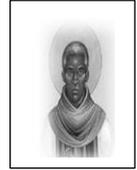


# Martin de Porres Foundation

*The* UPDATE

October 2016  
Newsletter

Edition III, Volume 5



**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.*

**GET READY IN November!**

**SUBSCRIBE to MDP FOUNDATION**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

***“In the beginning...North Philadelphia welcomes the  
National Black Catholic Men’s Conference”***  
***Theme: Blessed is the Man who is Faithful, Fearless & Fruitful”***  
***October 6-9, 2016***  
***By Reverend Stephen D. Thorne***



On Thursday, October 6, hundreds of men gathered at Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church to begin the 13th National Black Catholic Men’s Conference. As they arrived, they were greeted by a drum line to welcome them to Philadelphia. Many local clergy, religious sisters and lay leaders were present to offer their support. The inspiring evening included song, prayer and an inspirational reflection led by Mr. Jamey Moses, a Seminarian at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. One of the highlights of the rally was the “altar call” when all of the conference participants came and prostrated themselves at the altar in prayer.

The conference included workshops on various topics to help our adult men and young men grow, as the conference theme states...to be “faithful, fearless and fruitful.” The conference will end with a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Cyprian Catholic Church in West Philadelphia. Over 300 men from all over the country attended. Let the Church say AMEN!

## Spring 2017 Semester St. Charles Seminary - School of Theological Studies (STS)

Certificate in Pastoral Ministry to Black Catholics (MBC)  
Scholarships are available through the Martin de Porres Foundation

Courses will begin January 17<sup>th</sup>

**Spring 2017 Courses** - For registration info. Go to [www.scs.edu/mbc](http://www.scs.edu/mbc)

Mondays 6:30PM – 9:30PM  
STS 101 Old Testament

Tuesdays 6:30PM – 9:30PM  
STS 401 Church History

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Dear brothers and sisters: The Lord never tires of having mercy on us, and wants to offer us his forgiveness. We all need to return to him with a new heart, purified of evil, purified by tears, to take part in his joy.  
**Pope Francis, 18 February 2015**

## Perspectives

### 2016 Revival

By Beverly Harper, St. Athanasius, Parish  
"Can't Nobody Do Me like Jesus"

Our Lord said, "For where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst." Matthew 18:20

This statement was never truer than in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, September 26-27, 2016, at the Black Catholic Revival.

Sponsored by the Office for Black Catholics, this occasion sparkled with historical significance. It was the first time that the Cathedral was exclusively filled with Black Catholics. You could feel the excitement. Gathered were Catholics from sixteen predominantly black parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The anticipation in the air was thick enough to cut. It was apparent that the Spirit of God was present.



Deacon Houston

After getting over the initial disappointment that Bishop Cheri had taken ill and would not be able to attend, we all prayed for his speedy recovery and were thankful to hear later that he was feeling better. Upon announcing that the speaker would be from the St. Peter Claver Parish in New Orleans, P. Thomas Dahn, introduced Deacon Lawrence Houston, who gave a few details about his background.

[Read more.](#)

### 2016 Revival

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
His mercy endures forever."

By Rev. Thomas P. Kletzel, Pastor-St. Malachy Parish

These words quoted from the Ritual of Reconciliation, fittingly describe the recent Revival held in the Cathedral Basilica of our great Archdiocese. Making history as the first Revival ever to be held in the Cathedral, the pews were filled each of the two consecutive nights with faithful Catholics from across the Archdiocese. We came by cars, chartered buses and public transportation to lift our hearts, minds and souls in joyful praise and gratitude for our gracious God whose love, grace and mercy are abundant.

We were inspired and energized by the Spirit-filled preaching of Deacon Lawrence Houston from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana. With the Scripture stories of the Samaritan Woman and the Prodigal Son as a foundation, Deacon Houston's preaching strengthened faith in our God who patiently waits, with great anticipation, for the opportunity to wrap us in the strong arms of His mercy. [Read more.](#)

## Why Our Youth Need a Retreat

By Jennifer Simmons, DRE – St. Ignatius of Loyola

This is my eighth year working at St. Ignatius as the Director of Religious Education. I have to say that even with all of the ups and downs I still love it. I admit that going in I wasn't sure if I could do it, especially the youth ministry part. If I'm honest working with teens is scary, but it is also the most rewarding part of my job.

I've learned that teens really only want a few basic things. They want to be listened to. They want to be loved. They also want to feel safe. Most importantly they are searching for meaning in their lives and they really need us to point them in the right direction. Just like adults, they want to know God. They want to have a relationship with Him and they want to know that He truly loves them.

[Read more.](#)

TRUE BEAUTY IS IN THE SOUL – THAT  
PRICELESS GIFT OF GRACE.

SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2016 Catholic Women's Conference  
Gathering!

**SOLD OUT - SOLD OUT - SOLD OUT**

Date: Saturday, October 29, 2016

Location: National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa,  
Doylestown – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and hospitality bag.

**Democracy in Black: How Race Still  
Enslaves the American Soul**

**Presentation -Eddie Glaude, Ph.D.-Princeton U.**

Date: Thursday, Oct 20, 2016 – 7pm

Location: LaSalle U. - Founder's Hall Auditorium

723 N. Wister Street, Philadelphia

Event is free to attend, but please register at  
[lasalle.edu/eddieglaude.com](http://lasalle.edu/eddieglaude.com)

**National Black Catholic Congress XII**

Date: Thursday, July 6, 2017 to Sunday July 9, 2017

Location: Hyatt Regency Orlando

9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

Registration Fee: Adults - \$295/ Youths - \$150

Hotel Registration Fee: Single/Double/Triple,

Quad \$125 + tax per room – per

night.

[www.orlando.regency.hyatt.com](http://www.orlando.regency.hyatt.com)

<http://nbccongress.org/events/default.asp#lampstand>

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

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[www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org)

[www.twitter.com/mdpfound](http://www.twitter.com/mdpfound)

Share your parish stories or give reflections on

program(s) you attended.

[janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org](mailto:janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org)

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