



African African American Asian Bi-Racial Caribbean European Filipino German Greek Haitian



Archdiocese of Louisville CULTURAL UPDATE

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY MAGAZINE

Hispanic Indian Irish Middle Eastern Native American Polish Rural Vietnamese

Spring 2013

SPECIAL EDITION

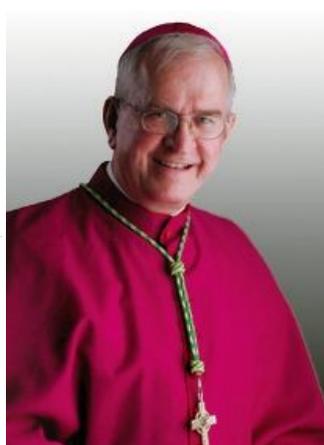
Issue 37

Featured Articles

- Asian & Pacific Islander Catholics in the United States
- Appointment of Monsignor Edward B. Branch, D.Min.
- Meeting the New Director of Hispanic Ministry
- How Do I Live My Faith
- Fifth Annual Memorial Service for Victims of Violence, War, and Genocide in Africa
- Catholic Men's Conference
- 2nd Annual Community Science Fair
- Ministry Institute: A Gift In Many Ways
- Multicultural Marian Celebration
- Family Life Skills Program: Making Sense of Health & Wealth
- 26th Annual African American Catholic Leadership Awards Banquet
- 2nd Archdiocesan Black Catholic Congress
- What's Good About Being Catholic
- Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Reflection on the Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter From Birmingham Jail

By Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop of Louisville



Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.

Sunday, 14 April 2013

Peace be with you! It is an honor to join my remarks with those of Rev. Jim Wallis and U.S. Representative John Lewis on this august occasion and to join with Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. King, whose presence honors this two-day event.

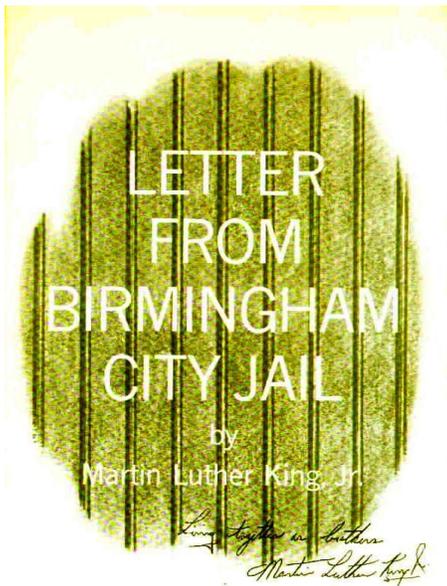
Letters deserve a response, and in fact, some demand one. Such is the letter that we gather to remember. Fifty years ago in this city of Birmingham, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. sent a letter, actually a reply to one that he had received from religious leaders at the time. Making use of the edges of newspapers and stubs of pencils available to him in the jail, Reverend King set out what has become a classic letter, quoting from Socrates to St. Paul and St. Augustine to St. Thomas Aquinas. This letter, which is rich in foundations of scripture and human philosophy, direct, and prophetic, gave a rationale for strong action as well as marching orders for the steps we must follow to lift us, as the letter states, "from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity." Rightly, he uncovered the words of St. Thomas Aquinas that the unjust law is "the human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law" and so is, as Dr. King says, "out of harmony with the moral law."

Though at that time I was only 16 and taking my seminary entrance examination in my home state of Pennsylvania, I can look back to his response to religious leaders of that day, who had cautioned him against action that they claimed was "unwise and untimely." We now see clearly his response as true wisdom, whose time had long since come.

Such a letter deserves a response ...

- One that asks forgiveness for past sins,
- One that gives thanks for clear gains over this half-century of recognizing the God-given dignity, not to be denied because of the color of one's skin, and
- One that forms a resolve to do more, for much more needs to be done.

Such a response, of course, needs to be in writing and in living witness.



It surely is in writing. Later that year on August 23, 1963, a statement on racial harmony was issued by the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Here are some words from that statement: “We must insist that the heart of the race question is moral and religious ... Discrimination based on the accidental fact of race or color, and as such injurious to human rights, regardless of personal qualities or achievements, cannot be reconciled with the truth that God has created all men with equal rights and equal dignity.” (*On Racial Harmony* n. 2)

Even stronger words were to come. In 1979, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued *Brothers and Sisters to Us: U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Racism*, which was meant to shape the hearts, consciences, and actions of the Catholic faithful and all people of good will. What was said? “Racism is a sin: a sin that divides the human family, blots out the image of God among specific members of that family, and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father. Racism is the sin that says some human beings are inherently superior and others essentially inferior because of race” (3).

Then, twenty years later in 1998, two of my brother bishops spoke publicly against racism still at work. Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, now of Beaumont, Texas, rightly declared: “In the minds of many, tolerance is the goal in racial relations. However, for Christians and Catholics in particular, the goal goes beyond to the deeper level of actual reconciliation.” He further condemns a tolerance that means “...accommodation, existing at a comfortable distance, or co-existing with the other” and calls for a change of heart to match the changes of laws. How reminiscent is this understanding of Dr. King’s words, for he knew that laws written on the human heart are deeper and more binding than laws in the halls of legislators. These words of Bishop Guillory were echoed by another brother bishop, Joseph Perry of Chicago, who added: “Ultimately our Christian faith is about building bridges between people, not walls.”

Today we give thanks for these written and spoken words. This day is possible because of the initiative of Christian Churches Together in the USA or CCT. Though CCT was begun officially in 2006, I recall Cardinal Keeler of Baltimore speaking of its merits back in 2001. Such a convening of historic Protestant, Orthodox, Catholic, African American, and Evangelical/Pentecostal families forms the family of CCT. Thanks, Bishop Dennis Madden, for serving as the President from the Catholic family, and thanks for this highly symbolic occasion for the churches to formally and publicly respond to the letter of Dr. King.

Though very personal, our commitment to our brothers and sisters can never be private. For sure, any change of law without a matched change of heart will not bring lasting change, but such a change of heart cries out to be proclaimed and recognized publicly as each of us commits personally. During this Easter season we are in good company, for in the Acts of the Apostles, we hear of St. Peter and the first apostles speaking and acting words and actions whose legacy continues to this present age in Dr. King’s letter.

Of course, such writing is essential but not enough. Thus, this gathering allows not simply a response in writing but also one given in living witness. Our living witness has three elements. Thus today, we must ask forgiveness for past wrongs, be grateful for words that have already borne fruit, and be resolved for more action.

First, imperfect as we are, we speak in sorrow asking the Lord our God for forgiveness of past sins of racism, especially those that linger consciously or subconsciously in the present, and for any lingering temptation to judge not by the content of character but by the color of skin. Our prayers to the Lord our God must be earnest and sincere.

Secondly, we give thanks for gains that we have witnessed in this half century. It behooves us in this 24-hour period to be specific in our recollection and our gratitude. I recall two specific events, both in my home city of Louisville. On Saturday, March 2, there was a wonderful banquet to honor African American Catholic Leaders. Each year, now for more than a quarter century, adults and young adults are recognized. I can’t wait each year to hear not only who will be honored but the words of witness each gives. Our youth, our present and future, especially inspire. Their witness is unique, and yet each invariably touches in very personal ways on three themes: family, education, and faith. They give testimony to their families, and this is fitting because we

know that lasting change for the better most often flows from the strong and faithful family. How much Dr. King testified to this need, for the content of character is born and nurtured in the strong family. Thus, they give thanks for the mothers and grandmothers, the fathers and grandfathers.

The young being honored invariably speak of their education – their schools, some public and others Catholic – all giving witness in their poise and articulation – of an education so essential if they are to uncover and use their God-given gifts. Then there are invariably words of faith. How energizing and reassuring are their words of faith ... words that would have given Dr. King cause for rejoicing. I dare say that such public witness would not have been possible a century ago, and we give thanks.

