



ARCHDIOCESE  
of NEWARK

*IMANI* (FAITH)

Office of African American, African & Caribbean Apostolate

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2019**



**“BLACK MIGRATIONS”**

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Item: B19



The Saint Luke Production of “Tolton: From Slave to Priest” was performed live by actor, Jim Coleman, at St. Benedict’s Preparatory School in Newark this past September. Sponsored by the African American, African & Caribbean Apostolate, all three performances dramatized the life story of Servant of God Augustus Tolton and the incredible odds that confronted him in his quest to become a priest in the Catholic Church. The audience was presented with a live portrayal of Tolton’s life through the presentation of live drama mixed with creative screen imaging. On its nationwide tour, “Tolton: From Slave to Priest” impacted its audience in several ways. The most important message which radiated throughout the performance was that holiness is possible for anyone to achieve as long as one remains faithful to Christ. This was evident in the life of Servant of God Tolton as his cause is currently under consideration before the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

*Susan Rich*



In recognition of Black Catholic History Month 2018, the Black Catholic Concerns Ministry of St Peter Claver Church in Montclair invited Essex County Prosecutor, Theodore Stephens, to speak on Mass Incarceration. This presentation and discussion was in accordance with the National Black Catholic Congress Pastoral Plan. It was well attended with persons from a wide variety of ages. Mr. Stephens also had a member of his staff speak and conduct a Q&A with the attendees. The overall afternoon was very well received. *Tina Schumacher*



Our 30th Anniversary began with a Mass at St. Mary's Parish on October 6, 2018, and continued with a Communion Breakfast at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark, New Jersey. One other significant moment came as our Council initiated five men; Henry Rawls, Anthony Rawls, Jackie M. Floyd-Thomas, Vazquez Esteban and Michael Thurston.

It was an awesome view when the Ladies processed in their Third Order and the initiates in black suits with the Knights in Third Order.

During the Communion Breakfast, our guest read a congratulatory letter from our Shepherd, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, CSSR. The Cardinal blessed us by acknowledging that we are examples of St. Peter Claver's ministry, and that we are important in the archdiocese maintaining 30 years as Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver. The Newark Abbot's Abbot, who also shared a congratulatory message, offered these words: "The St. Martin DePorres Council and the Bishop Francis Court have been a great source of edification for the Monks of Newark Abbey and members of St. Mary's Church."

The Archdiocese of Newark African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate Coordinator, Father Emeka Okwuosa, SDV, congratulated our Order, Council and Court for our support of charitable efforts throughout the community including service to the sick and disabled. He surprised us with a blessing from the Cardinal, which was the financial underwriting of our breakfast. We thank Cardinal Tobin and Father Emeka for this beautiful gift.

Our Communion Breakfast Committee invited a special guest speaker, Ms. Sandra Coles-Bell, from the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. who gave an uplifting and moving message regarding our journey, which requires us to listen and observe.



2018 BISHOP FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND DINNER



On November 9, 2018, over two hundred of the faithful gathered to honor sixteen recipients, namely altar servers, at the Bishop Joseph Francis Scholarship Dinner. This event is hosted annually in memory of Bishop Francis, the first African American auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark. This scholarship dinner continues Francis' legacy as Bishop Francis was an avid advocate for education.



Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark's African American, African, and Caribbean Apostolate under the coordination of Fr. Emeka Okwuosa, SDV, the event was held at The Hanover Manor in East Hanover. Hundreds of attendees feasted on a delicious meal, danced to a wide selection of music, as well as participated in 50/50 and basket raffles.

During the evening, the recipients of the Bishop Francis awards, 16 altar servers who currently serve in their parishes and selected by their pastors or other parish priests, received monetary honors. A five hundred dollar service award was presented to each of the recipients by Fr. John Gordon, Vicar for Pastoral Life.

Overall, the Bishop Francis Scholarship Dinner was a great success and plans are already underway for the Bishop Francis Scholarship Dinner for 2019. Thank you to all whose generosity made this event a success!

