



ARCHDIOCESE  
of NEWARK

*IMANI* (FAITH)

Office of African American, African & Caribbean Apostolate



**Bishop  
Joseph  
Francis, SVD**  
*Anniversary Edition*



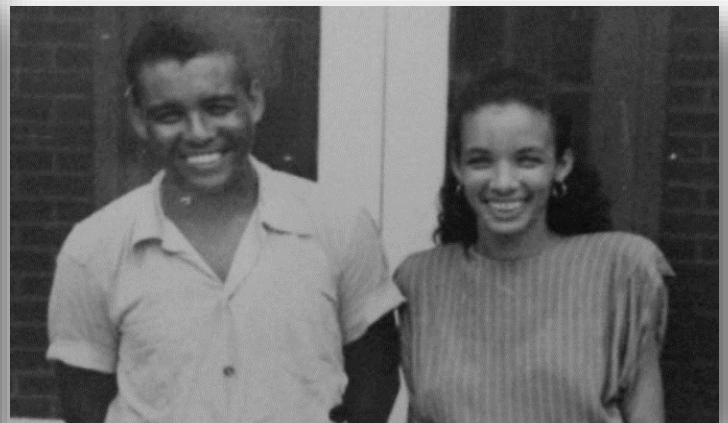


## Biography of Bishop Francis, SVD

The merry voices of children squealing and laughing, resounded near the Francis home, where seven-year old Joseph Francis led his romping playmates on the wide areas around his home. When the favorite game of "playing church" began, all were silent; Joseph, "the priest," first arranged his "congregation," then in imitation of what he had observed in the parish church "preached," and "prayed," then called for a full "Amen." Noticing a smiling next door neighbor, Joseph said enthusiastically, "I am going to be a priest." "A priest?" she asked. "You can't be a priest, you're colored." The small boy understood what she meant; at the same time he was very disappointed. He had figured that in the priesthood color would not make any difference.

Color did make a difference in every area of his life. Living in a segregated neighborhood meant that Black people attended a church just for them, while white people went to a larger, more elegant place of worship. Joseph went to a school for Black children; and when he attended the theater, he sat in the balcony, the place assigned to Blacks.

Joseph Abel Francis, Jr., born September 30, 1923, was the first of the five children born to Joseph Francis, Sr., and Mabel Ann Coco. Before their marriage, Joseph Francis built the house in Lafayette, Creole County, Louisiana, on a plot large enough to provide for garden, playground, flower beds, and animal shelters. Both parents, deeply religious, stemmed from long-time Catholic backgrounds. They did not conceal the fact that both had considered religious life before they met and married.





The Francis family were members of Lafayette's St. Paul Parish, staffed by priests from the Holy Ghost Fathers. All the children were baptized there; later they attended St. Paul's parochial school conducted by Sisters of the Holy Family, a Black religious community.

Bishop Francis has often remarked that after his parents, those who had the greatest influence in his very young life were the Sisters of the Holy Family. The Sisters of the Holy Family are the second oldest community of Black Sisters in the United States. Bishop Francis' parents, his sisters and brother, five of his nieces and nephews and one grand-nephew were educated by the Sisters of the Holy Family.

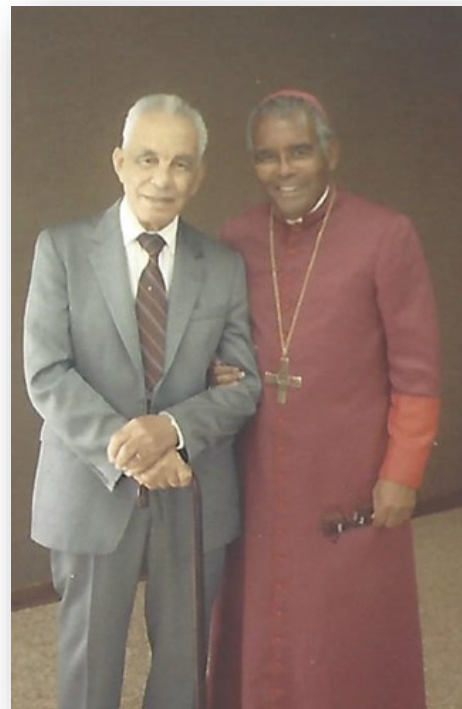
To support his family Joseph Francis worked as an iceman, but, with the depression years, people could not afford ice and that business ended. He then found a job as a handyman for the Greyhound Bus Company. Later he became a bell captain in a hotel. When the economy improved, Joseph Francis opened and operated his own barber shop where he worked until past the age of seventy-six.

The Francis family cultivated a garden, producing a variety of vegetables. They also kept Chicken & and a cow. Years later, Joseph, Jr. recalled: "I remember watering row after row of plants and weeding the place day after day. I also remember leading the cow along the railroad tracks, searching for grassy areas." It was during those long, quiet hours with the grazing cow that the growing lad pondered his future and dreamed his dreams. Joseph Jr.'s portrayal of his family reveals an abiding pride in his home training to which, for the most part, he attributes his vocation.

