



The Archdiocese of Denver
Black Catholics in the Rockies
Joyful Word

Volume 5 Issue2

January 2006

**DENVER COUNCIL FOR
BLACK CATHOLICS CELEBRATE
FAITH AND UNITY WEEKEND**

Our Faith and Unity Weekend this year will be held at Bonfils Hall at the Archdiocese of Denver, 1300 South Steele Street, March 10 and 11, 2006. The featured speaker will be the well-known Ms. Therese Wilson-Favors.

Ms. Favors is currently the Director of the Office of African American Ministries in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She served as a planner for the 1987 National Black Catholic Congress. From 1987 to 1989 she was the Executive Director of the National Black Catholic Congress. She has extensive experience as an educator in both Catholic schools and parish religious programs. She served on the Advisory Board of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops from 1973-76, as adjunct professor for the DeSales School of Theology and as a teacher in the Leadership Program at the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans.

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FAITH & UNITY WEEKEND—CONTINUED

Ms. Favors is the author of *Rise Up and Re-build*, an educational resource commissioned by the National Black Catholic Congress as a follow-up from Congress VII to assist African American families combating racism as well as to encourage spiritual and cultural development. She is the co-author of two filmstrips, *Unraveling the Evangelical Cord and Black Catholic Identity—If the Rivers Could Speak*. Her articles have been published in “*Today’s Catholic Teacher*” and “*Paulist Press*” and she is the author of over 100 bible study booklets for African American youth. She is the editor of *God Bless Them Who Have Their Own: African American Catechetical Camp Meetin’ Proceedings and Keep On Teaching: An Afrocentric Religious Education Resource*.

She conducts workshops for schools and parishes on the topic of religious education and evangelization from an African American perspective.

The Faith and Unity weekend will begin with an opening presentation and a reception at 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. on Friday evening. Saturday sessions will be from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. with two keynote presentations. Lunch will be provided.

Ms. Favors has a broad experience which will interest everyone from young adults to adults of all ages. Tell your family and friends to attend.

Additional information will be forthcoming. You may contact Mrs. Mary L. Leisring, Director, Office of Black Catholic Ministry at 303-715-3165 or e-mail Mary.Leisring@archden.org for information regarding registration.

DEACON FAUSTINUS ANYAMELE

We congratulate Deacon Faustinus Anyamele who was ordained to the Diaconate at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on December 3, 2005. Deacon Faustinus is assigned residence at the Cathedral and to pastoral ministry at Cure d' Ars Parish.

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, the new deacon received his Bachelor's in philosophy in Rome before coming to the United States to pursue further studies for priesthood. The next step for Deacon Faustinus will be to the ordination to the priesthood which will take place May 13, 2006.

After the ordination in December, Deacon Faustinus said, "I just feel grateful to God for granting me, His unworthy servant, a privilege to serve the Church of God here in Denver and the universal Church at large. I would like to ask for continued prayers from the holy people of God."

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY
2006**

**Gather and pray with us on the NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRI-
CAN AMERICAN FAMILY 2006.**

Encourage your parish and networks to be united with Black Catholics from across the country on Sunday, February 5, 2006, in prayer for the African American Family. During these days of increased unemployment, terrorism, war, domestic violence, inadequate health care, HIV/AIDS, our families need the reassuring grace of prayer.

The National Day of Prayer is a fitting opening to Black History Month Activities. Coming together in prayer on that Sunday will be a sign to our families that we are on one accord with them during these troubling times. The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family was created by Fr. James Goode, OFM in 1989 “as a day set aside for us to give special thanks to God for our families and place our every care in the arms of Jesus. Even though this is the beginning of a new year, for many it will be a time of fear, fear of losing electricity, fear of losing housing, fear of losing Medicare benefits, fear of losing your job. As a sign of support and solidarity, we ask each parish, family, convent, religious house, etc. stand and pray for the Black family.

Our theme for the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family 2006 is:

“God’s ever present help keeps us keeping on”

This year during the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family 2006, we will also remember our families from the Gulf States who lost loved ones, property and pets, experienced the painful separation from each other, endured disappointment, pain and sickness, and now must plow new courses in their lives due to the natural disaster of Katrina and Rita. Our prayers go out to them with the assurance that God is faithful, and as our ancestors passed on to us, “God’s ever present help keeps us keeping on.”

