

## "Influential" Ugandan Nun Shines Light on Sacred Tradition of Black Catholic Women

This mass movement of black women and girls into Catholic religious life has revolutionary implications for the Church and wider society.

## By Shannen Dee Williams

ister Rosemary Nyirumbe's inclusion on *Time* magazine's 2014 list of the world's 100 most influential people represents a pivotal breakthrough moment for black Catholic nuns in the Atlantic world, although most people don't realize it.

Featured alongside the likes of Pope Francis and music entertainment mogul Beyoncé,

Sister Rosemary is the first black nun to be named to this prestigious list of world leaders, and this fact should not be so easily overlooked.

According to a *Catholic World News* report released 2013, the population of African nuns increased by 28 percent between 2010 and 2011 -- the highest of any

After all, the 2013 controversy surrounding the casting of five-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald as Mother Abbess in NBC's live remake of *The Sound of Music* painfully revealed that there are still plenty of people in the world (and especially in the United States) who believe that black nuns are historical *and* contemporary impossibilities.

Moreover, Sister Rosemary's inclusion on *Time*'s "Most Influential" list is arguably as significant to the contemporary history of black nuns (and Catholic sisters more generally) as the canonization of St.

Josephine Bakhita, who in 2000 became the first black woman to be declared a Catholic saint in the modern era.

Indeed, *Time*'s recognition of Sister Rosemary and her transformative ministry to young victims of sexual

violence in Uganda and Sudan not only signals a major turning point in mainstream awareness (and acceptance) of black nuns, but also brings critical attention to one of the most significant, yet under-reported, social revolutions of black women in the contemporary era. Over the past five decades, the

global population of black Catholic nuns has experienced unprecedented growth, with the vast majority of new sisters coming from Africa.

According to a *Catholic World News* report released in 2013, the population of African nuns increased by 28 percent between 2010 and 2011 -- the highest of any continent. When compared with only 18 percent growth in Asia and steep sister-population losses in Europe (-22 percent) and the Americas (-17 percent), it is clear that if this trend continues the dominant face of the Catholic sister will soon be brown, and most likely African.

Despite this historic shift in the racial and ethnic makeup of the global nun population, very little mainstream attention has been paid to this mass movement of black women and girls into Catholic



Group Photo of the Oblate Sisters of Providence at St. Frances

Courtesy of the Archives of the Oblate Sisters of Providence

Convent in Baltimore, MD, 1929

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religious life and its revolutionary implications for the Church and wider society.

By rejecting the confines of marriage and biological motherhood and renouncing the legitimacy of a world rampant with racial, sexual, economic, and religious oppression, African nuns are creating and sustaining social and educational institutions to uplift their

respective communities (especially women and girls) from the ravages of war, poverty, and violence. They are also revitalizing and revolutionizing an ancient and sacred tradition of black women that has yet to be fully realized or documented in world history.

Since at least the 5th century, thousands upon thousands of black women and girls have professed the sacred vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Roman

Catholic Church. In doing so, they provided a powerful refutation to Europeans (and European-Americans) who characterized Africa-descended people as sub-human and used the ideology of white supremacy and racist manipulations of the Bible to justify African enslavement, segregation, and colonialism in the modern era. These black women and girls have also helped to transform celibacy into a radical sacrament of black liberation.

Because of the Catholic Church's deep social and economic investments in the institutions of slavery and apartheid in the Americas and Africa, black nuns were severely marginalized within the Church and female religious life prior to the Second Vatican Council (1962) -1965). In particular, the longstanding practices of racial exclusion and segregation in female religious life kept the global population of black nuns numerically low (and statistically insignificant in certain areas of the world) well into the 20th century. Nonetheless, by embracing the celibate state and pioneering black educational and catechetical ministries, black sisters forced an often reluctant Church hierarchy to adhere to Catholic social teachings and commit vital resources to its vast black constituencies. They also used their religious calls to contest assaults on black morality and humanity throughout the Atlantic world.

In the United States, for example, black women founded the Western world's first black congregations to ensure the development of black female religious life and the African-American apostolate (mission). Of the

eight known historically black Catholic sisterhoods established in the U.S., all were founded in the South, where the vast majority of black Americans resided, and all but one were (or slated to be) teaching communities.

In the case of the Baltimore-based Oblate Sisters of Providence (1828-present), and the New Orleans-based Sisters of the Holy Family (1842-present), both congregations were founded in cities that contained two

> of the nation's largest slave markets, where nude and partially nude black bodies were abused, displayed, and sold on the auction block on a daily basis. Unsurprisingly then, some of the earliest black nuns in the U.S. (several of whom were slaves, exslaves, or slave descendants) illegally taught free and enslaved black children and established some of the nation's earliest Catholic schools, orphanages, and nursing homes open to African Americans. After

the Civil War, the Holy Family Sisters went so far as to seek the spiritual recovery of several sites in New Orleans associated with the sins of racism, slavery, and the sexual exploitation of black women and girls. Between 1870 and 1900, the order purchased several properties, including a former slave traders' pen and the French Quarter's infamous Orleans Ballroom, and transformed them into some of the congregation's earliest schools and administrative headquarters.

Following the liberalizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council, black sisters emerged from their convents ready to challenge the barriers that had long blocked their full and equal participation in their Church. Those in historically white and European orders in particular began to testify publicly about the racist abuses to which they had long been subjected and were still enduring in their congregations.

In 1968, 155 of the approximately 1,000 black Catholic sisters living and laboring in the United States, including two representatives from Uganda and Kenya, established the National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to protest racism and sexism in the Church and wider society. Organized by 25-year-old Sister M. Martin de Porres (Patricia Muriel) Grey, Pittsburgh's first black Religious Sister of Mercy and the only woman present at the founding meeting of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the conference marked the first time that black sisters had met on a unified stage in their 156-year-old history in

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2) the U.S.

Soon thereafter, the NBSC emerged as an important conduit for black sisters' entry into the various freedom struggles sweeping the Atlantic world. It also led to a radical reimagining of the roles of that black nuns could play in society and politics.

Like their foremothers in the Church, activistoriented black sisters linked celibacy explicitly to black liberation, noting the utility of such in times of great social change and upheaval. As Holy Family Sister Theresa Perry put it in 1970, "To be celibate means that



Photo of Several Sisters of the Holy Family at their Motherhouse in the French Quarter, New Orleans, LA, c. 1899

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington,

we have dedicated ourselves totally and completely to building the new...to ushering in the future...The challenge is to free yourself enough so you can free other people."

However, in the two decades following Vatican II, the population of black nuns in select parts of the world began to plummet. In the United States, for example, black sisters departed religious life at nearly double the rate of their white counterparts. While some black nuns left on their own accord or in explicit protest to racism in the Church, several African-American nuns were expelled from their congregations as punishment for their political activism. As Adrian Dominican Sister M. Shawn Copeland put it in 1975, "the future of the black Catholic nun [in the U.S.] is dubious."

By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was clear that the future and salvation of black female religious life laid in Africa, where vocations remained strong, and the current global spotlight on Sister Rosemary and her ministry is a testament to it.

Because embracing the celibate religious state has

historically enabled black women and girls to contest and transcend the most harrowing of circumstances, it is likely that the African sister population will continue to grow. If so, the increasing presence and international visibility of African sisters laboring outside of Africa may even lead to a reversal in the declining numbers of sisters in Europe and the Americas in the coming decades. As a result, the Catholic Church may finally be able to live up to its fullest (and most revolutionary) potential in the areas of the world that need its resources the



Sister M. Martin de Porres, R.S.M.; NBSC Foundresses at Mount Mercy College, August 1968

Chief Architect of the NBSC, c. 1967; Courtesy of the National Black Sisters' Conference

Courtesy of Dr. Patricia Grey

most. And black sisters may very well lead the way.

