

Volume 3, Issue 5

The Drum

The beat of Black Catholic Chicago

May 2015



We have dwelt in his love . . .



In Memoriam: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. (1937-2015)

From the editor . . .

On Friday, August 8, 2014 the Catholic Communities of the African Diaspora gathered in the Shrine Chapel of St. Rita Cascia High School on Chicago's Southside to pray with and for Francis Cardinal George, OMI, and to thank him for his leadership and commitment to the Church.

It was a glorious event for which we are thankful to have had to spend some time with our shepherd and to show our love for him.

We produced a brief video from photographs of that evening. You may view it on the [OBC Pod-](#)

cast at <http://obc-chicago.org/2015/04/18/remembering-our-shepherd/>

We dedicate it to Cardinal George in memoriam.

Also, the April 21 broadcast of



Andrew Lyke
Director of the Office for Black Catholics
Editor of *The Drum*

May he rest in peace.

Andrew Lyke

Andrew Lyke
Office for Black Catholics
Cardinal Meyer Center
3525 S. Lake Park Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
www.BlackCatholicChicago.org

The Drum is a publication of the Office for Black Catholics, an agency of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

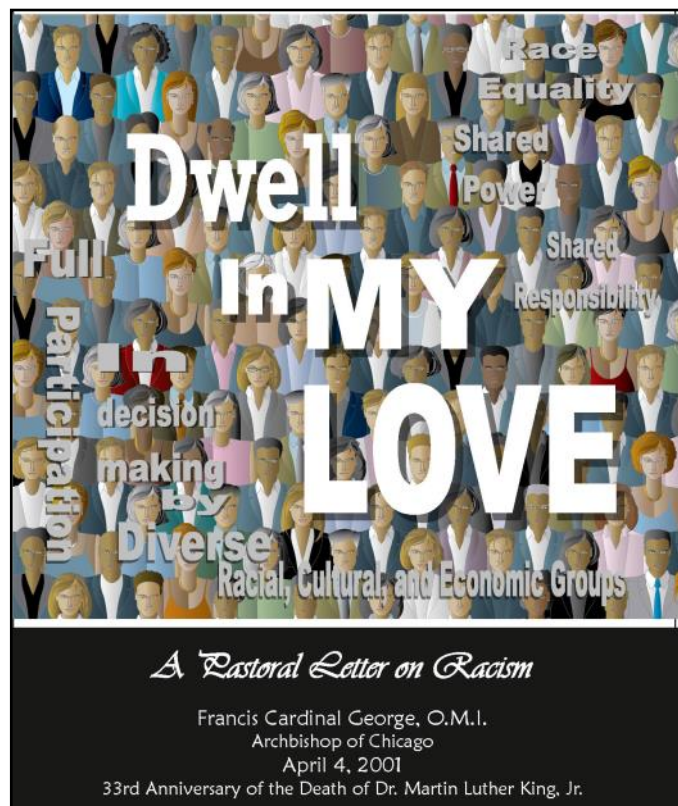
Editor, layout designer, and publisher:
Andrew Lyke,
Director of the Office for Black Catholics

News about activities and events relevant to the Black Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Chicago may be submitted before the 15th of the month. Submissions will be considered for publication under the scrutiny of the Office for Black Catholics. All submissions must be submitted in electronic formats using MS Word, MS Publisher, or PDF. All rights reserved.

Stay with the beat and subscribe to *The Drum* today! Go to blackcatholicchicago.org



"God's Praise Tell" radio show was focused on the legacy of Cardinal George. I invited three Black Catholic leaders to join me. Deacon Leonard Richardson of St. Sabina, Dr. C. Vanessa White of CTU, and Sr. Anita Baird, DHM, the founding Director of the Office for Racial Justice. You can listen to that show on the [OBC Podcast](#) at <http://obc-chicago.org/2015/04/21/remembering-francis-cardinal-george-omi/>



Tolton's sainthood cause part of cardinal's legacy

By Catholic New World Staff

The fact that Father Augustus Tolton was the first American priest of acknowledged African descent makes him an important figure in U.S. Catholic history. The fact that Cardinal George introduced Father Tolton's cause for canonization only adds to his significance.

"It is appropriate that, during this Year for Priests, we recall our forebears who were holy men in the presbyterate of the Archdiocese of Chicago," Cardinal George told the Catholic New World shortly after his March 1, 2010, announcement of the canonization cause. Pope Benedict XVI had called for the Year of Priests that year.

A review of Tolton's life reveals a man who was more than holy, but also dedicated to spreading the Catholic faith despite a lifetime obstacle of prejudice.

Tolton was born on April 1, 1854, to slaves Peter and Martha Tolton, who lived and worked on a farm in Brush Creek, Missouri. His parents were married in a Catholic ceremony, and raised Tolton and his brother and sister in the Catholic faith.

Tolton's father escaped to St. Louis during the Civil War to serve in the Union Army, but was later discovered to have died of dysentery shortly after his arrival in the city. Left alone and fearing that her three children would be sold, Martha Tolton plotted an escape to Quincy, Illinois, then a site on the Underground Railroad. Tolton was 9 years old, and his sister was still a baby who needed to be carried. Yet the foursome set out for the Mississippi River, walking the 20 miles through mostly forest and travelling only at night to avoid detection. They crossed the river to freedom in 1862.

Martha Tolton and her sons worked in a Quincy cigar factory, and the family attended Mass with other blacks at St. Boniface Church. When he was 11, Tolton began attending St. Boniface School, but was forced to quit after school employees were harassed because of his race. He was later invited to enroll in nearby St. Peter's School, where he became an altar server.

Finding himself increasingly drawn to a vocation to the priesthood, Tolton graduated from St. Peter's and later attended St. Francis College — now Quincy University — only to be rejected by every U.S. seminary. He finally gained admission in 1880 to a pontifical college in Rome that trained and ordained priests for missionary work worldwide. Ordained at the age of 32, Tolton expected to be sent to Africa but was instead dispatched back to Quincy as the first black American

priest. His superiors told him American needed to be evangelized.

Disappointed to be plunged back into an overtly racist environment, Tolton assumed the role of pastor of the black parish of St. Joseph Church. Popular with both



Cardinal George (fifth from left) joins in prayer with others in front of the grave of Father Augustus Tolton in Quincy, Illinois, on April 6, 2011. He joined a pilgrimage to the sites of Tolton's early life. Karen Callaway/Catholic New World

black and white Catholics, he nonetheless transferred to Chicago after three years. In 1891, he opened a storefront church in Chicago that would later be known as St. Monica's. He died in 1897 at the age of 43 after collapsing from heat stroke. He was buried in Quincy, at his request.

His life shows a steadfast perseverance in the face of intolerance, said Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry, who was appointed postulator of Tolton's canonization cause when it was formally opened in February 2011 after Vatican approval.

"He never dishd back the prejudice thrown in his face," Bishop Perry said at a February 2011 prayer service for Tolton.

An April 2011 pilgrimage to Quincy and Brush Creek brought home to Cardinal George Tolton's unwavering faith.

"I was deeply moved at his grave knowing that he had died in Chicago and done so much for us," he said at the time. "Then to come to where his last remains are and to pray there was important."

The Vatican in February 2012 named Tolton a "servant of God," the first stage of the canonization process. Bishop Perry then assembled research on Tolton's life into a dossier that was sealed at a September 2014

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

ceremony overseen by Cardinal George. Vatican officials are now studying the information to determine if Tolton can be declared “venerable.” The next stages are declarations of “blessed” and then “saint.”

“Everything in the record of the case demonstrates that we had a saint among us and we hardly noticed,” Bishop Perry said at the September ceremony.

Cardinal George put Tolton’s cause into a larger perspective.

“History is what God remembers,” he said at the ceremony. “The rest passes.”



Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry talks to Father Roy Bauer from Quincy, Auxiliary Bishop Francis Kane and Cardinal George and points to Tolton’s tomb on April 6, 2011. Karen Callaway/Catholic New World

Ignatian Volunteer Corps *Experience Making a Difference*

Semi-Retired? Retired? Eager to “give something back?”

The **Ignatian Volunteer Corps** may be for You! Members of this Jesuit service program volunteer in needy communities 2 days per week (Sept-June), grow deeper in their Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Jesuit Catholic tradition and meet monthly with other IVC members and a spiritual reflector. IVC members serve as tutors, employment counselors, food pantry volunteers, elderly companions, hospital chaplains and more! Detailed information is online at www.ivcusa.org/Chicago. To inquire, please contact Jacqueline Fitzgerald at 312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org.

In The Spirit

Dr. C. Vanessa White

CARDINAL FRANCIS GEORGE: A Holy and Humble Servant of God

This is a time of both sadness and joy in our diocese as we say farewell to a great and holy servant of God, Cardinal Francis George. As black Catholics we understand the experience of joy in the midst of suffering. We celebrate the life of a beloved one while we also experience the pain of loss of the one we so loved. His Eminence, Cardinal Francis George journeyed with us on many occasions as we worshipped together, suffered and celebrated together.

One of the last times I saw him personally was at the official closing of the first phase of the canonization process for the cause of Fr. Augustus Tolton in September 2014. Though his illness had impacted his ability to walk and he was in great pain, he was present to send forth the official documents to Rome. The cause for canonization of Fr. Tolton is part of Cardinal George's legacy. I remember on one occasion when he visited the Tolton and Romero scholars at Catholic Theological Union. He spoke with clarity and passion about Fr. Tolton for quite some time, helping the scholars to better understand the importance of the life of this holy man of faith to the Church. For him, Fr. Tolton was a model of sanctity and service.

