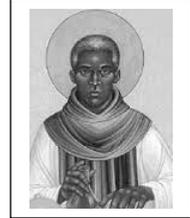


Martin de Porres Foundation



The UPDATE

April 2015
Newsletter

Edition I, Volume 11

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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St. Martin de Porres Parish

Calendar of Events

You are Invited to a Weekend of *Healing and Hope with*
IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA
May 22-23, 2015

Shrine of the Miraculous Medal
500 East Chelton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

**For more information or to register
Contact your Parish!!**



Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

Forgive yourself

Do you sometimes find it hard to forgive yourself? And your mind just keep reminding you of your unworthiness, your past sins and weaknesses. Well, next time that happens remind that bad voice in you that in the first place when you felt good and worthy, it was not that you really deserved it, it was and is by the Grace of God that we were saved that we are loved not by our goodness or worthies. Ask that Grace to cover you again and again and heal you from the wounds of your sins and to protect you from the torture of the enemy who wants to remind you. God loves you as if you were the only child, only one in the world. His mercy is endless to those who need it. Focus especially on doing good, on being more loving, changing your bad behavior to good ones one by one, judge no one, wish people good and forgive them, confess what you know to be your sins and make a firm decisions to never do them again, remember with His grace all things are possible including changing your heart. St. Augustine reminds us what Love look like.

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

Rooting for you,

Immaculée

Graduate School of Theology and Program of Catholic Studies

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 East Wynnewood Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096
610 785-6287 Fax 610 667-4122
GST@scs.edu
Website: www.scs.edu

SUMMER 2015 REGISTRATION

OPENS: MARCH 25, 2015

CLOSES: May 29, 2015

Classes Begin Monday, June 15, 2015

Registration will run through
May 29, 2015

Martin de Porres scholarship students must fill out the scholarship application *and* the Martin de Porres registration form and these must be sent to the Martin de Porres Foundation before being sent to GST.

GRADUATE

GST 619 Theology of Grace

GST 701 Moral Theology

GST 950 Introduction to Biblical Greek

GST 960 Origen: Scholar, Theologian, Priest and Martyr.

Students should contact their Pastor or DRE for additional information.

For questions about courses needed to complete your degree or certificate, contact Jared Haselbarth, Director-GST@scs.edu

LET THE CHURCH SAY "EVANGELIZE"

Sister Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS

"What a fellowship, what a joy Divine, leaning on the Everlasting Arms..." rings out in my mind when I think back to Easter Vigil 2015 at Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church in the "Kingdom of North Philadelphia!" We welcomed twelve new members who were fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Let's call them the "12 Disciples." Well, these 12 Disciples journeyed through the process of RCIA and have truly been inspired with our Catholic Faith. Their faith journey reminded us of our own faith journey of what a mighty God we all serve.



The desire to learn more about our Catholic faith was ever evident in the commitment made by these twelve. And, on one Sunday in particular, our Pastor Father Stephen Thorne, called the 12 Disciples to the altar for a special blessing that included the St. Martin de Porres Church family. The twelve faced the altar with Father Thorne while the congregation stood with arms extended.

Father Thorne asked the congregation, "Do you have their backs?" In unison, the congregation belted out a loud resounding, "YES!" Then we joined the 12 Disciples at the altar to place hands on the shoulders of those in front. Then we said in unison, "I have your back!" And then we said, "I'm praying for you!" God was in the building!

Tears flowed from the 12 Disciples as those words sank into their minds. They knew they were surrounded by Angels, and that they have become a part of the family of Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church. The 12 Catechumens (Disciples) was presented with a Bible, "The African American Catholic Youth Bible." This special Bible was incorporated into our classes as it gave detailed information of our own stories as Black Catholics. The twelve have embraced this Bible as they know how very special it is. Since given the Bible, other members of the church family are eager to get their own as well.

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

Calendar of Events

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Black Catholics KUJENGA - Leadership Weekend

Date: May 15-17, 2015

Location: Diamond Ridge Conference Center
Jamison, PA

Cost: \$40/Student Open to 10-12 Grade Youth

For additional information, contact:

Deacon Bill Bradley at 215-587-3541 or

wbradley@archphila.org

Tonya Banks, Coordinator at

tbanks@scs.edu

Reach Pennsylvania Prayer Breakfast for Life

Date: May 29, 2015

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 AM

Location: The Union League of Philadelphia

140 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA

Call 267-398-2314 or email:

Janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org

for further information.

RETREAT FOR DIRECTORS & COORDINATORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Theme: "Good Shepherd: I Know Mine, and Mine Know Me" (John 10:1-18)

Date: June 2-3, 2015

Location: Malvern Retreat House

315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern, PA 19355

Cost: \$125

Register early by calling 610-644-0400

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

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

Self-Forgiveness

There is one more important person you must forgive: yourself. Many times we think we've sinned so badly that God can't let us off the hook so simply. But His mercy is simple, and it is open to all hearts that turn to Him. - From [A 40-Day Spiritual Workout for Catholics](#)