

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON  
OFFICE OF ETHNIC MINISTRIES**



Newsletter

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## November is Black Catholic History Month

*A time to celebrate our diversity, honor our brothers and sister of African descent who were dedicated to the Catholic faith and to enrich the lives of our youth to promote peace, love and a better understanding of Black Catholics.*

*It is also a time to remember the Black Catholics who faced discrimination in the Church and to learn of the 31 African Saints recognized in the Church.*

*A time to acknowledge that there are no African American Saints in the Catholic Church and that today there are 6 African Americans on the road to sainthood.*

*This is a month for all Catholics to acknowledge and grow in love and a deeper understanding of our Black Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*An invitation to Parishes, Schools, Missions and all Catholics to learn and share.*

**ALL ARE INVITED TO OUR DIOCESAN BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION : BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



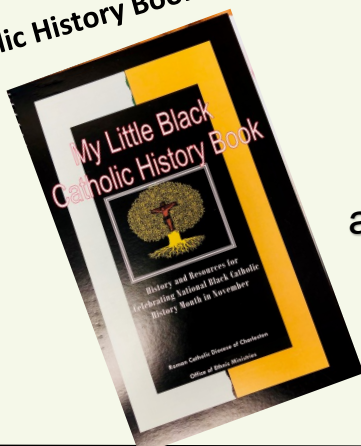
**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2019 9:30 AM-2:00 PM AT THE PASTORAL CENTER ASSEMBLY HALL IN CHARLESTON .**

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION.**

[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/BLACK-CATHOLIC-HISTORY-MONTH-CELEBRATION-TICKETS-75379559291](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-catholic-history-month-celebration-tickets-75379559291)

**MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2.**

Host a book club event and read and discuss this Little Black Catholic History Book.



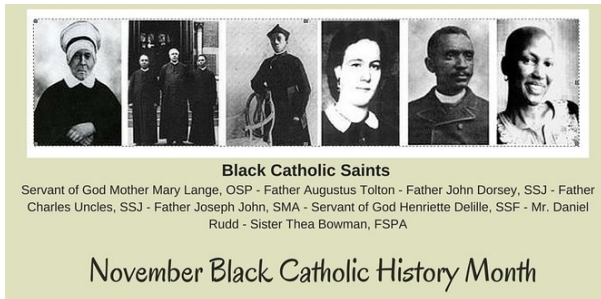
### “My Little Black Catholic History Book”

This history and resource book for celebrating National Black Catholic History Month is available through the Office of Ethnic Ministries. (complimentary) Contact: 864.331.2627 or [rmcnamara@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:rmcnamara@charlestdiocese.org)



## November is Black Catholic History Month

### Ways to Celebrate...



## Diocese of Charleston Black Catholic History Month Celebration's Youth Track

**November 23, 2019 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Center Assembly Hall.**  
The hall is located at 901 Orange Grove Road, Charleston , SC 29407.

**In addition to the Adult track led by Sr. Roberta Fulton, SSMN, a youth track will be offered.**

Youth Track Facilitator Kathleen Merritt, will engage our young people in learning their history, engage in dialogue and envision the future of the Church with them as our leaders. In order to path the future one must look at the past. Facilitator Kathleen Merritt will introduce an innovative approach of fun and technology to engage the youth in this adventure. Pastors, parents, adults, and youth leaders are strongly encouraged to support the presence of our youth at this gathering. Remember they are our future.

Lunch will be served and registration is required. The registration fee is \$10.00 for adults and N/C for the youth. Registration deadline is November 11, 2019.

For more information and to register go online to:

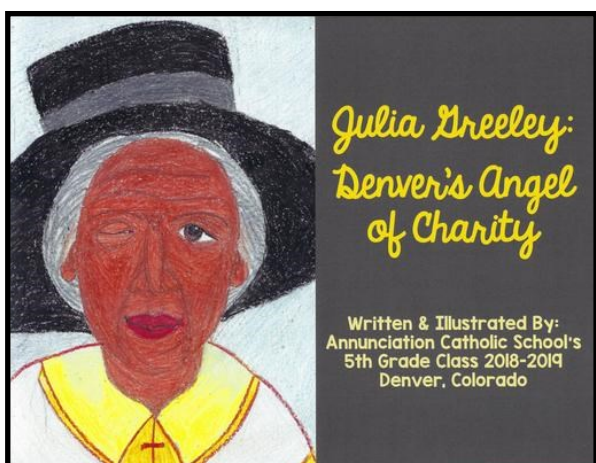
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-catholic-history-month-celebration-tickets-75379559291>