Another aspect of his legacy is the attentiveness he gave to the formation and training of Lay Ecclesial Ministers for the Church. He was one of the foremost supporters among his fellow bishops within the U.S. church on lay ecclesial ministry. In fact the Archdiocese of Chicago was one of the first dioceses to have certification standards for lay ecclesial ministry approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Cardinal George was also one of the few bishops who attended national symposiums on lay ecclesial ministry and was always supportive both in his words and as well as financially of Black catholic lay men and women pursuing lay ministerial leadership in the Church.

A third aspect of his legacy is the pastoral document, *Dwell in My Love* which he wrote to address the sin of racism. Again, he was one of the few bishops to write a pastoral document on racism and to specifically acknowledge institutional and spatial racism in our community. As



archbishop of Chicago, he had a unique understanding and view of the diverse nature of the Church and how racism divides this community of God.

In my travels, when people found out I was from Chicago, the question would always arise about my experience of Cardinal George. I would always answer that "He spoke with authority." On one occasion, I shared this story with him. He laughed and said "I don't know about that."

A humble and great man of prayer and sanctity, Cardinal George will be missed by the people of God in the Archdiocese of Chicago. But we know and believe in the goodness of God, and hope to see him once again as we all celebrate the resurrection of life on the last day!

Dr. C. Vanessa White is an Associate Professor of Spirituality at Catholic Theological Union, where she is also the Director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program.



Bishop Joseph Perry and Cardinal George signing official documents at the closing ceremony for the investigative phase of the Cause for Sainthood of Fr. Augustus Tolton in September 2014

In My Opinion . . .

Willie Cobb

I am a Lay Ecclesial Minister for the Archdiocese of Chicago through a program that Cardinal George initiated because he wanted to develop lay leadership within the Archdiocese. I was privileged enough to take part in that program for 3 years. Each year we met with Cardinal George at the Quigley Center where he would answer our questions. During those sessions he made a few very powerful statements.



One such statement I remember was when he told us that we have a part to play in the royal priesthood. He said to tell the congregation that they are priests, prophets, and kings; and it is the Lay Minister's job in the community to bring the people to Christ. He went on to say that we, as Catholics, have three pastors. The first pastor is the Pope and he is in charge of the entire Roman Catholic Church. The second pastor is the local bishop, the one in charge of the entire diocese, which was Cardinal George at the time. The third pastor is the pastor of your local parish. The Pope sends the bishops, the bishops send the priests, and the priests send the lay ecclesial ministers. It is the Lay Ecclesial Ministers' job to help the community to understand that they are priests, prophets, and kings. This was a powerful endorsement for the ministers who work directly with the community.

Another one of the many statements that Cardinal George made was about Fathers. He said that Fathers need to take their role as protectors; that the role of the Father has been diminished in our modern society; and that Fathers need to reclaim their role.

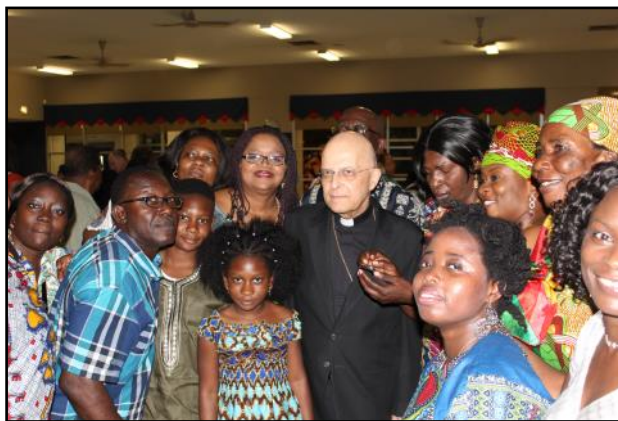
The first time I experienced the depth of Cardinal George's spirituality was at my lay ecclesial ministry graduation. There were probably 20 of us graduating at the Mundelein Seminary. We were graduating alongside the Hispanic community who had over 80 lay ministers graduating, and alongside the priests who were graduating as well. It was a phenomenal opportunity to be spiritually connected to lay and clergy alike. While there were very few African Americans there, the experience still had a multicultural slant to it and it was a powerful experience. Feeling the Cardinal's spirituality when he talked about how proud he was of all of us who graduated moved me. I had an opportunity a year later to share with him how much I appreciated the lay ecclesial ministry program and how much I appreciated his trust in the lay ministers.

Last August 8th I had the great privilege of experiencing the depth of Cardinal George's spirituality. It

was a beautiful sight organized by the Office of Black Catholics and the Black Diaconate, it was frankly a sea of blackness. Africans and those of African descent gathered together to hold a last prayer service for Cardinal George. I have never been so honored to be in the presence of such beautiful spirituality as each African nation was called up. They would bring their flag, some would sing a song, and they were asked to stand up and represent the African country of their origins. It was black, African, and those of African descent all united for our Cardinal. When they called for the African American community to stand, the overwhelming number of people in the crowd got up, and I was even more proud to be black, African American, and Catholic. All of the same African origins; all, save one, of the same race; all there to say farewell and thank you to Cardinal George. It was a beautiful experience.

One thing that strikes me most was that each one of these experiences were outside of liturgy. The two experiences for both prayer services put on by the Cardinal's people were beautiful spiritual moving prayer services.

That's what was special about Cardinal George. He was able to connect to most people on most levels whether it was high liturgy or an all-black African celebration. Cardinal George was always just Cardinal George. He truly could care less about your race, creed, or color. This is the example we need in this world. Today's spiritual leaders should lead by this spirituality, by their honesty, by their love – not by any other motivation but the love of God. I never one time felt an issue of race with Cardinal George. He was simply the pastor of this Archdiocese of Chicago and I truly believe he cared about all



of his parishioners. I asked Cardinal George what we should do about the diminishing number of black Catholics in the Archdiocese. He said he was concerned about that and if I had any idea to please let him know. Cardinal George was a very spiritual man who understood the plight of ordinary people.

Willie Cobb is Theology teacher and Campus Minister at Notre Dame College Prep High School and a regular contributor to The Drum.

Guns in Church?

John Barrett

When the Illinois State legislature overrode the Governor's amendatory veto on July 9th 2013 HB 180, the concealed carry bill, became the law in the State of Illinois. This law allows a private citizen to carry a gun in public.

The law does not allow guns to be carried in certain locations, including Government buildings, schools, parks, bars, and several other public places. It does not expressly prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons in churches or other places of worship.

In order to prohibit carrying a gun in Church, under the law, we are required to post a sign saying that no guns are allowed, at every en-

trance to the building. If no such sign were posted the carrying of a concealed weapon would be allowed in the church.

How are we, as a Catholic community to respond to this question of whether to allow guns in our Church?

The person who carries a concealed weapon has already made the decision that under certain circumstances they are prepared to take the life of another human being. While such action may well be acceptable if it is the unavoidable final resort to an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm, will carrying a weapon in Church imply that we have decided that violence is a solution that is supported by our faith beliefs?

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in their testimony before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on the topic of "Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence; Protecting our Communities while Respecting our Second Amendment," reminded us that we should live out what Pope Benedict calls "our innate vocation to peace."

In their pastoral message "Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action" a pastoral message of the US Catholic Bishops, we read:

We must join with Pope John Paul II to "proclaim, with all the conviction of my faith in Christ and with an awareness of my mission, that violence is evil, that violence is unacceptable as a solution to problems, that violence is unworthy... Violence is a lie, for it goes against the truth of our faith, the truth of

our humanity."

Each parish within the Archdiocese of Chicago must

make its own decision. However, this decision must be guided by considerations different from those that guide our secular decisions as citizens. The Church's liturgy is "the outstanding means by which the faithful ... manifest...the mystery of Christ" (SC 2), who refused violence in the face of violence (cf. Matthew 26:52). In weighing this decision, each parish should seriously consider whether allowing weapons into Church properly safeguards the liturgical task to be the body of the crucified Prince of Peace.

I would urge you all to prayerfully reflect on this

question, talk with other members of your faith community and your Pastor and then act appropriately.

Additional information can be found at the Illinois State Police website: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/media/pressdetails.cfm?ID=762>

If you have any questions or require any assistance in obtaining signs for your church please contact:

John Barrett
Organizing Catholics for Justice
gabolga@aol.com
708-848-4179

Organizing Catholics
for Justice





TOLTON AMBASSADORS

Bishop Joseph N. Perry

February 3, 2015, *The Father Tolton Guild* launched the *Tolton Ambassadors* program. Since the inauguration of the Cause for sainthood of Father Augustus Tolton in 2010 by Cardinal Francis George, OMI, Diocesan Postulator Bishop Joseph Perry has answered requests of interested audiences for presentations on the Tolton Story and the details of the process for de-

clared sainthood. Over one hundred of these requests have been honored to-date with the assistance of Norbertine seminarian, Gerard Jordan, OPraem

sharing the speaking load. Now that the Cause has been instructed in compliance with the Vatican norms and the dossier sent to Rome for consideration as of September 2014, we have attached to the effort a corp of women and men locally and around the country excited about the Cause whose volunteer service entails maintaining a momentum of activity surrounding the Cause for beatification and canonization of Father Tolton (1854-1897). Akin to the gospel narrative of the further 72 (Luke 10) sent forth for evangelization,

Tolton Ambassadors are commissioned to:

- 1) Teach the faithful about the significance of the Tolton Cause
- 2) Make the Father Tolton story, in cooperation with pastors and religious education leadership, a part of instruction of adults, children and youth
- 3) Promote the absolute necessity of prayer for the success of the Cause
- 4) With permission of local pastors to encourage support of the Cause among the faithful prayerfully and financially through individual and group efforts having searched out appropriate events by way of meetings, days of reflection, banquets and the like

Tolton Ambassadors are identified and approved by the Diocesan Postulator of the Tolton Cause.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry

3/15



A. Gerard Jordan, O.Praem.

Michael Cross, Class of 2015 at Seton Academy, has been awarded a scholarship from Comcast as one of their "Regional Leaders and Achievers". After graduation Michael has accepted an offer from Marquette University in Milwaukee where he will study pre-med in the fall with an eye on becoming a dentist as is his uncle. Michael credits his mother, Mia, for his academic success; continues to encourage and support him in all of his endeavors.



