

Diocese of Toledo



Black Catholic Ministry

e-newsletter

March 2008

Michael Youngblood, Director

CONGRESS X UPDATE

The 10th National Black Catholic Congress met July, 2007 in Buffalo, NY. This Congress was attended by over 2000 adults and youth from across the country. Many of the participants came back energized and empowered from the spirit-filled liturgies and the informative and inspirational workshops and presentations. The National Black Catholic Congress has published a resource guide entitled “A Proven Foundation for Fruitful Ministry: Congress X Plan of Action”. This guidebook provides some theological insights and practical steps for parishes and diocesan offices to focus on over the next five years.

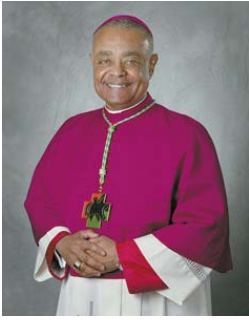
The Most Reverend John H. Ricard, SSJ, President of the Board of Trustees and Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL, outlined six challenges for the Black Catholic community: Evangelization; the declining numbers of predominantly Black Catholic parishes; promoting vocations; sustaining Catholic education in the Black Community; to assure that Black Catholics are included in pastoral planning; and the challenge to incorporate immigrants of African descent into the Black Catholic Movement.

Where do we go from here?

- ❖ Continue to focus on the Pastoral Plan of Action through the lens of the sacraments: Africa, Catholic Education, HIV/AIDS, Parish Life, Social Justice, Spirituality, Racism and Youth and Young Adults.
- ❖ Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation (provide opportunities to learn about our Catholic faith)
- ❖ Learn about African American history
- ❖ Celebrate the richness of being Black and Catholic
- ❖ Promote Vocations: priesthood, religious life, diaconate and lay leadership
- ❖ Liturgical catechesis

For a copy of the NBCC guidebook, contact the office.

17th ANNUAL CENTRAL CITY MINISTRY CELEBRATION



Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory will be the keynote speaker for the Central City Ministry Celebration dinner on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Gladioux Meadows in Toledo. This annual event is a fundraiser for the children at CCMT schools. The Most Reverend Wilton Gregory is the Archbishop of Atlanta and the first African American president of the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops. For tickets, 419-244-6711 ext. 216.

IN MEMORY OF DEACON THOMAS LESTER, SR

Deacon Thomas Lester, Sr. passed away on February 6, 2008. Deacon Lester was born July 7, 1930. Deacon Lester was ordained the first African American Deacon in the Diocese of Toledo and one of few African American deacons in the country. He was very active throughout his life with the Knights of Columbus, the Black Lay Catholic Caucus of Lima and the River Side Neighborhood Block Watch. He was a recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major award sponsored by the Diocese. Deacon Lester was also a dedicated member of St. John the Evangelist Church.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!

TIKO

TIKO is a collective venture of four states: Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. The focus of the Inter-generational Family Convocation is Leadership and Evangelization. TIKO evolved from the vision of M. Annette Turner and Deacon Turner and others from the Archdiocese of Louisville.

This convocation established three goals:

- ❖ To create a dialogue environment where Black Catholics could participate in addressing how the Good News is shared from an Africentric perspective
- ❖ To provide evangelization and leadership skills from an Africentric intergenerational perspective in order to respond to our unchurched and inactive Catholics
- ❖ To develop a vision to move this initiative to a state, regional, and interregional level.

TIKO will be held on April 18-20, 2008 in Louisville, KY at the downtown Marriott Hotel. Brochures are available. The registration cost is \$85.00 for adults and \$65.00 for youth.

LEARNING THROUGH LITURGY: Holy Week

The days of Holy Week are a real learning experience for all of us. Each year, I discover new meaning as I walk and pray through the ancient rituals of the Triduum. In fact, a friend once told me that she is a practicing Catholic today because each Holy Saturday her parents took her to watch the Easter fire. Like no other liturgical season, Easter is the moment when wordless symbols convey the great mystery of faith.

The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday when the presider declares that Lent has ended and later washes parishioners' feet. It is a moment of humility and service. Good Friday focuses on the Passion, the corpus of the Christ on the cross, and Holy Saturday brings the return of the Alleluia mingling with light, water and oil as we baptize the elect. These three ancient days offer enough pageantry, tradition and drama to fill many hours of catechesis. It is not our words that teach in these sacred times, but rather the liturgy itself that becomes the teacher.

