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Habari Gani - {Swahili term meaning "What's the Word?"}

Office of African American Ministry - Diocese of Beaumont

From the desk of Very Rev. Henry Davis, S.S..J.
Spiritual Moderator, Office of African American Ministry

The Cup of Salvation: "Who" Will Take it Up?

In preparation for ordination to the priesthood sixteen years ago, I was given the opportunity to select an assortment of prayer cards, a regular tradition of all newly ordained. The cards are given to family and friends who attend the ordination. As a vocation to the Josephite Society of the Sacred Heart and with joyful anticipation in receiving the sacrament of Holy Orders, I wanted something to express my love for St. Joseph and my resolve to keep the sacrament. I chose two types of cards; an African scene with Jesus and his apostles at the Last Supper and a simple portrait of St. Joseph and the Christ Child.

The scene of Jesus holding the chalice filled with wine, in my estimation, represents the most important element of priesthood. The portrait of St. Joseph with the Child is a reminder of my lifes' journey with Jesus since my baptism at St. Joseph Catholic Church and the name I selected for Confirmation. On the back of all the cards was Psalm 116:12-13, "How can I make a return to the Lord for all the good done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up and I will call upon the name of the Lord."

When I attended the National Black Catholic Congress in Buffalo, New York, I participated in the procession of deacons, priests, bishops, archbishops and cardinals who came together to affirm, once again, the presence of "blackness" in the Catholic Church. This long procession of men who received the sacrament of Holy Orders gave evidence that many have heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come, follow me."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the Sacrament of Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time; thus the sacrament of apostolic ministry. The whole Church is called to be a priestly people; however, there needs to be more young men committed to Christ and conformed to his mission to "take up the cup of salvation." Who will take up the cup of salvation for today and for the future needs of this Church in the world?

Today, in the Diocese of Beaumont, we are grateful for men who are from many different parts of the world who were ordained in imitation of the apostles, to serve the world with gladness in their hearts. But where are our native men to serve the Lord in this most important vocation of the Church? Are they afraid? For most of my life I never thought I could be a priest, yet I loved the Lord in my family and in my church community.

As an altar server, I watched as the priest at the altar lifted up the faith communitys' petitions and prayers in one voice. He made Christs' presence real in the bread and wine and served others from the altar of sacrifice. Bishop Robert F. Morneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Green Bay, WI, writes in an article, "Called to Holiness and Service: Ordained Ministry," four tasks that a priest often performs: proclaiming the Good News of Gods' love and mercy; presiding at and celebrating the sacraments; serving the local church community as servant-leader; and reaching out to all in need both within and beyond ones' own community.

The Catholic Church needs more young men to become available to the Lord Jesus Christ as deacons, priests, and, yes, bishops. In this age in which we now live, we are blessed to have men from around the world coming to serve the Lord by working in the vineyard of the Diocese of Beaumont. It is important that we support them in the tasks which they have committed to building and serving this faith community. God calls all of us to a holy life. This is so present to the office of the priesthood. Yes, God is calling, but "Who" will be the next to take up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord in the presence of this holy people? In this Year of the Priest, let us pray fervently for more vocations to the religious life.

The National Black Catholic Congress will meet in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2012...mark your calendars!

October 2nd -4th, 2009

The **National Black Catholic Men's Conference, Men To Men: Part II** is to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration fee is \$125.00 for adults and \$75.00 for youth. For more information call: 1-317-259-0144 or visit their website at: www.bowmanfrancismistry.com.

October 17, 2009

Young, Fabulous and Catholic; a Conference for Young Women ages 17-35

Sponsored by the Office for Black Catholic Ministry Archdiocese of New Orleans

- To call all young adult women into service for the Lord
- To develop leadership among young women in the Catholic Church
- To minister to the needs of young women in the Catholic Church

Cost: Registration is \$25.00 per person; Vendors are welcome at \$75 per table. For more information contact: bcatholics@archdiocese-no.org

November 6, 2009 – 6:00 PM

Feast of St. Martin de Porres and National Black Catholic History Month Celebration

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, SVD, DD – Celebrant and Homilist
Reverend Jerome Robinson – Banquet Guest Speaker

Pray the Novena to St. Martin de Porres with us beginning October 29, 2009

For more information on the celebration, [click here](#)

December 5-6, 2009 - Weekend Masses; December 7-9, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Advent Revival with Deacon Alex Jones
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
620 53rd Street, Port Arthur, TX

Deacon Alex Jones is the the author of *No Price Too High, The Alex Jones Story*

For more information please [click here](#)

