

# Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

August 2017  
Newsletter

Edition V, Volume 2



**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.

## A Reflection Post: The NBCC XII Orlando, Florida 7.6.17-7.9.17

By Kanika J. Stewart-Jones, MHS St. Martin de Porres Church



The first thought I had post the conference (coupled with tears of joy, gratitude, and humility) was GOD IS GOOD!!!... The realization of it all started to set in at Philadelphia International Airport. It worked out that there were lots of familiar faces from Philadelphia's Archdiocese gathering to board the same flight as my family and I were. There was an unspoken, yet defined purpose amongst all of us there. There was an openness that we all shared in addition to the Christ driven determination that said "We" will work to make the required changes in our parishes, families, and communities that is so very desperately needed.

Once there I chose the sessions that focused on racism. I made this choice because I recognized the levels of cluelessness (whether intentional or unintentional) people of non-color have. In my personal and professional lifetime, I have come across people who have no awareness of "OUR" struggles and triumphs, of our battles and defeats, and why "WE" as a people must fight onward to bring about acknowledgement, understanding, and acceptance so that process of equality can began. [Read more](#)

MARTIN DE PORRES  
FOUNDATION MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

**SIGN-UP**

**click here**

<http://eepurl.com/cnlalf>

## NBCC XII Reflection – First Time Attendee

By Patrick Rogers, St. Martin de Porres Church



The National Black Catholic Congress XII, which was held in Orlando, Florida, was the first Congress that I attended. Two themes that impacted me during the Congress were Black Catholic History and using our faith to challenge social realities.

In the workshop, Wisdom from the Black Catholic History, led by Paula Manchester. This session exposed us to the seminal figures such as Fr. Cyprian Davis and Dr. Camille Brown whose research efforts were pivotal in documenting the History of Black Catholics. Also, the attendees were acquainted with a seminal document: "What We Have Seen and Heard" which was written in 1984 by the ten black Bishops in the United States. While the session informed us of the current scholarship, it was noted that there is plenty of room for more scholarship in this area. This session led me to reflect on possible ways in which we can continue to not only document our story, but share it as well. ...I thank the Martin de Porres Foundation, Fr. Thorne, Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, and Deacon Bradley for helping me to attend Congress XII. [Read more](#)

## "Gifted to Lead" – NBCC XII

By Carol G. Stukes-Baylor, Our Lady of Hope Church



As I prepared to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> National Black Catholic Congress I had several questions heavy on my mind and heart. On Thursday, we heard the message from Andréa Goodnight on why he converted to Catholicism and why he felt honored to portrait Fr. Tolton. For me, his message and spirit made the theme of the Congress "*The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me: act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God*" come alive. I left that session with my mind racing on ways to promote his play because I wanted the whole world to know about this famous Black Catholic Priest.

...Fr. Maurice Emelu started Saturday morning with an inspirational message on "Gifted to Lead". He told us that being an inspired leader, a bridge builder, a team worker and relationship should be one. We should inspire others to lead as well. After that, I attended the breakout session "Informing the USCCB Pastoral Letter on Racism". We were placed in groups to come up with some suggestions for the Bishops. [Read more](#)

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## A Message from Father Stephen Thorne:

Reverend Stephen Thorne  
Convener, THE INITIATIVE  
[frsthorne@gmail.com](mailto:frsthorne@gmail.com)

The Martin de Porres Foundation has entrusted me with a grant to grow a pool of African American Catholic educators who will be certified to serve as principals and other school leaders in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I am in the process of forming the cohort for the Fall. If you are aware of any teachers who are African American,

Catholic and interested in school leadership, please ask them to contact me.

## Martin de Porres Foundation Parish Visits

Parish visits are being conducted by the Foundation during the months of August and September to discuss ongoing and future grants.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Fall 2017 STS Registration OPEN

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary/  
School of Theological Studies

<http://www.scs.edu/school-theological-studies/register-sts-classes>

**ONLINE COURSE:** History of Black Catholics and Saints – Dr. Camille Brown

Last Day to Register without late fee is August 11<sup>th</sup>  
Classes begin week of August 28<sup>th</sup>

**Certificate in Pastoral Ministry to Black Catholics (MBC)**

**Master of Arts in Theology**

To Apply & Enroll contact Jared at 610-785-6287  
[sts@scs.edu](mailto:sts@scs.edu)

Contact Beverly Harper 267-553-6665,  
[bharper@archphila.org](mailto:bharper@archphila.org) for questions regarding the  
Martin de Porres Foundation Scholarship Application.  
[www.martindeporresfoundation.org](http://www.martindeporresfoundation.org)

### **“Revival” Time**

September 25 & 26, 2017

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul  
18<sup>th</sup> & Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA

Choir Prelude starts at 6:30 PM  
Revival at 7:00 PM sharp!

### **Featuring**

**Rev. Paul Whittington, Revivalist**

Fr. Paul serves as the Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Chicago.

**Also featuring**

**The Archdiocesan Catholic Gospel Choir**

**The Immanuel Movement Praise Team**

**All are Welcome!**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### WINE National Catholic Women's Conference



The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is proud to be the host diocese for the first annual

**WINE: Women in the New Evangelization National Catholic Women's Conference**

**Saturday, October 21, 2017 – 8:30am-4pm**  
**National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa**  
**Doylestown, PA**

Registration is open! **REGISTER NOW!!**  
Visit the WINE Conference website by clicking the purple button below:

Go to: [wineconference.org](http://wineconference.org)

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 10:00 AM—Noon**

**Event:** CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA) COORDINATORS FALL MEETING

**Location:** Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA

**Topic:** *Crafting the Syllabus for the Catechetical Sessions for Adults and Children*

**Presenter:** Father Dennis Gill, Director of the Office for Divine Worship

**More info:** Email the Office for Divine Worship, [worship@archphila.org](mailto:worship@archphila.org)

Contact your Pastor/DRE regarding Martin de Porres Foundation funding.