

Martin de Porres Foundation

3rd Quarter News – March 2015

St. Barbara

Feedback and Activity

- The class at the seminary is very enriching for one of our parishioners. She is gaining many insights into our Catholic faith.
- Meghan Cokeley, Director – Office of the New Evangelization, spoke to our parishioners about World Meeting of Families and we now have 1 – 2 adult groups discussing the themes of the month.

St. Charles Borromeo

Feedback and Activity

- Soup and Scripture during Advent was celebrated on Wednesdays, 6-7:30 PM, the theme centered on the “O Madonna” and began with Evening Prayer.
- RCIA workshops with Father Gill have been informative.
- Children in the Religious Ed program are learning about the saints and living the corporal works of mercy by helping others. In addition to raising over \$200 for the Archbishop’s Christmas party, they are making breakfast bags for *Aid for Friends* and gathering paper products for shut-ins.
- Stations on Fridays at 7pm. Catechesis for adults on Mon. and Thurs. at 8pm. It is wonderful to see young people sharing their understanding of who Jesus is for them.
- DRE attended RCIA Workshops – 11/8, 2/14/, & 3/14. Fr. Gill gave excellent presentations.

Suggestions for future programs

- I continue to ask for Apologetics II and III because it is necessary training for all of us. Father Mackle or Father Gill would be good choices.
- Jesus, priest, prophet and king...what this means to and for us. Fr. Thorne, Fr. Walsh or Fr. Okonski.
- The sights and sounds of the Eucharist with three or four priests presenting. Each would have his own take on this “source and summit” of who we are. You can’t revisit this miracle too often.

Workshops could be held at 222 N. 17th Street or at any parish.

St. Cyprian

Feedback and Activity

- The Martin Luther King Jr service should be returned to a Sunday in the afternoon. We need more participation from all the parishes instead of just one or two groups.
- Six (6) parishioners registered for Man Up Philly Men’s Conference 2015.

Suggestions for future programs

- We need to have more youth centered activities that are relevant to the youth of our community. We also need more training of lectors. EMs, Cantors and Choirs.

St. Frances De Sales

Feedback and Activity

- 125th Anniversary Lenten Discussion Series on the *Joy of the Gospel*. Guest lecturers are invited each of the five weeks in Lent to present and lead this discussion.
- A group of children enrolled in our de Sales POP (Play on Philly) program were invited to participate in a special program held at the Kimmel Center in honor of our Presidents (February 16).
- St. Francis de Sales Parish is starting a Youth Program in the parish. Our goal is to bring the young people of the parish, from sixth grade up to get more active. Some of the events would be spiritual, athletics, social and service.
- Eight (8) parishioners attended *Teaching about God's Gift of Forgiveness*.
- One (1) parishioner attended "Man UP Philly Spirituality Conference."

Suggestions for future programs:

- Participation in the New Evangelization: Megan Cokeley
- Pope Francis: Emphasis on Mercy – Rev. Francis Berna, Ph.D. (LaSalle)
- World Family Day: Family Values: Sr. John Sheila, IHM (Immaculate)

St. Ignatius:

Feedback and Activity

- Thank you for the books. Our parishioners are really enjoying them.
- The Martin Luther King Prayer Service was excellent.
- Our Jr. High and Sr. High School youth groups continue to do well and we are blessed to have a new youth space completed.

Suggestions

- Building strong marriages: Deacon Bradley; married couples.
- Annulment information workshop.

St. Katherine Drexel

Feedback and Activity

- This quarter we took a group of about 10 parishioners to the MLK Day Celebration at St. Barbara Parish which was a powerful experience for all in attendance. We also had about 50 CYO students attend a youth group meeting regarding inequality and the impact of MLK and the Civil Rights Movement in relation to Jesus Christ and the gospel! The students were participatory and thoughtful in their reflections.
- Our PREP Confirmation class also heard a presentation on Black Catholic Saints and Holy People particularly in relation to Catholic Social Teaching.
- All of these programs have brought life into our parish community within the last quarter. Thank you for your continued support!

Suggestions for future programs:

- Anything highlighting the role of Black Catholics in our history and our diocese is much appreciated! For us in Chester, location is often a struggle for attending program put on in other parishes.

St. Malachy –

Feedback and Activity

- MLK, Jr. event at St. Barbara Parish was especially poignant

No Suggestions for future programs

St. Martin de Porres

Feedback and Activity

- The third annual “Celebration of our Elders” was held on the first Sunday of February which marks the beginning of Black History Month. Over thirty men and women seventy and above walked gracefully and proud in the procession and took their seats as Kings and Queens.
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- RCIA – African American Catholic Youth Bible. The African American Catholic Youth Bible came out in January and it is being widely embraced by many. It not only tells the stories of the events in the Bible, it also includes the history of famous African American Catholics and their contributions to the Catholic Church.
- Father Augustus Tolton Exhibit and Speaker: Bro. Gerald Jordan, O Praem. St Martin de Porres parishioners had the opportunity to learn about Fr. Augustus Tolton who is the first African American priest whose cause for Canonization is being reviewed by Rome.

No Suggestions for future programs

Our Lady of Hope

Feedback and Activity

- Black Catholic History Month (February 2015)
- Sunday masses were celebrated at Our Lady of Hope at 8:30am. Celebrants included Rev. Rayford Emmons – February 2; Rev. Sylvester Peterka – February 8; Rev, Msgr. Federico Britto – February 15; and Rev. Gerard Marable – February 22. Reception in the parish social hall followed the Feb. 8 and Feb. 22 masses. All masses were well attended.
- MLK Day celebrated at St. Barbara Parish. Forty-eight (48) parishioners from Our Lady of Hope attended the event. All parishioners arrived by bus.

No Suggestions for future programs

St. Philomena

Feedback and Activity

- Two (2) African Americans to be welcomed as members of the Church at the Easter Vigil. One, a senior and the other a young adult. Efforts made to engage them to be full participants and serve as witnesses of faith. Workshop on *Role of Members of His Body* pending for the spring 2016.

Suggestions for future programs

- How to engage young adults (20-30) to be active members of Church Community.

St. Raymond

Feedback and Activity

- Ten (10) parishioners registered for Man Up Philly Men's Conference 2015.
- Seven (7) parishioners attended Catechetical Convocation-Archbishop Carrol High School.
- One parishioner attended Discipleship, Youth Ministry Professional Development Day.

Suggestions for future programs

- Workshop for those serving in ministry. Reflections on Pope Francis *The Joy of the Gospel*.
- Catholic Lay Leadership Workshop – What is leadership; Are leaders born or bred; Have I considered being a leader in my parish.
- Workshops on USCCB Documents on Evangelization, Paula Manchester has an interest in this topic.

St. Vincent de Paul

Feedback and Activity

- "Love is our Mission" – Discussion group at St. Raymond's was well attended with youth. Discussion was informative.
- Martin Luther King celebration at St. Barbara's was well attended and the music was a nice collaboration.
- Eight (8) parishioners attended *Generation Phaith*, five (5) students and three (3) Chaperones.
- Six (6) parishioners attended National Catholic Bible Conference.

No Suggestions for future programs

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