

# Josephite Harvest



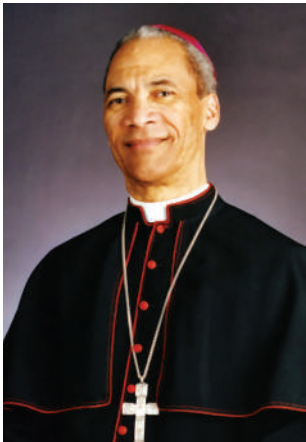
## Our Leadership Team

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**Church  
holds  
racism  
listening  
sessions**





Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ

# The men and means for thriving parishes

Dear Friends of the Josephites:

At the quadrennial meeting of Josephites in June, leadership was elected for the Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

I am honored to have been selected as Superior General at the June meeting in Louisiana. The Josephites have been a steady presence throughout my life, which started in Louisiana. At this moment in our history, which traces back to 1871, I ask for your prayers as I begin this new responsibility and mission.

Soon I will be moving from Washington, where I had been serving as rector of St. Joseph Seminary, to the Josephite headquarters in Baltimore.

I am blessed to have an excellent group of collaborators in Josephite leadership. Father Thomas Frank, SSJ, was selected vicar general. He previously served four years as consultor general. Father Ray Bomberger, an experienced Josephite pastor who will continue to serve the St. Peter Claver parish in West Baltimore, was selected to serve as the new consultor general.

Area Directors were also elected. These four Josephites will be the primary point of contact with our parishes and ministries in their regions of the country. Those selected are: Father Cornelius, Ejiogu, Father Godwin Ani, Father Joseph Benjamin and Father Kenneth Keke.

I commend Father Michael Thompson for his leadership. In his four years as superior general, he took on significant issues that laid the groundwork for future mission opportunities in the African-American community. His energy and enthusiasm were a catalyst for change and set a course for growth.

Also, Father Roderick Coates commendably served four years as vicar general. He led the successful 125th anniversary celebration and provided support to our priests and parishes in many ways.

The new leadership team, with God's help and your support, will continue to provide the men and means for the Josephite mission.

This is the first issue of The Harvest that I serve as publisher. It has many uplifting stories about the goings on in our parishes. I pray that the magazine provides encouragement and nourishment for you in these waning days of summer.

Bishop John H. Ricard, Superior General

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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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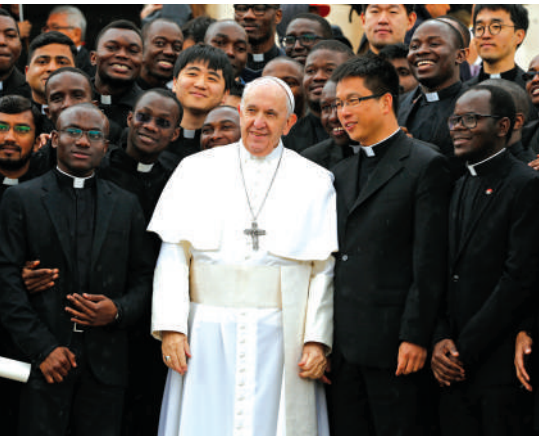
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CNS photo/Paul Haring

**"Christians know how domineering the power of evil is and, at the same time, they experience how much Jesus, who never succumbed to its lure, is on our side and comes to our aid."**

— Pope Francis poses with clerics during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.



### ON THE COVER

#### The Josephite Leadership Team

Bishop John H. Ricard (center) was elected superior general of the Josephites. Others who were selected for leadership positions are: (front row, left) Father Thomas Frank, vicar general, (front row, right) and Father Ray Bomberger, consultor general. Area directors were also elected: (second row, from left) Father Kenneth KeKe, Father Joseph Benjamin, Father Cornelius Ejiogu, and Father Godwin Ani.



# Superior General to seek the “men and the means”

Bishop John H. Ricard was selected superior general of the Josephites in June.

“Throughout my journey, I have been in touch with the Josephites,” the bishop said, reflecting on his election to lead the venerable religious community that has been serving African Americans since 1871. “I was a bit surprised by the selection but look forward to working with my brother Josephites.”

The Josephites gather every four years to elect leadership.

The new superior general will soon be moving to the Josephite Generalate in Baltimore.

Others selected to Josephite leadership were Father Thomas Frank, vicar general, and Father Ray Bomberger, consultant general.

Father Frank will be moving from Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Washington to the Baltimore-based Josephite headquarters. Father Bomberger

will continue as pastor of St. Peter Claver church in West Baltimore in addition to his national Josephite duties.

Bishop Ricard, 79, steps into the superior general’s position after a long career in church leadership both nationally and internationally.

Ordained in 1968, he served for 12 years in

parishes in Washington, D.C., as a Josephite priest. He was made auxiliary bishop of Baltimore in 1984 where he served for 12 years before moving to the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee in 1997.

After retiring as bishop of that diocese in 2011, he moved back to Washington taking on responsibility as rector of the Josephite Seminary.

In addition to his service as bishop in Baltimore and Florida, he has been president of the National Black Catholic Congress and also served on the board of Catholic Relief Services, making several trips to Africa. “For 25 years, I was the go-to person for the U.S. bishops about African affairs,” Bishop Ricard told The Harvest.

As he begins his new assignment, he said he his priority will be recruiting “the men and the means” to support the Josephite mission in the African American community.

His experience in Africa will benefit his new position as the Josephites have a significant pres-

“We want to reinforce the parishes that we have so that they can thrive.”

ence of recruiting vocations in Nigeria, running two houses of formation there.

“The Josephites will continue to invite African clergy to come and serve in this country,” Bishop Ricard said, noting that the Josephites

have been working in Africa for 25 years. “We will be recruiting in the United States, too.”

He said he will be giving attention to increasing fundraising, an area that’s necessary to provide resources for parish work and other ministries.

“We want to reinforce the parishes that we have so that they can thrive,” the superior general said. “Thriving parishes will invite people to renew and recommit their lives to assist our whole church in renewal and recovery.”

Others elected to leadership included the four area leaders. They are: Father Cornelius Ejiogu, Area One (including Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Nigeria); Father Godwin Ani, Area Two (including Alabama, Mississippi and part of Louisiana); Father Joseph Benjamin, Area Three (including Mississippi and Southwest Louisiana); and Father Kenneth Keke, Area Four (including Texas and California).

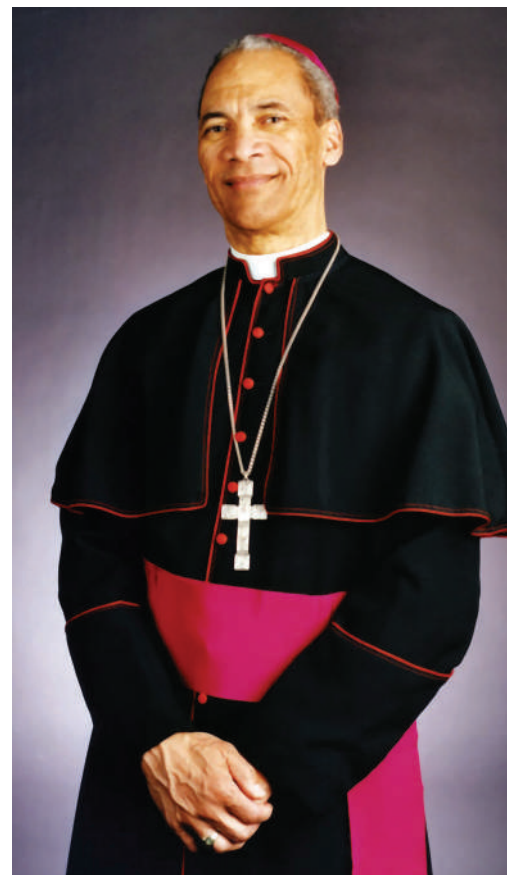
“Thriving parishes will invite people to renew and recommit their lives to assist our whole church in renewal and recovery.”



