



The Drum

Archdiocese of Chicago
BLACK CATHOLIC INITIATIVE

A Unique Gift of Blackness

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BCI
AUGUST 2016

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

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

1. LET US PRAY

USCCB President Calls for National Day of Prayer and Appoints Special Task Force to Promote Peace and Unity

July 21, 2016

WASHINGTON—In light of recent incidents of violence and racial tension in communities across the United States, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has invited all dioceses across the country to unite in a Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities. He has also appointed a special task force to support bishops in marking that Day of Prayer, and more broadly, in promoting peace and healing during this time of great strain on civil society.

On July 8, in his initial and immediate response to the racially-related shootings in Baton Rouge, Minneapolis and Dallas, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, noted the need to look at ways the Catholic Church can walk with and help these suffering communities. The initiatives announced today begin to address that need.

"I have stressed the need to look toward additional ways of nurturing an open, honest and civil dialogue on issues of race relations, restorative justice, mental health, economic opportunity, and addressing the question of pervasive gun violence," Archbishop Kurtz said. "The Day of Prayer and special Task Force will help us advance in that direction. By stepping forward to embrace the suffering, through unified, concrete action animated by the love of Christ, we hope to nurture peace and build bridges of communication and mutual aid in our own communities."

The Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities will be celebrated on the feast of St. Peter Claver, September 9, and will serve as a focal point for the work of the task force.

The purpose of the Task Force is to help bishops engage the challenging problems directly, by various means: gathering and disseminating supportive resources and "best practices"; actively listening to the concerns of members in troubled communities and law enforcement; and building strong relationships to help prevent and resolve conflicts. The Task Force will conclude its work with a report on its activities and recommendations for future work to the November General Assembly.

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, former USCCB president, will chair the task force.

"I am honored to lead this Task Force which will assist my brother bishops, individually and as a group, to accompany suffering communities on the path toward peace and reconciliation," said Archbishop Gregory. "We are one body in Christ, so we must walk with our brothers and sisters and renew our commitment to promote healing. The suffering is not somewhere else, or someone else's; it is our own, in our very dioceses."

Other members are: Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Social Development; Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee for African American Affairs; Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, Bishop Emeritus of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, former chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Africa, member of the USCCB Subcommittee for African American Affairs, and member of the board of the National Black Catholic Congress; and Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

The Task Force will also have numerous bishop consultants, including USCCB vice president Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, as well as bishops whose jurisdictions have experienced extreme gun violence, or who otherwise bring special insight or experience on related questions. An equal or smaller number of lay consultants with relevant expertise will be appointed soon thereafter.

Statement of Archbishop Blase J. Cupich on the Pope's
Commission to Study the Subject of Women Deacons
August 2, 2016

Last May, Pope Francis indicated his willingness to appoint a commission to study the subject of women deacons. Today I welcome the news that he has done just that. From the earliest days of the church, women rightly served in key leadership roles. Still, the church must do better. Women deserve to be brought more fully into the decision-making of the church. I look forward to learning more about the work of the commission, composed of an equal number of men and women, as they bring their considerable talents to bear on this important subject in the life of the church.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

Please submit all prayer request to BCI@archchicago.org.

2. From Bishop Perry

THE SLUGGISH PURSUIT FO RACIAL JUSTICE

Bishop Joseph N Perry

The US Bishops said it back in 1979 with *"Brothers And Sisters To Us."*

Their words continue to effect powerful current in the Catholic community:

"Racism is a sin, a sin that divides the human family, blots out the image of God among specific members of that family and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father. Racism is a sin that says some human beings are inherently superior and others essentially inferior because of race ... it mocks the words of Jesus, 'Treat others the way you would have them treat you.'"

Racial and ethnic strife have remained issues the Church has addressed from the beginning, with the Greek speaking Christians protesting that their widows were being neglected as compared to Hebrew speaking

widows, *Acts 6*, and Peter suddenly realizing that the gentiles are also offered the mercy of God in Christ, *Acts 10*.

In a climate of ever expanding freedoms every Christian is obliged to apply Christian-like critique to personal preferences and judgments in effort to steer clear of seeing others as somehow *different*. *"They're not like us"* we hear commonly said. So, we avoid their neighborhoods. We avoid social mingling with those people. We stand from a distance and imagine how bad they are in order to justify our lack of involvement with them. And *'because those kinds of people are different, they are not necessarily entitled to or they don't deserve or are not interested in working toward what resourceful and otherwise people like me are entitled to or work for.'*

The struggle for justice and equality in our society carries strong racial and economic and class underpinnings that leave even genuinely concerned persons divided amidst the popular debate of the issues. But as positive as advantage and free enterprise and choice are deemed in our democracy they unwittingly work a divide in the human community. While it is a human penchant to differentiate, differentiation is counter the sensibilities of the Christian message of love of neighbor we received from Jesus Christ.