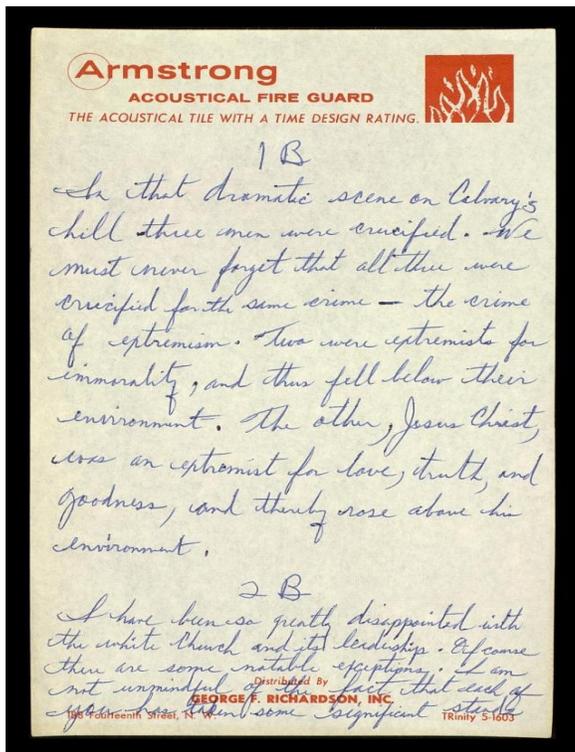
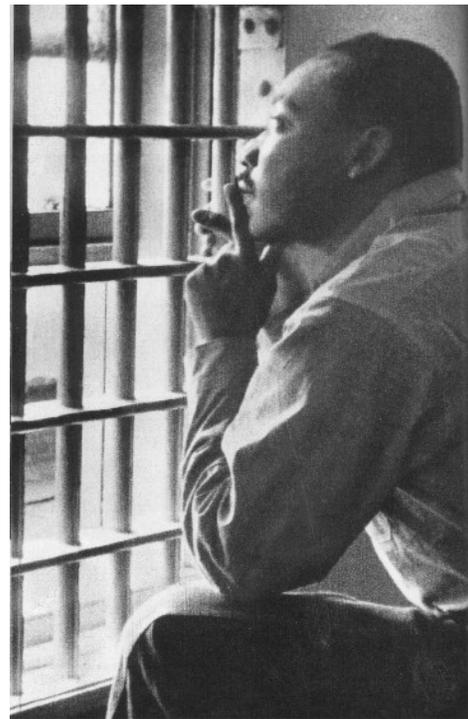
The second event occurred on Good Friday. At an outdoor and public witness of the Stations of the Cross for Justice in our world, the 14th station called for an end to violence in our city. Speaking eloquently was a young lady, only 10 years old, who recovered from being shot to the head in an act of senseless violence when she was only two years old. Her story was well documented a few years ago on Dateline NBC. Combating violence in our cities and our homes requires the strong and steady, fiercely-convicted, and stubbornly-held non-violence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This young lady, Erica Hughes, gave testimony with a voice only 10 years old that such efforts are essential and worth every sacrifice.

This living witness tells of a rich legacy – one of non-violent action. While violence surrounded Dr. King's life, he proclaimed in word and deed the direction of his Savior, Jesus Christ – namely, that injustice must not be ignored, but neither can violence be addressed and eliminated by greater acts of violence. Erica Hughes and youth like her deserve a safe life where violence does not reign.

Of course, sorrow for the past and gratitude for the present will be empty words unless matched by a clear resolve to continue the work at hand. Fifty years ago, Rev. King Jr. was cautioned not to do anything unwise or untimely. Indeed, his actions and our actions this day not only reflect wisdom, both natural and supernatural, but also action whose time has long since come. Listen again to the final words of Rev. King's fifty-year-old letter:

"Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty." We hear and heed these words with great hope, and we pray:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where is sadness, joy ... For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."



Asian and Pacific Islander Catholics in the United States

By M. Annette Mandley-Turner
OMM Executive Director

"There are many Asian and Pacific communities and identities. Respect for the differences among varied cultures and historical traditions are a significant part of accepting them into U.S. society and the Church in the U.S." (Asian Pacific Presence¹)

The growth opportunity which is presented when ministering with our Asian and Pacific Islanders in the United States is presented as the challenge of diversity- of ethnicity, language, culture, and religious tradition, place of birth and skin color. There are more than 53 Asian and 26 Pacific countries; most have citizens now living in the United States or natives who have become American citizens.

Interested data:

- More than 16.9 million people are categorized as being of Asian descent (or Asian in combination with one or more other races) and 1.8 million are Pacific Islanders, including Hawaiians.
- Hawaii registers the highest proportion of Asians by state population (61%), followed by California (14%) and New Jersey and Washington (9% each).
- Largest Asian U.S. populations are Chinese (3.8 million including people from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan), Filipino (3.6mil.), Indian (2.7 mil.) and Vietnamese (1.6 mil.), followed by Korean (1.5 mil.) and Japanese (1.2 mil.).
- The largest Pacific Islander populations in the U.S. are Guamanian, Samoan and Tongan.³
- The U.S. Asian Pacific populations with the largest number of Catholics are the Filipinos, followed by the Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian and Korean.
- The 10 dioceses with the highest number of Asians are Los Angeles, Honolulu, Brooklyn, San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco, Orange (Orange County, CA), Seattle, New York, and Chicago.⁴
- The number of Asian and Pacific Catholics in the U.S. is difficult to count. There is no hard data available. Different sources have produced different estimates ranging from less than three percent to 6 percent.⁵
- Nine dioceses (Chicago, San Bernardino, Seattle, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Cleveland, Dallas, Rochester, Syracuse) have formally designated diocesan offices/ministries for Asian and Pacific Island Catholics. Another 48 dioceses report organized ministries with particular Asian and Pacific communities such as Vietnamese, Korean, Filipino, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Hmong, Laotian, Tongan, Arab, Japanese, Cambodian, Samoan, Khmu, Pakistani, Burmese, Fijian, Syro-Malankara, Kananaya.
- To date, five bishops of Asian and Pacific origins have been consecrated and remain active in the U.S. The first National Asian and Pacific Catholic Convocation was held June 29-July 3, 2006 in Crystal City, VA and attracted more than 1,200 participants.

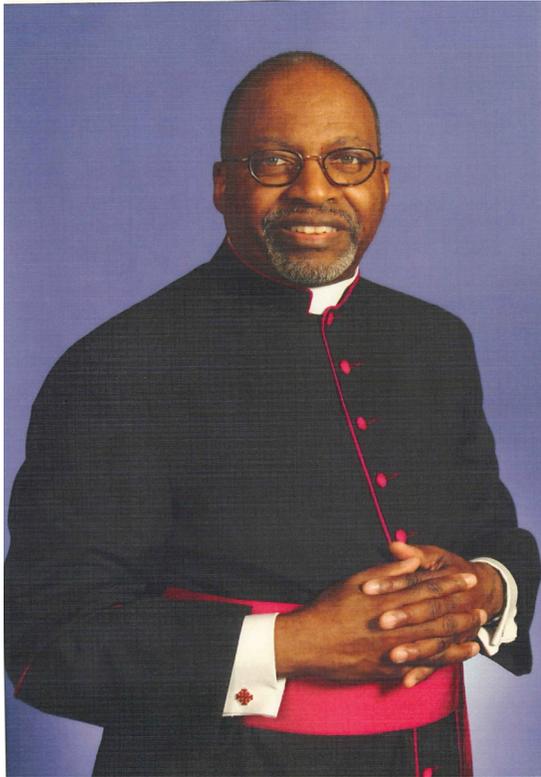
Local data:

- In the Archdiocese of Louisville, the Filipino community is growing and has embraced their call to share their cultural and spiritual gifts with the larger church. They have the Filipino Festival at the Cathedral every year and more than 400 participants come out to celebrate. The Sambang Gabi Mass will be celebrated on December 20, 2013.
- OMM is working diligently with the Filipino Council leaders to kick off the first mass on July 7th in the Tagalog language at St. Margaret Mary parish and plan to continue gathering there every other month prior to establishing monthly mass. Fr. Steve Phol and the wonderful faith community at St. Margaret Mary welcomed the opportunity to open their doors to the Filipino community. The worship office is collaborating with OMM to meet the liturgical and cultural needs of the Filipino Community via training and roundtable dialogues to promote a better understanding of the traditions and customs.



M. Annette Mandley-Turner

***Appointment of Monsignor Edward B. Branch, D. Min.
Chaplain to His Holiness
Archdiocese of Atlanta***



Fr. Branch is presently the Catholic Chaplain for the Atlanta University Center, a cluster of historically African American institutions of higher education which boast the largest concentration of scholars of African heritage in the world. He also serves as preaching instructor in the Deacon Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He is immediate past chairperson of the Priests' Council of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He is a member of the Ongoing Formation Committee, the Committee on Clergy Retirement, and one of the Archdiocesan Consulters.

Born in Washington, D.C. June 24, 1945, Fr. Branch attended St. Martin Parish and school, and in 1959 entered Gonzaga College High School. In 1961 he transferred to Monsignor Mackin Catholic High School and graduated in 1963. He was for eight years a member of the Congregation of Xaverian Brothers during which time he was engaged in secondary education. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky in 1974, Fr. Branch has served in pastoral appointments at St. Benedict and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches in Louisville from 1974 - 1979 and was pastor and director of St. Benedict the Black Church and Newman Center for Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana from 1979 - 1982. Beginning in 1982, he joined a six year tenure as University Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry at The Catholic University

of America. In 1991, he was awarded the Doctor of Ministry in the areas of Social Psychology and Christian Education at the Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. Following this work, Fr. Branch was invited by Archbishop Marino to come to Atlanta University Center to construct the Catholic Center facility which was completed in 1999. He was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Atlanta in April 2010.

Positions of national service include President, National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, and Chairperson of the National Committee for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. He has been a three time board member of the National Office for Black Catholics. He has twice presented keynote addresses at the National Catholic Youth Conference, and served as support facilitator at the National Youth Congress. He presented workshops at such nationally known liturgy and ministry workshop settings as the Rejoice Conference in Washington, D.C. and the Black Unity Explosion Conferences in New Orleans and Dallas. In 1993, he was honored to serve as Young Adult Co-Facilitator at World Youth Day in Denver, Colorado, and called upon to be respondent at the Symposium on Theology and Ministry at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He presented a paper entitled "Faith Development and Culture" at the Black Catholic Theology Symposium in 1995. He is a regular contributor to the Parish Connection, a publication of the Office for Black Catholic Ministry in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Most recently he was called upon by the President of St. Mary University in Moraga, California to present a paper entitled, "Black Voices: The Catholic Black Church in America."