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postdoctoral fellow in African-American studies in the history department at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. In the fall of 2014, she will join the faculty of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville as an assistant professor of United States



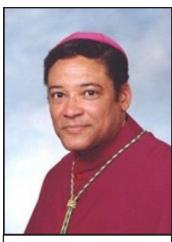
and African-American history.

Dr. Williams is currently completing a book entitled, Subversive Habits: Black Nuns and the Struggle to Desegregate Catholic America after World War I, which examines the hidden history of black nuns in the fight to dismantle racial and gender barriers in the U.S. Church. When completed, it will be the first scholarly monograph on black Catholic sisters in the 20th-century United States.

Dr. Williams frequently lectures on the history of black Catholic nuns in the Atlantic World.

## A call to evangelize in new times

e trust that the Cause for possible declaration of sainthood of Father Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) can continue to move along positively amidst the detail re-



Bishop Joseph N.

quired to demonstrate his heroic virtue during a particularly difficult period of US history that saw him an anomaly as an achieving black man, former slave and Catholic priest. I believe raising him to the honors of the altar will do much to engender confidence within the African American Catholic community. Until this Cause became known around the world, his name has always been invoked in gatherings of all sorts of black priests and bishops and seminarians. I remember his name mentioned in church settings from my youngest

vears as a seminarian. He is a true Father and patron of the African American Catholic community and all people of good will.

Had Tolton been alive today there certainly would be work for him to do in the community. The African American Catholic community is a mixed portrait of accomplishment, hopefulness and woe. Such has always been the case. Accurate stats mention three million black Catholics in the US; a little less than a million of which are African American; the rest, immigrant Africans and Afro-Caribbeans, Afro-Latinos. Locally, of course, there has been some shifting – blacks have moved to points south to Atlanta, Texas, former homesteads and other areas of employment and economic

opportunity. The community here is aging. Family size is smaller. The African American community bears the highest abortion rate in the country. We notice in our parishes rank-and-file loyal parishioners who bear silver hair – their children and grandchildren have not necessarily chosen to stay in Chicago.

renaissance of the traditional black church. It was inevitable that the black church Protestant would take on economic improvement and the ways-and-means of the black arts. The hierarchical church traditions such as

Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans and Methodists are no longer needed for the economic and educational improvement of the black man as once was our purpose certainly as Catholics during post-Depression and post-WWII periods when migration to the north saw blacks looking for jobs and investing in our educational enterprise that brought with it conversions to Catholicism. But then too, we see more fluid religious denominational allegiance popular for our time among all groups. Children are not necessarily copying their parent's generational religious allegiance patterns.

These issues should not stop us from evangelization efforts in the black community – it's just that now conversions to Catholicism are now no longer taking place through the instrumentality of parish schools – but more by individual and deliberate, reflective choice, and in smaller numbers. The Free Church experience, on the other hand, certainly matches the strands of the historical black experience and for the times current, remains for a number of reasons, aesthetic and otherwise, an attraction for heritage minded African Americans.

In the meantime, Chicago can certainly boast about some firsts, Father Tolton, the first African American Catholic priest, the first black Catholic parish of St. Monica, Archbishop Wilton Gregory, our Catholic schools in the black community and the countless num-

> bers of African American young adults who were raised in our church-school environment – although not necessarily embracing of our brand of religion. We have done and are doing some good things.

> Major cities around the country have seen remarkable development over the years; the inner cities of those same cities have not developed to the same degree as their downtowns and condominium markets. We wish some of this development could take place in the central city. But the Catholic Church has remained in these cities and continues to pour millions in support of churches and schools, social services and health services. We are not ones to toot our own horns enough, perhaps.

But, as an African American bishop of the Catholic Church I know all this to be true.



Fr. Augustus Tolton

Bishop Joseph N. Perry is Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago and Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate VI. Bishop Perry is also the local Postulator for the Cause for Canonization of Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first Opportunity in wake of the Civil Rights era foisted a acknowledged African-American Catholic Priest. Fr. Tolton served the Archdiocese of Chicago in the late 19th Century.

## The Deacon Speakin'

## A Season of **Forgiveness**

By Deacon James Norman

n Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. For fifty days, we celebrate the Easter season and the birth of the Church. Jesus' crucifixion, death and resurrection are at the center of our faith. He suffered and died for our sins. On the cross, he cried out, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". He died to forgive us of our sins and his final words were for forgiveness for those who persecuted him.

Yet, we have a difficult time forgiving others. We find it difficult to forgive for three reasons. The first is that we focus on the act. We refuse to forgive because we view the sin as unforgivable. We refuse to forgive because the wound is deep and we still hurt. And finally, we have difficulty forgiving because we feel that the damage that has been done can't be undone.

The second reason we have difficulty forgiving is that we focus on the other person. We feel that if we forgive them that we're approving what they did. We refuse to forgive because our forgiveness was not requested. We

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don't value the relationship with the other person. We don't see them as necessary or beneficial to our lives ("We don't need them").

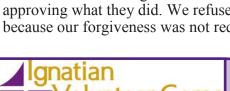
The third reason we have difficulty forgiving is because we are focused on ourselves. We're afraid to

> forgive because it's viewed as weakness and makes us vulnerable to being hurt again. We won't forgive because of our pride (How could they do this to me!) And finally, we fail to forgive because we don't understand the damage it does to our hearts. An unforgiving heart, cannot experience the abundance of God's love.

We can begin the path to forgiveness if we focus not on the other, not on the sin, not on ourselves but on Jesus and on His act of sacrifice for the forgiveness of

our sins. The foundation of our faith is forgiveness we spend forty days of Lent in prayer, almsgiving and repentance of our sins. We know that God forgives us all our sins. We seek forgiveness yet refuse to forgive others. "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:14-15)

The path to forgiveness is not easy. But it must start with the focus on God. God who gave His only Son to suffer and die for the forgiveness of our sins. We must first experience God's love and forgiveness and forgive ourselves. Then, we can begin the journey to forgive others.



## Semi-Retired? Retired? Eager to "give something back?"

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps may be for You! Members of this Catholic ser-Experience Making a Difference vice program volunteer in materially poor and disenfranchised communities 2 days per week, September to June, and grow deeper in their Christian faith through a program of reflection and prayer.

IVC members meet monthly with other IVC members to share their experiences in faith and service. Each IVC volunteer is paired with a spiritual reflector in the Jesuit Catholic tradition.

IVC members serve as elementary and high school tutors, employment counselors, food pantry volunteers, elderly companions, hospital and prison ministry and much more! Opportunities. You must be 50 and older to apply; there is no upper age limit.

Come "Experience Making a Difference" with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps!

Detailed information is online at www.ivcusa.org/chicago. To inquire, please contact Jackie Fitzgerald at 312-961 -6206 or ifitzgerald@ivcusa.org.

To see a video of our volunteers in action, click on <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\_embedded&v=nxujTxN2qi4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\_embedded&v=nxujTxN2qi4</a>

## **Summer Time Is Here**

Deacon LeRoy T. Gill Jr.

here is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven. Summer is a time for ice cream cones, basketball games, swimming, and barbeques with family and friends. The relaxing days of summer are



finally here. Children and their parents have been counting down the days until summer. No more setting the alarm clock for an early morning wake-up call - followed by complaints from children young and old, who don't want to get up. Summer time is here and our youth hope to engage in exciting fun filled activities that will leave them with a lifetime of memories.

