

TO: POPE JOHN PAUL II, VATICAN CITY, EUROPE
AND THE PERSONS IN CHARGE OF THE
CANONIZATION OF MOTHER HENRIETTE DELILLE

It has come to our attention that regarding the proposed canonization of Mother Henriette DeLille that her ethnic identification has been GROSSLY MISREPRESENTED by the groups of people in charge of such proposed canonization.

TO WIT: Mother Henriette DeLille has been represented by the Sisters of the Holy Family, whose diocese is in New Orleans, Louisiana, to have been born as a NATIVE-BORN AFRICAN-AMERICAN. When in fact the truth of the matter is that Mother DeLille was a NATIVE-BORN FRENCH-CREOLE AMERICAN. This information is documented in Louisiana History.

HENRIETTE DELILLE, was the daughter of JEAN DELILLE SARPY, who was of French and Italian birth; and her mother was of French and African Birth (in Louisiana, considered a French-Creole). Therefore, when a person of French and Italian birth had offspring with a gens de couleur libre in the 1800's, that offspring was considered to be of NATIVE BORN FRENCH -CREOLE AMERICAN birth and not JUST AND ONLY NATIVE-BORN AFRICAN-AMERICAN.

It follows that the Sisters of the Holy Family in their misrepresentation of Mother Henriette DeLille, operating under a strictly political stance, and in order to give all of her birth and sainthood credit to the AFRICAN-AMERICANS, are using the ONE-DROP POLICY RULE of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, which has been outlawed legally as far back as 1975, when before that time held that ONE DROP OF AFRICAN blood an AFRICAN did make. So as you can see that as of 1989, the ONE DROP POLICY was outlawed prior thereto. We are also aware that the ONE-DROP POLICY RULE only came to existence many years after the birth of Mother Henriette DeLille, and perhaps even years after her death. That rule came about almost 30 years after the Civil War of 1862 - 1864 when the South lost the Civil War and slavery was abolished; and the South therefore wanted to give vengeance to all who had any blood of the slaves in their veins. To further that vengeance, the United States Government and especially the Southern States, legislated the racial identity of all Native-Born French Creoles to that of Negro and Black. Racial identity is something inherent to an individual and should not be legislated to anyone. If one would check the U.S. Archive records, one will find that before the 1900 Census, all Creoles were listed as "M" for Mulatto (meaning multiracial) and all African-Americans were listed as "B" for Black.

We do not deny that Mother DeLille has African blood as part of her ancestry and we are proud of that, and we find no problem with that, but then that was only one portion of her ancestry. Therefore Mother Henriette DeLille by virtue of her ethnic makeup was of multiracial origin. And when she was born, she was automatically a Gens de Couleur Libre, and in Louisiana that identification meant that you were not just African but of various ethnic origins and came under the meaning of being FRENCH-CREOLE. To wit: A person born in the New World of European and African ancestry - native to the place. In other words A FRENCH-CREOLE-AMERICAN.

The definition of a French- Creole-American states that the person has French, Spanish, African and Indian ancestry along with other various European ancestry as the case may be. In the mid 1700's and mid 1800's these various racial groups formed family unions and had off springs which were multiracial in origin.

You might ask, "Why wasn't this declaration and protest made earlier since the Proposed Canonization has been going on as far back as 1989?" The answer to this is that Declarations and Protests were made to the Sisters of the Holy Family immediately after it was learned that their ethnic identification of Mother DeLille was incorrect. However, regardless of the Protests, the Sisters of the Holy Family has continued their misidentification of Mother DeLille throughout issuance of pamphlets, contributions to biographies, thinking that they could succeed in this venture because of the sacred nature of this cause, and that no one would dare to contradict them once they had continued to mislead the public.

We, as French-Creole Americans, now living in all of the United States of America and throughout the world, all with ancestry stemming from the late 1700's and early 1800's in the state of Louisiana, petition your most gracious entity, to have the SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY AND ALL OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED

CANONIZATION OF MOTHER HENRIETTE DELILLE as blessed and Saint, CEASE AND DESIST THE MISIDENTIFICATION of Mother Henriette DeLille as JUST AND ONLY NATIVE-BORN AFRICAN AMERICAN and identify her as the NATIVE BORN FRENCH-CREOLE AMERICAN WHICH SHE TRULY WAS IN THE HISTORY OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

We make this plea in hopes that we might avoid legal action against the parties herein in a matter so sacred as this cause and that all publications, lectures, biographies, movies, television programs and church ceremonies throughout the world might be corrected in time so as to avoid this most grievous mistake.

One of the greatest miracles which is hoped for toward Mother DeLille's canonization is that the world will finally accept the fact that a people of the world can be of more than one ethnic race and that they can be recognized for all of them without having to choose one over the other.

MRS. MARION DI GRADENIGO-FERREIRA
Activist and Native
Born
Descendant of Isle Beeville, La.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
The Undersigned All Being French-Creole Descendants
Supporters

JOHN OTIS DELILLE SARPY, Creole Author

And Descendant of Isle Breville, LA French-Creole

CHRISTOPHER LANDRY, Creole Author
Activist & Author
LA

GILBERT MARTIN, Creole
And Native of New Orleans,

RICHARD AUGUSTINE,
Creole Activist & Owner
WATKINS, French-Creole Activist
Of FrenchCreole.Com Website (AOL)
Teacher

PAULA DUPRE
and Elementary School

AURORA METOYER WATKINS,
DAVIDSON, Creole Author and Lecturer
Creole Activist and National Board Elementary
School Teacher

ROLAND
Native of New Orleans, LA

TIFFANY ROCQUEMORE, Native Born French-Creole
PERKINS, Native Born French-
and Television Producer
Descendant

DONNA DUPRE
Creole and Isle Breville, La.

MARIE DI GRADENIGO-LEDET, Native Born
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