Fr. Branch has been called upon to facilitate clergy and lay planning and reflection groups in various dioceses advancing such issues as liturgical planning and ministry training, justice issues such as racism and economic development, and faith and value development among young adults. The Ministry of Evangelization has called him to preach revivals and days of reflection nationally and internationally.

At the nomination by Archbishop Gregory on February 14, 2013, he was honored by Pope Benedict XVI with the title, Chaplain to His Holiness, or Monsignor.

Meeting The New Director of Hispanic Ministry



Eva Gonzalez has been named the director of Hispanic Ministry, in the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Multicultural Ministry. Gonzalez previously served as Hispanic Ministry Special Projects Coordinator carrying out the Catechist Formation Program in Spanish, Spanish classes for adults at the Maloney Center, Spanish classes for children during the Catholic Enrichment Center's *Camp Africa Inspire* summer program in West Louisville, organized the first Catechist Retreat in Spanish, prepared the informational brochure *Popular Devotions and Piety*, translated documents for the Archdiocese, participated in a cultural hands-on class for Nativity school, and organized the first English-Spanish retreat with the Office of Lifelong Formation and Education among other internal activities from a Hispanic and multicultural perspective.

In her new role she will seek to fulfill the needs addressed in the Hispanic Pastoral Plan while offering more opportunities to evangelize and invite the Hispanic community to participate in the life of the Church. She will also continue to implement an outreach vision for non-Hispanic cultures. To accomplish all these tasks, Mrs. Gonzalez will collaborate with archdiocesan agencies and parishes while performing tasks from a multicultural perspective.

What is involved in this process?

- Giving support to parishes to expand their liturgical resources
- Expanding topics relevant to youth
- Addressing topics of interest for couples seeking marriage preparation
- Promoting stewardship
- Offering opportunities to evangelize

What comes next? To seek, offer, and achieve opportunities for our Hispanic community.

Conociendo a la Nueva Directora del Ministerio Hispano

Eva Gonzalez ha sido nombrada Directora del Ministerio Hispano de la Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural, Arquidiócesis de Louisville. La Sra. Gonzalez previamente sirvió como Coordinadora de Proyectos Especiales para el Ministerio Hispano llevando a cabo el Programa de Formación de Catequistas en español, clases de español para adultos en el Maloney Center como también para niños en el programa del Campamento de Verano *Camp Africa Inspire* en el Catholic Enrichment Center en West Louisville, además organizó el primer Retiro para Catequistas en español, preparó el tríptico informativo sobre Devociones y Piedad Popular, tradujo documentos para la Arquidiócesis, participó en una clase interactiva para Nativity Academy, y organizó el Primer Retiro de Adviento en español e inglés junto con OLFE (Office of Lifelong Formation and Education) entre otras actividades internas desde una perspectiva hispana y multicultural.

En su nuevo rol buscará llevar a cabo y completar las necesidades indicadas en el Plan Pastoral Hispano al ofrecer más oportunidades para evangelizar e invitar a la comunidad hispana a participar en la vida de la Iglesia. Además continuará implementando una visión de alcance hacia culturas no-hispanas. Para lograr todas estas tareas, la Sra. Gonzalez colaborará con agencias y parroquias al realizar tareas desde una perspectiva multicultural.

¿Que está involucrado en el proceso?

- Dar apoyo a parroquias para extender sus recursos litúrgicos
- Ampliar temas relevantes para la juventud
- Abordar temas de interés para parejas que buscan preparación matrimonial
- Promover la corresponsabilidad
- Ofrecer oportunidades para evangelizar

¿Qué sigue? Buscar, ofrecer y lograr el objetivo de oportunidades para nuestra comunidad hispana.

Affirming the Hispanic Presence in Catholic Schools

By Eva Gonzalez, Director Hispanic Ministry

Another school year has come and gone! A year full of hard work and study for the students in the Archdiocesan Catholic system of schools, made up of nine high schools that provide opportunities to achieve high academic standards while deepening their students faith in Jesus Christ.

Rachel Garcia, a senior from Assumption high school shares the following reflection: “Being in the Catholic school system provides an opportunity for me to not be afraid to express my culture. It gives me a diverse community that is much different than mine and allows me to see how other people live out their culture. It also allows me to seek scholarships and reveals different college opportunities that would have been much more difficult in another school system”.

The Office of Multicultural Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, congratulates all our diverse students’ in the community with Hispanic heritage who graduated from high school in the Catholic system of schools and wishes them success in their future!



Assumption: Cassie Bone, Eleanor Comer, Rachel Garcia, Lilyan Ibarra, Taylor Paulson, and Katia Vela

Trinity: Gilbert Delgado, Alex Edlin, Tomas Garza, Carlos Mendia, Brandon and Bryan Nieto

Sacred Heart Academy: Melina Casanova, Elise Martino, and Athena Unroe

Saint Francis DeSales: Christopher Padilla

Saint Xavier: Gustavo Alcantara, David Dunaway, Jose Flores, and Tyler Soto

Afirmando la Presencia Hispana en las Escuelas Católicas

Por Eva Gonzalez, Director Ministerio Hispano

¡Otro año escolar que llega y se va! Un año lleno de mucho trabajo y estudio para los estudiantes en el sistema de escuelas católicas de la Arquidiócesis de Louisville, el cual está compuesto de nueve escuelas de los grados 9 al 12 que ofrecen oportunidades de lograr altos estándares académicos entretanto sus estudiantes profundizan su fe en Jesucristo.

Rachel Garcia, senior de Assumption high school comparte la siguiente reflexión: “Estar en el sistema de escuelas católicas me ofrece la oportunidad de no tener miedo de expresar mi cultura. Me ofrece una comunidad diversa que es muy diferente a la mía y me permite ver como otras personas viven su cultura. Además, me permite buscar becas y me da a conocer diferentes oportunidades universitarias que hubieran sido mucho más difíciles en otro sistema escolar.

La Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural, Ministerio Hispano, felicita a toda nuestra diversidad de estudiantes en la comunidad con herencia hispana quienes se graduaron del sistema de escuelas católicas y les desea ¡éxito en el futuro!

Assumption: Cassie Bone, Eleanor Comer, Rachel Garcia, Lilyan Ibarra, Taylor Paulson, y Katia Vela

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How Do I Live My Faith - A Hispanic Perspective

By Anonymous Author

When I arrived to the United States in 1988, one of the first things that went unnoticed was Holy Week. I reflected on it and said to myself, look how easy it is to get lost in a new culture! I think that's true for many of our Hispanic brothers and sisters, whether they are aware of it or not. The fact of the matter is that the eagerness to work culture, and even societal values of the new environment in which we came to live, distract us from our 'almost natural' disposition to be Catholic Christians, as we used to experience it in our birthplace.

So, in order to live my faith in this new situation I have to make an intentional effort to stay loyal to my call. For me, living my faith is to serve God by serving my brothers and sisters in the community.

Cuando yo llegué a los Estados Unidos en 1988, una de las primeras cosas que noté fue que la semana santa pasó y ni me di cuenta. Reflexioné y me dije, ¡qué tan fácil es perderse uno en una nueva cultura! Yo creo que es cierto, quizá la mayoría de nuestros hermanos hispanos pasan por la misma experiencia, sea que hagan conciencia o no. El hecho es que el afán del trabajo, la cultura y los mismos valores sociales del nuevo ambiente en el que venimos a vivir nos distrae de nuestra disposición 'casi natural' a ser cristianos católicos, tal como lo experimentábamos en nuestros lugares natales.

Así que para vivir mi fe en mi nueva situación tengo que hacer un esfuerzo intencional de mantenerme fiel. Para mí, vivir mi fe es servir a Dios sirviendo a los demás.

How Do I Live My Faith - An Asian Perspective

By Sr. Marcellino Nguyen, OP

I was born and raised in a Vietnamese Catholic family. When I was in Vietnam, my family gathered together every night to say the Rosary and we attended daily Mass. My desire was to be a servant of God, so I entered into the Dominican convent in Vietnam in order to devote my life to serve God through His people.

Now I am a Dominican Sister of Peace and my current ministry is caring for senior citizens living in Belmont Village Senior Living facility. I enjoy serving the elderly and through them I see the face of God.

I also live my faith by my devotion to Our Lady Of La Vang. I have organized a group of volunteers to make rosaries for the Rosary Maker organization. I continue to encourage others to join me in this endeavor.

I live my faith by serving others around me and my faith uplifts me and increases my relationship with God. It is who I am, what I am doing and where I am going as a religious woman walking in faith.





Interregional African American Catholic Evangelization Conference

“Living Our Faith, Sharing Our Story”

SAVE THE DATE!

THE GEORGE FINDLEY INSTITUTE

THURSDAY, June 13, 2013

9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Registration \$100.00

IAACEC CONFERENCE

Friday, June 14-16, 2013

9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

\$180.00 by June 5, 2013

Conference Registration Information

Contact your local (Arch)diocesan OBM or OMM for registration forms.

Attendees can also download forms and register online @ www.IAACEC.com and by mail until June 5, 2013.

Checks or money orders should be made payable to **IAACEC** and mailed to:

Office of Multicultural Ministry

1400 North Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

After June 5, 2013 attendees can register on-site. Personal checks and credit cards are not accepted on-site. For your convenience, an ATM machine is located in the hotel.

Conference Hotel Information

HILTON COLUMBUS AT EASTON

3900 Chagrin Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

614.414.5000

www.hiltoncolumbus.com

The conference will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Easton hotel. Rooms are available to conference registrants at the special rate of \$149.00 plus applicable state and local taxes (currently 16.75% tax for single and double occupancy).

