

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

*Have A
Blessed
New Year!*

Newsletter

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Heritage Date

Friday

**February 21,
2020**

through

**Saturday,
February 22,
2020**

All are invited to celebrate and dialogue on the History of Black Catholics in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston. This event is a part of our 200th Bicentennial of the Diocese of Charleston. This two day event consists of activities that center on the rich history of Evangelization of Black Catholics in South Carolina. The history of Catholic Schools and Parishes in and for the Black community throughout the years. You will hear stories of Black Catholics attending prestigious boarding schools in the North and South, Segregation and desegregation and the role the diocese played during the Civil Rights Movement.

St. Martin de Porres will serve as your host for this historical occasion. Franciscan Friar, Paul Williams, will be returning to South Carolina to serve as our Homilist and keynote speaker. The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, will celebrate the Mass and share a few words with us following the Mass; a youth track facilitated by Dr. Allison McLachie and Sr. Roberta Fulton, SSMN; and a panel of notable "Black Catholic History Makers" including Kathleen Merritt, Rev. Michael Okere and Arthur C. McFarland.

You are welcome to bring your Mardi Gras masks for Friday Night and encouraged to wear your African Attire on Saturday for this Special Bicentennial celebration!

Schedule of Events

Friday, February 21, 2020 – Panel led dialogue and Mardi Gras affair 6:45 pm - 11:00 pm

A panel led discussion on Catholic Schools in and for the Black Community followed by a Mardi Gras Party with New Orleans style Mardi Gras, Food and Dancing. Separate Youth track

COST \$10.00 per person. Youth up to 18 years old Free

Saturday, February 22, 2020 - Mass, Lunch, Dialogue and Speakers. Liturgical Dancers, Heritage Choir and youth track -10:00 am -3:00 pm



Father Paul Williams, OFM

COST \$10.00 per person. Youth up to 18 years old Free

Registration for both days is \$20.00. DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION 02/12/2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP GO TO:

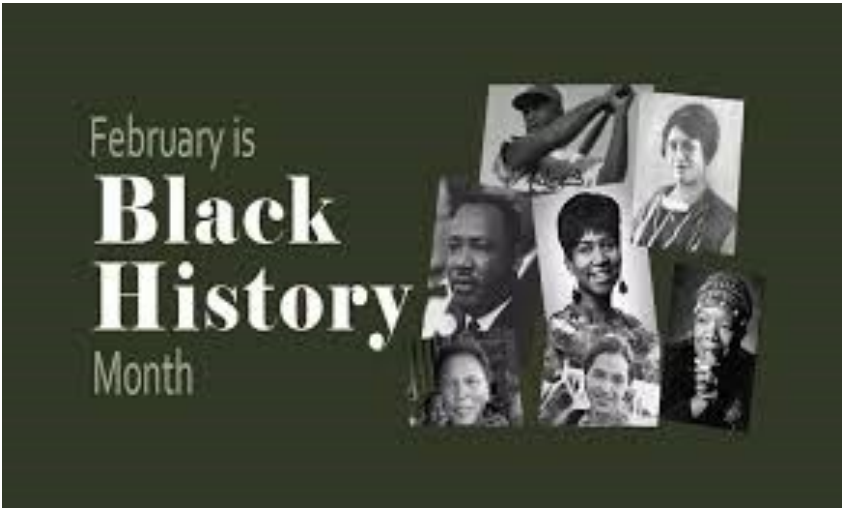
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/88874250275>



Letter from Birmingham Jail Study Guide - Full Documents

http://www.usccb.org/_cs_upload/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/african-american/resources/120160_3.pdf

MLK DAY “ A Ministry Moment by Kathleen Merritt
<https://youtu.be/OigxaolZIZ4>

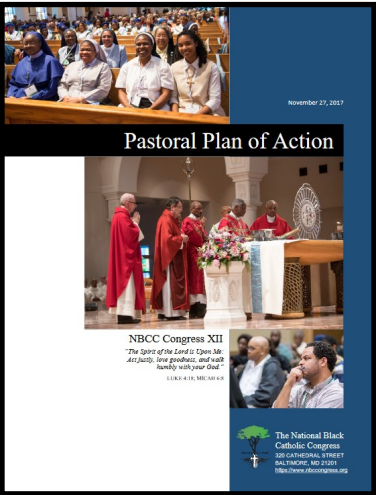


Resources

Prayer for the African American Family

http://www.solidgroundministry.com/NDPAAAF2019-How_To_Celebrate_This_Day_2019.pdf

