



TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BCI

APRIL 2016

## THE EASTER SEASON

**Just like the Faith, the Drum works for us if you pass it on.**

**TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER CONTACT**  
**[BCI@archchicago.org](mailto:BCI@archchicago.org)**

**TO SUPPORT THIS WORK PRAY AND GO TO**  
**<https://www.givecentral.org/location/144/event/10917>**

## 1. LET US PRAY

### A Persistent Evil

The presidential race for the White House has raised the ugly head of racism, mysteriously, following the presidency of the first African American President of the United States.

A comment recently noticed in *America* magazine, 21 March recalled to our memory a crime in Mississippi that happened back in 2000 *where two car loads of Mississippi teenagers drove in to Jackson for no other reason than to beat up the first black person they came across. It was not the first such excursion to what the boys called 'Jafrica' where they would target vulnerable African-Americans who were not likely to go the police. But this time the victim would not remain nameless.*

*James Craig Anderson was standing in a motel parking lot when the gang beat him to the ground, ran him over with a large pickup truck and yelled "white power" as they left him for dead. This murder occurred not fifty years ago, but five. We thought crimes like this against blacks were the hatred stuff of the 1920s, 30s, 40s and 50s and 60s.*

*In an impassioned speech at the original sentencing hearing, Judge Reeves recounted the savage history of "Old Mississippi" and noted the state "has struggled mightily to reinvent itself" from the legacy of slavery and lynching. And yet these young people lived their whole lives in the "New Mississippi", raised in its families and educated in its schools.*

*Likewise, the racial hatred surfaced by this year's presidential campaign has its roots not just in Reconstruction following the Civil War and Emancipation but in modern institutions and hearts. A former Klu Klux Klan grand wizard has*

*endorsed the Republican forerunner; two men in Boston yelled "Donald Trump was right" as they brutally beat a Latino man; and some 30 black students were thrown out of a Trump rally at their own college. Many find it easier to see these incidents as relics of the "old America", rather than as alarming signs of our times.*

*But the progress of the civil rights era was neither perfect nor permanent. And today, as bigoted voices are raised and amplified, Americans must respond with more than dismayed silence.*

Bishop Joseph Perry

***LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!***

Please submit all prayer request to [BCI@archchicago.org](mailto:BCI@archchicago.org).

## **2. THE CONTEST**

**Congratulations to the winners of the BCI Black History Month Essay Contest.**

**FIRST PRIZE**

**ANDRÉ SHERLEY**

**Augustus Tolton Academy**

**SECOND PRIZE**

**Michelle-Marie Nimo**

**Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy**

### 3. THE RETREAT

#### FIVE QUESTIONS

- A) Do you need to spend valuable, quality and quiet time with God and sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus?
- B) Do you wonder how you can stay Catholic for the rest of your God given life?
- C) Do you need help “fitting” into the Church?
- D) Do you find it challenging to live your faith in this complicated world and this complex church?
- E) Are you concerned about passing on the Faith?

**If you answered, “YES” to baptism  
or any one of these questions, this retreat is for you.**

#### WHO IS INVITED?

*Persons who want to invest in his or her spirituality*

*Persons who wants to build the church in the*

**Black community.**

*Persons known as an active member of the **Catholic Church***

*Persons who want to pass on the **Catholic faith***

*Persons who believes **WE NEED JESUS** to be church*

*Persons who believes that*

**Black people are important to the church** and  
**the church is important to Black people**

# *Standing on the Rock*

In a weary land, in the time of trouble and for the rest of my life.



Retreat Master  
Sr. Cora Marie Billings, RSM

A Founder of the National Black Sisters Conference

## *A Guided Retreat for Black Catholics*

June 17th & 18th  
Mundelein Seminary

\$200 all inclusive fee  
Transportation  
Meals  
Overnight accommodation

INVEST IN YOUR SPIRITUALITY

Register with payment at

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/144/11154>

Contact for more information

312.577.0475 or [BCI@archchicago.org](mailto:BCI@archchicago.org)

#### 4. ON THE AIR

## RADIO BCI

**Tuesdays 9-9:30 a.m.**

**Relevant Radio 950-AM**

**Deacon John Cook** hosts this weekly half-hour program that explores a wide range of topics relevant to Chicago's Black and Catholic communities. Deacon Cook serves at St. Felicitas Parish in Chatham and is very involved in organizing and overseeing youth programs in the Bronzeville neighborhood.