The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family Resource Aid is available on CD-ROM (for windows only). The CD contains a catechetical reflection, and a prayer that we can say together. Printed copies will also be available.

We need everyone’s support. Please order copies of the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family Resource Aid 2006 by Friday, January 27, 2006.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY
2006—Continued**

The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family Supporters,

**BLESSED SACRAMENT SISTERS
FRANCISCAN HANDMAIDS OF MARY
HOLY FAMILY SISTERS
KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY
NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY
NETWORK
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CATHOLIC ADMINISTRATORS
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CLERGY CAUCUS
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS
NATIONAL BLACK SISTERS' CONFERENCE
OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE
ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR
PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
SOCIETY OF DIVINE WORD
THE JOSEPHITES
USCCB SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLICS**

**Solid Ground Ministry
440 West 36th Street New York, NY 10018 (212) 868-1947**

**(Permission granted to reprint article from)
Secretariat for African American Catholics
3211 4th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194
(202) 541-3177
FAX (202) 541-3477**

*Living the Catholic Faith Conference—Friday & Saturday, March 17th & 18th, 2006
Adam's Mark Hotel, Downtown Denver*

The Living the Catholic Faith Conference is sponsored annually by the Archdiocese of Denver. Its purpose is to apply Catholic scriptural studies, catechetical, and liturgical to the challenges Catholic face as Christian witnesses.

The conference features several dynamic workshops as a means to guide participants in their faith. The sessions are specifically created to allow for diversity in topic and variety in message. You will find that there is something for every Catholic.

Subjects include teaching, parenting, evangelizing, challenges faced in today's world and much more. The conference is an excellent opportunity to renew and invigorate your Catholic Faith. For more details and registration, check the Archdiocesan web site at www.archden.org, or contact Colleen Conlin at (303) 715-3260, or at colleen.conlin@archden.org.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

EDWARD K. BRAXTON

Bishop Edward K. Braxton was a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago when he was appointed to the Episcopacy by Pope John Paul II on March 28, 1995. He was ordained a Bishop on May 17, 1995. Braxton was installed as Bishop of Lake Charles, LA February 21, 2001 and installed as Bishop of Belleville on June 22, 2005 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

He is Chairman of the NCCB Committee for the American College of the University of Louvain. He is a member of NCCB's Committees on Education, Science and Human Values, and Scripture Translation. He serves as the Convener of the African American Catholic Bishops.

He is a pastoral theologian, who earned his MA and S. T. L. from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois and whose Ph.D. in Religious Studies and S.T.D. in systematic theology are from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.

The Bishop, a native of Chicago, has long been involved in interracial and intercultural dialogue. He has lectured in major cities and townships of South Africa during their annual "winter school." His participation in Jewish-Christian dialogue has taken him to Israel several times. Bishop Braxton's personal interest in the impact of the arts

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH—CONTINUED

(especially film, television, music, architecture, sculpture, and painting) on religion in contemporary culture is a key factor in his current research.

In August 1997, the Bishop addressed the Bishops of the United States who attended the National Black Catholic Congress on the topic “Take Into Account Various Situations and Cultures:Evangelization and African Americans.”

The Bishop’s writings have appeared in the Harvard Theological Review, Theological Studies, Louvain Studies, Irish Theological Quarterly, The New Catholic Encyclopedia, Origins, Commonwealth, America, The National Catholic Reporter and other Journals.

Books by Edward K. Braxton

The Wisdom Community

The Faith Community: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic

(Permission granted to reprint article from)

Ms. Valerie Washington

National Black Catholic Congress

NBCC Newsletter On-Line

January/February Issue

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2006

JUNE 30 - JULY 22, 2006

Xavier University of Louisiana's Institute for Black Catholic Studies Summer 2006 Session will convene at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana from June 30 - July 22.

