

Harvest

The Josephite

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Volume 129 No. 4 | Fall 2017

VBS

Bringing the
Bible to life
page 10

Art That Matters

Student celebrates
New Orleans style
page 12





"We are called upon to be brave, to have that evangelical courage which springs from knowing that there are many who are hungry, who hunger for God, who hunger for dignity, because they have been deprived. We cannot be Christians who continually put up 'do not enter' signs. The church is not ours, she is God's. He is the owner of the temple and the field; everyone has a place, everyone is invited to find here, and among us, his or her nourishment."

-Pope Francis

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The Josephites are pro-life, standing for safeguarding the right to life of every human being; pro-family, promoting the dignity and sanctity of marriage; pro-chastity, upholding the virtue all are called to embody in their state of life.

The mission of The Josephite Harvest is to assist and promote the evangelizing ministry of the Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. It is the voice of the Society to summon both men and means to our work and to establish enduring bonds with our benefactors. It shall encourage devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to our Patron St. Joseph, and to the Patron Saints of our Society. It shall foster racial and cultural understanding and reconciliation. It shall make known the achievements of African Americans that reflect the influence of the Catholic faith. It shall recognize the labors of clergy and lay persons who work for the evangelization of African Americans.

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— FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL —



Very Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ,
Superior General

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How was your summer? Were you able to achieve your goals? Did you get refreshed for the autumn season ahead? Our Josephite parishes were busy, productive and mission focused.

In this issue of *The Josephite Harvest*, you will find a delightful article on Vacation Bible School. Many of our parishes have VBS which helps our children learn more about their faith when school is out. Now, religious education classes are starting. Congratulations to all of the parents and catechists who are stepping forward to help with sacramental prep and deepening an understanding of church teaching and history with our youth.

During the summer, the African-American Catholic community gathered for several major events. The National Black Catholic Congress, which meets every five years, gathered in Orlando. Under the leadership of Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, the NBCC develops a pastoral plan for African-American Catholics. The Congress was a spiritually enriching opportunity to pull together many Black Catholic leaders who will be working in their parishes and dioceses to advance local opportunities.

The Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, the largest African-American Catholic organization in the world, held its 102nd meeting. More than a century ago, the Josephites participated in founding this fraternal group and we are so proud of all that they have achieved.

And, many of us participated in the “Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America” hosted by the U.S. bishops. Let us pray that all of these gatherings will bear fruit.

We all are aware of the need for more vocations. Two men in Josephite formation are taking a step closer to priesthood. One deacon will be ordained and another completed First Profession. You can read about them in this issue of *The Harvest*. As these men move forward on the path to priesthood, please keep them in your prayers and pray for an increase of vocations.

In this issue, we also celebrate the success of Jon Moody, a graduate of St. Augustine High School, founded by the Josephites, in New Orleans. His artistic ability has landed him prominent commissions, most recently with Pepsi. We are proud of all of our successful graduates.

The Harvest has many other articles worthy of your reflection. You may want to consider a “Home Blessing,” which was recently revived by the Josephites (see page 8). Also, please consider joining our All Souls Novena this year (see page 9).

May God walk with you on the journey ahead.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Very Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ'.

Very Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ
Superior General and Publisher

Josephite seminary gets a new piano

On May 27, Knights of Peter Claver Council 398 St. Joseph parish, Alexandria, VA, delivered the upright piano, carrying it into the stately seminary. The piano, with its smooth dark brown grain and gorgeous black and ivory keys, will serve many students and be used for liturgical services.



Thanks to the generosity of John and Linda Dogan, the Josephite Seminary in Washington, D.C., has a new piano.



Pictured are men from St. Joseph's Church who helped move the piano

Why am I becoming a Josephite?

Deacon to be ordained in October

BY OGBUJI KINGSLEY CHUKWUDIEBUBE

My name means ‘God is glorious’. My parents gave me this name in thanksgiving to God for giving them a male child. I am a native of Ahaba-Oloko Ikuanio L.G.A, Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria.

I have written two novels. I enjoy travelling, Christian music and soccer. In fact, I have a music album titled “Meditative Songs of healing.” My greatest love, however, is in the Eucharist.

My father passed away in 2009 and my mother is an elementary school teacher. My two sisters, Maureen and Immaculata are happily married and I am an uncle to six children. My younger brother is engaged and hopefully will be getting married soon. I have a very wonderful relationship with my family.

My family is instrumental to my vocation. I was raised in a strong Catholic family. My father once said to me, “Remember this! Without prayer you cannot do much”

It was the prayer life and love of the sacraments that helped me discern the call of God as an adult. I was an altar server at the age of six and became active in the Rosary Association. I was taught early in life how to pray the rosary daily, a tradition I continue today.

The Josephite mission attracted me. It is “the mission of the heart.” In the Josephites, you see men who understand the command of the Lord in Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

A friend introduced me to the Josephites and I learned about their history and mission. I love their commitment and devotion to African Americans. To be quite honest, I saw a comparison between the African-American situation and the people of Israel in Egypt. A Josephite for me is like Moses who works for the spiritual liberation and justice of oppressed people.

I came to the United States in 2011 and started my studies in 2013. I was sent to Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. to study theology, a necessary requirement for priesthood. I already have two bachelor degrees in philosophy from the Pontifical Urban University Rome and Imo State University, Nigeria. In 2016, I completed my masters of divinity and masters of Arts programs in theology. In the summer of 2017, I formally made my final profession as a Josephite. The former Vocation Director Father Kenneth Keke was very instrumental to me in this regard.

The challenging and exciting part of this



journey is understanding and learning a culture that is different from mine. For example, I have to improve my English so that the people can understand me. I have to adjust to American food. And, I have to deal with stereotypes and perceptions of other people. However, through it all, God has been faithful to me.

I am looking forward to be ordained a deacon Oct. 28 at St. Luke Church Washington, D.C. I will have a parish assignment but I don’t know where. God willing, I will be ordained a priest in 2018.

Josephite novitiate year ends with ceremony

BY THEA LARSON



Joseph Kikanda arrived in New Roads, Louisiana, one year ago to begin his novitiate year for the Society of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

St. Augustine Church in New Roads Louisiana took Joseph and his teacher, Father Joseph Doyle, in after renovating a former convent. When they first arrived, Joseph described himself as a seed, one that was growing under Father Doyle's leadership.

That seed has germinated and is on its way to full bloom as of July 16, 2017. During St. Augustine's Celebration of Mass, Joseph professed his Temporary Promise and graduated from being a novice. Now, he will spend the next few years studying in Washington, D.C., before he moves toward priesthood.

A special guest was present to take Joseph's promise. Father Roderick Coates, the vicar general of the Josephites, conducted the ceremony. The New Roads Catholic community was joyful that Father Coates was present.

Father Coates received Joseph's promises as he knelt on the floor before him and placed his hand on the Bible that Father Coates held open for him. Once Joseph made his promise, Father Coates presented him with a blessed Roman Collar.

Mary Jackson, a local resident, spoke a prayer of her own.

Individuals close to Joseph's heart also participated in the ceremony. His family arrived from Africa to witness his promise. They sang joyfully during the ceremony.

Overall, the entire celebration was joyous and full of hope. Joseph will have to renew his promise every year until he reaches the next stage within the Josephites, where he will speak an eternal promise to devote himself to the Society.

Both Joseph and Father Doyle departed for Washington, D.C. shortly after the ceremony. However, before they left, Mary surprised Joseph with a frame that had her prayer printed onto his initials.



Josephites offer "House Blessing"

God Bless This Home

St. Joseph, protect our home. Pour forth from heaven blessings on our family. Remain in our midst. Help us to live in love and harmony, in peace and joy. May the wholesome fear of God strengthen us that virtue may adorn what we do and our way may lead to heaven.

To you this day I give the key to our dwelling place. Lock out all things that could do us harm. Lock my home and my loved ones with me in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. This I beg of you, that our days may be like your days in the holy home at Nazareth. Amen.

The Josephites, by means of The Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, bless this home of:

The Smith Family



Very Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ
Superior General

The Josephites

For Father Michael Thompson, SSJ, superior general of the Josephites, it's simple.

"People buy insurance policies for protection. They buy extended warranties on all kinds of purchases. But the most important protection comes from our Lord," he told *The Harvest* recently.