Ways to Celebrate—A Ministry Moment by Kathleen Merritt
<https://youtu.be/Sah9yPupT-E>



The 2017 Congress 12 Pastoral Plan of Action (For Black Catholics)

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/96557e126389b688f85933c9e207c67f?AccessKeyId=BC1D04F48C0411888F51&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Webinar: The National Black Catholic Congress XII Pastoral Plan -2017

The webinar was presented by Fr. Steven Thorne. It is not only informative, but gives concrete actions for parishes and youth/young adults to implement over the next five years. Check out this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eO7n1f_v9k



South Carolina Council of Catholic Women; where all women in the diocese of Charleston are members.
Find out more at <https://www.scccw.org>

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TV CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

“ An Afternoon in the Upstate with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston”
A 200th year Bicentennial celebration

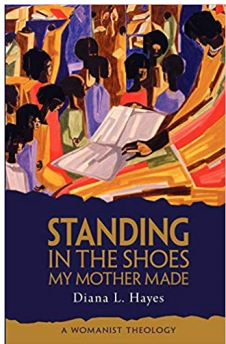
Aired Christmas Day on Fox Carolina in the Upstate. Missed it? You can Watch now!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcjgAcwfpNQ&feature=youtu.be>



“Our show includes Singing, Storytelling and some history pieces about the Charleston Diocese. We will hear from The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, Fr. Jay Scott Newman and Fr. Michael Okere. Our Cooking segment, Sister Act 2 in the Kitchen with Sr. Pamela Smith and Sister Roberta Fulton will provide you with two delicious one pot recipes that are easy to make, has very little clean up, and will feed a lot of people. That’s right Larry, and In addition to all of that fun!, Larry is going to take you to work with him over at the school where you will get to see and hear the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School choir that he directs. We also have a Christmas Story that has become a tradition for the show. It is called “If I were a goose” and it is being told by Franciscan Friar, Patrick Tuttle. Our Co-hosts for the show are Lillie Golden and Larry McCullough. Enjoy!”

Kathleen Merritt



A Recommended Book To Read this Month

“ STANDING IN THE SHOES MY MOTHER MADE” By Diana L. Hayes

Caption: Black women in America have carved out a distinctive and instructive faith stance that is influential well beyond the historic black church. Diana L. Hayes, a leading commentator and forger of womanist thought, especially in the black Catholic setting, here offers strong brew for what ails the church, the Christian tradition, and the world. You can purchase this book at <https://www.amazon.com/Standing-Shoes-My-Mother-Made/dp/080069757X>



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

Question: What is the purpose of a listening session with youth & young adults?

Answer: It is a way to hear the concerns and challenges young people are facing. Listening sessions can happen during retreats, the Knights of Peter Claver Junior Knights and Daughters councils & courts, leadership training conferences and a Kujenga experience. My concern is that we must find ways to engage young people on their faith journey. I see & hear about young people doing great things! This keeps me hopeful even though I am aware of many who have lost connection with the church. The church needs young people. I invite you to look around & hold a light that will help others to stay in the faith. Pass that light on to those who have turned away from God.

Native American Ministry Discussion Resources

Tekakwitha Circles

Vol. 2 Issue 1

January Signpost

for the
GOOD RED ROAD

St. Tekakwitha
Opening prayer:
God of all nations and peoples, You have filled Your Creation with Your mighty presence. Through Your handiwork You speak to our heard words that satisfy our every desire.
You called Your servant the Mohawk maiden Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to embrace the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ to do Your will and to serve others with the gifts You gave her.
May she who held tight to the cross of Your Son through her short life marred by sickness suffering and persecution, be our intercessor during our own trials. May her embrace of the Catholic faith and her openness to sharing Jesus with others inspire us to be new evangelizers to all cultures and peoples. May she who sought out Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament lead us

DIRECTION
Winter
North
Black
Sin/ Hopelessness- Despair
Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Joy/ Gentleness/
Redemptive suffering
Gifts of the Holy Spirit/
Fortitude/ Fear of the Lord

Who do we need to bring in the circle?
Who do we need to pray for:
Family members who are sick.
Family members who have died.
Struggles that we are facing?
Let us bring our joys and sufferings onto this circle.

Discussion Item

What does it mean to be Roman Catholic in the Modern World?

I. I do not wear my collar on planes because there are two types of people, those who love the Catholic Church and those who hate the Catholic Church. Both types of individuals can mean hours of harassment on the plane.

When we say that we are Roman Catholic that sets up a lot of preconceived ideas in others who are not Catholic. These ideas are constructive and destructive.

