NONCO'S STORY

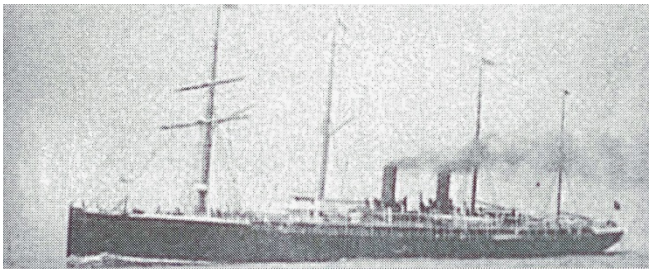
March 6, 2014



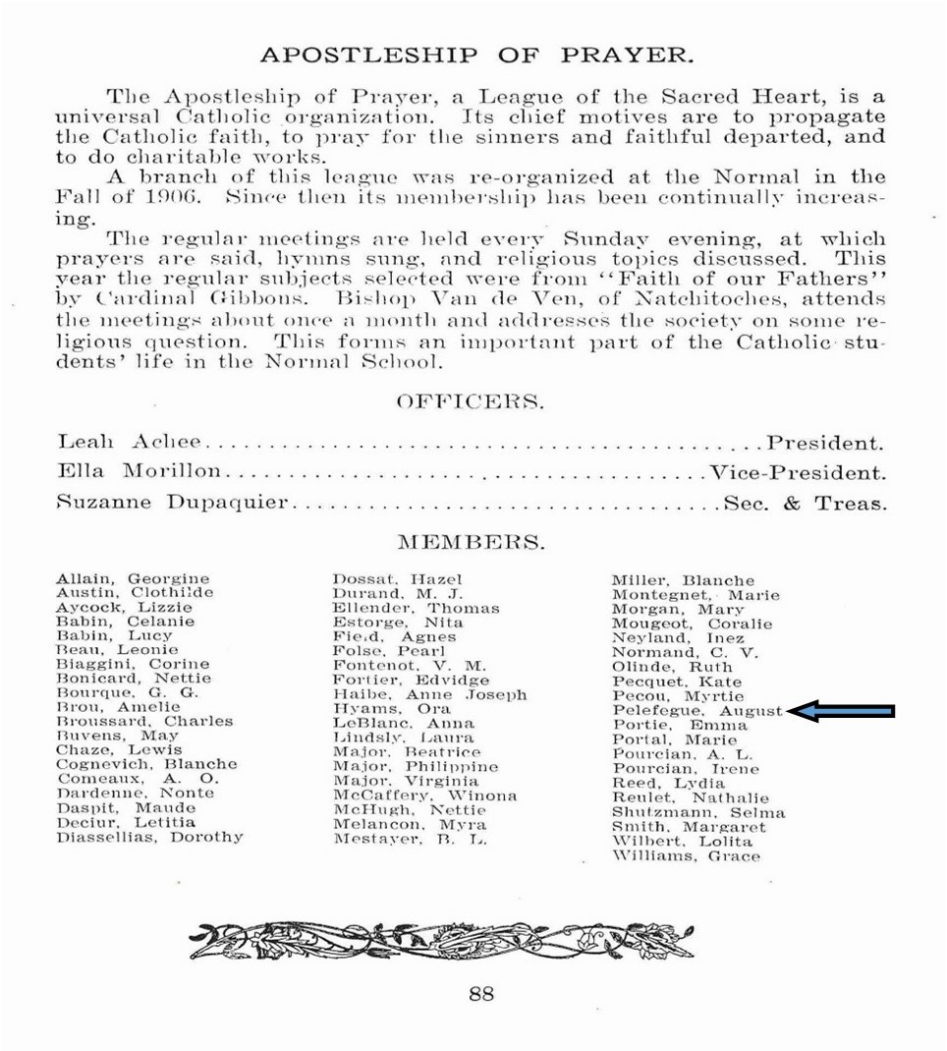
On January 10, 1888, Auguste Robert "Nonco" Pelafigue was born in Beaucens, France, approximately twelve miles from Lourdes in the Haute (High) Pyrenees. His deep-rooted faith could be attributed to his parents' frequent Sunday pilgrimages to Lourdes. Later in life, Auguste was nicknamed "Nonco" which comes from two words: The French word for uncle which is "Nonc" and the first syllable of his name Auguste which is "O;" hence the nickname "Nonco." It was an appropriate name, too, because Nonco was considered everybody's uncle.