My father insisted that all of us do the things he thought were important; in particular, this meant education, with its demand of solid, persevering study. He wanted his children to have the tools to do what he could not do. We were constantly affirmed by both father and mother who taught us to know and believe that we were not inferior because we were Black

Joseph and Mabel Francis had the life-time satisfaction that their guidance and admonitions were eminently fruitful. The oldest son became a Bishop; the second, Norman Francis, an attorney and college president; daughters, Mabel Francis Bobb and Velma Francis Boykin teachers; and Pauline Francis Navarre, a Head start coordinator Joseph and Mabel Francis hoped for a priest in the family but they never expressed this or coerced it in any way. They merely supplied the Catholic home, a home in which the family prayed together. Every morning before the father left for work, he with his wife and children knelt before one of the shrines to pray; upon his return in the evening the same prayer was repeated.

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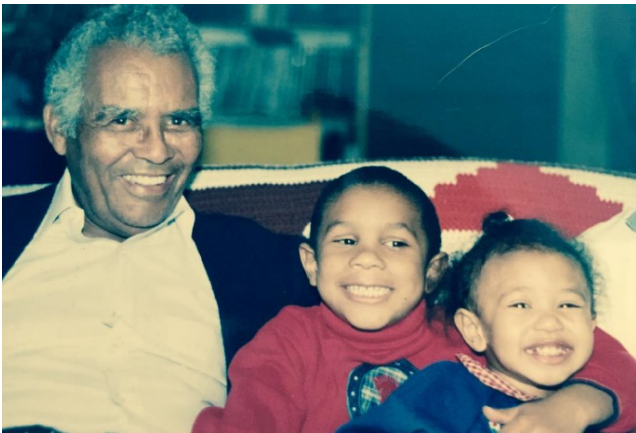
Joseph and Mabel Francis were generous, ready to share their produce with needy people, especially during the depression years. Their charity was humble and unobtrusive. The father simply went to the door of some family and said: "We have this extra food. Can you use it?"

While in grammar school, young Joseph maintained that he wanted to be a priest. His teachers, both



priests and sisters, encouraged him. He was now convinced that a Negro could become a priest. When he completed eighth grade, a decision had to be made for his future schooling. The Francis family could not afford the \$500 tuition, but that obstacle was diminished through an agreement of a partial payment with the balance later. Parents as well as teachers and seminary officials wanted the boy to wait because of his youth. He was twelve years

old. He listened to the objection: "How will you get along away from your loving family?" Joseph Jr., however, was determined to go. "If I don't go now, he said, "I will never go." He was told then by his parents that he did not need to stay at the seminary. "Come home to us, if you don't like it."



Joseph Jr. entered the seminary high school at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, in September of 1936. The history of St. Augustine Seminary, which opened seventeen years before his entrance, impressed Joseph Francis deeply.

Associating with other Black Students, keeping up with the demanding studies in the classroom, and his own intense determination helped the boy to conquer the homesickness that clouded the greater part of his first year.





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The thought of spending summer months with his family lifted his spirits. "I wanted to leave the school, the pain of separation was so bad," he said later, "but I knew I would regret it so I stayed on." In a boy-to-God panic, he pleaded, "Lord, if you want me to be a priest, you better do something to keep me here." He admitted that in later years when things became difficult, he "got tough" with God and used the same kind of appeal.

The summer months spent in Lafayette gave Joseph Jr. a chance to help pay his tuition. He took whatever jobs were available and out of the weekly \$3.50 he earned, \$3.00 went for his schooling. During all his years at Bay St. Louis, Joseph Francis made remarkable strides in learning. He became increasingly interested in the history, growth and success of St. Augustine Seminary. He tried to prove to fellow Catholics that Black people possess not only the potential but also the ability to serve as priests.

Following the completion of his studies at St. Augustine Minor Seminary, Joseph spent the years 1941-1946 at St. Mary's Major Seminary at Techny, Illinois. The great distance from his family and his beloved Southland brought on the old homesickness. He claimed that it was his mother's weekly letters that carried him through those five years. At Techny Joseph found himself in the company of many white students as well as young men of various nationalities. To his great delight he felt like an equal among equals, not a trace of racism; the spirit of the Society barred all prejudice. Both teachers, and fellow-students learned that Joseph rated high in academic achievements, leadership qualities, and personal charm.

Accustomed from his youth to the ways of segregation, Joseph found his world turned around. The unity and companionship he experienced at Saint Mary's Seminary told him that it was possible for all races to live together in harmony, that segregation engenders prejudice, bigotry and hatred. "The longer I stayed in the North, the more I detested the whole world of segregation."

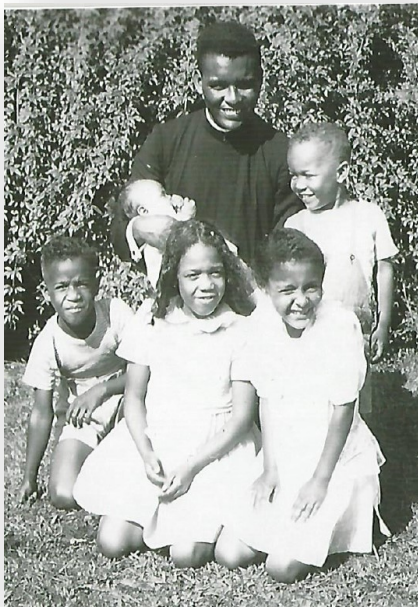
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Bishop Francis dad, siblings, friends with nieces