When making your reservation, please reference that you are an attendee of the Interregional African American Catholic Evangelization Conference (IAACEC) to receive the special rate. You may call the hotel at (614) 414-5000 to book your room(s). The deadline for convention rates is May 21, 2013. In order to receive the special conference rate, attendees must stay a minimum of Friday and Saturday nights.

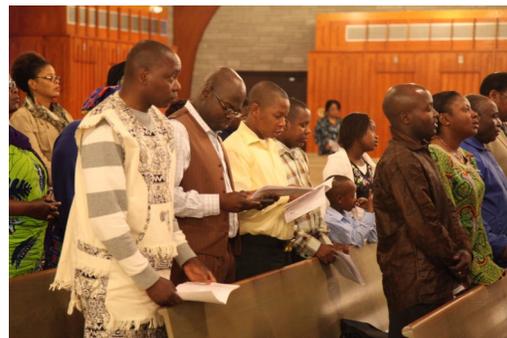
Fifth Annual Memorial Service for Victims of Violence, War, & Genocide in Africa: A Community Praying for Healing & Forgiveness

*By Charmein Weathers
Multicultural Special Projects/Communications Coordinator*



Lord Jesus Christ, who is called the Prince of Peace, who is our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May peace that is longed for, blossom forth and reign always over us all. We make our prayer through Jesus the Prince of Peace. Amen.

This is the prayer that Pastor Sylvain Mulinda of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a leader in our African community, along with others in attendance prayed on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the Fifth Annual Memorial Service for Victims of Violence, War & Genocide in Africa held at St. Thomas More Church located on South Third Street in Louisville, KY. This annual prayer service for peace brought members of our ecumenical (interdenominational)



community together to commemorate the lives of the victims of violence, war, and genocide in Africa through scripture, prayer and song.



Reverend Philip Erickson, pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church, was the presider of the service. He reflected on the need to love your neighbor and your enemies, embracing those things that each has in common, while celebrating and respecting the differences. Several African choirs rendered musical selections, including the African Ministry

Choir and the Imani Choir. Fr. Expedito Muwonge joined the service again this year and proclaimed the Gospel. He was born and raised in Uganda, East Africa and is the Catholic priest Chaplain for Norton Hospital and Norton Suburban Hospital. The community prayed for the leaders of all nations, for the victimized and marginalized in the world and all who seek justice for them, for the peacemakers and the oppressors, for families and for all in attendance. They prayed that each one in attendance and their families would



be ambassadors of hope and peace to a world oppressed by many problems but where all men and women would work together joyfully in cooperation and love.



A reception with traditional African dishes followed the service. The event was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Multicultural Ministry, its African Ministry and St. Thomas More Catholic Church. This was an inter-faith service.



Catholic Men's Conference
By Christopher Burt
Family Life Skills Program Coordinator

A diverse group of men organized by the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Multicultural Ministry attended the 2nd Annual, Archdiocese of Louisville's Catholic Men's Conference this past March 16th at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church. Over 600 men came together for fellowship, fun and worship. This year's conference theme was *"It's Awesome to be Catholic"* and to much amazement after leaving the conference, one would feel the same sentiment. Attendees started the day with a continental breakfast and then proceeded into the sanctuary of St. Raphael where they were led and stirred by the uplifting worship and praise session led by Fr. John Judie, Pastor of Christ the King and Immaculate Heart of Mary parishes and James Taylor, Minister of Music at St. Martin de Porres Church.

Afterwards the men were greeted with opening remarks by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz who led them in prayer and then introduced the conference's keynote speaker- Author and Radio Host- Mr. Jon Leonetti. Leonetti is best known for his walk across the United States promoting *"prayer as a means of turning away from the empty promises of lust, fame and greed to find life's true satisfaction in our calling from Christ."* During his talk, Leonetti gave examples on the Greatness of God's Power, which included a personal testimony of the struggles, he and his wife faced as husband and wife and as new parents.

At the conclusion of Leonetti's talk, the men attended Breakout Sessions on *"Reflection and Reconciliation"* including one led by the Archdiocese's newly appointed Director of Evangelization, Sal Della Bella. Della Bella spoke about the importance of having *"joy and laughter in one's life despite any struggles that may be before you."* Following the breakout sessions, Archbishop Kurtz presided over a Closing Liturgy & Homily with the assistance of priests from various parishes in the Archdiocese. In true fashion the steering committee did an incredible job hosting the conference. The hospitality they showed attendees was top notch and made the conference that much more enjoyable.

Franroy Figueroa along with his son, Francisco attended the conference. Figueroa said this was the first time he ever attended something like this and felt *"it was a good experience for all Hispanics"* and that it was good to *"see the Diversity that exists here in the Archdiocese of Louisville"*. Figueroa stated that both him and his son would be attending next year's conference and also plan on becoming personally involved in the planning process of the conference.

Planning is already underway for the 2014 Men's Conference and I am planning on attending! Those men who missed out this year need pencil this in on their calendar for next year. You will truly be blessed!!!



2nd Annual Community Science Fair - Future Scientists Display Their Intellectual & Creative Gifts By Charmein Weathers

The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he's one who asks the right questions.
~Claude Lévi-Strauss,
Le Cru et le cuit, 1964

That is exactly what 90 local students from around the city of Louisville had to do in order to create the innovative science fair projects that were on display at the 2nd Annual Community Science Fair hosted by the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Multicultural Ministry. They represented a variety of schools from the Catholic, public, and private sectors, ranged from 6th – 8th grades, and represented a variety of cultures. One thing that all of the young scientists had in common was their desire to answer their questions about science. Some of the participants were involved in the Regional Science Fair held at the University of Louisville the week prior. For a few, this was their first Science Fair experience and their first time creating a scientific experiment on their own. Of course they all had a little guidance from their parents and teachers.

A science fair is an event where students present the results of their scientific investigations. They are competitions, though they may be informational presentations. A science fair is an opportunity for students, individually or as members of a team, to actually apply the skills they have learned in their study of science. It is a real chance for students to show what they've learned, especially if they have been given the opportunity to experience problem solving. A science fair is also a chance to show the students, the school community and the community at large how important and useful science is.

Several local schools were represented. They were Christian Academy of Louisville; Nativity Academy at St. Boniface; St. Nicholas Academy; and Olmstead Academy South. The projects were as diverse as the students. They focused on environmental, health, life, and physical sciences. They included: how minerals react to household chemicals; the staining effects of common beverages on your teeth; growing plants with the colors of the spectrum; wet cell batteries; and how the shape of an object affects the revolution as it travels around a cyclotron, just to name a few.

The 2013 winners were:

6th Grade-1st Place-Tessa Ann Duncan (St. Nicholas Academy); 2nd Place-Matthew Higdon (St. Nicholas Academy); 3rd Place-Malcolm Jones (Christian Academy of Louisville)
7th Grade-1st Place-Julie Nguyen (St. Nicholas Academy); 2nd Place-Brian Long Thanh Tran (St. Nicholas Academy); 3rd Place-Kiara Brewer-Carroll & Alaina Grant (Nativity Academy at St. Boniface)
8th Grade-1st Place-Kevin Wang (St. Nicholas Academy); 2nd Place-Shaye Allen (St. Nicholas Academy); 3rd Place-Macy Jones (St. Nicholas Academy).

Julie Wang, 1st Place winner for the 7th Grade, took 1st Place last year as a 6th grader. Malcolm Jones, 3rd Place winner for the 3rd Grade, took 1st Place last year as a 5th grader.

I was extremely proud of these young people, all that they accomplished and am very optimistic about the future impact that they will have on our community.



Ministry Institute: A Gift In Many Ways

By Sal Della Bella

Office of Evangelization Director



The Archdiocese of Louisville Ministry Institute, known as ALMI, offers a variety of educational programs for people in specific church ministries as well as adult Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. The institute was started in the fall of 2005 by the contributions of several archdiocesan agencies. The Offices of Multicultural Ministry, Worship, Lifelong Formation and Education, and Family Ministries are among the agencies that provide training. Offerings provided by ALMI are open to anyone who is interested. Participants can choose the courses they want, or they can specialize in a particular area of ministry. This includes specialized training in areas such as liturgical ministry, discipleship, multicultural ministry, pastoral care, youth ministry, and religious education. In addition, the institute provides adults who may not be interested in a specific ministry an opportunity to learn more about their faith at a minimal cost. In addition to the courses designed for specific ministry training, ALMI's course offerings consist of "core" courses. The "core" curriculum has a pool of courses that include topics such as Scripture; Liturgy and Sacraments; Christology; Theology, as well as workshops in Communication;

Leadership; and Cultural Diversity. The class schedule is available on the archdiocesan website (www.archlou.org). The average cost of individual classes is \$10 thanks to the Catholic Services Appeal, which provides the primary funding. In addition to the core classes and specialized curriculum, ALMI provides master's degrees in pastoral studies or religious education through an extension program with Loyola University in New Orleans. For more information about the Archdiocese of Louisville Ministry Institute, call the Office of Lifelong Formation and Education at 502-448-8581.

