

**First Quarter News-September 2013**  
**MARTIN de PORRES FOUNDATION**

**PARISH: Saint Athanasius/St. Benedict – Marlyn Barnes (DRE)**

Our parish Evangelization, Spiritual, Finance, Family Social Service and Youth Committees continue to carry out our parish mission. With the closing of our parish school, we continue to encourage parents to send their children to our CCE/Sunday School program. The most successful diocesan programs in terms of participation are: **Kujenga, Men's Spirituality Day, and "Catholic Life Congress."** Over thirty parishioners have taken on various leadership responsibilities in the newly forming faith-based community organizing movement, **P.O.W.E.R.** We continue to look for opportunities to implement the **NBCC XI Pastoral Plan of Action.**

One parishioner is working on his course requirements for the MBC Certificate and one parishioner is working on a Masters Degree.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Funding for **EFFECTIVE BLACK PARENTING PROGRAM. AFRICAN AMERICAN INITIATION MINISTRY;** training program. **AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL EDUCATION** programs for Catholic Educators. **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY;** programs offered by the Office for Youth and Young adults.

**Sr. Catherine Bones, SSJ (DRE)** – PREP Program will begin on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held for children preparing for First Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. There will be one catechist who is certified as a Special Ed. Teacher. Currently, there are two (2) Special Ed. Children. Classes are held on Sunday, after the 10 AM Mass. St. Athanasius School is the site. Parents/guardians are asked to attend the first class.

NO FEEDBACK

**PARISH: St. Charles Borromeo-Gloria Richardson (DRE)** – Catechists' Night Out – faith filled, reflective and enjoyable. Mass – Wednesday evening at St. Peter Claver Church; Father Mahoney gives excellent homilies and it's thrilling to be in the church again. July 4<sup>th</sup> was Anniversary of St. Charles Parish. Celebration was held on July 7<sup>th</sup> with Sr. Mary Rodger, S.B.S. Sr. Rodger gave talk on Faith, Hope and Evangelization. Reception followed...quite festive.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Apologetics II – Fr. Mackle; Sights and Sounds of the Eucharist – Thorne; Feasts of Mary – Fr. Edward Kuczynski.

**PARISH: St. Francis de Sales – Sr. Alice Marie Daly, IHM (DRE)** –PREP Program: The changes we made this past year in both scheduling and student involvement was very successful. We added on-half hour to our weekly class time (Sun. 8:40 – 10 AM). Before each class we met as a PREP family in church for 15 minutes at which time we open our day with prayer together with general religious instruction. Attended "Servant Leadership; the Courage to Lead." It was an excellent presentation given by Sr. Carol Cimino, who shared her experiences with us and kept us engaged in her message.

## **SUGGESTIONS:**

- Ways to better understand the plight of those dealing with job loss, financial instability or other stumbling blocks.
- Concern for Mass attendance including both parents and children.

**PARISH: St. Ignatius of Loyola – Jennifer Simmons (DRE)** - Our youth group continues to grow and thrive. They had an amazing experience at North Bay this year. We are starting a youth choir with our teens. Our parish is continuing to heal after the merger and our new Pastor, Fr. Dan is very dynamic and has a great vision for our parish. One of our parishioners, Nellda Harris is completing the **Church Ministry Institute** and she is looking forward to using her learning through service to elders and shut-ins of the parish. She hopes to expand services of the Anointing of the Sick Committee in collaboration with the current Volunteer Coordinator.

Three (3) men of our parish participated in the Man-Up Philly. They found this to be a very beneficial event and are grateful to the Martin de Porres Foundation for supporting their attendance.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Perhaps we could do a local Black Catholic Congress held at the St. Peter Claver Center. We could have choirs participate and do an opening celebration. Also, have a day of workshops (perhaps a Saturday). Then have a vibrant closing Mass on Sunday.

**PARISH: St. Katharine Drexel, Chester, PA – Julia White (DRE)** - Recently, I attended a Catechist's Night Out at the St. Peter Claver Center in Philadelphia. This was a beautiful way to begin to think about my role in Ministry to Black Catholics. The opportunity for conversation was well thought-out as I learned a lot from my conversation with many of the more "experienced" Catechists in the room that evening. The presentation by Laura Weatherly was excellent. Such presentations are something I would like to see happen more often. Deacon Bill Bradley also spoke eloquently about the need to support the Ministry for Black Catholics by continuing to build community and to grow in knowledge about how we can be better evangelist and Catechists to ALL of our brothers and sisters in Christ. I look forward to more events such as this to strengthen my outreach to the Black Catholic Community here at St. Katherine's.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Evangelization is a topic that all Catholics could benefit from right now. I would venture to think that Deacon Bill may know of resources and presenters who may shed light on the severity of the need to evangelize in new, creative ways. Another possible topic would be community building in parishes with diverse populations.

**PARISH: Our Lady of Hope – Eloisa B. Gonzales (DRE)** - A revival took place at Our Lady of Hope on June 10, 11, and 12, 2013. This was a city wide event and was very well attended (1500). Those who attended were not only parishioners of OLH, but also by parishioners from different parishes in the area. Fr. Anthony Bozeman, a favorite revivalist from Philadelphia, is currently serving in New Orleans, conducted the revival.

**NO FEEDBACK**

**PARISH: St. Martin de Porres- Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS (DRE)** - A Bible Study was recently started. The elders have been coming and it has been very beneficial for them as they take away something new in understanding Scripture. This is a testimony to their own faith journey, that one is never to “seasoned” to learn something new every day. Melvin Burton, Jr. is a 1<sup>st</sup> year candidate for the Diaconate Program.

**SUGGESTIONS:** African American Community DRE’s Day of Reflection.

- Possible speaker: Mrs. Valerie Lewis Mosley
- As of now this date is pending upon it taking place
- Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Motherhouse – reasoning being to have the DRE’s really understand what she did for African Americans.

**PARISH: St. Raymond of Penafort – Arleen R. Daniels (DRE)** – Catechist serving in African American Parishes; Catechist Night Out event held at St. Peter Claver Center. Presenter: Ms. Laura Weatherly.

**NO FEEDBACK**

**PARISH: St. Vincent de Paul – Barbara Purnell-Small (Dir. of Youth & Young Adults)**

**NO PROGRAM EVALUATION**

**NO FEEDBACK**

**OFFICE FOR BLACK CATHOLICS – Deacon William Bradley** – 2013 Kujenga Youth Leadership Retreat; four (4) students from West Catholic were recommended by Fr. Michael Marrone.

- Joyla Ellison
- Aiesha Robinson
- Amir Grantham
- TeaganVanderhorst

**SUGGESTIONS:** This year’s Kujenga was a wonderful experience for both the youth and the Elders. We believe that we have surfaced some real youth leaders from among this group.