So, the Josephites are reviving a long-standing Catholic tradition of a "House Blessing."

Father Thompson said, "As Catholics we know the value of a blessing. You may say "God Bless you" to a friend, you may say "God Bless John or Mary" who is suffering in the hospital. A house blessing is personalized for your household, asking St. Joseph to intercede to our Lord to look

over and protect your home and all who enter."

The Josephites are offering the blessing with a beautiful designed proclamation that is suitable for framing. "I believe the House Blessing is something special that Josephite supporters will want to proudly display," he said.

Those who ask for the House Blessing will also receive a prayer intention slip.

Father Thompson said that often receivers take the opportunity to donate to the Josephites, after receiving the Home Blessing.

"The gifts for our ministry shows that people are investing in the mission work of the Josephites," the superior general

said. "Since 1871 we have evangelized the faithful and worked for peace and justice in black parishes and schools. The financial support makes it possible for us to continue our mission."

He said that every social outreach organization supported by the Josephites is possible because of gifts from donors.

He also asked those who receive the House Blessing to pray for the Josephite Priests and Brothers through the intercession of our patron, St. Joseph.

For more information about a "House Blessing," please call 844-249-5730 or email communications@josephite.com or include your request in the envelope in this magazine.



‘Lord Jesus Christ, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed’

Join the Josephite All Souls Novena

As we anticipate All Saints and All Souls days at the beginning of November, our thoughts turn to our deceased loved ones. We remember them for all the good that they did for us and all of the benefits that we received from them. At the same time, we pray for all of the dearly departed that God will welcome them into eternal joy.

Each year, as part of our ministry, Josephites lead “Nine Days of Prayer for the Departed,” Oct. 24 – Nov. 2. The Josephites will remember your loved ones during the Novena and the Masses we offer on All Souls Day, November 2. All Josephite priests, brothers, seminarians and novices will join our prayers with yours.

Please join our Nine Days of Prayer for the Departed. The Josephites offer prayers for all the deceased loved ones you recommend to us.

Please use the envelope in this issue of *The Harvest* to send us the names of your deceased loved ones and special intentions you wish included in the Novena and Masses. Donations from this novena will support the education and training of future Josephite priests and brothers. It is these men, now in formation, who will continue the Josephite mission with your love and support.

As we remember our departed loved ones, we can take comfort that we can storm the gates of heaven with our prayers on behalf of our dearly departed. We can cherish their memories and ask God to shower his mercy on them.

This year, please join the Josephites who pray with confidence, “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May perpetual light shine upon them.”

20 years of VBS-uccess

Josephite parish brings Bible to life for children

BY JESSICA NELSON



They may be called the lazy, hazy days of summer but for one week each summer at St. Luke Church in Washington, DC, it's a beehive of activity.

For well over 20 years, the parish hosts a Vacation Bible School program unlike any other.

The Director of Religious Education Shirley Williams starts the planning in May after First Communion takes place. While many churches around the country use pre-packaged VBS programs that have all the materials including themes, Bible stories, music and activities, at St. Luke's, it's all original.

"I don't use packaged curriculums," Ms. Williams said. "I just come up with a theme, a phrase from the Bible or a song and I build on that." She said often her inspiration for a theme comes from her daily readings or from a homily, possibly one from St. Luke pastor Father Cornelius Ejigu, that resonates with her.

This year's theme was "I Am," based on Exodus where Moses meets God at the burning bush. They worked through the seven "I Am" phrases in the Bible including "I am the bread of life" and "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Ms. Williams said it was her goal to "explain and show to the kids what each one of them is

and what it means."

Typically, 45-50 students participate in the week-long VBS at St. Luke parish. Children ranging in age from 3 years old to 12 years old from the parish and the surrounding neighborhood join in the action-packed, faith-filled week. Teens serve as volunteer counselors.

However, because there are so many teenaged students often they form their own teen group. Ms. Williams incorporates a theme related program for the teenagers. "I need to give them something to do too," she said.

Almost like a full school day, the St. Luke's VBS begins at 8:30 a.m. and lasts until 3 p.m. and includes breakfast, lunch and snacks daily. It is entirely free for all attendees and no child is turned away. Each morning the program starts with Bible study lasting about an hour to an hour and a half. They play outside and make many arts and crafts throughout the week, all based on the theme. The group makes the 4-block walk once or twice during the week to visit the local swimming pool. Participants and volunteers board a bus to go on one field trip to a local museum and conclude the week with a picnic at a local park.

This year featured an extra special trip. On the last day of the

VBS week, the participants were treated to a day at Six Flags. The park tickets were a donation from a former camper who now works at the amusement park.

"All of the VBS is from donations and whatever I can spare out of my little funds," Ms. Williams said of the summer bible program at St. Luke. "We don't have a budget for vacation bible school."

St. Luke parishioners bring their unique gifts and talents to the program each year. Last year, there wasn't a volunteer to work with the music so there was no music class but a senior nearly 70 years old taught the children how to dance.

The biggest thing is just getting a team together to work with you," Ms. Williams said. St. Luke parish usually has 20-25 volunteers to serve over the VBS week. She said age is not a problem because most of the volunteers with the St. Luke VBS are retired.

Ms. Williams, a senior herself, knows the key to VBS success is sharing the faith and having fun at the same time. Though many hours go in to preparations, each year Ms. Williams and all the participants in the St. Luke VBS share in the excitement.

"I have as much fun, if not more than the kids."





ARTIST CELEBRATES NEW ORLEANS STYLE

BY ARIANA CASSARD

Jon Moody is friend to many names you might recognize: Lil Wayne, Joe Biden, Lee Daniels and the Josephites.

Raised in New Orleans in a family full of Purple Knights, it was only natural for the young Jon Moody to attend at St. Augustine High School, operated by the Josephites. Graduating in 2010,

his high school years proved to be formative for his future career.

Apart from his role on the track and field team, and his artistic studies, he valued all that St. Augustine could offer him.

“St. Augustine was a brotherhood, it was a family,” Mr. Moody told *The Harvest*. “It’s where we grow from boys to men, learned about certain concepts about life, how to carry yourself and certain

ways to approach opportunities.”

He credited much of his love for St. Augustine to those he had around him: his coaches, teachers, mentors and friends.

Three coaches were influential to the track star as they taught him in the classroom and mentored him in athletics. “Coach (Darren) Dixon was my track coach but he played an important influence from the



classroom to the field,” he said of the social studies teacher. “Coach (Tyrone) Payne incorporated life values and lessons. And, Coach Gaston was the art teacher and he really took his time helping me with my art.”

He especially remembered the lessons he learned in class with Father John Raphael, acting principal at the time. “As far as being a religion class, it also tied in History and Social Studies and a lot of different things into one class that was very informative.”

Mr. Moody took his talents to Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), where he excelled in both the artistic and athletic realms. He felt at home among other students with similar interests, those who understood his passion for both disciplines.

“There is a stereotype behind it, I guess, that you can only be one or the other,” he said. Through sports, he gained the ambition, focus and work ethic that drive his art.

Success met Mr. Moody when he returned home to New Orleans after graduation. In 2015, an assistant for Lee Daniels, the noted film and television producer, was scouting work from SCAD students at a show, and Mr. Moody’s stood out of the crowd. Mr. Daniels fell in love with his style and immediately

requested collaboration for his hit show, *Empire*. That partnership opened up doors for Mr. Moody’s work.

Empire led him to a partnership with Pepsi, that commissioned him to design Pepsi cans inspired by the artistic feel of the television show. He hopes that this project will speak volumes to artists like him, artists who don’t follow the traditional route to success.

“I hope it’s very empowering for other artists to see that you can be an artist and you can do what you want to do, you just have to be focused, driven and really want it,” he said. “I haven’t shown at any gallery in my life.”

His artwork has found its way onto the walls of homes belonging to Lil Wayne, Trey Songz and even the White House during the Obama administration.

His style is big, bold and colorful, much like his hometown. “I think the life of New Orleans is somewhat in my work, and it’s very expressive,” he said. “If you go down to New Orleans, you’ll see houses from red to blue to yellow.”