The Deacon Speakin'

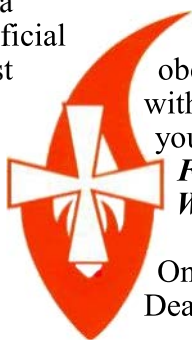
Walk For Your Health

Deacon Bruce McElrath

Physical exercise may help us fight off colds and infection. The theory is that a good workout puts our body in a condition similar to what happens at the onset of a fever. That's not all bad. A fever is the body's way of fighting back when micro-intruders get into our system. Increased body temperature aids our white blood-cell defense system while slowing down the action of bacteria and viruses. Exercise does the same thing. It releases chemicals into the blood that stimulate the brain to make our temperature rise.

The first two chapters of 1 John indicate that a regular practice of good spiritual exercise is beneficial to the health of our soul. To ward off sin we must "walk in the light as He is in the light." (1:7) and obey Jesus each day.

Disobedience, however, cools our spiritual temperature. Fellowship with God and other believers is neglected. Sin is neither confessed nor forsaken. If we have a lukewarm faith (Rev. 3:16), we are not taking advantage of the defense



mechanisms necessary to fight spiritual infection. The right exercise program is one of faith and obedience. It is essential to spiritual health. Walk with Jesus every day and you'll truly be walking for your health.

For A Healthy Heart, Give Your Faith A Workout.

On the Battlefield
Deacon Bruce



Cardinal Francis George – Small Faith In A Big God

Deacon Bruce McElrath

Faith – we all wish we had more of it, especially when facing mountainous problems. Yet most of us are well practiced in faith. We sit down in chairs without checking them out; we use microwave ovens without analyzing how they work; we put keys in doors and expect them to open. We don't go around moaning, "If only I had more faith in chairs, in microwaves, in keys." We depend on these objects because we see them as reliable – not because we've worked up great feelings of confidence.

Jesus didn't say to His disciples, "Have more faith in God." He simply said, "Have faith in God" (Mk. 11:22).

Cardinal George was a man of great faith. When things were at its worse in his life he displayed his faith in God and he displayed it for all to see. If he complained about the hand of life he was dealt he merely informed all who asked, "It is with my God, who I trust that will make my way."

I can remember one day while serving with him at a mass at St Francis de Sales there was a problem with his mobility, moving from the church to the school hall, Cardinal George merely said that God has given us an opportunity to display our ability to overcome a situation –and he did.

We all admire a person who can overcome adverse challenges. Cardinal George had definitely displayed his ability to overcome obstacles from leading the archdiocese through all of its difficult moments, to defeating

the stigma of being handicap, even to displaying to the end his love of life by living through cancer.

During his tenure I had the pleasure of serving with him on several occasions and it was indeed a pleasure because he always enjoyed and shared a joke, smile or words of encouragement and he was truly a man of God looking to serve the people of God.

When facing trials many Christians agonize to attain mountain-size faith. But Jesus taught that faith the size of a mustard seed is sufficient, if planted in the soil of God's greatness.

Cardinal Francis George not only displayed this faith – he truly lived in God's world with this faith. I can imagine Cardinal George is listening to those wonderful words from God, "well done, my good and faithful servant!"

The Working Catholic: A Race Man

by Bill Droel

It was cold in the parking lot after the funeral, but I lingered long enough to chat with an elderly priest. “We were about to get our first assignments out of seminary,” he began. “A teacher gave me some advice: *Stay away from Falls; he’s a race man*. Well, I was bold in those days and I replied: *No, he’s a man of justice*.”

The funeral, celebrated at St. John of the Cross in Western Springs, Illinois, was for Arthur Falls (1901-2000), a medical doctor, a pioneer in race relations and a lifelong Chicago Catholic. He was indeed a “race man” or a militant, but not in the sense of episodic, slogging skirmishes that result in little more than superficial media coverage. Falls was confrontational, but consistently worked inside hospitals, schools, housing agencies, businesses, parish committees and more to achieve incremental policy changes.

Lincoln Rice in a new biography of Falls, *Healing the Racial Divide* (Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2014), supplies some background on my parking lot conversation. From about 1937 to 1942, Falls met regularly with seminarians away from church property to talk about urban issues and race. The group—which totaled about 30 over the years—included Msgr. Jack Egan (1916-2001), Fr. Martin Farrell (1911-1991) and Fr. Howard Matty Hoffman (1916-2004), Rice tells us.

Falls founded and joined scores of organizations in his steady persistence to end racism. A partial list includes serving on the executive board of the Chicago Urban League, facilitating an interracial dialogue group in the Morgan Park/Beverly neighborhood, active member of the Federation of Colored Catholics which became the National Catholic Interracial Federation, committees and ministries in his south side and then Western Springs parishes, founder of Chicago Catholic Interracial Council, founder of Committee to End Discrimination in Medical Institutions, member of Fellowship of Reconciliation and member of Congress of Racial Equality.

There are at least three Catholic Worker Houses in Chicago. But do its members know who founded the first one in Chicago? Arthur Falls in 1936. He is also responsible for integrating the masthead of the New York *Catholic Worker* newspaper.

All the while, Falls was a husband, father, practicing doctor, a surgeon and for a time chief of staff at Provident Hospital.

Falls “was strongly grounded in Catholic theology,” Rice says. He was particularly animated by the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ, which holds that each person regardless of status is godly. Falls, of course, was aware that Catholics (including himself) and Catho-

lic institutions did not consistently live out their own beliefs. He was fond of saying that when it comes to the Body of Christ, the doctrine is “mythical not mystical to too many of its members.” And because of this doctrine it is, said Falls, a heresy for Catholics and others to tolerate racial injustice.

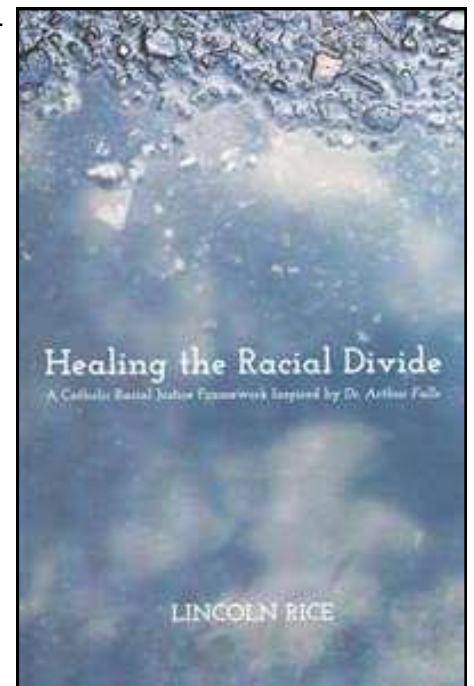
No one—white or black—goes to confession—now or back in former times—and admits the *sin of racism*. Treating racial injustice as a *heresy*, suggests *Healing the Racial Divide*, might be more effective than calling it a sin.

Falls believed in the power of moral suasion and appealing to people’s informed conscience. He was a militant, but a militant for *interracial justice*. Falls believed that black equality benefits blacks and whites alike, explains Karen Joy Johnson in a March 2015 essay for the cyber-publication *Religion in American History*

(www.usreligion.blogspot.com). Even as early as the 1930s this stance put Falls and others against those who wanted black-only organizations. Because of Falls’ insistence on *interracial* life, Johnson writes, he “refused to attend one of the *colored parishes*” as so designated by most Catholic clergy in Chicago. Participation in a regular neighborhood parish was thus for Falls a protest.

Falls’ optimism about dialogue was never, Rice continues, uncoupled from “dedication to a long and bitter struggle.” An impulsive, impatient struggle will never bear fruit. Falls plotted campaigns with the precision he brought to his surgery. Only campaigns led by thought-

(Continued on page 12)



America! ... Be more than a broken back!

Dr. Keith Wilson

Baltimore, Maryland is a short distance from our nation's capital but may as well be light years away. It could be a metaphor for the two Americas often referenced by this nation's first African-American occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Baltimore stands in stark contrast to our nation's capital where the very soul of America's political vision is derived. Three branches of government co-exist so that "WE THE PEOPLE" may form a more perfect union.



The challenge for those branches as of late has been the insurance of "domestic tranquility" for all of its citizens. For many African-Americans their "general welfare" does not seem a priority as they live in communities such as inner city Baltimore where the same government that promises to "secure the blessings of liberty" seems to routinely struggle with this concept when deal-

officers was to harm this citizen, but somewhere between that scene and the final destination 25 year old Freddie Gray would end up dead with a broken back after being transported handcuffed without seatbelts as is required by law. It would be inappropriate to make assumptions about what happened in this situation, but African-American citizens in "B-



People gather Tuesday, April 28, 2015, in Baltimore, in the aftermath of rioting following Monday's funeral for Freddie Gray, who died in police custody.

ing with some of its citizens.