Jeanne Hunt, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Faith Formation update

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.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will focus on the NBCC Pastoral Plan of Action.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Feb. 26: Sister Cora Marie Billings, deputy director of the Virginia Human Rights Council, dances during a pep rally at All Saints Catholic School in Richmond, Va. Sister Billings has been a nun for 50 years and achieved a first when she was installed as pastoral coordinator of St. Elizabeth's, the first African American nun to hold that title.

The Toledo Symphony at St. Martin de Porres Church

On **Sunday, February 24, 2008**, Huntington Bank and St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church sponsored an Evening with the Toledo Symphony under the direction of Mr. Chelsea Tipton II. During this celebration of Black History Month, the Office of Black Catholic Ministry presented the **Saint Katharine Drexel Award** to educators who have exemplified the mission of this saint in education with diverse communities.

Saint Katharine Drexel devoted her life and fortune to God. Saint Katharine and the Blessed Sacrament Sisters founded many schools for African American and Native American children. Saint Katharine is also the foundress of Xavier University in New Orleans, LA, the only historic Black Catholic University.

The 2008 Saint Katharine Drexel Recipients:

Sr. Mary Brenda Haynes, SND	Queen of Apostles School
Mrs. Mary Ann Ransey	St. John Jesuit High School
Mr. Phil Skeldon	St. John Jesuit High School

Are you interested in serving the church as a Lay Minister or Deacon?

The Diocese of Toledo provides formation and training for lay persons to become more deeply involved in the life of the church through lay ministry and stewardship ministry. Lay Ministry Formation is a three-year program in various centers around the diocese.



Lay Ministry Formation

**P.O. Box 985
Toledo, OH 43697-0985
419-244-6711
cmurar@toledodiocese.org**

Program focus: The program is designed for individuals who will serve in a volunteer or part time stipend ministry position.

The program has 3 options:

Personal growth and education – This option gives people the opportunity to utilize the sessions as adult education.

Certification – Individuals can take the sessions to move toward certification in a specific ministry. They will have to do assessments if they take this option.

Assessments are structured to give instructors and the director indications as to the knowledge obtained and integrated during the sessions.

College credit – Individuals can take these sessions for college credit. The Diocese of Toledo recommends that anyone who serves in ministry in a full time capacity have a degree in their area of ministry. In order to assist individuals in their quest for a college education, our program will offer 12 credit hours in theology which then can be transferred into an undergraduate degree. For those individuals who have an undergraduate degree but have no theology background, these 12 credits can give them the foundation they need to obtain a Master's degree.

We have our leaders to speak for us, our organizations to work for us, and our clergy to pray for us-but unless we, each and every one of us, make the individual commitment to rise to our full potential, we cannot expect our African American community to do the same.

Black Pearls Calendar

BLACK CATHOLIC CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

‘WELCOMING CHRIST IN THE OTHER: STRATEGIES FOR PARISH HOSPITALITY’

Saturday, April 12, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
St. Wendelin’s Church, Fostoria

INTERREGIONAL EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE (TIKO)

April 17-19, 2008
Louisville, KY
Focus: Leadership and Evangelization
Sponsored by the dioceses in Tennessee, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

ERASE THE HATE: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FINAL EVENT FOR 2007-08 CAMPAIGN OUR YOUTH, OUR HERITAGE AND OUR FUTURE

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008
NOTRE DAME ACADEMY AUDITORIUM
3:00 P.M.
Presentations for the Poetry, Video and Poster Youth Contests, Music and Dance, and Inspirational Speakers

CENTRAL CITY MINISTRY OF TOLEDO (CCMT)

17th Annual All-American Celebration
Monday, May 19, 2008
Gladieux Meadows-Heatherdowns
Keynote Speaker: The Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta

JUNETEENTH PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, June 14, 2008
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Speaker: Reverend Joseph Brown, SJ
Director, Black American Studies Program, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

ARCHBISHOP JAMES LYKE CONFERENCE

July 10-13, 2008
Lafayette, LA
www.lykeconference.com

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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