Father Thomas Frank  
Vicar General



Father Ray Bomberger  
Consultor General



Bishop John H. Ricard  
Superior General



The Josephite area directors are (from left) Father Kenneth Keke, area four director, including Texas and California; Father Joseph Benjamin, area three director, including Mississippi and Southwest Louisiana; Father Cornelius Ejiogu, area one director, including Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Nigeria; and Father Godwin Ani, area two director, including Alabama, Mississippi and part of Louisiana.





Father Augustus Tolton is shown in an image courtesy the Diocese of Springfield, Ill.

# Pope advances sainthood cause for African American priest

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis advanced the sainthood cause of Father Augustus Tolton, who was the first African American diocesan priest in the United States and founder of the first Black Catholic parish in Chicago. The pope signed a decree issued by the Congregation for Saints’ Causes June 11, recognizing that Father Tolton lived a life of heroic virtue.

Father Tolton had been born into slavery in 1854 on a plantation near Brush Creek, Missouri. After his father left to try to join the Union Army during the Civil War, his mother fled with her three children by rowing them across the Mississippi River and settling in Quincy in the free state of Illinois.

He was ordained for the Propaganda Fidei Congregation in 1886, expecting to become a missionary in Africa. Instead, he was sent to be a missionary in his own country and returned to Quincy, where he served for three years before going to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1889.

Despite rampant racism and discrimination, he became one of the city’s most popular pastors, attracting members of both white and Black Catholic communities. He spearheaded the building of St. Monica Church for Black Catholics and worked tirelessly for his congregation in Chicago, even to the point of exhaustion. On July 9, 1897, he died of heatstroke on a Chicago street at the age of 43.

He was known for persevering against all odds in pursuit of his calling and quietly devoted himself to his people, despite great difficulties and setbacks.

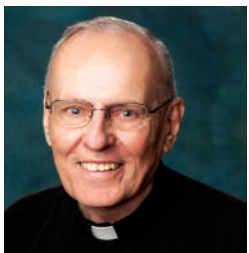
Josephite Father Charles Uncles, a former parishioner of St. Francis Xavier in Baltimore, was the first African American to be ordained on American soil when Baltimore Cardinal James Gibbons ordained him to the priesthood at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1891.

# Celebrating our Jubilarians

## FATHER RICHARD WAGNER, SSJ 60 Years

Father Richard Francis Wagner will actively celebrate the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on June 6. As the current oldest active Josephite pastor, he surely knows how it goes.

Father Wagner hails from Rochester, New York, born on May 23, 1932, the oldest of three sons of Francis and Edith Birdsey Wagner. He was baptized in St. Monica Church there and attended the parish school before entering the diocesan minor seminary in 1946 for high



school and early college education.

He began his Josephite training on entering the year-long novitiate in August 1952 and continuing at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Washington DC. He was ordained a priest on June 6, 1959, by Bishop John McNamara in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC.

His first assignment as a Josephite was at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans while serving concurrently as chaplain at Xavier University, also in New Orleans. In 1965, he was appointed director of the Josephite Brothers’ post novitiate training in the same city until 1968 when he entered parish ministry as co-pastor of St. Veronica parish in Baltimore,

serving there four years.

Father Wagner was then assigned to St. Nicholas parish in Houston and two years later was appointed vocation director for four years.

In 1978, he became pastor of Prince of Peace Church in Mobile, AL, followed by area ministry in Natchez, MISS, in 1985. Eight years later he served as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Breaux Bridge, LA, until 2001, when he began his present assignment at Our Mother of Mercy parish in Rayne, Louisiana. Father Wagner has also served as an area director for three terms.

At 87, he celebrates his position as the present oldest, active Josephite pastor, by continually answering the call, “Here I am, send me.”

## FATHER PHILLIP J. LINDEN, SSJ 50 Years

Father Phillip Linden is the sole Josephite Golden Jubilarian this year.

He was born in Port Arthur, Texas, on June 11, 1941, the oldest of seven children of Phillip and Myrtle Lancelin Linden. Baptized in the Josephite parish of the Sacred Heart there, he attended its grammar school and graduated from its high school in 1959.

He felt called to the Josephite community and that same year he entered Epiphany Apostolic College in Newburgh, NY, and continued formation at Mary Immaculate Novitiate also in Newburgh and at St. Joseph Seminary. He was ordained a priest at St. Anthony Cathedral

in Beaumont, Texas, on March 31, 1969.

His first parish assignment was at St. Francis Xavier Church in Baltimore for five years. He then moved to Stella Maris Hospice, also in Baltimore, where he became assistant chaplain and, later, director of pastoral care until 1986. He also pursued studies to what is now Loyola College and St. Mary’s Seminary and Univrsity Also



in Baltimore. Additionally, he served at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington DC and as training supervisor at Cardinal Shehan Center for Aging in Towson, Maryland.

Father Linden continued advanced theological studies at the Catholic University in Louvain, Belgium, where in 1988, he received an STL degree, and in 1997, an STD in Systematic Theology. After a year as a Fellow at Aquinas Institute in Princeton, he was made Dean of the Theology Department of Xavier University in 1991.

He celebrates his fiftieth year as a priest in his current position as a Dean at Xavier.

## FATHER PETER C. WEISS, SSJ 40 Years

Father Peter C. Weiss is the Josephite celebrating the 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood this May.

He is a native of Brooklyn, NY, born on June 26, 1951 of Henry and Dorothy Buckley Weiss. He was baptized and confirmed at Our Lady of Refuge Church in Brooklyn and attended public elementary and high schools there.

Upon graduation from high school, he entered the Josephite minor seminary in Newburgh, NY and moved on through the novitiate and philosophy and theology classes to ordination on May 26, 1979, with an M. Div. degree from the Washington Theological Union.

His first parish assignments were as associate

to serve at Most Pure Heart of Mary parish in Mobile, AL, (one year); Corpus Christi parish, New Orleans (three years); Our Mother of Mercy parish, Beaumont, Texas, (3 years). His first appointment as pastor was to St. Theresa parish, Crowley, LA, (4 years).

Father Weiss was first assigned to the faculty of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans in 1991 while also ministering at several local parishes. Two years later he was appointed pastor of St. Joan of Arc parish in New Orleans for nine years. This was followed by the pastorate of All Saints parish, also in New Orleans, for the next four years.

Father Weiss was appointed vocation

director for the following four years and in 2010 became pastor of St. Francis Xavier parish in Houston until 2012 when he moved to Birmingham, AL, as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima parish.

In 2014, he returned to New Orleans as again pastor of All Saints parish and also teaching at St. Augustine High School where he is happily celebrating 40 ordained years in the priesthood.





# JOSEPHITE FINAL PROMISE

At the annual St. Joseph Day celebration at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, DC on May 1, Fred Kaddu, SSJ, made his Final Promise to the Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Father Michael Thompson, Superior General, administered the promises. After the event, the assembled Josephites celebrated this step on the way to priesthood.



