



Sisters in the Spirit

Catholic Diocese of Arlington

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February, 2018

No.5, Vol.2

Greetings Good People,

Sisters in the Spirit is preparing to celebrate its seventh anniversary. March 13th, 2011 was SIS first organizational meeting. The journey that brought us this far has enkindled a *spirit of sisterhood*, a *spirit* which strives to make a difference in our families, in our Church, and in the larger community. We have grown by sharing authentic Catholic celebrations, information, and news. We have been inspired and enriched by SIS Members sharing their own personal Catholic Journey. Through validating our history, increasing our prayer life, and focusing on evangelization, our spirits have been lifted. Sharing of the journey, working together in kindness, enables growth.

SIS extends an invitation to all Catholic Women who wish to join in our Ministry to email: jmac23icmb@verizon.net for a member application. For additional information visit: www.arlingtondiocese.com, click: enrich your faith, Multicultural Ministries, African & African American.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY

February 4, 2018

Visit page 9 for additional information

St. Josephine Bakhita

The feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, **February 8**, has been designated as the first **International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking**. Last year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration designated such date as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking. Later that year, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General at the Vatican, announced that the 2015 event will also be observed internationally. Novena prayers page 10. Visit www.usccb.org for additional information.

SIS Spirituality Prayer

Mary, Our Mother, pray for us,
guide our actions;

Mother Theresa, pray for us,
that a Spirit of charity be
infused in our every action;

Sr. Thea Bowman, pray for us,
that SIS is enkindled with true
joy and kindness.

National Black Sisters' Conference



Established in August 1968, the National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) is an inclusive Catholic Organization of vowed Black Catholic Women Religious and Associates from many congregations of religious across the United States. The Fourth, NBSC **National Black Catholic Women's Gathering, will take place July 27–July 29, 2018.** (flyer page 3)

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Sisters in the Spirit . . . Diocese of Arlington

SIS 2018 theme is *sharing our stories*. You will see and feel the strength of SIS Member Linda Edwards when you read her story on page 3. We have a tradition of bringing noted speakers into the Diocese. We have learned much from their experience, talent, and wisdom but each of us has our journey and our own struggles. This sharing creates unity; the SIS Member sitting next to you may be the one who expands your horizons, inspires you.

SIS continues to issue *invitations to Catholic Women* who wish to share SIS Mission and Vision:

Sisters in the Spirit Mission

Blessed Mother, sharing the African American Catholic Heritage and tradition through:

- programs that enlighten, express, develop, and strengthen our Faith;
- compassion and service for those having spiritual, social or economic needs;
- striving to be a positive spiritual light, an **evangelizing** force in the world.

Sisters in the Spirit Vision

Sisters in the Spirit will live the Gospel through authentic Catholic Worship, Prayer, Witness, Fellowship and Programs.

Sisters in the Spirit will develop programs that share African American Catholic Heritage and Tradition within the African American Community and within the larger Catholic Faith Community.

Sisters in the Spirit will strive to share our "gift of blackness" with the entire Church as Pope Paul VI requested during his trip to Africa. For SIS Member Application email:

jmac23icmb@verizon.net

Quote:

"...Our hope to broaden our participation the Church, increase evangelization efforts, promote and support vocations, so the Church may be what she says she is – Catholic, culturally diverse, with all God's children working in His vineyard and unified at the Eucharistic table is our beatified vision as we walk in the future."

Therese Wilson Favors
Traveling Through Holy Time

February is dedicated to the Holy Family

This year the first thirteen days of February fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of February are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.
www.catholicculture.org

SIS Formation Meetings & Events

We sincerely *Thank* all who have supported *Sisters in the Spirit* and SIS events over the past seven years. We look forward to an exciting future.



**Corinne Monogue, Shelley Almond
Presenting a SIS Scarf**

From the first inquiry meeting about forming *SIS*, Corinne Monogue, Director of the Office of Multicultural Ministries, Diocese of Arlington, has been instrumental in *SIS* development and progress.



We Celebrate . . .

S/S Member Engaged



Holly Nicole Ousley and Robert Lavender have set their wedding date, June 16, 2018.

Celebrating 4th Anniversary

Knights of Peter Claver
Mother Mary Lange Court 398



Installation picture (above) at St. Joseph Catholic Church, February 22, 2014

The Knights of Peter Claver was originally founded November 7, 1909 in Mobile Alabama as an organization to allow men of color membership in a Catholic fraternal society. In 1926, under the leadership of the KPC National Council, we answered the call to organize and establish the Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary. And so, it was over 85 years ago that the National Council recognized local courts to form the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary. A tree was planted that has now grown into a forest of approximately 11,000 Ladies.

For KPC information: www.kofpc.org and KPCLA Court 398 information email: bdbthornton@gmail.com

From page 1

National Black Sisters' Conference

The National Black Sisters' Conference has been shouting "**Glory! Halleluia!**" since 1968.

We are Vowed Catholic Women Religious from many different Congregations.

We draw strength and courage from God.
We support one another in the faith and hold our elders in high esteem.

We have Associate & Auxiliary Membership
We study, speak & act on issues in the social, educational, economic & religious milieus in the United States.

We help promote positive self-image among ourselves and our African American people.

We believe & therefore we can hold out the light toward yet another tomorrow.

July 27 - July 29, 2018

Save
the
Date

**Grace-Filled Black Catholic Women:
Standing on the Promise**

4th National Black Catholic Women's Gathering

Sponsored by *National Black Sisters' Conference*

To identify, celebrate, energize and set an agenda to motivate intergenerational Black Catholic Women to engage our talents for becoming and forming missionary disciples active in Church and society for the glory of God and the spiritual and social liberation of Black people.

Friday, July 27 — Sunday, July 29, 2018

New Orleans Marriott Hotel

859 Convention Center Blvd

New Orleans, LA 70130

Reservation is now open —1-800-305-6342

(The National Black Sisters Women's Gathering)

Room Rate—\$139.00 plus tax per night

Registration Fee:

NBSC Members and Associates—\$200.00 per person

Non—Members—\$260.00 per person

For more information contact:

NBSC Office 202-529-9250

thenationalblacksistersconfer@verizon.net



A statement from The National Black Catholic Congress in response to remarks made by President Donald Trump

The National Black Catholic Congress strongly condemns the remarks by President Donald Trump regarding our sisters and brothers from Haiti, El Salvador and the nations of Africa. As people of Faith, concerned with the dignity of all of God's people, we deplore such racist and hateful speech.

At our Congress Gathering in Orlando this past working toward social justice. As we celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this weekend, his words have never rung truer:

"Along the way of life, someone must have the sense enough and the morality enough to cut off the chain of hate. This can only be done by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives."

We will continue to act justly, love goodness and walk humbly with our God and all of God's people

www.nbccongress.org

Office of Multicultural Ministries Diocese of Arlington

The Office of Multicultural Ministries strives to serve the pastoral needs of the various ethnic communities within the Diocese of Arlington. The office seeks to serve as a resource to newcomers. The Office of Multicultural Ministries is foremost a center for outreach and evangelism, to connect and serve the different ethnic ministries within the Diocese of Arlington.

For information visit:

<http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/multicultural/index.php>

For Latest updates and information --

Follow us on Twitter: @cdacultures

Prayer Request

In a still, reflective spirit, with utmost gratitude,
we pray for

Pope Francis, and Church Leaders.

Our Families and all who are dear to us.

All LIFE: preborn, born, well, infirmed,
incarcerated, poor, and unchurched.

Those suffering from illness, addiction,
loneliness, recent storms and earth quakes.

We pray for those who have no one to pray
for them.

We pray for the grace and will to forgive.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph pray for us.

Black Catholic Ministries Diocese of Arlington

Black Catholic Ministries strives to:

- Raise the level of awareness of the gifts and the contributions made by past and present Black Catholics
- Provide Evangelization opportunities, programs, and community outreach
- Serve the needs of the Black Catholic Community
- Work to increase vocations

Outreach Program

The present BCMO Outreach Program is to identify one Black Catholic from each Catholic Parish in the Arlington Diocese to become a **Liaison between their Parish and the Black Catholic Ministries Office**. For details or to be a Liaison from your Parish contact:

Deacon Albert A. Anderson, Jr., Chairperson
Office of Multicultural Ministries
200 North Glebe Road, Suite 820
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Email: alandersonjr@verizon.net

Website:

<http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Diocesean-Cultural-Ministries/African---African-American/Black-Catholic/Black-Catholic-Ministries/>

From the Desk of . . .

*Thelma Adams, President
SIS Archdiocese of Washington*

2018 Calendar of Events**April 21**

Fun event/SisterSharing in preparation for
NBSC National Gathering Conference

Place: TBD

Co-Chairs:

Donna Grimes donnatolivergrimes@gmail.com

Tayloria Jordan tcj9517@verizon.net

July 27-29

4th National Black Sisters Women's
Gathering, New Orleans, LA (Details pg 3)

September 8

Triumph of the Cross

Place: TBD

Co-Chairs:

Burma Hill burmahill57@aol.com

Phone: 240-620-4556

Cherry Neal cherrytn@verizon.net

Phone: 301.641.3719

Blessings,

Thelma Adams

For information about SIS - ADW

thelmaadams1@verizon.net

Reflection

**Blessed the man who is gracious and
lends to those in need.**

**Lavishly he gives to the poor;
his generosity shall endure forever;
his horn shall be exalted in glory.**

Psalm 112:9

Consulting**Thelma Lucas**

Catholic Chaplain Consultant

301-254-3983 (c)

202-2995277 (w)

Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

From the Desk of . . .

*Yvette Goodman
SIS Archdiocese of Washington*

**FEBRUARY 8, 2018 IS THE FIRST
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND
AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

**Saint Josephine Bakhita Feast Day
February 8**

**Novena to Saint Josephine Bakhita
January 30 to February 8**

Bishop Martin Holley, auxiliary bishop of Washington, will hold a special Mass on Sunday, February 8 at noon, for the victims and survivors of human trafficking at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Prayer to Saint Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

More information is available at

www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/day-of-prayer.cfm

"When the heart gives, the hands open."

Ugandan Proverb

SIS Member Spotlight . . .



Linda Phillips Edwards

Linda has been a SIS member since 2012, serving in several leadership positions: secretary, membership committee, and program welcoming committee. Her story is one of faith and courage.

I grew up in East Orange New Jersey, which was quite different in the 1950's and 60's. There were many Black Catholic families'; also Jewish, Irish and Italian families. My parents were Presbyterians but from the time I was 8 years old, having attended Mass with an aunt, I knew I wanted to become a Catholic. At 17, I was allowed to take instruction in the Catholic Faith and receive the sacraments. After high school, I attended Howard University, Wash., DC, where I met and married my husband. He was a foreign student from Trinidad, West Indies. Our family lived in Trinidad and London, England returning to Virginia in 1985. I was a busy stay-at-home mother of eight children and am presently a proud grandmother of eleven.

My life took a severe down turn when I developed a dangerous and deadly flu-like virus infection which nearly killed me and causing "septic shock" to my body. My pulling through was a miracle but my legs below knee and all five fingers on my right hand had to be amputated. For four weeks, I was in George Washington Hospital working hard: learning to walk again on prosthetic (artificial) legs, learning to stand up from a chair and to balance myself without falling, walking around with various assistive devices, and going up and down stairs. Then one morning, the physical therapist told me, "OK Linda you're going to walk across this room all by yourself." It was about 30-40 ft. I looked down at those artificial feet, took control of my balance, took those first steps, and walked while hospital staff watched, smiled, and applauded. Exhausted and crying tears of joy, I was simply handed a tissue to wipe the tears away. I then recalled what an old and wise West Indian once told me "hurt and anger can be great motivators."

Many years later, still permanently handicapped, I was given the task of caring for an aged parent who had severe dementia and did not walk well. I

thought to myself, me physically challenged caring for a physically challenged parent? I said, it's going to be tough but I'll find a way. By God's grace, I did. How? I knew I HAD to do it so I did it well when the Hospice nurse could not be there. In spite of missing fingers, I did have strong arms to carry the weight.

In 1989 I became a CCD teacher at Our Lady of Angels Church in Woodbridge, in 2000 I began teaching CCD at Holy Family Church in Dale City, where she presently teaches. I am a substitute teacher for Prince William County Schools and a volunteer teaching English as a second language through Catholic Charities Hogar Immigrant Service. It is an indescribable joy to observe and help immigrants learn English.

Three Bible quotes really stand out for me:
- "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Matthew 7:7-8

- "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.

Matthew 7:13-14

- Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

John 6:53-58

I've never stopped stressing this doctrine as a Catechist to my young students. Believing in the real presence of Jesus in Holy Eucharist is what is so very beautiful about being Catholic. Now that's SOUL FOOD!

As a member of SIS, I get a chance to fellowship with Catholic Women of Color, sharing our unique Spirituality bond. I look forward to attending the fourth National Black Sisters' Conferences National Gathering in New Orleans in July. This sounds exciting: praying, growing, learning, and sharing our gifts, guided by Black Catholic Sisters.

From the Desk of . . .

Michele Jones
SIS Chair, Diocese of Arlington

The Daughters of St. Paul

The Daughters of St. Paul were founded in 1915 by Bl. James Alberione, a priest in northern Italy. As a seminarian, he felt called by the words of the Gospel of Matthew, "Come to Me, all of you" to bring all of humanity to Jesus. Gradually, he realized that God was calling him to use the media to make this happen. In 1914, he founded the Society of St. Paul, a religious order for me. In 1915, he asked Teresa Merlo to help him found the Daughters of St. Paul. Teresa took the religious name of Mother Thecla, and became the first superior of the Daughters of St. Paul. In the beginning, the Daughters sewed the books that the Society of St. Paul printed. Soon the Daughters began preparing and printing books, opening book and media centers, and traveling all over Italy to distribute books. Fr. Alberione began sending the Daughters all over the world to establish communities in different countries. The Daughters of St. Paul came to the United States in 1932, and to the Diocese of Arlington in the 1980s.

The Daughters of St. Paul' Mission is to evangelizing with the media: print publishing, radio, music, video, Internet, digital media, social media, and more. In today's media world, this apostolate has become increasingly important. Here in the Diocese of Arlington, the Sisters work in the Pauline Book and Media center in Old Town Alexandria. We go to parishes, schools, and conferences with and consecrated life. We animate Eucharistic Adoration and Lectio Divina (praying with the Scriptures). Our spirituality, based on the Word of God and the Eucharist, feeds us so that we can carry out this great work. We pray an Hour of Adoration each day. We are called to let Christ live in us, as St. Paul says, so that every encounter and every act becomes a means of giving Jesus to people.

Event DECOR

by

Bev Thornton

BDBThornton@gmail.com

St. Paul Book Store

If you are looking for a word of solace and encouragement, inspiration, books and DVDs to pass the faith on to your children, resources for pastoral ministry, spiritual reading to deepen your faith or help you explore moral issues, visit: 1025 King St, Alex., VA

Hours: Mon 12:00 – 6:00pm;

Tues – Sat 10am - 6:00pm

www.pauline.org/Catholic-bookstores

Newly Ordained



Bishop John Ricard SSJ, Fr. Roderick Coates, SSJ, Vicar General Josephites Deacon Joseph Bell, St. Lukes, and Deacon Al Anderson, St. Joseph, Alexandria.

Josephite Deacon Kingsley C. Ogbuji, SSJ, kneeling, was ordained Sat., Oct. 28, 2017 at St. Luke's Catholic Church, Washington, DC.



Anthony Johnson, Sister Marsha Hall, OSP, and Michele Jones.

The Oblate Sisters of Providence annual luncheon was an inspiring, joyous event. For information about the Oblate Sisters of Providence visit: www.motherlange.org

Sisters of the Holy Family



Sister Geneva James, S.S.F., Fourth General Councilor (left), Sister Clara Jackson, S.S.F. (center), and Emelda August, from Holy Family in Dale City.

Sister Geneva James, S.S.F., and Sister Clara Jackson, S.S.F., Sisters of the Holy Family, of New Orleans, LA celebrated the 175th Anniversary of their Order at Mass, Sunday, Oct., 29th at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Alex., VA,

This visit was part of their year-long founding anniversary celebrations from Nov. 19, 2016 to Nov. 19, 2017.

Their visit to St. Joseph featured a reception after Mass, the viewing of a film about the establishment of the Holy Family Nuns by Henriette Delille, a social sharing, and displays

For more information visit:

www.sistersoftheholymfamily.com

Cause for Canonization



Father Augustine Tolton

Trailblazing to sainthood, the Rev. Augustus Tolton awaits canonization. The 19th century escaped slave was the first known African American Catholic priest.

Book about his life: **From Slave to Priest: The Inspirational Story of Father Augustine Tolton.** Visit www.toltoncanonization.org

To report any spiritual or physical favors granted through prayer in Father Tolton's name, please write:

Office of the Cardinal
Archdiocese of Chicago
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Since then, it has expanded to reach more than 100 million people in 101 countries on five continents.

CRS's **mission** is to assist impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas, working in the spirit of Catholic social teaching to promote the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. Although its mission is rooted in the Catholic faith, it serves people based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity, helping them to reach their full potential and to realize their dignity as children of God. Within the United States, CRS helps Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering people of the world.

Following the example of Jesus Christ, CRS responds to emergencies, provides development assistance, and fosters charity and justice. It is committed to the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which form its **Guiding Principles**, and to fidelity to its **Catholic identity**.

CRS helps us become global disciples through spirituality and support of its work in the areas of emergency response, development, health, education and conflict resolution. Its programs also **relieve poverty in our own diocese**.

Learn about the many ways you can participate in CRS' work right here in the Arlington Diocese: Catholic Relief Services - Catholic Diocese of Arlington, 200 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22203 (703) 841-3830

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/about-us/offices/crs.../about-catholic-relief-services>

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God First, Family Second, Career Third



National Day of Prayer for African American Family

Feb. 5th Rosary

Black Catholic Ministries of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington's Office of Multicultural Ministries will host a National Day of Prayer for African American Family/Rosary Conference Call, 12 pm (EST), 641.715.3580, Access Code951981

A FRANCISCAN MINISTRY with African American Families



Reverend Fr. James E. Goode, OFM, Ph.D. **African American Catholic Evangelist**

Father James E. Goode, OFM, Ph.D. is the Pastoral Director of Solid Ground Franciscan Ministry, an evangelization ministry with African American Families and the founder and president of the **National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life**. He is the leading Black Catholic Evangelist in the United States. He is known as the "Dean of Black Catholic Preachers", having preached the first Black Catholic Revival in America (1974). He has preached the gospel message of "Blessed Assurance" and the dignity of all human life throughout the world. In 1989, he inaugurated the **National Day of Prayer for the African American Family**, which is celebrated on the first Sunday of Black History Month.

Franciscan Father Jim Goode is a proud member of the Franciscan Family of Franciscan Friars- Province of the Immaculate Conception. He is a native of Roanoke, VA and when ordained in May 1972 at the Shrine Church of St. Anthony in New York City, he became the first Black Catholic priest from the City of Roanoke. He holds B.A. degree in Philosophy from the Immaculate Conception Seminary, University of the State of New York, a Master of Divinity &, Masters of Theology

degree from St. Anthony's Theological Seminary, University of the State of New York, Master of Arts degree in Psychology, from the College of St. Rose, a Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology from Union Graduate School. A Doctor of Humane Letters (honorary) Virginia Theological Seminary.

For additional information visit:

http://www.solidgroundministry.com/sq_goode/goode.htm



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY First Sunday in February

(Founded 1989 by Fr. Jim Goode, OFM)

The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life is an "all about life" from the moment of conception to the natural end of life apostolate. The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life (NBCAL) is a ministry committed to pray, proclaim, educate and stand boldly for an end to abortion, all acts of violence and evil, and all injustice that destroys the sacredness of human life. The Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Body and Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ is the center, source, and vitality of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life. NBCAL is supported by all the major National Black Catholic organizations in the United States.

http://www.solidgroundministry.com/sq_goode/goode.htm

Quote:

"If the father is not in the home the boy will find a father in the streets. I saw it in my generation and every generation before me, and every one since."

Denzel Washington says the Black Community needs strong family units to create change.

From: the Grio.com

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

“Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!”
St Josephine Bakhita

Day 1: Dear St Josephine, you were taken from your family at an early age and lost your entire identity. We pray for all those children who have been abducted and for their parents and families who suffer not knowing what has become of them. May they be comforted, and may they one day be reunited. We pray especially for (add your intention). Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 2: Dear St Josephine, you knew what it was to be a slave, to have no rights, to have lost even your name. We pray for the victims of people traffickers and all those in any kind of slavery. May this evil be wiped out from our world. We pray especially for (add your intention). Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 3: Dear St Josephine, one of your ‘owners’ had your whole body scarred. You knew this terrible pain. We pray for all victims of torture. Help them to heal in body, mind and spirit. May all governments abandon this practice. We pray especially for (add your intention).
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 4: Dear St Josephine, even in the terrible suffering of your life, you saw beauty in the world and believed there must be God because of that beauty. May we too have something of your love for beauty and the natural world. We pray especially for (add your intention).
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 5: Dear St Josephine, when the family which had rescued you wanted you to leave the Canossians, you had the courage to refuse, even though you were truly grateful to them. Help us to put God’s will above all things, even above our natural affections. We pray especially for (add your intention).
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 6: Dear St Josephine, you were so grateful to know God and to be part of his Church that you often kissed the baptismal font. May we never take for granted the faith we have been offered and give us something of your humility and gratitude for all God does. We pray especially for (add your intention).

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 7:

Dear St Josephine, your sufferings gave you a great compassion for others and you were constantly smiling and always open to those who came to you, no matter how inconvenient it was. St Josephine, may we have something of your sweetness and openness, something of your joy. We pray especially for (add your intention).

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 8 Dear St Josephine, in your last painful illness you relived your slavery, begging the nurse to loosen your chains. We pray for all those who are weighed down by pain, and we ask that we too may enter the sufferings of our lives in faith and knowledge that God has not abandoned us. We pray especially for (add your intention).

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

DAY 9: Dear St Josephine, your last words were “Our Lady, Our Lady”. May we too know the comfort of the Mother of God, now and at the hour of our death. We pray especially for (add your intention).

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



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From the Desk of . . .

*Emelda August
Holy Family, Dale City*

First Friday Series

Can I Get a Witness?

Set aside time for this monthly event of spiritual nourishment. A conference and celebration of the Eucharist are the highlights of this program. There is lunch with the Sisters available and opportunity to enjoy the gift shop and the grounds.

10 am - 12:15pm.

Suggested donation: \$25 per session

A witness is someone who by word and example gives visible evidence of what they have seen and heard without being deterred by the consequences of their actions. There is a tradition among some African-American congregations for a speaker to seek affirmation when sharing a personal testimony or spiritual insight by inviting others to clap or shout "Amen," the speaker will ask the question, "Can I get a witness?" Individuals can thus voice their agreement based on their own personal experience.

Beginning in fall this series will explore the lives and actions of individuals who have served as witnesses to Gospel truths and values.

Feb. 2, 2018

**Equality: Fr. Augustus Tolton &
Mother Mary Lange, O.S.P.**

Annie McEntee

March 2, 2018

**Love in the Face of Oppression: Corrie Ten
Boom & Walter Ciszek,**

S.J. - Sister Dolores, OSB

April 6, 2018

**Life v. Death: Desmond Doss & Sister
Helen Prejean, C.S.J.**

Sister CharlotteLee, OSB

May 4, 2018

**Hospitality: Fr. Solanus Casey, OFM (Cap.)
& Br. Andre Bessette, Obl.SB**

C.S.C. - Greg Evans

From the Desk of . . .

Cecilia Braveboy

February 5, 2018

Prayer and Reflection on Church and Community:
The Early Civil Rights Years (1940-1960s)

*Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around
turn me around, turn me around.*

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around.

*Gonna keep on a-walking, keep on a-talking,
marching up to freedom land.*

Ain't gonna let race hatred turn me around...

Ain't gonna let segregation turn me around...

Ain't gonna let no injustice turn me around...

The Minkisi Ministry invites you to a scripture prayer and reflection: "Is There No Balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). For Black History Month, a video excerpt from a Selma documentary will also be featured.



Photo: Shufford Hill, Sr. and Warrie Green with Rev. David Ray, the late pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.

Join us, 7:15 p.m., Our Lady Queen of Peace, Parish discussion Room, 2700 19th St. S, Arlington, VA (inclement weather, follow Arlington County Public School closings) **RSVP:** Cecilia Braveboy, jisaac3@verizon.net, or 703-979-5389

A good read, see the Catholic Standard Article about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 13th observance, at St. Joseph Church, Largo, Md. It was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington's Cultural Diversity and Outreach office.

<http://cathstan.org/Content/News/Archdiocese/Article/Martin-Luther-King-Jr-celebration-highlights-perseverance-faith-of-black-Catholics/2/27/8288>.

"We will continue to act justly, love goodness and walk humbly with our God and all God's people."

(Sandra Coles-Bell, Program Director, Cultural Diversity and Outreach).

Christ's peace,

Cecilia Braveboy

**My soul does magnify the Lord, And my spirit sings of
God, my Savior! ("Magnificat," GWBrown)**

St. Joseph Catholic Church



Bishop Michael Burbidge, (center) Fr. Donald Fest, St. Joseph Pastor, (R) and Deacon Al Anderson (L)

Statement from Bishop Burbidge on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge celebrated Mass January, 14th at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Alexandria, VA. His homily addressed: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, prejudice in our world, and more.

"On this observance of the life of Dr. King, may we entrust our hearts and the hearts hardened by hatred and prejudice to Our Lord Jesus, in whom we place our prayers, our hope and our dreams."

January 15th offers the opportunity to celebrate Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, whose life devoted to ending prejudice and racism is an inspiration for all people, regardless of their faith tradition or ethnicity.

Events such as those in Charlottesville remind us that racism is an evil that still plagues our country, resulting in anger, violence and discord. Those who hold to corrupt and disjointed views need God's grace and our unfailing and untiring witness rooted in the dignity of each and every person.

Dr. King reminds us that "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." Jesus is the true Light that drives out darkness and His Love overcomes all hatred. On this observance of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., may we entrust our hearts and the hearts hardened by hatred and prejudice to Our Lord Jesus, in whom we place our prayers, our hope and our dreams.

In my first year as the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, I have been blessed to

witness the strength and faith of our culturally diverse communities, including our vibrant and devout Black Catholic community. I take this opportunity to thank them for their faithful and steadfast witness to Christ's Church and to our communities.

Excerpt from: Catholic Diocese of Arlington
www.arlingtondiocese.org/Diocesan-Cultural-Ministries/African---African-American/Black-Catholic/Black-Catholic-Ministries/



St Joseph Catholic Church
711 North Columbus Street
Alexandria, VA
703.836.3725

**"In the moment of crisis the wise build bridges and the foolish build dams."
 Nigerian Proverb**

February . . .

Black History Month

We spotlight, salute diverse contributors to Black History

Sister Thea Bowman
Langston Hughes
Cyprian Davis, O.S.B.
James Weldon Johnson
Mother Mary Lang
Laura Wheeler Waring
Fr. Clarence Rufus Joseph Rivers
Sojourner Truth
Henriette Delille
Henry “Hank” Aaron
Juliette Gaudin
Melvin Tolson
Pierre Toussaint
Carter G. Woodson
Patrick Francis Healy
Marcus Garvey
Daniel Rudd
Alice Walker
Roberta Flack
Nelson Mandela
W.E.B. DuBois
Wendell P. Dabney
Frederick Douglass
Alex Haley
Bessie Smith
Mary Frances Berry
Toni Morrison
William “Smokey” Robinson
Nancy Wilson
Barbara Jordan
Horace Pippin
Frank E. Peterson
Edward Perkins
Adrienne Mitchell
Debi Thomas
Phyllis Wheatley
Augusta Savage

Note: Black Catholics included on this list are among African American Trailblazers. African American Catholics participated in the struggle for equal rights.

Black Inventors

Sarah E. Goode, born into slavery in 1850, she was an inventor and entrepreneur, invented Folding Cabinet Bed invention. She was the first African-American woman to be granted a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in 1885.

Mamie Phipps Clark is best known for her work in the “doll studies” that provided scientific evidence of the **psychological** impact of discrimination for the Supreme Court's decision in the Brown vs. Board of Education case.

Percy Lavon Julian, a research chemist and a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants. He was the first to synthesize the natural product physostigmine, and a pioneer in the industrial large-scale chemical synthesis of the human hormones, steroids, progesterone, and testosterone, from plant sterols such as stigmasterol and sitosterol.

George Edward Alcorn, Jr., Physicist, inventor, invented a method of fabricating an imaging X-Ray Spectrometer.

Saint Elmo Brady, Chemist, born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1884, became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in the field of chemistry when he completed his graduate studies at the University of Illinois in 1916. Published three scholarly abstracts in *Science*; collaborated on a paper published in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*.

Boone, Sarah, 1832–1905, Inventor, Ironing board allowing sleeves of women's garments to be ironed more easily.

Bath, Patricia, Ophthalmologist, Doctor, Educator, first African American to complete a residency in **ophthalmology** and the first African-American female doctor to receive a medical patent. She invented the Laserphaco Probe for cataract treatment in 1986.

To be continued, feel free to add to this list, especially from your family.

A statement from The National Black Catholic Congress in response to remarks made by President Donald Trump

The National Black Catholic Congress strongly condemns the remarks by President Donald Trump regarding our sisters and brothers from Haiti, El Salvador and the nations of Africa. As people of Faith, concerned with the dignity of all of God's people, we deplore such racist and hateful speech.

At our Congress Gathering in Orlando this past working toward social justice. As we celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this weekend, his words have never rung truer:

"Along the way of life, someone must have the sense enough and the morality enough to cut off the chain of hate. This can only be done by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives."

We will continue to act justly, love goodness and walk humbly with our God and all of God's people. www.nbccongress.org



Janice R. Crump
President

JRC Communications

1200 Braddock Place, Suite 812
Alexandria, VA 22314

(703) 618-5090 PH (703) 299-5070 FAX

jrccomm@hotmail.com EMAIL

<http://jrccomm.com/index.html> WEB SITE

2017 Event Highlights

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was held Oct. 14th. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge lead the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica. Bishop Burbidge led the Rosary, S/S Chair Michele Jones and her husband Ed Jones lead the First Joyful Mystery.



Photo by: Joe Cashwell, Arlington Herald

Michele and Ed Jones

Annual Black Catholic History Month Mass and Reception Nov. 4th, at St. Jude Catholic Church, Fredericksburg, VA.



Fr. James Hudgins and Deacon Al Anderson

Fr. James Hudgins, Pastor, St. Jude Catholic Church, Fredericksburg, VA was the celebrant, Deacon Albert Alderson, of St. Joseph, Alex., VA, was the Homilist. A reception featuring Black Catholic History Displays was viewed and enjoyed by attendees. The Choir for the Mass was the renowned Ghanaian Choir.



Belinda Mattos

Belinda Mattos (above), is the coordinator of the annual Black Catholic History Month Celebration at St. Jude. For information about the Nov. 3, 2018 celebration at St. Jude or to be on her mailing list email: Belinda Mattos belindajm1@hotmail.com.



The Ghanaian Choir from Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Alex., was the guest Choir at St. Jude Celebration Mass. There is a Ghanaian Mass Sunday, 2 p.m., Queen of Apostles, Celebrant: Rev. Anthony Appiah.

www.stanthonyparish.org.

Black Catholic History Month Celebrations

Diocese of Arlington Black Catholic Ministries Multicultural Ministries Day of Reflection, Nov. 18th was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. The day began with praise and worship.



Anthony Johnson, Veronica Dabney, Jackie Smith, Deacon Al Anderson, and Beverly Anderson (above) gave recaps from the National Black Catholic Congress XII that was held in Orlando, FL, July, 2017. The presentations were very informative, left attendees feeling the unity experience of Congress.



Monsignor Ray East

Monsignor Ray East, Pastor, St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Washington, DC was the keynote speaker at the Day of Reflection. His theme was Missionary Discipleship: going to the peripheries.

Msgr. East's message masterfully had attendees travel back to the Birth of Jesus: his birth in a manger, in a cave, among the "outcast" for there was "no room for him in the inn." Jesus was poor.

In song, with deep, impactful, informative information about the poor; he reminded attendees, we all came from poverty. Msgr. East elaborated a few things we can do: "get united, stay united, and reach out to that member in our family that needs help."

Black Catholic Ministries Father Augustus Tolton and Mother Lange Award



Bishop Michael F. Burbidge presented Cecilia Braveboy with the 2017 Award

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge presented Cecilia Braveboy with the **Father Augustus Tolton and Mother Lange Award**, Nov. 18, 2017. In his congratulatory remarks he stated, "There are so many heroes within your community and we pledge to follow your good example."

The plaque will be displayed in her parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace, for one year. Receiving the Award, Cecilia thanked the Multicultural Ministries Office of the Diocese of Arlington and Black Catholic Ministries for their recognition of her work.

Later, reflection upon the Retreat, Cecilia thought the surprise experience reminded her of one of her favorite songs, *"This Little Light of Mine, I'm gonna let it shine..."*

Deacon Al Anderson, Chair of Black Catholic Ministries, Diocese of Arlington, and coordinator of the 2018 Day of Reflection, received praise for an energizing, well planned faith experience.

The Office Multicultural Ministries, Diocese of Arlington, provides support, direction, and funding that keeps programs like the Day of Reflection possible. Corinne Monogue and her staff provide a constant source for growth in the Church, in the Black Catholic Community, and encourages an evangelization spirit. For information visit: <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Diocesean-Cultural-Ministries/African---African-American/Black-Catholic/Black-Catholic-Ministries/>

From the Desk of . . .

Mary Hicks

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church

On November 19, 2017, it was a privilege to have Deacon Al Anderson, of St. Joseph Catholic Church, offer the Homily at Christ the Redeemer Roman Catholic Church, Sterling, VA, in recognition of National Black Catholic History Month.

Deacon Al provided us with the historical background, heritage, and some unfamiliar truths about the role of Black Catholics in the Roman Catholic Church. He relating history back to the Acts of the Apostles. He engaged the congregation with questions about their current knowledge of three Popes born in Africa and the background of Black Saints. He reiterated that we are all Roman Catholic and it does not matter our race, color, or where we live. "We must be as one."

Throughout the month of November, [Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church](#) will have displays consisting of informational pamphlets, pictures with information on the four on the road to sainthood, the three popes, a "Timeline of Black Catholic History" and several books.

Also displayed, information on Mother Mary Lange Court 398, Knight of Peter Claver. All was well received and welcomed by the parish.

While November is designated as National Black Catholic History Month, November 19th, was designated as the "**First World Day of the Poor**", by **Pope Francis**. Deacon Al spoke on the importance of all of us spending time helping the poor in our daily lives

S/S Newsletter Invitation

Tell you Story

Each S/S Meeting features one member sharing her Catholic Journey. These stories have enriched all in attendance. They unite us to each other.

We invite you to share your Catholic Journey in S/S Newsletter. Also welcome are articles that reflect Catholic life, wisdom, encouragement, and/or your favorite prayers: jmac23icmb@verizon.net

Archdiocese of Washington

Diocese of Arlington Office of Family Life

Gabriel Project ARLINGTON (GPA)

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For info contact: Gabriel Project at (703) 841-3810 or GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org.

Community . . .

Inspiration

Video of Students from Baltimore's Cardinal Shehan School singing "Rise Up"

Oct 12, 2017 - Uploaded by CBS Baltimore
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEGEovFX534>

Scholarships

Top 30 Internship Programs For Minority and Black Students for 2018

www.findinternships.com

Book - Racial Justice and the Catholic Church
Rev. Bryan Massingale

Diocese of Arlington Multicultural Ministries Black Catholic Ministries Day of Reflection



From the Desk of . . .
Veronica Dabney

Race, Drugs, Guns & Misdirection

I know what you're thinking. An essay on gun violence can go in just so many directions—causes, statistics, impact and solutions. So, I could write about the experiences of a couple of families whose lives have been touched by gun violence. But I wondered if I wanted to be the one to wring from these family members the most painful incident of their lives. Or should I write about the criminal justice system, mass incarceration, disparate sentencing, or concentrate only on the gun trade and a compilation of statistics? Instead, I decided to go in another direction, because I know what you're thinking. I think that way myself sometimes. Here it is.

"If we could just stop the gun violence in those "urban" neighborhoods, the gun crisis would be pretty much over." Really?

Is that IT? (This, despite the fact that Pew research and other polls show that of groups studied, black households are the LEAST likely to own guns? In fact, there is no great desire in most black communities to increase gun ownership. They are more likely in many urban and suburban communities to heavily tilt toward stricter gun control laws.)

I've come to this line of thought based on two unrelated experiences that happened just as I was told about the gun violence theme in June. The first was my reaction to a review in the Washington Post style section about a TV series titled "Snowfall", a show I have yet to view. I understand the show is about the gun and drug epidemic of the 1980s. The other was the overall impression I took from the National Black Catholic Congress, which I attended with 3,000 other African American Catholics in Orlando July 5 – 9, 2017. How do the two relate to each other?

The July 5 Post article titled, "True crime? Not quite," was written by Hank Stuever. He started by questioning the show's creators, including John Singleton's, memories of their own neighborhood before it was devastated by the crack epidemic. I was struck by Mr. Stuever's certainty because he was born in Kansas in 1968, so I'm pretty sure he knows very little about John Singleton's memories of his neighborhood in the early 1980's. (Would Singleton endeavor to question Stuever's youthful memories of HIS neighborhood.) He went on to castigate Singleton and the others for portraying their childhoods in the show as "blissful",

"technicolor", "tranquil", "filled with boundless sunshine, good neighbors and ice cream trucks." Troubled by Mr. Stuever's presumptuousness, I wrote to him myself just before heading to Orlando and the Congress.

"I was a kid growing up in a segregated neighborhood, before the civil rights act was passed. And, guess what my childhood friends and I talk about when we get together now: the dances we taught each other; playing jacks on the sidewalk; catching fireflies in jars; jumping double dutch, which boy was the "cutest"; old Mr. Simmons who threatened to cut off our ears if we picked his flowers; the ice cream man; the basement dances; and the neighbors who "told on us" when we did something wrong; the Motown sound and James Brown at the Howard; the best and worst teachers; which dress/pants/shoes were the "style" at the time; and on and on. AND, the memories inside our community are always in technicolor.

Though just about everybody then was "churched" (there were few other places we could go) there were those who smoked and drank, but VERY FEW who used illegal drugs. And everybody knew where and from whom the drugs could be purchased, and the VAST majority of us stayed away from those places. We also knew not to walk out of our neighborhood, because white people put their dogs on us, or they called the police even if we were only walking. And, you didn't have to do anything for the police to harass you for NO reason whatsoever.

My friends and I [who grew up right here in the Arlington Nauck community] would prefer to remember the INSIDE of the neighborhood, which COULD be beautiful--a caring and beloved community. Our parents loved us and wanted to protect us, even though they knew they might not be able to do that."

Though "Snowfall" is a fiction-based show, Mr. Stuever also questioned the creators "conspiracy theory" that guns and drugs may have been imported into the neighborhoods, with the possible help of the government—maybe the CIA. Knowing that gun ownership or violence was not widespread in black communities, I wrote. (Even our friends in D.C. weren't dodging bullets to get to school.):

"That is why it is NOT farfetched to believe that in the 1980s, SOMEBODY inundated black communities, especially urban communities, with car loads of drugs and guns which led to the most destructive decade and a half in those communities since the civil war and the white "riots" and lynchings of the early 20th century. SOMEBODY had the idea if they

provided a cheap easy way for struggling communities to make money, they would destroy themselves from within. (They saw that marginalized communities rarely go outside of their own “borders” when they finally explode into riots.) I’m sure that FBI Director Hoover would have provided drugs for that purpose if he’d thought of it.

[Mr. Stuever] You were young, and probably engaged in your own life in the 80s, but there are those of us who remember well the spiraling rate of drug addiction, and the out of control gun deaths in once **tranquil** urban and suburban neighborhoods. Deaths during the drug wars of the 1980s went up into the high 100s even in small cities like Wash. D.C. The crack epidemic was the cause, AND, the governments solution, rather than treating the CAUSE, responded by locking up not only crack dealers, but also the addicts, with no treatment. AND, they went about making the sentences for these crimes TRIPLE that of those for cocaine and other drugs that were used by the majority community. Which left many communities with fewer men, fewer fathers, and a Lot Less HOPE.

Pres. Reagan did absolutely NOTHING about this epidemic (just as he ignored for a long time the burgeoning HIV epidemic).

Pres. Clinton’s response was to beef up police forces, which actually brought the murder rates down, but also allowed for the recruitment of almost ANYBODY to police forces around the country. We are still feeling the consequences of those decisions because of the number of police forces that hire men who should NEVER wear a badge or carry a gun. Many of them are unabashed Racists who want an opportunity to push black people around. Is there any wonder there is great bitterness and anger in black communities?”

AND, a few in those embattled communities feel the only way to defend themselves is with equal firepower—guns. The rah-rah nature of the nation’s 2nd Amendment gun culture does not help.

At Congress in Orlando, all the workshops, seminars and keynote speeches were based on Catholic orthodoxy as a path to a meaningful Christian life. But, many of the presentations spoke to the realities of being black and Catholic, in a country that sometimes looks askance at both. Just as Mr. Stuever believed there was No Way a black kid could experience a happy childhood, there are many in this country who believe that ALL of the evil in this country emanates from the “bad” neighborhoods on the edges of their own idyllic communities. (I wasn’t aware that I lived in a “bad” neighborhood until I heard it at my integrated high school. The girls didn’t know that I lived in Nauck.)

So, why am I saying all of this? Because I don’t believe this country will be able to do anything about the crisis of gun violence in this country until they stop compartmentalizing the problem. They point at one community and then drop the work required to find solutions because it’s not THEIR community.

Yet, as I mentioned before, the gun problem does not begin in the black community. Yes, the problem affects that community, sometimes disproportionately. But is that where it Begins? Is that the REAL problem? What about illegal gun sales at gun shows? What about lax gun control laws that allow felons to buy guns? Half of the gun deaths in this country are suicides. What about better mental health interventions? What about the 10% of gun deaths that are accidental? The TV News reported in July that in the first 6 months of this year(2017), a record number of guns were confiscated at the nation’s airports. Were all of these guns in the hands of black passengers?

Now I’m going to tell you what I’M thinking. If some of the solutions I heard in Orlando were implemented by the congregants who were there, the nation would be on the way to solving the gun violence problem in this country.

But, that won’t happen because the congregants at the National Black Catholic Congress, especially the young people, are ALWAYS perceived as the PROBLEM, never the Key to the solution. Unless the focus is turned to the real causes behind the gun epidemic this crisis will continue.

Sorry this has gotten so long, but I always wonder about journalists and others who go overboard trying to debunk stories they know very little about. Singleton’s memories are HIS memories and those of many black people, and you don’t have the right to change them, just because YOU think that black communities lack love and cohesiveness AND fond memories. This program will be fiction just like a lot of other programs, you have No Right to question the creators point of view or portray yourself as an expert on other people’s memories or the theories they espouse in a piece of fiction.

By Veronica Dabney
vdabney@cox.net

Suggested Reading:
Just Mercy Bryan Stevenson
The New Jim Crow Michelle Alexander

Veronica Dabney was one of the presenters at the Day of Reflection sponsored by Black Catholic Ministries, Arlington Diocese.

Events . . .

February 1, 2018

The (Quantico) Virginia Black History Month Prayer Breakfast, 8 – 10 am

Crossroads Event Center

3017 Russell Road, Quantico, VA

- Keynote Speaker: Rev. Paul Graham
- Marine Corps Base Quantico
- National Anthem Performed by:
Opera Student Anthony Anderson
- Eastern High School Choir
Directed by Mr. Tedrick Bonds, Sr.,
Music Director

For Ticket info:

Virginia Black History Month Association
(540) 907-1857 | joneswe5@yahoo.com
www.vabhma.com

Friday, February 2, 2018

Rosary for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Office for Black Catholics

Please join the Office for Black Catholics (OBC) & Office for Social Ministries (OSM) for our first monthly "**Rosary for Racial Justice and Reconciliation.**" **TIME: 2:00-2:30 PM**
OBC and OSM will be hosting these monthly rosaries throughout 2018. This rosary is meant to aid in our efforts toward racial harmony through prayer, the first step in addressing and eliminating the sin of racism that wounds the family of God. [**obc@richmonddiocese.org**](mailto:obc@richmonddiocese.org)

February 24, 2018

Virginia Black History Month Association
18th Annual Virginia Black History Month Association (VaBHMA) *Gala* Guest of Honor will be **Ms. Sarah Collins Rudolph**, 6 – 9 pm.

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
5000 Seminary Road,
Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Please join us as we celebrate the strength, courage and legacy of Ms. Sarah Collins Rudolph. For tickets, visit our website at:
Vendor spaces are \$150 dollars
Souvenir Ad \$100 dollars for a full page ad!
Visit: www.vabhma.com for details and www.vabhma.com/tickets.html
Bill Jones, President
Virginia Black History Month Association
(540) 907-1857 cell

February 24, 2018

Black History Mass

Holy Family Catholic Church, Dale City,
Annual Black History Mass, 5pm, will feature:



Deacon Gerard- Marie Anthony

Holy Family Black Catholic History Committee is honored to welcome Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony, guest Celebrant, for this celebration of Black History Month. Deacon Anthony attended Holy Family in his youth, it will be great to have him come home for a visit.

