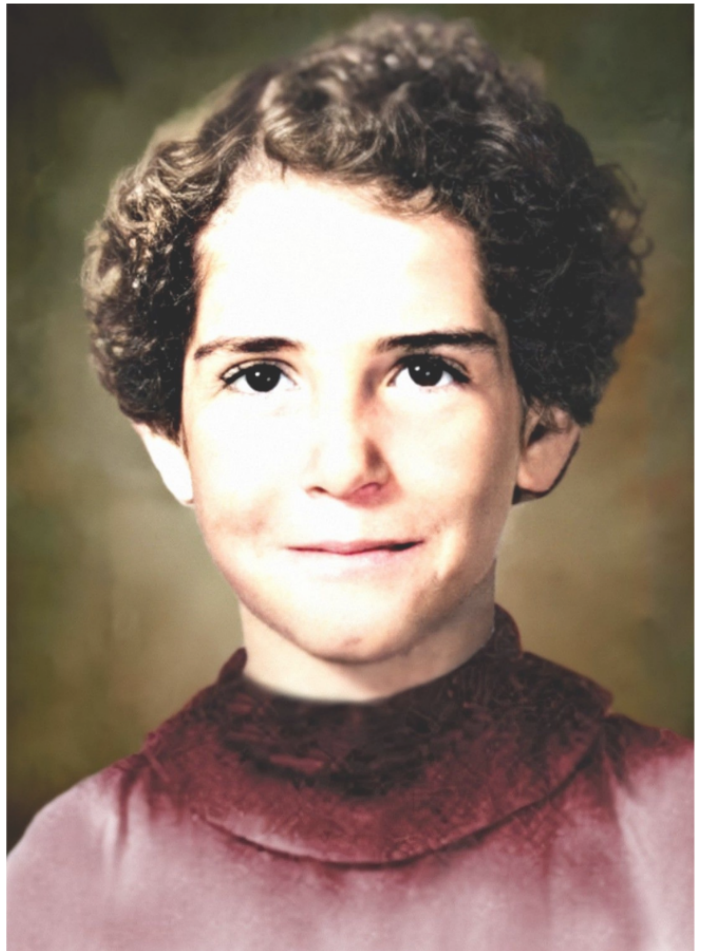

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

A Summer of Saints!

Servant of God Charlene Richard was born in 1947 and lived with her family on a farm in a small town in Louisiana named Church Point. Charlene, along with her brothers and sisters, helped with the work on the farm. The children attended Catholic school and the family would often go to Mass at least three times during the week in addition to Sunday. When Charlene was 12 years old she started to experience a lot of pain and bruises appeared on her body. She was eventually sent to Lafayette to see a specialist. This doctor asked that a priest be present for the family. A very young, recently ordained priest named Fr. Joseph Brennan was called. "It was pure chance that I was the priest in the room when the news was told to Charlene's parents," Father explained. Charlene had what is called "Acute Lymphatic Leukemia" and had about two weeks to live. Charlene loved Jesus very much! She knew that Jesus lets us unite our prayers and sufferings with His offering on the Cross. He lets us help Him in His mission as SAVIOR OF THE WORLD! For the next 13 days Charlene was in terrible pain but she did not complain even once. Each day she would ask Fr. Brennan who needed her prayers. Father would suggest that her sufferings be offered for another patient with a terminal illness or someone who was not Catholic. Father later stated that the sick people Charlene prayed for recovered and the non-Catholics converted. The day before she died she kissed Fr. Brennan and told him that she would pray for him when she was in Heaven. On August 11, 1959, Charlene died. Although Charlene's earthly life ended over 60 years ago, her story is not over. There have been several miracles attributed to Charlene's intercession since her death leading to the opening of her cause of Sainthood. Many people already call her: "The Little Cajun Saint!"

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"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Servant of God Charlene Richard

At the 30th anniversary Mass commemorating Charlene's death, Father Brennan said: "Charlene taught us lessons in humility, acceptance, simplicity and faith. We have many books teaching us how to live. Charlene wrote the book on how to die..." At another time he explained that he was the one who reluctantly agreed to tell Charlene the heartbreaking news that she would be dying soon. He gently told her, "A beautiful Lady is going to come and take you home." In reply, Charlene said, "When she does, I'll say, 'Blessed Mother, Father Brennan says hello.'"

"For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow into our lives, so too does the encouragement we receive through Christ." 2 Corinthians 1:5