

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWSLETTER

September 2024

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Next Meeting:

September 9

Guild Officers

PRESIDENT:

Margo McCaul

VICE PRESIDENT:

Ellen Casale

SECRETARY:

Meg Hoover

TREASURER:

Michele Miller

Guild Renewal

We have started a new Guild, fiscal year. Our next meeting will be September 9, 2024 in the hall at St. Jude. Feel free to renew your membership. Complete the form and mail it to St. Jude or leave it in the Guild folder. (No cash - checks only, please.) OR bring the completed form with your payment (cash or check) to our September meeting.

Pizza will be served at our September meeting so bring your appetites.

Hope you have been enjoying the summer! See you on the 9th!

**Guild Application/Renewal
2024-2025**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birthday (mm/dd): _____

No change to information _____

Mail completed form to:
 Louisa Catholic Women's Guild
 1937 Davis Highway
 Mineral, VA. 23117

DUES = \$10/yr reg & \$5/assoc
 Make check payable to:
 Louisa Catholic Women's Guild

Please do not send cash.

Our mission is to unite all women of St. Jude and Immaculate Conception Parishes through Religious and Educational



Sainte Emilie de Rodat



No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent, for to His Angels God has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

WOMEN OF FAITH—SAINT EMILIE DE RODAT

Émilie de Rodat was born on 6 September 1787, to a noble family, in "a handsome manor-house called Druelle" facing the plateau on which Rodez stands, in southern France. When she was 18 months old, at the beginning of the French Revolution, she was taken to live with her maternal grandmother in the Château of Ginals outside Villefranche, where her family lived in peace during the Revolution and Napoleon's reign because it was in a remote area and was relatively unscathed from the persecution of Catholics and other religious groups. Her aunt, a secularized nun due to religious oppression, also lived with them. Rodat was described as "a normally lively child with a strong but not excessive religious sensitivity" and "a pious young woman". She went to school in Maison Saint-Cyr in Villefranche, receiving a Christian education in secret due to the Revolution. When she was eleven, she received her First Communion. When she was 16, she changed confessors because she thought hers was too strict; after quarrelling with her grandmother, she returned to live with her parents at Ginals, where in 1804, she had a spiritual experience that drew her into religious life.

When Rodat was 18, she returned to Villefranche, where she became a lay teacher at Maison Saint-Cyr, where she had gone to school, for eleven years. She was in charge of the girls' recreation, taught geography, and prepared them for communion. She met the Abbé Marty, the school's spiritual director, who became her confessor from 1805 to 1839; with his support and encouragement, Rodat investigated joining three communities, but always returned to Villefranche because none seemed to suit her; she blamed herself for her "restlessness and instability". In the spring of 1815, she was inspired to start a school for girls after overhearing a group of poor women discussing how their daughters were growing up without religious instruction because they were unable to pay for it themselves and the Ursuline nuns that taught them for no cost were driven away during the Revolution. Rodat taught 40 students, with the help of three assistants, in her small room at Villefranche. This was the beginning of what became the Sisters of the Holy Family of Villefranche, also called the Sisters of Villefranche.

In 1832, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Villefranche was formally approved by the bishop of Rodez. It was reported that Rodat had "great faith in God's providential care and money and materials seemed to miraculously appear when needed". Founding schools were their main focus, but they gradually expanded to other ministries. They began to visit prisoners in 1863, "with encouraging results", opened orphanages, rescue homes for prostitutes, and a retirement home for "aged religious". Rodat also founded groups of contemplative nuns to pray for the community's charitable works, "seeing in the two branches a personification of Martha and Mary". By 1852, there were 32 Villefranche convents that ran schools, and five contemplative communities.

Rodat "had to endure a lot both spiritually, health-wise and in her work" throughout her life. She developed cancer in her left eye, a cancerous tumor in her nose, and an unknown disease, probably Ménière's disease, which gave her permanent tinnitus in her ears. Her health difficulties, along with the loss of direct support from the Abbé Marty when he was appointed vicar general of the diocese of Rodez, caused her to experience a "period of spiritual despair". A life of intense prayer brought her inner peace of mind, but outwardly she seemed sullen, strict, and unattractive; she was sometimes careless with her personal appearance, especially how she dressed, to counteract her pride, what she perceived as her main weakness. One of her supervisors said that "she was a saint, but a stubborn saint". She was prone to arguments with even her supporters like the Abbé Marty due to "the uncompromising side of her personality", but responded politely to her critics. Few people knew that she was a "mystic with tremendous healing powers."

