



St. Josephine Bakhita
Feast Day February 8
Canonized - October 2000



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

BLACK CATHOLICS IN THE ROCKIES



St. Katharine Drexel
Feast Day March 3
Canonized - October 2000

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Director's Note
Page 2

Local and National News
Page 2

Archbishop Wilton D.
Gregory
page 2

Suggested Readings & Save
the Date
Page 3

Fr. Felicien I. Mbala
Pages 4 & 5

USCCB Priorities—Goals a
and Objectives
Pages 6-9

Father Augustus
Tolton
Page 10

Internet Websites
Pages 11

Office of Black
Catholic Ministry
Contact Info
Page 12

ANNUAL BLACK CATHOLIC RETREAT DIRECTOR

Fr. Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.,D.Min has a Doctor of Ministry degree in Preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology and is a noted revival, mission, and retreat preacher both nationally and internationally.

Father Nutt teaches in the Religious Studies Distance Learning Program at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. He is also a faculty member at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he teaches preaching. He serves as pastor of Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Catholic Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

He has written the forward of *Hallelujah for the Day: An African Prayer Book* and has authored *Thea Bowman: In My Own Words*.

He will direct the Black Catholic Retreat on March 18-20, 2011 at Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House in Sedalia. For registration information please call the office at 303-715-3165 or 303-688-4198. Additional information on the website:

www.sacredheartretreat.org

Mary L. Leisring, Director
Office of Black Catholic Ministry

Director's Note

Mary L. Leisring



The Office is looking forward to our March retreat at Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House.

We are grateful to the staff who always provides us with a very warm welcome and prayerful experience.

Registration Information

Date: March 18-20, 2011

Payment Deadline:

March 11, 2011

Theresa—303-688-4198

www.sacredheartretreat.org

LOCAL NEWS

LIVING THE CATHOLIC FAITH CONFERENCE

Friday & Saturday
March 11-12, 2011

Colorado Convention Center
Wells Fargo Theater
Denver, CO

GO AND BEAR FRUIT

“Go and bear fruit that will remain...By this is my Father glorified”

(John 15:15)

NATIONAL NEWS

XAVIER UNIVETSITY NEW ORLEANS, LA

The newly authorized Katharine Drexel Scholarships at Xavier University of Louisiana, America's only Historically Black and Catholic University will provide full tuition scholarships for all Valedictorians or Salutatorians applicants from Catholic High Schools across the nation.

High School seniors or juniors can learn more at:

www.xula.edu/admissions

ARCHBISHOP WILTON D. GREGORY

Archbishop Gregory Named Bishops' Moderator of Jewish Affairs

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, the Archbishop of Atlanta, GA., was ordained a Bishop in 1983. He served as Bishop of Bellevue, Illinois, (1994—2005) and was President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2001 to 2004. He holds a doctorate in liturgical studies from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute (Sant' Anselmo) in Rome, numerous honorary degrees, and membership in the Dr. Martin Luther King Board at Morehouse College, Atlanta.

In announcing Archbishop Gregory as his successor, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York commended him for his commitment to dialogue with other religious communities in the United States.

SUGGESTED READINGS



Saints of Africa
Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division.
 Vincent J. O'Malley, C.M.
 ISBN: 0-87973-373-X
 LCCCN: 2001-131192

Songs of Our Hearts & Meditations of Our Souls
 Moore, Cecilia, C., White, C. Vanessa and Marshall, Paul
 Cincinnati: Saint Anthony Messenger Press, 2006.

