

AFRICAN AMERICAN



AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN APOSTOLATE

IMANI

Office of African American, African & Caribbean Apostolate

**AFRICAN AMERICAN, AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN
APOSTOLATE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014**

The annual Bishop Joseph A. Francis Scholarship Luncheon was held at the Ramada Inn Hotel on September 27th three days prior to what would have been Bishop Francis' eighty seventh birthday. Three youths were given scholarship money this year due primarily to the generosity of our Mistress of Ceremony, Esperanza Martinez.

This year's winners were Roberto Benoit who attended Union Catholic Regional High School and presently is a student at St John's University in Queens, New York, Timothy Williams who attended North Star Academy and is now a student at Temple University in Philadelphia and Quonda Cobbs a second year student at Bloomfield College in New Jersey.

Our annual essay contest for elementary school students took on a new dimension this year. A reception was held for the students, parents and teachers at the Pastoral Center in Newark. Three essays will be published in this issue of the *IMANI* and three in the spring issue. The three first place winners were: Carla Rubio, grade six from St. Joseph School in Jersey City, Andrew Williams, grade seven from Our Lady Help of Christians in East Orange, and Oliver De Leon, grade eight from St. Michael's School in Jersey City. The second place winners were Miya Marrison, sixth grade from St. Joseph School in Jersey City, Kevin George from St. Michael School in Jersey City, and Katherin Urbano grade eight from St. Michael School in Jersey City.

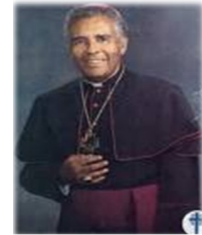
All the participants were awarded certificates. The winners were given a framed certificate and in addition the first place winners were given a gift certificate. Grateful thanks to all the participants and their principals, teachers and parents. Hopefully next year we will have participation from many more schools.

When I read the essays and the scholarship letters, I really believe that the leadership of tomorrow is being developed in many of our schools. I thank God every day for the teachers who faithfully teach and encourage the future of tomorrow in their pursuit of knowledge.

1st Quarters, Jan,
Feb, Mar 2015

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Save the date



**Bishop Joseph Frances
8th Award Luncheon
September 26, 2015
Ramada Plaza
Newark, NJ**



**Christ the King Church
Hospitality Ministry
768 Ocean Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304
8th Annual Advent
Prayer Breakfast
December 13, 2015
9:00 am-12:00 pm**

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR



I wish that 2015 will bring each of you many joys, blessings and good health. I am especially grateful to God that He has given us another year to meditate, pray and fulfill our covenant with Him. A covenant, we remember is an agreement. For most of us this agreement was made for us at our Baptism by our parents and godparents. As we matured and received the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation we promised fidelity to our faith and God. The fulfillment of the covenant, is a personal commitment to God and to neighbor. In other words, fulfilling the two great commandments that

Jesus gave us when He was asked by one of the scribes, “which is the first of all the commandments?” (Mk 12:27)

“The first is this; ‘Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ‘The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mk 12: 28-32)

Love, therefore, is the key to heaven. Love according to 1Corinthians, chapter thirteen is patient, kind, is not jealous and is not rude. Love is not conceited or proud. Love is not ill-mannered or selfish. Love helps us to forgive wrongs. Love enables us to see the face of Jesus in our neighbor. Love is an intelligent and devoted respect which could include knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the other.

Let us remember in 2015 that Love makes all things easy and to be willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. May our Mother Mary help us to see the face of her son in those we encounter in our daily lives.

**LOVE MAKES ALL THINGS EASY
GOD IS LOVE**

*IMANI is published by the Office of African American, African & Caribbean
Apostolate*

171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

Director: Sister Patricia Lucas, DHM

Page Layout and Design: Mrs. Margaret E. Dabney

*The Essay written by Carla Rubio, 6th Grade
St. Joseph School, Jersey City*

St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, on December 9, 1579. His father was Don Juan de Porres and his mother Ana Velazquez was a freed black slave from Panama, of African or possible part Native American descent. He had a sister Juana who was born two years later. After his sister was born the father abandoned them and they grew up in poverty. By law in Peru, descendants of Africans and Indians were barred from becoming full members of religious orders. The only option St. Martin de Porres had was to volunteer and performed tasks in order to wear the habit and in order to live with the religious community. When he turned 15 he became a servant boy of the Dominican Convent of the Rosary in Lima, Peru. In 1603, at the age of 24 he was allowed to receive religious vows as a Dominican lay. After he became a brother, St. Martin de Porres established an orphanage and a hospital for children who were poor and young. He is remembered for nursing multiple stray animals but mostly cats and dogs. St. Martin de Porres is attributed to many miracles including rising of the dead and healing of the sick.

