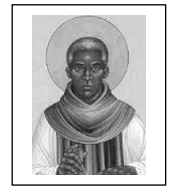


Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

March 2016
Newsletter

Edition 2, Volume 8



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.

Our Black Shepherds

by Bishop Joseph N. Perry



Most Reverend
Fernand Cheri, OFM

Given the traditional European/American profile of the Church in the United States, there has always been urgings from the smaller ethnic groupings...Hispanic, African American, Italian, Polish, Asian, etc. to have episcopal representation. And each group has its own story to tell with getting bishops appointed.

We have had to this day, since the 19th century, twenty-five extraordinary and gifted men from the black community appointed bishops of the Catholic Church.

Following upon the Civil Rights struggle and the neo-black consciousness of the African-American community with the concomitant search for identity and reception in the larger Catholic Church there was the press for more black bishops in this country. Most of these bishops were appointed in the 1980s; two Archbishops in Eugene Marino and James Lyke who both shepherded the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Wilton Gregory follows given what appears to be now the Catholic significance of Atlanta in the southern base with his appointment as Archbishop of Atlanta December 9, 2004.

Bishops are responsible directly to the Holy Father the pope in Rome for the affairs of their dioceses or non-diocesan assignments. They are consecrated by other bishops, at least three, who belong to the apostolic succession tracing to Peter the Fisherman who was given the keys of the Church by our Savior Jesus Christ. Bishops function in obedience to the reigning successor of Peter, - the pope. Once consecrated in the Catholic tradition a bishop is a bishop for life. He may retire from the administrative aspects of the office or governance of a Diocese, usually submitting his request to the pope not before the age of seventy-five unless infirmity intervenes. www.nbccongress.org/features/our-black-shepherds.asp



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

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DRE MEETING
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Standing: Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory (Archbishop of Atlanta); Most Rev. John H. Ricard (Bishop of Emeritus of Pensacola-Tallahassee); Most Rev. Martin D. Holley (Auxiliary Bishop of Washington D.C.); Most Rev. Joseph N. Perry (Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago); Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton (Bishop of Belleville); Most Rev. George V. Murry (Bishop of Youngstown)

Seated: Most Rev. Guy Sansaricq (Retired Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn); Most Rev. James T. Steib (Bishop of Memphis); Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre (Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux); Most Rev. Curtis J. Guillory (Bishop of Beaumont, Texas)

Reflections on Keeping Young Adults in the Catholic Church

by Kea Dodson



Kea Dodson

The age of 18-25 is an awkward age. Most people would disagree and say the 10-14 but I will add the 8-25 to that awkward age too. You are for all legal purposes, an adult. You are able to vote, fight for your county and pretty much decide things on your own. You become particularly independent when if you go away to college. No one waking you up for class, telling you what to eat, or wear, you are completely on your own. You are developing your own ideas about how to navigate life. This is also the time when you start exploring faith, the faith of others and your own. You might be a life-long Catholic, went to church and catechism only now to decide that you are old enough not go to mass anymore.

I mean you are an adult, making adult decisions right? You went to that party on campus or went to the club the night before and you just can't get yourself together to go to mass so you just stop going. Maybe you couldn't find a church that you connected with after searching for the right fit. Maybe you are a young adult who was questioning their Catholic faith for a while and now you're doubting whether to stay Catholic or your Catholic faith wasn't that strong and you met that guy or girl that was so on fire with their faith, who by the way wasn't Catholic, and you, the young adult is hooked. No longer willing to call yourself a Catholic, you decided to become Protestant or non-Christian. Now for Protestant Churches or non-Christian churches losing a young adult to another faith is disappointing, but for the Catholic Church this is problematic. Kea Dodson is a Native Washingtonian and a parish religious education teacher. She spoke at this year's NBCC Conference on the topic "Reengaging Young Adults Back to their Catholic Faith." If you would like to contact her on this topic, how to start or ideas on starting a young adult ministry at your church she can be contacted at kea.dodson@gmail.com **READ MORE** @ www.nbccongress.org/catholic-youth/young-adults-catholic-church.asp

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH.
HOW WILL YOU RAISE AWARENESS?



Developmental Disabilities is defined as a significant and lasting mental and/or physical impairment, a developmental disability occurs prior to age 22 and substantially limits a person in 3 or more major life activities. Learning, speaking, personal care, moving, hearing, making decisions and working are a few examples of major life activities. People with developmental disabilities are an important part of our community and have many gifts and talents to contribute.

DRE MEETING
Saint Malachy RC Church
1429 N. 11th Street
Tuesday, March 9th
9:30 A.M.
215-763-1305

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Man-Up Philly Men's Spirituality Conference

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016

Location: St. Joseph's University Hagen Arena
5600 City Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131
Registration: Contact Pastor/DRE

Cultural Heritage Mass

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2016

Time: 1:30 pm Procession, 2:00 pm Mass
Celebrant: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap.
Location: Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter and Paul, Philadelphia

A Pastoral Response to Mental Illness

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Location: Archdiocesan Pastoral Center 222 N. 17th Street
Time: 9:30 am – Noon (Please arrive by 9:15 am)
For info: 215-587-3530 / 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. For more info call 215-587-3530 or email: mcullinan@archphila.org.

Gala & Gesu Spirit Medal - Honoring Rev. Stephen D. Thorne and Peter G. Gould

Date: Thursday May 5, 2016, 6:00-9:00 pm

Location: Hyatt at The Bellevue
200 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
For more information visit www.gesuschool.org/2016gala

Quo Vadis Retreat

Date: June 16-18, 2016

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

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

www.facebook.com/martindeporresfoundation

www.martindeporresfoundation.org

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

janell.lavender@martindeporresfoundation.org

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