



## *Pastor's Letter*

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In this first week of **Black History Month** the newspaper, *Our Sunday Visitor*, included an article in the February 5th edition entitled, "*A Harvest of Souls - the Story of African American Catholics is one of discrimination, and strife, but ultimately the deep faith of religious and laity alike has prevailed.*" The article by **Thomas J. Craughwell** begins by reminding us that the city of Chicago was founded in 1790 by a successful trapper and fur trader named *Jean Baptiste Poit du Sable*. Less well known is that du Sable was Black and Catholic. The author goes on to describe the founding of the city of St. Augustine, Florida, where Spanish colonists and Africans - some free, others slaves - lived and worshiped together. Spanish colonial society was not entirely colorblind, but it was more accepting of its Black citizens than the English colonists to the north.

The article goes on to document the efforts of numerous Black Catholics who dedicated their lives to proclaiming the Gospel message of equality among all of God's people. Some of these include:

- #1) **Venerable Pierre Toussaint** (1766-1853)
- #2) **Mother Mary Lange** (1784-1882) - the founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence  
[www.motherlange.org](http://www.motherlange.org)
- #3) **Venerable Henriette Delille** (1812-1862) - the founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family  
[www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com](http://www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com)
- #4) **Father Augustus Tolton** (1854-1897) - the first African American to be ordained a priest  
[www.toltoncanonization.org](http://www.toltoncanonization.org)

Mr. Craughwell goes on to tell the stories of such leaders as **Bishop James Augustine Healy**, the first U.S. bishop of African American heritage and **Sister Thea Bowman**, who began her ministry as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration in Mississippi and went on to teach at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and at Xavier University in New Orleans. The article concludes by telling the stories of **seven African Saints and Popes**, including **Pope Saint Victor**, the first African Pope, and **Saint Charles Lwanga and the martyrs of Uganda**, who are featured in one of our stained glass windows on the east side of our church.

Finally Mr. Craughwell lists some interesting statistics. **Currently we have here in the United States:**

*3 million Black Catholics*  
*16 Black Bishops*  
*250 Black Priests*  
*75 Black Seminarians*  
*400 Black Religious Sisters*  
*50 Black Religious Brothers*  
*798 Catholic Parishes that have predominantly African American congregations*

During this **Black History Month**, let us continue to reflect on our history as a people of faith and to remember the call of **Pope Paul VI**, "*You must give your gift of Blackness to the whole Church.*"

May the Lord continue to bless us always and in all ways, *Father Paul*



**Holy Name of Jesus School News!****300 Students by 2012!**

We want to thank you, the parishioners and parents of HNOJ School, for your assistance in spreading the word about Holy Name School! Your efforts have helped us reach and exceed our first target of 200 students with the goal of 300 students by the start of the 2012/2013 school year. Please continue to help recruit new students. Remember to contact Fr. Paul (323) 734-8888 or Ms. Belisle (323) 731-2255 with your referrals.

**Tickets on Sale Now!**

Join the Ladies Auxiliary Court 121 for their annual

Mardi Gras Dinner Dance Fundraiser

Saturday, February 18, 2012

8pm - 12am

\$25.00 pre-sale through February 12th

\$30.00 at the door

**Congratulations!!!**

The African American Catholic Center for Evangelization and Holy Name of Jesus Church are pleased and proud to announce that our own Ms. Monica Lewis has been selected to receive the Keeper of the Flame award for her many years of service to the church and especially to us. She will receive this award on February 18, 2012 at Our Lady Queen of Angels Cathedral at the 5:00pm mass in honor of Black History Month. Please plan to attend to celebrate this honor for our sister on this day.

**Transportation will be arranged for those needing assistance.**

A parishioner is looking to rent a room. Negotiable on rent and shared expenses. Limited S.S.I. Income. Please call church office with information 323-734-8888 ext 1.

**San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino**

Holy Name of Jesus 50+ Club is hosting a trip to San Manuel Casino on Friday Night February 24, 2012. Pick up time is 6:00pm. Slots/Bingo/Blackjack/Fine Dining/ Great Entertainment. For more information, call Clyde Sparrow (213) 392-1916.

**Holy Name of Jesus School****Fourth Annual Musical Fundraiser Luncheon**

~Save the Date~

Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at St. Mary's Academy. Tickets are \$55 and are available in the Hall after Mass on Sundays. For more information call the School Office at (323) 731-2255 or Church Office at (323) 734-8888.

**Healthy Living****About National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

**National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** has been and always will be a grass roots effort that is shaped around the needs of those communities that work hard each and every year to make it a success. Each year, almost 20,000 Blacks in the United States test positive for HIV, that is an alarming amount if you multiply it times the last five years alone - that's **100,000 Blacks** who are now living with HIV or may have died from AIDS related complications. It's time for us to do something different that inspires young and old, gay and straight, religious and non-religious, etc. to get on board with realizing the value and worth of Black life and acting accordingly.