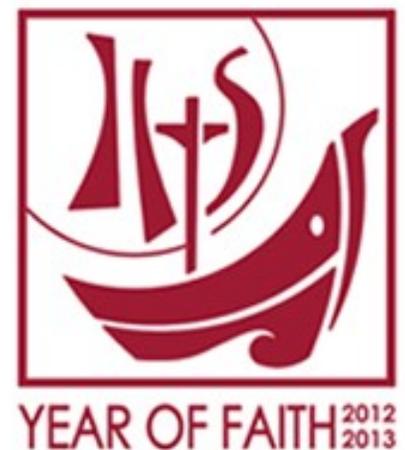
"I thought the ALMI offering was excellent! It brought together people from many different backgrounds and interests. I learned that God gives us gifts, and we should share these gifts regardless of race, creed, or color. This program brought out talents and a new confidence that I didn't know I had."

- *Leatrice Johnson, St. Gabriel Parish*

Note: At the time that this article was written, Sal Della Bella was the Director of Faith Formation with ALMI.

A Family Prayer for the Year of Faith *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)*

O God our Father,
in Jesus you call all Christian families and homes
to be signs of living faith.
By the light of the Holy Spirit,
lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith,
and by that gift
may we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son,
and be confident witnesses to Christian hope and joy
to all we meet.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Multicultural Marian Celebration: Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary

By Audrey Penman, Community Outreach Coordinator



The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the Blessed Mother of Jesus. Mary is celebrated in Catholic cultures around the world, more often during a devotion, outside of the liturgy with parishioners, families and the community. As Catholics, we believe that Mary is the spiritual mother of all people, and we celebrate her with processions, songs and praying the rosary. The Office of Multicultural Ministry provided leadership to our first Multicultural Marian Celebration that was held on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church. The celebration brought together a variety of cultures to share in a program of devotion to the Blessed

Mother. As we gathered outside of the church at the fountain of Our Lady of La Vang and prepared to process in, I was reminded of when I was chosen as an elementary school student to assist in carrying the Blessed Mother in the procession, just as youth there were preparing to do. The beautiful diverse procession was enhanced by the many cultural groups being led by posters of the celebrated patronesses. They were: Immaculate Conception (USA); Our Lady of Cobre (Cuba); Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico); Our Lady of Kibeho (Rwanda); Our Lady of La Vang (Vietnam); Our Lady of Peace (El Salvador); Our Lady of Suyapa (Honduras); Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Manaoag (Philippines); and Our Lady of the Rosary (Guatemala).

As we continued with songs, readings and a reflection by Fr. Anthony Ngo (St. John Vianney's Pastor), I was spiritually uplifted with joyful feelings of being Catholic. Praying the rosary was especially life giving as the Joyful Mysteries were spoken in Spanish, English, Tagalog (Filipino), Swahili (African) and a uniquely spiritual chant in Vietnamese. The celebration began and ended with everyone singing the hymn *Immaculate Mary*, a song that speaks to the many references to visions and experiences of Mary, and will always be a blessed part of our Catholic roots. I was reminded that no matter where I may be in the world, no matter what culture I am immersed in, I will always be familiar with Catholic prayers and masses. Everyone in the church was invited to place flowers that were provided on the pedestal with the statue of Mary (Our Lady of La Vang).

Here are a few reflections on the event:

This event unifies all the cultures and we get to learn from each of them.

- *Cuban Reflection*

I enjoyed the experience and liked to share praying the Rosary with Catholics from other cultures.

- *Honduras Reflection*

I would like to see more multicultural celebrations, I enjoyed the event.

- *Cuban Reflection*

Catholic means universal. Seeing everyone come together from different backgrounds with different ethnicities is living proof of the beauty our church has as we venerated our Blessed Mother in different languages. Despite all these differences, we can still come together and pray to our one true God and understand what we all are saying.

- *Filipino Reflection*

Thanks to OMM for the tribute to our Blessed Mother. This was a very spiritual and beautiful celebration. I hope that it will become an annual event.

- *African American Reflection*



Multicultural Marian Celebration



Celebración Mariana Multicultural: Honrando a la Santísima Virgen María *Por Audrey Penman, Coordinador de Extensión Comunitaria*

El mes de mayo es tradicionalmente dedicado a la Santísima Virgen María, la Madre de Jesús. La Virgen María es festejada en culturas católicas alrededor del mundo, con frecuencia mediante la devoción, fuera de la liturgia con feligreses, familias y la comunidad. Como católicos, creemos que la Virgen María es la madre espiritual de todas las personas, y la festejamos con procesiones, cantos y rezando el Rosario. La Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural, fue líder en nuestra primera Celebración Mariana Multicultural que se llevó a cabo el sábado, 11 de mayo de 2013 en la parroquia de St. John Vianney. La celebración trajo consigo una variedad de culturas para compartir en un evento de devoción a nuestra Santísima Madre. Al reunirnos fuera de la Iglesia en la fuente de Nuestra Señora de La Vang y prepararnos para la procesión, recordé cuando fui escogida en mi escuela primaria a ayudar a cargar a la Santísima Virgen en la procesión, tal y como varios jóvenes se encontraban preparándose ese día. La hermosa procesión fue realizada por la diversidad de varios grupos culturales que fueron guiados con posters de la Virgen patrona de sus países. Entre ellas se encuentran: La Inmaculada Concepción (Estados Unidos); Nuestra Señora del Cobre (Cuba); La Virgen de Guadalupe (México); Nuestra Señora de Kibeho (Rwanda); Nuestra Señora de La Vang (Vietnam); Nuestra Señora de la Paz (El Salvador); Nuestra Señora de Suyapa (Honduras); Nuestra Señora de Manaoag (Filipinas); y Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Guatemala).



Continúa en la página siguiente.

Celebración Mariana Multicultural: Honrando a la Santísima Virgen María



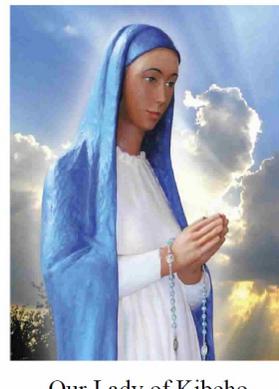
Immaculate Conception
United States of America



Our Lady of Cobre
Cuba



Our Lady of Guadalupe
Mexico



Our Lady of Kibeho
Rwanda



Our Lady of La Vang
Vietnam

Al continuar con canciones, lecturas y una reflexión del padre Anthony Ngo (Padre de St. John Vianney), mi nivel espiritual se elevó con sentimientos de regocijo de ser católica. Rezar el Rosario fue especialmente vivificante mientras que los Misterios Gozosos eran dichos en español, inglés, tagalog (filipino), Swahili (africano) y un canto espiritual único en vietnamés. La celebración comenzó y terminó con cada persona cantando el himno *Immaculate Mary*, una canción que habla de muchas referencias a visiones y experiencias de María, y que siempre será una parte bendecida de nuestras raíces católicas. Recordé que no importa en dónde esté en el mundo o la cultura en la que esté inmersa, siempre voy a estar familiarizada con la oración católica y celebración de la Misa. Cada persona en la Iglesia fue invitada a ofrecer flores a la Virgen María la cual fue colocada sobre un pedestal (Nuestra Señora de La Vang).

Algunas reflexiones del evento:

Este evento une a todas las culturas y llegamos a aprender de cada una de ellas.

- *Reflexión cubana*

Disfruté la experiencia y me gustó compartir rezando el Rosario con católicos de otras culturas.

- *Reflexión hondureña*

Me gustaría ver más celebraciones multiculturales, disfruté el evento.

- *Reflexión cubana*

Católico significa universal. Viendo a cada persona de distinta procedencia y etnicidad unirse es la prueba viviente de la belleza que nuestra Iglesia tiene al venerar a nuestra Santísima Madre en diferentes idiomas. A pesar de las diferencias, aún podemos unirnos y rezar a nuestro único y verdadero Dios y entender lo que todos estamos diciendo.

- *Reflexión filipina*

Gracias a la Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural por el tributo a nuestra Santísima Madre. Fue una celebración hermosa y muy espiritual. Espero que se convierta en un evento anual.

- *Reflexión Africoamericana*



Our Lady of Peace
El Salvador



Our Lady of Suyapa
Honduras



Our Lady of the
Holy Rosary of Manaoag
Philippines



Our Lady of the Rosary
Guatemala

The Family Life Skills Program: Making Sense of Health & Wealth By Kim Telesford-Mapp, Catholic Enrichment Center Director

Jasmine Pharram was very distraught after being recently diagnosed as diabetic. This diagnosis could not have come at a worse time as she had just lost her job. The major concern running through her mind was, "How does one manage a major health crisis when you are unemployed?". Fortunately, Ms. Pharram was referred to Tanya Beauchamp, Diabetic Nurse Educator at Park DuValle Community Health Center who also participates with the Catholic Enrichment Center's (CEC) Nutritional Program.

Upon meeting with Jasmine and assessing her situation, Beauchamp, better known as "Chef T" to those she teaches, referred Jasmine to the St. Jude Family Life Skills Program (FLSP) offered at the CEC. Chef T's first line of assistance was to focus on helping Jasmine learn to eat well given the limitations of her budget. A three pronged approach was suggested to Jasmine which included participation in the CEC's Tasty Tuesday Nutrition Program to learn balanced diet and nutritional strategies, its Couponing Classes in order to help save money and stretch limited financial resources, and the Finance for You classes which teach financial management skills. This holistic approach of coordinating daily health and wealth issues worked together to help Jasmine better afford her medication and ease the financial strain.