In 1889 Nonco was only one year old, when he and his family emigrated to the United States and moved to Arnaudville, LA, a French-speaking community founded by a Frenchman named Jacques Arnaud. Arnaudville is located in the Parish of St. Landry in Southwest Louisiana.



To prepare himself to become a teacher, in 1909, at the age of 21, Nonco moved to Natchitoches, a town in northwest Louisiana, to attend the State Normal School. According to the State Normal's 1909 yearbook, the *Potpourri,* Auguste Pelafigue was listed as a member of the Apostleship of Prayer League of the Sacred Heart.



APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER.

The Apostleship of Prayer, a League of the Sacred Heart, is a universal Catholic organization. Its chief motives are to propagate the Catholic faith, to pray for the sinners and faithful departed, and to do charitable works.

A branch of this league was re-organized at the Normal in the Fall of 1906. Since then its membership has been continually increasing.

The regular meetings are held every Sunday evening, at which prayers are said, hymns sung, and religious topics discussed. This year the regular subjects selected were from "Faith of our Fathers" by Cardinal Gibbons. Bishop Van de Ven, of Natchitoches, attends the meetings about once a month and addresses the society on some religious question. This forms an important part of the Catholic students' life in the Normal School.

OFFICERS.

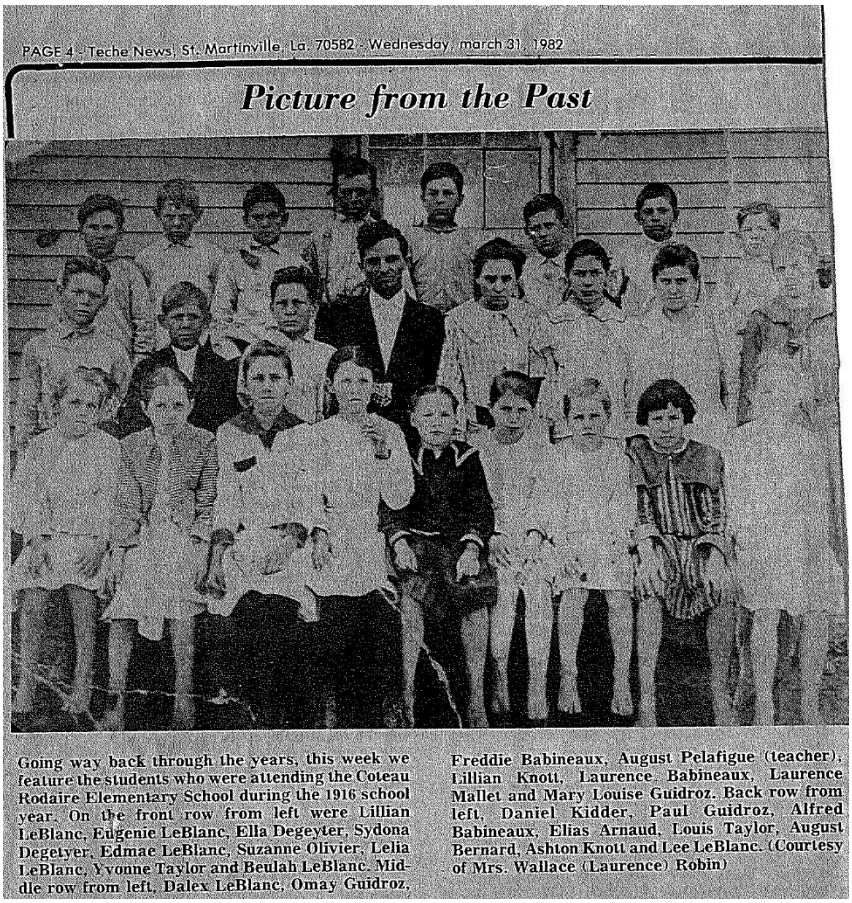
Leah Achee.....President.
Ella Morillon.....Vice-President.
Suzanne Dupaquier.....Sec. & Treas.