STUDENT SESSIONS

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM;

June 30* - July 22, 2006

***Final registration and residence check in.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Catechist, Youth Ministry, Leadership

June 30-July 7, 2006

Modules I

July 8-July 14

**** Module II (**Module I & II arrive on Saturday for residence check in)**

July 15-July 22, 2006

Module III

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT:

July 8-14, 2006

Eldership Program

July 15-July 22, 2006

Taste of the Institute

IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2006—CONTINUED

MAILING ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER

Normally you may contact Sr./Dr. Jamie T. Phelps, O.P., Director during regular business hours at the University of Notre Dame Monday thru Friday 9-4:30 Eastern Time.

The temporary IBCS mailing address from December 2005 to August 2006 is:

**Sr./Dr. Jamie T. Phelps, O.P. Director
Xavier's Institute for Black Catholic Studies
University of Notre Dame
Department of Theology
130 Malloy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-4619**

Phone: 574-631-5366 (office)

E-mail: IBCS@xula.edu Website: www.xula.edu/IBCS; Institute Business—jphelps@nd.edu

2006 application materials for the Degree and Certificate and Enrichment programs are on the Web page: www.xula.edu/IBCS.

Two workshops are still in the planning stage, one for indigenous and cross-cultural priests serving in the black community and a second for musicians and liturgists.

**THE 2006 SUMMER ACADEMY
JUNE 24-JULY 22
EMORY UNIVERSITY
ATLANTA, GA**

The Youth Theological Initiative, hosted by Candler School of Theology at Emory University, will be holding its 14th Summer Academy. The YTI Summer Academy is an ecumenical youth program that gathers 54 rising high school seniors from across the country for a four-week experience in Christian education.

YTI's overall goal is fostering theological reflection among adolescents for the benefit of church and society. Our hope is to empower young people to grow into the critical thinkers that our society needs. Through the Summer Academy, we hope to encourage youth to become "public theologians" bringing theology to the table and faith to action in the tradition of Dorothy Day, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Father Roy Bourgeois. Summer Academy participants engage in intellectually challenging explorations of Christian theological traditions and serve the city of Atlanta through collaborations with local service agencies all within a diverse mentoring community of youth and adults.

The focus is intentionally and ecumenically Christian; they invite students from all Christian faiths as well as those who do not identify with a particular Christian tradition to participate in the Summer Academy. All accepted participants receive full scholarships covering the cost of tuition, books, room and board.

Over the past thirteen years, the program has benefited from the participation of Catholic students. They also have members of the teaching staff who bring their Catholic background into the classroom.

In years past, the most notable Catholics on the teaching staff are Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson who is the author of many scholarly works including *Brother of Jesus: Friend of God* (2004), *Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel* (1999) and *Scripture and Discernment: Decision Making in the Church* (1996).

SUMMER ACADEMY—CONTINUED

Additionally, they have Dr. Brian Mahan, Christian Educator at Candler School of Theology, who recently published *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition* (2002). They are expecting both professors to return this year.

Applications for the Summer Academy are available on-line at YTI website. The link can be found at <http://candler.emory.edu/yti>. An application will be sent to you upon request by calling the YTI Office at (404) 712-9160 or e-mail yti@emory.edu.

Completed applications are due March 15, 2006.

BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS HONORS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Denver Council for Black Catholics will sponsor their annual “Blood of the Martyrs” blood drive, on Monday, January 16, 2006. This blood drive is in honor of Christian martyrs and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is an opportunity to honor their memory by giving the “gift of life.” The Council wants the drive to be a living memorial to the slain civil rights leader and other Christian martyrs whose blood was shed for justice and equality throughout the nation. The Bonfils Center mobile unit will be at St. Ignatius Loyola Church located at 23rd Avenue and York Street from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Contact Margaret at 303-639-1240 to schedule an appointment. DCBC invites the whole community to participate in this special event.

PENTECOSTAL PASTOR BECOMES A CATHOLIC

In the past five years, Alex Jones, 63 has told his story at dozens of conferences in forty states. He estimates he has spoken to about 100,000 people on such topics as “A More Perfect Way,” “Coming to Know God,” “Treasures of the Church” and his personal story, “No Price Too High.”

Jones was raised in the Church of God in Christ, the largest African-American Pentecostal Church in the world, with as many as two million members. He was baptized at the age of nine. His mother was an avid churchgoer, though his father never set foot inside a church. When he was sixteen years of age he was at a revival when he met the Lord. “I’m talking about an inward awareness of the proximity of God” he says.