On one hand it is nice that parents do not to have to worry about homework, projects, afterschool activities, etc., but on the other hand there is the potential of danger. Here in Chicago, we must pray that our youth may enjoy the season of summer in safety.

This summer let us pray persistently for the protection of our children and families.

Father, we thank You for our children and youth. We thank You for fulfilling Your plans and purposes through them during their summer activities. Thank You for blessing our children and youth with a chance to rest and relax.

We declare that our children and youth dwell in the secret place of the Most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. As a result, no harm will come near them during the summer. We pray they are blessed when they come in, and blessed when they go out. We confess that they will not copy the illicit

behavior and customs of this world for the mind of Christ is established in them. We confess that our children and youth are taught of You and Your ways so their peace shall be great and their composure undisturbed. Father, please touch the hearts of our children and youth to walk according to the Holy Spirit.

Father, please bless our parents and guardians with the knowledge and skill to structure a lifestyle that will compel our children and youth to honor and obey You as their God. Please give our parents and guardians the wisdom, strength, and guidance they need to plan, organize, and implement summer activities for their children.

Father, bless our families during the summer break - protect during times of travel, leisure and play. Please keep our children and youth protected from idol minds, unwise decisions, ungodly peer pressure, emotional abuse, physical abuse, and premature death. Father, we ask You to please surround them with Your love, lead and instruct them by Your Holy Spirit, and keep them as the apple of Your eye.

In Jesus 'Name,

Amen.

## Solidarity: We need each other

Willie Cobb

have written this article 5 different times. I have stopped and started this particular article more than

any other. I have agonized over the direction of this particular article. I have finally come to one simple conclusion: we need each other.

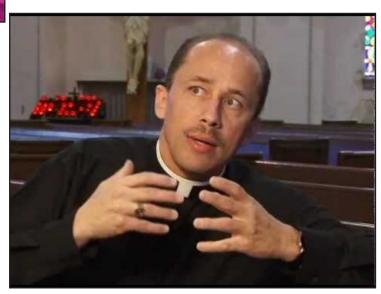
Solidarity has been the key component in Christianity since Christ sent out the 72. The cornerstone of Christianity is communities. The driving force, the primary ingredient in the makeup of Christianity is community struggling together. This is one of the driving principles of Christ message, we are community. When Christ sent out the disciples he did not send them out alone he sent them out two by two; he sent them out to make disciples of the world. Jesus has given us one opportunity after another to understand the need of solidarity of community, but he never meant for us to stand on our own merits or to stand alone. Solitude is not our hope or our joy. Our family community, each other, this is the direction that the church was meant to take.

When the Hebrews were given instruction for the Passover they were told to do so in community. When Jesus preformed the Passover, the cornerstone of the Catholic liturgy, he did it in community. A community starts with just two people, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20. When Christ rose from the dead he came to two followers who were walking to Emmaus; they encountered the risen Christ and he held a Passover, a Liturgy with them. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32. The need for community is the cornerstone of the church.

On June 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>, the Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry, alongside the offices of the Right to Life and Peace and Justice, are giving us an opportunity for solidarity, for community. Father Tony Ricard, is the headline speaker for our youth ministry gathering this June. He is a dynamic preacher, teacher, and motivational speaker. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to come together in solidarity along with Anthony Suarez-Abraham: "Freedom", Maria Fitzsimmons: "Equality" and, Jennifer Betz: "Respect", who will deliver a dynamic workshop. Please find more information at this link:

www.youthministry.archchicago.org. This workshop is

an opportunity for your youth program and for your youth ministers to regenerate themselves. Every Youth Minister needs to take time out to refresh. This is a great opportunity for that to happen. Your Youth Minister must be taken care of as much as the students need to be taking care of. This youth ministry gathering is an opportunity for you and your program to realize that you are not alone. That you were never meant to be alone.



Fr. Tony Ricard



Anthony Suarez-Abraham

## Because she rose

## Dr. Keith Wilson

n life there are people who transcend titles and categories. These are those people who leave their mark

on the world and the rest of us say thank you for having

been here. In the last few days we have been mourning the loss of one of those figures. Marguerite Ann Johnson better known as Maya Angelou was a trailblazer in this

regard. Dr. Angelou was a person who rose from one the darkest times of her life to be a beacon for all to admire and become inspired.

Dr. Angelou came from very humble beginnings after her birth in St Louis. Her family would migrate to rural Arkansas where ironically her greatest challenge in the Jim Crow south would come from her own family. Dr. Angelou would be victimized by members of her own family so badly that she would not speak for 6 years. She would be raped at 8 years old by a family mem-

ber. Remarkably this dark period of her life would inspire her to write one of her most notable works, "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings".

Dr. Angelou would often talk about her belief in God throughout her life and once remarked at the fact that a greater being could love her brought her great joy. This was her reflection of God's presence in her life. Dr. Angelou in her pivotal autobiographical piece would write in a manner that the reader could experience her deep despair while maintaining a hopeful spirit. She certainly needed her faith during those dark years. Dr. Angelou's determination would force her to look beyond the limits of her reality and circumstance to see a future that only could be conjured by faith, imagination and an impenetrable spirit.

Dr. Angelou very easily could be considered a triple threat from her era as she had the ability to sing, was classically trained in dance by Alvin Ailey, and was a ferocious wordsmith. Though women's issues were often her emphasis in her writings and actions, she was a champion for all who were downtrodden in our society. Dr. Angelou has had audiences with Presidents and important leaders of the Civil Rights movement, including

Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King. President Bill Clinton who allowed her to be the 2nd poet ever to perform at a his inauguration .President Barack Obama also awarded her the Presidential Award of Freedom.

Style and grace were not metaphors for this woman with the distinctive voice and stylish manner who could enchant a small room or a college stadium with her distinctive delivery of prose or fiery political protest. Her melodic bass filled tones would calmly evoke societal defiance against social norms especially relative to established roles for minorities and people of color. It would be a fateful meeting with a young TV anchor named Oprah Winfrey which would result in a lasting relation of that of friend and mentor. These two women would eventually impact multitudes of generations within our society together.

> Few people can make the claim of being Tony Award nominee, a music composer with the likes of Roberta Flack, an actress in the mini series roots a Grammy and in spite of the lack of a college education appropriately have the ability to be referred to as Dr. Maya Angelou. As we deal with the tumult that is life, we can be thankful for a woman who truly had her hands "On the Pulse of Morning". Dr. Angelou you have taught us all much and we thank god for you a truly "Phenomenal



Dr. Keith Wilson is a dentist, an active leader at Holy Angels Catholic Church, and a regular contributor to The Drum.



Maya Angelou 1928-2014

Saying Goodbye to Yesterday

## **Megan Graves**

t has been about four weeks since I had the honor of graduating from Dominican University in River Forest, and Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2014 is a day that I will never forget.

With social media at our very finger tips, I saw hashtag upon hastag of #wemadeit and

#classof2014, and it was true, we did make it, the class of 2014.

Graduating from college is more than a "rite of passage" for many students, it builds a foundation within our esteem. However, I remind myself to remain humble and to remember those who sacrificed their lives so that I could cross that stage and honor those who did not make it to the stage. I especially remembered my ancestors on that day, as I knew that through their pain, their struggle, and their power, I am who I am today

As there were endless poses and selfies with friends and family, I was specifically touched by an image captured of my Mom and I embracing. The single tear that she sheds in that photo says it all. In that image, she speaks for every parent and/ or guardian who journeyed with their children on the road of education and enlightenment, and trust me, this road was not easy.

