



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.

Mural signed by Pope Francis dedicated at future home of St. Malachy School

By Lou Baldwin (Archdiocese of Philadelphia)



Auxiliary Bishop John McIntyre blesses the “The Sacred Now: Faith and Family in the 21st Century” mural during a Nov. 30 dedication ceremony at the future site of St. Malachy School. (Photo by Sabina Louise Pierce)

The new St. Malachy School, at 11th and Thompson Streets in Philadelphia, won’t open until September 2016, but has already made quite a splash, through the stunning 4,239 square foot outdoor mural, “The Sacred Now: Faith and Family in the 21st Century.” It’s really a lasting echo of the World Meeting of Families held in Philadelphia in September.

But what’s outdoor art if someone hasn’t scribbled their name on it? Actually that signature tucked high up on a flower petal, is perfectly legitimate. Pope Francis himself signed it by invitation during his Philadelphia visit, and someday it could arguably be considered a third-class relic.

The mural was officially blessed on Nov. 30 by Auxiliary Bishop John McIntyre, who oversees Catholic education in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. The building itself, the former William Henry Harrison Public School, is being completely refurbished by Independence Mission Schools as the new home for St. Malachy School and St. Veronica School, with an expected future enrollment of about 500 students. There are at this time 15 Independence Mission Schools located in former parish schools that were in danger of closing for financial reasons.

“This mural played a huge role in pulling people together,” said Anne McGoldrick, president of the 15-school Independence Mission School System. “People of all ages will draw hope and inspiration from it.”

In his petition to the Father, Bishop McIntyre prayed, “We ask you to look upon this mural and to bless it. May it be a cultural reminder of what you have done for us through your son, Jesus. May it be a continual reminder of how that gift continues on through the Church, most especially through Pope Francis.”

The dedication was attended by a host of dignitaries from the Church and state, and most importantly students from heavily African-American St. Malachy School and heavily Hispanic St. Veronica School, some of whom participated in the painting of the mural.

“I worked on the panel that has the boy in it,” said Iyanna Norcome, a sixth-grader at St. Malachy. “I think it is beautiful.”

That was the same sentiment of Ginny Rivas, a sixth grader at St. Veronica, whose contribution is also on that panel. “It’s special for me; I will never forget it, ever,” she said.

Leading the dignitaries was Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, an enthusiastic supporter of everything to do with the World Meeting of Families, and a graduate of the former Transfiguration of Our Lord School, whose best friend is a St. Malachy graduate.

The mural, he said, “Is a lasting legacy of the powerful memories and inspiration we all shared together in September and the many months leading up to it. Its imagery conveys the power of family and love in all of its many forms.” www.martindeporresfoundation.org

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Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” “Here I am;” I said; “send me!”

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www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org) or call 267-408-5923 or 267-398-2314.

Reflections

By Patrick Barnes

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

On Nov 9-12 the Josephite Pastoral Center, put on their annual "Pastoring in Black Parishes" conference. I was able to attend one day of the annual conference this year.

This was an excellent conference for church leadership as well as active lay parishioners of any parish. The conference focus was to help give tools to those that serve in African American parishes, to be successful in ministry and maintaining their parishes. Some of the many discussions and panels included parish finances, the complexity of preaching to African American congregations, involving and empowering youth, and young adults, establish lay leadership, loving Jesus, and showing others his love in our ministry, history of African American catholic African American Saints, and so many more. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia had a fair amount of people present. In attendance were African American Catholic from across the country from all capacities including Music Ministries, Parish Council members, Parish Finance Committee members, Pastors, Deacons, Chancellors, and Diocesan staff, Youth and Young adult Directors, Theologians, Parish Photographers, and Lay members.

Each day there was a mid- day daily mass, that was spirit touching, and moving to see a large number of clergy in one place at one time. The conference attendance was doubled from last year and was held in Crystal City Virginia. The biggest take away message that was a theme in a lot of the session is that parishes should share and exchange ideas and best practices, each parish has something good, and something they struggle with if we want our parishes to survive and thrive in the future they must share and collaborate great ideas.

MARK Your Calendar

St. Ignatius of Loyola Christmas Concert

Rev. Francis X. Kelly, Pastor

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2015

Time: 3:00pm – Prelude: 2:30pm

Location: 43rd & Wallace Street

(St. Ignatius Inspirational Choir, guest choirs, soloist, and praise dancing)

Free will offering.

Solemn Opening of the Holy Door for the Jubilee Year of Mercy – Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. Principle Celebrant and Homilist

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2015, 6:30 pm

Confession at 5:30pm

Location: 18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Prayer Svc.

Date: Monday, January 18, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM (Music Prelude: 6:30 PM)

Location: St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church

Rev. Tom Whittingham, Pastor

1920 Providence Avenue

Chester, Pennsylvania 19013-5695

CONGRESS XII

Date: July 6-9, 2017

Theme: The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me: Act Justly, Love Goodness, and Walk Humbly with Your God. (cf. Luke 4:18 and Micah 6:8)

More details to follow soon. Source: National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) Nov/Dec 2015

Contact your Pastor/DRE about Martin de Porres Foundation funding.



Remembering Sr. Thea, "Teaching Scripture with the Spirituals"

- If Sr. Thea Bowman was living today, she would be seventy-eight years old. Imbedded in this soul sister were several gifts that she freely gave to her community. She was an educator, actress, and singer who had a profound effect on many in this world. One of her friends commented that she made you happy to be

alive. In my own experience while attending the Black Catholic Congress in Washington D.C., she told me to "always feel free to express God's gifts to the Church."

Source: The National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) Nov/Dec 2015

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Tell us your parish story or give reflections on program(s) you attended.

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