III. People learn that you are Catholic. Is it all right if we not have fish on Friday? I am so sorry that the Pope died, did you know him? Are you Catholic or are you Christian? I think without the Catholic Church, stand up comics would be out of a job.

II. There is a lot of reasons why people are Catholic, some are personal, some are social, and some relate to the community of believers. Reasons are different for different people. The reason that is most important is the deep love of Christ that comes from your heart that how you share that love with others.

IV. There are some people who wear their ashes on Good Friday, to tell the world that they are Catholic. They do not attend Mass; they do not have an active role in the Church, but they want people to know that they are Catholic. Rather than a surface Catholicism, the more you are grounded in faith the more support there is for that faith. There is something to the support of the community of believers. The community of believers becomes a safe place to be different then the rest of society. There is a feeling of belonging to the family of God.

A. Acts 5:38, 39: "So in the present case, I advise you to have nothing to do with these men. Leave them alone. If their project or activity is on human origin, it will destroy itself. If on the other hand, it is from God, you will note be able to destroy it and you may indeed find yourselves fighting against God."

B. There is over a Billion Catholics with other Christians, that makes up about a fourth of the world's population. The Church has lasted from the time of Christ. The Bishop who ordained me was ordained by his bishop, then by his bishop going back to Christ. We have something here that is both world wide and put forth by Christ.

Native American Ministry Discussion Resources

V. What it means to be a Catholic:

These are things that come to mind. First, you have to be weird and not be afraid to be weird. Christ himself says that what we have to offer, that is, our faith, not everyone will accept. We have to be comfortable with being bright stars in a black night. The second idea goes along with being weird, you can be afraid to fight for what you believe in. Faith is an action word. We do faith. That means sometimes we have to get out of our comfort zone. The third aspect of being a Catholic is to be concerned with those who are left out. It is having a compassion for the poor. Not only helping them out, but to ask the harder questions of why they are poor. When we ask that question we are in a better situation to do something about it.

VI. Here are some other aspects about what it means to be Catholic.

- 4) Being community centered.
- 5) Being Sacramentally centered- the sacraments will make an impact in your life.
- 6) Being concerned with the Church- does not mean blind obedience, But it does mean I will be informed about what the Church stands for and why it stands for it.
- 7) Our faith journey is also an internal journey. No matter what others do or say, we will walk the path to salvation that the Church has provided for us.
- 8) Christ gives everyone a mission to lead others to salvation
- 9) Universal. The same Mass, the same readings are being celebrated in New York, Iceland, Sidney, Nigeria, England and Rio.

VII. I think being a Catholic in the Modern World has its challenges. The Church goes against the culture in so many ways as in Christ's time he went against his culture. What we as Catholics possess is the power of Christ in the world to transform the world. When things work, when everything lines up, being a Catholic-Christian is not just a religion, not just a fundamental belief system, not even just a way of life, being a Catholic Christian is being joined body and soul to the only things that matters.

**Social Justice Concern
Native American Women
Disappearances.**

Native American women and girls are vanishing across the country. Just last year, the FBI reported 633 open missing persons cases for Native American women. According to statistics, they are also 10 times more likely to be murdered than non-Native Americans. This crisis for Native American women has various causes. Police forces are understaffed in many areas. There are jurisdictional problems with investigation, and the misperception that crimes committed by Non-Natives will not be investigated by tribal police. The major reason why this crisis is perpetuated is the lack of knowledge by not only Native Americans but wider community. Getting the word out about this problem, knowing the warning signs of human trafficking and knowing how we can protect Native American Communities is a responsibility that all of us share.

- 1) In what ways can I get the information out about this crises?
- 2) In what ways can I help protect Native American communities, especially those most vulnerable ways can I advocate for victims and victim survivors?



Closing prayer from the Black and Indian Mission Office:

God of all nations and peoples. You have filled your creation with Your mighty presence. Through Your handiwork You speak to our hearts words that satisfy our every desire.

You called Your servant, the Mohawk maiden Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to embrace the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ, to do Your will and to serve others with the gifts You gave her.

May she who held tight to the cross of Your Son throughout her short life marked by sickness, suffering, and persecution, be our intercessor during our own trials. May her embrace of the Catholic faith and her openness to sharing Jesus with others inspire us to be new evangelizers to all cultures and peoples. May she who sought our Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament lead up to similar reverences for the Eucharist so that, like Saint Kateri, our last words may be, "Jesus, I love You." Amen.