MEMBERS.

Allain, Georgine
Austin, Clothilde
Aycock, Lizzie
Babin, Celanie
Babin, Lucy
Beau, Leonie
Biaggini, Corine
Bonicard, Nettie
Bourque, G. G.
Brou, Amelie
Broussard, Charles
Buvens, May
Chaze, Lewis
Cognevich, Blanche
Comeaux, A. O.
Dardenne, Nonte
Daspit, Maude
Deciur, Letitia
Diassellias, Dorothy
Dossat, Hazel
Durand, M. J.
Ellender, Thomas
Estorge, Nita
Field, Agnes
Folse, Pearl
Fontenot, V. M.
Fortier, Edvidge
Haibe, Anne Joseph
Hyams, Ora
LeBlanc, Anna
Lindsly, Laura
Major, Beatrice
Major, Philippine
Major, Virginia
McCaffery, Winona
McHugh, Nettie
Melancon, Myra
Mestayer, B. L.
Miller, Blanche
Montegnet, Marie
Morgan, Mary
Mougeot, Coralie
Neyland, Inez
Normand, C. V.
Olinde, Ruth
Pecquet, Kate
Pecou, Myrtie
Pelefegue, August
Portie, Emma
Portal, Marie
Pourcian, A. L.
Pourcian, Irene
Reed, Lydia
Reulet, Nathalie
Shutzmann, Selma
Smith, Margaret
Wilbert, Lolita
Williams, Grace

88

After his preparation as a teacher, Nonco taught at the State Normal School then Nonco came back to live in Arnaudville to teach in public schools. He travelled by train for about 30 miles to Krotz Springs, LA to teach school and later he taught at the Huron School at Coteau Rodaire, a rural area in St. Martin Parish just a few miles from Arnaudville.



PAGE 4 Teche News, St. Martinville, La. 70582 Wednesday, march 31, 1982

Picture from the Past

Going way back through the years, this week we feature the students who were attending the Coteau Rodaire Elementary School during the 1916 school year. On the front row from left were Lillian LeBlanc, Eugenie LeBlanc, Ella Degeyter, Sydona Degetyer, Edmae LeBlanc, Suzanne Olivier, Lelia LeBlanc, Yvonne Taylor and Beulah LeBlanc. Middle row from left, Dalex LeBlanc, Omay Guidroz, Freddie Babineaux, August Pelafigue (teacher), Lillian Knott, Laurence Babineaux, Laurence Mallet and Mary Louise Guidroz. Back row from left, Daniel Kidder, Paul Guidroz, Alfred Babineaux, Elias Arnaud, Louis Taylor, August Bernard, Ashton Knott and Lee LeBlanc. (Courtesy of Mrs. Wallace (Laurence) Robin)

Nonco lived in a homely two-room house. He had no electricity or running water until much later in life. Nonco's house has survived the winds of time and remains a landmark. It was told to someone who built on property adjoining Nonco's that they were building on "Holy Land" because their neighbor, Nonco, was such a pious and devout man.



Like St. Francis of Assisi, Nonco's menagerie of animals kept him company and brought him joy. There were guineas, pigeons, bantam roosters and exotic birds as well as ducks and dogs that often followed him around. Many remember the peacock spreading its brilliant feathers. One might say that Nonco introduced the children of Arnaudville to their first zoo.