*By Susan Rich*





On December 6, 2018, the Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Newark His Eminence Joseph William Cardinal Tobin C.Ss.R hosted the clergy of African descent to a dinner in his residence at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart Newark. The special dinner is part of the strategies of the Chief Shepherd of the Archdiocese of Newark in his effort to build and sustain a more productive interaction with the beautiful diversity in the Archdiocese of Newark which according to him is a rare gift that deserves appreciation and nurturing. The African American, African, and Caribbean Apostolate which is under the coordination of Rev. Emeka Okwuosa, SDV powered the convivium with the Cardinal.

A pre-dinner cocktail started the evening which was also the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, the prototype Santa Claus. The clergy in attendance felt warm and happy despite the chilly wintry evening.

About thirty priests and two deacons were present. Also in attendance were the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Sister Donna L. Ciangio, O.P., the director of adjunct clergy personnel Rev. Stanley Gomes, and the Cardinal's priest-secretary Rev. Jason Makarow.

During the interaction after the dinner, the clergy of African descent thanked the Cardinal for his exceptional fraternal disposition and endearing humility while asking the prelate to address some pertinent issues to enable them to function more effectively in the archdiocese. In his response, Cardinal Tobin pledged to examine the various issues raised by the clergy standing on the platform of justice and right conscience. The dinner ended with the impartation of episcopal blessings and a group photo with the Cardinal.

*By Rev. Fr. Boniface N. Anusiem*



On Tuesday, December 4th, the African American, African & Caribbean Apostolate, led by Rev. Emeka Okwuosa, SDV, held its annual Christmas Party at the Archdiocese of Newark Chancery Office. Our party began with a prayer from one our guests, Rev. Herman Kinzler, O. Carm., Pastor of Saint Anastasia's Church, Teaneck.



After a brief meeting, discussion began with a summary of the successful Scholarship Dinner Dance held November 9th.



The festivities included a delicious holiday dinner followed by a joyful chorale of Christmas carols. A distribution of gifts which included beautiful African print fabrics, wooden busts of the Virgin Mother, pictures of Jesus, the Virgin Mother and the Angel Gabriel, in addition to beautiful Nigerian prints made the Christmas party an enjoyable event for everyone present.



*By Yvette Beasley*

On December 5<sup>th</sup> Fr Emeka Okwuosa SDV, the Vocation Director for Religious in the Archdiocese, as well as the coordinator of the African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate for the Archdiocese, invited the black Sisters to a lovely dinner at the Archdiocesan Center. As the majority of the Sisters were African, he thoughtfully served food that had an African flavor. About 20 Sisters came to celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas/Christmas. Some of them met each other for the first time and enjoyed each other's company.



Fr. Emeka also invited me as the Delegate for Religious to join them. It was a special time to meet many of the Sisters and speak with them. I shared with them information regarding immigration, ministry, and communications as well as some of Cardinal Tobin's concerns. The Sisters had many questions. I conveyed to them my availability to meet with the Sisters individually as well as to visit their communities. Everyone had a nice evening and were grateful for Fr. Emeka's thoughtfulness and care. *By Sr. Patricia Wormann, OP*



BLACK YOUTH CHRISTMAS RETREAT AND PARTY 2018





On Saturday, December 15, 2018, the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny was the site for “In His Image”, an annual spiritual retreat sponsored by the African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate. All of the youth travelled from various schools and churches within the Archdiocese to participate in a full day of prayer, reflection, fellowship, and fun. Participants were introduced to the new meaning of “Taking a Knee” during a keynote presentation delivered by Rev. Anthony M. Bozeman, SSJ, Pastor of St. Raymond-St. Leo Catholic Church in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Rev. Bozeman’s presentation raised specific questions for the youth participants to ponder as they experience the Advent journey. One question posed, “What Are You Looking At?” calls one to look at the history of Christ’s Salvation and focus on its true meaning. One must look at Christ and not focus on other distractions. Stressing that Advent is a time of joyful presentation, Rev. Bozeman reassured the young audience that one can be joyful even amidst the “craziness” which surrounds all of us in our daily lives. How to turn tests into testimonies as learning experiences so that one’s faith and relationship with Christ becomes strengthened was also stressed. Overall, the keynote address by Reverend Bozeman allowed the youth to recognize all of their gifts and to remain open to receive the love of God, to pray to become closer to God, and ultimately serve a Mighty God.

Also, present for the Mass was the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Archdiocese, Monsignor Thomas Nydegger.

