



The Drum

Archdiocese of Chicago
BLACK CATHOLIC INITIATIVE

A Unique Gift of Blackness

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BCI
MAY 2016
PEACE BE WITH YOU

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

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

1. LET US PRAY

A prayer for “Renew My Church”

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

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

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

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

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

2. From Bishop Perry

Our Parishes

Change is one of the rubrics of life. You and I have been working with change longer than we can remember.

Certainly, outside the personal dimension, this side of the city of Chicago and south suburbs has been changing since the 1940s, right after the War with military personnel coming home and needing housing and adjustment to living again at home. Hospitals, housing construction and new neighborhoods were needed for the baby-boom. Added to this dynamic, folks were coming north from the south looking for jobs in the urban industrial centers. Peacetime proffered a new prosperity. New churches were built to accommodate the rush on the suburbs by people taking in the promise of a post-war economy and the confidence that registered with citizens. With African Americans sharing these same ideals we have witnessed demographic shifting away from the cities launching at the same time the eventual demise of the inner city.

When we were in college, our sociology teachers kept hammering the message that, not too long in the future, suburban dwellers would be returning to the city once they got tired of cul-de-sacs and shopping malls looking all alike, interminable time factors and grid-locked traffic making the drive into town for work a test of nerves. We thought the teachers were idealistic. But, what they predicted has come true in many cities. We are seeing certain cities redevelop their downtown areas, where young adults and retirees have been returning such that we now need an infusion of grocery stores downtown. Private investment has locked out others on the lower strata of society, leaving other parts of the city uninteresting and undeveloped. Unfortunately, economic ability in our country carries with it racial disparity. People make decisions about their lives based on these trends. The Church which has been in the city for generations witnesses people shifting, based on the desire to improve their lives, based on their decision to live next to or not live next to certain people.

These trends affect the Church and its ministries. We are often told that as institutions, financial and otherwise, leave the city, the Church is conspicuous for remaining amongst the working class, the poor and

disenfranchised. That is a nice compliment. Nonetheless, amidst all these trends the Church is compelled to apply its structures and resources the best way possible to serve the people of our city, the suburbs and outer areas and try to keep up with needs as they surface. This is an exhaustive effort of a sort because the trends are not always predictable or easily analyzed. Recessions and inflations descend upon the scene to upset the apple-cart as-it-were, causing anxiety for the middle-class and thrusting the poor and under-class deeper in patterns of misery. The Church, a not-for-profit like other not-for-profits, here and there, is left holding the empty bag and end up scrambling to keep afloat spreading the gospel, in ways imperfectly no doubt, while we implement that gospel in our lives, often so imperfectly. We so want to do it better.

The Church wants to keep afloat knowing its resources stem largely from people in the pews and not any outside entity. The people in the pews are hard- working middle class, working class and poor. It redounds to a lot of sharing of what we have and struggle to have. Given all the change that's going on around us, in our city, our neighborhoods, our parishes, how do we sense a summons to be Church in this mixed-situation? How do we broaden our vision to discern how what we do can be done better? We must be Church at all times, amidst poverty or prosperity, in time of peace or persecution, with large numbers or small numbers. We are asked to readjust the parish structures of the Church for these times and moving forward realizing that the present does not echo a lot of the past in terms of wealth, population numbers, the popular culture's own appreciation for the Church and its role in society.

Change is always a challenge, no doubt, but we have been doing change unwittingly for as long as we can remember. We have the opportunity if not the grace to rally as a Catholic family and come closer together, leaving behind the parochial arrangements we have been used to in order to create other arrangements that enlarge the Catholic family a wee-bit in areas while increasing new and exciting possibilities to carry on the ministries we dream about to be so important for the life and vitality of our communities and having thereby the mutual support and resources with which to do so. It is hard predicting what will happen to the city and outlying areas where we live, what will be the makeup of

these communities, what will be the economics, who will be the next President of the country, how we will survive not only with secured employment and despite taxes, aging structures, death and dying of family members and friends. Somehow, we must continue wandering the desert of life trusting the Lord is with us speaking to us his Word, for we want to hear Him as Abraham and Sarah were asked to hear His summons and pick up and move to another place for His purpose and His purpose alone.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry

3. THE RETREAT

FIVE QUESTIONS

- A) Do you have a parish home or a church home?**
- B) Are you Catholic for your funeral or for your great grandchildren's baptism?**
- C) Does anyone go to church with you or do you go by yourself?**
- D) Is church a part of your week or a part of your life?**
- E) Would you rather have a homily or a eulogy?**

**If any part of your being raised as you read
any one of these questions,
this retreat is for you.**

Standing on the Rock

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



Retreat Master
Sr. Cora Marie Billings, RSM

A Founder of the National Black Sisters Conference

A Guided Retreat for Black Catholics

June 17th & 18th
Mundelein Seminary

\$200 all inclusive fee
Transportation
Meals
Overnight accommodation

INVEST IN YOUR SPIRITUALITY

Register with payment at

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

Contact for more information

312.577.0475 or BCI@archchicago.org

4. Honor, honor, unto the dying Lamb

Congratulations and thanks to Fr. Larry Dowling, celebrating 25 years of ordination to priesthood.

Congratulations and thanks to Deacon Michael Trail preparing for ordination to priesthood this month.

Congratulations to Seton Academy celebrating it's 50th Commencement Exercise.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the 2016 Essay contest

“WHY I THINK OR BELIEVE FR. TOLTON IS A SAINT”

FIRST PLACE



Andre Sherley

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
BLACK CATHOLIC INITIATIVE
ESSAY CONTEST 2016**

SECOND PLACE



Michelle-Marie Nimo

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
BLACK CATHOLIC INITIATIVE
ESSAY CONTEST 2016**

5. ON THE AIR

RADIO BCI

Tuesdays 9-9:30 a.m.

Relevant Radio 950-AM

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



**Tune in and Call in
312.255.8408**

Let's talk about:

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

Send resume to BCI@archchicago.org

Make Them Hear You!

6. SOCIAL ACTION – CATHOLIC CHARITIES

NO STATE BUDGET
LESS CATHOLIC CHARITY
No justice No peace

TALK TO GOD

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

63% of the Housing Services

48% of the Community Development Services

26% of the Senior Services

60% of the Family and Parish Support Services

53% of the Child, Youth, and Family Services

THEN TALK TO THE GOVERNMENT AS
CATHOLICS CONCERNED ABOUT PEOPLE

7. SOCIAL ACTION

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

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

SAVE THE DATE
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
DAY OF REFLECTION
IN PREPARATION FOR THIS
NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF BLACK SPIRITUALITY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

In preparation

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Read about the history of the Congress

Consider sponsoring a young person to join the Congress

*Donate time, talent and / or treasure to the Chicago Day of
Reflection.*

Speak to your pastor regarding parish participation.

SAVE *the* DATE

The National Black Catholic
Congress XX

The Hyatt Regency
Orlando, Florida

For updates and
information, go to:
www.nbccongress.org



July 6-9, 2017

~ July 2017 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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

8. DIVINE INTERVENTION

<http://jubileemercy.org>

JUBILEE OF MERCY REJOICE

When the mercy of God takes hold of our lives and finds us, we have every reason to rejoice. Even more, God rejoices that his beloved sons and daughters, who were lost, now belong to him and him alone once again. *“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.”* (Luke 15:7)



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ONE WORD
AT A TIME

The **ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO** in partnership with **LOYOLA PRESS**.

