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# Word™

A Publication of The Society of the Divine Word, Southern Province

Volume 39 No. 1 January 2020

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY



FEBRUARY 2,  
2020



The National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family was created by Fr. James Goode, OFM in 1989. It is a day set aside to give special thanks to God for our families and place our every care in the arms of Jesus.



# DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES CELEBRATE SAINTS ARNOLD AND JOSEPH



Divine Word Missionaries in Texas celebrated the January 15th feast day of our founder St Arnold Janssen together with the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church in Liberty, Texas. The Mass was celebrated by Father Provincial Paul Kahan, SVD and all the confreres from the district were present, some who came with their parishioner to be part of the celebration. In his homily, Father Provincial expressed his gratitude to all the parishioners and to all confreres to carry on the work St Arnold Janssen started on September 8, 1875. He explained to all present that we are in the last forty years, among the most growing congregation in the world with almost 6,000 members (brothers and Priests) and working in 83 countries worldwide. After the mass many activities and presentation were done by the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church, with dancing and nice food.

-Rev Charles Ndumbi, SVD



## Saint Joseph Freinademetz (1852-1908)

Joseph Freinademetz was born on April 15, 1852, in Oies, a small hamlet of five houses situated in the Dolomite Alps of northern Italy. The region, known as South Tyrol, was then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. He was baptised on the day he was born,

and he inherited from his family a simple but tenacious faith. While Joseph was studying theology in the diocesan seminary of Bressanone (Brixen), he began to think seriously of the foreign missions as a way of life. He was ordained a priest on July 25, 1875, and assigned to the community of Saint Martin very near his own home, where he soon won the hearts of the people. However, the call to missionary service did not go away. Just two years after ordination he contacted Fr. Arnold Janssen, the founder of a mission house which quickly developed into the Society of the Divine Word.

With his bishop's permission, Joseph entered the mission house in Steyl, Netherlands, in August 1878. On March 2, 1879, he received his mission cross and departed for China with Fr. John Baptist Anzer, another Divine Word Missionary. Five weeks later they arrived in Hong Kong, where they remained for two years, preparing themselves for the next step. In 1881 they travelled to their new mission in South Shantung, a province with 12 million inhabitants and only 158 Christians.

Those were hard years, marked by long, arduous journeys, assaults by bandits, and the difficult work of forming the first Christian communities. As soon as a community was just barely developed an instruction from the Bishop would arrive, telling him to leave everything and start anew. Soon Joseph came to appreciate the importance

of a committed laity, especially catechists, for first evangelisation. He dedicated much energy to their formation and prepared a catechetical manual in Chinese. At the same time, together with Anzer (who had become bishop) he put great effort into the preparation, spiritual formation and ongoing education of Chinese priests and other missionaries. **His whole life was marked by an effort to become a Chinese among the Chinese, so much so that he wrote to his family: "I love China and the Chinese. I want to die among them and be laid to rest among them."**

In 1898, Freinademetz was sick with laryngitis and had the beginnings of tuberculosis as a result of his heavy workload and many other hardships. So at the insistence of the bishop and the other priests he was sent for a rest to Japan, with the hope that he could regain his health. He returned to China somewhat recuperated, but not fully cured.

When the bishop had to travel outside of China in 1907, Freinademetz took on the added burden of the administration of the diocese. During this time there was a severe outbreak of typhus. Joseph, like a good shepherd, offered untiring assistance and visited many communities until he himself became infected. He returned to Taikia, the seat of the diocese, where he died on January 28, 1908. He was buried at the twelfth station on the Way of the Cross, and his grave soon became a pilgrimage site for Christians. Freinademetz learned how to discover the greatness and beauty of Chinese culture and to love deeply the people to whom he had been sent. He dedicated his life to proclaiming the gospel message of God's love for all peoples, and to embodying this love in the formation of Chinese Christian communities. He animated these communities to open themselves in solidarity with the surrounding inhabitants. And he encouraged many of the Chinese Christians to be missionaries to their own people as catechists, religious, nuns and priests. **His life was an expression of his motto: "The language that all people understand is that of love."**

***Saint Joseph's Feast Day is celebrated on January 29.***

# Seasoned musician inspires people to sing, raise voices 'in honor of God'

By Gina Christian Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- With the start of the new year, a seasoned Philadelphia musician is taking on a new challenge as director of the Philadelphia Catholic Gospel Mass Choir.



Tonya Taylor-Dorsey

Tonya Taylor-Dorsey was appointed to the post by the Philadelphia Archdiocese's Office for Black Catholics, effective Jan. 1.

Established for the 2014 World Meeting of Families, the ensemble features voices from the archdiocese and neighboring dioceses.

The choir has participated in parish revivals, the U.S. bishops' listening sessions on racism and the annual "Soulful Christmas Concert" at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition, the choir regularly performs at archdiocesan observances such as the St. Martin de Porres Mass and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day prayer service.

For Taylor-Dorsey, who has more than three decades of experience in parish music, the role once seemed unlikely for someone who was raised Presbyterian -- and who "didn't sing in the church choir growing up."

"I wanted to be a concert pianist," she said, citing "Fanfarinette" from Jean-Philippe Rameau's "Suite in A Minor" as her favorite piece to play.

Taylor-Dorsey's musical ambitions led her to study at Michigan State University and the University of Texas at San Antonio. Diploma in hand, she returned to her native Philadelphia, and shortly thereafter landed a job as music director at St. Peter Claver in Center City until the parish was closed.