OCTOBER 2009



- 1...St. Therese of the Child Jesus Feast Day
- 2...Guardian Angels Feast Day**
- 4...Respect Life Sunday; St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day
- 7...Our Lady of the Rosary Feast Day
- 9...St. Louis Bertrand Feast Day
- 10...St. Francis Xavier Church, 1st Black Catholic Church in U.S. founded in Baltimore, MD 1863
- 11...Vocation Awareness Sunday
- 12...*Columbus Day*
- 13...St. Edward Feast Day; Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day
- 14...SSJ & African American Commission celebrate 100 years in Mississippi; *Rev. Dr. M. K. King Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize 1964*
- 15...St. Teresa of Avila Feast Day
- 16...St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Feast Day; St. Gall Feast Day
- 17...St. Ignatius of Antioch Feast Day
- 18...World Mission Sunday; St. Luke Feast Day
- 19...St. Isaac Jogues Feast Day; North American Martyrs Feast Day
- 20...St. Paul of the Cross Feast Day
- 21...*John H. Conyers, 1st Black admitted to U.S. Naval Academy 1872*
- 24...*Jackie Robinson, baseball star d. 1972; Rosa Parks, civil rights pioneer d. 2005*
- 28...Sts. Simon & Jude Thaddeus Feast Day
- 31...Halloween (Eve of All Saints)

NOVEMBER 2009



- 1...All Saints Feast Day
- 2...All Souls Feast Day
- 3...St. Martin de Porres Feast Day;**
St. Malachy Feast Day
- 4...St. Charles Borromeo Feast Day
- 5...*Negro History Week initiated by Carter G. Woodson 1926*
- 7...Knights of St. Peter Claver founded Mobile AL 1909**
- 10...St. Leo the Great feast day
- 11...Veteran's Day; St. Martin of Tours Feast Day
- 13...St. Frances Cabrini Feast Day
- 14...St. Callistus I Feast Day
- 15...St. Albert the Great Feast Day
- 16...St. Margaret of Scotland Feast Day; St. Gertrude Feast Day
- 17...St. Elizabeth of Hungary Feast Day; Henriette Delille,
Foundress Holy Family Sisters d. 1862
- 21...Presentation of Mary Feast Day; Holy Family Sisters founded 1842; Congregation of Sisters,
Home Visitors of Mary, founded 1949
- 22...**Christ the King feast day;** St. Cecilia Feast Day
- 23...St. Clement I Feast Day
- 26...**Thanksgiving Day**
- 29...First Sunday in Advent; 100 years of Josephite Evangelization in Lebeau LA 1997
- 30...St. Andrew the Apostle Feast Day

BLACK CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

The Letters of St. Paul (An Expose' on Letters through the lens of Black Spirituality)

From "Keep on Teaching"
Archdiocese of Baltimore

An Africentric Reflection Using **LACES**

The message should...

Liberate from sin, darkness, and confusion

Affirm Blackness and God's Black Creation

Call forth conversion and a turn around

Encourage evangelization

Sample something from both the sacred and the secular world to deepen understanding

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans...

St. Paul writes in 57-58 A.D. to the Christians living in Rome to answer the question, "How should man be just with or before God?"

He also explains God's way of justification.

- 1) Justification by faith, its methods and result
- 2) The relationship between Judaism and the changing Christianity, i.e., the relation of Gentile Christianity to Jewish Religion
- 3) God's grace in Jesus: the gift of redemption in Jesus
- 4) Christian faith in Jesus
- 5) The relationship of faith in Jesus

Liberates

Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, all are justified by HIS grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, who God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith (Rm.3:23-25)

We have and are at peace with God (Rm.5:1,2a)

God's gifts free us from the law (Rm.7:1-25)

We are to praise God through Jesus (Rm.16:25-27)

We are to be careful of false teachers who put obstacles in our way in order to take us away from the teachings of Jesus (Rm.16:17-19)

Affirms

St. Paul renders spiritual gifts to make the Romans strong in faith (Rm.1:11-15)

Being brothers and sisters in Christ, we have an obligation to live righteously by the Holy Spirit as sons and daughters of God (Rm.8:12-17)

Your gifts are for the well-being of the Church (Rm.12:3-8)

Be full of goodness...be competent to instruct one another (Rm.15:14)

Be satisfied with what Jesus has accomplished through you (Rm.15:17-19a)

Calls

Comes to harvest for believers in Christ (Rm.1:13)

We are declared righteous by faith (Rm.4:1-4)

As a believer I delight in my spirit in God's law (Rm.7:21-25)

As believers we are to do what pleases God so as not to sin against our conscience by doing something we doubt is the right thing to do (Rm.14:22-23)

Live righteously and do what God wants us to do (Rm.14:13-18)

Encourages

St. Paul offers mutual encouragement (Rm.1:12)