During the summers of 1920 and 1922, Nonco furthered his education by attending Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute now named University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE.

NAME pelafigue August R. COURSE

PARENT J. M. Pelafigue ADDRESS Arneaudville La.

TERM BEGINNING June 6-7 ENDING July 17 TERM BEGINNING ENDING

Subjects	Rec	1	2	3	4	Ex	T	Subjects	Rec	1	2	3	4	Ex	T
Alg. 2		98													
Adv. Gram		85													
Geom 1		86	86												

MONTHLY RECORD

SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA INSTITUTE.

NAME Pelafigue August R. COURSE 1st Grade

PARENT Miss Emily Pelafigue ADDRESS Arnaudville La.

TERM BEGINNING 6/5/22 ENDING

SUBJECT	REC	1	2	3	4	EX	T
Geom 2							
Col Alg. 1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]
Eng. V.	6	B	B	W			B
French 2	6	B	B	W			B

TERM BEGINNING ENDING

SUBJECTS	REC	1	2	3	4	EX	T

PERMANENT RECORD.

SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

Name Pelafigue August Parent J. M. Pelafigue Address Arnaudville Course

Subject	Period Rec. T	Wk. L	Gr	HS	Col	Cr	Subject	Period Rec. T	Wk. L	Gr	HS	Col	Cr	Subject	Period Rec. T	Wk. L	Gr	HS	Col	Cr
Y S.S. '20 Term							Yr Term							Yr Term						
Alg. 11																				
Adv. Gram																				
Geom 1																				
Term							Yr Term							Yr Term						
SS '22	9 Weeks																			
Col Alg I	6	B																		
Eng V	6	B																		
French 2	6	B																		

In 1949, the then Reverend Daniel Bernard, pastor of St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church of Arnaudville, added Auguste Pelafigue to the faculty of the newly built Little Flower Catholic School. Nonco was the only man on the faculty composed of the Sisters of the Marianites of Holy Cross.

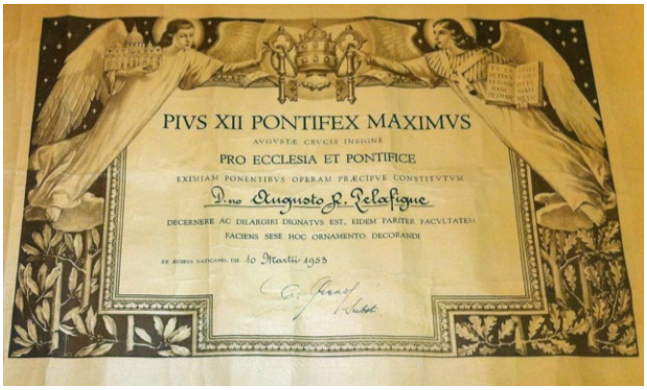
There are not many living today who were not taught by Nonco every Saturday morning in Catechism classes. Nor are there many who have forgotten him as a substitute teacher at Little Flower Convent. A favorite story that always brought a smile to his face was about the student who raised his hand and said, "Sister Nonco, I have a question." His was a nurturing role -- as a teacher, a mentor and tutor to many. His smile mirrored the joy of his faith, his belief in God and his deep love for all of God's people.

Many of his students, as well as his many nieces and nephews, recall being introduced to the stage at an early age by reciting poems, acting, or singing in pageants and plays written, produced, and directed by Nonco. Some had the privilege of being selected to carry in procession a velvet-covered platform that enthroned a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or The Blessed Mother. Nonco also promoted programs at Christmas, during Lent and for May devotions.



In 1953, Monsignor Daniel Bernard submitted Nonco as a candidate for Pontifical Honors and Auguste Robert Pelafigue was subsequently issued a Papal Degree presented to him by Bishop Jules B. Jeanmard, the Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana.