If St. Martin de Porres were still alive today I would definitely want to friend him on Facebook or follow him on twitter. The reason I would friend St. Martin de Porres on Facebook or follow him on Twitter is because he seemed to be a very friendly and kind man to anyone or anything. He had a very kind heart. Also, he was a very caring man who cared for animals and poor children who were dying of hunger on the streets and who had no one to care for them. St. Martin de Porres offered these poor children a place to sleep and food to eat. Not too many people do these types of things. Most people today are selfish and only care about themselves and no one else. Another reason I would want to friend him on Facebook or follow him on twitter is that he was a very intelligent man and was a strong disciple of Gold. He did a lot of great things when he was on the earth he was a positive minority role model to many people that followed him.

If I would have the opportunity to have met St. Martin de Porres I would have had so many things I would talk to him about. I would want to know about the challenges he faced and what made him still get up in the morning and keep doing what he did and why. I would want to know what would he have done different if anything to help his challenges become easier to deal. How did he deal with the rejection because of his skin color and how he handled those rejections including the rejection of his Dominican brothers? I would also want to know how he felt after he opened up the orphanage and children's hospital for those in need. Where there other things that he wanted to do but did not get to accomplish it if so what were those things?

Continued on page 5

*This first place essay was written by Andrew Williams
7th Grade
Our Lady Help of Christians, South Orange*

Daniel Rudd is an important historical Black Catholic. Daniel is important because he was an educated Black man who used his knowledge to encourage thousands of people to follow the Catholic faith. He found the National Black Catholic Congress, NBCC, in 1889. The National Black Catholic Congress is an organization of African-American Roman Catholic. Their mission is to improve and enrich the lives of African-American Catholics. He was born August 7, 1854 to Robert and Elizabeth Rudd. His father was a slave on the Rudd estate near Bradstown, Kentucky and his mother was a slave of the Hayden family in Bardstown. Both parents were Catholic.

After the Civil War, Daniel Rudd moved to Springfield, Ohio in order to get a secondary-school education. A few years later in 1886 he began a Black newspaper which was called the "Ohio State Tribune." That same year, Rudd gave the newspaper a new name, "American Catholic Tribune," the only Catholic Journal owned and published by black men. The newsletter is presently published by the NBCC as the African American Catholic Tribune newsletter.

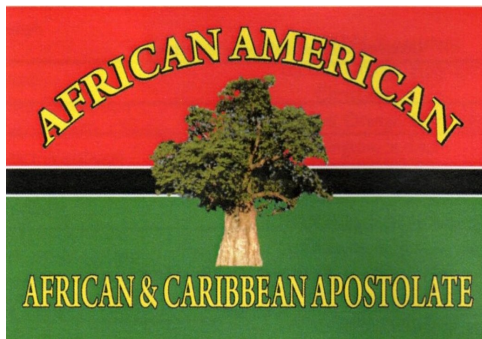
In 1889, Rudd called together the very first National Black Catholic Congress meeting. This meeting was held at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Washington, D. C. Men of African descent came from all over the United States to participate in this historic event. Rudd conducted five Black Congresses in his time. The congress was successful and achieved many goals. Fr. Cyprian Davis states that Daniel Rudd is one of the most important figures of the nineteenth and twentieth century since he published the newspaper.

Daniel Rudd impressed me because during the time that he was living. It was hard for blacks to do much anything. Daniel used his education to help others. This shows that he is a true Catholic and follower of Jesus and his teachings. If Daniel was alive today, I would love to be his friend on Facebook and follow him on twitter. I would ask him what and how he encourage young black people to go to church and convert to Catholicism.

*This first place essay was written by Carla Budio
6th Grade*

Was he satisfied with everything he had done?

In conclusion, the reason I chose to write about St. Martin de Porres was because I am of Peruvian descent and have visited where ST. Martin de Porres was born. I also found all his challenges that he had to go through very interesting and he never gave up and kept going. He is a much loved Saint in Lima, Peru. It was a beautiful experience and it touched me very much. It was a privilege and honor to know that this all took place in the county where my dad was born.



Our logo symbolizes the unity and diversity of people of African descent. Like the Europeans we are many cultures but one race.

The red in our flag represents the blood that was and still is being shed by our forefathers, foremothers and relatives today because of systemic racism.

Green is for the hope of a new tomorrow - a tomorrow where individuals are not judged by the color of their skin but by their skills and virtues.

Black, surrounded by thin white lines symbolizing the stars, is for the night sky that led the runaway slaves to freedom.

