

1988 - SERVANT OF GOD
2010 - VENERABLE



Henriette Delille

FOUNDRESS, EDUCATOR, PHILANTHROPIST

March 11, 1813 - November 16, 1862



"I believe in God. I hope in God. I love.
I want to live and die for God."



Henriette was born in New Orleans to a free Black mother and a White father in a common law marriage known as a *Plaçage*.

Many in her family could pass as White, but Henriette did not and instead embraced her Creole and African heritage.

In 1836 she drew up rules for faithful women in the care of the sick, those suffering from poverty, and the uneducated. Their ministries focused on the care of the free and enslaved Black people of New Orleans. By 1842 this became the founding principle for the Sisters of the Holy Family, the second religious community for Black women in the United States.

Henriette herself was in a *Plaçage* that seemed to end shortly after her two toddler sons died. Their deaths drew Henriette into a deeper relationship with her faith.

Henriette died in 1862 of Tuberculosis. Her legacy of treating all people with dignity continues to inspire the people of New Orleans and vocations to her community.

Sources:

<https://www.henriette-delille.com/henriette-delille>

<https://www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com/>

<https://nolacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-henriette-delille>