Jasmine was ecstatic that the programs offered by the Catholic Enrichment Center were available free of charge to her and her family. She, along with her expectant daughter attended their first Tasty Tuesday class in October of 2012 and have only missed one class since that time. To date, Jasmine has seen a steady decline in the amount of medication taken for her diabetes and this has significantly reduced her doctor visits due to related illnesses. Now, even in such trying times, Jasmine's entire family is eating healthier together with added financial benefit.

CEC Dispelling Myths

The CEC's Family Life Skills Program began offering the Coupon Class in conjunction with the cooking class because most of our clients shared the notion that they could not afford to eat healthy given their restrictive budgets. Our response was to show them that they can not only prepare healthy meals but can stretch their family dollars in many other ways that are available for the asking. Jasmine was very surprised at how easy it was to save money. As a matter of fact, she, like many, was unaware that she could use coupons in conjunction with her monthly government food benefits.

After her very first couponing session Jasmine went out to try to see what she could save. Afterwards, she could barely contain the excitement of her discovery. Her shopping trip resulted in a "two foot long" receipt in which she had saved nearly two hundred dollars on her food bill based on the simple strategies learned in the class. Jasmine became so astute at couponing that she did most of her Christmas shopping using coupons with barely any out of pocket dollars.

Now, as Jasmine has made significant headway with her health and discovered wealth, she has recently had to assume custody of her middle daughter's children. But, through the Family Life Skills Program, Jasmine has been connected with KIPDA's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program. Jasmine feels she is indeed fortunate to find such assistance through educational programs offered by the Catholic Enrichment Center and she plans on attending the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren parenting support group along with parenting classes offered.



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Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Multicultural Ministry
Annual Community



Saturday, July 20, 2013

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St. Rita Catholic Church

8709 Preston Highway

Louisville, KY 40219

and

Saturday, August 3, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Catholic Enrichment Center

3146 West Broadway

Louisville, KY 40211



For more information call 502.471.2146 or 502.776.0262. This event is an implementation of the Archdiocesan Strategic Plan and made possible through Catholic Services Appeal.

26th Annual African American Catholic Leadership Awards Banquet

By Ruby Thomas

Pride in Black heritage, faith in God and gratitude to loved ones and church families were the common themes heard during an elegant reception to celebrate the 26th Annual African American Catholic Leadership Awards Banquet. The event, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Multicultural Ministry, took place at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel Saturday March 2, 2013. Twenty-two youth and adult leaders were honored during the event which Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, president of the National Black Catholic Congress and award recipient, called “one of the finest if not the best” he’s seen among Black Catholics.

“One of the most impressive aspects of this banquet is the gathering of our sisters and brothers to acknowledge and affirm the gifts that Black Catholics bring to the church; including a deep dedication and firm commitment to the ministry of leadership,” said Annette Mandley-Turner executive director of the Office of Multicultural Ministry. Every individual honored during the event has displayed this type of dedication and commitment in their parishes and communities in their own unique way. “There’s something inside that drives me to help out as much as I can,” said Ellen Lydian, a parishioner of St. Monica Church in Bardstown, Ky. Lydian, who does fund raising for her church, received the African American Catholic Leadership Award for her efforts and dedication. Lydian had turned down a nomination a few years ago. “I refused, because I don’t mind doing things for church, but this year they insisted I accept the nomination,” she said.

That something inside which Lydian referred to is what Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, DD describes as a charism. “In the church you don’t just have leadership, what you have is a charism...a gift that is not your own. It’s a gift from God given to you to be used for the sake of others,” said Archbishop Kurtz. As the evening progressed, these gifts were evident as the honorees accepted their awards and each thanked God for allowing them to serve. Greg Tichenor’s gift for serving was recognized with the Acacia award, which is the highest award given out by the OMM. “Acacia is about being the foundation. It’s about giving life and being there as the rock. Greg is so dedicated and his passion for giving to our young people is unfounded,” said Mandley-Turner. Tichenor says his passion for serving stems from his desire to see racial and social equality. He says that his education in economics truly informed him of the racial inequalities which he was taught to disregard his entire life. Tichenor’s eyes were further opened when he became involved in church programs which tackled racism and inequalities. “The seed had been planted for me to learn more and for me to turn prayer and investigation into action,” said Tichenor. He says volunteering as a tutor at the Catholic Enrichment Center has enriched his life and he describes his work as an effort to “move beyond charity towards empowerment”. “I’ve developed wonderful friendships that have allowed me to work on activities that have helped to build some much needed bridges between cultures in our city,” he said.





In accepting his Acacia award, Bishop Ricard talked about the spread of secular culture and how it's making it difficult to convey the message of faith to the younger generation. "One of the greater anxieties that I have as a bishop is that this ancient faith is passed on to young people," said Bishop Ricard. He also addressed the doubts felt by some African Americans about their place in the Catholic Church. To ease these doubts, Bishop Ricard told those gathered about his trip to Ethiopia 25 years ago and how impressed he was with the deeply rooted Christian church in that African country. He reminded them that the Christian faith has been rooted in Ethiopia since Old Testament time, long before missionaries came and Africa was colonized. "Impress upon your mind, my young people, that the Catholic faith and the Christian faith are deeply rooted in your DNA as descendants of Africa," Bishop Ricard told them. "We belong to the church; the church is ours and we are the church," he assured them.

Bishop Ricard's words may not be lost on the youth who heard him that night. Nine young people were awarded the Rodriq McCravy scholarship and they were gracious, grateful and aware of the role God has played in shaping their lives. Eighteen-year-old Sharriff Moore, who was awarded a scholarship, said he was thankful for the trials God had put him through, because he emerged a more successful person. Sharriff credits the youth camp Kujenga Viongozi with much of that personal success. "Participating in Kujenga Viongozi has really formed me as a person, because they question who you are, who you are becoming and who you are trying to be," Sharriff said.

"They guide you onto the right track and let you know that being right with God is the first step to getting there," he continued. "These banquets are so much more than a pat on the back," said Stephanie Henry who was awarded a scholarship as well. "The message here is not to accept the award and stop what you are doing. The message is to accept the award and to keep moving forward doing God's work," she said.

The 2013 African American Catholic Leadership Award was presented to: Charlotte Alexander of Christ the King, Shan Hermit of St. Martin de Porres, Ellen Lydian of St. Monica, James Mason of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Carolyn Payne of St. Monica, Jim Scott of St. Ignatius Martyr, Mary Shoulders of St. Bartholomew, Marion Smith of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Adrienne Taylor-Mitchell of St. Martin de Porres and Dr. Daryl Williams of St. Augustine Louisville.

The 2013 Acacia Award was presented to Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ and Greg Tichenor.

The 2013 Genevieve Boone Award was presented to Stella Porter, St. Augustine Parish in Lebanon, KY.

The 2013 Rodriq McCravy Award scholarship for high school was presented to: Deion Ali Montgomery of Christ the King and Sydney Williams of St. Augustine Louisville. The 2013 Rodriq McCravy Award scholarship for college was presented to: Tori Burris of St. Augustine Louisville, Stephanie Henry of St. Martin de Porres, Timothy Alexander Marshall of Holy Rosary, Marie-Ange Mbumba of St. Bernadette, Sharriff T. O. Moore of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Morgan D. Talley of Immaculate Heart of Mary and Taylor Alexis Marie Theodore of St. Pius X.

2nd Archdiocesan Black Catholic Congress

By Ruby Thomas



The Second Archdiocesan Black Catholic Congress celebrated on Saturday December 1, 2012 at the Flaget Center in Louisville, drew a crowd of over 460 people from 15 parishes and four dioceses. This event, organized by the Louisville Archdiocese's Office of Multicultural Ministry, came on the heels of the National Black Catholic Congress XI which took place July 19 to 21, 2012 in Indianapolis, IN. The delegates, from Louisville who attended the national event, spent three faith-filled days worshipping and listening to diverse and dynamic speakers address the gifts of the black church; the importance of being faith engaged and the urgency of evangelization. They were asked to return home and share those messages with their diocese.

The Louisville event opened with those hundreds of voices uniting in songs and prayers during mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz. "If you thought you came here today for yourself then your eyes will be opened,"

the archbishop said. "We come to Christ to renew ourselves, but not for ourselves," he reminded them. The archbishop told those gathered that the congress was about Jesus Christ and the urgency of spreading the gospel. He compared them to vessels into which water is poured and overflows and told them that they are all called to be new evangelizers. Archbishop Kurtz talked about Pope John XXIII and how his favorite image was that of a village fountain in the center of town where all the people came to get water. "The parish is supposed to be the village fountain," he told them. He assured participants that there's no such thing as life in church and life outside of church. "Living two different lives does not work. It may not be perfect, but we live one life," he assured them.

Michele Harbin, a member of St. Augustine Church in Louisville, couldn't attend the national congress, but was grateful she was able to attend the archdiocesan congress. "I am very glad I was able to be off work to attend. I work two jobs, I have a teenage son and I am very busy. I learned today that as busy as my life schedule is that I can still take time to develop my relationship with God," said Harbin. Archbishop Kurtz told them that now is the time to celebrate; for them not to wait until they were free of suffering. "You and I are called to walk the way of the saints," he reminded them. "All the things God puts into our lives will make sense if we can just get close to the Lord," he said. Archbishop Kurtz called on everyone who heard him to take action. "If we don't do something this week we may not do anything for maybe the rest of our life time. Christ has blessed us with the gift of faith. We are to allow the lord to strengthen us in order to share our faith and bring others to Christ," he said.



