

# Martin de Porres Foundation

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter News – June 2014

### St. Athanasius

#### *Feedback and Activity*

- Sacrament Retreat for the families and children who were receiving Penance and Eucharist – It was a two-hour event, with a presentation by Fr. Okonski, an icebreaker session, decorating banners, hospitality and prayer. The purpose was to have families get to know one another prior to the sacraments. School and parish catechists helped to plan and execute the evening. It was successful and will become an annual event.
  - Church ministry was well taught, and increased knowledge of church.

#### *Recommendations:*

- Ministry of Volunteering – how to better approach parishioners to participate as PREP catechists, Opening the Word, RCIA. To aid in the housekeeping tasks that are part of any program.
  - Balancing the complexities of working with family responsibilities
  - Mystagogy training.

### St. Barbara

#### *Feedback and Activity*

- Sent 3 participants to Man up Philly. Men's Spirituality Day. No feedback or suggestions

### St. Charles Borromeo

#### *Feedback and Activity*

- *Parish Level:* soup and Scripture with theme of Divine Mercy on Wednesdays during Lent ended with a Seder Meal. All agreed it was truly worth repeating, as it was a valuable learning experience.
- Journey to Holiness continues weekly. Participants are studying and reflecting on Vatican II documents
- Some of the parishioners are attending Mass at St. Peter Claver Church on Tuesday Evenings and First Saturdays. Father Mahoney gives a wonderful message.
- *Archdiocesan level:* Servant Leadership day of refection...Dr. DeAngelo gave a spirited presentation that excited all present using the beatitudes to reflect on the tools needed to truly be ministers to God's people.

#### *Suggestions for future programs:*

- Sights and Sounds of the Eucharist
- Scripture and Stewardship
- Apologetics II with Father Mackle
- New Evangelization
- Using the St. Peter Claver Center for workshops

### St. Frances De Sales

#### *Feedback and Activity*

- The theme for the May crowning was Mary the Mother of the Church. Each level was included in the prayer service with special recognition of the First Communion Class.
- Closing Mass for the 2013-2014 PREP year was on May 18, followed by distribution of prizes and certificates.
- Spring Professional Day was most inspiring and profitable experience. Excellent presentation by Dr. Louis DeAngelo.

- Suggestions
- Rev. Thomas Daily, OSFS, STD to speak on Technology
- Msgr. Vincent Walsh – History of Church in Philadelphia
- Deacon William Williams. The protection and needs of the Family, the domestic Church

### **St. Ignatius:**

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

- Parish Revival in May was uplifting and inspiring.
- Fr. Maurice Nutt hosted, many parishes attended and provided music. Choirs and Praise dancers from other faith denominations were invited as an effort to be ecumenical. Every one of them commented that they felt welcomed and had a different and better view of the Catholic Church, and would love to come back. Very unifying and uplifting for parish after the winter with no pastor.
- Ongoing Bible group continues – using Ascension Press materials – 30 members growing in faith understanding and confidence to share God’s word.
- Youth Group, TLC, continues to grow and inspire the adults of the parish
- African American Pre-cana day was well done.
- Secretary Enrichment day
- Catechist Convocation was educational, spiritual and creative.
- Philly Youth Day – 20 participants Great event attended by youth from all over the diocese, to experience the diversity of our church as well as witnessing their faith to others on the walking pilgrimage.
- Say “Yes” – Generation Faith – 16 participants. This event gets better every year giving our youth the chance for adoration, confession, Mass as well as hearing dynamic speakers on different topics.
- Man- up Philly – was excellent this year. Engaging and spiritually uplifting. 3 participants
- Lenten Retreat Space for Grace at SPCC; 9 participants was enjoyable and uplifting

#### ***Suggestions***

- Apologetics course – how to defend the Catholic Faith through scripture, the Catechism and tradition. At SPCC

### **St. Katherine Drexel**

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

- Picnic with over 100 Parishioners in attendance. The PREP families were encouraged to attend. It was a great success and helped to build community among parishioners.
- 13 youth confirmed on May 11 during the 10:30 mass so they had the support of the entire congregation.

### **Our Lady of Hope**

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

- 3 Catechists attended the Convocation and reported that it was a grace-filled day. All the sessions attended were excellent and inspiring.
- The choir concert was held in Sunday April 27. 411 people attended. This was a parish-sponsored fundraiser benefitting the Youth programs in the Phila. Urban parishes through the Office of Black Catholics, the youth programs at Our Lady of Hope and the Tonya Dorsey and New Visions Foundation.
- Man-up Philly - 11 parishioners attended the Men’s’ spirituality Conference.

## **St. Malachy –**

***No feedback or suggestions***

## **St. Martin de Porres**

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

- 15 women of the parish will attend women's overnight retreat hosted by Mrs. Valerie Lewis-Mosley.

## **St. Raymond**

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

- St. Raymond's is currently piloting the Christ Life Program, a DVD based program that is designed to equip dioceses' parishes, faith communities young and old to evangelize.
- National Catholic Bible conference – 5 attendees
- Man-up Philly – 2 attendees – reported that it was a great event for men to bring their sons, grandsons, and nephews. Talks were inspiring and uplifting. Awesome day.
- 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.

## **St. Thomas Aquinas**

***No Feedback or Activity reported***

### ***Suggestions:***

- The programs that used to be offered at the SPCC such as religion classes are beneficial and rewarding. But they have stopped. The annual retreats, music ministry conference were inspiring. We need and deserve to have these programs and the many others offered at the SPCC because they are fundamental and ensure that we stay informed and grounded in our faith.
- The History of Black Catholic Class that is and or was offered at the center needs to be advertised much more effectively. This fills the void about the contributions African Americans have made to the Catholic Faith. These people need to be introduced into our schools and parishes so that they are seen.

## **St. Vincent de Paul**

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

- Valerie Lee Jeter will attend the Pastoral Music Conference in July.
- Philly World Youth Day – 5 participants felt it was worthwhile and were happy to show their faith.
- Valerie Lee Jeter and Barbra Purnell Small will be attending Xavier University Black Catholic Studies for one week this summer.

## Office of Black Catholics

The foundation granted the amount of \$3000, towards transportation for the trip to Pittsburg for ordination of Fr. Richard Owens.

Congratulations! The following students were awarded the Martin de Porres Foundation *Book Scholarship Award*, a one-time \$750 grant, toward the cost of text books in their first year of college. Recipients were selected by the Pastor and DRE in recognition of the student's dedication to their parish.

Alvin Chiverton – St. Athanasius  
Isaiah Rippy – St. Barbra  
William Robert Mack – St. Charles Borromeo  
Shane E. Cunningham – St. Cyprian  
Robert C. Hinton – St. Frances de Sales  
Jalen Roberson-Cosby – St. Ignatius of Loyola  
Francesco Zampetti – St. Malachy  
Anthony Abron, Jr. – St. Martin de Porres  
Sarah Lewis – St. Raymond of Penafort  
Jamal Custis – St. Thomas Aquinas  
Suzanne Garnett – St. Vincent de Paul

Like us on Facebook.com/martindeporresfoundation

[www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org)