Once again in the "other" America, "another" black citizen in plain view was taken off of an urban street for the most minor of offenses in a brutal fashion by a multitude of officers. Many observers say that the officers "bent the man like origami" as they forced his limp body with motionless legs in to a squad car. Again a citizen could be heard screaming that he could not breathe and making sounds that horrified bystanders.

Clearly, no one can say that the initial intent of the

More" have complained about treatment at the hands of local law enforcement for years. In fact recently a multi million dollar settlement occurred when other officers injured an improperly handcuffed victim who died while in custody.

HBO had a critically acclaimed show called "The Wire" which used the gritty city of Baltimore as its backdrop. It is widely recognized that this critically acclaimed show captured the essence of the hopelessness

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 10)

ful people grounded in the virtue of hope will succeed.

We don't know how Falls would specifically react to current events. However, Rice quotes a 1968 interview. Some protest movements, Falls said, have "a great deal of vocalization and very little cerebration... I realize it's not as dramatic a cry to shout *We want competent teachers* instead of *We want black teachers*... But that's

what's needed... I'd rather have [those in the classroom] think science than think black... We've already heard all the things the *white man* has done... Now the thing to think about is what do we do now."

Bill Droel edits a free, print newsletter on faith and work, INITIATIVES (PO Box 291102, Chicago, IL 60629)

(Continued from page 11)

that many young black men face in that town. It also gave a view into the policing of this community. As many jobs such as those in the steel industry and the harbor system were shipped overseas because of many of the policies of Washington politicians, unemployment and addiction became "B-More's" main occupants.

Crime increased and many middle class whites fled the city. Sounds like many places in America. Gary, Detroit and Cleveland are just a few of these cities. Years of distrust of police officers festered. In some situations the officers lost respect for the very citizens that they were hired to "serve and protect". In 1968 after the death of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, in the same area civil unrest boiled over. For many when riots occurred after a recent perceived case of police brutality, it was déjà vu. Mistrust of the police is a festering wound that had long been oozing in this community and others including Ferguson, Missouri where many occupants feel hopeless. This unhealed sore of resentment of the police really only needed minor stress to be reopened. At the same time police officers across the country in cities like New York City, Cleveland Ohio and Los Angeles are being captured on smart phones where the force applied to subdue a person in routine encounters almost invariably ends in death or disability. This constant visual picking at the scab would no doubt cause the wound of resentment of the police to hemorrhage into the streets of America.

Civil unrest is almost always the result of ongoing civil injustice. Communities of color have long suffered in situations where jobs are nonexistent, educational opportunities are inadequate and the criminal justice system is over exuberant in its prosecution and occasional persecution of citizens of color. The time has long past for a "come to Jesus" moment in American society where those two Americas need to meet in the middle. As long as dealing drugs in a city like Baltimore is the main cottage industry of opportunity for young black men, American security is always at risk. For some "The Wire" is actually "The Life". Many of the charac-

ters in that series were not actors, they were just paid to live the challenged lives that that had and were filmed. The actress who portrayed "Snoop" Ms. Felicia "Snoop" Pearson was arrested for the selling of drugs after the



Demonstrators climb on a destroyed Baltimore Police car in the street near the corner of Pennsylvania

series ended.

Matthew 25:40 speaks of Jesus being the "great shepherd" and references "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The United States in its purest and most ideal form is supposed to be a shepherd for all of its sheep. At some point the greatest nation in the land will realize that the two Americas of the haves and the have-nots will have to become that "more perfect union" and truly unite all of its states geographical and social!

Dr. Keith Wilson is highly engaged lay leader at Holy Angels Parish in the Bronzeville Community on Chicago's South Side. He owns a dental practice in Frankfort, Illinois and is a regular contributor to The Drum.

CONNIE'S CORNER

Dependence

By Connie Reden

Think of objects we rely on daily. One of the things is the cell phone. If we forget the phone at home, most of the time, we will return home to get it. If we can't return, we feel we are missing important calls or just calls from friends. There is an anxiety we feel as the day progresses without the phone. We know it's good for emergencies, but if we forget to pay the bill the phone is disconnected. Panic sets in and we rush to make the necessary payment. Years ago there was only the land home phone with an answering machine. Now the cell phone causes us to be in an "immediate gratification mode".

Another item we depend on is the Automatic Teller Machine (ATM). When we need cash and we are not close to our bank we go to another ATM where there is a fee of three or four dollars for using another ATM. Some accounts allow from \$20.00 to \$500.00 to be withdrawn at a time. Whatever the amount, the cash comes rippling out for us to grab. We may need cash for various reasons and we know when we make the withdrawal the cash will be the exact amount we requested. Someone is always going to make money from our dependencies.

Dependence is built on trust. There is complete reliance when one depends on things or persons. Sometimes we may think depending on machines is more trustful than depending on people. There is one person who we can depend on 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The trust we have in the cell phone and ATM is a polluted and misguided faith. Neither is dependable. Machines and



Connie Redden

people fail us, but God never does.

The promises made by God are never disconnected from us. His promises stand firmly in our favor and He never acts contrary to His word. Sometimes we drive to an ATM machine and it is out of order while God is never inoperative. When we have faith in Him there is not a requirement for pay-back. He is not a Quick 'n Loan Center. He's with us whenever there are needs and there are never limits on what He will give us. When we go through situations, the experiences may cause us to cry with pain and agony. We need to remember His pain

and agony was for us on the day He was crucified. His resurrection was a symbol of overcoming obstacles. As our challenges pass we are resurrected with a new faith we can endure with His help. The Easter season is a game changer for our faith. It is a reminder that He lived, died and resurrected Himself. We can live and die, but our belief in God will provide our resurrection to His heavenly home.

*In the name of the Father who loves me,
the Son who lives within me, and the
Holy Spirit who empowers me. Amen,
Amen, Amen.*

Constance "Connie" Reden is a member of Holy Name of Mary Parish in the Morgan Park Community. Her reflections on faith and life is a regular feature of The Drum.

Meeting Protocol Workshop

Planning a meeting and don't know where to start? Come to "A Workshop on Protocol" hosted by the Mattie Lampkins Parliamentary Unit. You will get help and ideas for planning meetings, both large and small, including invitations, seating arrangements, duties as host, and more. The workshop will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Our Lady of Peace Church hall, 7851 S. Jeffery Blvd., Chicago, from 9:00 am to noon with registration and continental breakfast 8:30-9:00; off street parking and hall entrance are on the north side of the church. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth age 18 and younger. Registration deadline is May 11th. For more information contact Elaine Johnson (708-333-3240, eljohnson8@juno.com) or Juanita Burden (773-933-7820)



James Patterson Lyke was born on February 18, 1939 in Chicago. He was the youngest of seven children born to Amos and Ora Lyke. He grew up in Wentworth Gardens, a public housing project on Chicago's Southside. From these modest environs, he became a Franciscan friar, a Catholic priest, a teacher, a pastor, a bishop of the Church, and at the time of his untimely death in late 1992, he was the highest ranking African American in the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

After entering the Franciscan Order, Sacred Heart Province, he was ordained a Catholic priest on June 24, 1966. His first assignment was in Cleveland, Ohio where he taught at Padua High School. While in Cleveland, Father Lyke was active in the community and led the local Operation Breadbasket efforts for civil rights. He served as president of the National Office for Black Catholics and was a close advisor to Bishop Carroll of Memphis. While a pastor at St. Thomas, Father Lyke was the first African American chaplain for Marriage Encounter. He authored the filmstrip marriage enrichment program, "Black Married Love." In 1977 he was assigned as chaplain of the Newman Center at Grambling University, an assignment that was short-lived. For in less than two years, Pope John Paul II called him to the episcopacy as auxiliary bishop of Cleveland. He was ordained August 1, 1979. He served as the Urban Vicar there until 1980 when he became the Apostolic Administrator for the Archdiocese of Atlanta after the resignation of Archbishop Eugene Marino, SVD. On June 24, 1981, the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, James Patterson Lyke, OFM, PhD was installed as the fifth bishop and fourth archbishop of Atlanta. Archbishop Lyke received his Ph.D. in theology with a specialization in catechetics from The Union Institute in Cincinnati in 1981. Among his most noted work is the African American Catholic Hymnal, "Lead Me, Guide Me," which coordinated its production and publication with an outstanding committee of African American liturgists and musicians. Lyke received his B.A. in philosophy from Our Lady of Angels House of Philosophy through Quincy College, in Quincy, IL. Following three years of preparation and a Master of Divinity degree from St. Joseph Theological Seminary through Antonianum in Rome, Italy, following study from 1963 to 1967. He also served on the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Catechetical Directory while he was working on his doctorate. Archbishop Lyke received honorary doctorates from Grambling State University in Louisiana, Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and the College of New Rochelle in New York. At the age of 53, Archbishop Lyke died on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 27, 1992.



Clarence Rufus J. Rivers (September 9, 1931 –

November 21, 2004) was a priest and well-known composer of liturgical music. His work combined Roman Catholic worship with traditional African-American music. He wrote several books on music and spirituality as well. Clarence Rivers was born in Selma, Alabama, but his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio when he was young. It was there that he began his study for the priesthood. He did graduate work at Xavier and Yale Universities, as well as the Catholic University of America and L'Institut Catholique de Paris. He received his doctorate in African-American Culture and Catholic Liturgy from the Union Institute in 1978. Fr. Rivers was the first African-American to be

ordained in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He was passionate about the drama of public worship, as well as the music that was the "soul" of worship. He was equally devoted to African American culture and was known for his lavish vestments and distinctive jewelry. It was his music that made him famous, beginning with his "An American Mass Program," which combined Gregorian Chant with the melodic patterns and rhythms of traditional Negro Spirituals. His most beloved hymn was "God is Love." He first sang the song at the National Negro Conference in 1964, and received a 10 minute standing ovation. He received the 2002 Bessie Award. In addition to being a gifted composer, he had an acclaimed vocal style, but it was his personal faith and belief in the liturgy as a place where one encountered God that motivated all of his work. He died unexpectedly at age 73.