We can rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which will enable us to be comfortable in our sufferings that enables us to mature as Christians (Rm.5:2b-5); we may not know what God's will is for us...but we can be assured that all things work for the good of us whom God has called to faith in Christ (Rm.8:28-30)

God's mercy is the main motivation to offer ourselves to God as his holy people (Rm.12:1, 2)

We are not to judge our brothers' and sisters' faith because each of us belongs to the Lord (Rm.14:1-8)

Sample...Sacred / Secular

We have been saved from the displeasure of God because Jesus' death reconciles us with God and we are saved by Jesus' resurrection to life (Rm.5:9-11)

We died with Christ so we may live with him... We will not allow sin to reign in us (Rm.6:8-14)

Since God is for us, nothing can stand against us...Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rm.8:31-39)

We are to respect and obey governing authorities (Rm.13:1-7)

We are to love our family, friends, community and church according to the commandments of God's law (Rm.13:8-10)

By Dr Kirk P. Gaddy

To Be Continued:

"First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians"

BOOK OF THE MONTH

HOOKED: New Science on How Casual Sex Is Affecting Our Children

By: Joe S. McIlhaney Jr and Freda McKissic Bush

Society tells us that sex is an act of self-expression, a personal choice for physical pleasure that can be summed up in the ubiquitous phrase: "hooking up." Millions of American teenagers and young adults are finding that the psychological baggage of such behavior is having a real and lasting impact on their lives.

- Sexual activity releases chemical in the brain, creating bonds between partners.
- Breaking these bonds can cause depression and makes it harder to bond with someone else in the future.
- Chemical released in the brain during sex can become addictive.
- The human brain is not fully developed until a person reaches their mid-twenties. Until then, it is harder to make wise relationship decisions.

Parents and others who care about young people now have the facts to steer them away from making life-changing mistakes, and lead them toward reaching their full potential.

From National Black Catholic website

Did you know that Cartagena was a port that was a part of the Middle Passage? 1,000 slaves passed through this port every month. Born June 26, 1580 and ordained a Jesuit priest in 1616, Father Peter Claver solemnly promised to be a "Slave of the Black Slaves Forever"

DID YOU KNOW?

Henriette Delille's Cause for Canonization Moves Forward.

All nine theologians voted positively as they met to study and to vote on Henriette Delille's practice of heroic virtue on May 29, 2009. The positive result advances Henriette's Cause.

The following information regarding the Congress of Theologians comes from a letter written on June 1, 2009, to Sister Eva Regina Martin, Congregational Leader, from Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, Roman Postulator for the Cause of Mere Henriette Delille:

- All of the nine professors of theology that were to judge Mother Henriette Delille's holy life and heroic virtues not only responded affirmatively, but they also glorified the sense of profound spirituality that always pushed her to take action.
- In front of this unanimous decision, both you and all of the Sisters of the Institute have to feel greatly honored for the theological judgment obtained.
- This morning, I (Dr. Ambrosi) handed the Congregation for the Causes of Saints the request to name the Cardinal Ponente. This Cardinal will have to defend the Servant of God's holy life and heroic virtues in front of the Congress of Cardinals.
- This Congress is made up of 15 Cardinals and Archbishops and is technically called the Ordinary Congregation. They have to study the case and then gather together, most likely in the month of October so that they can express their judgments.
- If it is an affirmative vote, as is hoped, the final judgment awaits the Holy Father who after having announced his decree will then promulgate Mother Henriette Delille as Venerable.
- While this is taking place, I (Dr. Ambrosi) will continue to work intensely on the preparation of the Summarium for the miracle.
- The first thing I (Dr. Ambrosi) did was go forward in having all the processual acts translated; this work was just finished in the month of April. As soon as this was finished I started studying the acts and then started classifying and preparing them in accordance with the standard procedure in Canon Law.
- The documentation is quite voluminous (hundreds of pages).
- I (Dr. Ambrosi) still have in my heart the great joy of the latest wonderful news given to all of us from the Congregation.
- **We await the next phase with prayerful anticipation!**

From Newsletter - Friends of Henriette Delille, Summer 2009

DID YOU KNOW?

Evangelization 101

A total of 24 individuals from the following parishes participated in workshops and actual "door-to-door" house visits during the July "Sign Me Up" project facilitated by Jesse Cox of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Representatives came from Our Mother of Mercy and Blessed Sacrament, Beaumont - Sacred Heart / St. Mary and St. James, Port Arthur - Sacred Heart, Raywood - St. Therese, Orange and St. Martin de Porres, Cheeks.

A catechetical review was done on two evenings prior to making contacts with in-active Catholics from local parishes in Beaumont.