Photos by Amy Donahue



Newly ordained Deacon Fred Kaddu poses with his mother and members of the Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Peter Claver after his ordination May 25 at St. Luke's Church, Washington, DC.

## 'I HAVE COME TO SERVE'

Deacon Fred O. Kaddu, SSJ

I was born in Nangabo Kampala in Uganda on June 6, 1987, the second of four children of Sam Lue and Namulindwa Noeline.

As a kid, my mother took me regularly to church where I was fascinated by the priest celebrating at the altar with other kids. I enjoyed acting out the liturgy. In addition, I served Mass in my parish of St. Joseph.

When I finished elementary school, I joined a minor seminary in 2004. The minor seminary is equivalent to a high school here in the USA.

In 2009, I entered a college in Kenya for philosophy where I earned a diploma. In 2012, I earned a Bachelor degree from Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome.

When Josephite Father William Norvel



was vacationing in Kenya in 2012, it was from them I first learned of the Josephites. I felt the calling and came to the seminary in Washington in 2013 and this past May completed a Master of Divinity degree from the Catholic University of America.

Serving in Josephite parishes, during practice ministry, I have been inspired by the parishioners by their love, commitment and willingness to serve their parishes.

Because of such dedication and faith, I cannot wait to exercise my ordained ministry as one who is available to serve.

I have also witnessed the love of God's people toward those dedicated to serving God. I have watched how much they have been praying for me.

Knowing this lets me know that I am on a journey with others.

I have no blood relatives in the USA but I have met loving people. I have mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters in the USA.

Like John (Chapter 1-4), I think God has brought me to the right place where I will fulfill his mission.



# Bishops hear pain and hope at racism listening session

By Christopher Guntz

**‘The question we are asking is how can we address this together with the richness of the teachings of the church and the sacraments?’**

Bishop Shelton Fabre

At a racism listening session, speakers gave examples of being questioned about their presence on church property simply for being Black, of having difficulty entering the seminary because of race, being called the N-word when distributing Holy Communion at a hospital and feeling unwelcome in the church.

The listening session, held in the Archdiocese of Baltimore April 29, was prompted by the U.S. Bishops’ 2018 pastoral “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism,” which calls racist acts sinful because they violate justice.

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, told the audience in his opening remarks that these listening sessions help the bishops understand the “aching pain” of people affected by racism.

Redemptorist Father William Guri, a priest from Zimbabwe who is studying at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore and lives and assists with ministry at St. Mary Parish, Annapolis, recounted how he had been walking in the gardens behind the rectory – not wearing his clerical garb – when he noticed a couple taking wedding photos. He deliberately stayed at the opposite end of the gardens so as not to disturb them.

A white man whom Father Guri did not recognize as a parishioner confronted him, asked him what he was doing in the gardens and told him he should leave immediately because he was on private property and his presence was not welcome.

The priest said he explained that he was a priest who lived on the grounds and the man was shocked.

Father Guri said, “I asked him: ‘What were you going to do, to call the police on me or simply to draw and shoot at me? Is this how you treat people like me?’ ”

He said he “wondered that if my Black presence was such a threat in a private garden area, how much of a threat is my blackness perceived by one like this man isn’t the sanctuary while I am celebrating the Eucharist?”

He said the fact that this incident occurred in the backyard of the rectory where he lives “awakened me to the reality that there are some people to whom I can never be good enough for the simple reason of being Black.”

Prior to the listening session, Bishop Fabre said that in previous sessions he had attended he had heard people’s pain and hope. The sessions are a model for what the bishops want to see in society. “We want people to get together, dialogue, have a conversation,” he said, noting that Pope Francis calls for the same thing – to hear people’s pain and accompany them in their journey.

“The question we are asking is how can we address this together with the richness of the teachings of the church and the sacraments? ... We want to bring people to a greater understanding, bring people to action.”



CNS photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review  
Carol Rice, Deborah Reddy and Joan Stine stand in solidarity during the closing song, “Let there be Peace on Earth,” during a listening session on racism at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore.

## Listening sessions on racism ‘open wide the hearts’ of the faithful

By Erik Zygmunt

As he visits dioceses across the country to facilitate listening sessions on racism in the U.S. Catholic Church, Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, La., and chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, notices some constants.

The first is the “depth of the pain” of Catholics who have experienced racism, “everything from being looked at strangely when you walk into a parish to being rudely dealt with,” Bishop Fabre said.

The stories also cover plenty of in-your-face instances – soon after his 2001 ordination, Deacon Seigfried Presberry, now director of prison ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, brought the Eucharist to a man hospitalized in intensive care. The man tore off his oxygen mask and managed to both take the Lord’s name in vain and use the vilest racial slur to express his dismay over a Black man being part of the Catholic Church at all, let alone bearing the indelible mark of Holy Orders and bringing the Blessed Sacrament.

The other constant that Bishop Fabre notices is an intense love for the Eucharist.

“Their tremendous faith in the Eucharist is why they have remained in the church,” he said, emphasizing that his notice of African Americans’ and other minorities’ “great love for the church” is not meant to belittle the pain that they have suffered in the present and the past.

The listening sessions, typically bringing a turnout of 200-300 faithful and attended by the local bishop as well as Bishop Fabre, are an early step in the implementation of “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love,” the U.S. bishops’ pastoral on racism, published in November of last year.

“We are trying to model what the letter calls people to do, and, first of all, that’s self-reflection,” Bishop Fabre said.

In addition to African Americans, the sessions bring in Catholics of Latino, Native American, Asian and other ethnicities.

“Racism is no longer a Black-White issue,” Bishop Fabre said. “It’s all across the board.”

“We’ve had Caucasians talk about how their understanding of racism has been expanded – how their worldview has changed,” he added.

Each listening session runs between an hour-and-a-half and two hours, Bishop Fabre said. He begins with his remarks, describing the genesis of the ad hoc committee and the pastoral letter. Then, presenters describe their experiences. Audience members are invited to write their own experiences and reflections, and everything is given to the local bishop at the end.

The sessions are intended to be jumping-off points for the dioceses.

Bishop Fabre said that the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in particular, was “going like gangbusters” in implementing the pastoral letter.

In many cases, dialog leads to a conversion of heart. Deacon Presberry did not want to return to the hospital, but his wife reminded him of his duty and his oath. This time, the man who had used the racial slur, still in the hospital but no longer in intensive care, apologized and received Communion from the deacon. In a couple weeks, he asked Deacon Presberry if he could bring him the Eucharist at home. In several months, Deacon Presberry served, at the man’s request, at his funeral. He now refers to him as “my dear friend.”

“I know we won’t know the Kingdom of God until Christ comes, but I hope we can heal some of the harm of racism, and root it out of the church,” Bishop Fabre said. “It is my hope that we’ll see great fruit.”



CNS photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review  
Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, chair of the U.S. Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, joins other bishops in listening to speakers during a listening session on racism at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore.



# National Black Catholic Congress

## *Five-year plan continues unfinished work*

By Erik Zygmunt

### Pastoral Plan of Action

- Spirituality and the saints
- Leadership in the church
- Addressing social justice issues
- Catechesis and evangelization
- Support Catholic schools
- Vocations in all forms
- Youth ministry

With more than a year gone by since the November 2017 publication of a seven-topic, five-year plan developed by the National Black Catholic Congress, the “Congress XII Pastoral Plan of Action” is providing the framework for a goal that is simple, but not easy.

