

Diocese of Toledo



Black Catholic Ministry

e-newsletter

Michael Youngblood, Director

**NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS X INFORMATION
DIOCESE OF TOLEDO**

The National Black Catholic Congress will be held on **July 12-15, 2007** in Buffalo, NY at the Buffalo Convention Center. Congress is held every five years with the most recent in Chicago in 2002. The theme will be **“Christ is With Us: Celebrating the Gifts of the Sacraments”**. The many activities include: keynote addresses, workshops, liturgies, and a youth and young adult track.

The National Black Catholic Congress X is a time to gather in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, time to listen to some inspiration and dynamic speakers, attend wonderful liturgies, pray, reflect on our Black Catholic journey, and develop an action plan for the future.

The Congress will also hold a special track for our youth (13-17) and young adults (18-26). There will also be opportunities to visit some of the local attractions such as Niagara Falls, Underground Railroad sites, and the Taste of Buffalo.

If you are interested and planning to attend this event, please let me know. The registration fee and hotel reservation is on a first come basis.

For more information about Congress, check-out our website at www.toledodiocese-spl.org under Black Catholics and the National Black Catholic Congress website at www.nbccongress.org.

“GOD’S WORK IN THE LITURGY”

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati: Office of African American Catholic Ministries will host a Liturgy workshop on June 14-16, 2007 at the Milford Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio. This workshop will feature Sr. Eva Marie Lumas, Sister of Social Service, and an Assistant Professor of Religious Education and Culture at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley and Mr. Rawn Harbor, Pastoral Associate and Director of Liturgy at St. Columba Catholic Church in Oakland, California. The cost is \$50.00 including lodging and Meals. For more information call 513-421-3131 ext. 242.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (NCYC)

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be held on November 8-11, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio. This conference will gather over 20,000 Catholic teens from around the country for four days of inspirational speakers, interactive exhibits, mega workshops, music, prayer and exciting Liturgies. The diocesan youth office package is \$350.00 per youth including 3 nights hotel, bus transportation, conference registration, T-shirt, some meals, and more. For more information contact the diocesan youth office at 419-244-6711 ext. 332.

BLACK CATHOLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Black Catholic Advisory Council exists to assist the Office of Black Catholic Ministry in carrying out the mission of the Secretariat for Pastoral Leadership in developing programs of evangelization, promoting, empowering and affirming leadership formation, cultural awareness, and the support of local, regional, and national initiatives. The Advisory Council is made up of Black Catholics in the Toledo, Mansfield, Lima, and Sandusky area. Our hope is that the Advisory Council will not only bring their needs and concerns of the Black community to the advisory council but to be a voice to the various diocesan committees. The Advisory Council meets quarterly.

SACRED HEART CHOIR FROM DETROIT

The Sacred Heart Choir from Detroit, MI is coming to Toledo on Friday, May 25, 2007 to perform an evening of music at Warren A.M.E. Church on Collingwood Ave at 7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart is Detroit's first African American Church and Toledo is part of a three city tour including Columbus and Cleveland. The choir is under the direction of Minister of Music Mr. John Thorne.



JUNE IS ABORTION AND ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

This year's theme is "Choose Life and Helping Others Choose Life". This awareness project was created and is sponsored by the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life. The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life was inaugurated in 1997 with the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the Franciscan Solid

Ground Ministry as sponsors and with the support of John Cardinal O'Connor Archbishop of New York and the Archdiocese's Office of Black Catholic Ministry. Check out there website at www.blackcatholicsforlife.org.

URBAN ALL-AMERICAN DINNER

The Urban All-American Dinner will be held Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at the SeaGate Centre. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by presentations at 7:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be former University of Toledo Rocket Star and NCAA Recordholder for 35 Consecutive Wins by a Quarterback, CHUCK EALEY. The Proceeds will provide scholarships for Central City Ministry students. For information, call 419-244-6711 ext. 216.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION: SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2007

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery in America.

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

As we celebrate this historical time, let us remember and pray for all those who have died so that we may be free.

Activities:

Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast

“ROOTS: Someone’s Got To Tell The Story”

St. Martin de Porres Church

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$7.00 RSVP needed



3rd. Annual Juneteenth Celebration

11:30 a.m. until 7:00p.m.