My time at Dominican was more than just books and classes, it was a true love affair. To be within a community that loves you and yet challenges you to go beyond yourself, a community that meets you where you are at, but encourages you to "pursue truth with a compassionate heart," that is my school, our school. As I graduated with a Bachelors of the Arts Degree (it's still sounds crazy as I say it) with majors is Black World Studies and Pastoral Ministry with a minor in Theology, human words cannot fully describe how this education has brought me to a different place of consciousness; to not only be aware of the God of the infinite cosmos, but also how I myself, as a woman of African descent can be in relationship with God and those around me. Also, being a leader at Dominican Universi-

ty was my way of utilizing my knowledge from the classroom within the world and in my community. From being a Resident Assistant to a Peer Advisor, a Student Trustee to a BSU secretary, and studying aboard in five continents, you name it, I did it.

The journey did not end there, while at Dominican, I was able to discern about being a candidate with the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, two sisterhoods that created a legacy, legacies that I wanted to be a part of. This part of my life was very quiet and kept to the Dominican community, but as I reflected with family and friends on this part of my life, I knew that I had the full support of the DU community. So, it was time to move forward.

I am currently a Candidate with the Sinsinawa Dominicans and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Incorporated. I will also begin my year of Candidacy as a Campus Minster at Dominican High school in Whitefish Bay in Wisconsin in the fall. This is all thanks to Dominican University. As Boyz to Men sang: "And I'll take with me the memories, to be my sunshine after the rain. It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday."

Thanks for the memories DU, it's time to say goodbye and hello to tomorrow.





## **DID YOU KNOW...**



... that on June 1, 1875 James Healy, the first African-American Catholic Bishop, was ordained Bishop of Portland, ME? Healy did not self-recognize his African ancestry and was not publicly acknowledged as African-American.



... that on June 3, 1949 Wesley A. Brown was the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy?



... that June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Feast Day of the Uganda Martyrs?



... that on June 4, 1922 Samuel Gravely, the first African-American admiral n the U.S. Navy to command a warship was born?



... that on June 6, 1790 Jean Baptist Point Du Sable established the first settlement in Chicago?



... that on June 6, 1966 James Meredith, civil rights activist, was ambushed and shot several times during his oneman "Walk Against Fear" through Mississippi; he survived the shooting?

## **DID YOU KNOW...**



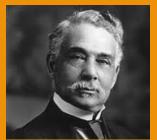
... that on June 7, 1943 poet and author Yolanda Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee?



... that on June 8, 1953 the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed racial discrimination in Washington, DC restaurants?



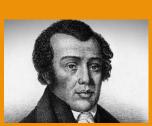
... that on June 7, 1917 Pulitzer Prize winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks was born in Topeka, Kansas?



... that on June 9, 1904 James Napier founded One Cent (now Citizens) Savings Bank, the first Tennessee bank begun by an African American?



... that on June 9, 1963 Fannie Lou Hamer, a 45-yearold African American, and other civil rights activists were arrested on false charges in Winona, Mississippi, and severely beaten by police while in jail?



... that on June 10, 1794 Richard Allen organized the African Methodist Episcopal Church?



... that on June 10, 1940 Marcus Garvey, founder of the "Back To Africa" movement during the 1920s, died in London, England?



... that on June 11, 1964 Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment by the South African government?

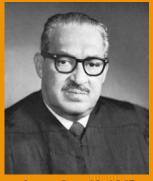
## **DID YOU KNOW...**



... that on June 11, 1917 Lena Horne, singer and actor, was born?



... that on June 12, 1963 Medgar Evers, civil rights leader, was assassinated in Mississippi?



... that on June 13, 1967 Thurgood Marshall was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the U.S. Supreme Court?



... that on June 15, 1877 Henry Ossian Flipper was the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY?



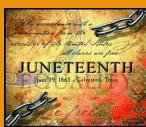
... that on June 16, 1970 Kenneth Gibson was the first African American to be elected mayor of a major U.S. city on the eastern seaboard (Newark, NJ)?



... that on June 17, 1972 security guard Frank Wills discovered the Watergate break-in?



... that on June 18, 1958 Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford became the first African American woman dean of a U.S. dental school (Howard University)?



... that on June 19, 1865, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that slavery had been abolished? Slaves there were unaware of their freed status before then.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**



... that on June 21, 1945 Benjamin O. Davis was the first African American to command a U.S. Army Air Force base?

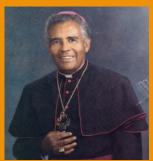


... that on June 22, 2005 Edward K. Braxton was installed Bishop of Belleville, Illinois?

... that on June 19, 1936 undefeated heavyweight boxer Joe Louis suffered his first professional defeat at the hands of former Heavyweight champion Max Schmeling? One year later on June 22, 1937 Louis defeated James Braddock to become Heavyweight champion. Louis and Nazi supported Schmeling fought a second match on June 22, 1938; Louis defeated him in two minutes and four seconds.



... that on June 24, 1966 Chicagoan James P. Lyke, OFM was ordained a priest? On the same date in 1991 Lyke was installed Archbishop of Atlanta, Georgia.



... that on June 25, 1976 Joseph Francis, SVD was ordained Catholic Bishop, Newark, New Jersey?



... that on June 29, 1998
Joseph Nathaniel Perry was ordained Catholic Bishop, Chicago, Illinois? Bishop Perry current serves the Archdiocese of Chicago as the Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate VI. He is also the local postulator for the cause for sainthood for Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first African-American Çatholic priest.



... that on June 30, 1853
Pierre Toussaint died? Born a
slave in Haiti in 1766,
Toussaint came to New York
in 1787. In 1968 Cardinal
Terence Cooke of New York
introduced the Cause of Pierre
Toussaint in Rome. On
December 18, 1996 Pope John
Paul II declared Pierre
Toussaint "Venerable."



## **Job Posting**

## Job Title:

Director, Office for Peace and Justice

## **Department:**

Parish Life and Formation

## Location:

Cardinal Meyer Center 3525 S. Lake Park Ave. Chicago, IL 60653-1402

## Hours:

Full time

## **Description:**

The Director leads the Office in representing the Archdiocese of Chicago on matters of Catholic Social Teaching on issues of hunger, poverty, violence, housing, HIV/AIDS, criminal justice, death penalty, labor and workers' rights, economic justice, restorative justice, education, faithful citizenship, religious



## God's Praises Tell

The Voice of Black Catholic Chicago
Tuesdays 9-9:30 a.m.
Relevant Radio 950-AM
Hosted by Andrew Lyke

## The Church, the Cardinal and You



Produced by the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Radio and Television

The Church, The Cardinal and You is a monthly news show featuring interviews with Cardinal George and broadcast via the Comcast cable network. Andrew Lyke, director of the Office for Black Catholics, and Todd Williamson, director of the Office for Divine Worship, host this show that includes a variety of stories taped at locations across the Archdiocese of Chicago. This program is produced by the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Radio and Television.

Comcast customers who live in Chicago and throughout the suburbs can see The Church, The Cardinal and You, Sunday at 2:30 p.m. on CN-100, the Comcast Network (Channel 100). The program also airs Friday at 7 p.m. on Chicago Loop Cable Channel 25.

freedom, international development and concerns, care for creation, rural life, disability justice, and access to healthcare. He/she will manage staff, programs and budget of the office.

In fulfilling this role, the Director works collaboratively with others within the Archdiocese (Offices of Respect Life, Immigrant Affairs and Education, Missions and Evangelization, Kolbe House, Stewardship & Development), Clergy and Laity, and others in the community and on a national level to promote policies and practices in conformity with Catholic Social Teaching.

