



**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.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Black History Month – February 2015
- 2 Reflection: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- 2 Calendar of Events - Immaculée Ilibagiza  
Retreat 2015

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH How will you celebrate!

St. Malachy Church



### Celebrate Black History Month February 2015 with Us

All are invited to celebrate Black History Month with a celebration of Mass, moving preaching and hospitality to stir the soul and lift the spirit. Over the period of those 4 Sundays, we will have priests such as Father Rayford Emmons, Father Sylvester Peterka, C.M. Msgr. Federico Britto and Father Gerard Marable in the house. In addition, there will be a presentation by the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of Peter Claver. Lastly, there will be a Program of Black Discoveries presented by the children. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, there will be small breakfast receptions. More is yet to come.

**Location: Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church  
5200 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa.**

**Feb 1 at 8:30AM - Rev. Rayford E. Emmons  
Theme: Forging Families of Faith.**

**Feb 8 at 8:30AM - Rev. Sylvester Peterka, C.M.  
Small Breakfast Reception will be held in the  
Church Social Hall from 9:45AM to 12:00PM.**

**Feb 15 at 8:30AM - Rev. Msgr. Federico Britto  
Feb 22 at 8:30AM - Rev. Gerard Marable  
Small Breakfast Reception will be held in the  
Church Social Hall from 9:45AM to 12:00PM.**

Contact: *Cynthia Brown* at 215-329-8100;  
215-329-8164 for additional information.

### God of Mercy

**and Love** we place our African American and African Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

Prayer composed by

FR. JIM GOODE, OFM,

who in 1989 founded this National Day of Prayer  
for the African American and African Family

## Martin Luther King Celebration

By Rev. Msgr. Wilfred Pashley, Pastor  
St. Barbara Catholic Church



The last few years have seen a steady decline in the number of people attending the Annual Archdiocesan Celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Urban Pastors, a group of about ten pastors called together by Deacon William Bradley of the Office for Black Catholics, felt that a few changes and renewed support might reverse that trend. How right they were.

On Monday evening, January 19, the actual holiday, about 350 people gathered in Saint Barbara Church and a spirited celebration was held. What was different?

Monday night instead of Sunday afternoon and a head to head conflict with the NFL playoffs, one of the smaller churches in the Archdiocese, three excellent choirs and two diverse speakers, Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Jr., former Mayor of Philadelphia, and Father Sy Peterka, C.M., the dynamic Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul, a Rally not just a prayer service, all contributed to the success. Add to the above the presence of Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM Cap. and it would be hard to fail. And fail, we did not!

Both Rev. Goode and Father Sy were asked to be very practical and they addressed the need to seek solutions to the still unequal situations in race relations in America and neither backed down from the hot issue of Police Relations with the African-American community. The theme of "Families United, Saving Our Youth From Violence", while so much in tune with the September World Meeting of Families, had special meaning at Saint Barbara Parish as we were planning to bury Aaron Rogers, 20, who was shot and killed just four days prior to the Rally. Aaron's 17 year old brother was murdered just 18 months earlier. Our prayers were intense, the call for divine intervention lifted to the heavens. As with the others "I Just Came to Praise the Lord".



## Calendar of Events

**February 1, 2015 - African American and African Family National Day of Prayer**

[http://www.blackcatholicsforlife.org/releases/PDFs/NDPAAAF2015 .pdf](http://www.blackcatholicsforlife.org/releases/PDFs/NDPAAAF2015.pdf)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Conference in Philadelphia MAN UP PHILLY

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2015

Location: St. Joseph's University – Hagan Arena

Registration-Early Bird Special: \$40pp before Feb. 7, 2015

Student rate: \$25

Regular Registration: \$50 (includes Lunch).

For additional details: [www.ManUpPhilly.com](http://www.ManUpPhilly.com)

### Save the Date: Sunday, March 8, 2015

**Generation Phaiht** -The Archdiocesan High School Teen Rally -This is the ONE BIG event. Music, Eucharistic Adoration, Food, Workshops, Mass & More!

Location: Archbishop Carroll High School, Radnor, PA  
(Stay tuned for more information)

### Immaculée Ilibagiza Retreat 2015 (MDPF)

Date: May 22 & 23, 2015

*Weekend of Healing and Hope*

Location: Association of the Miraculous Medal  
475 E. Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA



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

If you would like to submit an event for inclusion in *The UPDATE*, please email all relevant information to: [Janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org](mailto:Janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org) or fax: 215-221-6516.

Like US on: Facebook.com/martindeporresfoundation Website: [www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org)