

in a

WordTM

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

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African American History is not
somehow separate from our larger
American story...
it is central to the American story.”
President Barack Obama



The National Black Catholic Congress CONGRESS XII

JULY 6-9, 2017 IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Retreats:

Men of Prayer and Mercy

PRIESTS' RETREAT

The Genius of Men

MEN'S RETREAT

The Genius of Women

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Proposed Speakers and Topics:

The Challenges Facing the Black Family

by Dr. Trish Bent-Goodley

The Eucharistic Lamb of God is True 'Soul Food' Indeed

by Fr. Giles Conwill

The Angelic Warfare Confraternity

by Dominicans of the Eastern Province

Be Fruitful and Multiply: Increasing the Music Ministry

And Read On for King Jesus - The Basics of Sight-Singing

by Tonya Dorsey

Leadership

And The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me

by Fr. Maurice Emelu

Praying with the Church

by Franciscan Friars of Renewal

Personal Testimony of Healing from Addiction

by Dr. Bernard Franklin

The Biblical Basis for Social Justice

by Friar Douglas McMillan

We Have Been Called: Wisdom from Black Catholic History

by Paula Manchester

Shout for Justice, Shout for Joy

And The Family Fully Alive

by Damon Owens

Vocations to the Priesthood

by Bishop Joseph Perry

Race and Violence

by Fr. Donald Sterling

Mental Health Concerns in the African American Community

by Dr. Crystal Taylor-Dietz

Spiritual Needs of Youth

by Deacon Curtis Turner

Remembering and Truth-Telling as Resistance

by Shannen Dee Williams

Events:

Health Fair • Hope for Haiti Project

• Exhibits/Vendors

Proposed Youth Track Speakers and Topics:

Clarity and Charity

by Michael Horne

Beauty

by Fr. Sean Kilcawley

Joy

by Damon Owens

Let Africa Be African

by Obianuju Ekeocha

And many more!



Keynote & Workshops from these presenters:

Peter Kodwo Cardinal Turkson

President, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Bishop Joseph N. Perry

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago



Dr. Tricia Bent-Goodley

Professor at Howard University School of Social Work.



Fr. Maurice Emelu

Catholic Priest, Author, Speaker, TV Producer



Bryan Stevenson

President of Equal Justice Initiative, Inc.



Shannen Dee Williams

Historian of The Black Catholic Diaspora



Walking the Walk

It was 50 years ago that the high school seminary at Saint Augustine's joined forces with the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to integrate Saint Stanislaus College. On January 7, 2017 the Brothers of the Sacred Heart at St. Stanislaus College in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi gathered in the St. Augustine chapel to commemorate the historic 50th anniversary of SSC's integration. Brother Bernie Couvillion, SC spoke to the Divine Word Missionaries in June of 2016. The following are parts of the talk he delivered.

I speak not only for myself but for all the Brothers of the Sacred Heart at St. Stanislaus. We've considered it a real grace to have been beneficiaries of your attention and ministry for decades. We are richer for your charism of speaking the Divine Word to us and to this community of Bay Saint Louis.

You've touched us by your way of presenting God's Word. You are a delightful contrast to today's clericalism which gives an image of God shouting marching orders for Rules and Rituals. Your word has consistently fed us with the honey of God's good news of forgiveness, close presence, and hope.

Spreading the GOOD part of the good news is intuitive in you. Your word is divine poetry to us. The poetry has to do with who you are: an International, multiracial community. Available. Present. Supportive. Open, hospitable, accepting. You've made yourselves brothers to us. In you your priesthood the Divine Word comes across as flesh and blood.

As Society of the Divine Word, you are so much more than a Society of Divine Talk! At a critical time in our history and the history of the Church – the decade of the 1960s – you walked the Walk. You were for us the “Society of the Divine Walk” during a time we could not have walked alone. It was time to end the racial segregation of our Province schools. Specifically 1966. This year – 2016 – is the 50th anniversary of the integration of St. Stanislaus. We would not have been able to do it without you.