LYKE FOUNDATION
102 Ann Court
Montz, Louisiana 70068

2015 Archbishop Lyke Conference



I am Black I am Catholic I am Here!
Celebrating Milestones

June 23-27, 2015

Oblate School of Theology

San Antonio, Texas

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

www.lykeconference.org or
call us at (985) 287-0161

Archbishop Lyke Conference

Fr. Clarence Rivers Institute

"I Am Black. I Am Catholic, I Am Here. Celebrating Milestones"

Tuesday June 23, 2015

1:00-9:00pm Rivers Institute

Wednesday June 24, 2015

9:00am-4:00 pm Rivers Institute

7:00 pm **Lyke Conference Opening**

I Am Black! I Am Catholic! I Am Here! Celebrating Our Identity

9:00 pm Reception

Thursday June 25, 2015

8:30 am **Morning Prayer**

I Am Black! I Am Catholic! I Am Here! Celebrating Our History

9:45 Workshop Session 1

11:00 Workshop Session 2

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 Workshop Session 3

2:30 Choir Rehearsal

4:00 **Evening Prayer**

I Am Black! I Am Catholic! I Am Here! Lamenting Our History

7:30-10:30 Kuumba Night

Friday June 26, 2015

8:30 am **Morning Prayer**

I Am Black! I Am Catholic! I Am Here! Praising God

9:45 Workshop Session 4

11:00 Workshop Session 5

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 Workshop Session 6

2:30 Choir Rehearsal

4:00 **Evening Prayer**

I Am Black! I Am Catholic! I Am Here! Thanking God

Evening is free

Saturday June 27, 2015

9:00 am Closing Liturgy

I Am Black! I Am Catholic! I Am Here!

LYKE FOUNDATION

The Lyke Foundation is the sponsor of the Lyke Conference.

Vision

The Lyke Foundation cultivates, celebrates, and commissions leadership to develop powerful and effective Black Catholic worship.

Mission

Being a credible liturgical resource, the Lyke Foundation calls Black Catholics to embrace their birthright and awakens Catholics to engage the richness and giftedness of the Black community in the vibrant nature of the Catholic Church.



In the light of this vision and mission, the primary activities of the Foundation are in-servicing and training. These activities are accomplished chiefly through the annual Lyke Conference.

Everything that is offered at the Lyke Conference has the following goals in mind:

- To provide a culturally rich atmosphere encompassing music, art, ritual, and other activities and experiences that ...will inspire and enable participants to enrich worship services in their own parishes.
- To provide participants with spiritually uplifting and unifying knowledge that can be shared with their parish communities and families.
- To facilitate an ongoing dialogue involving the African American community and the Catholic Church.
- To grace the prayer life of God's people through the development of liturgical resources that are rooted in the Black experience and truly Catholic.
- To teach, train, and form liturgical ministers.
- To develop and inspire our youth spiritually and culturally to recognize and share their giftedness and to share their time and talents in fostering Christian values.
- To promote and develop lay ministerial leadership as well as vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the African American community.
- To evangelize within the African American community and other communities.



Drury Inn & Suites Airport
95 NE Loop 410
San Antonio, TX 78216
210-308-8100

Room Rate: \$94.99 (with tax \$110.90)

Reservations can be made online accessing the following link.

<http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2226419>

Notify the hotel of special needs.

This hotel features an outdoor pool, a fitness center, and a spa tub. Free buffet breakfast is provided, as well as free WiFi in public areas, free self parking, and a free airport shuttle. Additionally, coffee/tea in the lobby, a business center, and meeting rooms are onsite. Room Amenities

All 274 rooms provide conveniences like refrigerators and microwaves, plus free WiFi and LCD TVs with cable channels. Guests will also find coffee makers, free long-distance calls, and free local calls.

OBLATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership



Archbishop James Patterson Lyke Conference 2015 Fr. Clarence Rivers Music Institute

REGISTRATION FORM

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ Zip _____

PHONE: _____ T-shirt size _____ (Adult sizes: s, m, l, xl, 2xl, 3xl, 4xl)

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

** What instrument(s) do you play? _____

CHURCH PARISH _____ DIOCESE _____

GENDER FEMALE _____ MALE _____ AGE: under 13 _____ 13-17 _____ 18-26 _____ 27-59 _____ Over 60 _____

IF AGE 17 YEARS OR UNDER – NAME OF CHAPERONE _____

For each youth, please complete the Parent/Guardian Consent/Waiver form found on the website www.lykeconference.org

LYKE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION COST		Check appropriate box
June 24-27, 2015		
Registrations received by 5/22/2015 are guaranteed meals, t-shirt, conference bag, and program book.		
INDIVIDUAL COST BY 5/22/2015	\$150.00	
COST PER PERSON POSTMARKED AFTER 5/22/2015 NO PERSONAL CHECKS AFTER 5/22/2015	\$200.00	
FR. CLARENCE RIVERS MUSIC INSTITUTE (June 23-24, 2015)		
INDIVIDUAL COST (INCLUDING MUSIC PACKET) BY 5/22/2015	\$90.00	
INDIVIDUAL COST AFTER 5/22/2015 NO PERSONAL CHECKS AFTER 5/22/2015	\$140.00	



****PLEASE INDICATE THE INSTRUMENT YOU PLAY TO BETTER PLAN FOR THE INSTRUMENTAL CLINIC**

TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED _____ CHECK # _____ DATE _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

LYKE FOUNDATION
102 ANN COURT
MONTZ, LOUISIANA 70005

God's Praises Tell: The Voice of Black Catholic Chicago



Here are links to podcasts of April shows:

Black Catholics Making History

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Stephen A. Martin, Jr. joins host Andrew Lyke to discuss two of his family members who are part of the larger narrative of Black Catholic history, i.e., his father Stephen A. Martin, Sr. who broke the color barrier in collegiate sports at Tulane and the Southeast Conference in 1965, and his uncle Fernand J. Cheri, OFM who became the 25th African American to be ordained a Roman Catholic bishop on March 23, 2015.

Effective Catholic Outreach to African-American Families

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Host Andrew Lyke is joined by his wife Terri to discuss some upcoming events in Catholic ministry to African-American families.

Remembering Our Shepherd

Special podcast posted on April 18, 2015

On Friday, August 8, 2014 the Catholic Communities of the African Diaspora gathered in the Shrine Chapel of St. Rita Cascia High School on Chicago's Southside to pray with and for Francis Cardinal George, OMI, and to thank him for his leadership and commitment to the Church. It was a glorious event for which we are thankful to have had to spend some time with our shepherd and to show our love for him. We dedicate this video as a memorial to him.

Remembering Francis Cardinal George, OMI

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Andrew Lyke and guests Deacon Leonard Richardson, Sr. Anita Baird, and Dr. C. Vanessa White share remembrances of Cardinal George.

"Strong Catholic Families" Initiative Shaped for African Americans

Tuesday April 28, 2014

Guests Willie Cobb and Michael Byrd join Andrew Lyke to discuss a new parish initiative at St. Sabina's.

Go to obc-chicago.org to listen to these and other broadcasts.

Save the Date



Praise Him with tambourine and dancing...
Psalm 150:4

*The St. Ailbe Catholic Church Praise Dancers
and Sisters in Spirit wish to invite you, family and
friends to an afternoon of spiritual uplifting
through liturgical entertainment.*

Sunday, June 7, 2015

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

9015 South Harper Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60619

Special Guests



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO – CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



NEPAL EMERGENCY APPEAL: MAJOR EARTHQUAKE

April 29th, 2015



On Saturday, April 25th, Nepal experienced a massive earthquake of 7.8 magnitude centered about 50 miles northwest of the capital city, Kathmandu.

The following Sunday morning, Nepal experienced another 6.7 magnitude aftershock of the initial earthquake. The official death toll is above 5,000 people and is still rising, with officials yet to reach many outlying villages.

Kathmandu's streets and squares are covered in rubble and many are feared trapped in collapsed building. Tens of thousands of families are sleeping outside in Kathmandu and require shelter and protection from the cold and relentless rain, which has worsened conditions.

The earthquake has also caused deadly avalanches around Mount Everest and its deadly ripple effect has killed many more in neighboring China and India.

CRS Response

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is providing 10,000 families (50,000 people) with emergency shelter materials, blankets, water treatment and hygiene kits. CRS is working closely with Caritas Nepal and Caritas India as well as Caritas Australia which has staff on the ground.

Supplies prepositioned in India will be moved by road into Nepal as additional relief items are procured locally.

The timeliness of humanitarian assistance is critical. In addition to the catastrophic loss of life, a singular event like an earthquake, especially for those in impoverished parts of our world, can derail a family's stability, deplete a lifetime of savings, and push them over the edge into poverty. For communities, the devastation to infrastructure, economy and reserves can set back a generation.