More on Pope Francis's vision at: www.loyolapress.com/popefrancis

WWW.ARCHCHICAGO.ORG

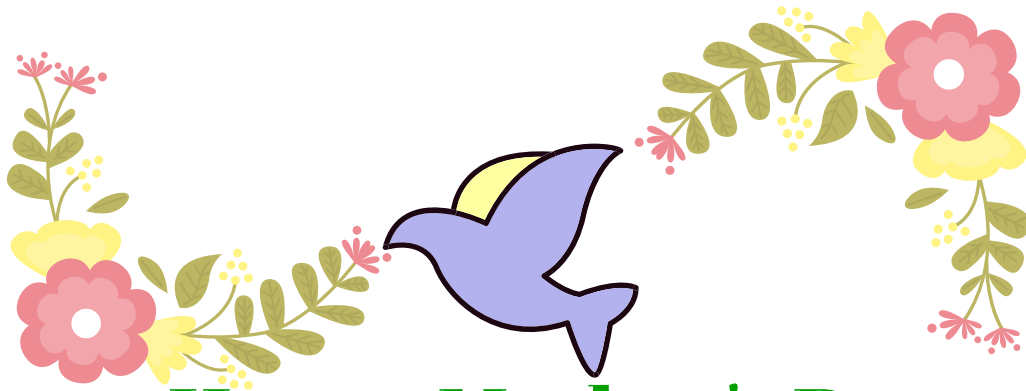
© 2015 Archdiocese of Chicago, Fr. Louis J. Cameli

9. PARISH LIFE AND FORMATION EVENTS

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

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

From St. Benedict the African east Parish



Happy Mother's Day

Mass & Brunch



St. Benedict the African

May 8, 2016

Mass at 9:30

Brunch at 11:00

Dr. King Hall 6550 S. Harvard

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

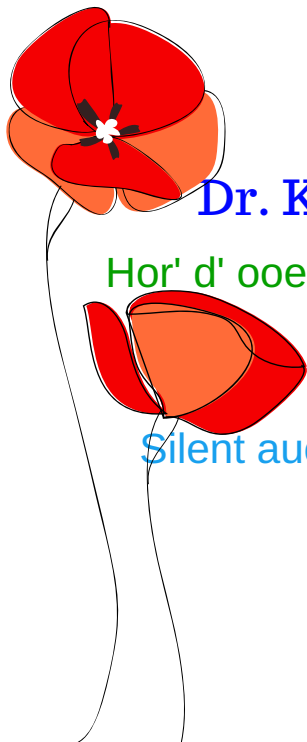
\$25.00 per person

Silent auction of purses

BIG HAT CONTEST

Contact SBAeast@aol.com

773.873.4464 for tickets



From St. Agatha Parish

**Celebrating 25 Years
of Leadership Worth Following**

Rev. Lawrence R. Dowling Anniversary Celebration and Benefit

**Saturday, May 21, 2016
6:00PM to 11:00PM**

Regency Inn Banquets
5319 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60639
(between Central and Cicero, west of 1-90/94 - free parking)

Ticket: \$65.00



To place an ad in the Program Book

Please send print-ready ad in PDF format by May 6, 2016 to Cynthia Titus,
Business Manager at ctitus@archchicago.org or call 773-522-3050.

Full-page \$100

Half-page \$50

Quarter-page \$25

Other ways to support event:

