

Martin de Porres Foundation

The UPDATE

July 2017
Newsletter

Edition IV, Volume 1



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.

NBCC to Explore the Call to Live the Gospel in Challenging Times

By Dennis Sadowski • Catholic News Service • Posted June 13, 2017



Fr. Stephen D. Thorne is pictured in this 2016 file photo.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Delegates attending Congress XII of the National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Florida, in July will take on new responsibilities this time around.

Rather than working from a draft of a pastoral plan developed prior to the congress as per tradition, the 2,000 attendees will be tasked with developing a pastoral plan during the July 6-9 gathering and taking it home to their parishes and dioceses.

“We’re interested in what the people have to say, what’s in their hearts. It’s what they want to see addressed (by the Catholic Church),” said Father Stephen D. Thorne, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Philadelphia and a congress leader.

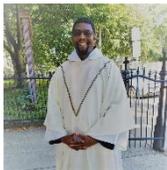
“In the end, what is finally approved, we hope to see it reflected in the pastoral plan of the local bishop,” he told Catholic News Service. “Whatever the goals are — an African-American Catholic saint, or Catholic education and Catholic schools being viable in our communities and supporting them, or the violence of young people — can be included. [Read more](#)

**MARTIN DE PORRES
FOUNDATION MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
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<http://eepurl.com/cnlalf>**

St. Vincent de Paul Church Welcomes Father James Watson, O.F.M. Capuchin

Fr. Sylvester (Sy) Peterka, pastor, members of the congregation and guests welcomed Fr. James Watson, O.F.M. Cap on Sunday, June 11, 2017 as he celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving. The Homilist was Rev. Rayford Emmons of Holy Cross Church. Parishioners from across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia witnessed Fr. Watson’s “Home Coming.”

Reflection by Dr. Camille Lewis Brown
Associate Director of Religious Education, Archdiocese of Baltimore



Fr. James Watson, O.F.M. Capuchin

James Watson was a Seminarian at St. Charles Borromeo in the late 1990's. His dedication to serving others was an affirmation of his vocation to the priesthood. It was evident that God was calling James Watson, he was listening and willing to answer "yes" to God's invitation. On June 9, 2017, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, James Watson was ordained to the priesthood with a First Mass Celebration the next day in Philadelphia surrounded by family and friends. His journey to the altar was a long one but never a lonely one. From St. Charles Seminary to life outside the Seminary, James

served as a teacher at St. Cyprian School and Director of Religious Education at St. Cyprian Church. He was an avid bowler in Philadelphia (now bowling with new friends in Cumberland, Maryland where he is assigned). James would make his way eventually to The Capuchin Friars to begin another segment down the road towards becoming an ordained priest. Along this road, James visited Benin, Ghana and Togo, West Africa to share his faith with others. As a Capuchin Brother, James also served the people of Tanzania with compassion, energy and creativity. He left an impression on the youth and elders of this great African country that will long be remembered.

Father James Watson never let his smile and warm manner dip throughout his first Mass. He was delighted by our presence, humbled to have been chosen for this vocation and grateful to his parents for his past life and future life as a priest. With a past and future filled to the brim with the love and support of family and friends, Father Watson blessed us. He prayed an extra special blessing for Deborah and James Watson, his parents.

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Reflecting on this man of God who has accepted a new life with his Capuchin Brothers, Father James Watson brings all of his skills to his community everyday as he faces us with his smiling energy, devotion to our Catholic Church and a true missionary spirit that will bring more souls to Christ, for sure.

The Hardest Talk: Racism in Parishes

By Arlene Edmonds • Posted June 20, 2017

Catholics from across the Philadelphia Archdiocese are now applying what they learned from the four-part series, "Growing in Racial Harmony within the Catholic Church," held this year in several parishes. Because it took a hard look at a fundamental unit of church life, the final session "Racism and Prejudice in Our Parishes" may be one of the most challenging to implement. It examined differences in ethnicity and social class within church communities, especially those without ethnic diversity.

Although the last session was held May 22 at St. Athanasius Parish, in Philadelphia's West Oak Lane section, the implementation of the series is ongoing, say those who attended. (*See related stories on the [kickoff of the series in January](#) and a [follow-up session on race](#).)*

Janice Paige, a member of St. Athanasius, said the May discussion was the most important of the four-part series on race because it is one that is often "swept under the rug."

Paige believes this is because in society, and even within Catholic parishes, racial differences are more obvious. Many people, she believes, do discriminate against those who have different levels of education, types of job or even the parish one belongs to.

[Read more](#)

NBCC-CONGRESS XII – UPDATE

Hyatt Regency Hotel is booked!
MDPF wish to thank those who registered for Congress XII. We hope to see you there!!

www.nbccongress.org

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>

Last Day to Register without late fee is August 11th
Certificate in Ministry to Black Catholics
Master of Arts in Theology

Contact Beverly Harper 267-553-6665, for questions regarding the Martin de Porres Foundation Scholarship Application.

www.martindeporresfoundation.org

"Revival" Time

September 25 & 26, 2017
Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul
more info to follow...

2017 National Black Catholic Men's Conference

Miami, Fla. Oct 5-8-2017
Adult Registration \$150; College & H.S. \$75;
Youth \$50 ages, 8-13.

To register: www.bowmanfrancismistry.com
call 317-259-0144 more info.

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

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