But, Mr. Moody’s goal is to produce more than just beautiful art; he wants to produce art that matters. As he was returning from college, the country was facing the turmoil and tension of



police brutality and racism. He returned to New Orleans with a new perspective, and found a renewed purpose in his art.

“I do want to change the world with the gift I have, but I want to start in my home town first. I want to start with where I come from and work from in to out,” he said.

With all that has happened between his beginnings at St. Augustine High School and now, Mr. Moody has so much more on the horizon.

“There have been a lot of blessings in my career and I’m thankful to God for everything that’s happening,” said Mr. Moody. “I’m only scratching the surface right now. I have to take it a bit further and be ready for the next step so I can try to do something amazing for this place we live in.”

'I hope that all y'all are here for 100 more years'

In each issue, The Harvest interviews a bishop in a diocese where Josephites serve. Following is an interview with Bishop Joseph Kopacz, bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi.

The Diocese of Jackson is home to two Josephite parishes, Holy Family and St. Anne. How would you describe the value of the Josephites' service to the work of the Church in your diocese?

The presence of the Josephite priests in the Diocese of Jackson Mississippi, has been a blessing that now spans three centuries, from the late nineteenth century to the present, the 180th anniversary of the diocese.

I was ordained and installed as the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Jackson on Feb. 6, 2014 and I have visited Holy Family and Saint Anne parishes on many occasions. The ministry to the African-American population in Natchez and Fayette is vitally important to the vision of the Diocese of Jackson, which is to serve others, inspire disciples, embrace diversity. Holy Family in Natchez is the oldest African-American parish in the Diocese of Jackson, and Saint Anne in Fayette also has a rich history of faith.

What kind of relationship have you had with these parishes?

Until October of 2016, I worked very closely with Josephite Father James Fallon who oversaw the restoration of Holy Family Church and the consecration of the new altars in Holy Family and Saint Anne churches. I consecrated both altars, and I presided at the rededication Mass at which many Josephite priests concelebrated. It was a homecoming for them, and the congregation beamed with pride.

Father Fallon also had a profound love for the young children at the Holy Family Early Learning Center which serves pre-school and Kindergarten children from the African-American community. On Holy Thursday morning two years ago, I traveled to Holy Family to attend the inspiring Passion Play presented by the school children of the Early Learning Center.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016, I traveled to Holy Family and Saint Anne to install Father George Aguruchi as the new pastor. This was a celebration for the parish and the diocese, attesting to the unity that we know in Jesus Christ. I recently concelebrated Masses on June 25th in both churches on what has become an annual late Spring or early



Bishop Kopacz and Father James Fallon, former pastor of Holy Family parish in Natchez, Mississippi, participated in the churches rededication



Bishop Kopacz receives the gifts at Mass at Holy Family church

summer pastoral visit for me. Holy Family marked the culmination of their Annual Vacation Bible School at the 8 a.m. Mass with the children leading the singing. Saint Anne schedules their parish picnic around my annual pastoral visit, and after presiding and preaching at the 11 a.m. Mass, I enjoyed the best barbecue this side of heaven.

In what ways does the Diocese of Jackson include religious communities into its mission?

The Diocese of Jackson could not evangelize and catechize throughout our 65 counties in Mississippi, over 38,000 square miles, if it were not for the religious communities. Priests and religious brothers and sisters have served here from the beginning. The Daughters of Charity came in 1847 to teach in Natchez, the seat of the diocese, and the children of slaves were integral in their teaching ministry. Currently, 35 percent of the priests serving in the diocese are religious, and I am blessed to know that they serve in close collaboration with me and our diocesan priests.

Are there ways that the church as a whole could better serve the African-American community in your diocese?

We see our ministry to the African-American communities no less important than ministry to all

our parish communities, schools, and missions. As Pope Francis continually teaches and witnesses, we must all become missionary disciples, going to the margins where people need to receive the gift of Jesus Christ.

It is important that all our parishes, including our African-American communities, become energized to evangelize and serve beyond our comfort zones. This would be a great blessing for our African-American communities, and for the entire diocese. We hope to grow in this way through our renewed mission and vision.

What new developments are ahead for the Diocese of Jackson?

We are in the implementation phase of our renewed diocesan mission, vision, and pastoral priorities. For the past year and a half, we held listening sessions around the diocese and then through our envisioning team, relying on the Holy Spirit, we fashioned a renewed mission statement, a vision that I referred to above, and pastoral priorities. In such a large diocese, a unifying mission and vision is critical. We hope that this endeavor will strengthen us to be even more faithful to Jesus Christ.

Is there anything else you would like to add about your experience with the Josephites?

I hope that all y'all are here for 100 more years.



The Spirit of the Lord upon Congress XII

African-American Catholics develop plan for the next five years

BY JESSICA NELSON

More than 2,200 people gathered in Orlando July 6-9 for the 12th National Black Catholic Congress. While assembling a pastoral plan of priorities, the days were also filled with prayer, worship, workshops and fellowship.

Speakers and workshops explored themes of racism and reconciliation and emphasized the importance of taking an active role in bringing about change.

The conference's theme "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God" was the focus of the week.

A preamble with principles for a pastoral plan of action was presented during the gathering. The finalized pastoral plan is in the works and will be released soon. But the preamble laid out the main priorities for Black Catholics in today's Church. The major points included:

- A commitment to the Catholic faith through Baptism and to be "authentically Black and truly Catholic" seeking leadership on all levels.
- Promoting the causes for canonization of the five holy women and men being considered for sainthood.
- Acting justly, aiding those who are suffering and neglected from the unborn to natural death. Specific areas of concern are those who are mentally ill, incarcerated, victims of domestic violence and all forms of racism.
- Evangelizing and sharing of the Catholic Faith in creative ways such as social media and support of Catholic Schools.
- Walking humbly by affirming all vocations

including marriage, single life, and consecrated life.

- Committing to the needs of youth and young adults.

Overall, those who attended the Convocation were called to become "missionary disciples" spreading the Joy of the Gospel in local communities.

The preamble also states that participants ought to apply these priorities on the diocesan, regional and national level and will review them annually.

Participants came from all around the country for the Congress, representing 107 dioceses.

Bishop John Ricard, SSJ, and president of the National Black Catholic Congress, was pleased with the turnout. He also has been very pleased with the follow up response.

"This was a historical event with a very large number of African-American Catholics. It was an affirmation of our Catholic faith and also of our faith in ourselves," Bishop Ricard said.

He said there was a great spirit among attendees who strongly, fully participated in all of the events.

Edwin Vallery, parishioner at St. Francis Xavier in Houston, said his experience at the Congress was "phenomenal and spiritually enriching." Mr. Vallery was especially impressed by the Josephite presence, notably Bishop Ricard's powerful opening remarks, the Master of Ceremony skills of Father Cornelius Ejiogo, SSJ, pastor of St. Luke in Washington, DC and the Josephite seminarians present.

A big shout out to Josephite Seminarian Cursey Calais who did a fine job working the Josephite

information booth, sharing the great works of the Josephites,” Mr. Vallery said of Mr. Cursey, who was the Cross Bearer at the celebrations of Mass.

“The attendance and networking [at the Congress] was outstanding,” Mr. Vallery said. “I gained plenty of great ideas to take back to my Josephite Parish.”

Attendees included one cardinal, 18 bishops, 123 priests, 45 deacons, seven seminarians, seven religious brothers and 41 religious sisters.

Bishop Ricard said the Josephite participation and leadership – from the Josephite priests, Josephite seminarians and parishioners from Josephite parishes – was especially inspiring.

“Historically Josephites were there at the very beginning,” Bishop Ricard said noting that most Josephite priests at the time were white. “But through their efforts [they] got lay black Catholics involved and provided the impetus and the leadership needed to meet with the hierarchy and to make an effective voice in the Church.”

That Josephite leadership made it possible to meet then, and now. “So it’s very important to us as a Society,” he said.

Popular this year was the youth track that featured specific workshops for the 221 young people, ages 14-17, who attended.

Ciara Vega Strickland, a young adult from St. Joseph parish in Alexandria, Virginia, was so inspired by the Congress she thinks it should be held every 2-3 years instead of every 5 years to make a bigger impact.

“I feel like we need to stay up on what’s happening now and live in the moments of time,” Ms. Strickland said, noting the sessions were very eye opening.