Bishop Francis with nephews and nieces





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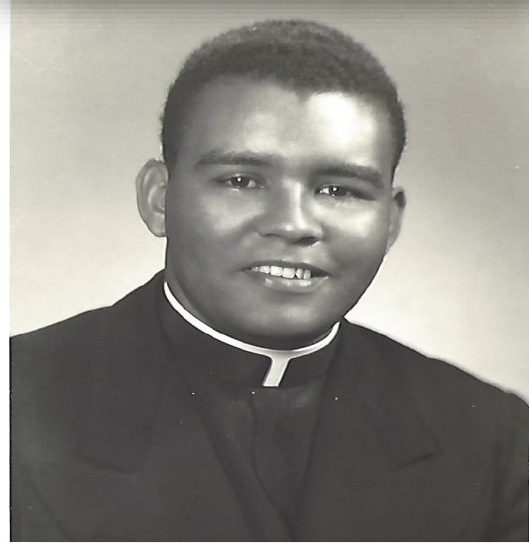
His journey back to the South was a rude awakening. In his attempt to board a train in Chicago, he was promptly pushed aside by the white conductor and directed toward the Jim Crow car, a coach reserved for the colored. The young seminarian's peace of mind and security were shattered. "I was angry," he said, "because I was back in that world of segregation again." All along that route, the nine hundred miles back to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, Joseph saw the "Whites Only" signs at the various railroad stations. Every one of those glaring signs was a tangible indicator of people's hatred, their heartlessness and oppression. He became fully convinced that it was his duty to combat segregation for the sole reason that it is sinful.

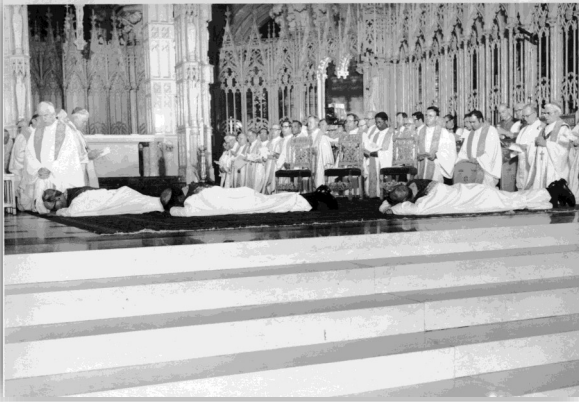
His anger subsided only after he resolved to fight racism in all its forms. That train trip in a coach, crowded with fellow-Blacks was an object lesson for Joseph. It was his entrance upon a battlefield, a war against racism which he would fight, valiantly through all the years of his priesthood and more expressly during his episcopate.

Joseph Francis continued his studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Techny, Illinois, and was ordained to the priesthood October 7, 1950. He earned a Master's degree at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

After working in parishes and serving at Verbum Dei, Bishop Francis became provincial superior of the Divine Word Father Western Province until 1973, when he became superior of the congregation's Southern Province. He also served as president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men Religious and president of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.

He was named auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Peter L. Gerety by Pope Paul VI May 4, 1976 and found himself "smack in the middle of a huge archdiocese" he said. He was able to work with many diverse ethnic groups in his new position and was soon exercising his talents on a national and international level. He was the principal author of *Brothers and Sisters to Us*, the U.S. Bishops' 1979 pastoral on the sin of racism and he lectured nationally and internationally on justice and peace.





## Homily of Archbishop Peter Leo Gerety September 3, 1997 on the vigil mass of Bishop Francis, SVD

I begin these words of mine this evening by offering to the members of Bishop Francis's family, to his brother, Norman, to his sisters, Pauline, Velma and Mabel, the sincere sympathy of all of us here present and indeed of the entire Archdiocese of Newark as we join them in mourning the death of a man, their brother, who was truly a wonderful priest and bishop. I myself am especially moved on this occasion and join Bishop Francis's family in their grief because I have lost with his passing not only a close co-worker in the Lord's Vineyard but also a valued friend of many years; standing.

On Labor Day, I was out of town when Monsignor Seymour telephoned me to give me the sad news that God had suddenly called the Bishop home. Given the serious health problems that he had been, suffering from of late it was not a complete surprise I must confess. But death, when it comes, is always a shock and so it was, I am sure for Bishop Francis's family, so it was for so many people, so it was for me. From that moment, the Bishop has filled my thoughts. Like a refrain and antiphon taken from scripture has been running through my mind. For many centuries as a Bishop enters a Church on an official visit it has been the custom to welcome him by singing "Ecce sacerdos magnus-Behold a great high priest who in his days pleased God."

Those words are especially appropriate for the Bishop whom we mourn this evening. He was indeed an outstanding priest who served God's people in numerous posts of high responsibilities. No matter what he was called to do, he always demonstrated unique priestly qualities of leadership exercised with a charming smile that won our hearts.

When I heard of his death, I happened to be talking with two religious Sisters. I told them the sad news and one of them who knew the Bishop well immediately said, "He always radiated joy." Then later on in the day, I talked to one of our priests. I told him of a conversation I had with the Bishop just three or four days ago. I had asked the Bishop how he felt. He replied that each day he was feeling better. He seemed quite chipper. The reaction of my priest friend was typical. He said, "That was just like him-always upbeat."



