



Response to 'Where y'at?' often has Catholic links

By Beth Donze
Clarion Herald

A dizzying number of streets, monuments, cemeteries – and even the city's pro football team – attest to New Orleans' deep Catholic roots.

Holy roads include those dedicated to Sts. Charles, Ann, Ignatius Loyola, Ferdinand, Joseph, Andrew, Philip and Peter, just to name a few.

Père Antoine Alley and Chapelle Street are named for New Orleans bishops, while Annunciation Street recalls a pivotal moment in the Blessed Mother's life.

The namesake of "Juliette Gaudin Parkway" is the Sister of the Holy Family who ministered alongside Mother Henriette Delille.

In New Orleans, there simply is no mystery about where the name "Mystery

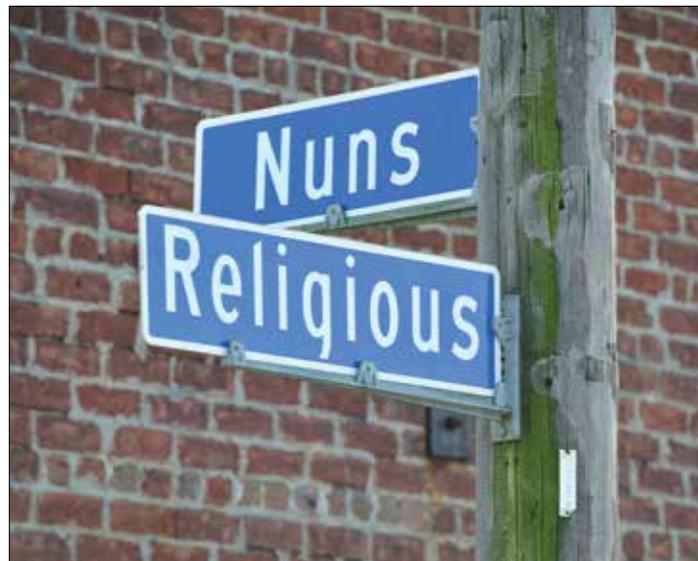


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The corner of Nuns and Religious streets is most definitely in New Orleans.

Street" came from, or where to go when you hear "the burial will be at St. Roch."

Oddly enough, St. Tammany wasn't a saint at all, yet eight Louisiana civil parishes are named for the

real McCoys. Two other parishes – Ascension and Assumption – recall significant Christian and Marian events, respectively.

"Until you start looking at it in its entirety – at all the

roads and all the monuments – you don't really realize how Catholic we are," said Dr. Emilie Leumas, archivist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

"We don't even realize that some of our streets are named for people of prominence in the city who were Catholic – Rousselin Drive, Drexel Drive, Cabrini Court," Leumas added.

The archivist said it is no small thing that New Orleans is the sole American

city whose iconic image is a Catholic church.

"When football games are televised, what do they show first? St. Louis Cathedral!" Leumas said.

But it is probably when tourists spy the intersection of "Nuns" and "Religious" that they truly realize they're not in Kansas anymore.

Said Leumas: "What other city has a corner like that?"

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BP. PERRY

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and rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. He was pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in New Orleans for 10 years until retiring in 1985, due to failing health. He remained auxiliary bishop of New Orleans until his death at age 74 from Alzheimer's disease on July 7, 1991.

"I never saw Bishop Perry flinch from the cross. I never saw him return evil for evil or insult for insult," noted Archbishop Hannan, speaking at his friend's wake service at St. Louis Cathedral. "I saw him shame the bigots by his gentle and strong personality.

Noted Archbishop Hannan, quoting William Shakespeare's "Hamlet": "The life of Bishop Perry was a triumph from 'the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.' He and his



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Bishop Harold Perry sits for his official portrait taken in anticipation of being installed as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

family have given us the bright splendor of Christian hope that is the birthright

of faith."

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