We have some sharp and unyielding understandings of fairness and opportunity that register short of the generosity of God described, for example, in the Gospel parable of the steward hiring laborers at different hours through the course of a day and paying the last group first at the same rate as those who worked most of the day, *Matthew 20, 1-16*.

Segregated housing patterns are a cause of frustration for church ministry and preaching. The Christian template, *Acts 2*, would inspire mixed class, mixed racial, mixed generational communities. The parable of the Good Samaritan *Luke 10, 25-37* coaches Christians to find a way through the temptation to nationalism and the protected boundaries of our group in order to help the stranger. Indeed, the social imperatives found in the gospel are some of the most challenging messages to get across in preaching and Christian formation. It is a genuine struggle getting these ideals across to people, even sincere Christians. Material

wealth and well-being are deemed manna from heaven. People prefer to live this way, economic advantage and opportunity enable us to live this way.

We are caught up in the passion for survival. Added to this is the fear of shortages, the fear that we are not treated fairly in comparison to others, the fear of foreigners entering our space. Regular media reports about the encroachment of refugees and migrants seeking respite from war and conflict, religious or ethnic persecution typically stir fear in people. We look to our pastoral and political leaders to herald the validity of gospel inspired neighborly regard and solidarity and human empathy which are demonstrable curatives of our situation while working to effect change in structures and systems that foment wholesale anxiety in people.

But, precisely when we think progress is being made, some ugly incident, in thought, word or deed, is brought to our attention that reminds us how much more needs to be done to create in our communities a calming peace.

The city of Chicago is often cited in the media to be representative of some of the most glaring disparities in opportunity, housing, education and access to health care. Disproportionate numbers of people of color live in misery, showing forth in the inability to eke out a basic existence above the poverty line. People are condemned to lives of desperation, fueled by depression and crime chosen as a path by anti-social elements in the sub- culture. Adding to the challenge of the Christian task are the people on the other side who easily dispense themselves from indifference and numbness felt in face of some overwhelming social inequities surrounding us.

We should always be concerned about our mono-racial parishes encouraging them but noting too that they are incomplete, admitting that we are timid with an application, punctuation and scheduling the universality of God's kingdom which is always the higher rubric in the Christian dispensation.

Whereas our nation has addressed many legal barriers to ending racism with civil rights legislation, we must continue to be vigilant for we are

now challenged to deal with attitudinal and economic barriers to ending racism. The Church's voice, strong in instances, muted in others, has tried to break through social walls that divide. We find that people listen, may even nod in the affirmative to what is preached, taught or written down by church leaders. But certain stubborn social patternings continue.

Christian faith affords us opportunities to reach to the deepest recesses of our hearts to search out attitudes and dispositions and information from our rearing that need discarding if we would live as a redeemed people. For example: *'From where do my impressions of others originate? Do I tend to label people or place them in categories? Do I tend to expect the worse or the best from others regardless who they are? When are the numbers of minorities close by too many for my comfort level?'*

Christians sensitive to these matters pay attention to language and humor at work voiced by themselves or by others; is it generally demeaning or positive? Christians avoid offensive comments about others especially whole groups of people, jokes or otherwise. Christians watch what is said about other people in front of children and youth. What attitudes and approaches are we leaving to the young in legacy so they can help eradicate this original and pernicious sin of our society, racism?

2016 Archdiocese of Chicago blog post for the Office for Peace and Justice Social Justice Conference

3. SAVE THE YEAR

BCI the SECOND YEAR



Climate Justice
Conference
ALL SOULS DAY
Nov. 2, 2016



*Father Augustus Tolton
The Cause*

The Gala
Nov. 13, 2016



CIVIL RIGHTS
Commemoration
Jan. 13, 2017



Black Catholic
RETREAT
June 16, 2017

Black History Project – Month of February
Black Catholic History Project – Month of November

4. THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE BCI

The National Black Catholic Congress

Archdiocese
of
Chicago

Day of Reflection

Bishop Joseph Perry
Vice President of the NBCC



Father Michael Trail
Chicago Convener

September 24th

Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

RESERVATION FOR LUNCH

<http://congressday.eventbrite.com>

312.577.0475

*ACT JUSTLY, LOVE GOODNESS, AND
WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.*

Come, learn, sign up to be an Archdiocesan delegate to this national church gathering. Let's make our future!

SAVE THE DATE
The National Black Catholic Congress
XII
Orlando, Florida
July 6 -9, 2017

5. ON THE AIR

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 and overseeing youth programs in the Bronzeville neighborhood.