**February 7, 2012** marks the *12th* year for **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**, a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora. There are four specific focal points: *education, testing, involvement, and treatment*. **Educationally**, the focus is to get Blacks educated about the basics of HIV/AIDS in their local communities. **Testing** is at the core of this initiative, as it is hoped that Blacks will mark February 7th of every year as their annual or biannual day to get tested for HIV. This is vital for those at high risk of contracting HIV. When it comes to community and organization leadership, getting Blacks **involved** to serve is another key focus. We need Black People from all walks of life, economic classes, literacy levels, shades and tones as well as communities (*large and small*) to get connected to the work happening on the ground in their local areas. And lastly, for those living with HIV or newly testing positive for the virus, getting them connected to **treatment** and care services becomes paramount. We have learned that you can't lead Black people towards HIV/AIDS education, prevention, testing, leadership or treatment unless you love them. And, we can't save Black people from an epidemic unless we serve Black people.

We are now asking those who are concerned about HIV/AIDS in the Black community to step up and become a leader, a spokesperson, a local community organizer and help us raise the awareness of HIV/AIDS in Black communities, both domestically and internationally. Together, we can ensure that future generations will not have to bury as many or watch as many struggle with this epidemic. For more information, log onto [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org).



**Stewardship Report - A Spirit of Giving**

"Give and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure -- pressed down, shaken together and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

(Luke 6:38)

**Current Year:**

January 29, 2012 = \$7,948.00

**Two Previous Years:**

January 30, 2011 = \$6,801.00

January 31, 2010 = \$8,621.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**DID YOU KNOW?****Child protection efforts extend to coaches**

The Catholic Youth Organization/Department of Catholic Schools coaches' training program implemented in 2005 was created to insure the safety and wellbeing of elementary school children, and coaches, in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Its two-hour training session covering child protection laws and procedures, as well as character and safety training, is mandatory for archdiocesan paid and volunteer coaches. All of the 4,500 coaches affiliated with 216 Catholic elementary schools are expected to attend the training. In order to attend training, participants must submit verification of Life Scan fingerprinting.

**SHARMAINE HAYLOCK, CHAIRPERSON  
HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH  
SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN COMMITTEE**

***Black History Month 2012******Our Life in Christ -******Build His Kingdom in Love, Faith, Service***

It's time to celebrate Black History Month 2012! Show us the beauty of your African outfits each Sunday and bring friends and family!

Today's celebrant is Fr. Paul Spellman and our homilist is Deacon Douglass Johnson. Join us in the Parish Hall today for our Umoja Karamu (Unity Feast) with a Soul Food dinner and music. Dinner cost is \$7.00 per person.

Next week's celebrant will be Fr. Paul Spellman and our guest homilist is Deacon Marvin Threatt from Christ the King Catholic Church in San Diego. Our Umoja Karamu (Unity Feast) will be a Book Fair / Market Place in the Parish Hall with lots of shopping along with a soul food dinner. Help welcome our guest vendors with a visit to the Parish Hall!

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**

Are you over 18 and interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? If so please come to our inquiry classes on Tuesdays, 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Acacia Center. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 7th. The topic is "Explanation of the Mass and Holy Eucharist" presented by Fr. Allan Roberts.

**Welcome Visitors!**

Holy Name of Jesus Church would like to welcome all visitors to the Hall after the Masses on Sundays for fellowship and complimentary refreshments.

**Office of Religious Education**

Parents, please remember that religious education is ongoing. Children who have received the Sacraments should return to class each year. For more information, please contact **Cathy Brown at (323) 734-8888 ext. 2.**

**Youth Ministry**

Holy Name of Jesus Church Youth Ministry invites all Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 to come and join the Youth Ministry. The Youth Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in the Hall from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. For more information, please see Norma Mitchell or any Youth Ministry member.

A Parishioner is looking for a 2 or 3 bedroom house to rent that also accepts Section 8. Please call the church office with information 323-734-8888 ext 1.

**Thea Bowman Music Academy**

The African American Catholic Center for Evangelization is presenting a Thea Bowman Music Academy Orientation and Enrollment Workshop on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 10:00am in the Parish Hall at St. Bernadette, 3825 Don Felipe Drive in Los Angeles. The Thea Bowman Music Academy is directed at youth 13 to 19 years of age who are interested in participating in a choral music and liturgical dance program from an African American perspective. Youth, parents and volunteers are invited to attend the workshop.

**New Bulletin Policy**

There are two ways to get information to our parishioners. One is by flyer and the second is by asking for your event to be published in the bulletin. You may choose one option or the other, **not both**. Since space is limited, the parish office will let you know which option is available. If fliers are the option available to you, you will have to provide your own copies and bring them to the office by Wednesday of that week. Fliers should not be placed in the bulletins without office approval. Thank you in advance for cooperation.