

ROOTED

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Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.

~ Habakkuk 2:2-3

Office for Black Catholic Ministries

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November: Black Catholic History Month



††† A Mass commemorating Black Catholic History Month will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI. All are invited to attend. †††

On July 24, 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics.

Black Catholic History: The Beginning

Some people express surprise when they learn that Black Catholic History began in the Acts of the Apostles (8: 26-40) with the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch by Philip the Deacon. This text is important for several reasons. First, it chronicles the conversion of the first Black person in recorded Christian history. Second, the text suggests that the man was a wealthy, literate, and powerful emissary of the Nubian Queen and also a faithful, practicing Jew prior to his baptism. Clearly, he was not an ignorant heathen. Third, the Ethiopian Eunuch's

conversion predates the conversions of Saints Paul and Cornelius. Most significantly, many cite this conversion as the very moment when the church changed from a Hebrew and Hellenist community to the truly Universal and Catholic Church.

Black Catholic Faith History

Black Catholics trace their faith history back to Christian antiquity long before other nations heard the "Good News." Christian Africa was indeed a "leading light" in early Christendom. Black Catholics point to three popes who were born in Africa: Saints Victor I, Melchisedech, and Gelasius I. All three shepherded the early church through tough and tumultuous times in history. Black Catholics claim many Black Saints like Saints Cyprian, Zeno, Anthony of Egypt, Moses the Black Pachomius, Maurice, Athanasius, Pientius, Mary of Egypt, Cyril of Alexandria, Monica of Hippo, Augustine of Hippo, Perpetua, Felicitas, and Thecla. Some of these mystics, monastics, and martyrs literally made the church what it is today.

Notwithstanding the moral crimes of chattel slavery, the French and Spanish missionaries ministered to their free and enslaved African population within their respective colonies. This ministry laid the foundation for Black Catholic communities within the United States, i.e. Mobile, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Saint Augustine, Florida. It is important to note that many African-American Catholics cherish a certain Peruvian Dominican, Saint Martin de Porres, the only Black Saint from the Western Hemisphere to date.

Tragically, the American Catholic Church did not seriously commit its time and resources to minister to the African American population during the ante-



bellum or post-bellum periods. However, God made a way!!! In spite of numerous obstacles and opposition, African-American Catholics created a remarkable movement of faith and evangelization. Black Catholic History Month provides opportunities to learn and share the whole history and rich heritage of Christian Catholicism. Ubi Victoria Veritas! The Victory of Truth! The Roman Catholic Church includes 200 million people of African descent throughout the world.

November Is Chosen!

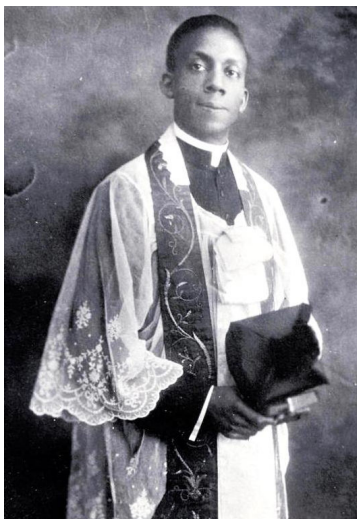
When the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States voted to establish November as **BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH**, it was chosen because of the number of important dates to Catholics of African descent that fell within the month, as indicated below:

Nov. 1: All Saints Day, an opportunity to review the lives of the Saints of African descent in the first 300 years of the church.

Nov. 2: All Souls Day, a time to remember all those Africans lost to cruel treatment in the Middle Passage crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.

Nov 3: Feast of St. Martin de Porres, the only saint of African descent in this hemisphere.

Nov.13: The birth of St. Augustine in 354 A.D., the first Doctor of the Church from North Africa.



Fr. Norman Dukette, the 1st black Catholic priest ordained for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Became first pastor of St. Benedict the Moore Parish in Detroit, MI.

100 Years of Catholic Service Knights of St. Peter Claver, Inc. Welcomes You...

Grand Lady Carol Harris

The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. is the largest historically African-American Catholic lay organization in the United States. In 2006, a unit was established in San Andres, Colombia, South America. The Order was founded in Mobile, Alabama and is presently headquartered in New Orleans.

Our organization consists of six Divisions: Knights of Peter Claver, Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Junior Knights, Junior Daughters, 4th Degree Knights and Ladies of Grace. The Order is governed by a Board of Directors and is under the leadership of the Supreme Knight and Supreme Lady, KPCLA. The Order is operated under the direction of the Executive Director and his staff.

We are divided into six Districts and States across the country. Each district or state is represented by a Deputy and other conference officers. Districts, States, and other Divisions are represented on the Board of Directors.

Our **Junior Division** welcomes Catholic youth between the ages of 7-18. They are organized using the same structure of the Senior Division. There is a Junior Supreme Knight, Junior Supreme Lady, along with Junior District or State Presidents and Officers. Interested youth must have made their First Holy Communion.

Our purpose is to render service to God and His Holy Church, render aid and assistance to the sick and disabled, and promote social and intellectual association among our members.

