

Martin de Porres Foundation

2nd Quarter News – December 2014

St. Barbara

Feedback and Activity

- Ten parishioners attended Catholic Life Congress on November 1, 2014. The congress was very informative.
 - Everyone enjoyed the keynote speakers, especially – Gloria Purvis; New Evangelization & Culture of Life. Very spiritual and uplifting presentations.
- Two parishioners participated in Catechist Training Nights – August 5, 2014.
- Msgr. Wilford J. Pashley, Pastor - attended Digital Church Conference Electronic Communications in and for the Church on October 18, 2014.
 - Dynamic speakers. Excellent material on using electronics in the Church.

Suggestions for future programs:

- Refresher courses for Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.

St. Charles Borromeo

Feedback and Activity

- Gloria Richardson, DRE attended RCIA Workshop on 11/8, 1/24 & 2/14.
 - Fr. Gill gave an excellent presentation. The RCIA workshop was concise and presented with nuances that interested even those who had heard the information many times.
 - St. Paul Street Evangelization workshop was excellent. The program content was clear and informative. Practical applications were presented.
 - The Martin de Porres Prayer Service was joyful and spirit-filled; we left the church with hope in our hearts for the future of Black Catholics in this archdiocese.
 - The Archbishop's talks at the seminary have been interesting; the parishioners especially enjoyed, "The Gospel of Joy" and "How the West Lost God."
 - Prep for Kids Christmas Program was a good idea. Our children decided to cook and hold two bake sales. They raised over \$200.
 - The PREP students prepared breakfast bags for the elderly and are now planning a book program. They seem very interested in projects.

Suggestions for future programs:

- Apologetics II with Father Mackle
- Sights and Sounds of the Eucharist, Father Chris Walsh
- Evangelization, Sister Mary Rodger Thibodeaux
- "How to" get youth more involved in parish life
- Workshops can be held at the Pastoral Center, 222 N. 17th Street, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

St. Frances de Sales

Feedback and Activity

- Eight parishioners attended Catholic Life Congress on November 1, 2014
 - Very impressed - with Rev. Robert Spitzer SJ. He was well prepared and informed on his topic: Reason and Faith.
 - The session on marriage and family was very helpful.
 - Enjoyed listening to Gloria Purvis speaking on the Culture of Life.
 - The keynote speaker-Curtis Martin was very helpful. He gave good suggestions on how to be involved in Parish Life and how to grow in our Catholic faith.
 - As new Catholics, when we attend different events we can learn more about our faith.

- POP (Play on Philly) is a very successful music program which began in our school. Over the past three years a documentary was developed in this music program (POP) which will soon be viewed on public TV under the title “Crescendo – The Power of Music.” The two schools represented are St. Francis de Sales and a school in Harlem, NY.

Suggestions for future programs:

- World Family Day – Rev. Daniel Mackle
- Basics of Family Life – Rev. Sean Bransfield
- The New Evangelization – Rev. Msgr. Nelson J. Perez

St. Ignatius

Feedback and Activity

- We were very pleased and honored to host the Martin de Porres Prayer Service/Celebration. It was truly an inspiring and joyful event.

Suggestions for future programs:

- Lenten Retreat Day – Lent; Growing in holiness through unity with Black Saints – Speaker: Msgr. Federico A. Britto.

St. Katherine Drexel

Feedback and Activity

- Saint Katharine Drexel Parish was blessed with the opportunity to transport 30 high school youth to the Saint Martin de Porres celebration this past November. This celebration was certainly an effort to both affirm the Catholic faith and evangelize our young people by demonstrating a means of prayer and worship centered on the Black Catholic Community in Philadelphia. Along with 30 youth, we also had 15 parishioners join us for this powerful event. We wish to thank the Martin de Porres Foundation for their continued assistance as we work to engage, support and evangelize to our Black Catholic Community at Saint Katharine’s and throughout the community of Chester.
- We would also like to commend the quality of the MBC class: History of Black Catholics and Saints taught by Paula Manchester.
- Our PREP confirmation students experienced a presentation that the DRE prepared for the class entitled: The Least of These: Understanding Catholic Social Teaching through our Black Catholic Brothers and Sisters.

