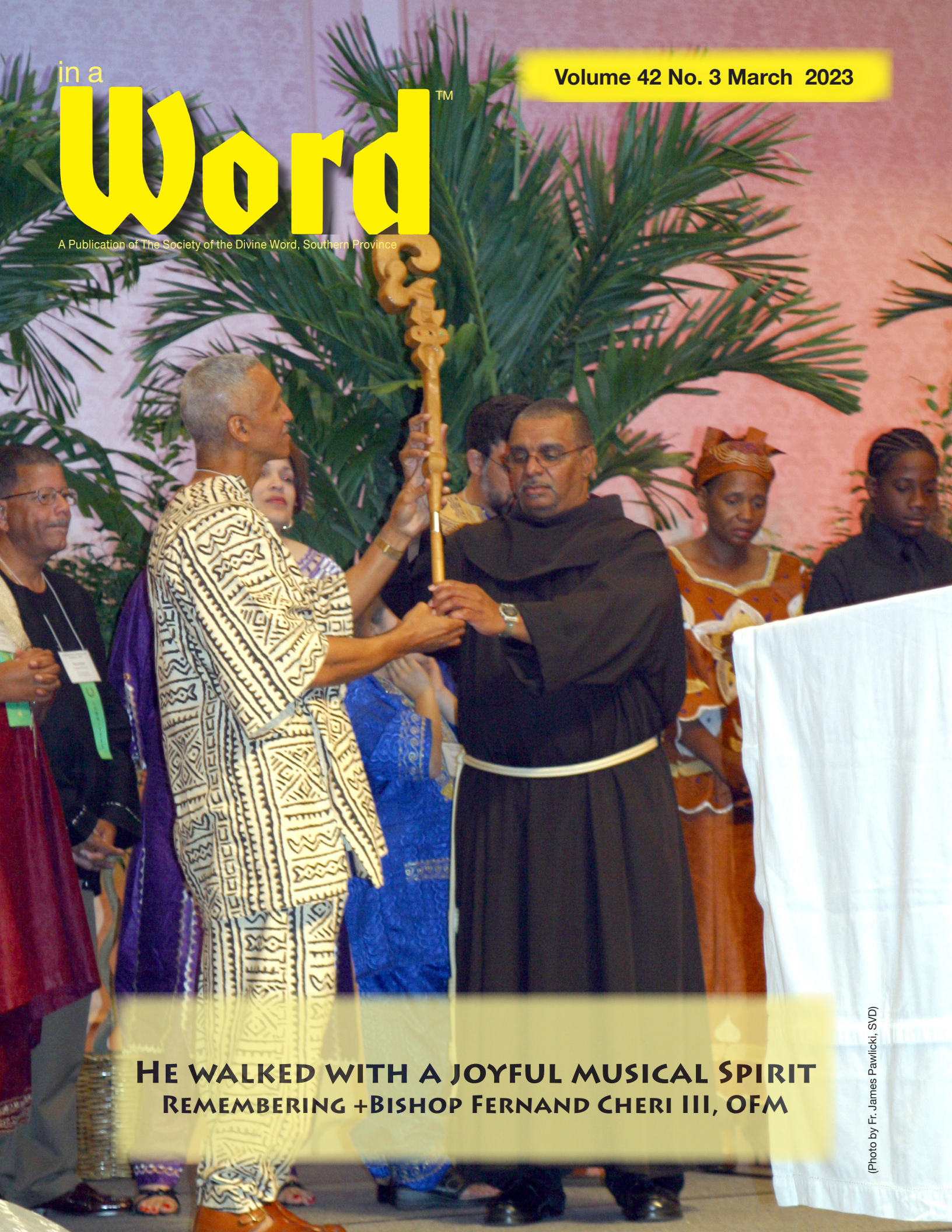


in a

Word™

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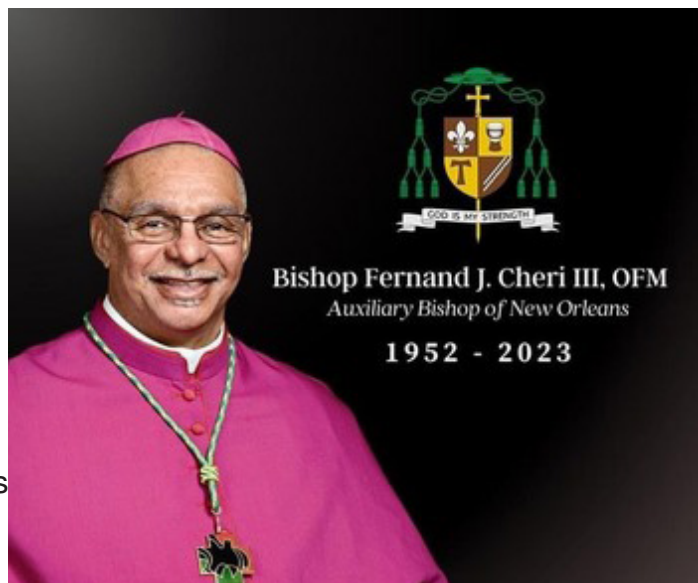


**HE WALKED WITH A JOYFUL MUSICAL SPIRIT
REMEMBERING +BISHOP FERNAND CHERI III, OFM**

(Photo by Fr. James Pawlicki, SVD)

Most Reverend Fernand Joseph Cheri, III, OFM, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, died on March 21, 2023. He was 71 years of age.

Bishop Fernand Cheri was born in New Orleans, LA on January 28, 1952. He attended Epiphany Elementary School, New Orleans, St. John Prep, New Orleans, and St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict. He received a Masters of Divinity at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and a Masters of Theology from the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, New Orleans.



He was ordained to the priesthood on May 20, 1978 at St. Louis Cathedral.

After his ordination, Bishop Cheri served as Associate Pastor of several parishes around the archdiocese as well as pastor at St. Francis de Sales, New Orleans.

In 1996, he made his solemn profession in the Order of Friars Minor in the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and became a Franciscan. Bishop Cheri spent several years dedicated to campus ministry at Quincy University in Quincy, IL.

He returned to the Archdiocese of New Orleans, when his Episcopal Ordination as Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, and Titular Bishop of Membressa took place on March 23, 2015. He served as Auxiliary Bishop since his ordination and recently served the people of St. Peter Claver Parish as Administrator.

Bishop Cheri was also a popular guest speaker and revivalist. He traveled within the Archdiocese of New Orleans and nationally preaching and sharing his love of music.