“The plan is an attempt to bring Blacks into the church, and get them involved in every aspect of the church,” said Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, president of the NBCC and rector of St. Joseph’s Seminary in Washington, D.C. “We hope to see Blacks integrate at every level.”

From church leadership to youth involvement to evangelization to social justice, the plan does address “every level.” In a departure from previous plans, according to Valerie Washington, executive director of the NBCC, the organization asked bishops across the U.S. to select delegates to send to Congress XII.

She told *The Harvest* that each bishop was asked to choose a “Black Catholic with extensive and ongoing involvement in the church, and one who is engaged in ministering to Black Catholics.”

To prepare for writing the plan, 43 Black Catholics from 25 states participated in an online webinar with Father Stephen Thorne, chairman of the NBCC Pastoral Planning Committee and pastor of St. Martin de Porres Church in Philadelphia, Ms. Washington said.

The group met in Orlando, Florida., July 6-9, taking inspiration from both the Gospel of St. Luke and the Book of Micah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God.”

With that spiritual prompt, the group put special emphasis on spirituality and the saints, which later became the first topic of the Pastoral Plan of Action.

“From the earliest times in the church, there have been Black saints,” Ms. Washington said, referencing St. Anthony of Thebes, born in 251, one of the Desert Fathers. “With over three million Black Catholics in the U.S. alone, saints such as St. Anthony the Great, St. Augustine, St. Benedict the Moor, and St. Josephine Bakhita, in addition to the others, give Black Catholics a greater sense of belonging, of ‘ownership’ and pride, or perhaps



Cardinal Peter K. Turkson and Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, confer at the welcoming ceremony for Congress XII of the National Black Catholic Congress, July 7-9, 2018, in Orlando, Fla. Cardinal Turkson delivered the keynote address for Congress XII.

more accurately, a love for the faith,” Ms. Washington said.

She also referenced more recent Black Catholics whose causes for canonization have been opened: Father Augustus Tolton, Mother Mary Lange, Pierre Toussaint, Mother Henriette Delille, Julia Greeley and Sister Thea Bowman.

“What great love for others and God all of these people possessed, and what better witness to the depth of faith Black people profess for the Catholic Church?” Ms. Washington said.

At the parish level, the plan emphasizes the need for catechesis specific to Black Catholics.

“There are issues of language, culture, and spirituality that must be addressed in order to make all of our brothers and sisters comfortable in the church,” Ms. Washington wrote, noting that the U.S. church has demonstrated success with Latino

value in a Catholic education for African-American children, but how more disadvantaged African-American children can take advantage of a Catholic education,” Ms. Washington said.

Each of the plan’s five topics – Leadership in the Church, Spirituality and the Saints, Addressing Social Justice Issues, Catechesis and Evangelization, Support Catholic Schools and Vocations in All Forms – includes one or more sub-objectives, each with practical “action steps” for implementation.

Under Spirituality and the Saints, for example, the first sub-objective asks parishes to “Develop and implement an ongoing process to enable Black Catholics to enhance their Africentric spirituality.”

The six action steps dedicated to that objective range from the individual – going to daily Mass, monthly confession, and weekly eucharistic adoration, for example – to the communal – designing and promoting “cultural experiential activities that infuse catholic social teaching in sacramental preparation.”

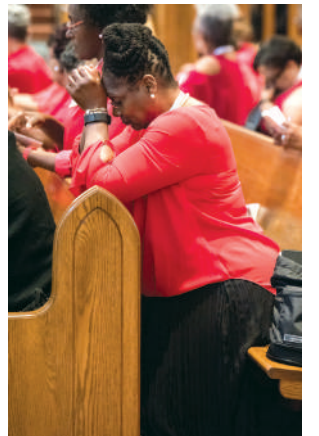
Ms. Washington said every U.S. bishop received a copy of the plan as well as a user’s guide at the outset of 2018, to be forwarded to their dioceses’ respective Black Catholic or ethnic ministry offices.

“The NBCC is blessed to have a dedicated group of Black Catholic ministry directors across the nation who provide support and oversight to parishes as they conduct implementation programs,” Ms. Washington wrote. “We receive much our feedback directly from these Black Catholic leaders.”

Members of the Pastoral Plan Committee were surveyed in October 2018 as to which plan topics were implemented in their home dioceses, and how those topics were implemented. Ms. Washington said an additional survey will be conducted this spring, and “the NBCC office will publish its findings and best practices for implementation.” It has always been the Josephites’ mission to minister specifically to the African-American community.

Bishop Ricard said the Pastoral Plan will broaden support for that mission across the U.S.

“(The plan) will strengthen the work of the Josephites, and provide additional rationale for what we’re doing,” he said.



A woman prays at the opening Mass for Congress XII of the National Black Catholic Congress, July 7-9, 2018 in Orlando, Fla.



Cardinal Peter K. Turkson joins the procession as the opening Mass for Congress XII.



The Knights of Peter Claver were a strong presence at Congress XII.

All pictures are Courtesy of  
National Black Catholic Congress.  
nbccongress.org



## *Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Houston*

# Water and fire, then renewal and joy

By Erik Zygmunt

After a catastrophic fire hit Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Houston in January 2018, on the heels of severe damage sustained during Hurricane Harvey the previous August, the pastor, Father Stephen Sohe, SSJ, directed parishioners to the book of Hebrews:

The verses read, “Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges” (Heb 12:6).

Andre Hence, a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea’s pastoral council, explained that the firm words inspired the congregation to get up and get going.

“It really resounded with our parishioners,” he said, “even our old parishioners. If there was something to do, they were there and at the ready.”

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston insurance company covered the approximately \$300,000 in repairs.

Mr. Hence gave credit to Father Sohe

who, on just his second assignment, guided his parishioners through the aftermath of the disaster first and then managed the rebuild, working with the archdiocese, the insurance company, and contractors to get everything done.

“He handled it absolutely well,” Mr. Hence said, adding that a retired parishioner, Vincent R. Perry, a former welder and mechanic, assisted Father Sohe in making the selections and building decisions that came up during the process.

With the exception of the frame and some pews, Our Lady Star of the Sea was almost completely rebuilt. Mr. Hence noted that the destruction provided some opportunity to improve the basic structure – the beams and walls, in particular – as well as upgrade the air conditioning and other systems.

The altar, sacristy and ambo are all new, as are the baptismal font and crucifix.

What was once an oddly located cry room near the sanctuary became a second

sacristy for the deacon and altar servers, and an ideal location to store the ciboria, chalices, thurible, and monstrance. A new cry room was installed toward the rear of the church.

Mr. Hence said that while the cause of the fire has not been officially determined, the parish suspects a frayed electrical cord in the sacristy was to blame.

“We do know it was not vandalism or intentional,” he said.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston, presided at a rededication Mass March 1, celebrated by Father Sohe and other priests.

It was a worthy bookend for parishioners who, not so thrilled by the “scourge” at the outset, worked and prayed faithfully toward the follow-up:

The book of Hebrews says, “At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it” (Heb 12:11).



Photos courtesy Anthony W. Gordon

In addition to Father Stephen Sohe, SSJ, and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Our Lady Star of the Sea’s March 1 rededication Mass brought priests from nearby.



Father Stephen Sohe, SSJ, is all smiles at the rededication Mass for Our Lady Star of the Sea in Houston.