She said her favorite session was “Love Mercy and Do Justice: Confronting Mass Incarceration, Racial Bias and Poverty by Bryan Stevenson.”

It was in the eye opening speech that she learned that in Pensacola the jails are so overcrowded that 30 percent of the inmates sleep on floors.

“I learned this after I came back home and started looking into how I can help the community I live in,” Ms. Strickland said, adding she intends to dig deeper into Mr. Stevenson’s powerful words.

Pope Francis sent his greeting to Congress XII attendees, presented by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who was present for the entire event.

In his address to those gathered at the Congress, Pope Francis urged that the Congress will confirm America’s Black Catholics in their evangelical commitment to the pursuit of justice and human dignity, while encouraging a deeper reflection on our common baptismal calling to be missionary disciples, sent to the farthest reaches of society to draw hearts and souls to the transforming love of Christ the Savior.

“I think it behooves all of us to keep the momentum going and to affirm the challenges given to us,” Bishop Ricard said, noting the spirit evident at Congress XII. “So that is going to be our challenge in the future.”



Cardinal Peter Turkson was celebrant at the opening Mass at the Orlando Basilica. Deacon Ira Chase (right), a member of the Josephite Pastoral Center staff, assisted with the Mass.

NOTES FROM THE CONGRESS



Bishop Gordon Bennett, SJ, joins in a selfie with a participant in the church leadership conference in Orlando.

Fired up, renewed and ready to go

Josephite parishes were active and in leadership roles at the National Black Catholic Congress XII.

Parishes that reported to The Josephite Harvest that they had participated include:

- St. Joseph Parish, Alexandria, VA
- Church of the Incarnation, Washington, D.C.:
- Most Pure Heart of Mary, Mobile, Alabama
- St. Joseph, Maysville, Alabama
- Our Lady of Grace Church in Reserve, Louisiana
- Corpus Christi-Epiphany Church, New Orleans
- Our Lady of Fatima, Birmingham, Alabama
- St. Peter Claver, Baltimore
- St. Raymond and St. Leo the Great, New Orleans
- St. Luke, Washington, DC

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Father Cornelius Ejiogu, pastor of St. Luke Church in Washington, D.C., served as Master of Ceremonies for the Congress, along with Sister Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, executive director of Pax Christi USA.

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Below are comments and summaries from some of those who participated.

St. Joseph Parish, Alexandria, VA

The Virginia parish delegation included 17 parishioners. Anthony and Phyllis Johnson, Deacon

Al Anderson and Beverly Anderson conducted Pro-life seminars. “I knew you before you were born” was the title of the four sessions led by Anthony and Phyllis, Deacon Anderson and Beverly had two sessions with youth ages 14-18, “You are never too young to be Pro life.”

In addition, Deacon Anderson participated in the planning of the Pastoral Plan with the theme of “Let’s Stay Together.”

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Lei Deramous, St. Joseph, Alexandria, parish:

“I greatly appreciated the opportunity to travel to Orlando and to experience the Congress this year. It was so inspiring to get together with over 2,000 Black Catholics from around the world. Overall, the conference was great. I enjoyed hearing Cardinal Turkson speak. Mr. Stevenson spoke about our prison systems. He was EXCELLENT!!! I’ve already ordered his book, “Just Mercy.” The Mass at the Shrine was spectacular and the priest gave a compelling homily that really spoke to what we as Blacks are dealing with today. I was inspired the number of youth that attended Congress. While this is my fourth Congress, I still get fired up, renewed and ready to go out.”

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Church of the Incarnation, Washington, D.C.:

The Washington, D.C., parish sent eight representatives (2 youth, 3 young adults and 3 adults) to participate in the Congress.

Cedrick Tanon, a teen from Church of the Incarnation: “The NBCC was an amazing experience. It felt good to know there were so many other Catholics who look like me from all over the country and see them being passionately active in their faith. I had a lot of fun with the youth group and made many connections that I will keep for a lifetime. This experience was invaluable and there is no way I can possibly thank you all enough for making this possible. I appreciate what you’ve done for me and will forever remember you. The Congress was marvelous.”

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Most Pure Heart of Mary, Mobile and St. Joseph, Maysville, Alabama

The Alabama parishes included five participants including Father Kenneth C. Ugwu, SSJ, he pastor, three members of the parish attended and Father Stephen Sohe, SSJ, pastor of St Joseph parish.

Father Kenneth C. Ugwu, pastor of Most Pure Heart of Mary: The Black Catholic clergy, religious and laity gathered in Orlando Florida from July 6th-9th to celebrate the 12th National Black Catholic Congress. The theme of the Congress was “The Spirit of the Lord is Upon me: act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God.” This was a spirit filled Congress that was created based on the feedback from the challenges facing the Black community and the wider society.

It is pertinent that the Congress topics were grounded in Catholic principles especially regarding social justice issues namely: the right to life; the importance of ministering to incarcerated peoples; the need for vocations to the priesthood of Jesus Christ and consecrated life, and sacred marriage; the prevalence of domestic violence; healing of families and the path to post-abortion healing and tackling the menace of the addicts, hungry and homeless people among others.

This Congress once again reiterated our call to become servant leaders after the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. The main keynote speaker was His Eminence, Peter Kodwo Cardinal Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The Josephite Bishop Emeritus John Ricard, SSJ, was the Congress president. Attending from the Archdiocese of Mobile were three members of Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish, Amanda Wilson, Latanya Brown, and David McCord; Fr. Stephen Sohe, SSJ - Pastor of St Joseph Parish Maysville and myself Fr. Kenneth C. Ugwu, SSJ, Pastor of Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish. Thanks to the Josephite sponsorship. *(picture submitted by Fr. Kenneth C. Ugwu, SSJ).*

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Our Lady of Grace Church in Reserve, Louisiana

The Louisiana parish has 15 participants in the Congress.

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Corpus Christi-Epiphany Church, New Orleans

Father David Begany, SSJ, parochial vicar of Corpus Christi-Epiphany church in New Orleans said 10 parishioners attended the Congress with him.



Members of the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver from the Josephite parish of St. Raymond and St. Leo in New Orleans participated in Congress XII. Father Athony Bozeman, pastor, accompanied his parishioners.

Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver gather in Dallas



The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary held its 102nd Annual National Convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Dallas, Texas July 21-26, 2017. The Convention welcomed approximately 1,000 attendees and guests who actively engaged in business sessions, charitable events, public meetings, worship services and other activities all centered around service to the Church, family, and community.

Founded in 1909, in Mobile, Alabama, the historically Black Catholic lay Order is the only African-American Catholic fraternal order offering service opportunities to the entire family (youth, women, and men) through its 6 divisions.

Today the order has over 15,000 members and its purpose and mission are critically needed during the current trying and troubling times being faced throughout the country. To that end, the convention focused on its role of providing the Black Catholic perspective on pressing issues in society and within the Church.

In a successful effort to partner with outside organizations and agencies, the convention presented its first Public Meeting at this year's convention. Themed "The State of Black Youth in America", the meeting featured various leaders and representatives from various areas including educators and administrators, ministers, community organizers, and law enforcement officials. Audience members engaged the panelists as they explored conversations ranging

from the effectiveness and need for after-school and other youth programs to identifying and organizing resources to provide youth with the developmental skills needed to survive in today's society.

Additionally, members received a thought-provoking call to action presentation regarding the process of canonization of Augustus Tolton. The presentation was led by Most Reverend Joseph Perry and Leonardo Defilippis, President of St. Luke Productions, who is producing an upcoming play about the life of Tolton. If canonized, Tolton would be the first African-American Saint. Attendees also enjoyed presentations and interactive discussions regarding Social Justice in the United States.

Always one of the highlights of the convention, the Opening Convention Mass was a spirit-filled and uplifting service led by Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop of Austin, who presented a phenomenal and pertinent homily that left attendees encouraged and challenged to better themselves and the communities they serve.

The Order left a lasting impact on Dallas, Texas, contributing nearly \$10,000 in goods and services to local Catholic Charities, shelters, and other non-profit agencies. Additionally, units and charities throughout the United States were awarded over \$30,000 to increase and their capacity to serve and over \$25,000 in collegiate scholarships were awarded to deserving college freshman.



