

MARTIN de PORRES FOUNDATION
Third Quarter News – March 2014

PARISH: St. Charles Borromeo

FEEDBACK: Kwanzaa Celebration was informative and received well by mixed congregation. MLK, Jr. Day was inspiring. Both Fr. Marable and Deacon Nightingale gave faith-filled homilies on unity during Black History Month in our parish. Journey to Holiness Group continues to meet on Wednesdays. We are discussing Pope Francis writings. Endow Conference – Women’s Retreat was excellent.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Part II & III Apologetics – Father Mackle
- Evangelization – Sr. Mary Roger Thibodeaux
- Catholic Identity – Fr. Chris Walsh
- What Makes Catholic Christians Different?

PARISH: St. Francis de Sales

FEEDBACK: Once again we are beginning our Lenten Faith Sharing Groups. Among our eight (8) groups that gather on different times and days, there are 65 members. It has been both a very faith enriching and community building experience.

Stations of the Cross – Each week during our 15 minute instruction period, with our PREP students, they will pray the Stations of the Cross. Each class will participate in a special way.

March 1, 2014 – Nine (9) parishioners attended the Catechist Convocation at Archbishop Carroll H.S.

March 15, 2014 - Twelve (12) parishioners attended the Men’s Spirituality Conference- *Man Up Philly* at St. Joseph University.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Deacon William Williams – New Evangelization
- Msgr. Vincent Walsh – What it means to be “*Lead by the Spirit.*”
- Rev. Matthew Guckin – Forgiveness

PARISH: St. Ignatius of Loyola

FEEDBACK: Bible Studies continue to grow. Youth ministry is 7th – 12th grade and has about 60 kids in combined meeting weekly. We held a Christian variety show in January, which was well attended and was a great night of entertainment; as well as a wonderful fundraiser for our parish.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Workshops for high school students about college
- Teachings on the Sacraments
- Evangelization

PARISH: St. Katharine Drexel

FEEDBACK: This past quarter, we had the privilege of co-sponsoring a Black History Month Celebration with Anna's Place in Chester at our parish evangelization site. Over 60 people from the parish and community attended and many were participants in the service. The celebration included scripture, song, and reflection followed by hospitality and our theme was "Standing on the Shoulders." This program asserted our commitment as a parish to honoring the importance of Black History Month and the profound impact black leaders have had on both our nation and our Church.

Our Youth Group continues to serve the African American community every other Sunday. Our numbers have remained consistent with about 10-15 students per week. This number should grow as our Confirmation students are now required to attend as part of their preparation.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Community-building between multicultural communities would serve as a pertinent topic, especially with the continuing merging of parishes.
- The organization, *Witness for Innocence* would also be an interesting idea for a speaker. For more information: www.witnesstoinnocence.org/index.html

PARISH: St. Malachy

FEEDBACK: Accompanied RCIA candidates and catechumens to Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul for Rite of Election. It was wonderful for them to experience the Cathedral and to see so many people coming into the Church.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ALL RCIA candidates and catechumens together should be celebrated by the Black Catholic Community. It would be a good opportunity to present Black Catholic programs to our new Black Catholics.

PARISH: St. Martin de Porres

FEEDBACK: "I want Jesus to walk with me..." Bible Study takes place on Tuesday from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. It is based on the Gospel for each Sunday so that all who attend can be more prepared in understanding what they can get out of the Gospel reading. The class is coordinated by Sister Lynn Marie. It is very much spiritually filled with insightfulness for all those who attend. There are "Ah, Hah" moments when someone shares their thoughts and allow others to understand the Gospel reading from a differ perspective. It is a joyful occasion for all those who attend.

RCIA takes place every Sunday before Mass. This year 4 people will be initiated into the Catholic Church this Easter week. They have come to a better understanding of what it means to be a Catholic. Many questions are asked and they are enthusiastic with the responses that make them "hunger" for more answers in understanding what is taught to them. Already we have a few more people who will be learning about the Catholic faith and are eager to become a Catholic for the following year. They too want to be "fed" and have a greater desire to receive the Sacraments. Those who are receiving the Sacraments of Initiation this year have already become more involved in the Church Ministries. March 1, 2014 – One parishioner attended the Catechist Convocation at Archbishop Carroll H.S.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Family & Friends Sunday
- Revivals
- Communion Breakfast
- Sankofa for Youth program (It is a rite of passage for our youth that will enable them to move into young adulthood); It is a series of events.

PARISH: St. Raymond of Penafort

FEEDBACK: We recently held a Parent and Child First Reconciliation Retreat. It was a huge success. Fr. Chris reminded the parents that they are the primary educators of the faith to their children and the best way to do that is by their example. Those who had not been bringing their children to Mass on Sunday have returned and the majority participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their child the following Saturday morning.

Two parishioners attended the Endow Facilitators Training (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women). The training equips women to become group facilitators within their parish to help other Catholic women and girls to grow in their faith. Endow is designed to bring women, teens, and girls together to discover their God-given dignity and to understand their role in transforming our society. Feedback from both participants was very positive. We look forward to the start of this program in our parish this spring.

Two parishioners are currently enrolled in the Masters of Theology Program at St. Charles Seminary and another parishioner is pursuing undergrad studies.

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to attract and engage the children.

March 1, 2014 – Seven (7) parishioners attended the Catechist Convocation at Archbishop Carroll H.S.

March 2, 2014 – Twelve (12) parishioners attended Generation Phaith.

March 15, 2014 - Eight (8) parishioners attended the Men's Spirituality Conference - *Man Up Philly* at St. Joseph University.

PARISH: St. Vincent de Paul

FEEDBACK: The Martin Luther King interfaith service was nice, but there could have been more representation from all the communities.

SUGGESTION:

- Major marketing needed for Martin de Porres Annual Mass.