# Pastor builds bridges

## *Father Cornelius receives awards in Washington from police, community*

By George P. Matysek Jr.

Looking out into a sea of anguished faces at the 2015 funeral of a young man gunned down in the nation’s capital, Josephite Father Cornelius K. Ejiogu, admits that he was anxious about choosing the right words.

Many in the congregation were overwhelmed with grief, tears streaming down their faces. Others harbored vengeance, longing to pay back the person or persons responsible for their friend’s murder.

Most of the nearly 500 mourners in the church were young people.

The pastor of St. Luke in Washington wanted to deliver a message of hope and peace.

“It was one of the most difficult things I’ve ever done,” said Father Ejiogu, “I reminded them that the joy of the Lord is our strength, not what we can do, not how much revenge we can have.”

Muhammad Washington was killed not long after being released from jail.

He had been baptized at St. Luke but had “fallen in with the wrong crowd,” Father Ejiogu said.

Although Washington had practiced Islam, Father Ejiogu still considered him a parishioner and made the church available to the family for the funeral.

“He was still our kid,” the pastor said. “It was difficult to bury someone in his early 20s but that’s something I’m called to do as a priest. I’m called to console the grieving.”

Being present for people in the community in times of joy and sadness is a major reason Father Ejiogu was recently recognized by two separate groups as one of the region’s foremost faith leaders.

In March, Father Ejiogu was presented



Washington Metropolitan Chief of Police Peter Newsham presents Father Cornelius K. Ejiogu, SSJ, the Chief of Police Special Award.

the Chief of Police Special Award for his service to the community and his support of events sponsored by the Sixth District of Washington’s Metropolitan Police.

The same month, the Nigerian-born priest was honored by Radio One as one of 20 pastors of the year from Washington, Maryland and Virginia.

Father Ejiogu has been partnering with the police during his six years at St. Luke. The Sixth District hosts a children’s party at St. Luke every Christmas, where numerous toys are distributed. Police officers assist with parish programs

**Father Ejiogu was presented the Chief of Police Special Award and honored as pastor of the year.**

such as a food bank that helps 70 families a month and some of them worship at St. Luke.

“I’m a strong believer that for better policing, the officers have to know the people they are serving. Father Ejiogu said. “Because our parish has a good relationship with the police of the Sixth District, the people tend to trust them.”

He meets monthly with the commander of the Sixth District to cultivate a better relationship between the police and the community.

The pastor called St. Luke the “heart” of Washington’s Ward Seven, an area that he said is suffering from high crime and increasing homelessness.

The priest is a member of the area’s clergy ambassadors’ program and the Seventh Ward clergy caucus.

The church has Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups that meet four times a week. It partners with Catholic Charities to help pay the rent and gas bills for those in need. At Thanksgiving, the parish serves a meal to more than 200 people, and every Sunday it offers a hot breakfast to children.

For a few years, until a permanent home could be found, St. Luke served as the site of a U.S. Department of Justice program for helping the incarcerated reenter society.

“We do all these things just to make sure people in the community know that the church is here for them,” said Father Ejiogu, who is also academic dean of St. Joseph Seminary in Washington.

“I could never ask for a better parish,” he said. “The parishioners are loving and caring and enthusiastic.”



# Parish food bank nourishes community in Prichard

By Elizabeth Lowe

‘The poverty rate in Prichard is outrageous,’  
Father Hyginus

► The new food bank (lower right) at St. James Major Parish in Prichard, Alabama, is well-stocked.

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Ala., and Father Hyginus Boboh, SSJ, pastor of St. James Major Parish in Prichard, Alabama, lead a March 19 ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony for the parish’s new food bank. ▼

Pictures Courtesy St. James Major

The parish community of St. James Major, in Prichard, Alabama, is trying to make life a little easier for the members of the community who need it most.

“We’re reaching out, specifically to low income earners of the community,” said Father Hyginus L. Boboh, SSJ, pastor of St. James Major.

Father Boboh, who has been ministering to the approximately 350 registered families of St. James Major since 2014, came up with the idea for the food bank a couple of years ago.

“The church has always been a beacon of hope to the community,” Father Boboh said.

The food bank, which was blessed and opened its doors March 19, serves approximately 30 to 40 families and is expected to grow. About two dozen families received food the first official day in operation.

Father Boboh recognized the need for the food bank, in part, because of Prichard’s “outrageous” poverty rate, which stands at 35.1 percent.

Families come to the food bank for items including canned goods, frozen chicken, milk and strawberries.

While St. James Major’s food bank offers a helping hand to those in need, its mission and purpose goes beyond providing nourishment to the body.

“One way is trying to help the church understand that we are in the community,” Father Boboh said. “Preaching the Word is not enough. This extends on the mission.”

As the food bank’s coordinator and volunteer, St. James Major parishioner Stephanie Danzy’s duties include placing food orders.

“It’s a rewarding experience because you’re doing good to help someone else,” said Ms. Danzy, 62, a lifelong parishioner. “It’s a good feeling.”

Ms. Danzy said volunteers were “overwhelmed” by the number of people who have come.

Gwen Lewis, a parishioner of St. James Major for more than 50 years, is also a member of the food bank committee. Ms. Lewis and Ms. Danzy are two of the approximately dozen parishioners who volunteer with the ministry.

“We have a lot of people in need” Ms. Lewis said. “It’s a pleasure to help people. There’s always people less fortunate than you are.”

As a committee member, Ms. Lewis helps stock the food bank’s shelves on Mondays and Wednesdays, preparing for its operation the following days.

“This is what we’re doing to help our community,” Ms. Lewis said. “It makes it a lot more personal and lets people know we care. The church is here to be of service.”



Photo courtesy St. Brigid parish  
The parish community of St. Brigid in Los Angeles recognized seniors age 80 and over during a special Mass.

## Los Angeles parish honors seniors

Elizabeth Lowe

Father Kenneth Keke, SSJ, last year decided to forego his parish’s traditional Christmas party and replace it with another celebration. The goal was to celebrate and recognize older members of St. Brigid in Los Angeles.

“These are the people who are the foundation of the parish, the ones who give vibrancy and life to the parish,” said Father Keke, who has been pastor of St. Brigid for three years.

The celebration of those members age 80 and older was planned by a committee of younger parishioners and represented the first time the parish formally recognized seniors.

Of the parish’s approximately 700 registered families, about 80 parishioners met the 80-and-over age requirement. Only about half of them attended the festivities.

“Most of them are shut-ins – they are sick,” Father Keke said. “They were celebrated but they didn’t come to the Mass.”

Two seniors who did attend the Mass were Althea Vignaud, 99, and her 86-year-old sister, Muriel Lynn White.

Ms. Vignaud appreciated the moment to celebrate the contributions of older parishioners.

“I sure enjoyed it,” she said. “It was a big day.”

Ms. Vignaud is a longtime parishioner involved with ministries including the ladies auxiliary and hospitality committee.

“So many people have been there so many years and it’s nice to be recognized,” she said.

The seniors were the focus of the homily and

‘Although they are older, we see them as viable members of the church. We love them and appreciate them.’

Father Keke

were recognized near the conclusion of the Mass when they were presented tokens of the church’s appreciation for all their contributions.

“I mentioned to them that their services have really helped the church and that we stand on their shoulders,” Father Keke said. “Although they are older, we don’t see them that way. We see them as viable members of the church. We love them and appreciate them.”