Convocation of 3,500 delegates urged to take Gospel to struggling people everywhere

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI /CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory Concelebrates Mass during the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" July 2 in Orlando, Fla. Leaders from dioceses and various Catholic organizations are gathering for the July 1-4 convocation. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



Young people lift their arms in prayer as Catholic musician Matt Maher performs July 3 during the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" in Orlando, Fla. Leaders from dioceses and various Catholic organizations gathered for the July 1-4 convocation. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Being Christian is more than accepting Jesus as savior, but requires the faithful to go to the peripheries of society where people are struggling materially and spiritually, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles told the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America."

"Jesus calls us to follow him. That is an action, a decision that implies a way of life," Archbishop Gomez said during a plenary session July 3, the third day of the convocation.

He said Pope Francis has focused the mission of the church on going to people on the sidelines of society, he said, calling it a responsibility not just for bishops, clergy and church professionals, but for the entire church.

The pope, the archbishop explained, sees the peripheries as both a physical place and existential. They are places that reflect a society that has determined that some people can be pushed aside or discarded.

"They are places on a map, places where people live. The peripheries are parts of our cities and the rural areas that we never visit. The other side of the tracks. They are where the poor live. They are the prisons and the tent cities in our public spaces. The peripheries are the bitter fruits of neglect, exploitation and injustice.

They are all the places our society is ashamed of and would rather forget about," he said.

"But for Pope Francis, the peripheries are more than a physical location or a social category. They are places where poverty is not only material but also spiritual," he said.

The archbishop called such locations places where people "are wounded and feel their life has no meaning and makes no difference," trapping themselves in sin, addiction, slavery and self-deception.

**"Jesus is at the
margins, and as
people of faith, we are
invited to go where
Jesus exists.."**

"The pope is saying these peripheries are growing in the modern world and these peripheries are new mission territory," he explained.

Archbishop Gomez, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, admitted some of these places are "where the church does not like to go, where we do not like to go." Yet, he reminded the 3,500 delegates, Jesus is at the margins, and that as people of faith, they are invited to

go where Jesus exists.

"The church has always been present in the peripheries, through our schools, our parishes and our ministries. Sometimes we are the only ones serving these communities. But we can do better, we are called to do more. That is our challenge," Archbishop Gomez said.

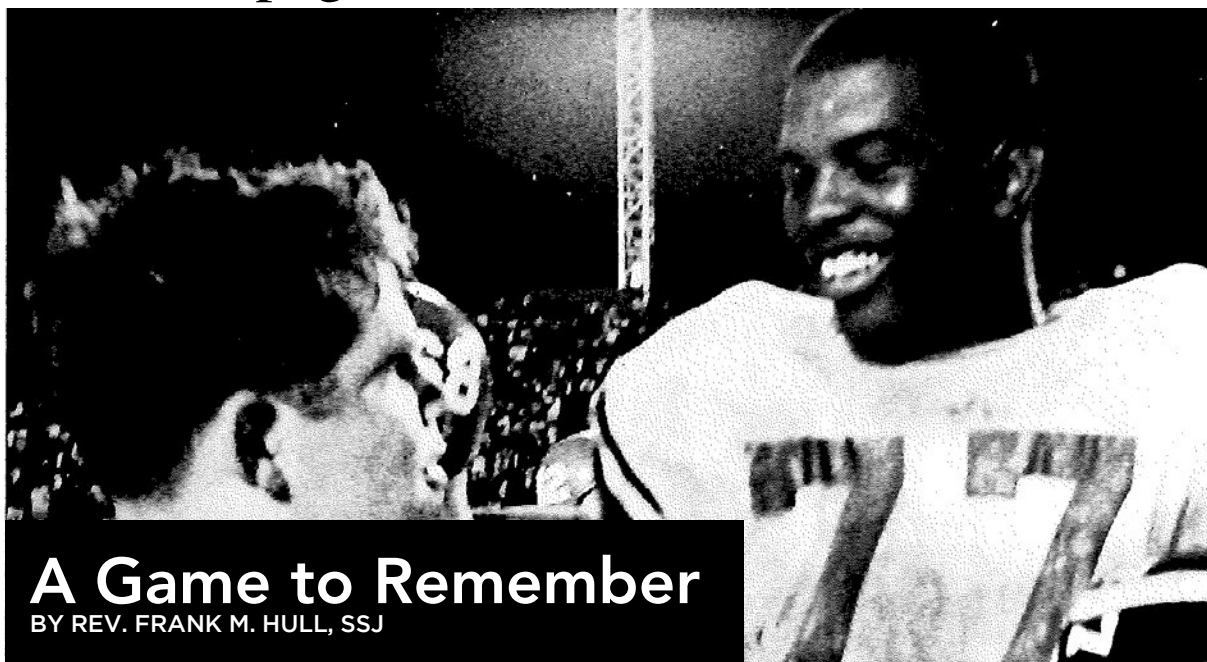
He also blamed "elites" for undertaking an "aggressive 'de-Christianization' of our society" to cause people to "'un-remember' our Christian roots and deconstruct everything that was built on these roots. With the loss of God, we are witnessing the loss of the human person," he said.

Archbishop Gomez pointed to American society as a prime example of where the need to minister on the margins is vital, especially because families are breaking down and communities are experiencing instability. "America is pulling apart. We are a people divided along lines of money and race, education and family backgrounds. People are afraid of the future. They feel powerless and excluded," he said.

The archbishop urged that such concerns be addressed by the church and the faithful, through being a presence to those in need to help bridge the widening gaps between people. The answer to such concerns rests with imitating Jesus and meeting people at the "places of pain and injustice, to the places where people forgotten and along. Siempre adelante," he said in Spanish. "Always forward."

A panel discussion addressed several examples of the church working in the peripheries of the world including ministry with African-American Catholics; the work of Catholic Relief Services in more than 160 countries; care for immigrants along the border in the Rio Grande Valley in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas; ministry to people with same-sex attraction; and the use of social media as a tool to reach youth and young adults.

From the pages of **The Harvest** in 1967



A Game to Remember

BY REV. FRANK M. HULL, SSJ

Like true sportsmen everywhere, the teams exchanged sincere congratulations after the well played and historic game.

The experience of Blacks in sports is a microcosm of their experience in all of American society. Privileges for American whites have been paralleled by disadvantages for American Blacks, whether it be in education, housing or employment. But perhaps in sports to a degree greater than elsewhere do we see a steady emergence of equality.

The refusal of an overwhelming majority of the members of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association to allow one Black school (St. Augustine, the Josephite high school in New Orleans) has been detailed before (Josephite Harvest, Jul-Aug, 1967). It was a case for the federal court, which ruled that the athletic association was "unreasonable, arbitrary, capricious, conducive to wholesale discrimination, and violative of the Fourteenth Amendment."

Accordingly, St. Augustine was admitted, and the schedules of the member teams in the district were readily amended to make room for the new team.

Because of St. Augustine's past record of championship teams in the all Black league, the Purple Knights were considered a strong contender and interest in the community grew as the time for the first game drew near.

It was Friday the 13th in October. Under the lights in City Park Stadium, St. Augustine warmed up on the field as its opponent for the first game in the new league – St. Aloysius – waited for the toss-up. Crowds, which reached the 18,000 mark, poured into the stadium. Some fans recalled the days not even a decade ago, when Blacks were prohibited from using the stadium for their own games, or, for that matter, from using any facility in the large municipally owned recreational area.

As the stadium filled, it was clear that the Black community wanted to be on hand for an historic occasion. Alumni came with their families, the parents were there, the girls from St. Mary's Academy, the old, loyal supporters over the years. A

friendly, almost Mardi Gras spirit contrasted with the heavy legalism that brought these two teams together.

First came the traditional salute to the Fatherland as St. Aloysius' band beamed the national anthem from across the field. The crowd was hushed, more quiet than usual and the words "land of the free," though not sung, could not have come through more loudly.

The game was hard fought and the Knight fans could not have been more enthusiastic and thrilled. At the final whistle, both teams moved spontaneously toward each other and mingled in a prolonged display of good sportsmanship.

