

Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

March 2017
Newsletter

Edition III, Volume 11



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 Catholics, White Catholics take Unflinching Look at Racism

By Arlene Edmonds, Tribune Correspondent • Posted March 3, 2017 • CatholicPhilly.com



Those of different racial and ethnic backgrounds in the Philadelphia Archdiocese came together for a two-hour session, “Conversation on Race in Our Country,” Feb. 28 at St. Raymond of Penafort Parish in Northwest Philadelphia. It was the first of three sessions in the “Growing in Racial Harmony within the Catholic Church: Continuing the Conversation” series.

The featured workshop leaders included Father Christopher M. Walsh, pastor of St. Raymond; Deacon William Bradley, the director of the Archdiocesan Office for Black Catholics; and Matthew Davis, the director of the Archdiocesan Office for Migrants and Refugees.

Along with parishioners from several parishes in the archdiocese, some priests also were present.

Among the sensitive topics raised at the Tuesday evening session was knowing the difference between being color brave vs. color blind, analyzing the makeup of one’s social circles and admitting to the biases one may carry consciously or unconsciously.

“I think it is so important to have meetings like this,” said Eileen Dresh, who is white and commutes from Northeast Philadelphia to attend the predominantly African American St. Raymond Parish. “I think it’s important that we listen and hear the other side. We need to understand what black people experience in their lives. As we hear the different things we become aware of what is really there.” [Read more](#) or go www.martindeporresfoundation.org

DID YOU KNOW? MARCH is National Women’s History Month

Celebrating Unsung Black Catholic Women in U.S. History By [Shannen Dee Williams](#)

On the evening of Sunday, May 10, 1891, Father Augustus Tolton, the nation’s first self-identified black priest, traveled to a home in Chicago’s “Negro district” to administer death rites to a pious, but once-lapsed laywoman.

Writing about the incident two days later, Father Tolton noted that the “colored woman had been nine years away from her duties because she was hurled out of a white church and even cursed at by the Irish members.”

MARTIN DE PORRES
FOUNDATION MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

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<http://eepurl.com/cnlalf>

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Inspired by this woman's enduring faith in the face of such unholy discrimination, Father Tolton, the son of devout Catholic slaves, documented her faith testimony and in the process, gave a voice to the legions of anonymous and unheralded black women upon whose shoulders the African American Catholic community has historically rested. "She sent for me,"

"She sent for me," Father Tolton wrote, "and thanked God that she had me to send for."

To date, black women remain among the most invisible and elusive figures in U.S. Catholic history. Like the woman who sent for Father Tolton on her deathbed in 1891, many of these women remain nameless, captured only in brief references and in the shadows of more well-known members of the church. [Read more](#) or go www.martindeporresfoundation.org

FOLLOW-UP!

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



***A Dream in Black and White
Growing in Understanding as Catholics***

SAVE THE DATES

*Monday, March 13, 2017, St. Athanasius Church
2050 E. Walnut Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19138*

*Monday, April 10, 2017, St. Barbara Church
5351 Lebanon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131*

TIME - 7:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*For further information contact Beverly Harper at
bharper@archphila.org or 215-587-3541*

St. Cyprian Adult Choir

presents

The Annual Black History Concert

Sunday, March 19, 2017

5:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$15.00

Msgr. Federico Britto, Pastor

Tickets: Nancy Brown: 267-808-2468

Gilda Reid: 215-888-5573

SAVE THE DATE

Sponsored by Concerned Black Catholics

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

"Women of Faith and Action"

Invitation to Women of all ages.

Speaker: Sr. Mary Rogers Thibodeaux

Saturday, March 25th 10:00am – 1:00pm

Aquinas Center 1700 Fernon Street

RSVP by March 10th 215-467-3834

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CONGRESS - DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday, March 11, 2017

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

St. Athanasius School Hall

2050 E. Walnut Lane

Philadelphia, PA 19138

**Special invite to those interested in
attending NBCC XII 2017**

DIVERSITY DISCUSSION GROUPS

Saturday, March 18, 2017 2:00pm

St. Thomas Aquinas – 17th & Morris Street

Philadelphia, PA 19145

Call 215-763-1305 for information

SPIRITUAL FAMILY RETREAT

KPCLA ST. BARBARA COURT 326

"GO FORTH AND BRING THE GOOD NEWS"

Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:00am – 2:00pm

National Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

1663 Bristol Pike Bensalem PA 19020

Donation: \$20 includes lunch

RSVP with payment by March 5, 2017

Contact Lady Lola White 215-473-8320 or

Verna Cox 215-669-3270

TOLTON PREMIERE

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Vianney Auditorium at 2:00 PM

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary 100 E. Wynnwood

Road, Wynnwood, PA 19096

For additional information and tickets - contact the Office
for Black Catholics. 215-587-3541

wbradley@archphila.org or bharper@archphila.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Af69aLnZadE>

NBCC UPDATE!!

Congress XII and Hyatt Regency Hotel

Registrations are NOW OPEN

<https://www.nbcccongress.org/>

National Black Catholic Congress XII

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

Location: Hyatt Regency Orlando

9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

Adult Early Meeting Registration: \$350.00

Adult Meeting Registration \$375.00

Youth Group Discount Registration - \$195.00

(Ages 14-17 groups of 15 or more youths)

Early Youth Meeting Registration - \$225.00

(Ages 14-17, individual registration, or groups of 14 or less)

Youth Meeting Registration - \$250.00

Early Registration Cut-Off Date is April 7, 2017

Hotel Room Fees:

NBCC Room Rate: Single/Double/Triple, & Quad \$138.50 per
room, per day. Includes taxes & fees

Contact your Pastor/DRE or Office for Black Catholics 215-587-
3541 regarding MDP Foundation NBCC XII funding.