



St. Josephine Bakhita
*Patron Saint for the
Office of Black Catholics*

BLACK CATHOLICS IN THE ROCKIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

A CULTURE OF LIFE

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We often hear it said that we are living in a “culture of death.” Whether it be murder, suicide, the death penalty or abortion death is all too common in our society.

Is it possible to start making a change so that we become a “culture of life?” We need to cultivate a profound respect for all life. We see this happening in regard to “animal rights” and the “green” movement to save our planet.

We must advance our appreciation for human life at every level. This would begin with human sexuality that must be treated with reverence and respect. The act by which life is conceived should be seen as a sacred covenant between loving parents –to-be and not a sport to be engaged in for fun and pleasure.

Just as we love and cherish the new-born baby we need a “culture of life” which cherishes the life which is seen in an ultra sound and detected in the heartbeat of the developing child.

“Handle with care” must be the motto for dealing with all phases of human existence.

In such a “culture of life” there would be no desire to terminate life at any level.

**CDC STATISTICS REGARDING AFRICAN AMERICAN
ABORTIONS**

The leading cause of death in the African American Community since 1973 is Abortion. This was the year Roe V. Wade Decision became law. Since then 13 million African American babies have been aborted in the United States. It is reported by CDC that approximately 4,000 abortions are performed daily in the United States out of this number 1,452 are African American women. African Americans represent only 12% of the United States population and yet African American account for 35% of the abortions performed in this country.

In our backyard not far from Cure d' Ars Church at 7155 E 38th Avenue, we have an Administration and Education Facility (as they are listed in the phone directory) performing abortions on a daily basis. It is vital we write our legislators, mayor, governor whoever will listen and inform them that 'enough is enough'. We can also share this information with parishioners, neighbors, and friends that this institution perpetuates a "culture of death" and it must stop here and now. As Catholics we must stand up and be counted for a "culture of life".

*Mary L. Leisring, Director
Office of Black Catholic Ministry*

Director's Note



Mary Leisring

Living the Catholic Faith was filled with great keynote presenters and the workshops offered many opportunities to engage with the speakers. Mrs. Therese Wilson Favors, Director of African American Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland presented a workshop on Friday and Saturday, on "Keep On Teaching: A Perspective On How Culture Impacts Catechesis."

There was Mass on Friday, celebrated by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. On Saturday Auxiliary Bishop James C. Conley was the celebrant. Priests were available for Reconciliation and there was Eucharistic Adoration. If you missed this year I would mark it on your calendar for February 26-27, 2010 and plan on attending. You missed a weekend filled with many blessings during this Lenten Season.

Local News

The Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary

Deacon Charles Bright #261
Annual Fish Fry

Every Friday during Lent
February 27,
March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April
3, 2009

10:30 AM until 6:00 PM
At

**Cure d' Ars Parish Center
4701 Martin Luther King
Blvd @ Dahlia**

\$9.00/ dinner
(Whole Catfish + 2 sides)

Telephone orders taken from
10:00 AM to 5:30 PM
720-998-6358

.....
**Loyola Grade School
Taste of Italy**

Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, April 18, 2009
\$45.00 per person

**Renaissance Denver Hotel
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

For more information call
303-355-9900

National News

The National Black Catholic Congress

Symposium on Development
and Fundraising

**May 28-30, 2009
Indianapolis, Indiana**

University Place
Conference Center & Hotel

IUPUI
850 West Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Registration Fee:
\$195.00

Hotel Reservations:
\$139.00
1-800-627-2700
(select option #1)
Or
Direct Number
317-231-5160

Reservations online:
[www.universityplace.iupui.edu/
redirect/synxix.aspx](http://www.universityplace.iupui.edu/redirect/synxix.aspx)

**Be sure to include group
number
0905 NATION to receive our
group rate**

Deadline:
April 26, 2009, by 5:00 p.m.

INCULTURATION

Mrs. Therese Wilson-Favors who is the Director of African American Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Baltimore spoke at the 'Living the Catholic Faith Conference in Denver. She addressed attendees on Friday, February 27th, and Saturday, February 28th, 2009.

Mrs. Favors spoke of the need for inculturation in the ministry of Catechesis and Evangelization. An evangelist must know the culture of those being evangelized so that the Gospel message becomes grafted onto the gifts which are already present within the culture.

Since this is the Year of St. Paul, Mrs. Favors took St. Paul as a model for spreading the Word and bringing the message of God's love to everyone. In a handout she said: "We are a people with a universal mission, to spread the Good News that Jesus Christ is sovereign."

When evangelizing in the African American Community she said we stress liberation as a means of assisting those who seek freedom from that which shackles and holds them bound in the past. God's Black Creation is affirmed as a gift from God.

Mrs. Favors collaborates with other African American leaders to publish an Afrocentric Catechetical resource entitled "Keep on Teaching." She made copies of this publication available to participants.



