

# 'Nonco' Pelafigue will be honored with French Mass

**Arnaudville** - A French Mass in memory of Auguste "Nonco" Pelafigue will be held on Sunday, June 25, at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Francis Regis Church in Arnaudville. Bishop Douglas Deshotel of the Diocese of Lafayette, will be the celebrant. Father Keenan Brown, pastor of St. John Francis Regis Church, will be the concelebrant. Deacon Kenneth Arnaud will assist.

Prayer cards will be distributed at the Memorial Mass. Immediately following the Mass will be a procession from the church to the reception in the Little Flower Auditorium, the same location where Nonco held his many Sacred Heart Plays.

Since "Nonco" was a native of Beaucens, France, it was decided that a French Mass would be appropriate. The readers are relatives of the Pelafigue Family - Julée Pelafigue, Mary Agnes Hardy de la Houssage Belleau and Florent Hardy Jr. The gift bearers are Connie Pelafigue, Claire Patel, and Nell Pelafigue. Leo "Pope" Huval will provide the music.

"Nonco" came from France to the United States with his family in 1889 and settled in Arnaudville. In 1909 at the age of 21, Nonco became a member of the Apostleship of Prayer League of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and remained a



**Nonco Pelafigue**

member for 68 years until his death. He is best remembered as a promoter of the Apostleship of Prayer, as he traveled on foot to deliver the Sacred Heart leaflets monthly. Thanks to the League leaflets, many learned The Morning Offering and prayed daily for the intentions of the Sacred Heart and the intentions of the six Holy Fathers who were the popes during Nonco's adult life.

"Nonco" lived 89 years in the service of the Lord, attending Daily Mass, serving St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church, teaching at the Little Flower Catholic School, and distributing the Sacred Heart leaflets. Many children and adults of the Arnaudville community were introduced to the stage by performing in Nonco's Sacred Heart Plays each summer.

It was not surprising that Nonco died on the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 6, 1977.

In 2012, a non-

profit corporation was formed. The Nonco Foundation works towards the beatification and canonization of Auguste "Nonco" Pelafigue.

The initial phase of the canonization process requires the gathering of proof from living witnesses about Nonco's life as a faithful servant of God. Taylor Bassett of the law firm of Morrow, Morrow, Ryan and Bassett of Opelousas has volunteered his time and talent to address Vatican requirements to record and transcribe the response of eight individuals who knew Nonco and answered specific questions which would clearly reflect Nonco's holiness.

Work continues by the Foundation in the preparation of a Memorial Prayer Garden between Melancon Funeral Home and St. John Francis Regis Church to provide a peaceful and contemplative place for local citizens and visitors and to become familiar with the spiritual life and legacy of Nonco.

Forms will be available at the reception following Mass for those interested in joining or contributing to the Nonco Foundation. More information can be found at the Website [www.nonco.org](http://www.nonco.org), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/noncoauguste.pelafigue](http://www.facebook.com/noncoauguste.pelafigue), by email [npelafigue@gmail.com](mailto:npelafigue@gmail.com) or by calling Allen LeBlanc at 337-692-3803.