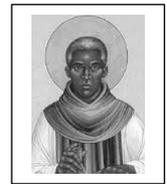


# Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

March 2016  
Newsletter

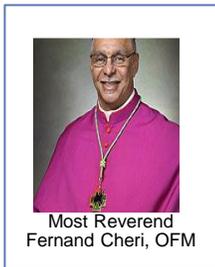
Edition 2, Volume 8



**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](http://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 to 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](mailto:kea.dodson@gmail.com) **READ MORE** @ [www.nbccongress.org/catholic-youth/young-adults-catholic-church.asp](http://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. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
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. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
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 call 215-587-3530 or email: [mcullinan@archphila.org](mailto: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](http://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](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