Although this was composed by Rev. Michael Carson, the USCCB and the Subcommittee on Native Americans is not responsible for the content. You may use any or all of the "Sign Post" for the benefit of the Tekakwitha's Circles. This is only a suggested guide. Use what you find useful. Each addition has been reviewed by the Tekakwitha Executive Board. If you have any feedback on how the "Signposts" can be improved, I would love to hear from you at mcarson@usccb.org
The Tekakwitha Conference holds the copyright
Rev. Mike Carson

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Native American Ministry Resources

**Registration
is open**

SAINT KATERI, GUIDE US THROUGH
THE CREATOR'S WOODLANDS

81ST ANNUAL
TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE



JULY 15-19, 2020
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

<https://tekconf.org/conferences>

Asian and Pacific Islanders Resources

Happy Lunar New Year

*January 25, 2020
The Year of the Rat*



The Lunar New Year is the most important and popular holiday in Vietnam and Korea as well as in China. The Lunar New Year Day is considered to be the first day of spring, and the holiday lasts for 3 days. The three-day holiday is typically a family holi-day. It is used by many to return to their hometowns to visit their parents and other relatives where they perform an ancestral ritual. The holiday is also an occasion for pilgrims and family reunions.

This year, the Lunar New Year Day falls on Saturday January 25th 2020. In the United States, although the Lunar New Year is not an official holiday, many ethnic Asians in the United States hold celebrations on weekends before or after the New Year Day. Be this as it may, the Vietnamese Catholics communities in the Diocese of Charleston make a concerted effort to celebrate their New Year Day:



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Asian and Pacific Islanders Resources



**Vietnamese Lunar New Year
2020
Mass Schedule**

Our Lady of La Vang Church
2020 Gibbs Shoals Rd., Greer SC 29650
Phone: 864.395.0202

Sunday January 26th 2020
10:00 AM Solemn Mass
Followed by Fellowship and Refreshment

St. Anne Catholic Church
1694 Bird Street, Rock Hill SC 29730
Phone: 803.329.2662
<http://www.saintanne.com/>

Sunday January 26, 2020
3:00 PM Solemn Mass
Followed by Fellowship and Refreshment

St. Thomas, the Apostle Church
6650 Dorchester Road, N Charleston SC 29418
Phone: 843-552-2223
<http://www.stthomascatholicchurch.org/>

Saturday January 18, 2020
8:00 PM Solemn Mass
Followed by Fellowship and Refreshment

St. Andrew Catholic Church
37th Ave. North & Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach SC 29577
Phone: 843-448-5930
<https://www.standrewcatholicchurch.org/>

Sunday January 19, 2020
3:00 PM Solemn Mass
Followed by Fellowship and Refreshment

For more information, please contact Office of Ethnic Ministries at
mtran@charlestondiocese.org or (864) 331- 2620

SAVE THE DATE!

WWW.MIDATLANTICCONGRESS.ORG

ONE HOLY CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC

MID-ATLANTIC CONGRESS JAN 30 - FEB 1, 2020 • BALTIMORE, MD

REIMAGINE . . . your experience of faith . . . the impact of your ministry. . . your experience at the MAC

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.MIDATLANTICCONGRESS.ORG
Registration opens after labor day

FOR DIVERSITY 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 Social Justice 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."



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



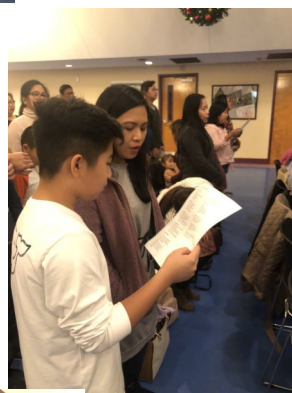
"We are facing a national crisis in the United States. As a Catholic Bishop striving to live by and teach the good news of justice and peace proclaimed by Jesus of Nazareth, I am compelled to name this truth. It is, in some way, a crisis of gun violence."

To download your complimentary copy click below

Photo Gallery

Simbang Gabi Photo Gallery

Caption: A pictorial view of Simbang Gabi celebrated at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Simpsonville on the 1st day of nine consecutive days from December 16 to December 24.



Black Catholic Heritage Celebration 2019

<https://youtu.be/DaJkInGCCbl>

For the Video view of the Black Catholic History Month Celebration in Charleston go to

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackCatholicinCharleston/videos/2579581822133512>

For a video view of the Black Catholic History Month Celebration in Sumter go to

<https://youtu.be/9bdEZ0OdINM>

OFFICE OF ETHNIC MINISTRIES

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

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Rev. David Q. Phan OFM



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR_eSxFBVn0pBjj2Y0aOapQ/featured?disable_polymer=1

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMG0gthkywWacWJF4yKbSUcp9uamCKE>

“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/>