

Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

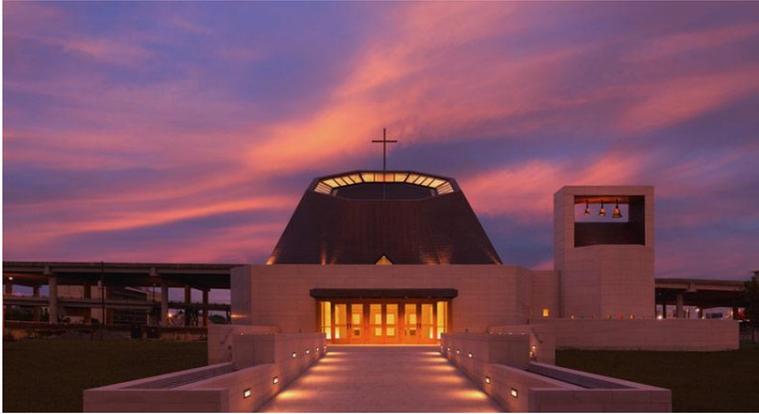
July 2015
Newsletter

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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.

Saint Katharine Drexel Chapel, Xavier University-Institute for Black Catholic Studies, New Orleans, Louisiana.



“Why Are You Catholic?”

By Angela Taylor (St. Martin de Porres Parish)



Xavier University, New Orleans, IBCS, Continuing Education, “YES,” if you asked me what these things had to do with me a couple of years ago, I probably would have said, “nothing.” Now I can tell you, “eye opening, uplifting, busy, spirit filled, spiritual, educational, not only in the faith but also in the knowledge I gained about my own people.

Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS), a place to learn how and why the Church does what it does. You will learn how tightly we African Americans are woven into that tapestry.

Too many times people ask us, “Why are you Catholic?” Unfortunately, we have a hard time answering that question. Spend a week or two at Xavier and you will come away with a better understanding of our role(s) in the “Church” and how best to use those God given gifts and talents we possess; not only for our people, but also for the betterment of the Universal Church. Continuing Education, the “Church” is constantly evolving, we too must continue to educate ourselves and evolve. When was the last time you took a journey with Jesus in the Gospels? How does Art, Music and Liturgical Dance enhance or inhibit our understanding of God and Faith? What is the difference between a “home going” and a funeral? These questions and more can be explored at the IBCS at Xavier University. God created the Church, we are the body, and He is the heartbeat. How we see and experience God is not going to be the same as someone else, having Xavier and the IBCS available to help answer these questions can only make us stronger in our faith and our ministries.

One of the things I most treasure about my time at Xavier is being steeped in our history. Not just our Catholic history but our cultural, Catholic history. There was an evening to honor the ancestors, the ones responsible for the creation and continuation of the IBCS program at Xavier... Msgr. David H. Benz, one of the founding members of the IBCS program... The current Director, Fr. Maurice Nutt... If you want to increase your knowledge culturally as well as spiritually and faith filled, the IBCS Program at Xavier University is where you want to be next year. I challenge you to pick up the gauntlet and join us.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** – Xavier University – Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS)
- 1** – MDPF 2015 High School Achievement Awards
- 2** – Reflection: IBCS
- 2** – 2015 Annual KPC & KPCLA Retreat
- 2** – **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Congratulations!

Recipients of the Martin de Porres Foundation H.S. Achievement Award; along with active participation in the parish:

- Daniel Gray – St. Frances de Sales (Penn State Brandywine)
- Devynn Gray – St. Martin de Porres (West Chester University)
- Christopher Konate – St. Ignatius (Newmann University)
- Zora Lee – St. Martin de Porres (Immaculata University)
- Jasmine M. Small – St. Vincent de Paul (Rowan University)
- Breanna L. Travis – St. Athanasius (Villanova University)
- Jasmine Wiggins – St. Raymond (Loyola University, Maryland)

A Reflection of My Experience at the "Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS)!"

By Allison Walker (St. Barbara Parish)



As the song goes, "The Spirit of The Lord is Here, Here, I feel it in The Atmosphere!"

This is exactly how I felt about my experience at Xavier University of Louisiana Institute for Black Catholic Studies this summer. It is very important for me to be crystal clear; it was not easy but it was all good with our morning praise, daily mass, two classes every day, and a few evening functions.

The food was delicious and the service was incredible. The celebration of our ancestors were moving and spirit-filled!

The people that I was blessed to meet, especially, Rev. Dr. Maurice Nutt, Executive Director of the IBCS, and all of his phenomenal staff, faculty, brother priests, and sisters, who were very personable, and approachable, to our questions and comments. Kudos to them all!

I would be remised if I did not mention how moved I was by the college students that I saw every day. Their manners were first class all the way, second to none. I was so proud to be a part of the IBCS.

Whether you are interested in earning your Master Degree in Black Catholic Theology Studies, Bachelor Degree, or Certification and Enrichment Programs, or you just want to be renewed and revived, I strongly encourage you to not just attend but be a part of the IBCS!

I would like to thank the Martin de Porres Foundation for their constant generosity in the African American/Black Catholic Community. Long live the spirit of Mother Katharine Drexel, without her vision, courage, and financing, there would be no Xavier University of Louisiana!

The 2015 Annual KPC & KPCLA Retreat "LEADING BY EXAMPLE"

Join us as we explore the contributions of Philadelphia
Black Catholic Families
To Our Church Community
Saturday August 15, 2015

Saint Rita's Shrine
1166 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA
10 AM to 3 PM

For Information Contact Fr. Emmons at 215-438-2921
\$10 Donation includes:

**Conference > Lunch > Confession
ALL ARE WELCOME**

www.facebook.com/martindeporresfoundation

www.martindeporresfoundation.org

Tell us your parish story
janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org

Calendar of Events

Catechist Training Nights

**The Catechist – Spiritually Refreshed
and Renewed**

Tuesday, August 11th at 6:00 p.m. Archdiocese
Auditorium – 222 N. 17th Street

**Drama and Movement in your Lesson
Plans**

Tuesday August 18th at 6:00 p.m. – St. Malachy
Church – 1429 N. 11th Street, Philadelphia

**Resources for Effective Catechetical
Programs**

Tuesday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m. – St.
Malachy Church- 1429 N. 11th Street,
Philadelphia

**To register contact Deacon Bill Bradley
at wbradley@archphila.org or 215-587-
3541.**

SAVE THE DATE

**September 21-22, 2015
Gesu Church, 17th & Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA**

REVIVAL

**Sponsored by the Office of Black
Catholics to celebrate the World
Meeting of Families (WMOF)**

Further details will be available soon!

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



"THINGS HAVE A PRICE AND CAN BE FOR SALE, BUT, PEOPLE HAVE A DIGNITY THAT IS PRICELESS –
AND – WORTH FAR MORE THAN THINGS." **Pope Francis** (pinterest.com)