

Diocese of Toledo



Black Catholic Ministry

e-newsletter

June 2008

Michael Youngblood, Director

URBAN ALL-AMERICAN DINNER AND CELEBRATION

On Monday, May 19, 2008, the Diocese of Toledo held the annual URBAN ALL-AMERICAN CELEBRATION at Gladioux Meadows in Toledo. The dinner featured the Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta. The dinner was attended by over 500 people raising over \$100,000 for inner-city schools. Archbishop Gregory shared his story of a young non-Catholic child attending Catholic school and the importance of Catholic schools in his life. During his stay in Toledo, he also visited Rosary Cathedral and Queen of Apostles schools. The children asked questions about growing up in Chicago, his vocation, sports, and about his job as bishop. Thanks to the many donors who support our Catholic schools in our diocese. If you are interested in getting involved with our schools, contact the diocese at 419-244-6711.



The National Black Catholic Congress X affirmed our need to support our Catholic schools in the urban areas. The Commission wrote a paper, "Sustaining Catholic Education in and for the Black community (Los Angeles: Perfect Press, 2007), to serve as a resource for dioceses, individuals, and educational organizations in their development of successful strategies. The Goal from Congress X is to develop a National Support Initiative to provide financial assistance to efforts

that will produce favorable results in sustaining Catholic Education in and for the Black community.



Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory Archdiocese of Atlanta Biographical Highlights

- ❖ Born December 7, 1947 in Chicago, IL
- ❖ Attended St. Carthage Elementary School where he converted to become Catholic
- ❖ Ordained a priest on May 9, 1973. This year he celebrates his 35th year of ordination
- ❖ Worked as a parish priest and was later ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
- ❖ Bishop of Diocese of Belleville, IL in 1994
- ❖ Former president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops
- ❖ Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Gregory as the sixth Archbishop of Atlanta on January 17, 2005.
- ❖ Highest ranking African American Bishop in the United States. There are 16 Black Bishops

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

We invite you to join us on **Saturday, June 14, 2008** at St. Martin de Porres Church, 1119 West Bancroft, Toledo, at 9:30 a.m. for our annual Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast. The cost is \$8.00 per person including a buffet breakfast.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery in America. It is a holiday that celebrates freedom and promotes the traditions of Africa. This is a celebration for ALL people.

Our speaker will be Reverend Joseph A. Brown, SJ: Director, Black American Studies, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

We will also have a display by the African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio.

For more information, call St. Martin de Porres Church at 419-241-4544 or 419-244-6711 ext. 511.

For a flyer, <http://www.toledodiocese-spl.org/Juneteenth%202008%20flyer.pdf>

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

For the seventh year the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life is sponsoring: JUNE IS ABORTION AND ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

Pope Benedict XVI during his recent historical papal visit to America, April 15-20, 2008, said that the Church “is called to proclaim the gift of life, to serve life, and to promote a culture of life.” The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life (NBCAL) mission is “converting hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life—one life at a time,” stated Franciscan Father Jim Goode, OFM, President of NBCAL.

According to Beverly Carroll, June is a good time to raise up the importance of life and denounce violence. As Pope Benedict XVI said, “Violence and cynicism so often seem to choke the fragile growth of grace in people’s hearts”. (Beverly Carroll is the USCCB: Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church - Assistant Director - African American Affairs and a Charter Board member of National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life founded in 1997.)

The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life invites everyone to join us in our Pro-Life mission as we pray, proclaim, and stand boldly for an end to abortion, all acts of violence, evil and injustice that destroy the sacredness of life.

“I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly.”
John 10:10

Check out their website at www.blackcatholicsforlife.org

BLACK CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Our annual “Black Catholic Sunday” gathering will be held on Sunday, **July 20, 2008** at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio. This day will host an 11:00 a.m. Liturgy, Lunch, Diocesan Sharing, Rosary Procession through the woods, and Benediction.

This event is an annual gathering of Black Catholics from Ohio and Michigan. It is a day of pilgrimage, prayer, and celebration.

The Sorrowful Mother Shrine is located in Bellevue, Ohio and takes about one hour and fifteen minutes from Toledo. The Shrine is 11 miles south of the 6A exit on the Ohio Turnpike, (East) on Route 4, then to Route 547.

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN SIDNEY, OHIO

July 19-20, 2008

See You in Sidney (Ohio)!

World Youth Day Event for High School Teens and Young Adults (18-30)

Can't make it to Sydney, Australia for World Youth Day? Come join other young Catholics from Ohio and Michigan at a local World Youth Day Event In Sidney, Ohio. This two-day celebration will feature the band "Who Do You Say That I Am?", motivational speakers, catechetical sessions, music, food, video from Sydney, Australia, Mass, and thousands of youth from Ohio and Michigan.

For more information, contact the diocesan Youth Office.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS

The National Association of Pastoral MusicianS will host their regional conference in Cleveland, Ohio on July 8-11, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cleveland. The theme is "Do Not Let Your Hearts be Troubled or Afraid".

The Church is in the midst of change—in liturgical practices, patterns of ministry, parish clustering, generational shifts, ethnic and cultural communities, and many more. Change may arouse fear but can also offer opportunities for hope and growth.

In the midst of change we hear the words of Jesus, "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (Jn 14:27b), which give us the confidence to let go of the familiar and to embrace the challenges and opportunities that are set before us.

As a part of the conference there will be events focusing on various areas of music in the church. On **Thursday, July 10** from 8:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Ignatius Church, there will be an evening on African American Catholic music entitled, "In Spirit and Truth". This session will be led by some of the best African American musicians in our church.

There is a rhythm to our meditation—and sometimes it is to a gospel beat. Be prepared to put yourself into the capable hands of Thomas Jefferson and friends Jolanda Robertson, Cliff Petty, and the Keith Hampton Singers for an exciting experience of song and prayer. Take your spirit to places it has never been and get moving and singing along. Enjoy fantastic interpretations of standard and new songs by these magnificent musicians and experience the richness and diversity of the gifts of the African American Catholic tradition. This evening is sponsored by World Library Publications, Inc.

If you are interested in attending this event, please let me know. More information on the conference can be found at www.npm.org.

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