



The Archdiocese of Denver
Black Catholics in the Rockies
Joyful Word

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October 2004

**ANNUAL FAITH & UNITY CONFERENCE
TO FEATURE
POPULAR YOUTH MINISTER**

Rev. R. Tony Ricard, M.Th., M.Div.
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Renowned youth minister Father R. Tony Ricard will be the presenter of the upcoming Faith and Unity Conference set January 28-30, organizers said.

The annual conference is sponsored by the Denver Council for Black Catholics in association with the Office of Black Catholic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Father Ricard is pastor of Our Lady Star and St. Philip the Apostle parishes in New Orleans. He teaches at Xavier University and serves as ninth-grade theology teacher and campus minister at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans.

Father Ricard has presented keynote addresses, retreats, revivals and youth talks across the nation, and has visited and preached in 14 different countries. He is a former New Orleans public school teacher who holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Loyola University, a master's degree in theology from Xavier University, and a master of divinity degree from Notre Dame Seminary.

Father Ricard will start the conference on Friday evening at Cure d'Ars Charlie Bright Center with a presentation for parents. On Saturday he will both present and minister to attendees ranging from age 13 to young adult at the Blair Caldwell African American Research Library, 2401 Welton Street. Sunday will feature a closing Mass with youth emphasis at Cure d'Ars Parish at 11 a.m.

For more information, call Deborah Price at 303-322-8981 or Mary Leisring at 303-715-3165. Watch the *Denver Catholic Register* for more information in the coming weeks

**Please mark your calendars and register for the conference
January 28-30, 2005**

Inside this issue:

TEAM AFRICA GOES TO GULU, UGANDA

In June 2004, four lay people and a religious sister from the Archdiocese of Denver made a mission trip to Uganda. The trip aimed to build solidarity with Africa, as called for by the 2002 National Black Catholic Congress IX. Making the trip were Marcelina Otii, Albert Otii, Deborah Price, Margaret Wright and Sister Marion Weinzapfel, C.S.J. Reports by two of the participants follows.

By Margaret Wright

Thanks to the generosity and support of the Archdiocese of Denver, Team Africa, a five-member group with ties to the Office of Black Catholic Ministry, made an awareness trip to Kampala and Gulu, Uganda. The trip south to bridge understanding between the American and African cultures as called for by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, who have exhorted the faithful to build solidarity with the people of Africa through prayer, education, awareness-building and activities promoting partnerships.

Team Africa spent two days in a religious retreat and made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Ugandan Martyrs in Kampala. The team then traveled north to the Archdiocese of Gulu to support the work of the local catechists—the main focus of the trip.

The team held workshop exchanges with the catechists at their Catechist Training Center. These included discussions on the “Catechism of the Catholic Church,” Black spirituality, faith sharing and evangelization.

Because of the small number of priests to minister to approximately 800,000 Catholics there, the demands on the Gulu catechists are great. Team Africa learned how much the catechists do when they spent time with them as they performed their ministry of evangelization and outreach in displacement camps, hospitals, orphanages, schools, libraries and nearby communities. It was inspiring to see how excited the catechists were about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The catechists said that despite the long working hours and little pay, their faith sustains them.

A dinner and peace building activity with young children known as “night commuters” was one of the most memorable events of the trip. Because of the war, these children must seek a safe haven every night for fear of being kidnapped by soldiers. This has been an ongoing crisis for many years. Nearly 600 children received shelter at the church school that night. They showed their appreciation with songs and many smiles. Team Africa felt blessed that they could make the trip. Through their shared faith in Christ, the team discovered a bond of solidarity with their brothers and sisters of Africa.

TEAM AFRICA GOES TO GULU, UGANDA

PART II

By Marcellina Oti

Our shared faith and the desire to stand in solidarity with the global Catholic community moved Team Africa to journey into northern Uganda, a region that some United Nations officials have called the “world’s worst humanitarian crisis.”

There, 90 percent of the total population has been displaced by war and inadequate government protection. The 18—year long “forgotten war” between the Ugandan government and rebel forces called the Lord’s Resistance Army (RA) has displaced 1.6 million Acholi people and killed more than 300,000 innocent civilians. Refugees live in unsanitary camps scattered throughout northern Uganda.

Despite the devastating physical, social, economic and emotional impacts of the long war, some 600 trained catechists from six diocese are courageously bring hope to the people through the Gospel.

During faith-sharing workshops and field experiences, Team Africa marveled at the dedication, strength and steadfastness of those catechists. Many had risked their lives to travel to Gulu’s archdiocesan Catechist Training Center to share their stories. They minister without pay. Exuding the spirit of Jesus Christ, they are peacemakers in a war- ravaged

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration with focus on the traditional values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African American people, their ancestors and culture. Kwanzaa, which means “first fruits of the harvest” in the African language Kiswahili, has gained tremendous acceptance. Since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to be observed by more than 15 million people worldwide, as reported by the New York Times. Celebrated from December 26 to January 1, it is based on Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles), one for each day of the observance.

