gilda, SBS



Rayne ASBS AKA Raynedears



St. Martinville ASBS



New Iberia ASBS

In the Blessed Sacrament Jesus is present just as He is in Heaven. St. Katharine Drexel

To celebrate St. Katharine Drexel’s Feast Day, the New Iberia Associates joined with St. Edward School children for a Mass in her honor on Friday, March 1.



The children did an excellent job in paying homage to the patron of their school, St. Katharine. The Drexelaires also turned out for the occasion. Then on Sunday, March 3, the ASBS hosted a Holy Hour, from 3 to 4 at St. Edward Church. The Holy Hour began with the veneration of a first class relic of St. Katharine, followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Deacon Roland Jeanlouis who officiated also gave us a reflection on The Agony in the Garden where Jesus asked the disciples, “Could you not spend one hour with me.” We prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and then spent some time in quiet meditation. We closed with Benediction. All Churches in the area were invited to the Holy Hour.

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

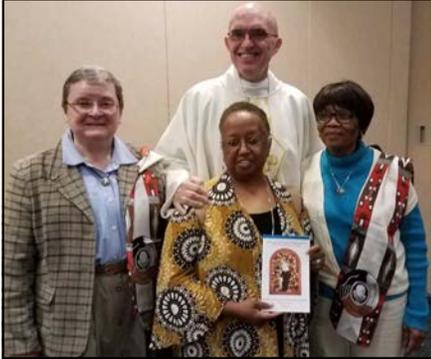
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BENSALEM BLESSINGS BY RENEE ROBINSON, PH.D., ASBS

The Bensalem Community installed new leadership during the September meeting: Olive Crumpler, local coordinator; Pat Chiaffa, assistant coordinator, Brenda Greene, secretary, Barbara Allen and Rosemarie Ellershaw, sunshine committee. We are further reminded of our commitment “to be a sign in the world of a loving Spirit that seeks justice and unity among all people.”



Our annual retreat was held at St. Ephrem Parish on November 10, 2018. The theme for the retreat was, “Walking in the Shoes of St. Katherine Drexel.” Fr. Sylvester Peters was the celebrant and homilist for the ASBS Commitment Liturgy. Sr. Lynn Marie, SBS, our facilitator, reminded all to recognize our gifts and to share these gifts with others; *stand up, stand out, and stand strong* in our mission to serve all of God’s children.

The November 18, 2018 Installation of the Tomb Service in Philadelphia, PA brought visitors and guests to the new home for the sacred remains of our Beloved Saint Katherine Drexel in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. This setting is designed to encourage pilgrimages to the Tomb of Saint Katherine Drexel. The ceremony included prayers of rejoicing along with prayers for a loving spirit. ASBS from Sugar Grove IL, Macon GA, Washington DC, Port Arthur TX, Denver CO, New Orleans LA, and Los Angeles CA joined the Bensalem community in reserved seating at the Cathedral for the Service.



Festivities for our annual holiday party for the Sisters were held at Paul’s Run Retirement Community. Good food, hot cider, and fellowship were the order of business for the day! This year the holiday party was well attend. Gifts were given to all of the Sisters.



ATLANTA ACTIVITIES BY CATHERINE JUDD, ASBS



The Atlanta ASBS were joined by the Macon ASBS on March 2nd for our annual retreat led by Fr. Roy Lee (in center of picture) with the theme: "Serving all of God's People with the Heart of St. Katharine Drexel." As we live out this mission, we continue our service to the Metro Atlanta Transitional Women's Prison with ongoing donations of various needed items, especially toiletries and clothing. Expanding our service, we are now giving personal care supplies to the Gateway shelter where homeless women can come to shower and restore some dignity with these personal products. For the men of the shelter we prepared breakfast bags last month, giving them a hearty and healthy breakfast as they headed out to the streets for the day.

For our Christmas luncheon gathering we joined with the Alumni of Our Lady of Lourdes School here in Atlanta, established in 1912 and visited by its benefactor, St. Katharine Drexel. We meet each month in this school where she walked so long ago. Literally we can walk in her footsteps as we try to be her, and God's hands, feet and heart to our community.

NEW ORLEANS NEWS BY VERONICA FARVE, ASBS

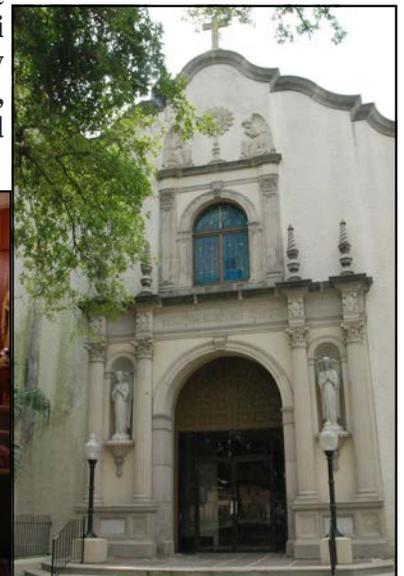


At the December meeting the New Orleans faith community collected socks for the homeless. Socks are the #1 thing the homeless ask for. The picture on the left shows ASBS Eugenia Adams, Alice Grooms, Linda Lagarde, Stella Reese and Shirley Judge with some of the many socks collected for the poor. The ASBS will collect pillows for the needy at their April meeting.

The ASBS held their retreat at the chapel at Corpus Christi Church which was founded by St. Katharine. Parochial Vicar, Rev. David Begany, S.S.J. led the retreat.

Teach me, O my dear Mother, the lesson of sacrifice. Help me, Mother, to take from the hands of Jesus, in the spirit of humble love, devotion to my daily crosses.

St. Katharine Drexel



PLEASE JOIN US!

JOIN US FOR THE
2019 ASBS PILGRIMAGE
June 27 – 30, 2019



BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI



along the beautiful Gulf!

***THERE IS STILL TIME TO
JOIN OTHER ASSOCIATES
AND THE SISTERS OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
FOR AN EXPERIENCE OF
GRACE, EDUCATION AND IN-
SPIRATION ON OUR JOUR-
NEY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
ST. KATHARINE.***

***WE NEED YOUR SPIRIT,
YOUR INPUT
AND YOUR PRAYERS.***

**TO REGISTER CONTACT:
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BIRMINGHAM CELEBRATES ST. KATHARINE

BY DR. ROSALIND PIJEAUX HALE, ASBS

What a blessed St. Katharine Drexel Feast Day at Resurrection Catholic Church in Montgomery where Sr. Gilda Bell, SBS is ministering to the sick and shut-in. Father Manual Williams related St. Katharine's life to the message of the Gospel—*SERVICE*. ASBS Rosalind Hale, a member of the ASBS in Birmingham, who lives in Montgomery and attends Resurrection Church, was able to purchase St. Katharine's prayer cards to distribute to the parishioners.

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***IF YOU CANNOT JOIN US, PLEASE SUPPORT US WITH YOUR PRAYERS
 AND BY ORDERING A PILGRIMAGE SOUVENIR.***

GOD BLESS YOU.

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL, PRAY FOR US.



**ASBS
NEWSLETTER**

**703 TERRELL COURT
NEW IBERIA LA 70563**

TOTAL GIFT OF SELF

**[NEXT ARTICLES DUE
ON AUGUST 15]**

GONE HOME TO OUR LORD

Sr. Roselle Brodfuehrer, SBS

Sr. Monica Loughlin, SBS

Doris Allen, New Iberia ASBS

Liz Lancon, New Iberia ASBS

Darlene Perkins, Atlanta ASBS

Solange Lillian Wall, Harlem ASBS

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS.