

# **Martin de Porres Foundation**

## **1st Quarter News – September 2014**

### **St. Athanasius**

#### ***Feedback and Activity***

- Deaconate Retreat and ongoing formation for Deacon James L. Mahoney and Deacon Frederick E. Poellnitz.
- Catechetical Workshop; Excellent, most helpful – 8 attendees.

#### ***Suggestions for future programs***

- Continue Catechetical Workshops.

### **St. Barbara**

#### ***Feedback and Activity***

- Positive feedback about the Catechetical Training Nights – 2 attendees.

#### ***No Suggestions***

### **St. Barnabas**

- Permanent Diaconate –Aspirant: Anthony Willoughby.

#### ***No Suggestions***

### **St. Charles Borromeo**

#### ***Feedback and Activity***

- Mass on Tuesday evenings and first Saturdays continues at St. Peter Claver Church. Those attending are appreciative for the inspiring homilies and the shared time in that sacred place.
- Group voice lessons at the Archdiocese were experienced by two of our members; one of whom is now joining the choir and the other one, a current member of the choir, now has the confidence to cantor.
- Catechist classes were informative and much needed. The presenters were enthusiastic and brought a wealth of knowledge to all who attended. We were all caught up in their passion for the faith.

#### ***Suggestions for future programs***

- Beatitudes in the African-American experience: Fr. Thorne or Sr. Stephanie
- The Sights and Sounds of the Eucharist: Father Mackle
- New Evangelization: Sr. Mary Rodger Thibodeaux
- Apologetics II: Father Mackle or Father Walsh
- Workshops could be held at St. Peter Claver Center, St. Raymond of Penafort or the Archdiocese.

### **St. Cyprian**

#### ***No Feedback/Activity***

#### ***Suggestions for future programs***

- Future topics: Cantors, Eucharist Ministers and Lectors.

### **St. Frances De Sales**

#### ***Feedback and Activity***

- This past year we have been able to bring together a wonderful five member choir for our 5 PM Saturday evening Mass. It has been greatly appreciated by the congregation and has brought them to a more involved participation.

- PREP: The 15 minute time period for opening prayer and general instruction has been very successful. Our theme for this year is *Virtue: Our Best Choice*.
- Sr. Alice Marie Daly, IHM – attended DRE Professional Development Day.
- Three (3) parishioners attended “Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers” – valuable tools were presented for meaningful ways to bring different cultures together.

***Suggestions for future programs***

- Ways to help homeless and those without jobs: Sr. Mary Scullion
- New Evangelization – What it means for us: Deacon William Williams
- The Joy of the Gospel: Rev. Thomas Dailey OSFS

**St. Ignatius:**

***Feedback and Activity***

- This summer Youth Group took 42 teens to North Bay Retreat. It was a joy to see the teens get excited about their faith and made decisions to go deeper and follow God in their lives.
- Attended Theology of the Body Conference.

***Suggestions for future programs***

- Advent Retreat at the St. Peter Claver Center with Fr. Thorne or Fr. Chris Walsh as speakers.

**St. Katharine Drexel**

***Feedback and Activity***

- As our staff prepares for the upcoming school year, we are focusing on finding/organizing programs that will both engage and spiritually sustain the young people of our parish. The next report will detail our fall program as we kick off PREP and Youth Group this September. Currently, we are collaborating with Fr. Chris Walsh and other Archdiocesan parishes on a Net Retreat for November 2014.
- We transport 20 children who live on the other end of the city to our 10:30 Gospel Mass on Sunday mornings. The children are able to actively participate in the Mass, experience our Gospel Choir and experience the celebration of the Eucharist. Many of our children who rely on this transportation are preparing for their sacraments.

***Suggestions for future programs***

- Looking forward to getting youth involved in peace-making efforts organized by the community. Ex. “Breaking Chains” on September 28<sup>th</sup> at PPL Park. Seeking ways to maintain youth participation and attendance at Sunday Masses, esp. post-confirmation students.

**Our Lady of Hope**

***Feedback and Activity***

- Three (3) catechists attended the Catechetical Training Nights. Comments: Received information on Catholic technology resources for religious education. It provided an opportunity to meet other catechists, share instructional ideas and principles of faith. We incorporated music and movement as well as numerous ideas on how to enhance the learning experience and make it fun. We gained so much from our involvement in each of the sessions.

***Suggestions for future programs***

- We hope that we will be blessed with a similar experience next year.

**St. Malachy**

***Feedback and Activity***

- The Catechist Training Nights organized by Fr. Christopher Walsh were very effective. It was good to see many catechists come together, benefiting from the expertise of their peers and others. This program should be repeated for a few years.

### ***Suggestions for future programs***

- There needs to be a Black Catholic discussion regarding responses to the circumstances, which occurred in Florida and Ferguson, MO. Our young peoples are not aware of the non-violent movement and they need to be educated on how to react non-violently to injustice.

### **St. Martin de Porres**

***No Feedback or Activity reported***

***No Suggestions***

### **St. Philomena**

#### ***Feedback and Activity***

- During the past year our RCIA program, under the direction of Darin Williams, we received 11 new members into the Church. Seven (7) of the individuals were African American. Faith Formation continues with the Mystagogy program, and because of Darin's efforts, we presently have 6 new candidates for the upcoming year; several members of the class are interested in programs at the seminary. We had 4 children who became full members.

#### ***Suggestions for future programs***

- In an effort to reach out to many African-Americans and Africans who attend St. Philomena, Linda Love would be an excellent candidate to address this group and others about Black Spirituality. St. Philomena would be an excellent location (meeting area and parking) for such a presentation.

### **St. Raymond**

#### ***Feedback and Activity***

- Catechist Training Sessions – Positive feedback from attendees of every session -29 attendees.
- Summer Camp; well received by children, counselors and parents – 77 attendees
- Safe Environment DVD for Catechist
- Catholic Call to prayer was a wonderful way to start the day and re-center one's self at noon.
- Theological update – 2 attendees
- Spring Professional Day – 1 attendee
- Lenten Retreat – Space For Grace – SPCC. Sr. Stephanie's reflection on prayer, singing and Eucharistic liturgy was well presented, and all were uplifted.

***No Suggestions***

### **St. Thomas Aquinas**

***No Feedback or Activity reported***

***No Suggestions***

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

#### ***Feedback and Activity***

- Youth Group met successfully over the summer months.
- Barbara Purnell Small attended Xavier University - Institute for Black Catholic Studies.

***No Suggestions***