The parish’s older members are active in various ministries, including serving as ushers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and as members of the welcome and hospitality committees.

“When I call on them they respond,” Father Keke said. “The greatest help I get from the elderly in my parish is they encourage me. They show you love, not just as their priest, but as their son.”

Father Keke anticipates that the parish will host the recognition event every few years.

“People who have given so much materially and spiritually should be recognized,” he said.

“I know that they’re going to get their reward in heaven.” The church is family, Father Keke said.

“We’re going to celebrate you,” he said.

‘The greatest help I get from the elderly in my parish is they encourage me. They show you love, not just as their priest but as their son.’

Father Keke





## BY THE NUMBERS

### *African American and Catholic*

There are **3** million African American Catholics in the United States.

Of **17,000**-plus Catholic parishes in the United States, **798** are considered to be predominantly African American.

About **76** percent of African American Catholics are in diverse or shared parishes and **24** percent are in predominately African-American parishes.

More than **20** African Americans have served as bishops in the United States, including three Josephites.

There are **250** African American priests, **437** deacons, in the United States.

There are **400** African-American religious sisters and **50** religious brothers.

By the year **2050**, the African-American population is expected to almost double its present size to **62** million, and it will increase its percentage of the population to **16** percent.

Source: This information was taken directly from demographical data provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, updated in 2017.

# ROAD TO REDEMPTION

*Reformed prisoner joins Catholic Church*

By Paul McMullen

Living in East Baltimore, Steven Allbright had plenty of options where he could come into the Catholic Church.

Something about Historic St. Francis Xavier, however, set it apart. Reading up on the first Black Catholic parish in the United States, Mr. Allbright was stopped by the date in 1864 when one of its previous worship spaces was dedicated.

September 21.

That's the same day, in 2014, that Mr. Allbright walked out of the Maryland State Penitentiary Complex, after being incarcerated for more than five years.

"I shook my head when I read that," he said. "This is not just another coincidence. This is God at work."

Mr. Allbright was among the more than 600 in the Archdiocese of Baltimore who came into full Communion with the church as he received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil April 20 at St. Francis Xavier in East Baltimore.

He had entered prison in 2008 with a domestic violence conviction. Mr. Allbright made several Catholic friends on the inside, who piqued his interest in the faith and helped him find employment on the outside.

"A lot of people look at me and keep saying, why, when people are running from the Catholic Church, am I running toward it?" Mr. Allbright said. "I tell them about what I've experienced from Catholics personally."

Raised Presbyterian, Mr. Allbright was leading a Buddhist study group in prison and meditating in solitude when he accepted an invitation to sit in on the Monday night Communion service led by Deacon Martin Wolff, who would introduce him to the writings of the late Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk.

The Communion service regulars included Bill Gaertner, who went from a domestic violence conviction to founding



Paul McMullen/Catholic Review, Baltimore  
Steven Allbright (left) poses with Father Xavier Edet, SSJ, at the Easter Vigil April 20 at St. Francis Xavier in East Baltimore.

the Gatekeepers, a Hagerstown-based agency which assists ex-offenders.

A seminarian in the 1960s, Mr. Gaertner is now a lay Dominican. He stood as Mr. Allbright's godfather.

Mr. Gaertner said, "Suffice it to say, you come out of prison better or worse. Steve, obviously, came out better."

Mr. Gaertner's early allies in Hagerstown included Father J. Collin Poston, the chaplain of the Table Foundation, created to harvest "the power of food to do good." Mr. Allbright, who went to culinary school after prison, was its first hire.

"Steven exemplifies personal redemption," said Father Poston, himself a convert. "He's been maturely studying, contemplating and discerning the faith. He knows the Lord in a unique way, because of what he's gone through. ... The Lord is going to use him, to inspire people and introduce them to the faith."

Mr. Allbright is now the associate director of culinary services at the Lighthouse, a homeless prevention support center in Annapolis.

In addition to the parish history, Mr. Allbright raves about other signs from God.

"If there was ever a person," he said, "that needed to get out of his way and follow the path of God ..."

*This story first appeared in the Catholic Review of Baltimore*

# Archbishop Gregory takes the reins in Washington

By Catholic News Service

Archbishop Wilton Gregory was installed in May as Washington's first African American archbishop.

Archbishop Gregory takes the helm of one of the most prominent Catholic dioceses.

Under the grand dome of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, North America's largest Catholic church, Archbishop Gregory was loudly cheered by eight red-robed cardinals, almost 50 bishops and thousands of Catholic faithful, as he held out the paper scroll proclaiming him the Washington archbishop. For many, he represents a beacon of hope that a new leader can set right a stricken community.

In his first speech to the archdiocese, he acknowledged Catholic leaders' fault in the sexual abuse crisis — "we clerics and hierarchs have irrefutably been the source of this current tempest" — but focused much more on the importance of maintaining faith in Jesus regardless of troubling circumstances.

"When Jesus Christ . . . finally leads us out of this storm of our own making, may He not feel compelled to admonish us for exhibiting a collective lack of confidence in Him, but rather be proud of the undaunted, uncompromising faith that we never lost," Archbishop Gregory said.

The Archdiocese of Washington includes more than 600,000 Catholics who live in the District and suburban Maryland.

Archbishop Gregory, a 71-year-old cleric tapped for the job by Pope Francis, has served as archbishop of Atlanta since 2004.

Archbishop Gregory pledged in his homily that he would be a bishop "who honestly confesses his faults and failings before you when I commit them, not when they are revealed." It was the first line of his address that drew applause.

"He is the right person at the right time. He's a man of great integrity and character,"

said Frank Butler, a former staffer for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a retired longtime leader of the Catholic philanthropy group FADICA.

Some Black Catholics gathered in a prayer circle outside the basilica before the Mass, with drums and guitars.

Margaret Ricks, 64, of Southeast Washington said she had longed for a new leader who would boldly speak out about Catholic beliefs. "He's the answer to our prayers," she said.



CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Archdiocese of Washington

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory receives the papal bull on his appointment to Washington from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, during his installation Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington May 21.



# Faces & Places



Many of the Josephites gathered for an annual retreat in Covington, LA, May 27-31. Bishop Ferdinand Cheri, auxiliary bishop of New Orleans, was the retreat director.



On May 31, the Josephite senior priests gathered for a retreat at their residence at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, DC.



Celebrating the Church's New Life at Easter time is the early April Confirmation class of nine at Josephite, St. Joseph Church in Alexandria. Retired Bishop John Ricard of Pensacola, Tallahassee, now rector of St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, was the minister of confirmation.



Photos by Phyllis L. Johnson

The Josephite Pastoral Center collected baby goods for MaRIH Center, a pregnancy center in Alexandria, VA. The boxes included baby bibs and wash towels.

## CONTINUING THE MISSION

### Staying Connected “Can you hear me now?”

One of the wonders of today's life and culture, is the cell phone. It used to be the computer – but even that is contained in the little rectangular device called the “cell phone.”

Not only that, but it also serves as our camera (still and moving), our calculator, phone, address book, note pad, alarm clock, datebook, weather service, music box, newspaper, photo album, GPS and so much more. Whatever you need, there is probably an App for that.

People bring cell phones to Mass for their missal.

Cell phones are great, but can be dangerous. Driving around town you see people looking at their phones as they cross busy intersections oblivious to traffic. Stopped in traffic, many drivers are holding their phone, texting or dialing a number. And sometimes people walk into obstacles while distracted.