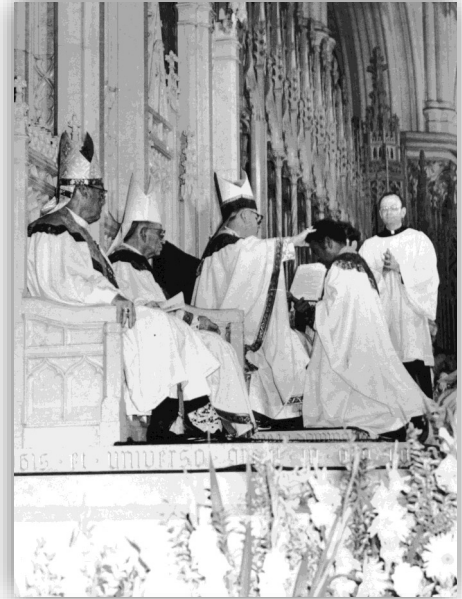
Where did that beautiful personality come from? I am sure it was rooted in the Catholic faith and in his complete trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. By faith, he knew that after this life on this earth those words of Job that we have just heard in our First Reading would come true, literally true. After death, they would be fulfilled. "My vindicator lives...whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold Him...and from my flesh I shall see God."

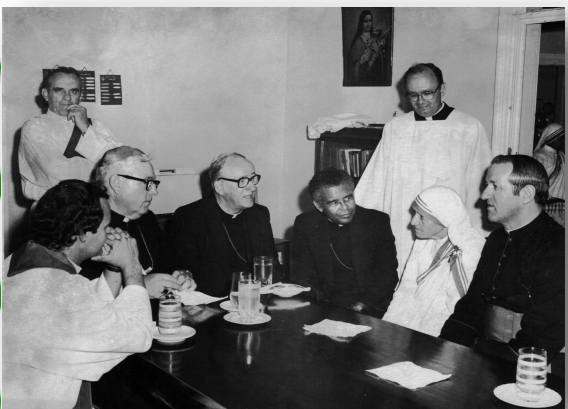
By faith, that constant faith he lived by, he took to heart those words of Saint Paul that we have just heard assuring us that "We have a building from God, a dwelling not made by hands, eternal in heaven." In that hope-filled faith he was courageous for he feared not as he fought the good fight for justice and holiness and right.

And he never wavered as those who knew him well are certain, he never wavered in his firm faith and confidence in the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live; and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

That great faith in the eternal verities was the light to Bishop Francis' path all during his pilgrimage on this earth. That was the faith that he learned from his earliest days from his mother and father. That was the faith that was nourished in his family. It was a very distinguished Catholic family I might interject.

Many times, he told me of the prayer life of his mother and father together. He used to love to tell of the way his father prepared for sleep each night. He had a number of pictures or statues of saints in his room. Before lying down he would go to each one and offer a last little word of good night. He and his wife lived in the presence of God and of His saints. Cont'd on page 10





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And so did their son Joseph. He had a wonderful career~ priest, elected twice to be Provincial in his Congregation of the Society of the Divine Word, finally Auxiliary Bishop here in Newark.

Yet always there was the brooding presence of humiliations, insults, and indignities inflicted because of his race. How could it be otherwise for a black person in these United States? Segregation was everywhere in the years of his youth, discrimination was omnipresent. What courage it took to be a priest in a Church that was not unstained by that racial virus.

In fact, it was as a result of our mutual concern for racial justice in the church and in society that our paths first crossed. It was many years ago. I was Pastor of Saint Martin de Porres parish in New Haven, Connecticut, and chairman of Archbishop O'Brien's Committee on Human Rights; he was one of the leading lights of the Society of the Divine Word that has given so many black priests and bishops to the Catholic Church in our Country.

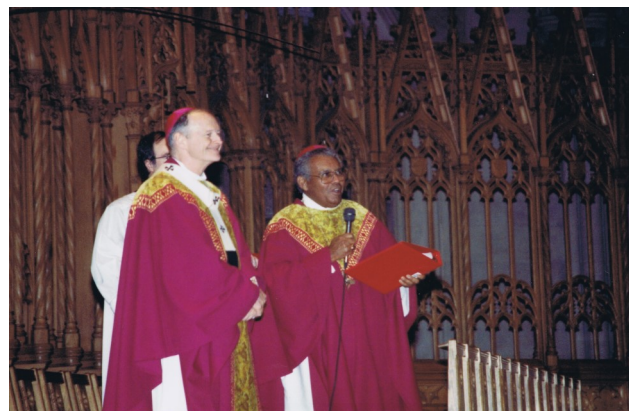
We used to run into each other at meetings and conventions sponsored by such organizations as the National Catholic Conference for interracial Justice. We became fast friends. I soon learned of his leadership qualities and his devotion to the priesthood, and of his leadership in the struggle for justice. No one, therefore, would have been astonished when as soon as I had the chance as Archbishop of Newark I proposed his name to Rome for Auxiliary Bishop here in our Archdiocese. What most people do not know is that he was very nearly not promoted to the rank of bishop. His name had already been approved by the Holy Father. It was on the verge of being announced when the new bishop-to-be came down with serious heart problems. Archbishop Jadot, the Apostolic Delegate, and I talked the situation over. The prognosis was fairly good so we decided to go ahead and let the appointment be announced. God was good! For the last twenty-one years our Archdiocese of Newark has been blessed by the presence of God's Precious Gift of a truly wonderful bishop.