A Call for Collective Action

Please consider helping and praying for our Nepalese brothers and sisters in peril by donating to CRS to:

ATTN: Nepal Emergency Appeal
Catholic Relief Services
3525 S. Lake Park Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653

Bulletin or Website Blurb:

Thousands of our Nepalese brothers and sisters are suffering death, displacement, and extreme loss due to the massive earthquake that has affected Nepal and neighboring countries. Please pray for their comfort and peace in the midst of this natural disaster. Please consider donating to Catholic Relief Services: <http://www.ChicagoPeaceAndJustice.org/NepalEmergencyAppeal>.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: SUGGESTED PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

We hope you will use one or more of these prayers on or before Mother's Day, May 10.

1. On this **Mother's Day**, for all mothers, grandmothers, aunts and caregivers who struggle in poverty to raise their children in safety and dignity, we pray to the Lord.
2. For Catholic Charities, as it follows **Christ's command to "Love one another,"** by giving food, shelter and services to more than one million people in Cook and Lake Counties, we pray to the Lord.
3. For all who suffer, especially the poor, the infirm, the elderly, the addicted, the abused, and those who live without hope, we pray to the Lord.
4. May God, who is Love, strengthen the partnership between Catholic Charities and our parish, and touch our hearts with His compassion for our brothers and sisters in need. We pray to the Lord.

Esperamos que usted utilice una o más de estas oraciones en, o antes, del Día de las Madres el próximo 10 de mayo.

1. En este Día de las Madres, por todas las madres, abuelas, tías y mujeres cuidadoras que luchan en la pobreza por criar a sus hijos con seguridad y dignidad, roguemos al Señor.
2. **Por Caridades Católicas, que sigue el mandato de Cristo de "amarnos unos a otros",** dando alimento, refugio y servicios a más de un millón de personas en los condados de Cook y Lake, roguemos al Señor.
3. Por todos los que sufren, especialmente los pobres, los enfermos, los ancianos, los adictos, los que han sido abusados y los que viven sin esperanza, roguemos al Señor.
4. Que Dios, que es Amor, fortalezca la colaboración entre Caridades Católicas y nuestra parroquia, y toque nuestros corazones con Su compasión por nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados, roguemos al Señor.

Ufam, że parafia skorzysta z którejś z niżej podanych modlitw w Dniu Matki, obchodzonym w tym roku w USA 10 maja.

1. W Dniu Matki, módlmy się za wszystkie matki, babcie, ciocie i opiekunki, które mimo ubóstwa potrafią dzieciom stworzyć warunki zapewniające im bezpieczeństwo i godność, Ciebie prosimy.

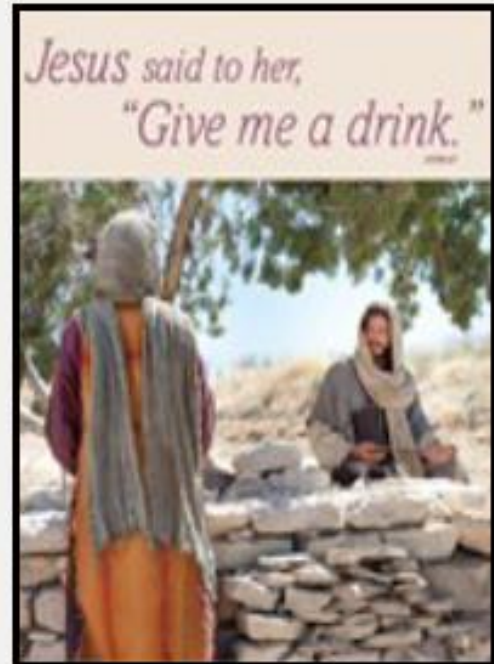
**OFFICE FOR ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
15TH ANNUAL
ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**ECUMENICAL SUNDAY
MAY 17, 2015**

**2:00 P.M.—RECEPTION
3:00 P.M.— SERVICE**

**FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
126 E. CHESTNUT STREET
CHICAGO IL 60611**



**PREACHER:
THE REV. JOHN H. ARMSTRONG**

**DR. ARMSTRONG IS A MINISTER IN THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA AND
THE FOUNDER/PRESIDENT OF ACT3 NETWORK, A MINISTRY COMMITTED TO
ECUMENISM AND MISSION.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME—PLEASE RSVP ONLINE
[WWW.ARCHCHICAGO.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/ECUMENICAL/
PRAYERSERVICEREGISTRATION.ASPX](http://WWW.ARCHCHICAGO.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/ECUMENICAL/PRAYERSERVICEREGISTRATION.ASPX)**

**For additional information please visit our website:
www.archchicago.org/departments/ecumenical/ or phone 312-534-5325**

SPONSORED BY ECUMENISM METRO CHICAGO (EMC)

**EMC is comprised of twenty churches in the Chicagoland area, including the
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO. Prayers for Christian Unity will be
offered at this observance by the judicatory leaders or representative of each
participating church.**



Campaign Leadership Memo #16

To: Archbishop Blase Cupich, Pastors, Clergy, and Lay Leaders of *To Teach Who Christ Is*
From: Peter L. de Keratry, CFRE, Campaign Manager *Peter L. de Keratry*
Date: April 29, 2015
RE: Campaign Update

Campaign Statistics

Overall campaign goal:		\$350,000,000	
Total raised to date:		\$149,983,261	*includes cash, documented pledges, and bequests
Percent of Goal:		42.8%	
Cash received to date:		\$40,370,806	
Parish campaign goal:	\$250,000,000	Major gift goal:	\$100,000,000
Raised to date:	\$53,843,318	Raised to date:	\$96,139,943
# of gifts:	23,291	# of gifts:	36
% of goal:	21.5%	% of goal:	96.1%
Cash Received:	\$23,777,098	Cash Received:	\$16,593,708

The death of Cardinal Francis George and his funeral services and visitations were a moving experience for our entire *To Teach Who Christ Is* team. It is humbling to work on a campaign initiated by the Cardinal — a project he strongly believed would impact the Church of Chicago for generations to come. The campaign has created a named memorial fund in the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust to honor Cardinal George, which you can learn more about at www.toteachwhochristis.org/cardinal. I also highly recommend the tribute page created by the Catholic New World team at www.cardinalfrancisgeorge.com.

With nearly \$150 million in gift commitments, *To Teach Who Christ Is* is certainly on a more positive footing. Not only has Archbishop Cupich met personally with 25 prospective benefactors since his installation, he has been involved in campaign events with an additional 55 couples. In that time, we have had \$6 million in new confirmed major gifts, and have five formal requests pending with a range of request amounts up to \$20 million. Another 12 potential benefactors are awaiting follow-up, written proposals and formal requests.

The Campaign Co-Chair group has been expanded into a full Campaign Cabinet. The new cabinet will meet for the first time in May. We hope this group of volunteers will help increase the number of potential benefactors being asked to consider a commitment to *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Parish campaigns have shown an amazing resurgence since activity resumed in October. More than 1,100 new gift commitments have been received from the 29 parishes in Wave 3 of the campaign with \$9,811,910 in total gifts. Seven parishes are in Wave 3a, the first group of parishes to exceed their cumulative goal to date, raising 101.6 percent of their goal. The remaining 22 parishes are in Wave 3b, and have raised 26.1 percent of their goal and are on track to exceed their cumulative goal as well.

Congratulations to SS. Peter and Paul (205%), St. Vincent Ferrer (141%) and St. Paul of the Cross (137%) for exceeding the parish *To Teach Who Christ Is* goal.

Please like our Facebook page (view [here](#)) or follow the campaign on Twitter (@ToTeachCampaign) to receive these and other updates.

Save the date!



March 4-5, 2016

Marriage On A Lampstand

National Black Catholic Marriage Symposium

Chicago, IL

Sponsored by ArusiNetwork, Inc. and
National Black Catholic Congress



Explore Sacramental Marriage through the lens of social justice and the historical, cultural, and spiritual narrative of Black Folk.

Who should attend?

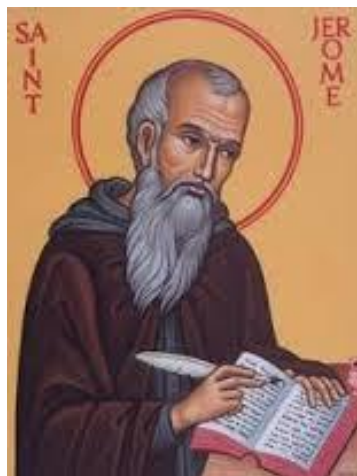
- Couples
 - Married
 - Engaged
 - Searching
 - Interracial
- Pastoral ministers
- Catechists
- Wedding coordinators
- Marriage preparation ministers
- Stakeholders of marriage

"The most powerful, transforming, miracle-making love is given when the beloved is least deserving. For it is then that our love reflects God's."

Andrew & Terri Lyke



Little Rock Scripture Study



Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.
-- St. Jerome

Let the word of God influence your busy life!

- ❖ *Gain a fuller understanding of God's word*
- ❖ *Receive a richer appreciation of our faith tradition*
- ❖ *Grow in your relationship with Christ*
- ❖ *Experience a fuller sense of Christian community*

Little Rock Scripture Study will be held at St. Ambrose Catholic Parish. This 7-week study starts Saturday, April 18 and goes through May 30, 2015. Bible study invites us to enter into the journey of our lives with God at our side. The program includes individual study as well as weekly prayer and small-group discussions followed by a wrap-up lecture.

CONTACT

**St. Ambrose Parish, 1012 E. 47th St., Chicago, Illinois
at 773-624-017 or via email: ambrose47@aol.com**

Healing from Divorce

Divorce Support Group

Find hope and healing through the program
The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide.