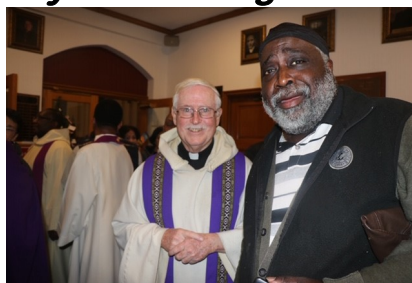
*By Jacqueline Anderson*





Annually, the anniversary of Blessed Iwene Tansi is celebrated and on December 1, 2018 we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tansi's Beatification. The annual anniversary is a gathering of many faithful with the celebration of a Mass and prayer. This event helps to create an awareness of Blessed Tansi and to educate the faithful regarding the need for constant prayer. One can pray to request a healing for the sick or pray for the intercession of Blessed Tansi when seeking spiritual encouragement. Catholics from Nigeria and beyond are encouraged to share the story about Blessed Tansi and to pray his prayer for canonization. We, as a group, gather monthly on the last Saturday to recite the prayer and reflect on some version from the Bible. Blessed Iwene Tansi, if canonized a saint, will be the first Nigerian saint and first Ibo to become a saint. Our continuous devotion to Blessed Tansi will undoubtedly create a greater awareness regarding his cause for sainthood which is currently before the Vatican. Let us pray for Blessed Iwene Tansi!

*By Bona Durugo*

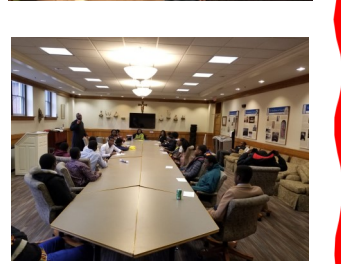


Our barbecue gatherings at Florham Park were really blessed! We started with a prayer at the chapel and by God's grace the second time we joined the Vocationist community for the vespers! Several testimonies were offered by the priests and other guests. Many topics concerning basic catholic teachings or social life were items for discussion although the fellowship was the highlight of the gathering. We debated science and religion and discussed sacramental life of the priesthood and sisterhood as well as married couples. Also, subjects like sanctification and purity were addressed.

Father Emeka also provided meaningful insight at our first young adult group meeting! He shared the importance of displaying a positive attitude toward each other. That is, fraternal love!! Fr. Emeka stated, "Without compassion, love, and mercy, we won't accomplish anything. Love should be our daily share." *By Amhed Marie*

In this group, Fr. Emeka creates an atmosphere of laughter, togetherness, and fellowship. In one of his talks, Fr. Emeka reminded us of the need for balance. Balance is key. He went further to explain areas where balance might be helpful. For example (spiritually, healthwise, and careerwise). These gatherings inspire young adults like myself and give us hope knowing that we have avenues for young people to be heard. Especially in today's society where young people seem like sheep without shepherds (easily misled). Thank you Father for your diligent service and may God keep strengthening you as you work in His vineyard. -

*By Vivian Igwagu*



Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman, a trailblazing African-American sister who was the first black sister in her white congregation, the first black woman to address the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and an inspiration to thousands of people with her words and songs, is another step further toward sainthood.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops voted on Nov. 14th at their general assembly in Baltimore to advance Bowman's cause, opening the way for a diocesan commission to determine whether she lived a life of "extraordinary and heroic virtue."

Bowman, who was a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, was declared a servant of God on May 15, when her home Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, requested the bishops endorse opening her cause for sainthood. Bowman died of cancer on March 30, 1990, at age 52.

Bowman will be declared venerable, worthy of imitation by the faithful, if the tribunal finds in Bowman's favor and the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome endorses the decision.

**Cause for Canonization**

**Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA**



**THANK YOU MARGARET FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

Margaret Ellen Dabney was born on January 8, 1937 to Deacon Herman and Alfred Hamilton. Margaret is the proud sister of six siblings. She graduated in 1955 from Alfred E. Beach High School in Savannah Georgia and joined the U.S. Air force.

Margaret was a devoted member of Christ the King Catholic Church of Jersey City where she served as the Eucharistic minister, Advent Prayer Breakfast, Christ the King Hospitality Ministry and founder of the Christ the King Newsletter. Also, she was a member of the advisory committee of the African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate as well as the editor of its newsletter the Imani.