He also reminded those present of the importance of such a gathering.

"The very fact that we are assembled at a congress like this says that black Catholics are heirs to a precious legacy," he said. When Daniel Rudd convened the first congress in 1889, he was concerned with African Americans' future in society and the church. (Rudd was born in 1854 near Bardstown, KY to parents who were slaves. He didn't have any formal education, but went on to become a journalist and publisher of the American Catholic Tribune). He proposed that the congress be a chance for black Catholics to get to know each other; to discuss the issues facing their race and to come up with a course of action sanctioned by the church. According to Father Whitt, Daniel Rudd believed the Catholic Church was the "single great hope for African Americans" and that all blacks should be Catholic. Rudd also felt that such a large gathering would serve to show Protestants that being black and Catholic wasn't strange. Father Whitt told those gathered that being black and Catholic



was a natural thing. "The Acts of the Apostles tells us that Africans were in the crowd to hear Saint Peter's first preaching on Pentecost day. The names of African saints and scholars abound in the early history of the church," he said.

Father Whitt gave those present even more reasons to be proud of their Catholic faith by reminding them that all other Christian denominations were derived from the Catholic Church. “Our church is the one built on the apostles, those closest disciples of Jesus Christ lead by Saint Peter the Rock on which he said he would build,” Father Whitt said. “Ours is the holy church of the seven sacraments. Christ himself established those wonderful instruments to give us sanctifying grace and divine help to strengthen us so we can walk the narrow path in this life so as to reign with him in the next one,” he continued.

Father Whitt said that the nineteenth century congresses declared black Catholics’ love for and confidence in the church and underscored their commitment to evangelization in the black community. The message today is still the same and that’s the reason he challenged older parishioners to cultivate that same love and confidence within their own parishes by teaching the youth. Pamela Grundy, a parishioner from Holy Rosary Church in Springfield, KY, agrees that teaching religious history to the youth today is an urgent matter. “I want to pass on what I learned from my parents unto these young people, because the books are not teaching it to them the way we learned it,” Grundy said. “We didn’t have books. Our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles taught us around the table. The books are good, but some of what they contain is not what we need to teach them about our African American heritage,” she continued.



The day was filled with a variety of workshops which presented many teaching moments. Many took time to think about their relationship with God during the workshop entitled Experiencing God which was presented by Debra Wade who is a parishioner at Christ the King Church. Wade discussed some of the barriers to forming a strong and lasting relationship with God including

the hustle and bustle of our culture. “If we are always on the move, when do we take time to listen to the words that God puts into our hearts and the soft whisper of the soul,” she asked? “The key to listening is taking time to be quiet and to become an empty vessel for the potter’s hands to mold and to fill to God’s will,” she told them. Andrew Boone Jr., a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary, said his relationship with God became more comfortable as he got older. “Because of my experience as a child, I associated prayer with penance. I felt like prayer was painful, so I quit going to church when I was old enough to make my own decision,” he said. “When I returned like the prodigal son, my mother was waiting and so was God. I had to learn how to pray all over again and establish a new relationship with the father, but this time it wasn’t painful.”

The congress experience has set many on a journey to a closer relationship with God and a more meaningful church life. Terrence Churchill, one of the young people from Holy Rosary Church who attended the congress, said the experience was “life changing.” “I’ve learned that we have to walk more in faith and trust in God,” said Churchill. He said the experience has inspired him to be more active in church and to read the bible more often.



Mrs. Carrie Stivers of St. Monica said “I have been here a long time and have never experienced anything like this. Our archdiocese can gain much insight from African Americans as it embraces the New Evangelism because we live each day we are in the church. It would



have been good to have had the presences of the leaders in the archdiocese spend a day with us to learn about us. That is if they are serious about the presence of African American in the Catholic Church.

“The flames of the congress experience focusing on the New Evangelism still burn bright months later. We have a real sense of the New Evangelism but it is from an africentric experience. If we are to reflect the Good News it must reflect our cultural experiences. It is through that lens that people hear our journey and embrace the Jesus we are acquainted with” said Kenya J. Turner of St Martin de Porres.

Tori Burris of Saint Augustine parish in Louisville said “as an African American Catholic youth, this congress experience helped me to understand what is good about being Black and Catholic and why I will remain in the church.”

REVIVAL

FAITH ENGAGED FAMILY

Revivalist:

Rev. Andre Barnes



Sunday, August 11, 2013

St. Martin de Porres
Catholic Church

3112 West Broadway
Louisville, KY

Monday, August 12, 2013

St. Augustine
Catholic Church

1310 West Broadway
Louisville, KY

&

MEAL...5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

PRAISE & WORSHIP...6:00 P.M. – 6:20 P.M.

REVIVAL...6:30 P.M.

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Multicultural Ministry & the Quad Parish churches, Christ the King, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Augustine (Louisville), & St. Martin de Porres.

For further details, please call 502.471.2146.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is with great pleasure that I write these few words of appreciation and gratitude. I am a young adult and a member of a blended family. My twin and I were adopted by loving parents who had two biological children of their race. At the age of 9 it became clear that while we were certainly human beings we had some needs that were not the same for our other brothers and sister. As we developed into our early teens it became challenging for us to socialize in some of the groups in our community without feeling a little displaced. Many times, we experienced feelings of isolation because we were always the last to be selected for the teams. We always had to prove ourselves. When we became 15 we realized that we had very little knowledge regarding our race. A friend of my father's heard about a process for youth called Kujenga Viongozi that affirmed the cultural, racial and religious identity. It developed a sense of ownership for the two of us and instilled a sense of pride. It connected us with the Black Catholic Church experience and created a network of friends who lived and celebrated their cultural identity.

At the age of 22 we were invited by Ohio to participate in the Young Adult Kujenga Viongozi Program and walked away with a wealth of knowledge regarding an afri-centric mind-set for Catholics. It re-energized us to become a beacon of hope for others who lived in similar family systems. It challenged us to become more engaged in our faith. On a final note, it reaffirmed that God doesn't make junk.

Thank you OMM for sharing this process with Ohio.

Michel' and Meshell Blankinshire – St. John Cathedral, Indianapolis, IN

Dear Editor,

My name is Franzwa SaSaa and I am from South Africa. I have lived here for five years now and find that your office is very helpful with the African people. Our numbers increase daily and very little effort outside of your office is being done to address our pastoral needs. Perhaps it is because we are so diverse. OMM, your hard work to make us a part of the church is appreciated. My prayers are with you as you continue to respond to the great numbers that are coming.

Brother in Christ,

Franzwa – St. Martin de Porres

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the Day of the Dead Altars. Your information in the booklet was insightful and welcomed. I was at Flaget Center for a meeting and found time to browse your table and ponder why we don't have something like this in all of our Catholic buildings. The only way we will be able to remove the walls that we have created out of ignorance, is to educate. I encourage OMM to continue educating all of us. Help us to expand our love for all of God's people by walking in their shoes.

Mary Pat – St. Bernadette

Dear Editor,

I have was in the Archdiocese of Washington attending a meeting on diversity with 400 others and was delighted to hear two presenters cite our Office of Multicultural Ministry as a model for others to adopt. Sometimes you have to leave home to appreciate what you have. Thank you OMM for all that you do for our parishes and for the continuous effort calling us to be a church that welcomes diversity.

Gene – St. James

New Evangelization Prayer
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Heavenly Father,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture.

Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.



Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others.

Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:
If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen



TUNE INTO
“CONNECTION POINT”
RADIO SHOW
with
M. Annette Mandley-Turner
Saturdays
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
AM 1350 WLOU



What's Good About Being Catholic? *Perspectives From Several Youth* Charmein Weathers



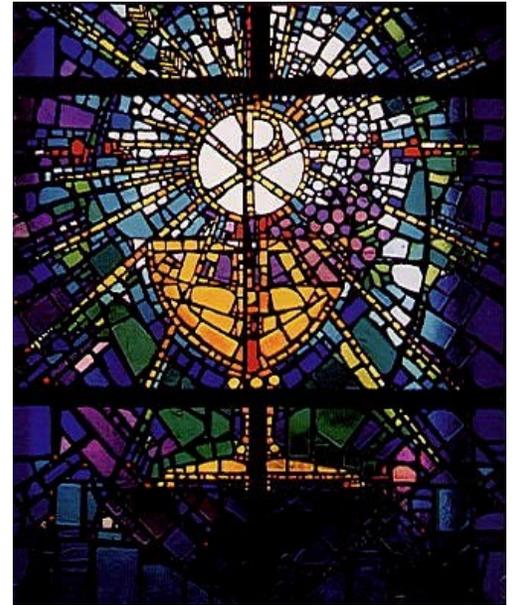
AmericanCatholic.org states that our heritage points to Christ. It lists eight good reasons for being catholic. They are:

1. An optimistic view of creation
2. A universal vision
3. A holistic outlook
4. Personal Growth
5. Social transformation
6. A communal spirit
7. A profound sense of history
8. A respect for human knowledge

Here are a few youth perspectives on “What’s Good About Being Catholic”.