DVD
Maafa 21—Black Genocide in 21st Century America
 2nd Edition
 Life Dynamics Incorporated
 Denton, Texas
 maafa21.com—1800-800-5433



The Journey to Chatham
Why Emmett Till's Murder Changed America, a personal story
 By Arthur L. Miller
 ISBN: 1-420807544-2(sc)
 ISBN: 1-4208-7545-0 (dj)

Be the Leader You Were Meant To Be
 Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 2002

“Telling The Story: Toward an African American Catholic Theology of Preaching.”
 Nutt, Maurice J. (CSsR)
 New Theology Review 21:4, (2008)



In Spirit and In Truth: The Music of African American Worship
 Costen and Melva Wilson

Slave Religion
The “Invisible Institution” in the Antebellum South
 Raboteau, Albert J.
 Oxford University Press
 ISBN:-13 978-0-19-517412

Persons of Color and Religious at the Same Time
The Oblate Sisters of Providence 1828-1860
Diane Batts Morrow
 The University of North Carolina Press
 Chapel Hill and London

SAVE THE DATE

Living the Catholic Faith Conference
March 11-12, 2011
Denver Convention Center

Annual Black Catholic Retreat
March 18-20, 2011
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
March 11, 2011
Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.
Director
Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House
Sedalia, CO

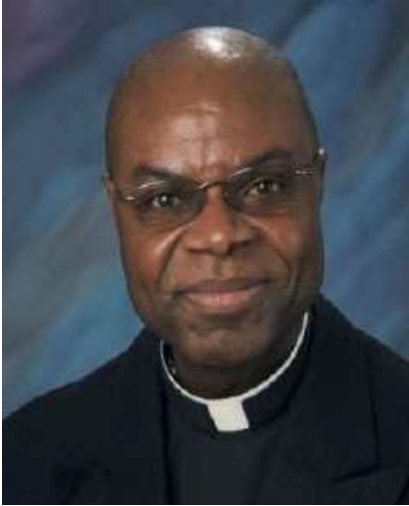
Unity Explosion Music Institute
June 15, 2011
General Conference
June 16—19, 2011
Hilton Americas Houston
1600 Lamar
Houston, Texas

Congress XI
The National Black Catholic Congress
July 19-22, 2012
JW Marriott Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana

Institute for Black Catholic Studies
Xavier University
New Orleans, LA
July 1—July 23, 2011

Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary
National Convention
July 27-August 2, 2011
Los Angeles, CA

Father Felicien Ilunga Mbala



As a result of a partnership between his Diocese of Mbuji-Mayi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Archdiocese of Denver, Fr. Felicien came to the United States. He has been assigned to Our Lady of Loreto as Parochial Vicar. He comes to us most immediately from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Loveland, Colorado. Before that he arrived in the United States by way of Belgium after earning his doctorate in theology at the Catholic University of Louvain in Brussels.

Fr. Felicien was born in 1958 and raised in a small town not far from Mbuji-Mayi, the capital of the province of East-Kasayi (see white dot on second map). He has a large family of four brothers and four sisters. His country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was a former Belgian colony, and consequently the school structure there mirrors the European educational system. Basic schooling consists of six years of primary school and six years of secondary school, which is comparable to the elementary and high school systems in the United States. By necessity Fr. Felicien became fluent in several languages. His local language of Ciluba was used in the primary school system, but French is the formal language of the country and of the secondary school system. English is introduced in secondary school as a foreign language.

After completing primary school and two years of orientation, Fr. Felicien entered St. Thomas Aquinas minor seminary at the age of 14, much to the astonishment of his father. "He thought I was too young," said Fr. Mbala. It was only after he successfully completed minor seminary that his father accepted his vocation and encouraged him to persevere by saying, "Go on and take your studies seriously." Fr. Felicien added that this directive from his father has helped to motivate him throughout his career, especially during times of hardship.

Father Felicien Ilunga Mbala **(Continued)**

Fr. Felicien went on to the major seminary and finished three years of philosophy and three years of theology before being ordained in 1984 at the age of 26. His first assignment was as a teacher at the minor seminary of St. Thomas Aquinas where he taught the subjects of French, aesthetics and geography. In 1986, he was appointed the principal of a large Catholic secondary school with an enrollment of 600 children. In addition to his administrative role at the school, he also chose to teach English for beginners. "I saw this as an opportunity to improve my English language skills," Fr. Felicien explained.