- (1) Donation
- (2) Raffle Tickets
- (3) GiveCentral

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/139/10978>

From Corpus Christi Parish

Corpus Christi Catholic Church's Annual Spring Luncheon

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

Celebrating 115 Years of Faith in the Bronzeville Community

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

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

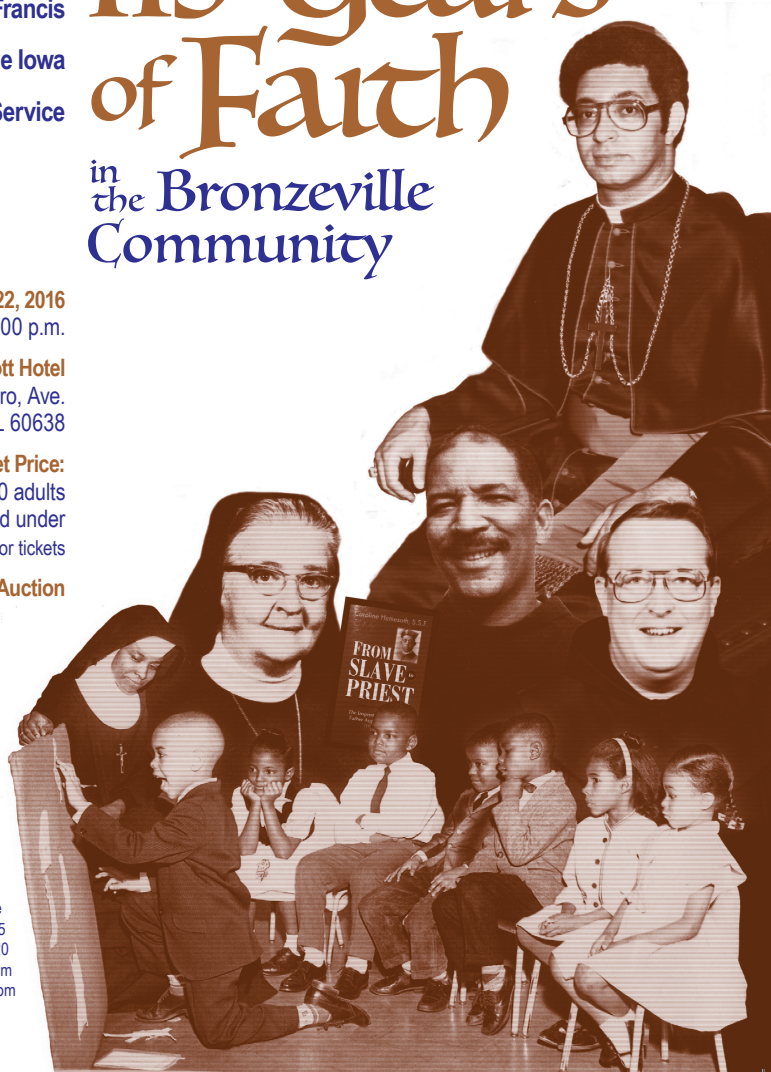
Luncheon Ticket Price:

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

Entertainment and Silent Auction

Contact Information:

Parish Office,
4920 S. King Drive
Chicago, IL 60615
Office: 773-285-7720
www.corpuschristchurchchicago.com
corpuschristi4920@gmail.com



From the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

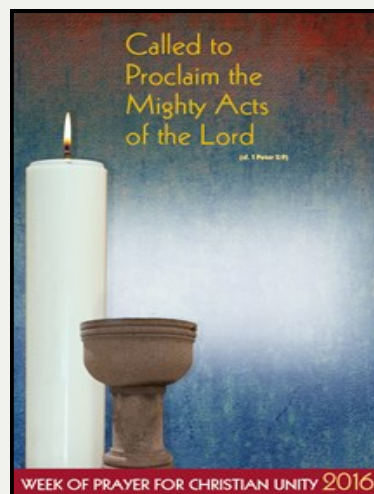
OFFICE FOR ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
16TH ANNUAL
ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

ECUMENICAL SUNDAY
MAY 22, 2016

4:00 P.M.—RECEPTION
5:00 P.M.— SERVICE

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
393 N. MAIN STREET
GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137



PREACHER:
THE REV. DR. LARRY L. GREENFIELD

LARRY GREENFIELD IS THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF METRO CHICAGO, THE THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE FOR THE COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY AND THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL FOR A PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME—PLEASE LET US KNOW TO EXPECT YOU
RSVP ONLINE
[WWW.ARCHCHICAGO.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/ECUMENICAL/
PRAYERSERVICEREGISTRATION.ASPX](http://WWW.ARCHCHICAGO.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/ECUMENICAL/PRAYERSERVICEREGISTRATION.ASPX)

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.

*Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
Archdiocese of Chicago*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF LIFE!

**The Thirty-First Annual
Interfaith Memorial Observance For Indigent Persons**

COMMEMORATING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE BURIED BY THE
OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Wednesday, May 25, 2016—Noon
First United Methodist Church - Chicago Temple
77 West Washington - Chicago IL 60602

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
REV. DR. MARCENIA RICHARDS**

**FOUNDER-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FIERCE WOMEN OF FAITH ,
AN INTERFAITH COALITION OF WOMEN COMMITTED TO
INCREASING PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.**

***THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR
COMMUNITY TO ACT AS A "SURROGATE FAMILY" TO PEOPLE
WHO WERE BURIED WITHOUT FAMILY OR FRIENDS TO MARK
THEIR PASSING. RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE***

***Sponsored by The Interfaith Ministry for the Indigent at United
Methodist Church—The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago is
a proud partner in this ministry. For additional information,
please visit our website:***

<http://www.archchicago.org/departments/ecumenical/>

From St. Sabina Parish

*The Faith Community
of St. Sabina*

**END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR MARCH TO
PROCLAIM PEACE IN THE STREETS!**

**WE INVITE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT
CHICAGO TO STAND UP AND
DECLARE THEIR COMMITMENT
TO OCCUPY OUR STREETS THIS
SUMMER TO BRING ABOUT PEACE!**

PEACE

CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO GROW UP!!

