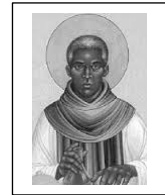


# Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

April 2016  
Newsletter

Edition 2, Volume 9



**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.

## REVIVALS HELP BREAK UP THE WINTER DOLDRUMS



Philadelphia's African American Catholic community were revived recently, as hundreds gathered for two faith-based cultural events.

Participants traveled from across the Delaware Valley for the first Sister Thea Bowman Conference held at St. Therese of the Holy Child Jesus Catholic Church on March 4 – 5, 2016. It came on the heels of the two-day Gospel Revival featuring the Revs. Anthony Bozeman and Rayford Emmons at the Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 5200 N. Broad Street.

Stacy Williams, an organizer of the Bowman Conference, said there were already plans for another conference in 2018, a year after the National Black Catholic Congress meets in Orlando. Planners hope waiting a year will help the local conference draw a national audience. "We were so excited to have Father R. Tony Ricard from the Institute for Black Catholic Studies in New Orleans, LA speak to us," Williams said. "It just added to the conference that went really well. One lady told me that she learned so much about Sister Thea Bowman, about what it means to be Black and Catholic, and what her place is in the church."

The conference's theme was "A Celebration of Her Life, A Strengthening of Our Gifts." Among the highlights was when Bernadette Tanksley did an impersonation of Sister Thea Bowman.

It was helpful to have youth on the planning committee as there were workshops geared toward them. About half of those in attendance were youths and young adults.

"This was just so empowering for our young people. All the photography and videography was done by a young lady who attends the High School for Creative and Performing Arts," Williams said. *Courtesy of Arlene Edmonds. The Philadelphia Tribune*



Darin Williams, center, leads a group in song during a Workshop session.  
[Read More www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org)

SIGN UP FOR OUR **NEWSLETTER**  
*Coming Soon!*

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## SAVE THE DATE

GESU SPIRIT MEDAL GALA

HONORING

Rev. Stephen D. Thorne &

Peter G. Gould

Thursday, May 5, 2016

6:00-9:00 pm

Hyatt at the Bellevue  
200 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

For more information:

If you wish to attend the Gala contact  
Gesu School: 215-763-3660

Visit [www.gesuschool.org/2016gala](http://www.gesuschool.org/2016gala)

## AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT



**Fr. Tony Ricard of the  
Archdiocese of New Orleans**  
<http://nbccongress.org/newsletter/>

Fr. Tony has written a number of books, including: "I Still Believe: A Testimony of Faith After the Storm," "Don't Be Stupid! Lessons You Should Already Know," "I Don't Make Them Up! Reflections, Stories and Jokes from a Faithful Fool," "Keepin' It Real: Reflections on Faith, Hope and Forgiveness," "The Eagle Story" And "Diary of an Unapologetic Roman Catholic Priest." Fr. Ricard was

the keynote speaker for the Sr. Thea Bowman Conference which was held on March 4-5, 2016 at St. Therese of the Holy Child Jesus Church. The conference was sponsored by St. Malachy Catholic Church.

## **REFLECTION: MAN-UP PHILLY MEN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE – 3.12.16**



**By Deacon James Mahoney, St. Athanasius.**

The annual Men's Spirituality Conference provides an opportunity to nurture the spiritual growth of men in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. There is great need for a forum to support and promote the spirituality of men. At our Sunday masses, there is generally a 2 or 3 to 1 ratio of women to men in attendance. We can probably attribute poor church attendance in general to the many other choices that people can make on Sunday's. These choices may range from

sales at shopping malls to sporting events. We forget that salvation is free to choose and "The Resurrection" is an event whose outcome has no equal! The competing opportunities are supplemented by a belief in the minority community as to what defines masculinity. We are well aware of the belief that education is seen as not cool. Well, I believe that men may view the passivity of religion as weak and therefore not a masculine endeavor.

Man-Up Philly prides itself as the largest Men's Spirituality Conference. It provides a forum for engagement and an occasion to fellowship with other Catholic men to provide support for their expression of faith. There is a platform for men to share spirituality experiences and to listen to the witness of presenters. We are a communion people. The strength gained by being with other men of the Catholic faith and feeling comfortable to freely share experiences is priceless. St. Athanasius parish had 15 men who registered and attended. It is an annual event that is anticipated with great excitement. It is a true day of fellowship and brotherly love! The day begins with a van of brothers riding to St. Joseph's field house. Many deep theological discussions are debated and deliberated. Of course, nonsensical topics are always added to lighten atmosphere. Not all of the men ride the van. There are men who chose to drive. We all meet at the field house and sit together to listen to the presentations. We sit together at lunch but each year we seem to attract other parishes and meet new friends. The presentations as I indicated earlier are not the only opportunity to share and discuss this event. Our involvement in parish life is to enhance and nurture our spirituality by joining with other attendees. **READ MORE:** [www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org)

[www.facebook.com/martindeporresfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/martindeporresfoundation)

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

Tell us your parish story 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

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**A Pastoral Response to Mental Illness**

**Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016**

**Location: Archdiocesan Pastoral Center 222 N. 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
Time: 9:30 am – Noon (Please arrive by 9:15 am)  
For info: 215-587-3530 / [sr.kschipani@archphila.org](mailto:sr.kschipani@archphila.org)**

**Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**

**Date: Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**For additional information call 215-587-3541 Office for Black Catholics. Deacon Bill Bradley, Director.**

**Chosen Fathers: A Retreat for Fathers of Children with Disabilities**

**Date: Saturday, April 30, 2016**

**Location: St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Sponsors: Office for Life and Family and Office for Persons w/ Disabilities.**

**To register online: [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org). For more info 215-587-3530 or email: [mcullinan@archphila.org](mailto:mcullinan@archphila.org).**

**Quo Vadis Retreat**

**Date: June 16-18, 2016**

**For additional information call 215-587-3541 Office for Black Catholics. Deacon Bill Bradley, Director.**

**National Black Catholic Men's Conference**

**Theme: Blessed is the Man who is Faithful, Fearless & Fruitful**

**Date: October 6-9, 2016**

**Location: Doubletree Hilton Philadelphia Airport  
4509 Island Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153**

**Adult Registration: \$150/ Youth: \$50 (age 8-13)/ H.S. & College Students \$75**

**Registration Info -**

**<http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/programs>**

**For additional info contact Fr. Chester Smith at [www.gamba\\_10333@aol.com](mailto:www.gamba_10333@aol.com) or 317-259-0144**

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



## **NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS XII**

**Thursday, July 6, 2017 to Sunday July 9, 2017**

**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>**