In 1989, he was appointed the assistant, and subsequently became the pastor at St. John Berchmans parish, founded in 1894. St. John Berchmans was the first church established in the Mbu-jimayi Diocese and is a large parish with two schools – one for girls and one for boys. Besides being pastor, he also taught French in the school for girls. Then, in 1991, he was assigned to the village of Mukeba to organize a parish and build a new church. He stayed there five years and then returned to the seminary to teach theology for a year before being sent to Belgium to further his education at the request of his bishop.

Arriving in Belgium in 1997, Fr. Mbala enrolled in the Lumen Vitae Center, an institute devoted to the study and popularization of theology. After earning an M.A. degree there in Catechetical and Pastoral Studies, he entered the Catholic University of Louvain where he earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in theology.

Fr. Felicien relaxes by playing soccer, jogging, and riding his bicycle. Occasionally he visits a friend, Fr. Simon, assigned in Denver whom he has known since minor seminary. Fr. Felicien explained that he is the fourth priest from Mbu-jimayi assigned to the area as part of the Diocesan partnership.

June 30, 2009, marked Fr. Felicien's 25th anniversary as a priest. When asked what he enjoys most about his vocation, Father offers an engaging smile and quickly responds, "Everything!" "The life of a priest is something wonderful," he says.

Slightly adapted from www.mbala.org/who.html maps taken from www.en.wikipedia.org
5/2/2010

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS PRIORITIES—GOALS and OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1—STRENGTHENING MARRIAGE

To inspire, challenge and help Catholics to witness to marriage as a natural institution founded by God and raised to the dignity of a Christian sacrament, and to the value of children and family life.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Increase understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage and the sacredness of sexuality through age-appropriate education and catechesis.**
- 2. Develop and promote initiatives that help couples from various cultures to deal with challenges through the marriage life cycle.**
- 3. Develop and promote resources and training that will motivate priests, deacons, and laity to achieve quality in marriage and family ministry.**

GOAL 2—STRENGTHENING MARRIAGE

To work for laws and public policies that recognize marriage as a union of a man and a woman, strengthen family life, and protect religious liberty.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Develop and publicize positive and inspiring messages about marriage based on key aspects of church teaching.**
- 2. Support and advocate for legislation and public policies that promote and protect marriage and family life.**
- 3. Influence public policy and opinion about marriage and family life in collaboration with other Conference entities, other churches and religious groups, and national organizations.**

GOAL 3—FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTAL PRACTICE

To invite all Catholics to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ in the Church through formation focused on Sacred Scripture and Tradition, and Sacraments, especially the Sunday Eucharist.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. In spirit of the New Evangelization, identify resources for outreach to inactive Catholics, and to all Catholics at strategic moments of sacramental and pastoral ministry, inclusive of the role of cultural identity in passing on the Catholic faith.**

**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
PRIORITIES—GOALS and OBJECTIVES**
(continued)

2. **Develop criteria for the identification of suitable catechists and teachers, develop resources for their formation.**
3. **Identify best practices in catechists for high-school-age youth and for young adults, including those in colleges and universities.**

GOAL 4—FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTAL PRACTICE

To facilitate the prospective introduction, reception, and implementation of the new translation of the Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia, to the Church in the United States.

OBJECTIVE

Develop remote and immediate comprehensive catechetical and formational resources for the facilitation of parish-level reception of the Missale Romanum, editio typica, by clergy and other parish ministers and leaders. Support and encourage the use of materials such as those developed by the Leeds Group and FDLC.