Our story of segregation is a shameful one in the story of the Church and of our province. Other schools in the province had serious issues and bad blood. Two school principals would not desegregate. The province had to replace them. It was hard to go against our segregationist clientele, a long history of institutional racism in education, fears of a white backlash, deeply ingrained family prejudice.

Because of you and who you are, everything was different here. You had long ago walked the walk of racial equality

and integration. You showed us how Saint Augustine minor seminary and St. Stanislaus could merge seamlessly into one school in August of 1966.

I don't know exactly how it happened. In those days I wasn't part of this parish. Brother Lee Barker was here. What an amazing grace it was for him and the school to have you walking by his side. I went back to the yearbooks of those years. I saw the pictures of you walking the walk with St. Augustine seminarians, who became class officers, honor society members and star athletes.

By walking the walk side by side with us, your community transformed our school and our hearts. During the same period you transformed St. Rose Parish into a sanctuary of African American spirituality and an enduring welcome center of Gospel communion between races.

On this feast of Mary, I celebrate Saint Augustine Seminary's long-standing *Fiat* to your vocation to be an attractive and contagious Society of Divine Talk and Walk. There is nothing like it in the world.

I admire you. I am deeply grateful for you. I am proud of you. I love you. I never walk away from here without carrying in my heart a strengthened attachment to you. Furthermore I believe that the affection for you that abides in me comes from God.

I bless you with the words of the Prophet Micah:
*May you stand firm and shepherd the flock by the strength of the Lord,
In the majestic name of the Lord your God.
And may you remain, for through you
His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.”*

Brother Bernard Couvillion, SC
September 8, 2016
bgcouvillion@ststan.com



Curtis St. Mary (above left) and Elroy Victorian (above right) spoke to the students of Saint Stanislaus at the January 7, 2017 Mass at Saint Augustine's. They were part of the group of Divine Word students that integrated the school in 1966

in a word or two



The annual Diocese of Beaumont, Texas commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was Jan. 7, the Feast of the Epiphany, at St. Pius X Church, Beaumont.

The liturgy was hosted by the faith community of St. Pius X Church and sponsored by the Diocese of Beaumont, the African American Commission and the Office of African American Ministry. Bishop Curtis Guillory, S.V.D., was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass. The reception featured foods of various cultures, served by members of the African American Commission of the Diocese of Beaumont. The reception also featured Dragon Dances performed by the youth from Queen of Vietnam Church, Port Arthur. Thanks to Father Gus Wall, Pastor, for sending us photos from this truly diverse and lively church.



Saturday, March 4, 2017

Xavier University Center Ballroom
1 Drexel Drive New Orleans, LA 70125

9am-3pm

Join with Black Catholics to reflect on the upcoming National Black Catholic Congress and the Ninth General Archdiocesan Synod.

Facilitator:
Sr. Addie Walker,
SSND, PhD
(Oblate School of Theology)



*With Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond and
Bishop Fernand J. Cheri, OFM*

Cost is \$20 per person. Registration and fee due to the Office of Black Catholic Ministries by February 10th.

**For more information please contact the
Office of Black Catholic Ministries**
Phone: 504-861-6207
Email: bcatholics@archdiocese-no.org
Address: 7887 Walmsley Ave. New Orleans, LA 70125

*This event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans
Office of Black Catholic Ministries and the Institute for Black Catholic
Studies of Xavier University of Louisiana*



SANKOFA NBCC/Synod Day of Reflection - March 4, 2017
COMPLETE INFO AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY FEBRUARY 10, 2017 TO THE OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
H-W Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Email Address: _____ Home Church Parish: _____



Photo by Michael DeMocker
- NOLA.com

The good people of New Orleans East suffered greatly from the tornadoes that struck that part of the city on February 7, 2017.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans was on the scene immediately. If you wish to help those affected by the tornadoes in New Orleans go to their website at:

<http://www.ccano.org/uncategorized/tornado-recovery-efforts/>

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 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; Father Brendan Murphy, SVD consultant.

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