“God put a divine purpose into my soul, literally burned it into my psyche, to the point that, forty years later, “I’m still holding on. I still love God passionately” says Jones as he recalls that day. He finished high school and graduated from Wayne State University with a BA in art education. For the next twenty-seven years, he taught in the Detroit public schools.

In 1975, he was asked to become part-time pastor of the church he grew up in-Zion Congregational Church-which is the second oldest Pentecostal church in Michigan. He accepted the position with his trademark enthusiasm. Over time, however, he began to feel constrained by the ‘narrowness’ of Pentecostal beliefs.

In 1982, Jones founded Maranatha Christian Church in Detroit, which would grow into a congregation of some two hundred souls. “Now I could be evangelical, now I could be ecumenical, now I could reach out,” he says, “because I was no longer confined to this small Pentecostal belief.”

As time went on, he wanted to develop an authentic apostolic worship service. He wanted to experience the type of worship that earliest Christians practiced. He immersed himself in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and what he found turned his world upside down.

PENTECOSTAL PASTOR BECOMES CATHOLIC— CONTINUED

Studying the Church Fathers, Jones uncovered a “liturgical and hierarchical Church where the center of worship was not great preaching or even the movement of the Spirit, but the Eucharist.” He continued his study and found that, “Things began to leap out of the writings: the Church has always been charismatic, liturgical, sacramental, Eucharist-centered and hierarchical.”

At first, Jones thought he could make his own Maranatha community more “apostolic.” He began to introduce more and more practices which were part of the early Catholic heritage. One Sunday, he asked Auxiliary Bishop Moses Anderson to observe his service. When it was over, the bishop stood locked eyes with him across the church and said: “The Mass is ended. Go in peace.” The bishop could see that Alex Jones had truly become a Catholic.

When Jones encountered the concept of apostolic succession he was finally forced to make a choice. “Here I am, I’ve got a good church, good people, but I’m in a land by myself. I knew I was not where I should be. I began to understand that the Church was far bigger and far greater than I had ever conceived.”

When Jones finally joined the Catholic Church on Easter Sunday, 2001, his wife Donna, their adult sons, his sister, a niece and about sixty members of the Maranatha congregation entered with him. “I had to decide whether to hold onto the life I had, which was really good to me, or embrace truth and lose everything. When I converted, the hardest thing was not being pastor anymore. But compared to what Jesus gave up, what I sacrificed to become Catholic was nothing.”

PENTECOSTAL PASTOR BECOMES CATHOLIC— CONTINUED

Jones went to work for the Archdiocese of Detroit in 2002. He became the Associate Director of the “*Sign Me Up*” evangelization program. He and his wife, Donna belong to St. Suzanne Parish in Detroit. He is in his final year of studies at Sacred Heart Seminary, where he will receive a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Studies in April 2006. Simultaneously, he is in the final year of a four-year program to become a permanent deacon in the Church and will be ordained this year.

Alex Jones is the subject of two videos, Communications (www.saintjoe.com). ***NO PRICE TOO HIGH; THE ALEX JONES STORY AND DINNER WITH ALEX JONES***, from St. Joseph.

Information from ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER, September 2005, pp.38-43.



**SANKOFA FAMILY SUMMIT IX
RENAISSANCE HOTEL
3801 QUEBEC
DENVER, CO**

**THERE'S NO STOPPING GOD...
COL. 1:19-20**

**WE'RE ON THE MOVE!!!
COL. 2:6-7**

APRIL 28 - 30, 2006

(“SANKOFA” from the West African proverb, “Sewo were fi na wo sankofa a yenki” (Translation: it is not forbidden to go back and claim what you have forgotten.)

Purpose: The conference’s focal-point is to set a standard for our youth and their families to understand they are the key which holds the future for a positive quality of living and to challenge them to strive towards higher learning and leadership. The Summit also strives to respond to the psychological, educational, and spiritual needs of African American youth and their families.