In 1993, she started a 13-year appointment as choir director at Our Lady of Hope parish in Philadelphia, during which time she staged annual concerts and produced a recording of the Hope Singers.

When she became the choir director at St. Martin de Porres Parish in 2006, Taylor-Dorsey decided to make her lifelong commitment to Catholicism official, joining the church under the guidance of then-pastor Father Edward Hallinan.

"During our first meeting, he asked me, 'Why aren't you Catholic?'" she recalled in an interview with CatholicPhilly.com, the archdiocese's online news outlet. "Actually, I felt like I was Catholic even before I converted."

In college, she had studied the Mass, finding beauty in the order of the liturgy. As her career developed in

Catholic parishes, she realized that she felt increasingly at home.

"I thought to myself, 'I'm playing at this church for two Masses each Sunday, but I wouldn't be buried from here if I died,'" she said.

Father Hallinan also encouraged Taylor-Dorsey to attend the National Black Catholic Congress, which gathers participants from a number of African American Catholic organizations. Participating as a new Catholic in 2007, she was eager to connect with fellow believers, but lamented the lack of musical presentations at the conference. Eventually, she created her own, delivering workshops on sight reading and music ministry.

During the organization's 12th conference in 2017, Taylor-Dorsey was the first woman to direct the congress's liturgical music, conducting a 100-voice choir at its daily Masses while writing musical scores for the accompanying string orchestra.

In the process, she realized that although she enjoyed performing herself, her talents "really were in composition, in writing and arranging," she said.

In fact, Taylor-Dorsey may be best known for her original piece "Everybody Needs Someone," which was presented in concert at the Juilliard School by alumnus and pianist Peter Dugan.

Her composition "God's Angel" was featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper after she dedicated a 2012 performance of the song -- originally written after her mother's death -- to the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. A number of Taylor-Dorsey's vocal works have been sung throughout the United States.

Despite such musical prestige and prowess, though, she said she strives to "refresh and renew" her choirs, giving all participants a chance to grow musically and not simply "letting a few people do solos."

Selections for the Sunday liturgies at St. Martin de Porres are carefully chosen by Taylor-Dorsey in close collaboration with the parish's pastor, Father Stephen Thorne, who also is a consultant for the National Black Catholic Congress.

In addition to her preparations for Sunday Mass, she also is in the process of setting the Book of Psalms to music, while managing the Tonya Dorsey and New Vision foundation, which since 2008 has awarded more than 140 scholarships in the arts to school-age children.

Though practiced and prolific, Taylor-Dorsey remains focused on the true source of her artistic inspiration.

"I give 100% credit to God," she said. "There are songs that I write where I truly could not tell you the process involved."

Taylor-Dorsey's joy in music is central to her ministry, which she says is a simple one: "I want to encourage people to sing and raise their voices in honor of God."

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Gina Christian is senior content producer at CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



# in a word or two



Official logo for the Sunday of the Word of God unveiled at Vatican

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- An icon of the encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus was chosen as the official logo for the worldwide celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God.

The colorful logo is based on an icon written by the late-Benedictine Sister Marie-Paul Farran, a member of the Our Lady of Calvary Congregation, who lived and worked at its monastery on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

The logo was presented to the press at a Vatican news conference Jan. 17, ahead of the newly established Sunday of the Word of God, which is being celebrated Jan. 26 this year.

**Pope Francis has asked that the third Sunday in Ordinary Time each year be observed as a special day devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.**

The logo shows the resurrected Christ holding in his left hand a scroll, which is "the sacred Scripture that found its fulfillment in his person," Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, told reporters.

By his side are two disciples: Clopas and his wife, Mary. They both fix their gaze on Christ while Clopas holds a stick to indicate "a pilgrimage," the archbishop said.

Mary is holding one hand upward and with her other hand seems to be touching the Lord, reaffirming that he has fulfilled the ancient promises and is the living Word that must be proclaimed to the world, he said.

Holding the stick in one hand, Clopas' free hand is pointing the road ahead, which all disciples are called to take in order to bring the Good News to everyone, Archbishop Fisichella said.

There is a star overhead symbolizing evangelization and the "permanent light" that guides their journey and shows them the way, he added.

It is also important, he said, to notice the feet of all three are depicted as being in motion, representing that the

proclamation of the Risen Christ cannot be accomplished by "tired or lazy disciples" but only by those who are "dynamic" and ready to find new ways to speak so that sacred Scripture may become the living guide of the life of the church and its people.

Pope Francis was scheduled to celebrate Mass Jan. 26 in St. Peter's Basilica and to begin the liturgy with a solemn enthronement of the Lectionary used during all the sessions of the Second Vatican Council.

The statue of Our Lady of Knock from the shrine in Ireland will be placed near the altar, Archbishop Fisichella said, and there will be a large group of Irish pilgrims led by Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam.



"History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Divine Word Missionaries is an international missionary community of over 7,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Arkansas.

IN A WORD is a publication of The Society of the Divine Word's Media Production Center. Rev. James Pawlicki, S.V.D., Director and Editor; Cathy Green-Miner, office manager; consultant.

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Electronic messages to our [inawordsvd@gmail.com](mailto:inawordsvd@gmail.com). IN A WORD is not published during July and August.

Web page can be found at <http://www.inaword.com>