FROM THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

**OUR RICH BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY**  
<https://www.ourrichhistory.com>

**ORDER YOUR Wearable Black Catholic Art!**

Order Now



**Julia Greeley: Denver's Angel of Charity**  
A book written and illustrated by the Annunciation Catholic School's 5th Grade Class 2018-2019  
Denver, Colorado

"Julia Greeley was a woman loved by many in Denver. However, there are still people who haven't heard of this Angel of Charity."  
From the Introduction, Julia Greeley: Denver's Angel of Charity

To purchase copies of this book, please email:  
[juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com](mailto:juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com)  
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**DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON  
OFFICE OF ETHNIC MINISTRIES**



November 2019

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**A Word of Gratitude From the Sisters of St. Mary de Namur's 200th Anniversary Celebration**

*We, the Sisters of St. Mary, are especially grateful to all of our friends who joined us for this festive celebration. Thank you for the outpouring of love. Abundant blessings to you & your families!*

*Love & peace,*

*Sisters of St. Mary de Namur*



Saturday, October 26, 2019 in Sumter, S.C. For a glimpse of the event through the lens of Kathleen Merritt visit the Black Catholics page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackCatholicinCharleston/>

**SAVE THE DATE**

***Diocese of Charleston's Black Catholics Heritage Celebration 2020***

***"A Timeline of Faith, Love and Unity in Diversity."***



***Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020***

***Time: 10:00a.m.— 4:00 p.m.***


***Columbia, SC***

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OFFICE OF ETHNIC MINISTRIES



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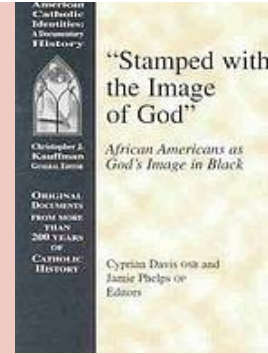
PROMOTING THE VOCATIONS



Youth/Young Adults Q&A with Sister Roberta Fulton SSMN, Assistant Director for African American Evangelization

**Question:** Is being a Religious Sister Boring?

**Answer:** No, I'm not bored. I have so much fun being a Sister. It brings me so much joy. There are about 400 African American Sisters in the U.S. We pray. We have fun. We spend time with God. We are dedicated to our ministries of service. We are weaving our journey towards God You're not too young. Your journey towards God begins now. God bless mommas, dads and friends for their persistence in helping us develop our faith and relationship with God. You and I have been called. Look around you for people of faith. Places to start could be your church youth, college Newman Centers and going to Mass. You're not too young to be a vibrant follower of Jesus.



Recommended Reading by Sr. Roberta Fulton, SSMN


This book documents how African Americans have been an integral part of Catholic History in America. It's very informative. You can purchase this book at