This program is for you if you are
divorced, in the process of divorce, or separated.

Come to
Pray - Share - Grow



St. Giles Parish
1025 Columbian Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Bimonthly meeting at the Dore Parish Center Living Room
Thursdays at 7:00 PM:
March 12 and 19; April 9 and 23; May 7 and 28; June 11 and 25

For additional information and to register, please contact
Deirdre Buckingham
dbuckingham@stgilesparish.org / 708.383.3430 x404



CELEBRATE
WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN CHICAGO

Celebrating Family in the summer

**SUNDAY
JUNE 14
2015**

Catholic Family Day at Great America

Celebrate with your family at Great America with discounted tickets to the park. Start the day by attending Mass at 10 AM in the Grand Music Hall before the park opens with the Very Rev. Ronald Hicks, the new Vicar General.

**DATE
TBA**

Lake County Catholic Family Day at Mundelein Seminary

Enjoy a day with your family on the grounds of the Seminary. Bring food for a picnic and join us in a 5k walk/run.

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 5
2015**

Catholic Family Celebration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines

Let's celebrate the World Meeting of Families here in Chicago at a wonderful day of learning, praying and playing together with the whole family! There will be keynote speakers in English, Spanish and Polish and a special presentation for teens. The children will be engaged in fun catechetical activities. Amazing music will be provided by Steve Angrisano from Spirit and Song. Don't miss this awesome day of celebration!



For more information visit www.familyministries.org

— CELEBRATE —
WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN CHICAGO

Catholic Family Day at **Six Flags®** GREAT AMERICA Sunday, June 14, 2015

The day begins before the park opens, with Mass in the Grand Music Hall at 10:00 a.m. Our new Vicar General, Very Rev. Ronald Hicks, will be the celebrant. Come and celebrate this kick off for the Chicago events of the upcoming World Meeting of Families.

Reduced rate tickets are \$35 per person. A picnic package is available for \$48.63 per person that includes park admission and an all-you-can-eat buffet. Season pass holders can take advantage of the buffet for \$17.35 per person.

Order tickets online at www.SixFlags.com/GreatAmerica. Click on "Enter Promo Code" located at the top of the page on the far right side and enter: **CATHOLIC**.

Please RSVP for Mass at StrategicPastoralPlan@ArchChicago.org

For questions about Catholic Family Day, call the Department of Parish Life and Formation at 312-534-5316.



CELEBRATE
WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN CHICAGO

Catholic Family CELEBRATION



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2015 | 10 AM - 4PM
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, IL



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS IN ENGLISH, POLISH, AND SPANISH:



Steve and Jenni
Angrisano



Rev. Pawel
Komperda



Ferney
Ramirez



Dr. Mark
Nimo

MASS WITH VERY REV. RONALD HICKS, VICAR GENERAL

A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO PRAY, BE INSPIRED AND HAVE FUN AS A FAMILY!

**COST: \$25
FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY
LUNCH IS
INCLUDED**

ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS AND CHILDREN

To register for the event, please go to www.familyministries.org

CONTACT AMANDA THOMPSON FOR QUESTIONS AT ATHOMPSON@ARCHCHICAGO.ORG OR CALL AT 312.534.8391

2015
Community Health & Wellness Fair
Holy Angels Catholic Church Grounds
615 E. Oakwood Blvd., Chicago, IL,
Save the Date

"A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO LIVING"

Thursday, JUNE 25

TIME:11:00AM-3:00PM

New this year:

- *FREE SKIN health screenings*
 - *FREE nutrition classes with essential foods*
 - *Close to 100 health-related booths*
- ...and other health screenings/information*



RSVP

bowdenchristine8922@yahoo.com

(Attendees/Sponsorship/Vendor Inquiries)

Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy

at St. Columbanus Parish



Introducing a NEW School for the Southside of Chicago!

STREAMING TRADITIONS, CREATING FUTURES

*As we look to the future of Catholic education on the Southside of Chicago,
we are excited to introduce a new school that draws on the rich heritage of both
St. Columbanus and St. Dorothy Schools.*

The Tolton Academy will be home to the St. Dorothy Early Childhood Center.

*Adopting a STREAM Curriculum, the **Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy**
will prepare students to be leaders in our changing world.*

Science *Technology* *Religion* *Engineering* *Arts* *Math*

7120 S. Calumet • Chicago, IL 60619 • 773.224.3811

Mothers For Justice United Million Moms March

In the wake of the recent unjust murders of Dontre Hamilton, Corey Stingley, Derek Williams, Brandon Johnson, Larry Jenkins, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and so many more at the hands of police officers and racist vigilantes, people in cities across the nation have risen up to demand Justice in their communities. For every individual killed, there is a mother who has suffered a loss greater than any one person should have to bear. We, the mothers of this movement, are calling on all concerned community members to join us in our fight. Together we unite to stand against police brutality and racial injustice and to demonstrate our love and determination to protect our children and our country. On May 9th, 2015, Mother's Day Weekend, The Mothers for Justice United will march on the US Department of Justice in our nation's capital, Washington DC. Will you stand with us?

"My name is Maria Hamilton and I am Dontre Hamilton's mother. I am overwhelmed bearing the loss of my son to police brutality. I ask with a humble heart - Join us in Washington on Mother's Day as we take this fight directly to our elected officials. We need you." - Maria Hamilton, Founder of Mothers for Justice United

Mothers for Justice United is an organization of mothers whose unarmed black children have been killed by police officers and white vigilantes. It is also comprised of concerned mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, clergy, and other citizens nationwide who care about the loss of these valuable lives cut short unnecessarily. We are committed to halting the epidemic of the killing of unarmed people of color by police and white vigilantes in this country through direct action, legislation, and community building.

If you know of any mothers in your own community who have lost loved ones to police brutality and racist violence and you think they may be interested in joining us on Mother's Day, please let us know. We are working to raise funds and to secure transportation and housing for the moms to be able to make this trip. We are also in search of people to help us in our endeavor by organizing and spreading the word in your own communities. If you are interested in getting involved, please call 414.939.5599 or email mothersforjusticeunited@gmail.com. For Media Relations and to schedule interviews please call 414-502-9535 or email millionmomsmedia@gmail.com.

See announcement agenda attached. A more detailed Master List of the Mother's Day Weekend events is currently being developed. Follow @mommas4justice for updates on Twitter or and like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/mothersforjusticeunited

Donate today at: <http://tiny.cc/tptdsx>



MILLION MOMS MARCH

WASHINGTON DC
MAY 9, 2015

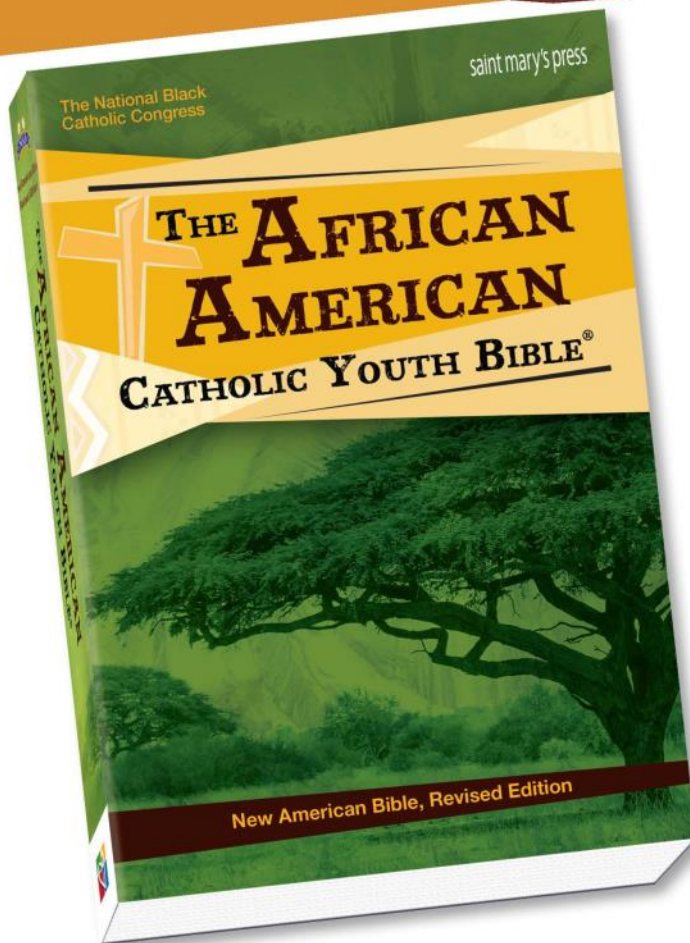
MOTHERS FOR
JUSTICE UNITED

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER
FANNIE LOU HAMER

CONTACT US:
MOTHERSFORJUSTICEUNITED@GMAIL.COM
414.939.5599
TWITTER @MOMMAS4JUSTICE



The First Catholic Bible Designed Especially for African American Youth



"We are pleased and honored to present to the Catholic faithful of the African American community The African American Catholic Youth Bible®, which is the culmination of several years' collaboration between Saint Mary's Press and The National Black Catholic Congress." . . . By making the Word of God more accessible and attractive to our youth, they will grow to a deeper appreciation of the Word in their faith journeys and everyday lives."

Most Rev. John H. Ricard, Bishop Emeritus of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Most Rev. Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

Most Rev. Martin D. Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

Available January 2015!

