

**Second Quarter News – December 2013**  
**Martin De Porres Foundation**

**St. Athanasius:**

Prep Classes this year are underway with students from St. Benedicts and St. A.'s coming together for classes. An Evangelization retreat was held and led by Deacon Mahoney. A Saturday day of Evangelization was held. It was a joint venture of the Legion of Mary and the Year of Faith Committee. Forty Parishioners went out two by two to knock on doors of parishioners who have not been seen for a while. Sr. Mary Roger led the annual fall women's retreat. There are 22 candidates for Confirmation to be held in Feb. and they were presented to the parish at an inscription ritual. 14 parishioners attended the Magnificat Day.

**Suggestions:**

How to recruit and retain volunteers. How to keep students and parents coming to PREP.

**St. Cyprian**

A Revival with Fr. Maurice Nutt was well attended with 120 people each night. St. Martin de Porres Parish rented a bus to come and participate. The Religious Ed program has grown to 100 students.

**Suggestions:** Involve more children in the Martin de Porres Feast Day Mass. 6:30 pm Sunday was not a convenient time, since many families had been to church and PREP.

**St. Francis de Sales**

At present our PREP students are involved in a "Loves and Fishes" program, which enables them to become actively engaged in our annual Thanksgiving, outreach to over 220 families. On Dec. 15. The PREP family will present a Christmas Tableau to the entire Parish Family. 10 attended the Women's Retreat held at The St. Peter Claver Center. 6 attended Magnificat Day.

**Suggestions:**

Ways to Evangelize fallen away Catholics, especially Mass Attendance.

Ways to become effective Leaders, - a study of Pope Francis and his pastoral approach.

Rev. Vincent Walsh speaking on forgiveness and Reconciliation.

### **St. Katharine Drexel**

St. Katharine Drexel has recently re-started a Youth Ministry program for the Middle School and High School students of the parish and the community. So far we have had 4 meetings with about 20 students attending each Sunday. There is mass, discussion/speaker activity as well as a meal and recreational activity. Over the past 2 months, 85%-100% are black. This provides a wonderful opportunity for evangelization, community building and learning how to live as a disciple of Christ in a fun and safe environment. Looking forward to Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers who will lead two evenings of praise and preaching, and a healing mass.

#### **Suggestions:**

Would like to see more events with potential community interest that are well publicized. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is Nationally known to be a dynamic speaker and has appeared in several series on EWTN.

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

Positive feedback for the "Celebrate Children" materials for teachers and Children each Sunday. Dr. Camille Brown visited and spoke about the life of St. Martin de Porres as well as other African Saints. Confirmation students attended as well as interested folks from outside the parish. Family and Friends Sunday was a success and led to several visitors interested in joining the church. Eight people will be joining the RCIA class as a direct result. Fr. Maurice Nutt had the church on spiritual fire. Mrs. Tonya Dorsey led the choir. The youth praise dancers praise God while the choir sang the Alleluia. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> seven students received the sacrament of Confirmation.

#### **Suggestions:**

Spring Retreat with Topic: Black Women in the Bible

### **St. Raymond of Penafort**

St. Raymond recently incorporated Children's Liturgy of the Word for children ages four to seven. 15 parishioners attended Magnificat Day 10 parishioners attended Endow Women's Conference. The parish again hosted the Catechist Night out. They also ran a summer Bible Camp.

### **St. Ignatius**

There has been increase involvement in Bible Study this year. Also an increase in Baptisms, RCIA and Mass attendance. The High school Youth Group continues to

thrive and grow. A 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade group formed and has 25 members. They are planning a Christian Comedy/Variety night for January and a spring revival in May.

Suggestions:

Theology of the body Retreat / Conference for young adults with Damon Owens.  
Marriage and Family  
Men's Leadership Conference  
Engaging our Youth in the Mass

### **St. Thomas Aquinas**

Suggestions:

The programs offered at St. Peter Claver center such as the Religion classes were beneficial and rewarding. However they have stopped. Events that were held such as the Annual retreats, music ministry conference were inspiring. These programs should continue and others should be offered because they are fundamental and ensure that we stay informed and grounded in our faith.

Suggest that the History of Black Catholics Class should be offered at the Center or a hosting parish such as St. Thomas Aquinas so that we can keep being able to fill the void about the contributions African Americans have made to the Catholic faith. We also need to bring these people into our schools /parishes so they are seen. Black History Month or a Spring Revival around contributions African Americans have made to the Catholic Faith.

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

During this Period, the Youth Minister has been meeting with the Youth and Young Adults. She worked with Parish Council members to coordinate dramatic Gospel presentations by the youth, and led Liturgical Dance. Attended Martin de Porres Mass but was disappointed in the turnout. It is very good that we have the "What's Happening" News email. It is very helpful.

Suggestions:

Dynamic Speaking Techniques

Use of mass email for marketing Church events

For future MDP mass as for each church to send reps for part of the procession and other various presentations. Those way more than just singers will feel the call to be involved,