CONFERENCE DEADLINES

**MARCH 1, 2006
Registration & Fees**

**MARCH 2, 2006
Late Registration**

**APRIL 28, 2006
All Final Payments**

SANKOFA FAMILY SUMMIT IX—CONTINUED

MAIN EVENTS

**SANKOFA GOSPEL FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, April 27, 2006**

**SANKOFA FAMILY FEST
FRIDAY, April 28, 2006**

**SANKOFA NIGHT OF HEALING
SATURDAY, April 29, 2006**

**AMBASSADORS GOSPEL MASS
SUNDAY, April 30, 2006**

WORKSHOP THEMES

Critical Thinking Skills
Community Action
Education
Health & Wealth
Money Management
Rites of Passage
Social Justice
Spirituality
Careers & Vocations

For more information contact:

**Ms. JoAnn Perou, Program Coordinator
Ambassadors of the Word
516-485-0122**

**Mrs. Mary L. Leisring
Office of Black Catholic Ministry
Archdiocese of Denver
303-715-3165**

ANNUAL BLACK CATHOLIC RETREAT

April 21, 22, and April 23, 2006

Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House

4801 North Highway 67, P. O. Box 185, Sedalia, CO 80135

Phone: 303-688-4198 Fax: 303-688-9633

Website: <http://www.sacredheartretreat.org>

Registrations forms available online

SUGGESTED READING LIST

A HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA, From Antiquity to the Present, Elizabeth Isichei, Africa World Press Inc., Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

BLACK AND CATHOLIC, The Challenge and Gift of Black Folk, Contributions of African American Experience and Thought to Catholic Theology, Jamie T. Phelps, O.P., Editor, Marquette University Press.

CANAAN LAND, A Religious History of African Americans, Albert J. Raboteau, Oxford University Press.

LEANING ON THE LORD, A Retreat with Thea Bowman and Bede Abram, Joseph A. Brown, S.J., St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, OH.

THE JOURNEY TO CHATHAM, Why Emmett Till's Murder Changed America, a personal story, Arthur L. Miller, AuthorHouse, Bloomington, Indiana.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 16, 2006

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Blood of the Martyrs Blood Drive
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
Contact Margaret Wright for an appointment
303-639-1240**

JANUARY 22, 2006

**Pro-Life Vigil Mass
The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
400 Michigan Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20017 8:00 P.M.
Visit Our Mother of Africa chapel at the National Shrine
Celebrant & Homilist: Cardinal William Keeler
For more information contact:
Mary Jaminet (202) 541-3070**

FEBRUARY 5, 2006

**National Day of Prayer for the African American Family
Organizations: Supporters—All the major National Black Catholic
Organizations
Theme 2006: God's Ever Present Help Keeps Us Keeping On**

**Contact person:
Beverly Carroll USCCB
SAAC (202) 541-3177**

**Fr. James E. Goode, OFM
(212) 868-1847**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 10-11, 2006

**Annual Faith & Unity Weekend
Ms. Therese Wilson Favors
Bonfils, Archdiocese of Denver**

APRIL 21-23, 2006

**Annual Black Catholic Retreat
Sacred Heart Retreat House
Sedalia, CO
Director - TBA**

APRIL 28-30, 2006

**SANKOFA Family Summit IX
Renaissance Hotel, Denver, CO**

JUNE 30-July 22, 2006

**Xavier University of Louisiana's Institute for Black Catholic Studies
Summer 2006 Session at University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana**

JULY 23-28, 2006

**(Joint Conference)
National Black Sisters' Conference
National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus
National Association of African American Deacons
National Black Catholic Seminarians Association**

Marriott Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky

Archdiocese of Denver

Newsletter of the Black Catholic
Ministry and People of African Heritage
Editor—Mary L. Leisring

Resources & Credits

Barbara Wright-Ingram
Rev. J. Drew Johnson
Charles and Mary Leisring
Sr./Dr. Jamie Phelps, O.P.
National Black Catholic Congress Newsletter
Secretariat for African American Catholics
Margaret Wright

ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER
Catholic Pastoral Center
Office of Black Catholic Ministry
1300 South Steele Street
Denver, CO 80210-2599
Phone-303-715-3165 FAX-303-715-2042
e-mail: black.ministry@archden.org
Website: www.archden.org