Many young people are on the cell phone for hours on end. Most don't know life without them.

This past Lent, our parish Lenten symbol was the “cell phone” – encouraging people to “stay connected” to God.

On the signs we posted everywhere was a beautiful phone with the name JESUS in the center with the word “TODAY” at the top of the screen and the words “Call Daily from the Heart” at the bottom of the screen. The intent was to encourage people to pray more often – daily if they are not – and to make that effort as easy as using your cell phone. When we pray we bring things to God and it is then that He

can help us.

How often do we forget or not utilize the most dynamic, powerful, All-Mighty resource at our disposal?

So often when problems and crises arise, we pull out our cell phones to call a friend or relative to share the problem without thinking to place it in God's hands.

On the bottom of our Lenten flyers it said:

“Call on Him broken and He will make you whole.” This is good advice for every day. How can we not pray?

God is always on the other side of the line when we call Him.

He wants to help, but we have to invite Him.

He doesn't care how many times you call, when you call, or how long you talk.

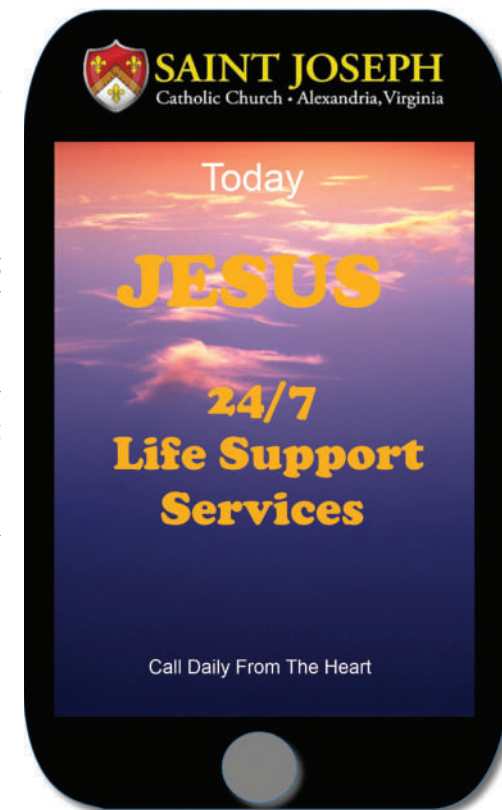
You are not charged for minutes used, roaming fees and they are all toll free.

You are always connected when you call.

Now for your summer projects: #1 Teach a young person how to use his or her cell phones for praying. So many of them don't know their regular prayers – the Lord's

Prayer, Hail Mary, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Grace before Meals. Help them download these prayers and set up regular prayer times for them to be reminded to pray. If you don't know how to do that, they do! They just need the encouragement.

Summer project: #2 Search for all the verses of the song “What a friend we have in Jesus.” They give a fabulous lesson on prayer.



Members of the St. Joseph parish liturgy committee adopted the cell phone imagery proposed by a member, Bill York, to help express the Lenten theme. He designed the cell phone pictured here.



Father Donald M. Fest, SSJ

Father Donald Fest, SSJ, is pastor of St. Joseph Church in Alexandria, Virginia.



‘So often when problems and crises arise, we pull out our cell phones to call a friend or relative to share the problem without thinking to place it in God's hands.’



# Josephite Perpetual Enrollments

For the Living and the Deceased

January, February, March 2019

Romani, Frank (Family)  
Nlend, Alexandre Teddy Nwond  
Duero, Lolita  
Valeriano, Rosita  
Johnson, Kimberly Dixon  
Gantt, Donald Richard  
Knight, Syretta  
McDougal, Anthony  
McDougal, Olivia  
Brown, Joseph  
Sturgis, Alma  
Hill, Doris  
Brown, Samuel  
Papalski, Jonah  
Garcia, III, Ben  
Durgan, Bob  
Kroll, Kenneth T.  
Kroll, Andrew (Family)  
Shambo, Molly T. (Family)  
Johnson, Jordan Montel  
Johnson, Ashley N.  
Lahood, Lauren T.  
Reilly Family  
Jacques, Sr., Rivers  
Kroll, Mary Patricia  
Cutchens, Robert  
Holloway, Audrey  
Dumas, Dr., Willard (Family)  
Boissiere, Jr., Lamber (Family)  
Charbonnet, III, Louis (Family)  
Jackson, Harold (Family)  
Gilyot, Blaze (Family)  
Davis, James (Family)  
Atwood, SSJ, Rev., Wilbur  
Lambert, Ezekiel  
Beaulieu, Paul O.  
Jenkins, Lisa T.  
Bailey, Felton  
Chase, Jr., Edgar L.  
Boissiere, Lionel P.  
Coston, Ann F.  
Gaines, Glenn  
Cordova, Theresa J.  
McKinney, Lorraine P.

Richard, James  
Wright, Walter F.  
Wright, Winifred D.  
Price, Bro., SSJ, Laurence  
Jonsen, Jon  
Upesleja, Cynthia  
Irwin, Richard  
Irwin, Sharon  
Sury, Daniel  
Bugge, John  
Ameche, Lino Dante  
Humphrey, Mary R.  
Giles, David Detroy  
Grove, Otis Gardner  
Bribiesca, Sr., Jesse M.  
Eckholdt, John  
Kliebert, Huey  
Roussell, Erie  
Giron, Senora Aracely  
Kelly/Narango Family  
Wagoner, Paul  
Hamant, Amber  
Hamant, Elizabeth  
Stafford, Barb  
Lutz, Gerry  
Makarewicz, Helen  
Whiteside, Roslyn  
Hedderman, Carol  
Palin, Lynn  
Castagno, Al  
Rucinski, Ida Regina  
Krug, Sr., Donald C.  
Harris, Marie D.  
Duschl, Leon J.  
Foraker, Robert “Bobby”  
Dimaio, Anthony J.  
Soriano, Jr., Federico B.  
Graeb, Gary  
Prejean, Raymond  
Holtzman, Elizabeth  
Horton, John  
Hollister, Rev., John  
Graeb, Gary  
Ursin, Margaret

Moran, Bonnie  
Moran, Tom  
Maloney, George  
Humm, Ingerborg  
Piel, Samuel  
Hilgard, William  
Smeltzer, Laura  
Herlambang, Nicholas  
Olavarrieta, Ramon “Marty”  
Dumas, Jr., Melvin  
Brougham, Esma Hall  
Wollinger, Jr. George  
Wollinger, Jim  
Wollinger, Joe  
Wollinger, III, George  
Hermanson, Kari  
Rivera, Sr., Daniel G.  
Rivera, Javier Xavier  
Douglas, Lucille  
Williams, Vanessa  
Reine, Alden  
Linehan, Michelle  
Uyarowski, Leon  
Perez, Alvarez E.  
Perez, Octavia  
Perez, Jerome  
Frazier, Dr., Michael  
Corey, Violette Clare  
Quinlan, Elizabeth Anita  
Diorio, Anna M.  
Baldassi, William  
Johnston, Henry  
LaFrance, Fr., OP, Valerian  
Laczkoskie, Charles  
Martorano, Roslyn  
Mthembu, Fr., OSM, Mafanisa  
Bibolet, Cal & Louise  
Caputo, Thomas  
Eckrosh, Sr., Fred J.  
Green, Mauriel M.  
Coleman, Lloyd  
Heisser, Weldon  
Eliot, George Peter (Family)  
Dzielak, Michael

