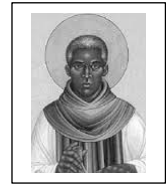


Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

February 2016
Newsletter

Edition 2, Volume 7



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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – FEBRUARY 2016

Origins of Black History Month

A brief look at the history of African Americans and Black History Month.

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history. *Source:* www.history.com/topic/black-history/black-history-month

B.V.M. Parish’s Sermons in Art Show Divine Mercy at Work

By Lou Baldwin

John Keith White with “Fire of Love and Mercy – Madonna and Child.” (Elena Perri)



“Jesus Christ is the face of mercy,” Pope Francis said in declaring a Year of Mercy that began Dec. 8 and runs through Nov. 20, 2016. “These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him,” read in the opening words of the pope’s Bull of Indiction inaugurating the jubilee year.

Since then Holy Doors for pilgrimage have been established at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome and at cathedrals, major churches and shrines throughout the world. Liturgies have been celebrated and homilies preached.

The questions are; how can this message of mercy be brought down to the people in the pews? How do thinking Catholics already view mercy, and how can they in turn spread this message to others?

At Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Darby, Delaware County, Father Joseph Corley invited four of his parishioners — Linda Spina, Mimi Frasciello, Deidri Brabham and John Keith White, all with known artistic talents — to come up with images that would reflect what the Year of

Mercy meant to them, and that could be displayed in the church. [Read More www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org)

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER
(COMING SOON!)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 – Black History Month - February
- 1 – B.V.M. Parish Year of Mercy
- 1 – SCS Registration Spring 2016
- 2 – Elizabeth Clarisse Lange
(aka Mother Mary)
- 2 – SAVE THE DATE
- 2 – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

I hope you all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and pray that you experience God’s choicest blessings during 2016.

Our School has a new name, “School of Theological Studies.” The previous name, “Graduate School of Theology,” implied that we only offer graduate courses. The new name conveys that our School offers a variety of academic programs. Also, there is a new Academic Dean. In July, Archbishop Chaput appointed me as the Academic Dean of the School. I am grateful to the Archbishop for this assignment and I am excited about developing programs to meet the needs of the Archdiocese.

The first group I met was a delegation led by Deacon Bill Bradley. They informed me of a desire to re-energize the Ministry to Black Catholics program by recruiting students. I am happy to announce that 21 students are currently enrolled in, “Leadership and Renewal in Black Catholic Communities.” (15 of them are new!!!) There are 4 students enrolled in the “Practicum - Service Project,” a final course for the Certificate in Ministry to Black Catholics. I am grateful to the Martin De Porres Foundation for providing scholarships to support these enthusiastic students. I appreciate all those who were involved in the successful recruiting effort.

Please consider enrolling in the School of Theological Studies. Be sure to tell a friend!

Rev. James J. Ames, Dean
School of Theological Studies
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

Elizabeth Clarisse Lange (aka Mother Mary)

Born circa 1784 - Died February 3, 1882

Elizabeth Clarisse Lange's parents were refugees who fled to Cuba from the revolution taking place in their native Saint Dominque known today as Haiti. Her father was a gentleman of some financial means and social standing. Her mother was a Creole. However, in the early 1800's young Elizabeth left Santiago de Cuba to seek peace and security in the United States. Providence directed her to Baltimore, Maryland where a great influx of French-speaking Catholic San Domingos refugees were settling. [Read More.](#)
www.martindeporresfoundation.org

MEDITATION ON MERCY

February 2016

"Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." (Mt 9:13)



SAVE THE DATE

Sr. Thea Bowman Conference

*A celebration of her life,
a strengthening of our gifts*

Friday, March 4, 2016 – Saturday, March 5, 2016

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

St. Theresa of the Holy Child

Roman Catholic Church

600 E. Upsal Street (Ardleigh Street)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19119

Keynote Speaker

Fr. Toni Ricard

Xavier U. - Institute for Black Catholic Studies
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Deborah Pembleton, Ph.D.

Registration fee: Adults \$25.00 & Youth \$12.00

**Adult Workshops – Flash Mobs for Jesus – Storytelling**

**Youth Sessions – Cultural Movements – Celebrate Mass**

To register and for more information see brochure or call

215-763-1305 or go to [www.theacon.com](http://www.theacon.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### ***Gospel Revival - Father Anthony M. Bozeman, SSJ***

**Date: Friday, February 19, 2016**

**Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Date: Saturday, February 20, 2016**

**Time: Prelude 2:30 PM**

Revival 3:00 PM

Sacred Liturgy 4:00 PM

*Reception immediately following Mass*

**Date: Sunday, February 21, 2016**

**Time: 8:30 AM Sacred Liturgy**

*Continental Breakfast after Mass*

**Location:** Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church

Rev. Efren Esmilla, Pastor

5200 N. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19141

215-329-8100; 215-329-8164

**You are invited to a Luncheon Presentation by**

**Rev. Stephen Thorne**

**Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

**Time: 12:40 – 1:40 PM**

**Location:** 1 Neumann Drive

Ashton, Pennsylvania 19014

610-459-0905

*"The relationship between African American Spirituality and Neumann's Core Values."*

*Sponsored by Theology Division & Neumann*

*Institute for Franciscan Studies.*

**RSVP to Sister Mary Ann by February 19<sup>th</sup> at**

[mccarhm@neumann.edu](mailto:mccarhm@neumann.edu)

### ***Rev. Rayford Emmons***

Parochial Vicar, Holy Cross Catholic Church

1<sup>st</sup> African-American Pastor, Archdiocese of Philadelphia,

Chaplain, Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary

**Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016**

**Time: 8:30 AM - Mass**

**Location:** Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church

5200 N. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19141

215-329-8100; 215-329-8164

### **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.

[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