GOAL 5—CULTURAL DIVERSITY

To increase the Catholic community's understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity in the church.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Identify processes and resources for the evangelization of cultures including the prevailing U.S. culture.**
2. **Provide guidance that will help Church organizations to consistently include cultural diversity when developing policies and social and pastoral responses.**

GOAL 6—CULTURAL DIVERSITY

To include diverse cultures in the life and leadership of dioceses, parishes, and other Catholic organizations in the United States.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Invite various cultures in the Catholic community to collaborate in addressing issues and developing initiatives that affect the whole Church, including people with special pastoral needs (e.g. language, migrant workers, military families.)**

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS PRIORITIES—GOALS and OBJECTIVES (Continued)

- 2. Identify best practices and develop models for pastoring multicultural parishes especially those with a growing Hispanic population.**
- 3. Promote formation to gain knowledge, motivation and skills in ministering to a culturally diverse Church.**
- 4. Strengthen the continuing formation of priests, religious, seminarians and lay ecclesial ministers coming from other countries.**

GOAL 7—LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

To affirm the intrinsic value of human life and the dignity of every human being in a way that transforms the culture.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. In order to develop effective communication strategies, to research the assumptions and cultural challenges that work for or against the acceptance of the intrinsic value and dignity of human life.**
- 2. To provide a comprehensive framework for teaching and defending life and dignity of every human being.**
- 3. To use the life and dignity of the human person as the underlying framework for the work for all USCCB committees and task forces, tying together the Conference's ongoing education, policy, and advocacy efforts to mobilize the Catholic community on issues of life, justice, and peace.**
- 4. To mobilize the entire Catholic community to prevent erosion of any existing public policies protecting the unborn and rights of conscience.**

GOAL 8—PROMOTION OF VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD & CONSECRATED LIFE

To help individuals hear and respond to a call by God to the priesthood or consecrated life through prayer and activities.

**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
PRIORITIES—GOALS and OBJECTIVES
(continued)**

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Promote active discipleship of young men and women in parishes and other faith communities so they may more readily hear and respond to the vocation to which the Lord is calling them.**
- 2. Develop opportunities for young people to experience the rich Catholic tradition of prayer, spirituality, and discernment through education**

GOAL 9—PROMOTIONS OF VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD & CONSECRATED LIFE

To educate all of the faithful on the importance of encouraging others to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life through prayer and activities.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Create and foster an atmosphere of communal responsibility in which clergy, those in consecrated life, and laity personally encourage and invite men and women to discern a call to the consecrated life—and men to discern a call to the priesthood.**
- 2. Promote a vocation culture within the home by developing family-based programs and activities.**

[Website: http://www.usccb.org/priorities/goals/shtml](http://www.usccb.org/priorities/goals/shtml)

PRAYER FOR THE CAUSE OF FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in heaven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now ask through his intercession, (mention your request), so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are God, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.

**Bishop Joseph N. Perry
Imprimatur: Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archdiocese of Chicago
2010**

INTERNET WEBSITES

BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES

This is a direct link to Xavier University

www.xula.edu/IBCS.html

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION OFFICE

www.blackandindiandmission.org

ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK

<http://ewtn.com>

FRANCISCAN HANDMAIDS OF MARY

members.aol.com/fhmnyc

IN A WORD

www.inaword.org

KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF PETER CLAVER

<http://www.kofpc.org>

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE

www.blackcatholicsforlife.org

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

www.nbccongress.org

OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE—FOUNDED IN 1829, BALTIMORE, MD

SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT—FOUNDED IN 1891, BENSLEM, PA

[ww.katharinedrexel.org](http://www.katharinedrexel.org)

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY—FOUNDED IN 1842, NEW ORLEANS, LA

<http://members.aol.com/srdechant/hfamily/>

THE JOSEPHITES—FOUNDED IN 1893 IN THE UNITED STATES

www.josephite.com

THE SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD—FOUNDED IN 1875, STEVL, HOLLAND

www.divineword.org

OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Archdiocese of Denver

Newsletter—Black Catholics In The Rockies

Editor.....Mary L. Leisring

Resources and Credits

Mary L. Leisring

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Visit us at <http://www.archden.org/blackcatholicministry>

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