His service to our people has been distinguished in many ways. But while we thank Our Lord for his good works among us we have learned to love him. We will miss him deeply. Yet I know that he would want me in this homily not to dwell on his accomplishments. Rather he would ask that we speak of his love for Our Savior Jesus Christ, for Christ's holy Catholic Church and the gift to His people of the priesthood and the episcopate, and of the absolute necessity for us Catholics to live up to our church's teaching on the equal dignity of every human being. How wonderful, how necessary to the People of God is that priesthood to the life of the Church. It is the priest who assumes a leadership role in the parishes and it is the Bishop who does the same in the Diocese. It is the priest or the bishop who preaches the word of God to us, that saving word of eternal life. It is the priest who confects the Eucharist in our midst as God's People offer the great sacrifice of praise, the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord for the salvation of the world. The priest absolves us from our sins, consoles us in our sorrowing's, with Christ's word he lifts us up and directs us to the goal of everlasting happiness. How we should pray constantly for God to send us good priests and bishops and especially priests, bishops and religious who are proud of their black heritage or who are willing to be counted in the struggle that was so dear to Bishop Francis's heart. The struggle, which he himself fought so bravely, and how we must all strive for the excommunication of racial prejudice in the body of the church and in society. Those are the thoughts that surely Bishop Francis in his own life would above all commend to us. As we pray God to receive him into His heavenly kingdom. Let us pledge never to forget the teachings of eternal life, of the love of God and His Church, of love for the priesthood of the thirst for justice that he taught us by word and example.

He touched us profoundly during his time among us. We loved him deeply with all our hearts. May God grant us to see him again in His heavenly kingdom when our time comes with Him forever. Amen.





"These Sisters of the Holy Family gave us a sense of pride in who we are, long before Black became beautiful, they taught us Black History, introduced us to Black poets, musicians, educators, scientists and hosts of heroes and heroines from slavery, as well as great Black men and women who led their people in the difficult post-emancipation years."

"I consider myself and others consider me, a social activist. I'm trying to bring one clear message a message that is contained in the bible and in all social teachings that every individual is entitled to basic rights".

Bishop Francis, SVD



Area Deputy Margaret Peg Henderson,  
Bishop Joseph A. Francis Court 297



It was June 1976 that the Auxiliary Bishops arrived at Newark Airport and the most exciting there was an African American Bishop, Joseph Abel Francis, SVD who was invited by Archbishop Gerety the Archbishop of Newark.

It was extremely important to me because it was the historical moment! I had not had the pleasure to meet any African American Catholic Bishops, Priest, Sisters or Brothers. I wrote the Bishop with my awe struck awareness that an African American was a Catholic Bishop, praise God! I wrote Bishop and congratulated him and informed of my new awareness. I immediately received a letter inviting me to meet him at his office. I was so happy and I found Bishop Francis to be very understanding, gracious in his teaching of the Catholic faith. I was invited to become part of the Black Catholic Coordinating Team and later one of the Black Congress candidates who convene after many years. I am so proud and honored to be one of the individuals that knew Bishop and received his many blessings. I thanked Bishop Francis so much for his power and strength for his part for our archdiocese to be part of the Fraternal Order of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary: St. Martin De Porres Council 297 and Bishop Joseph A. Francis Court 297. How proud our Bishop would be that our fraternal order will be 30 years old in January 2018.



Nancy Barckett

I am blessed to have known Bishop Francis. When I worked with Sr. Anastasia Hearne, I attended the original Black Catholic Council, to record minutes of their meetings, at Bishop Francis' residence in East Orange. One special memory I have is when a phone call came into our office.

I recognized the voice and asked if it was Joe (thinking he was someone who phone regularly from another office). Bishop's kind response to me was: "yes, my friends call me Joe". It was Bishop Francis - who, to this day,

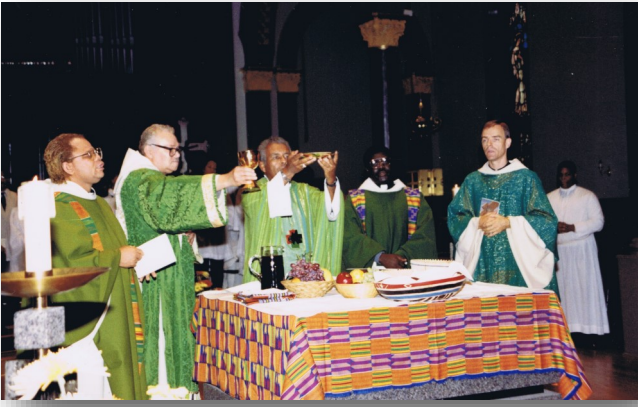


I refer to as "my friend Joe". I remember Bishop Francis as a very kind and prayerful priest. May he continue to share in the joys of being with the Saints in Heaven!











Diana Maina, Christ the King Church, Jersey City



“Bishop Francis, during his leadership as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Newark, and my involvement with the office of Black Catholics Coordinating Team was very instrumental in my spiritual growth. This relationship strengthened my faith in the Catholic Church. The Black Coordinating Team spent many nights at Bishop Francis’ home planning programs and activities for the parishioners. Bishop Francis urged me to attend the National Black Catholic Congresses and was selected by him and the Black Coordinating Team to serve as a delegate at the National Black Catholic Congress. I will always remember his kindness, generosity, sensitivity, courage, and his love for all of the Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Newark.”