- I. UMOJA (UNITY) (oo-MOE-JAH)**
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
- II. KUJICHAGULIA—(Self-Determination)
(koo-jee-cha-goo-LEE-ah)**
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create ourselves and speak for ourselves.
- III. UJIMA (COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY)
(oo-JEE-mah)**
To build and maintain our community together to make our brothers’ and sisters’ problems our problems and to solve them together.
- IV. UJAMAA (COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS) (oo-JAH-mah)**
To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit together from them.
- V. NIA (PURPOSE) (nee-AH)**
To make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- VI. KUUMBA (CREATIVITY) (koo-OOM-bah)**
To do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- VII. IMANI (FAITH) (ee-MAH-nee)**
To believe with all our hearts in our parents, our teachers, our leaders, our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

<http://melanet.com/kwanzaa/principles.html>

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS BLACK CATHOLICS WORLDWIDE

Research done by The Catholic African World Network. The sources used were: The World Christian Encyclopedia edited by O. Barrett & The 1990 Catholic Almanac edited by F. Foy, OFM.. Listed below are some of the populations:

Anangoloa	2.4 million
Cameron	4.6 million
Ethiopia	0.5 million
Kenya	9.0 million
Rowanda	5.6 million
Togo	1.9 million
Ghana	5.3 million
Mozambique	7.0 million
Benin	1.4 million
Central Africa Rep.	1.2 million
Gabon	0.6 million
Malawi	2.9 million
Senegal	0.5 million
Uganda	12.8 million
Chad	1.5 million
Sudan	2.1 million
Zaire	24.7 million
Congo	2.0 million
Nigeria	17.0 million
Tanzania	11.6 million
Zimbabwe	2.6 million
South Africa	3.8 million

At the dawn of the 3rd Millennium, the year 2000 A.D. there were 200 million Catholics of African descent throughout the world. The count is based on millions and fractions of a million. Though there are more Catholics of African descent than in the various nations listed above, the number would be under a half million; that is 0.5 million according the sources listed on the National Black Catholic Congress Web page:

<http://www.nbccongress.org>

Black Saints and Feast Days

- October 1** SS. Aizan & Sazan Twin Brothers, Azian the first Christian Emperor of the Kingdom of Axum, Ethiopia.
- October 8** St. Thais, Egyptian penitent.
- October 10** St. Cerbonius, African Missionary, Bishop in Italy.
- October 11** St. Michael Aragave, 4th Century, One of the first Ethiopian Monks.
- October 11** St. Sarmata, a disciple of St. Anthony of Egypt.
- October 12** 5000 African martyrs and confessors of the faith, 483 African martyrs deported and killed for their faith by Vandal King Huneric.
- October 27** Commemoration of the Saints of the Ethiopia, Church: St. Frumentius (Abba Salama) & Aedesius 380 Syriac Monks & Founders of the Church in Ethiopia.
- October 27** St. Elesbaan, an Ethiopian king who died as a monk in Jerusalem.
- October 27** St. Lalibala (Ghebre Mesgel) an Ethiopian Emperor revered for his faith.
- November 3** St. Martin de Porres, OP (1579-1639 A.D.) born in Peru, son of a Spanish father and an African slave mother, who became a pharmacist at an early age and later joined the Dominican Order, where he continued to dispense medicine to the poor.
- November 4** St. Perius 4th Century, Head of the Catechetical School in Alexandria.
- November 7** St. Achilias, Head of religious instruction in Alexandria.
- November 11** St. Nennas, an Egyptian soldier in Phygia.
- November 13** St. Arcadius & Companions, 437 martyrs, victims of the Arian King of the Vandals, Genseric.
- November 17** SS. Valentine and Dubatatus were executed for their faith at Carthage.

BLACK SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS—CONTINUED

November 21 St. Gelasius, Bishop of Rome and third African Pope (492-496), Liturgical Reformer who ordered the reception of Communion under both species.

November 25 St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr who suffered martyrdom in Alexandria. Her relics are said to be kept in the Monastery of St. Catherine of Sinai.

December 1 Blessed Anuarite Nengapeta, Virgin & martyr, a member of the Holy Family Sisters in Congo, Kinshasa, martyred by the Simba rebels.

December 3 St. Cassian of Tangiers, a lawyer who resigned and became Christian and died as a martyr.

December 10 St. Melchiades, Bishop of Rome and Second African Pope (311-314).

