

ROOTED

Volume 2, Issue 4
November 2010

Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.
~ Habakkuk 2:2-3

20th Anniversary Celebration of Black Catholic History Month



Black Catholic Ministries

Archdiocese of Detroit
305 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

John J.F. Thorne, Coordinator

E-mail: blackcatholics@aod.org

Phone: (313) 596-7103

Fax: (313) 237-5752

Black Catholic History Month 20 Years in the Making



1st Black U.S. Bishop
James Healey

Twenty years ago (July) the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus designated the month of November as Black Catholic History Month. This declaration was much more than just another day or month to celebrate, but rather a time to remember the immense gifts that Catholics of African descent have brought to the Church.

Black Catholic History Month is a call to action for Black Catholics throughout the United States to be involved, because we not only honor the past, but commit ourselves to making new strides for a history that has yet to be written.

So as we celebrate this milestone let us not forget about our ancestors, Pope Victor, St. Charles Lwanga, Bishop James Healey, Mother Elizabeth Lang, Fr. Augustine Tolton, Henrietta Delille, Archbishop James P. Lyke, Fr. Norman Dukette, Mother Theresa Maxis and Sr. Thea Bowman. Lest we forget the hundreds of thousands of slaves who were brought to this country to till the land, so that one day we may be free and the great host of our ancestors who went before us whose names were never known.

Let us raise up our children for they not only bear the future, but they bear the struggles of the present day. Let us invest in them so that their stories will be our "new history" as their stories are yet to be told, and passed down to future generations of Black Catholics. A story that tells the truth, Black Catholics are here to stay.

"We Are One" Concert Celebrates the Black Catholic Genius

St. Augustine, one of the Church's greatest black scholars once said: "to sing, is to pray twice," and that is just what you are in store for at "We Are One" A Celebration of Song and Dance.

John Thorne, Coordinator of Black Catholic Ministries said: **We Are One** will celebrate the musical genius of Black Catholics not only in the United States but also here locally."

We Are One is much more than just a celebration of music, but rather the gift of evangelization for the entire church, as Detroit's Black Catholic Community shares it's faith and song.

We Are One - Sunday, November 7, 2010 @ 4 p.m. St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd. (btw. 6 & 7 Mile) Tickets: Adults \$10 / Youth (up to 17) \$5.00 GENERAL SEATING. Tickets will be available at door.



Leon C. Roberts



Table for Two: A Marriage Enrichment Event for All Ages



*Leon & Patricia
Dixon*

On Saturday, October 16, 2010, thirty five couples came together at Sacred Heart Major Seminary's Gym for a unique evening of food, prayer and most of all guided conversation about some of the things that are most important in marriage and in the gift of relationships.

Patricia Dixon, Director of Religious Education at St. Cecilia Parish said: "Far too often married couples invest a lot of time, energy and money in to a wedding that only lasts a day, and far less in to a marriage that is to last a lifetime. While my husband and I have only been married for five years, we find it important to laugh, talk and spend time together as much as we can, we are in this for the long run."

The evening's prayer and reflection were led by Deacon Hubert Sanders and his wife Wanda. The reflection of the evening surrounded the gift of grace, giving, forgiving and most of all surrendering our own wants and desires to the wants and desires

that God has for us and our marriages.

Rhonda and Carlton Walker from St. Gregory the Great said: "Table for Two was a wonderful evening of engaging conversation, delicious food, inspiring music and a peaceful atmosphere."



Derrick & Celese Matlock

The couples in attendance ranged in years of marriage from 4 years to 58 years; yet everyone was able to benefit from the engaging conversation.

"A healthy marriage is one that gives witness to the community and to the family of the love that God has given to man and woman. As often as young people can see a healthy marriage, I believe they will consider it as a vocational calling," said John Thorne.

Black Catholic Ministries is already looking in to the possibility of planning some other Marriage Enrichment events in the coming future. We have already received numerous phone calls asking: "What are you doing for Valentine's Day?"

St. Peter Claver Parish, the "Mother Church" of Black Catholics

The story of Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit began in the basement of St. Mary's (Greektown) School. At a time when blacks were not allowed to worship with other congregants in the sanctuary, the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) extended an invitation to Black Catholics and gave them a home for their worship.

In 1911 after several years of worshipping at St. Mary's School, the Black (Colored) Congregation grew large enough that the old St. Mary's Episcopal Church was purchased (corner of Beaubien and Eliot). This site, re-named St. Peter Claver, became the home of Detroit's Black Catholics. This new mission church was named St. Peter Claver after the first colored saint of the Americas who had a special ministry to African slaves.



By the early 1930s the congregation had outgrown it's current facility; even the space they were using as a school was filled beyond capacity. By 1938 Detroit began to experience its "white flight" and the neighboring German parish's congregation began to diminish.

In 1938, Cardinal Mooney moved the congregation over to Sacred Heart Parish.

Many other Black Catholic parishes were formed as the result of the migration of blacks into other parts of the city including: St. Benedict the Moor, Our Lady of Victory and Holy Ghost. As the years passed, Black Catholics moved to many areas in the city and parishes. Today there are over 20 parishes in the Archdiocese that minister to or have a large number of Blacks within its parish boundaries.