**Tune in and Call in  
312.255.8408**

**Let's talk about:**

**RADIO BCI is in search of persons  
YOUNG, GIFTED, BLACK and CATHOLIC  
to serve as co-hosts.**

**Send resume to [BCI@archchicago.org](mailto:BCI@archchicago.org)**

***Make Them Hear You!***

## 5. SOCIAL ACTION – CATHOLIC CHARITIES

NO STATE BUDGET  
LESS CATHOLIC CHARITY  
No justice                      No peace

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## TALK TO GOD

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African Americans  
receive 42% of the  
services provided by  
Catholic Charities

63% of the Housing Services

48% of the Community Development Services

26% of the Senior Services

60% of the Family and Parish Support Services

53% of the Child, Youth, and Family Services

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WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TALK TO THE  
GOVERNMENT AS CATHOLICS  
CONCERNED ABOUT PEOPLE

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## **6. SOCIAL ACTION - RENEW MY CHURCH**

**TAKE THE SURVEY!!!**

**MAKE SURE BLACK CATHOLIC VOICES ARE HEARD!!!**

<http://www.archchicago.org/renew>

### **Dreaming Big about the Archdiocese of Chicago**

Archbishop Cupich invites everyone across the Archdiocese to join together in launching a historic new moment for the Church of Chicago to respond to Christ's call to "*Renew My Church*." What we are undertaking will chart the course for greater vibrancy and vitality of our parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago for generations to come.

### **A prayer for "Renew My Church"**

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: *Renew My Church*.

Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us to hear you clearly to listen to each other attentively to imagine our future boldly to discern your direction wisely to persevere in your holy will courageously to stay together in charity to surrender own plans readily to embrace the greater good to hand on your gifts to future generations.

May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints. May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace. We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen



## **7. SOCIAL ACTION – NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS**

CONGRESS XII IS COMING SOON!  
*THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME:  
ACT JUSTLY, LOVE GOODNESS, AND  
WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.*

WE WILL NEED TO RAISE MONEY TO SEND DELEGATES

COMING SOON

## **DAYS OF REFLECTION**

IN PREPARATION FOR THIS NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF  
THE BLACK SPIRITUALITY

## **8. DIVINE INTERVENTION - JUBILEE of MERCY**

<http://jubileemercy.org>

## **9. PARISH LIFE AND FORMATION EVENTS**

The BCI received the following announcements from parishes, schools and organizations for the purpose of sharing information and invitation.

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**FROM THE ACCW**

**Archdiocesan Council of Catholic  
Women Alumnae  
presents**

**Celebrating the Resurrection**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2016**

**St. Ailbe Catholic Church**

**Corner of 91<sup>st</sup> and Stoney Island**

**Chicago, IL 60619**

**11AM Mass**

**Most Reverend Joseph N Perry**

**Lunch**

**“Meet one of our newest aspiring saints”**

**Father Augustin Tolton**

**Impersonated by: Mr. Fred Arceneaux**

**Raffle**

**Donation \$30, Tickets: Make checks payable to ACCW  
Alumnae with your name, phone number & email address  
and those you wish to be seated with. Mail to Doris Martin,  
4009 W. 93<sup>rd</sup> PL#2A Oaklawn, IL 60453**

**Questions: Doris Martin 708-499-0638**

**Dolores Holder 773-881-3353**

**FROM ST. AILBE**



# **Domestic Violence Forum**

sponsored by  
St. Ailbe Domestic Violence Ministry  
Sunday, April 10, 2016  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
“Let’s Talk About It”

## ***Speakers:***

- Aileen Robinson, Domestic Violence Program Development  
Coordinator, Chicago Police Department
- Vicki Meilach, ICDVP, South Suburban Family Shelter, Inc.
- Nicole Cannon, Type 73, Professional School Counselor
- Special Guest Speaker

Forum to be held in the church hall, lower level  
St Ailbe Church, 9047 South Harper Avenue, Chicago, IL.

*Light Refreshments Served*

## From DePaul's Campus Ministry

Catholic Campus Ministry would like to invite students who are interested in attending DePaul University in the Fall to a dinner and Mass to welcome you and your students. Dinner and Mass will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2016 starting at 6:30 p.m. We know you are having amazing experiences in your parish youth ministry or high school and we hope that you consider sharing those experiences with us. Please join us for dinner with students who are active with Catholic Campus Ministry and learn about what is going on, then attend the student Mass at 8:30 p.m. Use the rsvp link below to engage with us, get connected, and meet some new friends. Youth ministers are invited to accompany the students in thanksgiving for all their wonderful work.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-dinner-at-depaul-university-catholic-campus-ministry-tickets-23840943905>

Sincerely,

**Amanda Thompson**

Director of Catholic Campus Ministry

DePaul University

773.325.6201

[athomp44@depaul.edu](mailto:athomp44@depaul.edu)



# **Fire from Heaven: Pentecostalism, Catholicism and the Spirit in the World**

**April 15-17, 2016**

**DePaul University**

**Chicago, IL**

<http://las.depaul.edu/centers-and-institutes/center-for-world-catholicism-cultural-theology/World-Catholicism-Week/Pages/default.aspx>

## **From the SBS Alumni Chicago Chapter**



The SBS Alumni Chicago Chapter will host its annual Spring Reunion Luncheon on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at the New Martinique, 8200 South Cicero from 12:00 noon until 4:30 pm. Ticket price (\$60) includes door prizes, all-you-can-eat meal, open bar, and outstanding entertainment. This year former St. Elizabeth graduates, now attending area Catholic high schools, will receive renewable scholarships.

If you would like to attend mail check payable to SBS Alumni to PO Box 368670, Chicago, Il 60636 or if you would like to contribute to the scholarship please mail your donation to the same post office box. Mark envelope: Attention Scholarship. For questions contact 773-643-8324.

**From St. Benedict the African east Parish**



# **Happy Mother's Day**

## **Mass & Brunch**



**St. Benedict the African**

**May 8, 2016**

**Mass at 9:30**

**Brunch at 11:00**

**Dr. King Hall      6550 S. Harvard**

**Hor' d' oeuvres, champagne, dinner, music, gifts!!!**

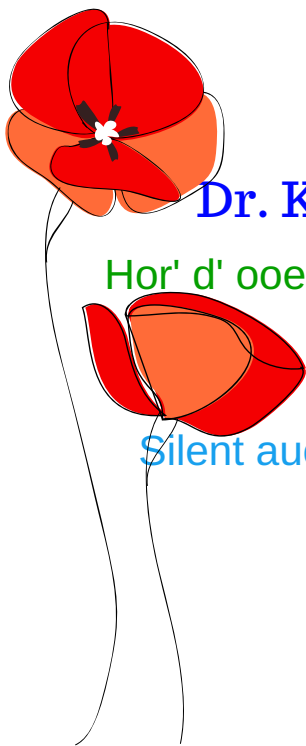
**\$25.00 per person**

**Silent auction of purses**

**BIG HAT CONTEST**

**Contact [SBAeast@aol.com](mailto:SBAeast@aol.com)**

**773.873.4464 for tickets**



# From Corpus Christi Parish

## Corpus Christi Catholic Church's Annual Spring Luncheon

A Tribute to  
the Franciscan Fathers of  
the Sacred Heart Province  
and Sisters of St. Francis  
of Dubuque Iowa  
for 87 Years of Service