The Director also works closely with Catholic Charities and with the Office for Interreligious and Ecumenical Affairs to maintain an awareness of, and collaborate with, interfaith and secular groups which have similar concerns.

## **Requirements:**

Masters degree in Theology, Public Policy, or related. Minimum of three years experience in staff and budget management. Proven track record presenting Catholic Social Teaching. Demonstrated capacity to organize events and programs. Bilingual/bicultural preferred, English / Spanish, or Polish. Ability to work some evenings and weekends. Must demonstrate understanding, respect, and support for Catholic Church teaching, mission, and values.

If you are interested in being considered for this opening, please send the following information via email to <a href="mailto:churchjobs@archchicago.org">churchjobs@archchicago.org</a>. Be certain to include your name on each document. Indicate the complete title of the position for which you are applying in the subject line of your email.

- 1. Cover Letter
- 2. Resume or curriculum vitae

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Thank you for your interest in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

If you are interested in being considered for this opening, please send the following information via email to <a href="mailto:churchjobs@archchicago.org">churchjobs@archchicago.org</a>. Be certain to include your name on each document. Indicate the complete title of the position for which you are applying in the subject line of your email.

- 1. Cover Letter
- 2. Resume or curriculum vitae

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

## 25th Anniversary of Priesthood Fr. Maurice J. Nutt, C. Ss.R., D.Min.

His 25th (&ilver Jubilee) **Priesthood** 



## Events: Saturday, June 7 & Sunday, June 8, 2014

## Saturday, June 7, 2014

Father Maurice will be honored for his 25 years of service as a Redemptorist priest and will serve as the keynote speaker at a Prayer Breakfast hosted by his fraternity brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Rho Zeta Lambda Chapter). The theme of the Prayer Breakfast is

"Blessings Beyond Belief!"

The Chicago Black Catholic Choir and the liturgical praise dancers of St. Phillip Neri Parish will minister at the Prayer Breakfast. The location of the Prayer Breakfast is

The Chicago Lakeshore Hotel 4900 South Lakeshore Drive Chicago, IL 60615.

The time of the Prayer Breakfast is 10:00 - 12:30 PM.

The ticket cost of the prayer breakfast is \$45.00 per person. The Prayer Breakfast will benefit the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Scholarship Fund. Educating our youth is an important cause to Fr. Maurice.



Prayer Breakfast Tickets can be reserved by emailing Father Maurice at

mauriceinutt@gmail.com Checks are to be made payable to "The Torchbearers Foundation." If you do not live in Chicago, once you have reserved your ticket, it will be waiting for you at the door of the Prayer Breakfast event. Payment is due at this time. If you wish to use credit cards, you may do so at the door of the event but you MUST STILL RESERVE YOUR TICKET(S) prior to the event... Act fast because this annual

prayer breakfast has limited space and is expected to be a sold out event!

## Sunday, June 8, 2014

Fr. Maurice will celebrate and preach at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 8, 2014 (Pentecost Sunday) at 11:30 AM at Holy Angels Catholic Church 615 E. Oakwood Blvd. Chicago, IL 60653. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall, The Church is not far from the host hotel.



2014 in

## Hotel Accommodations:

A block of rooms have been reserved for the weekend events at The Chicago Lakeshore Hotel -4900 South Lakeshore Drive - Chicago, IL 60615. Rooms must be reserved by May, 5. 2014. The discounted room rate is \$139.00 plus tax (single or double occupancy). The discounted rooms are reserved under the name -"Torchbearers." The rooms are reserved for the evenings of Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th with checkout on Sunday, June 8th. Reserve your room today by calling 773-288-5800. www.chicagolakeshorehotel.com

## St Malachy/Precious Blood Church Celebrates 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation



2248 W. Washington Blvd (312) 773-1068

## Celebrate Unity &

**Community** 

JUNE

21

12noon-

3:30PM

2014

## **Special Invited Guest**

Fr. Andrew Smith, Pastor of Local Church, Ex. Police Officer

Brenetta Howell Barrett, CEO Pathfinder Prevention

**Education Fund. Former City Commissioner** 

Katie Jordan, President of Chicago Chapter, Coalition of Labor Union Women

Amber Watson, Social Service Worker

Jonita Johnson, long time member & parent of St. Malachy's/Precious Blood Church & School St.Malachy's/Precious Blood Choir

Rafael Anglada, Cease Fire Worker, Former Civil Rights Fighter

Ryan Watson, LCRWI Student, Scholar, Socialist Alterative Activist

Fr. Larry Dowling, Descendent of Former President Abraham Lincoln

Rev. Mr Dexter Watson (Deacon) St. Malachy's / Precious Blood Church,

Former 27th Ward Alderman of Chicago

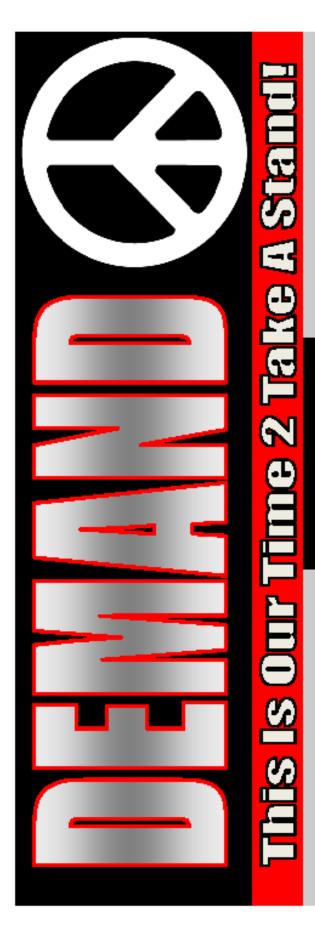
## ST DOROTHY CHURCH SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT & BARBECUE



## ST.DOROTHY CHURCH GYMNASIUM 7740 S. EBERHART STREET \$5 DINNER 6:00 – 7:00 MOVIE 7:00 PM

June 20, July 18, August 15
Ríbs, Chicken, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Hot Links a
different menu each movie night

Dine in Only



We invite people throughout Chicago to stand up and declare their commitment to occupy our streets this Summer to bring about

## PEACE

Friday, June 13, 2014

7:00 p.m.

78th Place & Throop

First 500 people will receive a free t-shirt beginning at 6:00 p.m.



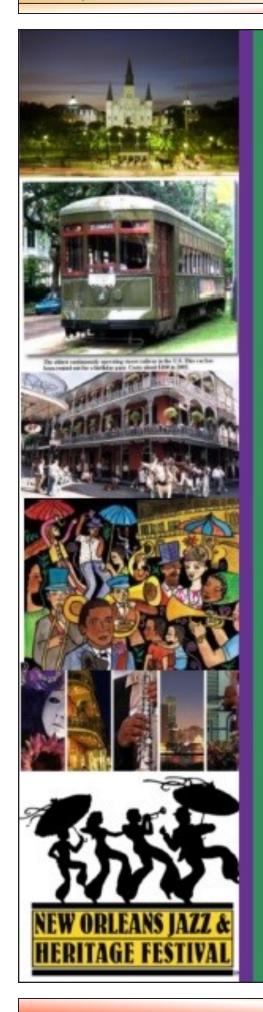
End Of The School Year March To Proclaim...