Tune in and Call in
312.255.8408


Let's talk with:

August 9	Helen Dumas – St. Sabina School
August 16	Fr. Michael Trail – Newly Ordained
August 23	Jocelyn Mills –Barbara Sizemore Academy
August 30	Linda Sanders – St. Phillip Neri School

Make Them Hear You!

6. SOCIAL ACTION

Praying for Non-Violence



Hearts Families Schools Streets

Peace

CHICAGO

SUNRISE Prayer Service

Saturday, August 27, 2016
6:30 am – 8:00 am
Oakwood Beach 41st Street &
Lakeshore Drive

Hosted by the Black Catholic Deacons of Chicago



BLACK CATHOLIC DEACONS OF CHICAGO
3847 S. GILES AVE.
CHICAGO, IL 60653
773-933-0027
deacongill@sbcglobal.net

2016

CHICAGO — Murders in the nation's third-largest city are up about 72%, while shootings have surged more than 88% in the first three months of 2016 compared with the same period last year, according to data released by the Chicago Police Department.

The increased violence comes as the Police Department confronts an unprecedented crisis that has Chicago cops under the harshest light. The U.S. Justice Department is leading a wide-ranging probe of police practices in the wake of a video showing a white officer shooting black teen Laquan McDonald 16 times.

The Lord said, ¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

2 Chronicles 7:14-15

On Saturday, August 27, 2016 the Black Catholic Deacons of Chicago, in collaboration with many Priests, Deacons and laity from various communities, will pray together for non-violence and peace - the healing of our families, schools, and communities. We are blessed to have final remarks and final blessing by Archbishop Blasé Cupich. Mass will be celebrated by Father Larry Dowling with Father Michael Pfleger as our homilist..

SUNRISE PRAYER SERVICE & MASS

August 27, 2016
6:30 am – 8:00 am
Oakwood Beach
41st Street & Lake Shore Drive

For additional information please contact:

Deacon LeRoy Gill at 773-933-0027/email deacongill@sbcglobal.net

7. THE BCI TALENT SHOW

One of the goals of the BCI is to always include a younger person on the program.

If you know a
YOUNG,
GIFTED,
BLACK
CATHOLIC

*Talent
Search
2016*

Contact us at
BCI@archchicago.org
312.577.0475
We are getting ready
for a
SHOWCASE!



8. THE CAUSE OF FR. TOLTON A NEW ICON



The icon of Fr. Tolton was commissioned by Most Rev. Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and Postulator for the Father Tolton Cause for Canonization, who asked Chicago iconographer, Joseph Malham, to create the icon as a manifestation of Fr. Tolton's inner fire for Christ, the Eucharist and the people of God whom he served.

The icon of Fr. Tolton, like all icons, does not have an exterior light source but shows one who is illuminated from within. Being African American, Fr. Tolton was denied admittance to American seminaries but was accepted in Rome which is depicted in the red tassel on his biretta, an honor reserved only for priests ordained in Rome. He is vested in a white chasuble which signifies not only his love of the Mass but Easter joy and his immersion in the Paschal Mystery. Fr. Tolton blesses the viewer with his right hand honoring Christ; the three fingers joined recognize the Holy Trinity while the two fingers raised declare the Humanity and Divinity of Christ in One Person.

Fr. Tolton's left hand rests over his heart, symbolizing his great and burning love for the People of God who he served in Chicago. His fingers are slightly separated, symbolizing the prejudice and separation he and other African Americans experienced but which acts of love, service and forgiveness will one day heal and join.

RACING FOR FR. AUGUSTUS TOLTON



Hosted by the Tolton Ambassadors of Chicago

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 17, 2016

6 to 11 p.m.

Hawthorne Race Course
3501 S. Laramie, Stickney, IL

COST: \$50 PER PERSON

ENJOY:

- 2-HOUR BUFFET
- RACING FORM (SCRATCH SHEET)
- COMPLIMENTARY VALET PARKING
- PRIVATE DINING IN TURF SUITE
- FELLOWSHIP

This event supports the canonization cause for Fr. Tolton. For more information contact:

Angela Hicks 201-
364-5854

Michelle Tines
312-213-3851

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.

Please seek permission to publish items in this newsletter from the pastor or person responsible for the sponsoring agent. Please take care not to violate copyrights.

For Fr. Paul

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend the

25th-Year Anniversary of Religious Profession as a Dominican Friar

and

50th Birthday Celebration

for

Fr. Paul de Porres Whittington, O.P.