The football presented to the winning team now rests amid other trophies at St. Augustine. Drab amidst the gilt of other victories, it represents the toughest win. For though victory came sweetly on the field, what mattered then was not that we had won or lost but that we played the game.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Father James Albert Hayes, SSJ

In his 62nd year as a Josephite priest, Father James Albert Hayes passed to a new life at St. Joseph Manor, Baltimore, MD, on July 13, 2017. He had been retired for 15 years and in the past year experienced a serious illness. He recently celebrated his 92nd birthday.

Father Hayes was born December 19, 1924, in Presque Isle, Maine, one of three sons and one daughter of Albert and Verna (O'Brien) Hayes. He served with the Army Air Corps in World War II and graduated from Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA, in 1950. Motivated by the mission of the Josephites, he then entered their formation program and was ordained in his home parish church in Presque Isle on June 4, 1955.

His parochial assignments as a priest were limited to two St. Joseph churches, one in Jackson, TN, for the month of July, 1955, and the other in Wilmington, DE, in August of the same year. For the rest of his priesthood, he was associated with the Josephite seminaries in Newburgh, NY, and Washington, DC.

From September of 1955 to September of 1984, he was on the staff of Epiphany Apostolic College in Newburgh, NY. He served as faculty member teaching Religion, English and the Humanities. In addition, he had been Prefect of Discipline, Director of Athletics, Principal of the High School and Rector of the College and overseer of the building until its final sale in the mid-'80s. During this time, Father obtained a Master's Degree in the Humanities from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY.

During his time at Newburgh, Father Hayes became interested in and studied painting and sculpture and held several exhibits of his work of over 100 pieces of art, some of which adorn several Josephite houses.

In 1985, he was assigned to St. Joseph's Seminary as assistant director and supervisor of its custodial care as well as assistant to the Pastoral Center. He also had five more exhibits of his art work. In 2001, he retired to Maine on sick leave



and ten years later entered St. Joseph Manor.

Father Hayes is predeceased by his parents; sister, Mary and brothers, Jack and Father Pat of the Portland, Maine, Diocese. He is survived by several nieces and nephews including Father William Shaughnessey, an Opus Dei priest.

His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Manor, Baltimore on Thursday, July 20, 2017. Burial was at the Josephite plot in New Cathedral Cemetery, Baltimore. May he find the peace and joy of the Lord which he sought to express in his art.

Priest who headed Black and Indian Mission Office dies

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Msgr. Paul A. Lenz, who was executive director of the Washington-based Black and Indian Mission Office from 1976 to 2007, died May 14. He was 91.

Msgr. Lenz was appointed to the mission office in 1976. He said he originally expected that he would direct the office for about five years. Perhaps he should have known better: His predecessor, Sulpician Father John B. Tennelly, had held the job since 1925.

The head of the mission office also is executive secretary of the Black and Indian Mission Collection, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and of the Catholic Negro-American Mission Board. The collection was established by the U.S. bishops in 1884.

Msgr. Lenz was succeeded by Father Wayne Paysse, a New Orleans priest, serving until



Josephite Father Robert Kearns (left) and Father Ed Chiffriller (right) present a portrait of Msgr. Lenz on his 60th priestly anniversary.

2015, when Father Henry Sands, a priest of the Detroit Archdiocese, was named executive director.

When Msgr. Lenz left the bureau, he remained in Washington and worked full time on then-Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's cause as vice postulator. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI Oct. 21, 2012.

Paul A. Lenz was born Dec. 15, 1925, in Gallitzin, and

ordained a priest of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown April 2, 1949.

He studied for a year in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and served as a missionary for four years in Paraguay.

He was a former member of the board of trustees of Xavier University in New Orleans, a historically Black Catholic college founded by St. Katharine Drexel.

National youth leader recalled for preaching style

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Brian Johnson, a national leader in Catholic youth ministry, is seen in this undated photo. He was director of the office of adolescent catechesis and evangelization for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He died unexpectedly at Methodist Hospital in Houston June 19. He was 52.

Brian Johnson, a national leader in youth ministry, who died June 19, was remembered by Catholics for his larger-than-life personality, his effective engagement with youth, and his impact on youth ministry at the national level.

Mr. Johnson, 52, was director of the office of adolescent catechesis and evangelization for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He died unexpectedly at Methodist Hospital in Houston.

In a statement posted on the archdiocese's website, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of



CNS photo

Galveston-Houston called Mr. Johnson "an inspiration to the youth of our archdiocese."

"He had a profound impact on not only the young people he served and their families, but also on the formation of youth ministry leaders," said the cardinal.

Bob McCarty, who worked for what is now the Archdiocese of Baltimore's division of youth and

young adult ministry from 1983 to 1997, began working with Mr. Johnson in 1988.

"He caught the attention of people around the country," Mr. McCarty said.

According to McCarty, Mr. Johnson's had a national reputation for his rousing talks.

"He became known for call and response," Mr. McCarty said. "He would be up on stage with 20,000 in the audience, and he would call, 'God is good,' and the audience would respond, 'All the time.' Brian was the master of that, and people picked it up all over the country."

"He was a preacher," McCarty continued, referring to his friend's rhetorical style, "but he was also a strategic thinker. He was always asking, 'What does it take to do youth ministry well?' and 'What's the vision here?' He was always thinking about things like that."



THE RACE LEFT FOR THE CHURCH TO RUN

BY CHIDIMMA UBA

“So what’s the initiative for Baltimore?” one of the students we were tutoring asked.

“Gang violence,” my fellow member of the Howard University Alternative to Spring Break (HUASB) program replied.

Without warning the student burst into a fit of laughter. “Gang violence?” he finally asked. “There are no gangs here, only groups.”

The graduating senior explained that there were a number of groups in Baltimore and sure, they had rivalries, but even though some clashes between them had resulted in death, they remained merely groups of people just coming together.

It was surprising to hear someone talk about death with such normalcy. For the next 20 minutes, my mates and I attempted to explain to the boy why those “groups” in actuality were gangs.

Like a number of colleges all over the United States, Howard University organizes a special program during its Spring break that pushes students out of their comfort zone and into various communities to create an impact in the lives of residents of the area. In my case, I was part of the team posted to Baltimore for the Gang Violence Initiative.

Needless to say, it came as a big shock to me that a resident of the area basically invalidated the motive behind our work. As an international student, it is important that I reiterate that the issue of race only exists for many Africans the moment they arrive in America. The HUASB

program in Baltimore helped me understand the practical effects of race in the United States.

Walking the streets of Baltimore on a cold Sunday morning, a clergyman described the horrors of growing up in the community. Horrors we would later see in the school students.

I was horrified by the educational system that seemed structured to strip the Black man of the opportunity to pave his own future. Some students that I met had frozen hands that were washed in icy cold toilets because water could not be heated for the lack of school funds. Some graduating seniors could not formulate grammatical sentences. Others were apprehensive about graduating from high school or IF they would graduate at all.

Public high schools (or more accurately, Black schools) are barely provided with adequate resources and opportunities. Students came from homes where parents could hardly afford basic amenities, yet, the inefficient school system could not provide them a refuge from their poor backgrounds.

Public schools represent the one place the government could substantially abate historical wrongs against the Black population but it continues to drastically fail.

Is there another solution?

After walking past walls splattered with graffiti, I saw each uniquely expressed as a cry for Black freedom.

The pastor told us that his church had lost 15 young men in two years due to gang violence. He said that many people were

losing faith.

In that moment I realized the pastor had a connection with the community and with people’s lives. The pastor was the people’s sole source of hope and their sanctuary of solace.

Often I hear the argument that Black people can easily break away from the circumstances within which they were brought up. The problem with this logic is that it is directly opposed to the socially accepted and forensically proven fact that the mind is greatly influenced by one’s environment especially at a young age. Some Black children grow up with gang wars and internalize violence at a very young age. Some of their homes resemble prison structures. Ultimately, the public schools are unable to recondition their mentality.

This is not the timeworn call to the government to do better, but an invitation to the church to intervene. For centuries, the church has been at the forefront of efforts to correct social problems.

It is not too far-fetched to say that religious institutions can influence the future for Black people. The church can help build the communities of its members while simultaneously nurturing their faith. As it does with the many social ills, the church has the means and responsibility to actively tackle the effects of racism, if not the issue itself, and should initiate ways to solve them.