Margaret served in both the Air Force and the Army. She was selected to attend the 78th Division Army Drill Sergeant Academy. Her outstanding leadership and expert military skills enabled her to advance to the rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC) with the enormous responsibility of shaping civilians into the best soldiers in the world.

Margaret notes: I am a breast cancer survivor who maintains an optimism and zest for life. I have an unwavering dedication to serving my God, Country, family and community.

On Monday, January 21, 2019 Margaret was summoned to her heavenly home.

**REST IN PEACE**



Several Parishes under the Haitian Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Newark gathered on January 1, 2019, to celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and to celebrate the 215th Anniversary of the Independence of Haiti.

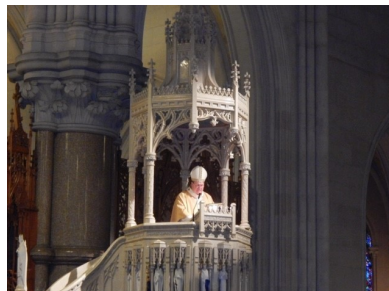
The Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. We had the honor of **Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.**, Archbishop of Newark, as the celebrant of the Mass. He explained first, we are honoring "Our Blessed Mother of God", and that she's always here for us, we should never hesitate to go to her. Second, we are remembering the people of Haiti who fought for their independence in 1804; they were the first black republic to gain their independence, he reminded us. Cardinal Tobin,



mentions that he's been to Haiti, and that the Haitian people are close to his heart. The Haitian community have been great contributors in the Archdiocese of Newark.

The Cathedral was flooded with a sea of Haitian colors, red and blue. It was beautiful to see three generations of a family sitting together. The atmosphere was like a huge family reunion. Everyone smiling, and saying heart felt wishes for the New Year. January 1, 1804, is a very important date for the Haitian people and it will be engraved in our history forever. The day we proclaimed our independence. We celebrated by having the signature dish squash soup, (Soup Joumou), "the independence soup". It's our (Haitian) New Year Tradition.

It was a joy to celebrate again at the Cathedral of Newark. *By Bethie Dominique*

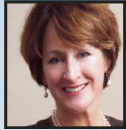


**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK  
WOMEN'S COMMISSION**

*Alive in Christ...*  
**Finding Our True Identity**



**Gloria Purvis**  
Creator of *Authentically Free at Last* show on EWTN, Host of Morning Glory EWTN radio show, Editor of *African American Catholic Youth Bible*.



**Mary Rice Hasson**  
Mary Rice Hasson is the Kate O'Beirne Fellow in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. She also directs the Catholic Women's Forum, and is an expert on topics related to women, faith, culture, family, sexual morality, and gender ideology.



**Lucía Baez Luzondo, JD, MAPT**  
Lucía Luzondo es co-fundadora y directora del ministerio "Renovación Familiar", es conductora junto a su esposo de la serie televisiva "Creados para Amar", transmitida por EWTN en español, también es conductora del programa de radio "En el día a día con Ricardo y Lucía" transmitido por EWTN Radio Católica Mundial.



**Malvina Modesto**  
Malvina es fundadora y coordinadora del "Ministerio de Evangelización Buena Nueva" en la República Dominicana, también es miembro de la Comunidad de la Visitación y de la Eucaristía. Ella es reconocida por su trabajo con las familias en el área de la sanidad emocional e integral.



**Si7 Ministry**  
Jorge Orellana y su esposa Kim iglesia son fundadores del ministerio católico de música Si7 Ministry. Es ministerio dedicado a la alabanza y la adoración. Son originarios de New York.

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Mass at 4:00 pm

**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY**

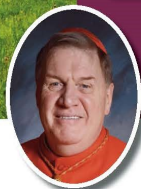
400 South Orange Ave.

South Orange, NJ 07079

NJ Catholic Women



To register online, visit:  
[www.rcan.org/womenscommission](http://www.rcan.org/womenscommission)  
For more information email:  
[CatholicWomen@rcan.org](mailto:CatholicWomen@rcan.org)  
or call 973-497-4545  
Continental Breakfast and lunch Included  
Cost: \$25 • Clergy/Religious Free



**Cardinal**  
**Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.**  
MAIN CELEBRANT AT MASS



**Catholic Men's Conference  
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**

*For A Time Such As This...*  
**Holiness and Hope!**



**REV. LARRY RICHARDS**  
Father Larry Richards has been a priest since 1989 for the Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania and he currently serves as pastor of St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community in Erie. In 2004 Father founded The Reason For Our Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to 'spreading the Good News' by educating others about Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith through CDs, DVDs and books.