# Celebrating 115 Years of Faith in the Bronzeville Community

Sunday, May 22, 2016  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chicago Midway Marriott Hotel  
6520 S. Cicero, Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60638

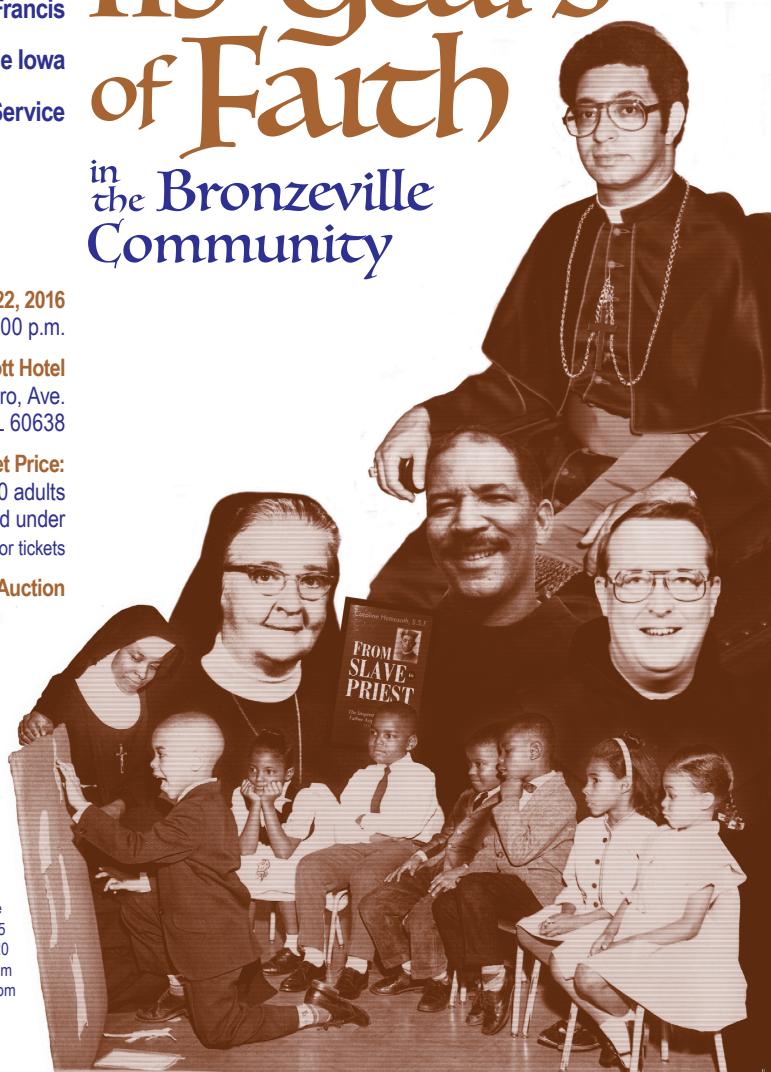
**Luncheon Ticket Price:**

- \$60.00 adults
  - \$25.00 children 12 and under
- May 8, 2016 deadline for tickets

**Entertainment and Silent Auction**

**Contact Information:**

Parish Office,  
4920 S. King Drive  
Chicago, IL 60615  
Office: 773-285-7720  
[www.corpuschristchurchchicago.com](http://www.corpuschristchurchchicago.com)  
[corpuschristi4920@gmail.com](mailto:corpuschristi4920@gmail.com)



## 10. THE BCI AND YOU

All are welcome to bring ideas and gifts to this collective work of baptizing matrimony and anointing, this effort of kujichagulia, umoja and imani. This is a meeting of the seven sacraments of the church and the seven principles of Kwanzaa. This is a meeting of the church. That is what makes it and us truly catholic. Stay tuned, stay close, get involved, walk together and don't you get weary! There's a great camp meeting in the Promised Land. Believe that you are in the camp.

# Thanks

# Be to

# GOD



Someone asked the question...

RED is for the blood of the people

BLACK is for the community of the people

GREEN is for the growth of the people