Sr. Patricia Lucas, Former Director of African American, African, & Caribbean Apostolate



“I will always remember the Office of African American, African, & Caribbean Apostolate as I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as its Director from 2008-2016. During that time, it was a pleasure to host the First Bishop Joseph Francis Awards Luncheon in 2008. The response from many was overwhelming. I had the opportunity to award priests, brothers, and sisters for their many years of service and dedication. I also awarded outstanding parishioners who were recommended by their pastors. Also, from 2011-2016, a new initiative was started in the Apostolate which began awarding \$1000.00 scholarships to high school students. During this period, many students received this financial gift to continue the dream of Bishop Francis which was to focus on educating African American youth. In addition, scholarship awards were given to Assumption College to the sisters from Africa. It is my hope and intent to always remember Bishop Joseph Francis for his exemplary work and service as Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark.”

Mr. Arthur N. Martin

“There are several points of commonality that I shared with Bishop Francis. The first is when he received an Honorary Doctor of Ministry Degree from my alma mater, Holy Cross, located in Worcester, MA. He truly displayed his outstanding work for the cause of justice for all. Another commonality that we shared was our love for the education of African American youth. In the late seventies, I was approached by the Bishop to assist in the transition of moving Essex Catholic from Newark to East Orange. This move was highly controversial as it would result in relocating the girls from East Orange Catholic High School. In spite of the criticism and push back, the move was taking place. The new school opened in 1980 and remained open until 2003. In consideration for what Bishop Francis accomplished, the school was renamed Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School.”





### Msgr. Timothy Shugrue

I had the privilege of working with Bishop Francis on two major projects. First, when I was charged with a review of the norms and procedures of the Permanent Diaconate Preparation Program of the Archdiocese, following a Report guided by Bishop Francis at Archbishop Gerety's direction. This was the first of its kind, of the Archdiocesan Diaconate Program conducted by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate. Bishop Francis was a strong supporter and was clearly-focused on the service ministries of charity and justice. He was particularly interested in expanding the ministry of permanent deacons in the African American and Hispanic communities of the Archdiocese. The second project was the Archdiocesan Commission for the Observance of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, of which Bishop Francis was the Chair. I was very impressed by Bishop Francis' vigor in supporting the aim of the Commission to involve all of the parishes of the Archdiocese in celebrating in a meaningful way the dawn of the Third Millennium of Christianity. I remember the Bishop in his capacity as Regional Bishop for Essex County, and was grateful for his concern and encouragement in my responsibility as a pastor in Montclair. Remembering Bishop Francis twenty years after his death, I thank God for his example of devotion to the Church and to the priesthood."

### Karin K. Walters

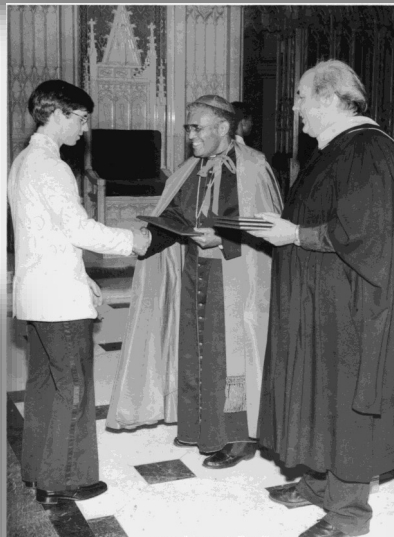
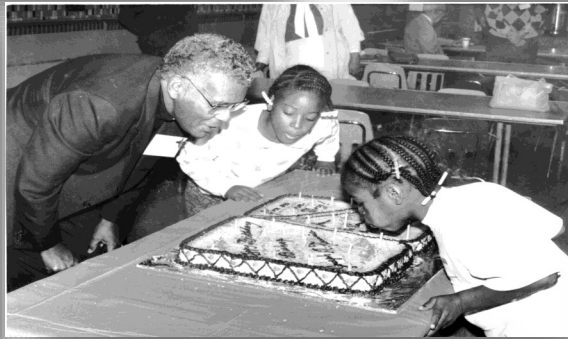
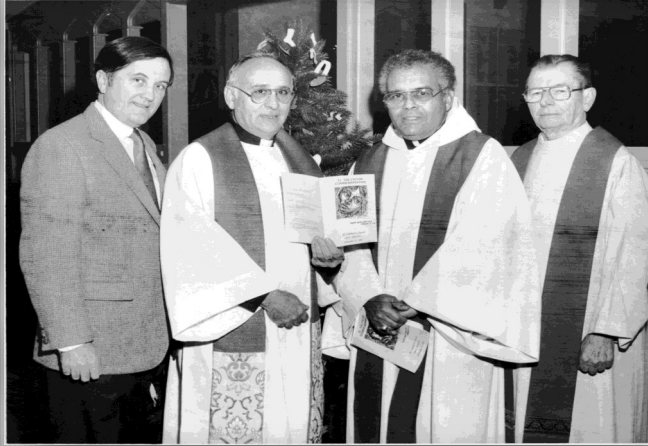
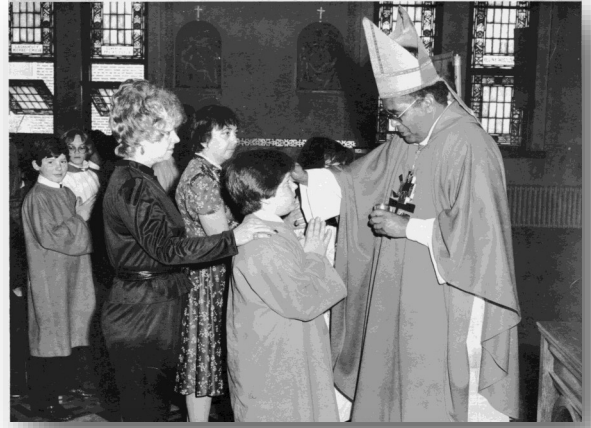
"I never met Bishop Francis in person, but we have an association which goes back many years. My brother was in the Seminary in Belgium and Bishop Francis came over for the Diaconate Ordination. In talking with my brother he mentioned to Bishop Francis that I had a doll collection. Bishop Francis bought a doll in Bruges for me and gave it to my brother to give to me. The doll is still on my shelf today and every time I look at the doll I think of Bishop Francis."