**GREGORY FLOYD**  
Gregory Floyd is the Executive Vice President for Mission at Eva's Village, a faith-based non-profit in Paterson that feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, treats the addicted and offers medical and dental care to poor. He has a BA From Brown University and Masters in Theology from Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall.

**Saturday,**  
**March 16, 2019**  
**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY**  
**8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**  
**400 South Orange Avenue,**  
**South Orange, NJ 07079**



**P. RAFAEL CAPÓ**  
P. Rafael es un sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Miami, director del Instituto Pastoral para el Ministerio Hispano (SEPI). Educador entusiasta, es conocido nacionalmente por ser miembro del equipo organizador del V Encuentro y de la Red Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana.



**P. ROBINSON GONZÁLEZ**  
Predicador entusiasta y ameno es muy conocido en nuestra Arquidiócesis de Newark. Es parte de la comunidad de la parroquia de San Miguel en Newark donde imparte clases de Sagrada Escritura y dirige seminarios de crecimiento y desarrollo personal.

*No Temas...*  
**Yo soy el que te envía**



To register online visit  
[www.njcatholicmen.org](http://www.njcatholicmen.org)  
For more information  
e-mail: [CatholicMen@rcan.org](mailto:CatholicMen@rcan.org)  
or call 973-497-4545  
Cost: \$25 • Clergy/Religious (Free)



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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>(B) Bergenfield, St. John the Evangelist<br/>         (B) Englewood, St. Cecilia<br/>         (B) Hackensack, Holy Trinity<br/>         (B) Leonia, St. John the Evangelist<br/>         (B) Teaneck, St. Anastasia<br/>         (B) Tenafly, O.L. of Mount Carmel<br/>         (E) East Orange, Holy Name of Jesus<br/>         (E) East Orange, Holy Spirit/Our Lady Help of Christians<br/>         (E) East Orange, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel<br/>         (E) East Orange, St. Joseph<br/>         (E) Irvington, St. Leo<br/>         (E) West Orange, Our Lady of Lourdes<br/>         (E) Maplewood, St. Joseph<br/>         (E) Montclair, St. Theresa of Calcutta<br/>         (E) Montclair, St. Peter Claver<br/>         (E) Newark, Blessed Sacrament/ St. Charles Borromeo<br/>         (E) Newark, Parish of the Transfiguration<br/>         (E) Newark, St. Antoninus<br/>         (E) Newark, St. Mary (Abbey)<br/>         (E) Newark, St. Patrick Pro-Cathedral<br/>         (E) Newark, St. Rose of Lima<br/>         (E) Orange, O.L. of the Valley<br/>         (E) Upper Montclair, St. Cassian</p> | <p>(H) Jersey City, Christ the King<br/>         (H) Jersey City, O.L. of Sorrows<br/>         (H) Jersey City, O.L. of Victories<br/>         (H) Jersey City, St. Aloysius<br/>         (H) Jersey City, St. Anne<br/>         (H) Jersey City, St. John the Baptist<br/>         (H) Jersey City, St. Patrick/Assumption-All Saints<br/>         (H) Jersey City, St. Paul the Apostle<br/>         (U) Elizabeth, Holy Rosary/St. Michael<br/>         (U) Hillside, Christ the King<br/>         (U) Plainfield, St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus<br/>         (U) Plainfield, St. Mary<br/>         (U) Rahway, Divine Mercy<br/>         (U) Roselle, St. Joseph the Carpenter<br/>         (U) Union, St. Michael</p> |
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Counties:  
 B = Bergen  
 E = Essex  
 H = Hudson  
 U = Union

## BISHOP JOSEPH A. FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline is March 15, 2019

### VIEW ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

And Submit your application including all documents at the link below.

[www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/african-american-african-caribbean-apostolate/important-information](http://www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/african-american-african-caribbean-apostolate/important-information)

## 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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