Saturday, September 3, 2016 at 4:30pm

(Mass then Celebration Reception following in SMOS Church Hall)

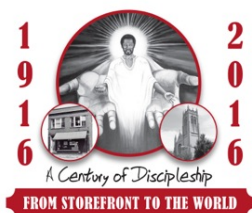


***St. Margaret of Scotland Church
9830 S. Vincennes Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643***



Contact: Keila Whittington (814)-777-2223 / kawhit14@hotmail.com

From St. Sabina



FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. SABINA

100th Anniversary Celebration

October 29, 2016

St. Sabina Program Ad Book Committee wants to thank you for your interest in sponsoring an ad in the 100th Anniversary program book. Pricing and submission information are below (see back of form as well). Please complete this entire form to ensure accurate placement of your ad and return the form with a check payable: **St. Sabina, 1210 W. 78th Place, Chicago, IL 60620.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

AD BOOK PRICING INFORMATION

<i>Ad Dimensions</i>	<i>Ad Rates</i>	<i>Ad Total Cost</i>
Gold Page 8" wide x 10.5" High	\$200.00	
Full Page in full color 8" wide x 10.5" high	\$125.00	
Half Page in full color – 8" wide x 5.125" high	\$80.00	
Full Page in black & white 8" wide x 10.5" high	\$100.00	
Half Page in black & white 8" wide x 5.125" High	\$60.00	
¼ Page in black & white 4" wide x 5" High	\$30.00	
Business Card	\$20.00	
Patron Ads (Name)	\$10.00	

AD BOOK SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Ad Specs

- Ads should be submitted as PDF or TIFF files
- Embed all fonts in the files
- Art should be at least 300dpi at 100% of printed size
- Line art (i.e. rasterized text, line drawing) should be at least 600 dpi at 100% of printed size to avoid a “fuzzy” appearance.

Program to be used for ad:

- ✓ Microsoft Publisher
- ✓ Adobe Creative Cloud Suite (Photoshop, InDesign)
- ✓ PDF (must be print ready)

Original Artwork (e.g. pictures) will not be returned unless you provide a stamped self-addressed envelope.

PLEASE NOTE: All Ads are due by August 10, 2016, with payment

The St. Sabina 100th Anniversary Program Ad Committee

Gloria Williams, Chairperson

Tonia Carr

Janice Yokely

Elsie Poleate

Betty & Leonard Richardson

Anita Palmer

From the BCI

CENTENNIAL



Congratulations to the Pastor, Saints and Friends of

SAINT SABINA PARISH

**Bless you for
keeping it
100**

The Archdiocese of Chicago
BLACK CATHOLIC INITIATIVE

From the African National Eucharistic Congress



Third African National Eucharistic Congress

August 5-7, 2016

Pre ACCCRUS Convention for Clergy and Religious

August 3-5, 2016

Catholic University of America Pryzbyla University Center
620 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20064



Responding to the New Evangelization: The African Catholic Family, A Gift to the Church in America

- Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre, Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Speaker
- Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, Archbishop of Kinshasa, Celebrant and Speaker
- Most Rev. Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, Celebrant

The Eucharistic Congress is a powerful witness to the world of our faith in the Eucharist. It is a strong expression of our Catholicity and our unity in diversity as a church.

The Congress will include time for prayer-fellowship-education-interaction-leadership for the emerging youth-collaboration-and networking. Eucharistic adoration enlightening and inspiring workshops. Youth workshops and Essay competition.

Mass @ the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception-Crypt Church, Washington, DC-Sunday, August 7th @ 10 am

For more information and to register

<http://tinyurl.com/zr7qcdm>



Jubilee Year of Mercy

For more information contact:

Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ, 202-541-3359; jokereke@usccb.org

Yolanda Taylor-Burwell, CMP, 202-541-3152; diversity@usccb.org

Mrs. Sally Stovall, 317-727-5736; sally.stovall@bmo.com

Fr. Henry Atem, 706-254-9822; henatem@yahoo.com

Mr. Ntal Alimasi, 202-256-1781; ntal.alim@gmail.com

From Reverend Canon Gerard Jordan



With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God
the Pastor of Ailbe Catholic Church
invites you to a

Mass of Thanksgiving

with our brother

Rev. Canon A. Gerard Jordan, O. Praem.

as the Main Celebrant

Sunday, August 21, 2016 at 11:00 am

His Excellency, The Most Reverend
Joseph N. Perry, J.C.L., D.D.,
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, Vicariate VI
Presiding Prelate

9015 South Harper Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60619

Dear BCI Family

Please know that following my ordination to the priesthood, I plan to celebrate my first Mass of Thanksgiving in the Archdiocese of Chicago on August 21, 2016 at 11 am. I pray that the Christian Faithful could join us for the celebration of the Eucharist. Please call me if you have any questions. 610-883-2145 (cell) or 610-647-2530 ext. 107.

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

LOVE



MADE IN CHURCH