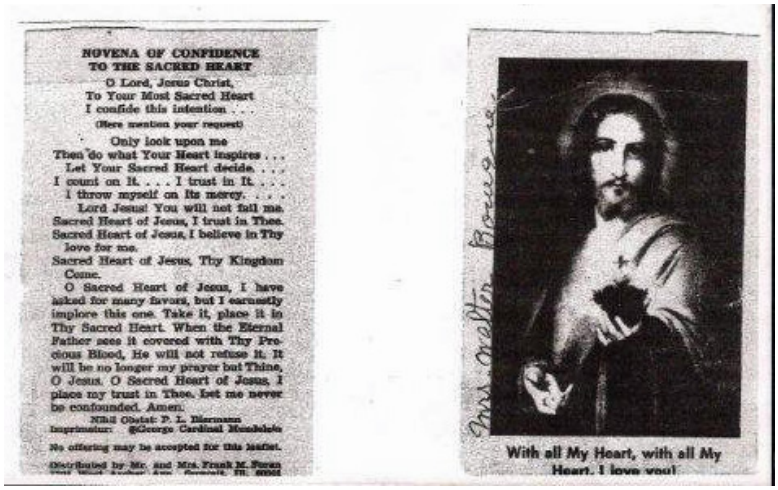
The Papal Decree read as follows:

> **"Mr. Pelafigue has organized the League of the Sacred Heart with some 1,200 members and 101 promoters. He goes out on foot to visit the fallen away, invite them to prayer of the league. He teaches in the Catholic School, teaches catechism to the public school children – all out of the love of God – with no pay. He organizes religious programs for the encouragement of the weak, and edification of the strong. He has been in this parish, another priest. He is most humble. He attends Holy Mass and receives Holy Communion daily. He assists at all the Masses on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. In a word, he is a living example of a REAL CHRISTIAN."**





As he travelled the country roads by foot delivering the Sacred Heart Leaflets each month, people have mentioned that when they offered Nonco a ride, even when it was raining, he politely refused. When asked "Why?" he would say that it was his way of doing penance for conversions and for the poor souls in purgatory.



NOVENA OF CONFIDENCE
TO THE SACRED HEART

O Lord, Jesus Christ,
To Your Most Sacred Heart
I confide this intention . . .
(Here mention your request)

Only look upon me
Then do what Your Heart inspires . . .
Let Your Sacred Heart decide. . . .
I count on It. . . . I trust in It. . . .
I throw myself on Its mercy. . . .
Lord Jesus! You will not fail me.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in Thee.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Thy love for me.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy Kingdom Come.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked for many favors, but I earnestly implore this one. Take it, place it in Thy Sacred Heart. When the Eternal Father sees it covered with Thy Precious Blood, He will not refuse it. It will be no longer my prayer but Thine, O Jesus. O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in Thee. Let me never be confounded. Amen.

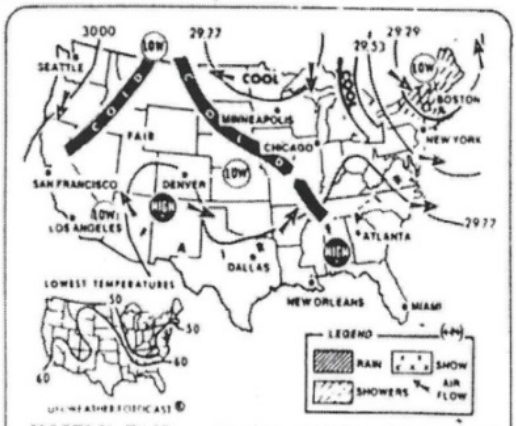
Nihil Obstat: P. L. Biermann
Imprimatur: ✠George Cardinal Mundelein

No offering may be accepted for this leaflet.

Distributed by Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Forst

With all My Heart, with all My Heart, I love you!