FRIDAY JUNE 17TH 2016
7PM @ ST. SABINA | 78TH PLACE & THROOP

THE FIRST 600 PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT BEGINNING AT 6PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
FAITH COMMUNITY OF ST. SABINA | 773.483.4300
REV. MICHAEL L. PFLEGER
SENIOR PASTOR

From the Lyke Conference

SAVE THE DATE July 5-9, 2016
ARCHBISHOP JAMES PATTERSON LYKE CONFERENCE
RIVERS MUSIC INSTITUTE: July 5 - 6
" Black Catholics --- Fully Functional, Fully Committed "

San Antonio, Texas
Oblate School of Theology

FOR MORE INFO:
lykeconference.com

Meeting the Liturgical Needs of the Black Catholic Community

Provides a culturally rich atmosphere encompassing music, art, ritual, along with other activities and experiences that will inspire and enable participants to enrich worship services in their own parishes.

Teaches, trains, and forms liturgical ministers.

Develops and inspires our youth spiritually and culturally to recognize and share their giftedness and to share their time and talents in fostering Christian values.

Youth Track

Musicians

Seminarians

Deacons and their Wives

Altar Servers

Ministers of the Word

Priests

Instrumental Track

Sacristans

Wedding Coordinators

Dance

Ministers of Hospitality



Archbishop James Patterson Lyke Conference 2016 Fr. Clarence Rivers Music Institute

REGISTRATION FORM

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE _____ Zip _____
 PHONE: _____ T-shirt size _____
 YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES): _____
 ** What instrument(s) do you play ? _____
 CHURCH PARISH _____ DIOCESE _____
 GENDER FEMALE _____ MALE _____ AGE : under 13 _____ 13-17 _____ 18-35 _____ 36-55 _____ over 55 _____
 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
Registrations received by 6/3/2016 are guaranteed meals,t-shirt,conference bag and program book.		
INDIVIDUAL COST BY 6/3/2016	\$150.00	
COST PER PERSON POSTMARKED AFTER 6/3/2016 NO PERSONAL CHECKS AFTER 6/3/2016	\$200.00	
FR. CLARENCE RIVERS MUSIC INSTITUTE		
INDIVIDUAL COST (INCLUDING MUSIC PACKET) BY 6/3/2016	\$90.00	
INDIVIDUAL COST AFTER 6/3/2016 NO PERSONAL CHECKS AFTER 6/3/2016	\$140.00	



****PLEASE INDICATE THE INSTRUMENT(S) 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 70068

From the African National Eucharistic Congress



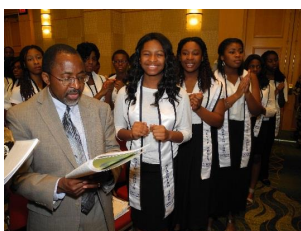
Third African National Eucharistic Congress

August 5-7, 2016

Pre ACCRUS Convention for Clergy and Religious

August 3-5, 2016

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



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

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

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

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

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

For more information and to register

<http://tinyurl.com/zr7qcdm>



Jubilee Year of Mercy

For more information contact:

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

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

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

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

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

10. THE BCI AND YOU

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

Thanks

Be to

GOD




Someone asked the question...

RED is for the blood of the people

BLACK is for the community of the people

GREEN is for the growth of the people

A person is sitting on a wooden bench on a pier or dock. The pier extends from the bottom left towards the center right. The water is calm with some ripples. In the background, there are hills and a large plume of white steam or smoke rising from the water, suggesting a geothermal area like a hot spring. The sky is overcast with soft, diffused light. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, blues, and earthy tones.

Through the storm and through the rain

Keep the Peace

So the Lord can use you on the other side