Archbishop Chaput and Mrs. Therese Wilson-Favors at the Speakers dinner for Living the Catholic Faith Conference, February 27, 2009.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BLACK SPIRITUALITY

<u>A Listing of the Characteristics</u>	<u>African Roots</u>	<u>Spiritual Roots</u>
<p>From research gleaned by Fr. Cyprian Davis, O.S.B. and Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P., Ph.D.</p>		
<p>Power of the Word: Scripture helps us to “wake up” and see God’s glory. The word of God is the staying, praying, saving power among us. Its story is my story and our story. “The words of the Bible involve us today. Christ is on His cross down the street. The Samaritan woman is at Jacob’s Well on the corner. Moses goes down to Pharaoh at the state capitol. The biblical word is concrete and sensible.” (Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB)</p>	<p>Stories and Storytelling are valued in the African community. Africans were attached to the bible because it provided stories that presented moral lessons and connected them with the Divine. In the Akamba community stories are a reflection of life - a mirror, to reflect what people do, what they think, how they live and have lived, their values and their joys and sorrows. The Bible became a source of liberation and emphasized “kinship bonds.”</p>	<p>God’s word provides clarity for life. It brings hope, comfort, direction and instruction. Jesus becomes real to us through the Bible. “There you will look for the Lord, with all your heart and if you search for God with all your heart you will find God.” (Dt. 4: 29)</p>

By: Vera Boone and Therese Wilson Favors

Reference Book: “Taking Down Our Harps”, edited by Diana L. Hayes and Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB. Article written by Sr. Jamie Phelps, OP

XAVIER FACULTY MEMBER GIVES MISSION IN AURORA

Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R., D.Min., pastor of Holy Names of Jesus & Mary Catholic Church in Memphis, Tenn., and faculty member of the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans, LA, preached a three day mission at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Aurora, CO, March 2-4, 2009.

Father Nutt is a nationally known revivalist, mission and retreat preacher who has just published a book, “Thea Bowman: In My Own Words” (Liguori, Missouri, 2009). He continues the tradition of Sr. Thea Bowman in sharing the traditions of his Black cultural heritage with others.

Father Nutt is proud to say that Sr. Thea was an inspiration and mentor to him in becoming a preaching missionary. His boundless energy and enthusiasm captivated a large audience at St. Michael’s as he made the scriptures come alive for each listener. He involved the attendees in various ways through singing, clapping and anointing.

We hope to have Fr. Maurice back to share more of his spirituality with us in Denver.



Fr. Maurice Nutt, S.S.R., and Mary Leisring, Director for the Office of the Black Catholic Ministry at St. Michael the Archangel on March 3, 2009.

SUGGESTED READINGS



Left To Tell

Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust

Ilibagiza, Immaculee
Hay House, Inc.
ISBN: 13:978-1-4019-0896

Listening 'n': A Multicultural Reading of the Psalms

Reid, Stephen Breck, Abingdon, 1997
ISBN: 0-6870-1194-9

Blackening of the Bible: The Aims of African American Biblical Scholarship

Brown, Michael Joseph
Trinity International Press 2004
ISBN: 1-56338-363-2

From Slave To Priest

A Biography of the Rev. Augustine Tolton (1854-1897)

The First Black Priest of The United States

Hemesath, Caroline Sr.
2006 Ignatius Press, San Francisco
ISBN: 978-1-58617-097-4

Black and Catholic The Challenge and Gift of Black Folk

Phelps, Jamie T., O.P. Editor
Marquette University Press
ISBN: 0-87462-629-5 (pbk)

Listening 'n': A Multicultural Reading of the Psalms

Reid, Stephen Breck, Abingdon, 1997
ISBN: 0-6870-1194-9

African American Biblical Scholarship

Brown, Michael Joseph
Trinity International Press 2004
ISBN: 1-56338-363-2

A World Away

The Quest of Dan Clay: Book One
T. J. Smith
ISBN: 978-1-6024732-5-6

The Harrowing Escape

The Quest of Dan Clay: Book Two
ISBN: 978-1-60696-275-6



Canaan Land

Raboteau, Albert, New York: Oxford Press: 1999, 2000
ISBN: 0-195104585-2

African Proverbs

DeLay, Gerd
Hippocrene Books, December 1998
ISBN: 0-7818-0691-7

Exploring Catholic Theology: God, Jesus, Church and Sacraments

Hill, Brennan R.
Mystic CT: Twenty-Third Publication, 1995
ISBN: 0-89622-66-1

"Plenty Good Room-In Spirit and Truth of African American Catholic Worship"

United States Catholic Conference, Inc.,
Washington, D.C. 2005
Also in Video Part I & II

Thea Bowman In My Own Words

Nutt, Maurice Fr.
Liguori Publications
Liguori, Missouri
ISBN: 978-0-7648-1782-3

Can You Drink The Cup?

Nouwen, Henri J.M.
Ave Maria Press
Notre Dame, Indiana
ISBN: 10-1-59471-099-6

Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls Prayers for Black Catholics

Edited by Cecilia a. Moore, Ph.D., C. Vanessa White, D. Min., & Paul M. Marshall, S.M
St. Anthony Messenger Press
Cincinnati, Ohio
ISBN: 13-978-0-86716-694-1 (pbk: alk. paper)

"Stamped with the Image of God"

African Americans as God's image in Black
Davis, Cyprian, OSB and Phelps, Jamie, OP, Editors
Orbis Books
Marynoll, New York 10545
ISBN: 1-57075-522-1

INTERNET SITES

BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES

This is a direct link to Xavier University
www.xula.edu/IBCS.html

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Reports the news which affects Catholics in their everyday lives.
www.catholicnews.com

IN A WORD

This site is the monthly publication for and about African American Catholics.
www.inaword.com

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE

No Matter What...No Matter When...Black Catholics Respect Life!!!
www.blackcatholicsforlife.org

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

Working in collaboration with national Roman Catholic organizations and is committed to establishing an agenda for the evangelization of African Americans.
www.nbccongress.org

Archdiocese of Denver

Newsletter – Black Catholics
In The Rockies

Editor.....Mary L. Leisring

Resources & Credits

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The Office of Black Catholic Ministry would like to hear from you, please use the space provided.