We encourage all our community to submit articles of interest and calendar of events as well as suggestions for the newsletters.

Articles can be sent to:

**Mary L. Leisring, Director
The Office of Black Catholic Ministry
1300 S. Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210-2599
Phone—303-715-3165 Fax 303-715-2042
Email—black.ministry@archden.org**

Please note the deadline dates, if your article misses the deadline it will be presented in the next publication.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES—NBCC

Josephite Fathers and Brothers

The Josephites are an interracial community of Priests and Brothers who have served the African American community since 1871. In cooperation with dedicated laity and through parish ministry, Catholic schools and chaplaincies, the Josephites work for the full evangelization of the African American community.

<http://www.josephite.com>

Life Education and Resource Network

L.E.A.R.N. Northeast is part of the Life Education and Resource Network (LEARN), a national Network of Christian pro-life/pro-family advocates who are dedicated to protecting the pre-born and promoting traditional family values.

LEARN was officially established in 1993 at the African American Pro-Life Planning Conference in Houston, Texas. One of the primary goals of LEARN is to facilitate a strong and viable network of African American and minority pro-life/pro-family advocates.

<http://backgenocide.org/>

National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life—An NBCC Partner

The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life was inaugurated in the fall of 1997, with the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the Franciscan Solid Ground Ministry as sponsors with the support of Edward Cardinal Egan of New York and the Archdiocese's Office of Black Ministry.

<http://www.blackcatholicsforlife.org>

National Center for Pastoral Leadership

The National Center for Pastoral Leadership is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the growth and quality of leadership in the Catholic Church.

<http://www.ncpl.com>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Visit on line at **<http://www.usccb.org>**

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2004-2005

October 15-17, 2004

**National Black Clergy Caucus Conference
Bowman Francis Team Ministries
Men's Conference 2004: "Brothers: Redemption from the Streets."**

Downtown Marriott Hotel
250 North Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 527-7300

Guest speakers: Fr. Jim Goode, OFM; Fr. Ken Hamilton, SVD; Fr. Chester Smith, SVD;
Fr. Clarence Williams, CPPS.

For more information contact Fr. Charles Smith, SVD
1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 917-8538
Email: twinvision1999@yahoo.com

August 16-21, 2005

World Youth Day

For more information visit USCCB Department and Associated Offices and click
World Youth Day or contact the Office of Family Laity, Youth and Young Adults in
Washington, DC.

<http://www.usccb.org/depts.htm>

July 12-15, 2007

National Black Catholic Congress: Congress X

Buffalo Convention Center
Buffalo, NY
Hosted by: The Office of Black Ministry, Buffalo, New York

**Institute of Black Catholic Studies—Xavier University
1 Drexel Drive
New Orleans, LA 70125
Phone: 504-483-7691 Fax: 504-485-7921**

PROGRAMS:

Master of Theology (Th,M) Program	Certificate and Enrichment Program
Master Catechist Certification	Youth Ministry Certification
Leadership in the Faith Community	Vocation Enrichment Program

Website: www.xula.edu

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Cologne, Germany

August 11-15, 2005—Days in the Diocese

August 16-21, 2005—World Youth Day

**Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 4th Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20017-1194
(202) 541-3000**

Website: <http://www.usccb.org/laity/youth/wydarchives.htm>

SUGGESTED READING LIST

**Books By
Diana L. Hayes**

**Trouble Don't Last Always: Soul Prayers
(Liturgical Press)**

**Taking Down Our Harps:
Black Catholics In The US,
Co-editor with
Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB
(Orbis Books)**

**Were You There?:
Stations Of The Cross
(Orbis Books)**

GEORGIA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

In 1990, former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, founded Georgia Women of Achievement (GWA) as a way to honor women who have made extraordinary contributions in their fields whose work had an impact on Georgia and its citizens, and whose efforts continue to inspire future generations.

One of the inductees was an African American woman Mathilda Taylor Beasley (1832-1903). She was an educator, philanthropist and informal social worker. Born into slavery in New Orleans, few would believe Mathilda would grow up to defy the very laws that kept her and her mother from freedom. By 1859 she had moved to Savannah and operated a secret school for African American children, facing great personal risks. Mathilda established the first orphanage for African American girls in Georgia, the St. Francis Home, with funding from her deceased husband's estate. In 1880s, Mathilda went to England to train as a nun and returned to Savannah to become the state's first African American nun. Her work continues through the Mother Mathilda Beasley Society which promotes programs and awareness of African American contributions within the Catholic Church.

Archdiocese of Denver

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UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS

**DEADLINE
DATES**

December 4, 2004

March 7, 2005

August 8, 2005

October 3, 2005

**DISTRIBUTION
DATES**

January 10, 2005

April 11, 2005

September 5, 2005

November 14, 2005