"God reveals himself in multiple ways to a plethora of people as we see in the various forms of Christianity. But to be catholic is something truly special. We have the Eucharist that fully allows us to experience Jesus' own body and blood. We have our Blessed Virgin Mary and our communion of saints as role models and prayer warriors as well as a universal church that no matter what country you're in, as soon as you walk into that church you can expect what to do because it's a Catholic universal church! Through the sacrament of reconciliation, we are able to ask God for penance and forgiveness and then have a clean slate once more. As Catholics, we don't only pray and sing and worship a God, we glorify Him, embracing and seeking true love [as we witness His sacrifice of His only son]. Other religions may focus on feeling happy or good all the time, but because the crucifixion is at the crux of our faith, we recognize and seek the same kind of sacrificial love in our lives. To be Catholic, we live to adore and follow God the way Jesus established it for us Himself. To be Catholic, we live to love one another the way Jesus showed and taught us. "

- Shaun Baluyot, 19, Filipino Youth

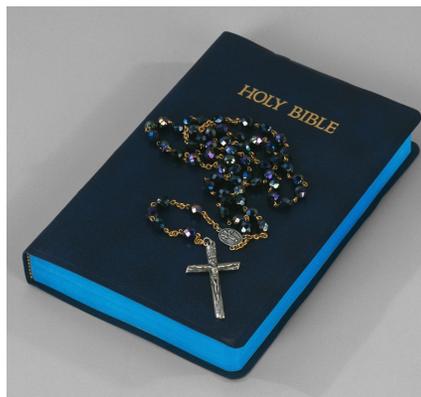


“catholic (lower case c) means universal and I truly believe that my faith connects me to everybody no matter age, race, or gender. My religion is my foundation in life, its always there when I am in need of something to count on. I love being Catholic and everything that my faith brings to my life. “

- Ivonne Gonzalez, Hispanic Youth

As a catholic Christian, believing in God and Jesus has helped me immensely throughout my life. My faith keeps me positive as I go through everyday life and it's what gets me out of bed when I feel like I have no energy. It is important to me to keep believing in God because life as a teenager isn't quite that easy since peer pressure and temptation are everywhere. Faith is a huge part of who I am, and, honestly, I believe that a person without faith is like a sky without the sun.

- Ariane Ishimwe, 17, African Youth



The best thing about being Catholic is that we get the opportunity to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ every Sunday. We also share our Savior with everyone else, all the other faiths.

- Michael Wright, 14,
African American Youth &
Rural Community

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

By Ruby Thomas



Catholics from all walks of life joined members of the Hispanic community in a colorful and festive celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Wednesday December 12 at St. Bartholomew Church on Buechel Bank Road.

Mexican dancers wearing feathered headpieces and colorful cultural clothing leaped down the aisle to the sounds of Spanish hymns sung to the rhythm of acoustic guitars. Parishioners took part in a candle light procession, which led up to the mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz. “Today we honor our blessed lady and she brings us closer to her son Jesus Christ,” said Archbishop Kurtz. During his homily, Deacon Frank Villalobos reminded parishioners of what they were celebrating. “In the gospel reading Saint Elizabeth asks her cousin Mary ‘who am I that the mother of my lord comes to visit me?’ Those words belong to us today,” Deacon Villalobos told them.

Hundreds of years have passed since the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in Mexico to Juan Diego, an indigenous man with a humble background. “Juan Diego didn’t feel worthy enough to be Mother Mary’s messenger and hoped she’d choose someone else,” said Deacon Villalobos. The Blessed Mother spoke to Juan Diego telling him “my youngest and dearest son, that which troubles and afflicts you is nothing. Do not fear sickness or anything that is hurtful. Are you not under my shadow and under the protection of my cloak?” “What does it mean to be under the

protection of her cloak,” asked the deacon?

“Our Lady of Guadalupe is very special to me. She brought me through seven pregnancies and gave me seven healthy children,” said Ofelia Chavez, a young Mexican woman who recently moved to Louisville. “I am teaching my children to come to church and to believe in her,” continued Chavez.

Deacon Villalobos shared the story of Saint Dominic’s vision of the Virgin Mary as an example of what it means to be under her protection. While praying in his monastery’s chapel one night, St. Dominic looked up and saw the sky part. He saw Jesus and Mary standing next to each other and surrounding them were saints and religious from all orders. St. Dominic broke down and wept when he didn’t see any members of his order in the crowd. Christ asked what was wrong and St. Dominic answered that he was troubled, because he didn’t see any members of his order in heaven. Jesus responded telling St. Dominic he didn’t see any Dominicans because he’d place them under his mother’s protection. The Virgin Mary then opened her arms and nestled between the folds of her cloak were the members of St. Dominic’s order.

Deacon Villalobos also reminded those present that the Blessed Mother is not only “the queen of Mexico”, “she’s the empress of the Americas, from Canada in the north to Chile in the south”. Blanca Hernandez, a Colombian native now living in Kentucky, says the Virgin Mary has special significance to the South American people. “As a Colombian woman, this day is very important to me. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the mother of the Americas and the representative of the Hispanic people,” said Hernandez who is a member of St. Gabriel in Bardstown, KY. “I lived in Venezuela also and she is very special to Venezuelans as well,” continued Hernandez.

Hernandez believes that, because of motherhood, the Blessed Mother has a special significance in the lives of women, but added that the virgin is special to men as well. Alejandro Guadarrama agrees. “As I child, I was taught to love and respect her and I am teaching my children to do the same. We show our love and respect for her everyday not only on her feast day,” said Guadarrama. “I am thankful to her for life and for a healthy family,” he added.

Veronica Garcia, a 16- year-old Mexican American young woman, says Our Lady of Guadalupe is very special to her family. “Honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe is a very deeply rooted tradition in the Mexican culture. We honor her and bring her flowers as a way of thanking her for all the small ways she provides for us all year long,” says Garcia.

Deacon Villalobos told those gathered that he might not be lucky enough to encounter the Blessed Mother in this lifetime, but hopes to see her in heaven one day. He said, “When I ask where my brothers and sisters are who came together to celebrate at St. Bartholomew on this day, how wonderful would it be to see you all there under the protective folds of our lady’s cloak”.

If I Had My Life To Live Over

By: Erma Bombeck

(This was written after she learned that she had a fatal disease)

If I had my life to live over, I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the “good” living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television — and more while watching life.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

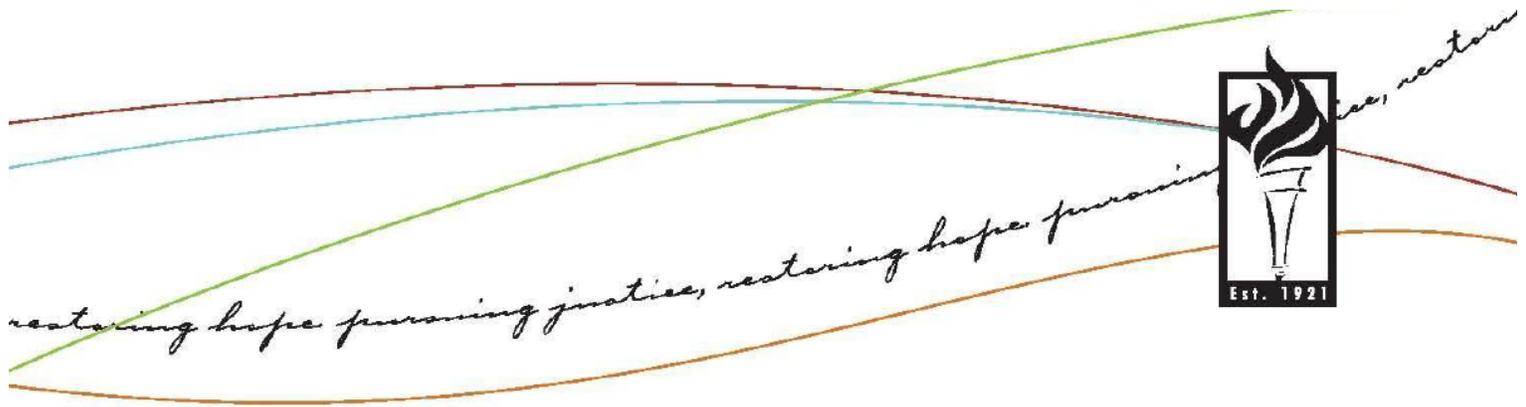
Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, “Later. Now go get washed up for dinner”.

There would have been more “I love yous” . . . More “I'm sorrys” . . .

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute . . . look at it and really see it live it . . . and never give it back.

© Erma Bombeck



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Acceptance

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Differences

Empathy

Experience

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Holidays

Language

Learn

Opportunity

Positive

Race

Sensitivity

Share

Smile

Solutions

Teach

Traditions

Trust

Trustworthy

Understanding

Valuing

DATES TO REMEMBER

Camp Africa Inspire
June 10 - July 26, 2013
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Catholic Enrichment Center

**Interregional African
American Catholic
Evangelization Conference
(IAACEC)**
June 14-16, 2013
Hilton Columbus at Easton
Columbus, OH

Men's Wing Cook-off
June 29, 2013
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Catholic Enrichment Center



Filipino Holy Mass
July 7, 2013
3:00 p.m.
St. Margaret Mary Church

Kujenga Viongozi - Level II
Grades 9, 10, 11, & 12
July 18 - 21, 2013
St. Meinrad Seminary

Back to School Fair
July 20, 2013
9:00 a.m.
Location: St. Rita Church
August 3, 2013
10:00 a.m.
Catholic Enrichment Center

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SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's Creation

SAVE THE DATE!

Dinner with the Archbishop

*Friday, October 11, 2013
Location and time:
TBA*

Grades 6 through College

This publication can be found
electronically at
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