On June 6, 1977, Nonco died on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Many believe that his death on the Feast of the Sacred Heart was not a coincidence, but instead, it was God's way of saying "Well done, my good and faithful servant of my Sacred Heart!"



MOSTLY FAIR — During tonight, showers and thunderstorms will be expected over the New England area, while mostly fair weather is expected to dominate the remainder of the nation. — (UPI Telephoto)

Storm-Related Accidents Kill Five, Nine Missing

By United Press Internaitonal

Deadly thunderstorms roamed the Atlantic Coast Monday, producing tornadoes, hail and gale-force winds that flipped over a 42-foot fishing boat.

At least five persons were killed and nine others were missing in storm-related accidents. Numerous injuries also were reported.

The National Weather Service said today 30 severe thunderstorms and 17 tornadoes swept the Atlantic coast area Monday.

At least four persons drowned when the fishing boat Dixie Lee II, buffeted by high seas and gales force winds, overturned in Chesapeake Bay. Fourteen passengers were pulled to safety but rescue workers searched through the night with helicopters and ships for nine persons still missing.

One of the survivors, Jay Gallagher, 21, said "It was one big wave, maybe 15 feet" which flipped the craft.

The thunder squall, accompanied by golfball-sized hail and wind gusts of up to 98 miles per hour, also caused extensive damage throughout Tidewater, Virginia. The storm downed power lines, collapsed a 600-foot section of a fishing pier, uprooted trees and sent scaffolding crashing down at a shipbuilding dock.

One man who watched the storm from the 11th floor of the Norfolk City Hall said, "The wind was blowing the trees almost to the ground and elderly people were holding onto things to keep from falling down. Then it

DEATH NOTICES

August Pelafigue

ARNAUDVILLE — Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the St. Francis Regis Catholic Church for August (Nonco) Pelafigue, 89, of Arnaudville, who died Monday at 10 p.m. in the Amelia Manor Nursing Home in Lafayette.

Burial will be in the church cemetery directed by Pellerin Funeral Home of Arnaudville.

Survivors include numerous nieces and nephews.

He was the son of the late Jean Pelafigue and Melanie Pere, natives of France. He was a Lay Apostle of the St. Francis Regis Parish, general promoter of the Sacred Heart League, at one time having 100 promoters with 1,402 members. He was also a member of the Holy Name Society.

A rosary will be said at eight o'clock tonight in the funeral home.

Linic Babineaux

CARENCRO — Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the St. Peter Catholic Church for Linic Babineaux, 73, who died at 9:30 p.m. Monday in the Acadia-St. Landry Hospital in Church Point.

Burial will be in the church cemetery directed by Melancon's Funeral Home of Carencro.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Authurine Bourgeois of Vatican; a brother, Lessin Babineaux of Vatican; a sister, Mrs. Alcee Benoit of Vatican; and three grandchildren.

A rosary will be said at seven o'clock tonight.

Mrs. M.M. Kennison

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Holy Ghost Catholic Church for Mrs. Marie M. Kennison, 95, of Opelousas, who died Monday at 5 a.m. at her residence.

Burial will be in the St. Leo Cemetery in Leonville directed by Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Orelia K. Thibodeaux of Opelousas; three sons, Norway, Joseph and Armogene Kennison, all of Opelousas; 35 grandchildren, 91 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

Percy LeJeune

CHURCH POINT — Funeral services were to be held at 3 p.m. today in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church for Percy LeJeune, 49, who died at 7 p.m. Monday in a Lafayette hospital.

Burial was to follow in the new Sacred Heart Cemetery directed by Sibille's Funeral Home of Opelousas.

Survivors include a son, Rodney LeJeune of Lafayette; two brothers, Harland and Early LeJeune, both of Church Point; four sisters, Mrs. Leonce Guidry of Rayne, Mrs. Walter Comeaux and Mrs. Lloyd Matte, both of Church Point and Mrs. Oscar Burke of Chaneyville; his mother, Mrs. Doris M. LeJeune of Opelousas; and two grandchildren.

