



MEDIA RELEASE

April 22, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

A life in service to others –

Sister Marie Thérèse honoured for her contributions to Trinidad and Tobago.

Sister Marie Thérèse Rétout has received many accolades throughout her lifetime for her outstanding service to the nation. Among these include the receipt of the highest national distinction in France, the Medal ‘Chevalier in the Order of the Legion d’Honneur’ presented to her by the then French Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Charley Causeret on March 22nd, 2007. On 7th March, 2022, Sister Rétout received the Public Service Medal of Merit Gold for the year 2020 by Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of Trinidad and Tobago. The published author has also received numerous plaques of appreciation from the Archdiocese of Port of Spain, Editor in Chief of the Catholic News, Parish of St, Theresa Barataria and grateful friends.

Sister Marie Thérèse received an additional honour today when the Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox visited the Centenarian at the Holy Name Convent to honour her, as part of the Ministry’s National Centenarian Programme and to bestow early birthday greetings to Sister Marie Thérèse, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on Saturday April 23rd.

“It is not every day someone turns one hundred, so the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services through the Division of Ageing has decided we will celebrate all persons one hundred years and over,” said Minister Cox, before joining in singing and celebrating Sister Marie Thérèse.

Learning of Sister Marie Thérèse’ seventy years in Trinidad and Tobago and twenty years of service in the area of education at the St. Dominic’s Children’s Home in Belmont, Port of Spain, and seventeen (17) years of caring for the poor in Barataria and environs, Minister Cox thanked her for her outstanding work towards the poor and vulnerable in Trinidad and Tobago.

Minister Cox presented Sister Rétout with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement, a food hamper and a personalised birthday cake from the Kiss Baking Company.

Sister Marie Thérèse told the Minister that she feels honoured to attain the milestone age of 100. “I thank God for creating me and for helping me to live according to His will. I am full of gratitude and loving care. I feel happy and honoured to live to make it to one hundred years” she added.

The French native who arrived in Trinidad from Paris on February 9th 1952 at the age of 30, also noted that though it was not an easy life, it has been one of sacrificial love.

Sister Marie Thérèse also told the Minister that initially she did not move to Trinidad. “I did not want to come to Trinidad but they say God is a Trini and that must be true. I saw the beautiful soul of the people. I love Trinidad. I love Tobago” said Sister Marie Thérèse.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to honour our latest centenarian and encourage family and loved ones, Members of Parliament, Local Government representatives, friends, and neighbours to salute our nation’s centenarians by registering for the Programme. Persons may visit the Ministry’s website at www.social.gov.tt and complete the online form or print a downloadable form for completion. Completed forms may be dropped off at the nearest Social Welfare Office or emailed to the Division of Ageing at opic@social.gov.tt. For more information, persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext 2001 to 2009 or 800-OPIC (6742).

-END-



Minister Cox learns of Sister Marie Thérèse Rétout’s years of service to Trinidad and Tobago



For the birthday lady - Minister Cox presents a birthday cake to Sister Marie Thérèse



Birthday Lady - Sister Marie Thérèse Rétout celebrates her 100th birthday.



Sister Marie Thérèse Rétout, Minister Cox and fellow sisters take a photo following the presentation.