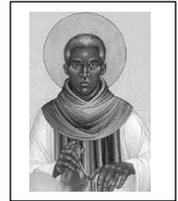


Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

May 2015
Newsletter

Edition I, Volume 12



The Mission of the Martin de Porres Foundation: The goal of the Martin de Porres Foundation is to develop lay leadership among African American/Black Catholics. This is achieved through undergraduate and graduate education as well as training in Ministry and Leadership skills. The Foundation supports these lay leaders in their efforts to advance Catholicism in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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On May 22-23, 2015, Immaculée arrived at the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, 500 E. Cheltenham Avenue for her highly anticipated weekend retreat. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control were in great supply!



The attendees on each day numbered approximately 320. The planning of Deacon William Bradley, Director of the Office for Black Catholics and his sub-committees, requested volunteers, ushers, greeters, choir members, and other assistance from many of the parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Those who attended expressed their gratitude and spiritual awareness from Immaculée's story and message of healing, hope, love and forgiveness.

We are extremely appreciative to Fr. Carl L. Pieber, CM, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal and his entire staff for their kindness and helpfulness in

bringing about this powerful retreat.



Volunteers

Knights of Peter Claver/Ladies Auxiliary and
Knights of Peter Claver Jr. Daughters

Cont. – Retreat Reflections:

Rev. Chris Walsh, Pastor
St. Raymond of Penafort

"The retreat with Immaculée offered us a chance to be renewed in our devotion to Mary as a Mother who wants us to know her son. I believe that many were renewed in their faith in the two days and given the grace to begin healing and reconciliation in their own life – just what our Lord desires for us all!"

Rev. Sy Peterka, Pastor
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
"Awesome Success!!"

Rev. Msgr. Wilfred J. Pashley, Pastor
St. Barbara Parish

"I saw very little of the retreat as I spent most of the time in the confessional. It was worth-while and rewarding. Most of the people with whom I spoke about the retreat were pleased. I heard nothing but positive comments on the flower procession... I believe that the various committees worked extremely hard and were very organized."

The Martin de Porres Foundation wishes to thank everyone who participated in making the Immaculée Retreat a success.

PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR LIFE – Pro-Life

Philadelphia Urban League-Friday, May 29th

Rev. Herbert Lusk, Pastor of Greater Exodus Church was a guest speaker.

Several parishes were represented by:

- Patricia Shelton – St. Barbara
- Sr. Alice Marie Daley, IHM-St. Francis de Sales
- Stacy Williams – St. Malachy
- Cynthia Brown – Our Lady of Hope
- Maxine Graves – St. Katharine Drexel-Chester
- Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS - St. Martin de Porres
- Jamey Moses – St. Martin de Porres
- Deb Kerrin – St. Raymond of Penafort
- Tina Clark – St. Athanasius
- Carol King-Field – St. Athanasius
- Janell Lavender – St. Martin de Porres



World Youth Day Philly Style

Deacon William Bradley, Director
Office for Black Catholics

On Saturday and Sunday April 11th & 12th, sixty two young pilgrims, from 7seven different parishes across the Archdiocese, joined in a weekend retreat and pilgrimage to celebrate World Youth Day 2015. The theme for the weekend, hosted by St Raymond of Penafort Parish, and sponsored by the Martin de Porres Foundation, was "Philly Catholic Youth- Fully Alive in Christ". This experience was meant to echo the annual World Youth Day weekend celebrations held in Rome and in Diocese' around the world. Our 2015 Philly event was the second annual Youth Day event in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

This year, Philadelphia County was represented by high school age teens from the parishes of St Barbara, St Cyprian, Holy Innocents, St Raymond, St Vincent and St Williams. With the support of 15 chaperones and numerous contributing guests and volunteers, our weekend was filled with prayer, music, group sharing, adoration and great fun. We celebrated the diversity of our "Big Church."

Saturday evening's Eucharistic adoration and sacrament of Reconciliation was a very spiritual and grace filled time for both the teens and the adults. When all returned to the Parish hall for fun and games they were able to participate in group sports, board games and challenge each other on an inflatable jousting pit.

On Sunday, after a spirit filled Sunday Liturgy at Saint Raymond's, the teens and their chaperones

embarked on a 9.5 mile walking pilgrimage from Saint Raymond's to the Cathedral Basilica...



At the Cathedral Basilica, the Mother Church of our Archdiocese, we were greeted by Archbishop Chaput. The Archbishop acknowledged the faith witness of the young people and linked our local celebration to the large celebrations that will occur during the 2015 World Meeting of Families.

What our young people demonstrated, on a glorious weather weekend, was that they are truly "fully alive in Christ."

On our pilgrimage route, we passed by a number of Churches and through various neighborhoods where our teens received many positive comments about their intentional witness to their Catholic faith. As their chants of "God is good! All the time!" reverberated along Broad Street; our teens presented a public display of their love of Jesus and their zeal to praise God. Our rest stops included Our Lady of Hope, where we were graciously welcomed by that diverse community, and Temple University Newman Center, where the youth listened to Faith Witnesses from three young College students.

If your parish has a story to tell, share with us. Send email: Janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org

Or call 267-398-2314 / 267-408-5923

— from [The Spirit of Saint Francis](#)

Calendar of Events

National Catholic Bible Conference 2015: Scripture and the Family of God

Dates: Friday, June 19 &
Saturday, June 20, 2015

Location: National Shrine of Our Lady
of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA

Scripture and the Family of God

REGISTER TODAY!

<http://catholicbibleconference.com/>

REGISTER BY 4/24/15: \$145

REGISTER AFTER 4/24/15: \$170

**PRIESTS/DEACONS/RELIGIOUS/
SEMINARIANS: FREE!**

MEAL PLAN: \$30

Where Are You Going

2015 'Quo Vadis' Retreat

For High School aged males.

Dates: Session 1-7/5 - 7/8, 2015

Session 2-7/9 - 7/12, 2015

Retreat combines fun outdoor activities with spiritual development and formation.

Contact: Deacon Bradley, Office for Black Catholics at 215-587-3541 [or](#) Vocation Office at 610-667-5778.

Reimbursements for the above fees will be funded by the Martin de Porres Foundation. Reimbursement forms must be submitted through the parish (Pastor/DRE).



September 22-27, 2015

Unending Love

God is love. And we move towards the light to find the love of God. But is God's love within us, even in the dark moments? Is the love of God there, hidden away? Yes, always! The love of God never leaves us. It is always with us.