Ashby, Frances Elaine DeMan  
Martinez, Anthony N.  
Burden, Sr., Thomas Leon  
Newshan, Katherine  
Lehman, Gary  
Denu, Miriam  
Rew, Ronald B.  
Kumpel, Claude J.  
Bifferato, Marie C.  
Fox, Wallace D.  
Bradley, M. Idella  
Parker, Joyce A.  
Moore, Arlene D.  
Shattell, Anthony Joseph  
Shattell, Anthony (Family)  
Cook, Andrew  
Hedderman, Kieran  
Cook, Michael  
Stringer, Dr., Arlena  
Quirk, Jr., James Patrick  
Mikill, Fred  
Vavas seur, Joseph Earl  
White, Carolyn V.  
Woods Family  
Schexnayder, Leonard/Doris  
Boudoin, Olga S.  
Gauthier, Audrey S.  
Sorapuru, Bertha  
Freeman, Freda Mae  
Sullivan, Bill T.  
Tristan, Anne T.  
Daino, Audrey C.  
Desiderati, Barbara  
Bradley, Karen  
Kuper, C.C.  
Trump, President Donald  
White House Staff  
Federal House & Senate  
DeAngelis, Maeve Seibert  
Baby Girl Sherwin  
Grant, Susan (Family)  
Dalton, Rachel  
Brady, Christine  
Egide, Rita

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.

Pell, Archbishop George  
Lanza, Mario  
Judice, Ann Marie  
Presley, Elvis  
Christenson, Kaitlyn  
Christenson, Symantha  
Urban, Daniel Scott  
Coviello, Leonard  
Coviello, Jean  
Madlangsakay, Apolonio  
Porciuncula, Arthur  
Hopen, Catherine  
Hopen, Alexis  
Dub, Daniel J.  
Quinn, Thomas  
Eastman, Felix  
Quinn, Melissa (Family)  
Martinson, Lisa (Miller)  
Kaiser, Floyd & Adele (Family)  
Fahey, Thomas L.  
Fahey, Martin F. “Red”  
Nava, Mariana  
Conti, Joseph  
Coffman, Samuel Gene  
Stevicks, Tom  
Leblanc, Mary  
Hooper, Jr., William  
Seastrunk, Daniel  
Patterson, Tamika  
Palen, Charles  
Bunch, Barbara  
Jankowski, Leonard M.  
Jankowski, Carol G.  
Mergler, Ralph A.  
Mergler, Charlotte  
Busken, Sylvester  
Pulte, Chris  
Foley, Dagmar  
Connor, Don  
Filas Family  
Gracia, Gabriel  
Pierre-Louis, Pauline  
Blaut, Joseph

Bordenave, Franceline Cecelia  
Abandoned Soul in Purgatory  
Ghee, Bridget  
Ghee, John  
McBrearty, SSJ, John J.  
Ornelas, Sandra  
Ornelas, Rene  
Reyes, Leticia  
Lewis, Rachael (Family)  
Mahoney, Amy (Family)  
Weber, Catherine D.  
Maus, Deanna  
Maus, Jr., Willie S.  
Burney, Thomas  
Perez, Romeo R.  
Bardac, Ruby  
Julian, Roosevelt (Knight #60)  
Mercadel, Sharon  
Lagarde, Jr., Armand  
Applewhite, Muriel B.  
TBPA  
Mercier, Charles  
Mercier, Wendy  
Rauch, Joseph A.  
Basham, Bernadette  
Basham, Stefan  
McCall Family  
Kruk Family  
Giannini, Rick  
Schwarz, John  
Giannini, Nancy  
Schwarz, Jan  
Chamberlain, Randy  
Chamberlain, Sharon  
Jaworski, John  
Ryan, Pat  
Blanco, Sr., Leonard A.  
Noronowicz, Stanley J.  
Lacey, Betty C.  
Luckey, Judith  
Ruggieri, Mark T.  
Hitchens, Sr., Charles C.  
Hurst, Nancy C.

## Special Remembrances

The perpetual enrollment of a living or deceased loved one in the Josephite Society is a lasting commemoration. The person enrolled enjoys special remembrances in Masses for benefactors, said by all Josephites. Special Masses are said on every First Friday. Novenas of Masses are said in honor of St. Joseph and the Little Flower, for the Poor Souls and at Christmas. The offering (\$10 for each person enrolled) is used for the education of future Josephite priests, for parishes and schools, and for corporal and spiritual works of mercy undertaken by the Josephite Society.

To enroll someone you love, use the form below or contact:

1200 Varnum Street N. E. Washington, DC 20017  
1-844-249-5730 • www.josephites.org

## Perpetual Enrollment Form

(Please print all information)  
Use the pre-addressed envelope in this magazine.

**Name: (1)**  
**Requested by:**  
☐ Individual Living \$10  
☐ Individual Deceased \$10  
☐ Family.....\$50

**Name: (1)**  
**Requested by:**  
☐ Individual Living \$10  
☐ Individual Deceased \$10  
☐ Family.....\$50

**Name: (1)**  
**Requested by:**  
☐ Individual Living \$10  
☐ Individual Deceased \$10  
☐ Family.....\$50

**Your Name:**

**Address:**

**City/State/Zip:**

Certificates are sent only upon request. Please add \$ 1.50 for each certificate you request to help cover handling and postage expenses. Additional requests may be submitted on a separate sheet of paper. Also you can:

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“Every Josephite commits his life to sharing the Good News. It is lifetime commitment.”

Retired or grown infirm depends on your help.

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**SUPPORT RETIRED JOSEPHITES**

# 2020 JOSEPHITE CALENDAR

**“Sacraments and Saints”**

**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME**

*Mother Mary Lange*  
(1794-1892)

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, was born in Santiago de Cuba around 1794. She was the foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, Maryland in 1829. The Oblates Sisters of Providence is the first successful religious community for women of African descent. This community was dedicated to the care and education of black children, caring for the sick, educating adults, and helping orphans and widows.

Surrounded by prejudice and poverty, Mother Lange's perseverance and endurance are signs of her close union with God.

*“Our sole wish is to do the will of God.”*

**FEBRUARY 2020**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Feast of the Epiphany	2 Feast of the Epiphany	3 Feast of the Epiphany	4 Feast of the Epiphany	5 Feast of the Epiphany	6 Feast of the Epiphany	7 Feast of the Epiphany
8 Feast of the Epiphany	9 Feast of the Epiphany	10 Feast of the Epiphany	11 Feast of the Epiphany	12 Feast of the Epiphany	13 Feast of the Epiphany	14 Feast of the Epiphany
15 Feast of the Epiphany	16 Feast of the Epiphany	17 Feast of the Epiphany	18 Feast of the Epiphany	19 Feast of the Epiphany	20 Feast of the Epiphany	21 Feast of the Epiphany
22 Feast of the Epiphany	23 Feast of the Epiphany	24 Feast of the Epiphany	25 Feast of the Epiphany	26 Feast of the Epiphany	27 Feast of the Epiphany	28 Feast of the Epiphany
29 Feast of the Epiphany	30 Feast of the Epiphany	31 Feast of the Epiphany				

**2020 Josephite**

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & EDUCATIONAL CALENDAR  
SACRAMENTS & SAINTHOOD

The Sacraments are unique signs of the presence of God. Today we are blessed to have six Black American Catholic candidates for Sainthood who lived sacramental spirit-filled lives.

**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME**

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