This project is planned to be continued at each African American parish as committees are formed and evangelizers are prepared to "spread the Gospel" in local parish communities.

| SUGGESTED READING | RECOMMENDED INTERNET WEBSITES |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">“The New American Bible”</p> <p>Books of the Bible in Alphabetical Order The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab/bible</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Catechism of the Catholic Church”</p> <p>A popular manual of instruction in Christian doctrine. http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Gift of Black Folks By W.E.B. Du Bois A critically acclaimed black history www.squareonepublications.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Papal Encyclicals”</p> <p>Your guide to online Papal and other official documents of the Catholic Church. www.papalencyclicals.net</p> | <p>DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT www.dioceseofbmt.org</p> <p>NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS www.nbccongress.org</p> <p>SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD (S.V.D.) www.svdsouth.com</p> <p>ST. JOSEPH’S SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART (S.S.J.) “JOSEPHITES” www.josephite.com</p> <p>BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES www.xual.edu/IBCS.html</p> <p>ST. KATHARINE DREXEL MISSION CENTER AND SHRINE www.katharinedrexel.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HENRIETTE DELILLE COMMISSION OFFICE & CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION Sisters of the Holy Family e-mail: delillecomoff@yahoo.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTHER MARY ELIZABETH CLOVIS LANGE, O.S.P. GUILD & CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION Oblate Sisters of Providence e-mail: srmme@aol.com</p> |

Who are these People?

... I was born in Lima, Peru, and was the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and an African slave. My father refused to marry my mother, so we lived in poverty. At age 11, I became a Dominican Friar. Who am I?

... I was the foundress of the first permanent order of black religious sisters. Who am I?

[Answers will be given in next issue of Habari Gani.]

ABOUT US

Office of African American Ministry - Diocese of Beaumont

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Location: 703 Archie Avenue At Forsythe Street Beaumont, Texas 77701-2899</p> <p>Mail: P O Box 3948 Beaumont, Texas 77704-3948</p> <p>Phone: 409-924-4300 Extension 4325</p> <p>Fax: 409-838-4511</p> <p>E-Mail: llacour@dioceseofbmt.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We're on the Web! www.dioceseofbmt.org</p> | <p>The Office of African American Ministry is designed to serve as consultant and resource to diocesan offices, parishes, schools and individuals throughout the diocese. In collaboration with clergy, the ministry promotes programs that support the spiritual needs of the African American Catholic community and that of the larger Catholic community of the Diocese.</p> <p>Linda Duhon-LaCour <i>Director</i></p> <p>Tommie Marshall <i>Assistant Director</i></p> <p>Sandra Hall <i>Secretary</i></p> | <p>THE OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRY PRESENTS <i>THE HABARI GANI NEWSLETTER</i> AS A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION.</p> <p>PLEASE INFORM US OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN YOUR PARISH THAT YOU WISH TO PUBLISH.</p> <p>THE NEXT ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2009.</p> |
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African American Advisory Commission

The Office of African American Ministry proudly accepts and encourages the assistance of the following persons who have been appointed by Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., to serve on the Diocese of Beaumont African American Commission. These commissioners act as a liaison between their individual parishes and the Office, and as representatives of the African American Ministry Office in diocesan settings.

| Officers | Members |
|---|--|
| <p>Ex Officio Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, SVD, DD Bishop, Diocese of Beaumont</p> <p>Spiritual Moderator Rev. Henry J. Davis, SSJ Blessed Sacrament / Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church – Beaumont</p> <p>Chairperson Mr. William J. Carter St. James Catholic Church - Port Arthur</p> <p>Vice Chairperson Ms. Karen Thomas Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church - Beaumont</p> <p>Recording Secretary Ms. Wanda Thompson Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Port Arthur</p> <p>Corresponding Secretary Ms. Joyce Flugence St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church - Port Arthur</p> <p>Treasurer Mr. Jerry LaChappelle Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Raywood</p> | <p>Mr. Horace Broussard St. Therese Catholic Church - Orange</p> <p>Ms. Doris Crawford St. Pius X Catholic Church - Beaumont</p> <p>Ms. Joyrita Guillory St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church - Port Arthur</p> <p>Mr. Darrell Hayes Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church - Ames</p> <p>Ms. Debra Johnson Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church - Beaumont</p> <p>Ms. Willa McDaniel Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Port Arthur</p> <p>Ms. Betty Pollard St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church - Cheek</p> <p>Mr. Clifton Richard St. Therese Catholic Church - Orange</p> <p>Ms. Natalie Roberts Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church - Beaumont</p> <p>Ms. Effie Sharp Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Raywood</p> <p>Ms. Rita Smiley Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church - Beaumont</p> <p>Mr. Donald Stagg Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church - Beaumont</p> <p>Mr. Joseph Vallery St. Pius X Catholic Church - Beaumont</p> |