Music, exhibits, dancers, presentations, food, and MORE!

DID YOU KNOW?



The First African American Divine Word Brother learned about the Catholic faith and was baptized here in Toledo, Ohio. In 1937, Brother Vincent Webb became the first African American Brother to profess vows in the Society of the Divine Word. He served the Church as a brother for 68 years. Brother Vincent, originally Louis Webb, was the seventh of ten children of Wesley and Ella Webb of Fordyce, AK. He attended a community school in Fordyce, where a teacher was hired for only three months of the year. In 1925, he went north to Toledo, Ohio at the age of 17 to work in a creosote plant.

Raised in the Baptist faith, Webb had never heard of Catholics, much less met one. The owner of the creosote plant, a Catholic, invited him to Mass at Saint Patrick's church.

Br. Vincent remembered, "Before I walked into St. Patrick's church in Toledo, I had never seen a crucifix. When I looked up at the life-sized crucifix, something just happened to me". He kept going back to St. Patrick's, and was baptized that year by Fr. O'Toole. Before long, he decided that he wanted to become a priest. At that time, the only Catholic seminary in the United States that would accept black men as candidates for the priesthood was the Society of the Divine Word St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay St. Louis, MS. Due to his lack of formal education, he was unable to keep up with the work. He returned back to Toledo after one year and continued to work at the creosote plant.

During this time he applied to many seminaries but was rejected. The priests at St. Patrick's wrote to every religious community in the United States on his behalf, but, it seemed, none would accept a black candidate. Louis continued to also work with Fr. Bork at St. Benedict's.

That year, the Society of the Divine Word was given permission by Rome to accept black candidates for the religious Brotherhood at Bay St. Louis. In 1934, Webb entered the religious brother program and professed first vows in 1937. His name was changed to Brother Vincent in honor of St. Vincent de Paul. "I read about how St. Vincent de Paul went around helping the poor in Paris. I liked that, and I wanted to imitate him", Br. Vincent told friends. For over sixty years, Brother Vincent worked as a cook in Bay St. Louis, Granby, Quebec; Bordentown, New Jersey; Pittsburgh, and Riverside, California.

In 1996, he suffered knee injuries that confined him to a wheelchair. His response to this misfortune was, "My hands are still good, so I'll volunteer to peel the potatoes for the community." He also helped by sorting stamp collections to help the missions. Brother Vincent died at the Divine Word Residence in Techny, IL on December 22, 2005 at the age of 97. ***(Information provided by the Chicago Province Archives of the Society of the Divine Word, Marcia Stein, Archivist.)***

CATHOLIC IDENTITY: IMANI COURSE

Are you looking to learn more about your faith? Do you ever wonder why do we do that? CATHOLIC IDENTITY IS FOR YOU! This course is an overview of the teachings of the Catholic Church with a Black Catholic perspective. The sessions will focus on Christian living, God, Jesus, Liturgy, History, Scripture, Prayer/Spirituality, and Morality.

This perspective brings together the richness of culture, theology, history, music, (song and storytelling), personal experience and traditions. Reflections on articles, books, and videos from the Black community.

This course is open to ALL persons who want to learn more about their faith. **The course will start in September.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

June 14-16, 2007

“God’s Work in The Liturgy”

Liturgical Workshop and Spiritual Retreat

Archdiocese of Cincinnati: Office of African American Catholic Ministries

For information: rwinters@catholiccincinnati.org

July 12-15, 2007

Tenth National Black Catholic Congress

Buffalo, NY

Sunday, July 15, 2007

Black Catholic Sunday

11:00 a.m. Liturgy followed by Lunch, Rosary Procession through the woods and Benediction

Sorrowful Mother Shrine

Bellevue, Ohio

BLACK CATHOLIC INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

Diocese of Toledo: Black Catholic Ministry	www.toledodiocese-spl.org
National Black Apostolate for Life	www.blackcatholicsforlife.org
Secretariat for African American Catholics	www.usccb.org/saac
National Black Catholic Congress	www.nbccongress.org
In A Word Publications	www.inaword.com

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