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St. Joseph Hospice Hosts Annual St. Joseph Altar Celebration



Baton Rouge, LA, March 20, 2014 — St. Joseph Hospice hosted its yearly St. Joseph Altar on Tuesday, March 18th at The Carpenter House on Jefferson Highway in Baton Rouge.

The St. Joseph Altar began as a custom brought to New Orleans by Sicilian immigrants. The tradition in Italy goes back as far as the Middle Ages in gratitude to St. Joseph for answering prayers for deliverance from famine. Families of farmers and fishermen built altars in their

homes to share their good fortune with others in need.

Friends, along with St. Joseph Hospice staff members and volunteers, prepared an abundance of food and decorated an altar with flowers, candles and cards in thanksgiving to St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of a Peaceful Death, for favors granted. Following a blessing by the Reverend J. Clifton Hill, C.S.Sp., the public was invited to partake in the feast, which included a special rosary cake, which was donated for the event by Sister Dulce.



As the only hospice agency in the Baton Rouge area hosting an event of this type, St. Joseph Hospice is proud to continue this honored tradition. The altar, held yearly in mid-March, gets larger



and larger each year. All donations made during the event go to the St. Joseph Hospice Foundation, a non-profit, chartered in 2003, which provides educational programs and assistance to terminally ill patients and their families, regardless of which hospice agency they choose. The Foundation provides over \$50,000 annually to communities served by St. Joseph Hospice throughout Louisiana, Mississippi and South Alabama. In addition to funds provided for direct care for non-funded patients, the

Foundation has also helped to provide for living expenses, funeral costs, memorial services and more.