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/52901442>

SAVE THE DATE

81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

SAINT KATERI, GUIDE US THROUGH  
THE CREATOR'S WOODLANDS



JULY 15-19, 2020  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

For more information visit the website at : <https://tekconf.org/conferences>

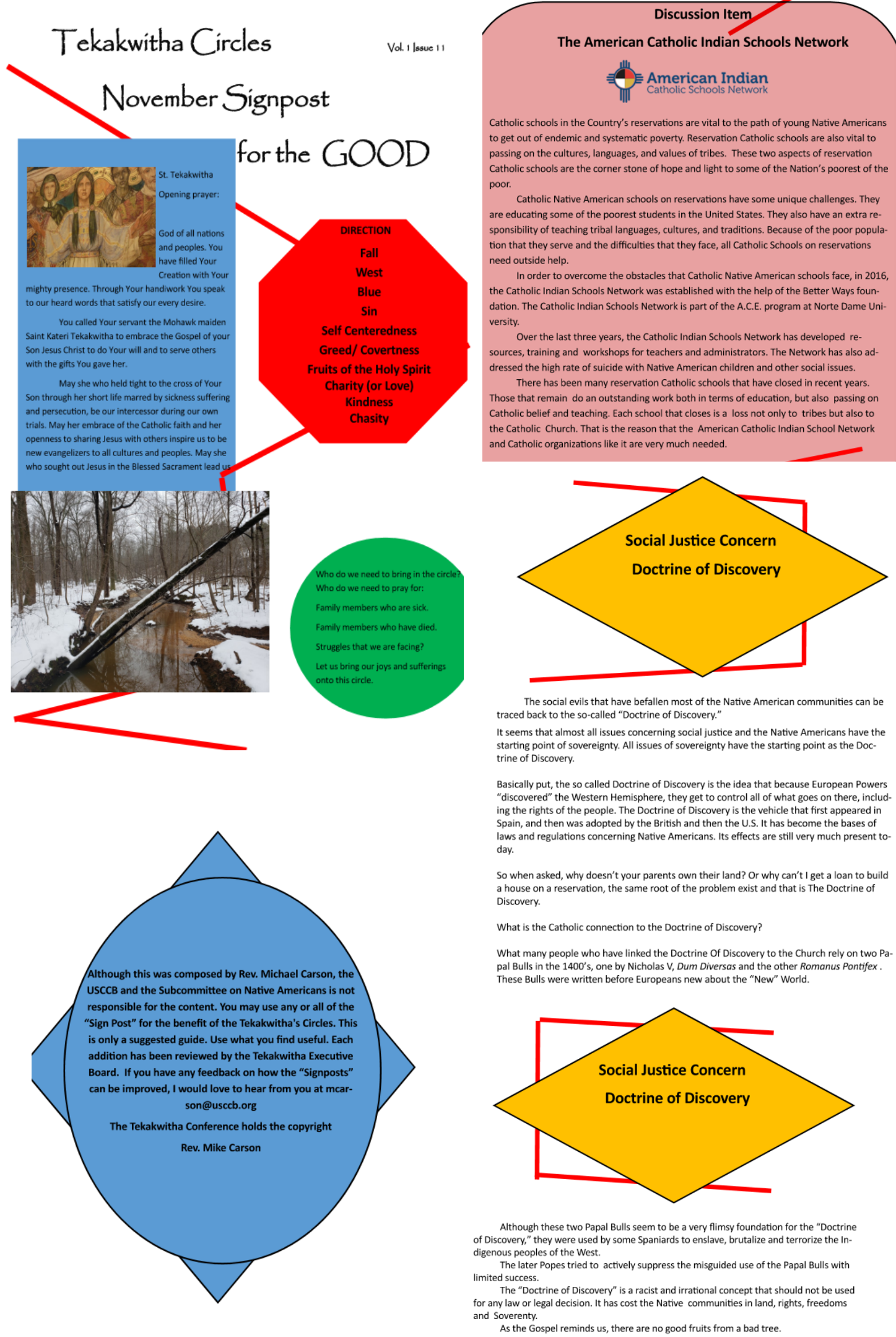


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Native American Ministry Discussion





Simbang Gabi 2019

Mass Schedule

	<b>Immaculate Conception</b>  510 St. James Avenue Goose Creek SC 29445 Phone: 843.572.1270  <a href="http://www.icgc510.org">www.icgc510.org</a>	December 15 <sup>th</sup> to December 23 <sup>th</sup>  Saturdays (12/21/2019): 5:30 AM Novena Mass  Sundays and Weekdays: 7:00 PM Novena Mass Followed by Fellowship and Refreshment
	<b>St. Anne and St. Jude Parish (formerly St. Anne)</b>  216 East Liberty Street Sumter SC 29150 Phone: 803.773.3524  <a href="https://www.sasjrcc.org/">https://www.sasjrcc.org/</a>	December 15 <sup>th</sup> to December 23 <sup>rd</sup>  Time TBD
	<b>St. Mary Magdalene</b>  2252 Woodruff Road Simpsonville SC 29681 Phone: 864.288.4884  <a href="http://www.smmcc.org">www.smmcc.org</a>	December 15 <sup>th</sup> to December 23 <sup>th</sup>  Time TBD
	<b>St. Ann</b>  113 South Kemp Street Florence, SC 29506 Phone: 843.661.5012  <a href="http://www.stannecatholicparish.com">www.stannecatholicparish.com</a>	3 Days Novena Mass  December 16, 18, 20      5:30 PM

For more information, please contact Office of Ethnic Ministries at [mttran@charlestondiocese.org](mailto:mttran@charlestondiocese.org) or (864) 331- 2620

Find the Perfect Gift  
| Simbang Gabi



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8PEN2nPbD8>



# Simbang Gabi

*A nine-Day Advent Novena and Masses in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, to spiritually prepare ourselves for the birth of her Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

History and Background

Simbang Gabi or Mass at Dawn is a nine-day novena to the Blessed Mother. The novena begins December 16 as early as 4 in the morning and culminates with the “Misa de Gallo” on Christmas Eve to welcome the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Here in the U.S., the practice of the Simbang Gabi has been adapted to local conditions, with the Mass being moved to the evening hours for practical reasons.

This nine-day celebration symbolizes God’s desire to be human and the Filipino’s joy for that humanness. These are festive celebrations with Christmas carols sung before Mass, faith sharing, and, of course, lots of food afterward – a sample of Filipino food and refreshments is usually served at a reception following Mass.