Chidimma Uba is a student at Howard University majoring in economics. She participated in the university program doing social work in Baltimore.

CONTINUING THE MISSION

FIRST, WE HAVE TO GROW THE FAITH.



FATHER DONALD M. FEST, SSJ

The first two weeks of the month of July, the Catholic Church in the United States and especially in the African-America Catholic Community was busy!

Taking place during that time were the Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando as well as the National Black Catholic Congress also in Orlando, followed by conferences for and by black Catholic priests, nuns, seminarians and administrators. Black Catholic youth, the Junior Knights and Junior Daughters of the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, had their national convention in Kansas City, MO, during that time as well! Later in July was the National Convention of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary in Dallas.

The purpose of all these gatherings was to sharpen the effectiveness of the Catholic Church in the United States. Sadly, to say, more and more Catholics are leaving the Church or simply not going to Sunday Mass, except occasionally. Children are not being baptized nor catechized. When they are baptized, often they never receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It seems that many times catechesis ends after First Holy Communion. This is not good. This is not a black or white thing – it IS a Catholic thing!

We are the stewards of God's kingdom here on earth. As stewards, one day we will have to give an account of our stewardship to God. I write this to wake us all up! Here we are at the beginning of another year of faith formation and Catholic faith development. All kinds of programs are or have already begun. Are we a part of them? Is our family?

Some questions for parents, grandparents and godparents: Are your children enrolled in their religious education classes, their sacramental prep programs? This is not only for parents to do, but also grandparents and godparents. If you are a godparent, have you checked on the faith development of your

godchild lately? It is a good idea to do so since you did make a vow at their baptism to help in their faith life.

What are you doing for your own faith development? Not only are there programs in parishes and dioceses, but many are on TV and online today. A wonderful resource now is a program many parishes have offered to their people free of charge called formed.org – often referred to as “free Catholic Netflix.” It has seminars, workshops, faith development series, e-books, movies – for adults and for children. It's like the Catholic faith at your fingertips.

I want to reflect briefly on what Archbishop Jose Gomez had to say at the Convocation of Catholic Leaders on July 3. He reminded us of what Pope Francis has been saying about the “peripheries” of society, of our cities, even of our church. These are the places and the people who live there – ones who are easily dismissed, neglected, “pushed aside” or even “discarded.”

The peripheries are the parts of our cities that “we don't like to visit – the other side of the tracks. They are where the poor live.” They include the places like where the homeless live, the prisons, and nursing homes that houses people with no families. The peripheries are “all the places our society is ashamed of and would rather forget about.”

Archbishop Gomez reminded the 3,500 convocation attendees that Jesus is at the margins and we, as people of faith, are to go where Jesus is.

So, as you consider what to do for your faith development this fall remember what the archbishop had to say about going to the peripheries. And, as St. Francis of Assisi tells us: “It is giving that we receive.” Sharing our faith with others develops our own.

Father Donald Fest, SSJ, is pastor of St. Joseph church in Alexandria, VA.

JOSEPHITE PERPETUAL ENROLLMENTS

FOR THE LIVING AND THE DECEASED APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2017

Many thanks to all of our Sustaining Partners, who together with loved ones, have been enrolled as Perpetual Members of the Josephites, benefiting them with prayerful daily remembrances by all Josephites.

Abadie, Theodore "Ted"	Caiazzo, Viola	Davagne, Helen	Green, G. Dallas
Ahearn, Carol	Calamari, SSJ, Joseph	Davagne, Paul	Greene, Todd
Allen, Donald	Campagnore, Anne	Deascanis, Francesco "Chick"	Groppenbecker, Dan
Allen, Sr., Joseph Roy	Camponelli, Sr., Guido Paul	DeCuir, Sr., Alvin J.	Gross, William (Mr. & Mrs.)
Andersen Erik	Cannata, Joseph Anthony	Delcollo, Jr., Daniel F.	Grygielko, Mary
Andersen, Eilif	Carnisa, Cleo	Depage, Joseph	Guerra, Jennifer
Anderson, Bea	Carr, Martin	Dibari Family	Guerra, Jose R.
Andre, Randall	Carsillo, Anita L.	Dillard, Bertha T.	Guthrie, Lawrence D.
Angelino, Alphonse J.	Castillo, Jr., Raynel Juan	DiMaggio, Adam	Hall Family
Arciaga, Dr., Jr., Artemio	Castro, Adele	Dixon, Sr., Mark A.	Hamilton, Dolores L.
Atchinson, Joyce Roberts	Cayetano, Efigenia	Dodson, Janet C. (Family)	Hammen, Sara
Auer, Ron	Cazenave, E. V.	Domas, Ida	Hammerer, John J.
Bancree, Lloyd Patrick	Cefali, Eleanor T.	Dorsey, Sr., Lawrence E.	Harder, Rose
Barnes, Alvin L.	Celano, Anne C.	Dozier, Homer	Harrison, Sylvia
Barnes, Thomas D.	Chetcuti, Mr. & Mrs. Roger	Duklewski, Samuel	Hawking, Stephen
Barnes, Timothy	Ciak, Matthew P.	Dunlop, Elizabeth M.	Heigle, Mary Bernadine
Bartlett, Clare	Ciak, Raymond B.	Dyckhoff, Isaac (Family)	Heintz, Eugene W.
Bartlett, III, T.W.	Cleary, Vi B.	Eckrosh, Sr., Fred J.	Held, Greg
Batiste, Dr., Donald (Family)	Cockson, Alvin L. (Family)	Ellis, Louis Tuffly	Higginbotham, Clarice B.
Bauer, Irvin	Cockson, Marcia Ann	Endslow, SSJ, Bartholomew	Hirmer, Carolyn
Beddick, Raymond	Cockson, Mary E. Walsh	Ensey, Catherine	Hoffart, Suzanne Swonke
Bell, Bernadette K.	Coco, Tom R.	Evans, Frank	Hoffart, Ted
Beran, Anne Marie	Colbert, Charles (Skip)	Evans, Tosetta	Holmstrom, Marjorie E.
Beran, Cardinal Joseph	Colbert, Chase	Everett, Sonia	Hopkins, Sr., Walter J.
Bergin, Christopher	Colbert, Elaine C.	Faux, Charlie	Howe, Marguerite
Berridge, Walter James	Colbert, MaryLeigh	Fichter, Catherine	Hoy, Ruby
Betterley, Teresa	Colbert, Sandy	Fink, Ary Glenn	Hursey Family
Biemer, Kathy	Coleman, Margaret (Family)	Fitterer, Wes Michael	Hursey, Jr., Randolph
Bohan, Michael	Collier, Dorothy Ann	Flanigan, Gerald	Hurst, Norbert
Boock, Burnette	Copps, Owen Robert	Fleishner, Rosemary	Jack
Borg, Mr. & Mrs. Charles	Corcione Family	Fleurant, Mary	Jackson, Agnes P.
Boxrud, Michelle & Noelle	Corcione, Angelina	Flowers, Sally Jo McLoughlin	Jackson, Albert C.
Boyle, Cathy Kelly	Corcione, Josephine	Fonti, Sr., Paul	Jackson, Sadie
Bozart, Bernice	Corcione, Josieann	Foster, Vivian Adrienne	Jean, Marie (Family)
Bravo, Lunia	Cosby, Lloyd Neale	Frleta, Alexandria Asare	Johansen, Crystal
Bravo, Richard	Cosenz, Beatrice	Frleta, Joe	Johnson, Gloria R.
Breaud, Hilda	Cossebom Family	Frleta, Margaret Asare	Johnson, Jr., Warren J.
Breda & (Marymom) & Dad	Costa, Gianna	Gaines, Cora Ewings	Johnston Family
Brimage, Iesha	Cowan, Cathy	Gaines, Michael	Jones, Curtis
Brink, Patricia A.	Cowan, Justine	Galeota, Catherine T.	Joyce, James
Broussard, Peter D.	Cowan, Tim	Galeota, Sr., Joseph	Junker, Gary
Broyard, Lydia Cecile	Crankshaw, Jeannie	Gallo, Joseph	Kaiser, William Charles
Burden, SSJ, George	Crocker, Eleanor "Sammy"	Gallo, Rosalie	Kawka, Michael
Burke, Elizabeth	Cunningham, Denis	Garst, Catherine C.	Kawka, Patrick
Burruss, Mary K.	Daino, Francis	Gillman, Fr., Lenard	Keagle, Mary & Roger (Family)
Cabrera, Rev, Jorge	Damiano, Anthony & Isabella	Gisevius, Hilda	Kearns, Robert
Caesar, SSJ, Roger	Darensbourg, Rosie	Gonzalez, Jr., Rudin	Keller, Belinda
Caiazzo, John	Dauginikas, Thomas	Goodhouse, Sr., Jerome Moses	Kelley, Paul R.