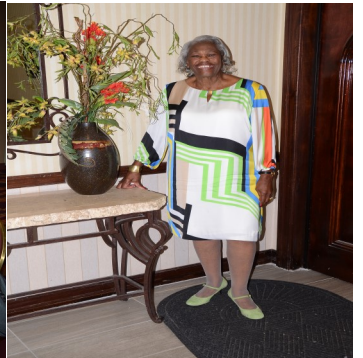
Gold symbolizes the ancient Kingdoms and rulers of Africa.

The Baobab tree front and center of the flag symbolizes the tree of life. The bark strong and heavy, planted firmly in the ground represents the strength and determination passed on from generation to generation.

This logo was designed by Patricia Lucas, DHM



...k, New Jersey October 25, 2014





4th DEGREE



BOYS



KNIGHTS



GIRLS



LADIES



LADIES of GRACE

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORDER

The Order was founded November 7, 1909 at Mobile Alabama; by four priests of the St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart (The Josephite Fathers) of Baltimore, Maryland - Fathers: Conrad F. Rebesher, John H. Dorsey, Samuel J. Kelly, and Joseph P. Van Baast, S.S.J.'s and the three laymen of the Diocese of Mobile Birmingham, Alabama. Messrs.: Gilbert Faustina, Frank Collins and Frank Trenier, all now passed to their eternal rewards; Incorporated July 12, 1911; the Fourth Degree was authorized in 1917; the Constitution for Junior Knights was compiled by the Reverend Joseph P. Van Baast, S.S.J. and his committee. The Ladies Auxiliary was authorized and their constitution adopted at Opelousas, Louisiana, August, 1922; the constitution of the National Council was revised by committee August, 1925; August, 1929; October, 1936; August, 1948; August, 1951; August, 1971 and August, 1979 August, 1989 and August, 1999. The Ladies Auxiliary was recognized as a Division of the National Council at Galveston, Texas, August, 1926; and the Junior Daughters was established in 1930; the Constitution of the Junior Knights was revised establishing the Junior Knights as a Division of the National Council, effective October 1, 1935. The first official organ of the Order was "The Shield" published for the first time at Mobile, Alabama, November 1910, with Frank Trenier, Charter Member and National Secretary, as Editor. The successor to "The Shield" is "The Claverite", authorized in 1922 as a monthly publication, and its first Editor was Joseph H. Rieras who served until 1928. "The Claverite" changed to a Quarterly Publication in 1948 at which time it was edited by the National Secretary. Presently, the Executive Director publishes the Claverite.

Brother Charles Brooks Knights of Peter Claver

HOLY SPIRIT And OUR LADY HELP of CHRISTIANS, EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY



Our Lady Help of Christians was first organized in 1882, carved from the territory of St. John, Orange, the Mother Church of the Oranges. The first Mass was celebrated in a rental hall in 1882 upon an improvised altar of planks and barrels. In 1883 a wooden church was quickly erected and dedicated in 1897.

In spring of 1883 Our Lady Help of Christians School was established in the church building at Main St. and Ashland Ave. Since there was no convent, the Sisters of Charity came down each day from St. John's in Orange to teach. The school soon outgrew its original building and the parish purchased Ashland School in 1907. The Sisters of Charity remained until 1979, when Sr. Patricia Hogan, a Caldwell Dominican, became the principal. Presently Our Lady help of Christians School, one of the two remaining Catholic Elementary Schools in East Orange, continues to thrive with a student population of nearly 500.

Holy Spirit Parish began in 1931 with Fr. Cornelius Ahern and a group of dedicated members who had been meeting at St. Bridget's Hall in Newark, as part of the Parish of Queen of Angels, established the "Holy Ghost Mission" at 154 Amherst St. in East Orange. Their numbers grew and the mission moved to a store front on North Clinton Street. After years of sacrifice and commitment, Archbishop Walsh allowed the parish to secure their own church building, formerly a small Protestant church, at 80 Main St. in Orange, which he blessed on December 8, 1942; quite a feat in the midst of World War II and the Great Depression.

The parish flourished under Fr. David Price for thirty years. The Rosary Society and Altar Society, which had been in existence since the parish was founded, at one point had close to 200 members; the Holy Name Society more than 75 members. Tuesday nights, St. Jude's Novena drew large crowds. In 1974 Monsignor Price was transferred to St, Gabriel Church. He was succeeded by Fr. George Lutz.

**African American
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**Archdiocesan Center
c/o Sr. Patricia Lucas
171 Clifton Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07104**

Phone : 973-497-4304

Fax: 973-497-4317

Email: lucapat@rcan.org

www.rcan.org
Under Ministries
Offices