The **Knights of Peter Claver** was founded November 7, 1909 in Mobile, Alabama as an organization to allow colored men membership in a Catholic fraternal society. The organization was incorporated



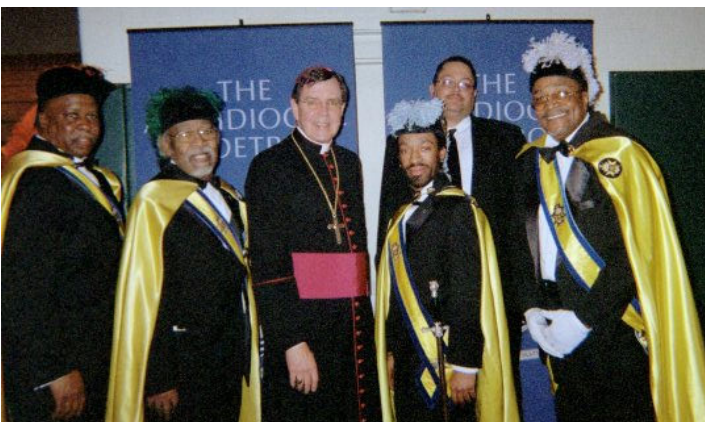
July 12, 1911 in Mobile, Alabama. Divisions of the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc were established as follows:

- 1917 Meritorious Fourth Degree Knights *(Authorized)*
- 1917 Junior Knights *(Authorized)*
- 1922 Ladies Auxiliary *(Authorized)*
- 1926 Ladies Auxiliary Division *(Established)*
- 1930 Junior Daughters Division *(Established)*
- 1935 Junior Knights Division *(Established)*
- 1980 Ladies of Grace Meritorious Division *(Established)*

With strong support of the Church throughout the years, the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. now has over 700 subordinate units throughout the United States and a Unit in Colombia, South America. Headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Order is comprised of over 18,000 Catholic family members. We continue our expansion efforts welcoming all Catholics to join. The Order is a member of the International Alliance Catholic Knights.

The Claver Family held its 94th Annual National Convention in New Orleans, LA from July 31 – August 6, 2009, to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the Knights Division.

The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. has survived 100 years due to the dedication and commitment of our members. With God's blessing may we continue to exist as an organization for the next 100 years.



Meritorious Fourth Degree Knights with Archbishop Vigneron

13 Men Represent Detroit at the National Black Catholic Men's Conference

Keir Ward, St. Leo Catholic Church



On Thursday, October 1, 2009, thirteen men and young men began a 13 hour journey to Birmingham, Alabama for the National Black Catholic Men's Conference. Although I was a last minute recruit, the weekend proved

to me a monumental point in the lives of both my son Coleman and I.

For me one of the most inspiring moments was to see so many members of the National Black Clergy Caucus. In the City of Detroit we only have 4 Black Catholic priests, and a handful more serving in parishes in the suburbs. What a sight to behold, what an upliftment to my spirit!

Over the course of the three day conference we had an opportunity to attend various workshops, one that sticks out for me is the session called "Taking care of your Physical Health/Creating a Spiritual Foundation." This workshop helped me to understand that when the physical man is in order, one has more time to work on the spiritual man, because the physical is not weighing it down.

All in all the weekend was a great opportunity to bond and build relationships with men from all over the country, but especially the 11 of us who were cramped in a van for 13 hours! I have found myself to be a man who is fired up about the possibilities of ministry to my community but most importantly to my family.

I would like to thank Fr. Charles and Fr. Chester Smith, the Society of the Divine Word Chicago Provence, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the Knights of Peter Claver, the Diocese of Birmingham and especially Fr. Ted Parker for helping to make this experience possible and worth while.



Upcoming Events in the Black Catholic Community

November

- 1** **Mass of Thanksgiving and Bazaar**
Igbo Catholic Community
1:45 p.m. St. Cecilia Catholic Church
 10400 Stoepel (Livernois near Grand River)
- 7** **100th Anniversary Luncheon KPC**
Knights of Peter - St. Martin dePorres # 11
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Vassels Banquet Hall
 26750 W. 8 Mile Rd.. (313) 531-0140
 \$20.00
- 8** **Extravagant Love Women's Reflection Day**
St. Luke Parish / Gussy Up Your Spirit
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. St. Luke's Fr. Kane Hall
 8017 Ohio (at Tireman) (313) 935-6161
 \$5 per person
- 14** **Magnify the Lord 19 Steps Higher Concert**
Dearing Detroit Dance Company
7:00 p.m. St. Charles Borromeo
 1491 Baldwin St. (313) 331-0253
 \$15.00 (advance) / \$20.00 (at door)
- 15** **St. Cecilia Festival**
Office for Youth Ministry
3:00 p.m. Our Lady Queen of Peace
 4200 Martin (Michigan Ave. near Livernois)
FREE! (313) 237-5904
- 22** **St. Cecilia Mass Choir Annual Concert**
3:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Parish
 10400 Stoepel
 \$5.00 admission

- 21** **Black Catholic History Mass**
OBCM & Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary
1:00 p.m. Cathedral
 9844 Woodward Ave. (313) 596-7103
- 22** **Nigerian Harvest Mass**
Church of the Madonna
9:00 a.m. Church of the Madonna
 1125 Oakman Blvd (at 12th St.) 868-9771

December

- 12** **25th Ordination Anniversary Fr. Dan Trapp**
St. Augustine and St. Monica Parish
5:00 p.m. Mass, Dinner follows
 Sacred Heart Major Seminary
 2701 W. Chicago Blvd. (at Linwood)
 (313) 921-4107 / \$20.00 per person
- 19** **A Classical Christmas Concert**
William T. Cunningham Memorial Choir
5:00 p.m. Sts. Peter and Paul (Jesuit)
 438 St. Antoine (at Jefferson)
 \$20.00 (313) 596-7103



THIS IS YOUR OFFICE SO GET CONNECTED!

We want you to stay connected to everything that the Office for Black Catholic Ministries is doing, so **sign up today** for updates from the Office for Black Catholic Ministries.

To sign up go to:

The Office for Black Catholic Ministries presents

A Youth Leadership Summit



STAND UP!
TO SIT STILL IS A SIN

2010 MLK WEEKEND

1.16.2010 · U of D Jesuit High School
For more info call: 313.596.7103