



**Venerable Mother Henriette Delille
(1812-1862)**

Henriette Delille, was born in 1812 in New Orleans, Louisiana, a free woman of color. At 24 years of age, Henriette experienced a religious conversion, and proclaimed: "*I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God.*"

In 1836 Henriette drew up the rules and regulations for devout Christian women, which would eventually become the Society of the Holy Family. The group was founded for the purpose of nursing the sick, caring for the poor, and instructing the ignorant. 1842 is the date for the founding of the Sisters of the Holy Family for the same purposes. They expressed their apostolic intentions through caring for the sick, helping the poor, and instructing the ignorant of their people, free and enslaved, children and adults, in the name of Jesus Christ and the church.

Henriette received tribute for her life's work in these words from her obituary, “. . . (Henriette) devoted herself untiringly for many years, without reserve, to the religious instruction of the people of New Orleans, principally of slaves. . . .” The last line of her obituary reads, “. . . for the love of Jesus Christ she had become the humble and devout *servant of the slaves.*”

Mother Delille was the first U.S. born Black American formally postulated for canonization.

Venerable Mother Henriette Delille lived a Spirit-filled life. Let us pray:

Prayer for the Canonization of Mother Henriette Delille

O good and gracious God, You called Henriette Delille to give herself in service and in love to the slaves and the sick, to the orphan and the aged, to the forgotten and the despised.

Grant that inspired by her life, we might be renewed in heart and in mind. If it be Your will may she one day be raised to the honor of sainthood. By her prayers, may we live in harmony and peace, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Please report any spiritual or physical favors granted as a result of prayers through the intercession of Venerable Mother Henriette Delille to:

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