In April 1852, after 30 years as head of the community she founded, Rodat retired due to the development of cancer in her left eye and a tumor. At the time, the Villefranche Sisters had begun working with abandoned infants in China, a work she was greatly interested in.[5] She died on 19 September 1852, at the age of 65, and was buried in the crypt in the chapel of the first home she founded in Villefranche, which became a pilgrimage destination and where many people received prayers through her. At the time of her death, there were 38 houses, 25 cloistered communities, and 32 schools with over 5,000 students sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Villefranche in several countries. As of 1999, there were 520 Sisters of the Holy Family of Villefranche worldwide. She was beatified on 9 June 1940 and canonized by Pope Pius XII on 23 April 1950. Her feast day is September 19.



Guild Book Club - Next Meeting & Book

Wednesday, September 18 @ 2:00 pm @ St. Jude

The Garden of Martyrs, by Michael C. White



This novel is based on historical events in Massachusetts in the early 1800's. The main characters are Catholic immigrants.

All ladies are invited to join - light refreshments will be served

The book club meets on odd months from September through May. The club reads books with a Catholic/Christian/Religious theme. A variety of fiction and non-fiction books are selected. Questions are sent out in advance (usually about 7 questions). Meetings will be the third Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May at St Jude's at 2 p.m. The first meeting for the 24/25 Guild year will be September 18.

Schedule & Books for this Year:

November 20 - *This is My Body* by Bishop Robert Barron

January 15 - *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary* by Brant Pitre

March 19 - *Beautiful Eucharist* by Matthew Kelly

May 21 - *Tobit's Dog* by Michael Richard

If you have questions, please contact Laura Foussekis (lfoussekis@comcast.net).

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND/OR BAKERS

Join in helping craft items and help bake delicious breads for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar which is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, 2024. The sessions will be in the St. Jude parish hall. No crafting or baking experience needed. All are welcome. Come and share the fun! For additional information or questions, please contact Connie Fuller at cmfuller2016@gmail.com.

Schedule:

Thursday, September 5 - 9-11: Bits & Pieces

Thursday, October 10 - 8-4: Bread Baking



Birthdays of the Month

- 6 - Kathleen Cunningham
- 8 - Helen Watson
- 9 - Susan Sharp
- 16 - Ursula Canada
- 18 - Judy Boone & Meg Hoover
- 22 - Karen Muehlhauser
- 25 - Lori Muoio
- 27 - Michele Miller
- 30 - Veronica Moore



TEAM LEADERS

Team	Chair	Co-Chair
Advertising	Laura Foussekis	
Bake Sale	Donna Gray	Sally Cool
Banquet	Julie Phelps	Amber Harman
Book Club	Laura Foussekis	Judy Kavanagh
Christmas Bazaar	Connie Fuller	Donna Gray/Wendy Smith Shirley Willis—Silent Auction
Church Beautification	Kathleen Cunningham	Meg Hoover
Lenten Fish Dinners	Michele Miller	Julie Phelps
Martha & Mary Ministry	Kim Liebsch	Lil Connor
Newsletter	Meg Hoover	
Refreshments	Connie Fuller	
Scholarship	Wendy Smith	
Sunshine/Guild Mass Cards	Mikee Thompson	
Yard Sale	Donna Gray	Sally Cool

For Guild Members Health & Healing:

Lavonne Simmons, Maria Mader, Mary Carole Weiner, Alona Wiedel; Sue Morlino; Sue Handrahan; Virginia Whitehurst; Lorraine Costello; Helen Winston; Ellen Casale; Cathy Austin; Laurie Kane; Ann Marie Worosz; Mary Ann Ptasznik; Marilyn Gutekenst; Ro Ayres

For Family & Friends Health & Healing:

Repose of the Soul:

We begin each Guild Year with a clean list. For additions or deletions to the listing; please send an email message to either:

megger1025@yahoo.com OR lcladiesguild@gmail.com