JOSEPHITE

PERPETUAL ENROLLMENTS

Continued

Kelly, Bernadine	Mecca, Judy	Phillips, William L.	Sullivan, David F.
Kelly, Francis Harley	Meenahan, Richard J.	Plummer, Douglas	Sullivan, Gertrude J.
Kelly, Thomas	Messineo, Julia	Plummer, Johnathan	Sullivan, Margaret L.
Keyes, Matthew	Messineo, Kate	Plummer, Michael	Sullivan, Maureen F.
King, David	Messineo, Tony (Family)	Poell, Joseph B.	Surazynski, Richard (Family)
King, Hamilton B.	Mitchell, Elsie	Pomponi, Pat	Sutton, Hannah
Klimek, Dorothy	Modica, Rose G.	Protomartir, Aurora	Swallop, Jr., Kenneth
Klimek, Jr., Frank B.	Monroe, Marilyn	Quinlan, Patrick	Tabora, Justin & Brittney
Koczak, Larry D.	Montaner, Remy	Quinn, Booker	Tabora, Maria Milagros L.
Koschak, Mary	Moraca, Rocky	Rammel, George	Tactay, Salvador
Koteras, Gilbert	Morici, Winifred	Ratajczak, Anna	Talks, Amy Lee
Koteras, Pat	Moss, Michael	Reed, Nellie	Tames, Ofelia
Kropf, Elizabeth	Moynihan, SSJ, Eugene	Reed, Randi C.	Tasey, Kevin
LaBauve, Clay Joseph	Mukala, Bishop Joseph	Reed, Ryland C.	Tassey, Louis A.
LaBauve, Mae Genevieve M.	Mulrooney, Dolores	Rego, Donna Kelly	Taylor, Philomena
Lajo, OMI, Padre Saturnino	Murphy, CFX, Richard	Reibolt, Wade O.	Tomitz, Erwin
Lasora, Dori	Myers, Jeremy C.	Reidle, Bob	Tompkins, Claude
Le Leux, Carol	Nareski, Daniel	Reidle, Mary	Torres, Richard
Le Leux, Lawrence	Nareski, Russell	Reidle, Susan	Trump Family
LeDuff, Iris	Nasca, Angela	Reis, John & Dorothy (Family)	Tulao, Leonardo
LeDuff, Jeamard	Nasca, Cosimo	Reum, Charlotte	Turner, Jr., William H.
Lenhard, Theresa G.	Nasca, Richard	Roberts, Pernel	Turner, Patrick W.
Levis, Emily	Nasca, Robert	Robinson, L.	Turner-Quest, Martha N.
Levis, Johnathan P.	Nash, Leona M.	Rogers, Larissa	Twine, Kirticina
Levis, Robert S.	Norgess, Carol	Rosales, Basilio	Twine, Kirticina Elizabeth
Levis, Ryan C.	Nunez, Ed & Leony	Rosales, Virginia	Ty, Jason
Lewis, Yolande	Nunez, Edelwiza Paulette	Rosenstein, Timothy J.	Verdian, Nvard
Livingston, Jr., Michael J.	Oberg, Allison	Russell, Wallace E.	Verdian, Rachik
Loebensberg, Marcella B.	Oberg, Eric	Sadler, Chris (Family)	Villi, Nathan J.
Louis, Bernice	Oberg, Jacque	Sakamoto, Marilyn	Vinklarek, Adela Jurek
Lucas, Jan Stueve	Oberg, Sr., Olaf	Schafer, Joel	Vinklarek, Don
Malecki, Christine A.	O'Connor, Drew	Scheffer, Ken	Vinklarek, Linda
Maloney, Ann T. Murphy	O'Connor, James D.	Schnyder, Jr. Reynold	Waddy, Lillian
Mandanas, Lydia	O'Connor, Kevin	Schoen, Marcus John	Ward, Carmen
Mangin, Pauline B.	O'Hallaran, SSJ, John	Schoen, Robert Andrew	Warmbier, Otto
Mann, Charles	Owens, William Patrick	Schott, Mary Ellen	Washington, Rachael
Mann, Darlene	Palacios, Sara A. Salazar	Siewelo, Arlene L.	Webb, Gayle B.
Manola, Dwight	Palisay, Fortunata	Siewelo, Greg	Weldon, Francis
Marek, Agnes	Palisay, Josita Beth	Silicato, Anthony A.	Wheelock, Kathryn
Mark, Clarence	Papcun, Brian	Sinclair, Theresa	Wheelock, Kathryn (Kate)
Marlett, James	Papcun, Colleen	Sister Tizy	Wheelock, Sr., Joseph
Marotta, Santa	Papcun, Greg	Smith, Kathleen	White, Jacinta
Marshall, Darryl	Paris, Jr., John	Spivey, Anthony	White, Jacinta C.
Maszk, Genevieve	Paris, Shirleen	Sr. Damian Widmeier, SBS	White, Sr., Deacon Alfred
McBrearty, SSJ, John J.	Paris, Sr., John	Sr. Joyce Helfrich, OSF	Williams, Hugh
McBride, Carole	Parisi, Carmen Joseph	Sr. Mary John Souilliard, SBS	Williams, Mary L.
McBride, Leonila "Mila"	Peppers, Dolores	Steinberg, Barney	Williams-Schaeffer, Debra
McBride, Tom	Pelland, Joan Marie	Steinberg, Virginia	Wilson, Anthony
McCann, Mary	Penalosa, Jasmine	Steindam, Monica	Windish, II, William P.
McClafferty, Christopher P.	Penalosa, Jr. Leocadio	Stephano, Jean J.	Wise, Jr., Irving
McDonald, SSJ, Rupert	Penalosa, Norma	Storkel, Diane	Wise, Sr., Irving B.
McGee, Donald	People At the Hour of Death	Storkel, Joe	Wiseley, James
McGee, Margaret	Perry, Eva (Family)	Storkel, Michael	Wiseman, James C.
McLaughlin, Mickey	Petersen, Christy	Stout, Joyce	Wood, Miles J.
McLaughlin, Nelda	Peterson, David Jacob	Sullivan, Barbara E.	



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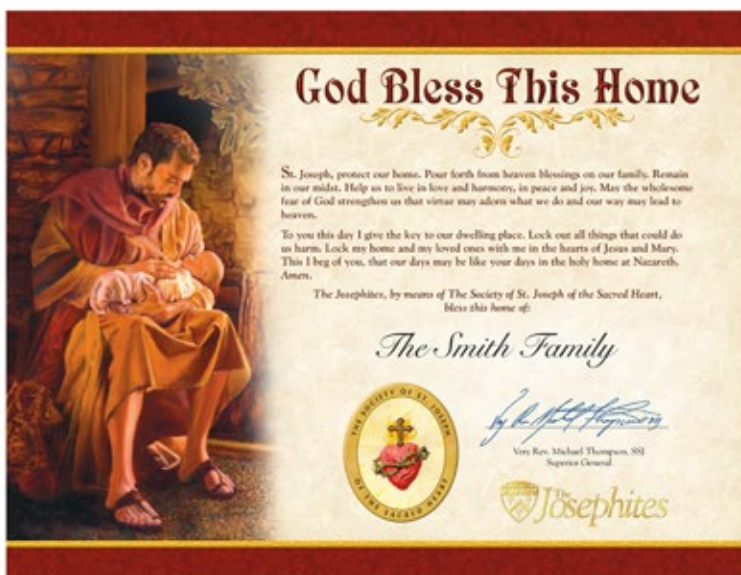
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