Deacon Anthony received his B.A. in Theology from Christendom College, and his M.A. in Theology from the Catholic Distance University. Gerard-Marie Anthony is a theologian, author, apologist, and religion/bioethics teacher. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Christ the Teacher College.

"We are also blessed to have St. Joseph Gospel Choir, from Alexandria, VA to provide music selections," said Beverly Carroll, event coordinator..

The reception will feature a community potluck dinner after Mass for all to share in Father Griffith Hall.
Address: Holy Family Catholic Church,
14160 Ferndale Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22193.
For additional information contact:
Beverly Carroll [**cmcbnc78@verizon.net**](mailto:cmcbnc78@verizon.net)

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

Saint Augustine

February 25, 2018
African Male Image Award Luncheon



Archbishop James P. Lyke, O.F.M.

The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary St. Felicitas/St. Ailbe Court #181 invites you to attend their 24th annual Archbishop James P. Lyke, O.F.M. African American Male Image Award Luncheon, at Georgios Banquets, 8800 W. 159th Street, Orland Park, IL from 2 – 6 p.m., Tickets: \$50 Come and join us as we honor outstanding high school seniors and men for their outstanding service to the church, school, and community. For more information contact Lady Diane Asberry, Chair (773.368.8371) or Grand lady Dicie Moore (773.643.7511), email: kpclacourt181@gmail.com.

Diocese of Arlington

March 10, 2018
Women's Conference "From Darkness Into Light"



Diane Foley

Sr. Grace Dominic

Presenters will be Diane Foley is mother of Slain Journalist James Foley and Sr. Dominic is a writer national speaker. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Burbidge.

Schedule of Events: Check in and Breakfast at 7:45 a.m., Conference begins at 8:45 a.m., Confession available during check in and breakfast. Arrive early to avoid lines!

Registration: www.arlingtondiocese.org/women

For information: 703.842.2550

Ticket fee: 55, Feb. 2nd fee will increase to \$65.

Students: \$25.00, but must fill out and mail in a registration form. 703.842.2550 Tickets are **Non-Refundable**

March 16, 2018

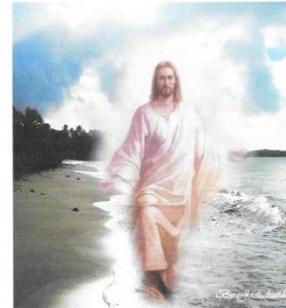


Save the Date

Friday March 16, 2018



The St. Peter Claver **Women of the Word (WOW)** are sponsoring a trip to **Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA** to see the fantastic show **"Jesus"**



❖ Bus leaves Big Lots at 7:00 AM

❖ Pick up at Mattawoman Park & Ride at 7:30 AM

❖ Eat at Cracker Barrel at 12:00 PM

❖ Return home at 11:00 PM

Cost: \$120.00 - Dec: \$40 - Jan: \$40 - Feb: \$40



P.O.C.: Loretta Dove- 301-481-1607
 Francine Dove Hawkins- 301-904-6514
 Sheila Berlin- 240-538-5288

This trip will make a great Christmas or birthday gift!

April 15, 2018

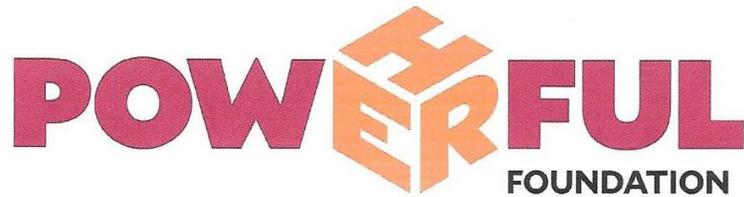
**National Council of Negro Women - GWU
 George Washington University Section
 Annual Hats off Brunch and Tea**

This semi-formal event serves as an opportunity to salute and celebrate black women, lifting the legacy of **Dr. Dorothy Irene Height**. We are looking to launch a scholarship for a graduating senior girl, at the School Without Walls. This young lady will be honored and awarded her scholarship at the event! For info contact: Lauren Battle President of the George Washington University National Council of Negro, Section **NCNW GWU ncnwgwu@gmail.com**

**"Footprints in the sands of time
 are not made by sitting down."**

Liberian Proverb

*From the Desk of . . .
Cynthia Morris*



**ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, DC
SATURDAY, MARCH 24
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- 1615 H ST. NW**

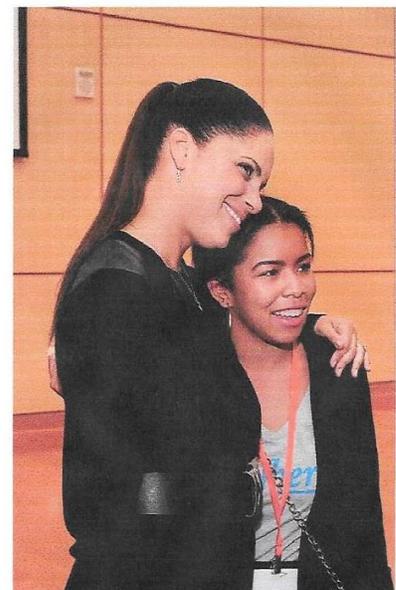
ABOUT

- FREE, FULL DAY FOR GIRLS AGE 14-23
- 8 AM TO 3 PM
- SESSIONS & KEYNOTES MODERATED BY SOLEDAD O'BRIEN
- BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND SNACKS PROVIDED
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- HEALTHY YOU
- BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS
- POLITICALLY AWARE
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Sisters in the Spirit

P.O. Box 2017
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

mcjones67@verizon.net, 703.967.6161

jmac23icmb@verizon.net, 540.834.2117

SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT

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Yes . . . I am excited about the mission, vision and programs of *Sisters in the Spirit*.
I have decided to become an active Member.

Please accept my annual membership:

- o General Member** **\$ 25.00** (annual membership)
- o Youth Member** **\$ 10.00** (between 16 and 21 years of age)
- o Patron Member** **\$150.00** (payable in three (3) \$50.00 increments
of \$50.00 a year)
- o Life Member** **\$300.00** (onetime payment or payable in six (6)
increments of \$50.00 a year)
- o Associate** **\$ 25.00** (support/non-voting)

Name _____ Parish _____

Address _____

County _____ Zip _____ E-mail: _____

Phone () _____ (h) () _____ (c) (other) _____

- **Enclosed is my membership _____ donation of \$ _____ (m/y) _____**
- **Unable to join at this time but continue to include me on *SIS* mailing list.**

Please make check payable to: ***Sisters in the Spirit***
P.O. Box 2017
Spotsylvania, VA 22553-2017

For info call: 703.967.6161 or 540.834.2117

Membership is open to *All Catholic Women*

***SIS* is a non-profit organization**