## PEACE IN THE STREETS

## For More Information:

Faith Community of Saint Sabina 773.483.4300

Rev. Michael L. Pfleger Senior Pastor



New Orleans
Birthplace of Jazz
Birthplace of Lyke Conference



CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF BLACK CATHOLICS

Mark your calendars for 2014!
Dates: June 11-15, 2014
Location: DoubleTree Hotel in
New Orleans

Celebrating a decade of cultivating, celebrating, and commissioning leadership to develop powerful and effective Black Catholic worship

> lykeconference.org or call us at 985-287-0161

## Archbishop James Patterson Lyke Conference 2014



## Fr. Clarence Rivers Music Institute

REGISTRATION FORM

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME			
ADDRESS:				
сіту:	STATE		Zip	
PHONE:	T-Shirt size		(\$5.00 extra for 2XL and la	irger)
CHURCH PARISH	DIOCE	SE		
GENDER FEMALE MALE	AGE: under 13 13-1	17 18-35 _	36-55 over 5	5
IF AGE 17 YEARS OR UNDER - NAME OF For each youth , please complete th	CHAPERONE ne Parent/Guardian Consent/Waiver			nce.org
	RENCE REGISTRATION COST re guaranteed meals,t-shirt,conference bag an	nd program book.		Check appropriate box
INDIVIDUAL COST BY 5/21/2014			\$150.00	
YOUTH COST BY 5/21/2014			\$125.00	
GROUP RATE (10 OR MORE) BY 5/21/201	14		\$125.00	
**COST PER PERSON POSTMARKED AFTE	ER 5/21/2014		\$200.00	
T-SHIRTS COST FOR SIZES 2XL AND LARG	ER		\$5.00	
	FR. CLARENCE RIVERS MUS	SIC INSTITUTE		
INDIVIDUAL COST (INCLUDING MI	USIC PACKET) BY 5/21/2014		\$85.00	
**INDIVIDUAL COST AFTER 5/21/2	2014		\$110.00	
**NO PERSONAL CHECKS TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO	CHECK # LYKE FOUNDATION		DATE	

**102 ANN COURT** 

MONTZ, LOUSIANA 70068

## Expressions Of You Fine Arts Summer Camp



## 7 WEEKS OF CREATIVITY

When: June 16 - Aug 1 (M-F) 8:30am-4pm Where: St. Felicitas Church (lower level) 1500 E. 84th Street Chicago, IL 60619

open to boys and girls (ages 7-13)
Cost: \$500 / Deposit of \$200 to hold your spot

Dance, African Drumming, Music, Art, Sign Language, Photography, Modeling, Voice-Over..... Final Production!

## REGISTRATION DATES:

Saturday: May 10, 2014/May 24, 2014/June 1, 2014 9:30AM-11:30AM

www.expressions-of-you.org 773 609-5440 expressionsofu@gmail.com

## Holy Angels Church Blessed Sacrament Society

## Invites You to a MORNING MOVIE

Saturday, June 28, 2014, 9:00 AM

Ice Theaters 210 West 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago

The Blessed Sacrament Society has arranged a private showing of "Think Like A Man Too," the second movie related to Steve Harvey's relationship book.

The couples are back for a wedding in Las Vegas.
However, plans for a romantic weekend go don't go smoothly due to a variety of mishaps that get them into some compromising situations that threaten to spoil the big event.

Starring: Taraji P. Henson, Michael Ealy, Gabrielle Union, Jerry Ferrara, Meagan Good, Terrence Jenkins, and others.

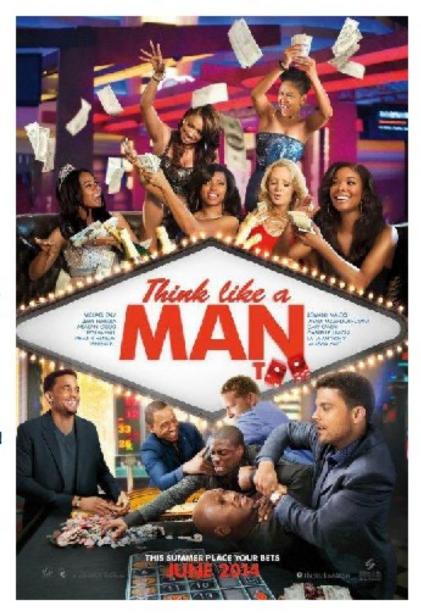
Purchase your tickets from any Blessed Sacrament Society member and after all Sunday Masses.

Movie begins at 10: 00 AM Donation: \$15

Price includes a Small Drink and Popcorn Combo.

50/50 Raffle

Feel free to invite friends and family members.



## **OUR CHILDREN ARE CALLING!!!**

The Jim Fisher Development Center at St. Anselm Parish has been answering the call of our neighborhood children for the past 15 years. It is an Art and Cultural Development Program for children ages 5 to 14.

We provide a safe environment

We teach music, art, dance, African culture, reading appreciation, theatre
We affirm their achievements
We encourage and guide their growth

JFDC is an exciting and fun summer experience!!!

We now need help
We need a Summer Program Director
Join us...

Direct the program working along with the Board of Advisors and help shape the way forward for our children



Position Open: Summer Program Director (mid-June to mid-August)

Requirements: College degree with minimum three years experience working

with a children's program (teaching or administration or related).

To apply.... send resume to: jimfisherinfo@gmail.com

Direct questions to the JFDC Board Chairperson at 312-588-0591

## Inspiring youth for a better tomorrow.

The "Inspire" Conference

## Cincinnati, Ohio

## Connect through...

Membership Invitation

CHAIR

VICE CHAIR

a Grifin-Campbe ese of Cleveland

FOUNDING MEMBER

African (Wmerican CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE



June 27-29, 2014 Cincinnati, Ohio

## "TISPIRE

## AFRICAN AMERCIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK



Registration 9:00am-12:00pm Conference Opening 1:00pm Track I 2:30pm Track II 3:45pm

5:00pm "Cook Out"

Liturgy Conference Dinner Kuumba Hour

Friday, June 27, 2014

Saturday, June 28, 2014

Registration 7:30am-9:00am Conference Breakfast 7:30am-9:00am Morning Praise 9:00am 10:00am General Session Track III 11:00am 12:30pm Track IV 1:30pm TrackV 2:45pm Track VI 4:15pm Liturgy Kings Island Conference Check-In/Night Prayer Service 12:00am

Saturday, June 29, 2014

Morning Praise 10:00am Sending Forth

Conference Speakers

Rev. Mr. Royce Winters Dr. Tyrone Powers Rev. Andre Barnes Vanessa Griffin-Campbell M. Annette Mandley-Turner Will Jemison

Jesse Vincent Johnson **Howard Roberst** 

and many more!

ference Workshops

You Saved Me

Break the Chains

I Hear the Sound of Victory
Discuss what it means to be young, Black, Catholic,
and gifted. How to use your gifts and share them
with others.

Theology of the Body Your body is a temple and you need to take proper care of it. Learn what the church expects of you as a young adult.

Imagine Me
Focuses on preparing for the future by making the right choices. Resources for youth to turn to for help and guidance to prevent them from making bad decisions.

There is No One Like YOU!
Who is God? How do you become apart of Him?
Do you want to be apart of God's gang? Learn how
to accept Him in your life.

Put It on the Alter What is prayer? Is there are correct way to pray? Is there a power in prayer? Why should I pray?

Get Your Praise On!
(Ulturgical/Sacred Movement) Learn the appropriate movements for church and sacred celebrations. Learn the power of prayer through sacred movement. Open to everyone.

I Give Myself Away Let's talk about II. What are vocations? What is discemment? What vocations does the church offer? Am I being called to select a vocation as a

How Involved Am I in My Faith? Let's discuss life after confirmation and my duty to the church as a confirmed Catholic. What is the spiritual transition all about?

(Young ladies only) Let's explore the beauty within. How to present myself in good taste. Appropriate and inappropriate behavior for young ladles.