Fr. Clarence Rivers, Father of the Black Catholic Liturgical Movement



Fr. Clarence Jos. Rivers

Fr. Clarence Rufus Joseph Rivers was ordained in 1956. He was the first African American priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Fr. Rivers was a preeminent pioneer in bringing the gifts of the African American expression to life in the Roman Catholic liturgy. His music was used in the first official Mass after the Second Vatican

Council.

“Fr. Rivers was a short man, yet he was larger than life. He had such a commanding presence about him; I don't know if it was his bright red alb when other priest were wearing white or if it was his earring or the hundreds of pairs of Converse gym shoes that he owned in every color ever made”, said

Marjorie Gabriel-Burrow, Music Minister at Sts. Augustine and Monica in Detroit.

Fr. Rivers influence paved the way for liturgical inculturation and inspired Black Catholics to bring their artistic genius to the Catholic worship.

Fr. Rivers formed Stimuli, Inc, a company for liturgical arts, design and publication, to build the African American cultural expressions and tradition amid a European American worship services. Rivers wrote several publications, yet one "Soulful Worship" inspired worshipers and liturgists to seriously examine worship through the lens of African American cultural frames.

His influence paved the way for musicians and liturgists like Grayson Warren Brown, Dr. Norah Duncan, IV, Marjorie Gabriel-Burrow, Rawn Harbor and many others locally and nationally.

Fr. Rivers passed away on November 21, 2004.

Essay Contest for the 2011 Archdiocesan MLK Celebration calls youth of the Church to Live the Dream

“Joined Together In A Community of Love” is the theme of the 2011 Archdiocesan Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. This theme calls the whole church to understand that Martin’s dream was deeply rooted in Christ’s mission. That if we first learn to love, then all of the “isms” of life will disappear and we can be Brothers and Sisters to all.

Black Catholic Ministries has teamed up with the Office for Catholic Schools, city parishes and the Knights of Peter Claver and it’s Ladies Auxiliary to present a multi-facet essay contest that asks the youth of our church to live the dream. The essay contest is open to all students in Catholic Schools and to any young person who attends a city parish.

Elementary students (grades 1-4) are asked to create a poster of Dr. King’s beloved community.

Middle school students (grades 5-8) are asked to write an essay on someone who has inspired them to be an agent of change and to build a community of love.

High school students are asked to write an essay on the quality of life and the virtues that are important to that quality of life.

Three prizes will be awarded an iPad, \$300 and \$200.

For more information and the complete list of rules go to:

www.aodonline.org/mlk2011





Fr. Clarence Williams to deliver Keynote at Men's Fellowship



Fr. Clarence Williams, the former Director of the Office for Black Catholic Ministries has returned "home" to Detroit to become the Administrator of Holy Innocents (Roseville) and St. Barnabas (Eastpointe).

Since his return to the Metro Detroit area Fr. Clarence has concentrated much of his time on his new assignment, but he has found many ways to reconnect with the people of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

On Saturday, November 6, 2010, Fr. Clarence will deliver the keynote: **"Male Patriarchs of the Bible"** at the 11th Annual Men's Fellowship Morning

Reflection.

A special invitation is extended to all men of the Archdiocese whether you belong to a Men's Fellowship group or not, this will be a morning of inspiration and solid discussion.

Saturday, November 6, 2010
Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament
9844 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

8:00 a.m. Mass

8:45 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be served after Mass

9:00 a.m. Presentation by Fr. Clarence Williams & discussion

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BLACK CATHOLICS

- November 7 "We Are One" 20th Anniversary Celebration of Black Catholic History Month. 4 p.m. @ St. Aidan's Parish in Livonia. \$10 adults, \$5 youth. (313) 596-7103
- November 13 Sacred Heart Haiti Committee's Annual Dinner Dance "A Love for Haiti" @ 6:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Church 3451 Rivard/ 48207 (313) 384-0449
- November 13 Dearing Detroit Dance's 20th Anniversary Concert. @ 7:00 p.m. St. Charles Church 1491 Baldwin/ 48214 (313) 331-0253
- November 14 AOD St. Cecilia Youth Festival. @ 3 p.m. @ St. Cecilia Church. (For youth to showcase their God-given talents) (313) 596-7103
- November 21 St. Cecilia Mass Choir Concert 4:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Church 10400 Stoepel/ 48204 (313) 933-6788



Archdiocese of Detroit *Saturday Evangelization Series*

Where the Rubber

Meets the Road

Practical Strategies for Everyday Evangelization

If you have found yourself saying "I already know why we should share our faith, but how do I?", then this is the series for you. These eight sessions will use talks, activities, testimonies and real-life strategies to give you the tools you need to Share Christ in and Through the Church.

Nov. 20 *In the Family:* Sharing Christ with your Kin

Jan. 15 *View from the Pew:* Evangelizing in your Parish

Feb. 19 *Salvation on the Clock:* Being a witness at work

Mar. 19 *Getting Spiritual:* Spiritual Ministry and Evangelization

Apr. 16 *Sweet Music:* The Power of Music and Conversion

May 7 *Speak Their Language:* Reaching Out to Young People

For more information, call 313-237-5832