People dress in their finest Philippine barongs and dresses. *Simbang Gabi* is a religious festival for all, Filipino and non-Filipino. But no matter the language or dress, when you pray and sing during the *Simbang Gabi*, you realize how truly universal the Christmas spirit is. This is one of many cultural activities everyone can participate in and enjoy as a preparation for Christmas.





FOR DIVERSITY, SENSITIVITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING CONTACT ETHNIC MINISTRIES



## What We Have Seen and Heard : A Reflection and Dialogue on Peace. A Parish , School, and Community Event.

This is a gathering in response to the recent racial turmoil in our country that has put a spotlight on the “racial divide” that exists in American. This interactive experience is being facilitated by Kathleen Merritt and the staff with the Office of Ethnic Ministries. The dialogue will include a discussion a pastoral letter written by Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Ill.—The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015.

If you are interested in hosting one of these gatherings in your parish, please contact the Office of Ethnic Ministries and we will bring the program to you. Over 800 Catholics in the Diocese of Charleston has participated. Peace begins with you and me! Contact Kathleen Merritt

## Promoting Peace and Love Initiatives

Diversity Inclusion and Empathy Training and Resources for school staff, students, youth groups and other Catholic organizations please contact Kathleen Merritt with the Office of Ethnic Ministries. Training is designed to address your particular need.

Looking for  
happy, loving,  
fulfilling  
relationships?



Just  
ask us.  
Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Charleston

Tune in to “A Ministry Moment” every Monday Morning at 7:10 a.m. in the upstate on radio channel 107.3 FM. During the Tom Joyner in the Morning Show. Or follow us on the web at <http://sccatholic.org/ministry-moment>.

## Bishop Edward Braxton issues a Pastoral Reflection on the recent mass shootings

by NBCC Staff

*The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D., has issued a Pastoral Reflection titled, "A National Crisis: A Pastoral Reflection on the Deadly Epidemic of Gun Violence in the United States."*



"We are facing a national crisis in the United States. As a Catholic Bishop striving to live by and teach the good news of justice and peace proclaimed by Jesus of Nazareth, I am compelled to name this truth. It is, in some way, a crisis of gun violence."



Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Illinois, is pictured at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. (Credit: Robert Duncan/CNS.)

To download your complimentary copy click below



FOR DIVERSITY AND SENSITIVITY TRAINING AND RESOURCES CONTACT ETHNIC MINISTRIES

FROM THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS WEBSITE

### The Responsibility of Catholic Schools and Churches to Talk about Racism

A panel of nationally recognized leaders will discuss how to create and foster constructive conversations about race and prejudice in Catholic schools, churches, homes and communities. In a time of heated secular politics, tragic current events and a backdrop of historical prejudice, the panel will share practical insights drawing from the best of the Catholic Social Thought tradition. This conversation aims to build capacity among Catholic school and pastoral leaders to lead conversations about racism and other biases. Participants are invited to ask questions. We look forward to a very active conversation.

For more information visit the National Black Catholic Congress website at <https://www.nbccongress.org>

Download your complimentary copy here:

THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER  
and  
THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER,  
LADIES AUXILIARY

National Social Justice Initiatives  
**RESOURCE BOOK**  
- 2019 -





# Photo Gallery

A pictorial view of the Diocesan Celebration of the Feast Day of 117 Vietnamese Martyrs held on November 3, 2019 at Our Lady of La Vang Quasi-Parish in Greer, SC. Rev. Hy Nguyen, Rector of Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, TX, was the guest speaker at the celebration. Over 700 Vietnamese Catholics and others throughout the Diocese of Charleston attended the event. For more pictures visit Vietnamese Ministry on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofCharlestonAsianMinistry>





## OFFICE OF ETHNIC MINISTRIES

[HTTPS://CHARLESTONDIOCESE.ORG/ETHNIC-MINISTRIES/](https://charlestdioocese.org/ethnic-ministries/)

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**Rev. Michael Okere  
Vicar for Black Catholics 803-254-6862**

**Rev. David Q. Phan OFM  
Vietnamese Ministry 864-233-7717**



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR\\_eSxFBVn0pBjj2Y0aOapQ/featured?disable\\_polymer=1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR_eSxFBVn0pBjj2Y0aOapQ/featured?disable_polymer=1)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMG0gthkywWacWJF4yKbSUcpgd9uamCKE>

**“A Ministry Moment”**

**<http://sccatholic.org/ministry-moment>**



**What We Have Seen and Heard, A Reflection on Peace  
<https://www.facebook.com/dialogueonpeace>**

**Black Catholic Ministry  
<https://www.facebook.com/BlackCatholicinCharleston>**

**Asian and Pacific Islander Ministry  
<https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofCharlestonAsianMinistry>**

**Native American Ministry  
<https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofCharlestonAsianMinistry/>**