



# September Leader Spotlight

**Gus & Ruby  
Cheramie**

Ruby Doucet Cheramie was born on September 9, 1937, and Gus Cheramie, Jr. was born on September 19, 1942. They are better known to me as Mom and Dad.

In the early part of 1973 a single mother of three met a single father of four. Apparently, the chemistry and magic was moving and compelling! Enough so that they wed in April of 1973, four months after they met. I was 12 years old at that time, and things were changing fast, but I finally got that father that wanted so badly, and, having two sisters, and feeling a bit outnumbered, I got those brothers that I always wanted. Four, to be exact!

Through the years a blended house hold of seven children accounted for interesting times. These years brought challenges for all of us that were hard to understand at times, but were directly influential with our development as we matured into adults. The term “understanding” took on a whole new meaning.

However challenging, we were taught important things like honor, dignity, respect, earn and deserve, vision and focus, reason, logic, care, love and understanding. Lessons about being supportive of one and other. How to be encouraging and proud of each other for accomplishments, but sympathetic and consoling when necessary.....affording courtesy to others, but not to accept being taken advantage of either.....the value of the love and the grace of God.

I thank them for the courage that they applied to the creation of our family that we have today, and for giving me the two best sisters and the four best brothers that any man could ask for. I thank them for their true guidance and friendship they have afforded us, and for showing us how to love. This journey has provided evidence of how something that is perfect does not need to be so perfect.

Leaders who never gave up....leaders who never gave up on us... Happy Birthday Mom, Happy Birthday Dad!





# August Leader Spotlight

# Sister Claire

**Sister Mary Claire Rodrigue was born in Lockport, La in 1924. Everybody knew her as.....Sister Claire.**

**I attended Holy Rosary Catholic School form 1966 to 1973 (first grade through sixth grade), and Sister Claire was the Principal when my sisters and I attended school there. I actually didn't know that she was from Lockport or that her last name was Rodrigue until long after I graduated high school.**

**As mentioned before, she was born in 1924. Sister Claire attended Dominican College in New Orleans and received a degree in elementary education. She entered the Immaculate Conception congregation in 1942 and professed her vows in 1945. Her ministry as a teacher in Louisiana Schools started at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in White Castle, St. Vincent de Paul in New Orleans, and St. Charles Borromeo in Destrehan, before becoming a teacher and Principal of Holy Rosary Catholic School in Larose in 1963. She was also missionary to Saltillo, Mexico until 2006.**

**Her faith, dedication, and love earned her the distinguished Papal Medal “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” (For Assembly {church}, and Priest).**

**As a child, it was difficult to understand her strict and direct ways, but as a man I learned to understand the structure that she helped many of us to develop as we matured into adults. For that I will always be grateful.**

**She was in her 62nd year of religious life when she passed away on Christmas Eve 2007.**





# July Leader Spotlight

# Nolty Theriot

Nolty J. Theriot was born in Golden Meadow, La in 1924. He was a Private in the U.S. Army, 17th Airborne during World War II. He escaped from captivity during the war, and survived to return to Louisiana and started a career in the marine transportation industry by converting a shrimp boat into a tug boat.

Mr. Nolty struggled to survive at times, but had the tenacity to try and try again, and eventually earned success, becoming one of the largest Marine Transportation Operators in the world. Operating in remote regions like the North Sea, the Persian Gulf, Africa, and, of course, the domestic Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Nolty was elected to the Louisiana State House of Representatives in 1976 but died of cancer before he could take office at the age of 52.

A leader who never gave up.....