### Archbishop Emeritus Alfred C. Hughes of Archdiocese of New Orleans

Twenty years ago this September Bishop Joseph Francis completed his earthly journey. A native Louisianan, from Lafayette, he came from a family of faith who contributed generously to the life of the Church and the wider community. His brother, Dr. Norman Francis, served as a remarkably effective President of Xavier University in New Orleans for over 50 years. Joseph Francis chaired the Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that produced the statement: Brothers and Sisters to Us. This statement boldly condemned racism in the United States and the Church. His words resonate with special meaning in today's atmosphere presenting new challenges for racial justice, harmony, and peace. May the witness and words of Bishop Joseph Francis invite us all to be truly brothers and sisters to one another.

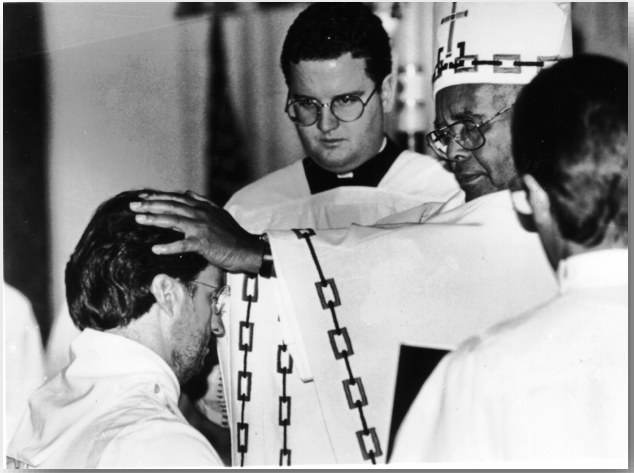


Bishop Francis as the Regional Bishop of Essex County





Bishop Francis as the Regional Bishop of Essex County







**Sr. Sylvia Thibadeaux, Sisters of the Holy Family, New Orleans**

“As a freshman high school student, I was blessed to have Bishop Francis as my English teacher. We young women were fascinated by his smile and fresh voice. Monday mornings were different however. They always started with a one page composition labored over the weekend, telling of the excitement of the days away from school. If one was remised with this assignment, the smile soon faded, and in a stern voice “Miss/Mr...detention after school.” “As a Sister of the Holy Family, our lives reconnected many times in our respective ministries. We served on several boards related to Black ministries, and efforts nationwide to improve quality education for Black Catholic youth. As Bishop, my admiration and respect for him increased over the years. We stayed in contact. I know he is with God and forever praying for us.”

**Msgr. Emmanuel M. Capozzelli, Pastor Emeritus**

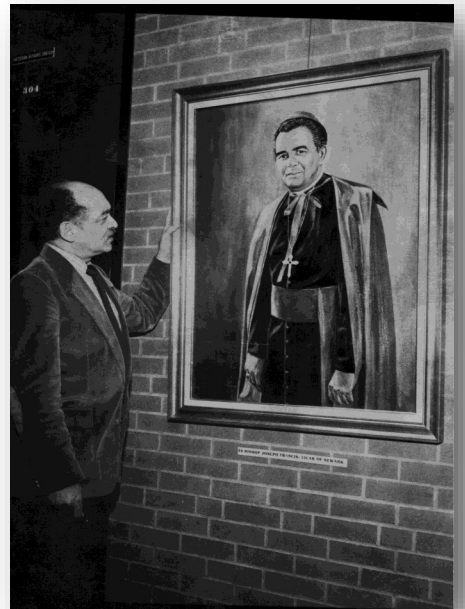
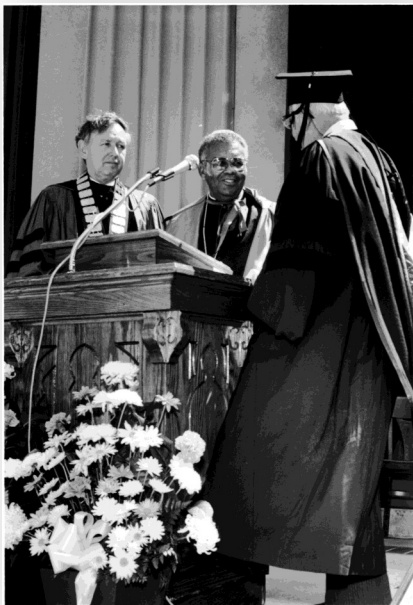
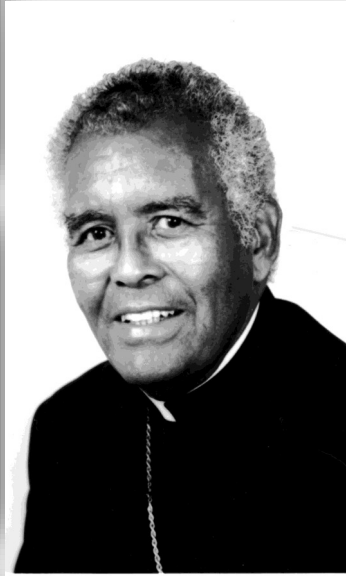
“While I was pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Montclair, I was also Head Dean. This is when I had the privilege of meeting Bishop Francis. I planned a party for him in appreciation of the good work that he had done as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. When he called to reply he was coming, he said, “Hello Monsignor.” I told the Bishop he must have the wrong person. As I was doing something for him, he in turn assured me that I had been bestowed the honor and title of Monsignor - I’ll never forget that, and that was in 1986!”