Are 'Thugging' for Christ? (Young men only) Engage in discussion about becoming a MAN and the peer pressures you may encounter.

I Almost Let Go What do I do when I get mad? How do I resolve conflict without violence?

New Season of Harvest (Adults only) What does God have in store for you? What is a dry season? What do I have to look forward to In life?

hat Does Your Face Look Like on

Facebook? What do you have on your Facebook page? Guess who see your page? Are you proud of your posts? Learn the rules for social

Getting My Prayer on With My Rosary!
Explore how to pray and the various forms of prayer. How can this generation be a people of prayer? Finding the time to pray and uncovering praying the losary. Quettons like can't be rosary be stead of praying the call to God in stead of praying to the saints will be discussed and answered.

Faith Swag Let's discuss life after confirmation and your duty to the church as a confirmed Catholic. What is the spiritual transition all about?

## Registration

NAACYMN Mail check and registration form to: Diocese of Cleveland,

Attn: Vanessa Griffin Campbell 216.696.6525 ext. 3020 1404 East 9th Street, Cleveland, OH 44114

Registration
The registration fee of \$180.00 per person deadline is May 15, 2014.

Kings Island Theme Park
An additional \$32.00 per person for Theme Park

Hotel Accomodatio

Room rate per night of \$99.00 + 12.75% tax. Hotel accomodations can be book by calling Cathy Humphries at \$13,229,5643 or email at chumphries@kingsislandresort.com

Kegistration	\$180.00
Youth (ageto)	
☐ Adult	
☐ Kings Island Ticket	\$ 32,00
Name	
D:	

Total Amount Enclosed

Name		
Diocese		
Parish_		
Address		
City	1 2 1 1 1 1 1	
State	Zip	
Phone	498	

Involve. . . Inspire. . . Influence

## Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Conference Bloomington, MN **Juniors 176 and 251**

Junior Conference June 19-22, 2014

Bus will be leaving from two areas Thursday June 19th 5:00 am Ascension-African West 7033 S. Honore, Chicago returning Sunday evening June St. Susanna Parking lot, 41 E. 153<sup>rd</sup> St. and 6:00 am St. Benedict the

Cost: \$125.00 per person

Break down:

- First payment due April 7, 2014 \$50.00 per person
- Second payment due May 5, 2014 \$37.50 per person
  - Final payment due June 2, 2014 \$37.50 per person

Please fill out:

Number: Court/Branch name

Contact person name:

City Address

Telephone #: State:

Zip Code:

Number of seats:

Make court /council check or money order payable to: KPC176251

Ericka Butler 708-541-8836 or Michelle I. Tines 312-213-3851 stmartin176@vahoo.com

## Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary St. Martin de Porres 176 Convention Mobile, Al.

Susanna Parking lot, 41 E. 153<sup>rd</sup> St. and 10:00 pm St. Benedict the African West 7033 S. Honore, Chicago returning Thursday morning July 31, 2014 Bus will be leaving from on Thursday July 24th 9:00 pm Ascension-St. Senior Convention July 24-July 31, 2014

Cost: \$215.00 per person

Break down:

- First payment due April 7, 2014 \$75.00 per person
- Second payment due May 5, 2014 \$70.00 per person
  - Final payment due June 2, 2014 \$70.00 per person

Please fill out:

Number: Court/Council Name

City: Address

Contact person name:

Zip Code: State:

Telephone #:

Make check or money order payable to: St Martin de Porres 176

Michelle I. Tines 312-213-3851 or Belinda Lane 773-487-4992 stmartin176@vahoo.com Contact:

## You are cordially invited to participate in a retreat on

## The Fidelity of God's Love Moves Us From Scarcity to Abundance!

Our facilitator will be

## Sr. Teresita Weind

Congregational Leader, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur



The retreat will take place from 9 am to 3:30 pm on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014

We welcome home Sr. Teresita Weind, a renowned liturgist, prayer leader, animator of spirituality, advocate for women, and retreat and spiritual director. Sr. Teresita served in parish ministry and pastoral care in the Chicago area and in Saginaw, Michigan before accepting leadership roles first of her province in Cincinnati and currently of her entire congregation. She resides in Rome.

Location: St. Catherine of Siena – St. Lucy Church, 38 N. Austin Blvd., Oak Park, IL

Contribution: \$20 (which includes lunch). Financial assistance is available.

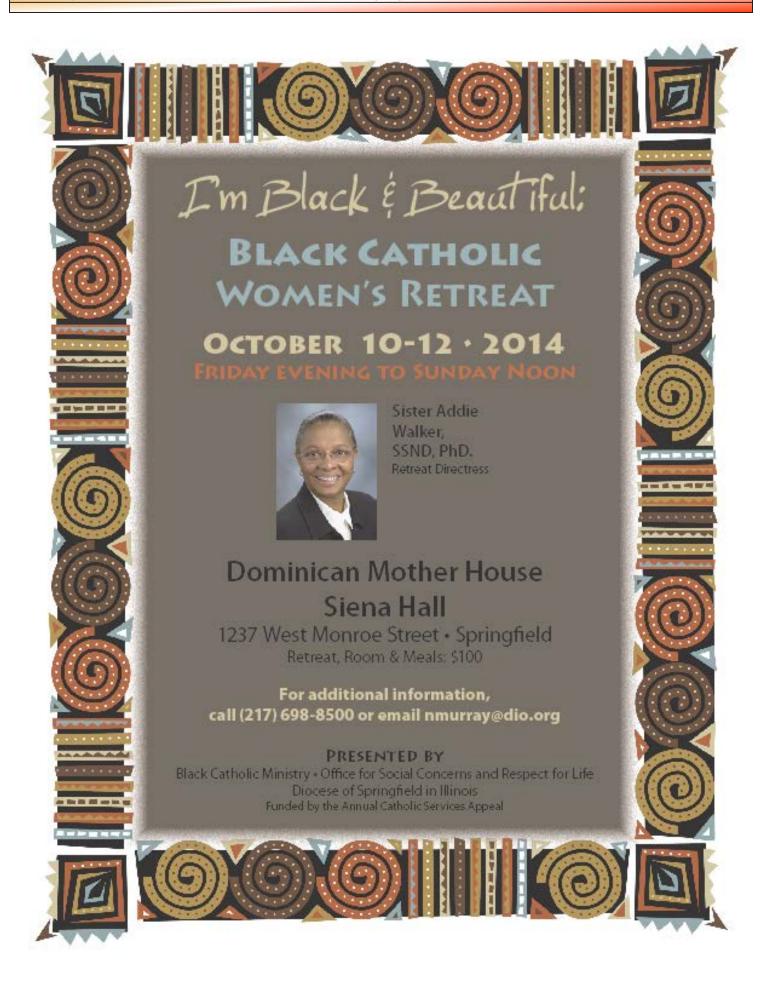
You are also cordially invited to stop by the Rectory Dining Room between 7:30 and 9 pm on Fri., Sept. 5 to meet and greet Sr. Teresita personally. Light refreshments will be served. Sr. Teresita will speak during the 10:30 am mass on Sun., Sept. 7. Join us!

Parking: 3 parking options are available:

- \* The lot south of the rectory on Austin Blvd. between the rectory and Maguire Hall.
- \* The lot on the east side of Austin Blvd. directly across from the large Gothic church that is St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy.
- On-street parking on Washington Blvd. west of Austin and north of St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church.