One of his great nieces tells the story that during Nonco's funeral one could hear the pelting of the rain on the roof of the church and wondered how the graveside service would be conducted in such weather. However, when the funeral ended and the procession walked out of the church, it was a beautiful sunshiny day and a magnificent rainbow filled the sky as people walked to the cemetery for Nonco's burial. She said, it was yet another sign of Nonco's holiness.



Nonco is buried in Mausoleum 1, Crypt 8, in the St. Francis Regis Cemetery in Arnaudville, Louisiana. Above is a photograph of his crypt plaque which is located on the south wall in the bottom position. Below is a photograph of Mausoleum 1.



So many admired Nonco as a ”Real Christian,” “a modern day apostle,” “a living saint” of our time and because of that, on June 6, 2012, which was Auguste Robert “Nonco” Pelafigue’s 35th Death Anniversary, the Nonco Foundation was formed to begin the process for his canonization.

THE STORY OF AUGUSTE “NONCO” PELAFIGUE’S LIFE



Auguste “Nonco” Pelafigue
1-10-1888 ~ 6-6-1977



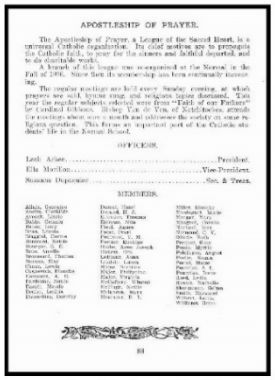
Nonco
Delivering Sacred Heart Leaflets



Nonco with his Class at Huron Elementary
Coteau Rodaire, 1916



Nonco’s Home



Nonco, a member of the Apostleship of Prayer in 1909



La Bretagne ~ The Pelafigue Family
came to USA on this ship in 1889



Nonco feeding his animals



One of the Plays of the Little Flower School Students, Marianites Sisters and Nonco



Nonco’s Mausoleum Crypt
St. John Francis Regis Cemetery

Auguste Robert “Nonco” Foundation, Inc ~ PO Box 696 ~ Arnaudville, LA 70512
(337) 692-3803 ~ https://www.nonco.org ~ npelafigue@gmail.com

THE STORY OF AUGUSTE “NONCO” PELAFIGUE’S LIFE
AN EXAMPLE OF A “REAL CHRISTIAN”

Papal Decree as submitted by Father Daniel Bernard of St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church of Arnaudville, LA

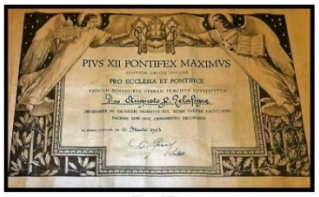
“Mr. Pelafigue has organized the League of the Sacred Heart with some 1,200 members and 101 promoters. He goes out on foot to visit the fallen away, invite them to prayer of the league. He teaches in the Catholic School, teaches catechism to the public school children—all out of love of God – with no pay. He organizes religious programs for the encouragement of the weak, and edification of the strong. He has been in this parish, another priest. He is most humble. He attends Holy Mass and receives Holy Communion daily. He assists at all the Masses on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. In a word, he is a living example of a REAL CHRISTIAN.”



Papal Medal



In 1953, at age 65, Nonco received the Papal Decree
from Bishop Jules B. Jeanmard, Diocese of Lafayette



Papal Decree



During Nonco’s lifetime, he promoted the intentions of six popes. “Who does anything for 68 years? BUT an even better question would be: Who does anything for 68 years without pay? “Nonco” did. He served the Sacred Heart of Jesus and six popes throughout his adult life with NO pay!!!

Please ask Nonco to intercede for your special intentions and remember to report any favors received to the Nonco Foundation. Please join us in praying for the Opening of the Cause of the Canonization of Auguste Robert “Nonco” Pelafigue.

Thank you for your prayers, your interest and your support.

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