In addition to his pastoral assignments, Bishop Cheri served as a member of the College of Consultors, was a teacher at St. Augustine High School, New Orleans, and campus minister at Xavier University, New Orleans. He served as the Vocation Minister for the OFM St. Louis Province, served on the Archbishop James P. Lyke Foundation, Catholic Campus Ministry Association, Episcopal Liaison to the African Congress Board of Trustees, and convener of the U.S. African American Bishops. Bishop Cheri was also very influential and active with the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver and the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier.

Bishop Cheri was a resident at Chateau de Notre Dame in New Orleans at the time of his death. Well done, good and faithful servant!

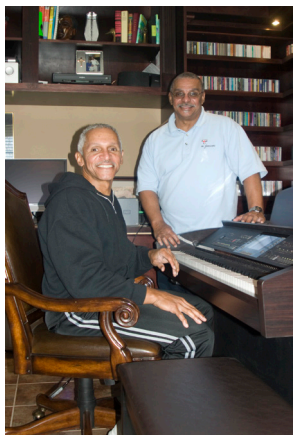
Peter Finney, Jr. wrote an indepth story of the life of Bishop Cheri. Click below to read this story.

<https://clarionherald.org/news/auxiliary-bishop-cheri-dies-at-71-after-lengthy-illness>

BISHOP FERNAND J. CHERI, III OFM

1952-2023

HE OF JOYFUL SPIRIT
PASSIONATE FOR JUSTICE
A DOER OF THE WORD



in a word or two

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR
MOST REVEREND FERNAND J. CHERI III, OFM**

Friday, March 31, 2023

SOLEMN VESPERS

5:00pm

Notre Dame Seminary

2901 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA

VISITATION

5:30pm – 8:30pm

Notre Dame Seminary

Saturday, April 1, 2023

VISITATION

9:00am – 11:00am

Saint Louis Cathedral

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

11:00am

Saint Louis Cathedral



Front cover photo is of then Father Cheri and his brother Richard at the first Archbishop Lyke Conference in 2004.

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.

Correspondence to Media Production Center, 199 Seminary Drive, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520, Phone: 228-344-3166..

Electronic messages to our inawordsvd@gmail.com. IN A WORD is not published during July and August.

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