Registration and payment in advance is strongly preferred.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

— - Please i	RETREAT REGISTRATION mail to St. Catherine-St. Lucy, 38 N. Austin Blvd., Oak Park, IL 60302 ATTN: Retreat	
Name: _ Address	:	
Phone:		
E-mail: enclose	e \$20, plus a contribution of \$ to assist those with fewer financial resources to attend.	
B	Checks should be made payable to St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Parish and note "Retr I will pay at the door with cash, check, or credit card.	eat" on the memo line.



# "Men of Courage, Conviction, Creativity"

2014 National Black Catholic Men's Conference October 23-26, 2014

## Registration Form

## HOTEL

Holiday Inn University of Memphis 3700 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38111

Phone: 901-618-8200 or www.holidayinn.com/mem-uofm (booking code BFM)

Name	Address	City, State & Zip Code

Home Telephone ( )

Alternate Telephone ( )

Email Address

Church Ministry/Organization Adult Student (High School ) (College) Youth (age 8-13)

T-Shirt Size (circle one) Small Medium Large 1X 2X 3X

₹

Adult Registration \$150.00 High School & College Students Registration \$75.00 Youth (age 8-13) Registration \$50.00 The conference registration fee includes lunch on Saturday

Please return the registration form and a check made payable to:
The Bowman Francis Ministry
SVD House
815 E. 58th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46220

OFFICE USE ONLY:
Payment Rec'd: Yes No

Website: www.bowmanfrancisministry.com

# "Men of COURAGE, CONVICTION, CREATIVITY"







National Black Catholic Men's

Conference Memphis, Tennessee

## OCTOBER 23-26, 2014

Holiday Inn University of Memphis 3700 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38152 901-678-8200



For more information visit BFM website: <a href="www.bowmanfrancisministry.com">www.bowmanfrancisministry.com</a> or email mcbeeje@att.net or Gamba10333@aol.com or call 317-259-0144





## WE SAY NO MORE!

## A Call for a Month of Resistance to Mass Incarceration, Police Terror, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation!

For 2 generations, Black and Latina/Latino youth in the U.S. have been shipped off to prison in numbers never before seen anywhere in the world at any time. More than 2 million people, of all nationalities languish in prison—ten times the number 50 years ago. The U.S. has 5% of the world's population but 25% of the world's prison population! More than 60% of those in U.S. prisons are Black or Latina/o.32% of Black men between the ages of 20 and 29 are in prison or on parole or probation on any given day. More than 80,000 people in prison are held in solitary confinement under conditions that fit the international definition of torture.

The incarceration of women has increased by 800% over the last 30 years. They, along with those whose sexual orientation is not "mainstream" or who are gender non-conforming—lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex prisoners—face extremely harsh and abusive treatment in prison, including widespread rape. Alongside this has risen a massive program of criminally prosecuting undocumented immigrants, essentially hidden from public view. As a result of the devastation of their homelands, these immigrants have been driven to this country to work without papers, and today they are being criminalized. The U.S. chastises other countries for human rights violations, yet it enmeshes the lives of tens of millions of people in its criminal "injustice" system. The courts, cops, prisons and La Migra all play a part in enforcing mass incarceration. There are genocidal aspects and a genocidal logic to this program, and it has been gathering momentum. All this is intolerable, and, if it isn't stopped, it will get much worse!

Mass incarceration has grown beside the criminalization of whole peoples; a situation in which every African-American or Latina/o is a permanent suspect—treated as guilty until proven innocent by police and racist vigitantes, if they can survive to prove their innocence. This is especially concentrated among the youth, starting with cops in schools, arresting children for things that used to mean a visit to the principal's office at worse, putting youth on a trajectory from school to prison. Black and Latina/o youth have a target on their backs in this society. Literally tens of miltions of lives have been scarred and worse—both the direct victims and their families and communities. People who heroically resisted these and other injustices have been imprisoned, some of them for decades. These political prisoners must be freed.

The malignancy of mass incarceration did not arise from a sudden epidemic of crime. Nor did it result from people making poor personal choices. Instead it arose from cold political calculations made in response to the massive and heroic struggle for the rights of Black and other minority peoples that took place in the 1960's and 70's, and in response to the enormous

economic and social changes brought about by globalized production. This cancer of mass incarceration has been, from the beginning, nothing but a new Jim Crow in place of the old one. Like the old Jim Crow, it drew on, fed off and reinforced the deep-seated roots of the racism that grew up with slavery. Like the old Jim Crow, it has been, from the beginning, unjustifiable, utterly immoral and thoroughly illegitimate.

This must stop—NOW! Not the next generation, not in ten years, not any time off in some promised future that never seems to come. NOW! But it will not stop unless and until millions of people, of all nationalities, stand up and say NO MORE, in unmistakable terms. The history of this and every other

country shows that without struggle, there can be no positive change; but with struggle this kind of change becomes possible.

It is not enough to oppose this in the privacy of your own conscience or the company of like-minded people. It is not enough to curse this out, but then tell yourself nothing can be done. If you live your life under this threat, you MUST act. If you understand how wrong this is and how much it devastates the lives of so many millions, you MUST act.

NOW is the time to act. People are beginning to awaken and stir. Resistance has begun: Heroic hunger strikes by people in prisons and detention centers and outpourings in response to murders by police and racist vigitantes. Prisoners in solitary confinement in California declared a cessation of racial hostilities as Black, Latino and white prisoners came together to resist the torture of solitary confinement. All this must be taken to a much higher level. We call for a massive Month of Resistance to Mass Incarceration in October of this year; a Month that can impact all of society; one that can open the eyes of millions of people to the need to end this new Jim Crow.

In October, 2014, our resistance to mass incarceration must reverberate across the country and around the world. There must be powerful demonstrations nationwide on October 22, the National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation. Throughout October there must be panels and symposiums on campuses and in neighborhoods; major concerts and other cultural expressions; ferment in the faith communities, and more—all aimed at taking the movement to STOP mass incarceration to a much higher level. October, 2014, must be a month that makes clear that thousands and thousands are willing to stand up and speak out today and to awaken and rally forth millions. It must be the beginning of the end of the mass incarceration in the U.S. To that end:

- We the undersigned pledge to make October, 2014, as powerful as possible:
- We pledge to support resistance to this monstrous system of mass incarceration between now and October; and
- We pledge to utilize October as a launching pad to go still further, mobilizing more people until mass incarceration and the criminalization of entire peoples really is NO MORE!

To Endorse and to Get Information to Make October 2014 a Month of Resistance, or to see more, visit www.stopmassincarceration.net Stop Mass Incarceration Network, P.O. Box 941 Knickerbocker Station, New York, NY 10002-0900

New York, NY 10002-0900

Email: stopmassincarceriation@gmail.com

Facebook.com/stopmassincarcerationnetwork

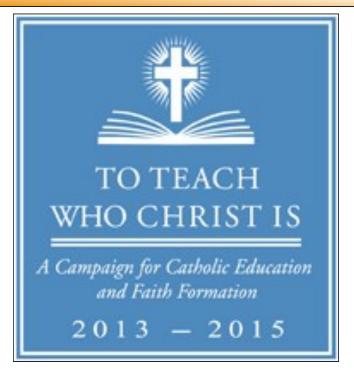
Phone: 347-979-SMIN (7646) See more at stopmassincarceration

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n Africa, tribes used the drum to bring the community together to celebrate, to mourn and to communicate. The drum kept the community connected, informed and in harmony.

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*The Drum* contains news, events and insights relevant to the Black Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

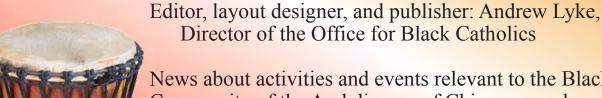
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