Suggestions for future programs:

- We need to continue to provide opportunities for continued education about the history and importance of the rich history of the Black Catholic community.
- Paula Manchester would be a wonderful resource for a one time speaker at an event similar to the St. Martin de Porres celebration.

St. Malachy

Feedback and Activity

- The celebration of St. Martin de Porres at St. Ignatius of Loyola was wonderful.
- The opportunity to attend the Institute for Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University is important and needed to unite the Black Catholic Community in Philadelphia. We thank the Martin de Porres Foundation for providing the opportunity.

St. Martin de Porres

Feedback and Activity

- Our RCIA program has grown to 13 members who are interested in joining the Catholic Church.
- One parishioner attended the Digital Church Conference on October 18, 2014.
 - This workshop helped in a way that was practical, considering the need to learn more about the technological society of our World today, particularly within the Church.

- Family and Friends Sunday – On September 28th our 3rd Annual Family and Friends Sunday. The theme for this year was “No Matter What’s Going On...Jesus Can Work it Out.” The church was filled with family and friends of our many parishioners.
 - The choir, led by Mrs. Tonya Dorsey brought so much spiritual emotions that it caused people to shout for joy.
 - We had the opportunity for everyone to fill out informational cards, which assisted us in knowing who are registered members of the church as well as visitors.
- Catholic Life Congress – November 1, 2014
 - All who attended found it to be uplifting and spiritually filled in a way as we move into the New Evangelization. Attending this Congress allowed individuals to be aware of the importance of what is happening in the history of our Church “today.”

Office of Black Catholics

Feedback and Activity

- 13 Catholic Life Congress registrations for St. Athanasius choir members.

Our Lady of Hope

Feedback and Activity

- Some parishioners from Our Lady of Hope attended the 2014 Catholic Life Congress. The congress featured several speakers and workshops for Catholic educators on evangelizing and communicating the faith to our students.
 - The speakers presented concrete ideas on how teachers can spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to their students.
 - This event is excellent also for catechists to get ideas for their PREP classes as well as for their parish community.
- Every year on Thanksgiving, OLH Outreach Ministry (presently, known as Martin de Porres Out Reach Ministry) distribute baskets and groceries to about 500 families in the parish.
 - This year, we are able to provide 235 food packages to our Hispanic families and 300 packages to our African-American families. In the words of St. Francis: “It is in giving that we receive.”

St. Philomena

Feedback and Activity

- Church Ministry Program – to get more people involved from the Parish and those who are completing RCIA.

Suggestions for future programs:

- Workshop with Linda Love still pending.

St. Raymond

Feedback and Activity

- Ten (10) parishioners attended Catholic Life Congress on November 1; it was engaging and informative. Good line up of speakers, topics were relevant to the major concerns of the Church. Fr. Robert Spitzer’s presentation on Faith and Reason was impressive. It helped to bridge the gap between faith and science.
- On November 20-22, 2014, twelve (12) parishioners were sponsored and attended the UnBound-Freedom in Christ Conference. Over 200 in attendance.
- Net Ministries – Youth Group Retreat (November 15-16, 2014). Youth from 8 parishes attended overnight retreat. The feedback was positive.
- Fall Professional Day (September 18th) – 1 attendee.

Suggestions for future programs:

- Paula Manchester is interested in presenting a workshop or series of workshops on “What We Have Seen and Heard.”

St. Vincent de Paul

Feedback and Activity

- Youth meet weekly and have done service projects in the parish.
- Youth have also attended retreats at other parishes and churches.

Suggestions for future programs:

- Servant Leadership Program for youth groups.

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