Special Contributors Include:

Ansel Augustine, D.Min

Dr. Camille Brown

Rev. Cyprian Davis, OSB

Mrs. Therese Wilson Favors

Dr. Kirk Gaddy

Mr. Vincent Guider

Rev. Maurice Nutt, CSsR, D.Min

BLACK, CATHOLIC, AND FAITHFUL

"Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"
Matthew 27:32

In the providence of God, Simon, an African from Cyrene, a town in present Libya (North Africa), helped Jesus to carry his cross. The condemned person had to carry the cross to the place of crucifixion. Jesus, having much, was so weak the soldiers feared he would die before the actual crucifixion, so they compelled Simon to bear his cross. Thenceforth, Simon bore the cross willingly that Simon received thereby the graces of discipleship, for Mark mentions a Simon of Alexander and Rufus" (Mark 15:21), perhaps well known to Mark's readers as a slave of African descent, we share in Simon's service and in some sense "we

Crosses borne with grace and endurance for the sake of Christ bear abundant fruit. *Worshipful*

TAKE IT TO GOD

"Make Disciples of All Nations"
Matthew 28:16-20

Dear Jesus, you told us, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." We should be faithful disciples drawing others to you and making the world around us subject to you. All social structures should conform to your will. You call us to witness to your marvelous goodness and to reach out to those who do not yet know you. You desire us to be your face of love and forgiveness in the world around us.

Loving Jesus, make me more sensitive to the needs that are around me. As I go about my business, open me to opportunities to share your love with the people I meet. Give me the boldness to speak up for you, the courage to work to transform whatever is evil and unworthy of you. Kind Lord, make people's hearts receptive to the Good News. Amen.

a look
inside



saint mary's press
touching hearts. enlivening minds.



Jihan Murray Smith of...
TEA & CRUMPETS presents....

first annual
**PUBLIC SPEAKING
COMPETITION**
for 6th-8th Graders



Registration fee \$20 per competitor
Family and friends who come to
support the speakers get in free. All
youth must be pre-registered for the
contest

We are seeking 4 speakers per grade
(6th, 7th, 8th)

To receive more information on rules,
score sheets and categories and
to register, please contact Ms.
Murray-Smith at 773.648.1067 or
jihan@teaandcrumpetschgo.com

Prizes will be awarded winning
speakers.

Saturday, May 16, 2015

St. Ailbe Catholic Church, 9015 South Harper Avenue

HIGH SCHOOL FAIR 9:30am-11am
SPEAKING COMPETITION 11am-1pm

WHY A BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE?

We are committed Black men, principally Catholic, who recognize our need for God's help!

We gather in Christ's presence in an atmosphere of trust, equality and anonymity to share personal feelings and experiences. We unconditionally accept one another and prayerfully support one another.

We feel encouraged by the Holy Spirit to share with one another.....
Men to Men!

I have come so that you may have life, and have it abundantly:

(John 10:10)

REGISTER AT:

www.bowmanfrancisministry.com

Adults: \$150.00

High School & College
Students \$75.00

Youth Ages 8-13: \$50.00

Mail Registration payment to:
Bowman Francis Ministry Project
Rev. Chester P. Smith, SVD
815 East 58th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



*Society of the Divine Word
Chicago Province
Bowman Francis Ministry
Project*



*National Black Catholic
Clergy Caucus*



*The Society of St. Joseph of
The Sacred Heart
The Josephites*

*A Special Thanks to This Year's
Regional Sponsors:*

*Diocese of Lafayette, LA
Office of Black Catholic Ministries
Stephanie Bernard, Director
Father Thomas James, S.V.D., V.E.*



*National Black Catholic
Men's Conference
2015*



*"Iron is sharpened by
iron; one person
sharpen another"*



Proverb 27:17

**October 8-11, 2015
Lafayette, Louisiana**



**For more information call:
(317)259-0144 or visit our website:
www.bowmanfrancisministry.com**

2015 National Black Catholic Men's Conference

2015 Scheduled Events

Thursday, October 8, 2015

10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
3:45 p.m.—5:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Registration (at the Hilton Hotel)
Historical Field Trip (leaving from the Hilton)
Registration (at Our Lady Queen of Peace)
Dinner (on your own)
Depart hotel for Our Lady Queen of Peace
Men Rally & Gospel Celebration at Our Lady Queen of Peace
Return to Hilton Hotel

Friday, October 9, 2015

7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
7:00 a.m.
7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Registration
Breakfast (on your own)
Praise and Worship
Keynote
Health Fair
Break
Workshops
Lunch (on your own)
Workshops
Dinner (on your own)
Reconciliation followed by the "Spiritual Cafe"
Eucharistic Adoration
Men Fellowship

Saturday, October 10, 2015

7:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
7:00 a.m.
7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

Registration
Breakfast (on your own)
Morning Mass
Praise and Worship
Keynote
Break
Workshops
Lunch (provided)
Harambee Town Hall
Power Break
Depart for Immaculate Heart of Mary
Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary
Reception
Return to Hilton Hotel

Sunday, October 11, 2015

7:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

Breakfast (on your own)
Healing & Commissioning Service

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Hilton Lafayette
1521 West Pinhook Road
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

Make Reservations: Call 337-235-6111 or
1-800-HILTON (445-8667) using booking
code National Black Catholic Men's
Conference

Room Rates: \$89.00 two double beds and
\$99.00 one king bed, plus taxes.

**All reservations are to be made by
9/16/2015
(if conference blocked rooms are still
available)**

**Make your reservations early.
Reservations received after the cut-off
date is subject to space and rate
availability.**

BOOK EARLY!

Airport Transportation is provided by using
the airport courtesy phone for the Hilton.

Parking: Complimentary and Bus parking is
available

Problems making reservations, contact:
Patricia Snow at (989) 798-0136 or email to
pms2095@yahoo.com or
Fr. Chester Smith at (317) 523-0900 or at
Gamba10333@aol.com

"Iron is Sharpened by Iron; One Person Sharpens Another" Proverb 27:17



2015 National Black Catholic Men's Conference October 8-11, 2015

Registration Form

HOTEL

Hilton Lafayette
1521 West Pinhook Road
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503
Phone: 337-235-6111 or 1-800-HILTON (445-8667)
Booking code: National Black Catholic Men's Conference

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

Home Telephone (____) _____

Alternate Telephone (____) _____

Email Address _____

Church _____

Ministry/Organization _____

Adult _____ Student (High School) _____ Youth _____ (age 8-13)
(College) _____ Young Adult (age 18-35) _____

T-Shirt Size (circle one) Small Medium Large 1X 2X 3X 4X

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

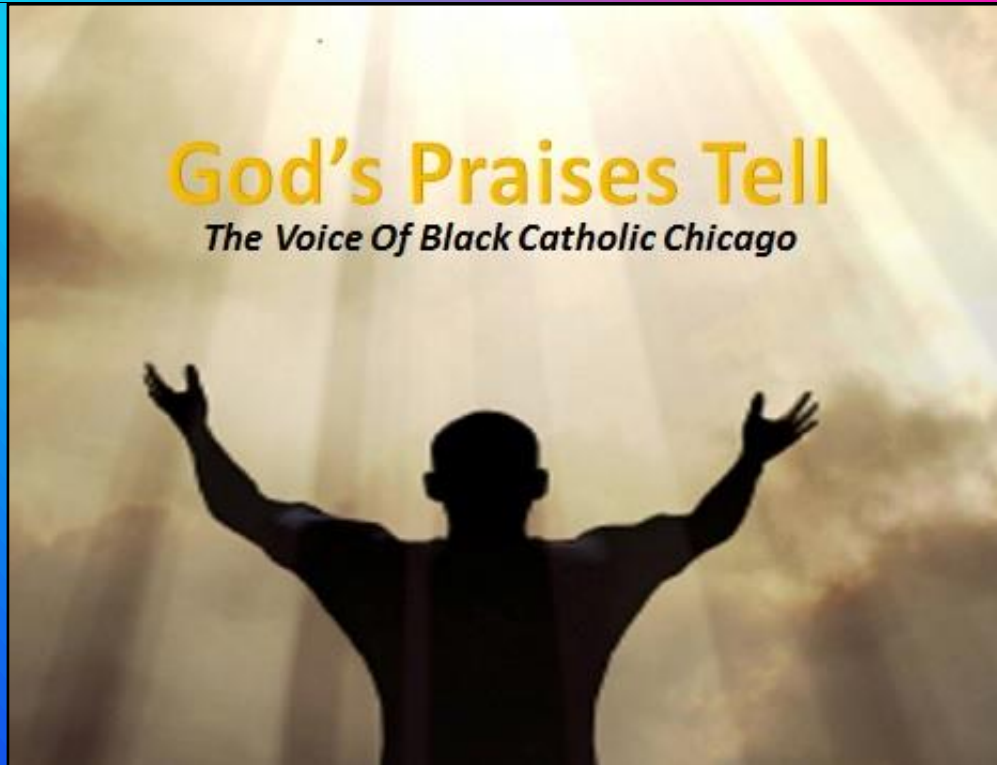
Website: www.bowmanfrancisministry.com

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Payment Rec'd: Yes No

Onsite: Yes No

Date: _____



Tuesdays 9-9:30 a.m.
Relevant Radio 950-AM
Hosted by Andrew Lyke

Subscribe to the OBC Podcast and catch each show to
listen at your leisure.
Go to www.BlackCatholicChicago.org.

Visit the OBC Website!

Go to www.BlackCatholicChicago.org.

While you're there subscribe to the OBC Podcast to catch every edition of *God's Praises Tell: The Voice of Black Catholic Chicago*, the weekly radio program that showcases people, events, and issues important to Black Catholics. The show is hosted by Andrew Lyke, Director of the Office for Black Catholics.