**Mr. Charles Brooks, Area Deputy/Financial Secretary, Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver**

“I remember Bishop Joseph Francis as he humbly served as our National Chaplain of the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver. In addition to his wonderful leadership he was also a charter member of our chapter St. Martin de Porres Council #297. Bishop Francis also displayed a natural ability to calm the waters of tension. His ability to engage in discourse between people who may have been at odds with each other was commendable. Often, Bishop Francis would celebrate our special Masses, especially on the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Peter Claver which occurred every September. Bishop Francis was a wonderful leader and mentor to many of the knights and ladies of Peter Claver. Let us all remain in prayer as we honor this wonderful man who did so much for so many people within the Archdiocese of Newark.”



Bishop Francis as the recipient of numerous awards





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## Parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark with African American, African, and Caribbean faithful

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| <p>(B) BERGENFIELD, ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST</p> <p>(B) ENGLEWOOD, ST. CECILIA</p> <p>(B) HACKENSACK, HOLY TRINITY</p> <p>(B) LEONIA, ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST</p> <p>(B) TEANECK, ST. ANASTASIA</p> <p>(B) TENAFLY, O.L. OF MOUNT CARMEL</p> <p>(E) EAST ORANGE, HOLY NAME OF JESUS</p> <p>(E) EAST ORANGE, HOLY SPIRIT/OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS</p> <p>(E) EAST ORANGE, OUR LADY OF Mt. CARMEL</p> <p>(E) EAST ORANGE, ST. JOSEPH</p> <p>(E) IRVINGTON, ST. LEO</p> <p>(E) WEST ORANGE, OUR LADY OF LOURDES</p> <p>(E) MAPLEWOOD, ST. JOSEPH</p> <p>(E) MONTCLAIR, ST THERESA OF CALCUTTA</p> <p>(E) MONTCLAIR, ST. PETER CLAVER</p> <p>(E) NEWARK, BLESSED SACRAMENT/ St. CHARLES BORROMEIO</p> <p>(E) NEWARK, PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION</p> <p>(E) NEWARK, ST. ANTONINUS</p> | <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, CHRIST THE KING</p> <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, O.L. OF SORROWS</p> <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, O.L. OF VICTORIES</p> <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, ST. ALOYSIUS</p> <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, ST. ANNE</p> <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</p> <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, ST. PATRICK/ASSUMPTION -ALL SAINTS</p> <p>(H) JERSEY CITY, ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE</p> <p>(U) ELIZABETH, HOLY ROSARY/ST. MICHAEL</p> <p>(U) HILLSIDE, CHRIST THE KING</p> <p>(U) PLAINFIELD, ST. BERNARD AND ST. STANISLAUS</p> <p>(U) PLAINFIELD, ST. MARY</p> <p>(U) RAHWAY, DIVINE MERCY</p> <p>(U) ROSELLE, ST. JOSEPH THE CARPENTER</p> <p>(U) UNION, ST. MICHAEL</p> |
|---|--|

**COUNTIES:**  
**B = BERGEN**  
**E = ESSEX**  
**H = HUDSON**

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ November 10, 2017- Bishop Joseph Francis Annual Scholarship Dinner, The Waterfront Center, Newark, NJ
- ◆ December 16, 2017- Youth Day, Kearny, NJ
- ◆ February 17, 2018- Black History month (*Day of Reflection*)



## **Save The Date**

**Bishop Francis Annual Scholarship Dinner  
Friday, November 10, 2017,  
Newark Waterfront Center  
1100 McCarter Highway, Newark**

**For more information or to get the ticket please  
contact Fr. Emeka Okwuosa, SDV  
okwuosem@rcan.org or 973-780-0057**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the African American, African, & Caribbean  
Apostolate is to:**

**DISCOVER and PROMOTE leadership among Roman Catholics  
of African descent in the Archdiocese of Newark.**

**ENCOURAGE Fiscal responsibility and self reliance.**

**EMPOWER young adults to embrace their cultural identity and  
to refuse to live their lives apart from their Savior Jesus the  
Christ.**

**LOVE who we are and to Whom we belong thus striving to  
eradicate all form of racism and oppression.**



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**African American,  
African & Caribbean  
Apostolate**

Archdiocesan Center  
c/o Fr. Emeka Okwuosa, S.D.V.  
171 Clifton Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07104

Phone: 973-497-4304  
Fax: 973-497-4317  
Email: okwuosem@rcan.org



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*Archdiocesan Center  
c/o Fr. Emeka Okwuosa, S.D.V.  
171 Clifton Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07104*

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