



# RACIAL HARMONY AND BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Quarterly Newsletter  
2025

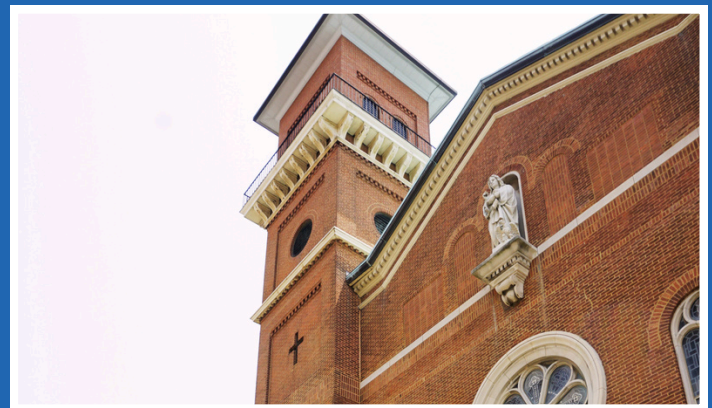
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## Fall NEWSLETTER

*The mission of the ORHBM is to foster racial justice across the Archdiocese of St. Louis by facilitating opportunities for education, advocacy, prayer, and dialogue. We aim to serve all members of the archdiocese by promoting awareness of the sin of racism and helping to dismantle its enduring impact. Our work is centered on building relationships across racial lines and embodying Christ's call that 'they may all be one,' with emphasis on the Black Catholic experience, past and present, to help ensure a more inclusive future in our universal Church.*

### In this issue:

- NBCC
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# NBCC

## National Black Catholic Conference

*"The National Black Catholic Congress, comprised of member Catholic organizations, represents African American Catholics, in collaboration with these organizations. Aware of the challenges faced by African American Catholics, we are committed to evangelize ourselves, our church and unchurched African Americans, thereby enriching the Church.*

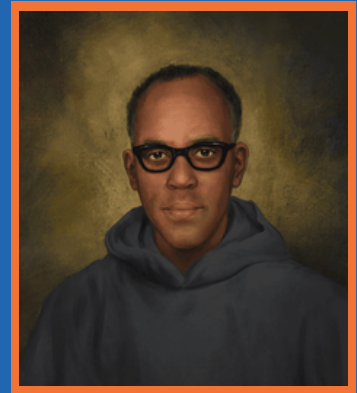
*We hold ourselves accountable to our baptismal commitment to witness and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ."*

### SERVANT OF GOD

*Friar Martin de Porres Maria Ward*

*Prayer for the beatification of Father  
Martin Maria de Porres Ward:*

*O Glorious, most high God, who deign to  
glorify in heaven*



*the souls of those who served and glorified You on earth,  
hear our prayers for [petitions in silence]  
and according to the design of Your Divine Providence,  
Deign to glorify your Servant Martin Maria de Porres,  
who by his love desired to offer his life  
for the education and service  
of the youth, the poor, and the sick,  
that, like our 'compadre,' we too may progress  
in the service of the most needy.*

*Amen.*



*Noteworthy Blacks Catholics*

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## A GROWING HUB OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*Joyce Jones*

The St. Charles Lwanga Center continues to blossom as a hub of activity for Black Catholics and the greater Archdiocesan community, serving as a gathering place for prayer, learning, and fellowship.

This summer, the Center hosted a Healing Mass for the African Catholic community, led by Fr. Peter Faimega of St. Norbert Parish and Fr. Martin Ibeh from the Diocese of St. Augustine in Jacksonville, Florida. Members of the surrounding community also attended this beautiful liturgy of healing and unity.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for December 1, when the community will come together for a Crossover Mass — a joyful celebration bidding farewell to the old year and welcoming in the new.

The Archdiocesan Charismatic Renewal Center held a Jonah Prayer Ministry Training at the Lwanga Center earlier this year. Participants of the training have been faithfully serving at St. Peter Claver Parish on Tuesdays and Thursdays, praying with members of the community who visit the Disaster Relief Center established to assist survivors of the May tornado. All in need are being served with compassion and prayer. Another Jonah Prayer Ministry Training is scheduled for November 1, 2025. For more information, visit the link below.

Meanwhile, the Center's Bible Study is in session! Under the guidance of Danielle Harrison, participants are exploring the Book of Esther, reflecting on courage and faithfulness "for such a time as this." The study continues through November 22, 2025.

The Young Adult People of Color Group hosted a lively summer cookout at the Center — complete with delicious food, laughter, and a friendly UNO competition! The group meets monthly and always welcomes new members. To learn more, email [racialharmony@archstl.org](mailto:racialharmony@archstl.org).

The Center is also seeking youth to join its Youth Choir, which rehearses on Saturdays from 12–2 p.m. The choir has already lifted their voices in liturgies at St. Peter Claver Parish and St. Norbert Parish. Piano and voice lessons are also being offered. For more information, contact choir director Michelle Williams 314-422-9158.

Looking ahead, the Lwanga Center will host a Black Catholic History Month Celebration on November 22. The event will feature Fr. Boxie, chaplain at Howard University, as the keynote speaker, and Dr. Valimar Jansen, who will present a moving portrayal of Sister Thea Bowman.

*For more information about any activities at the St. Charles Lwanga Center, contact Corliss Cox at 314-449-3496, unless otherwise noted.*

# **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES:** *MAAFA PRAYER SERVICE AND PILGRIMAGE 2025*

The annual Forgive Us Our Trespases Maafa Prayer Service and Pilgrimage once again gathered the faithful in St. Louis to remember, reflect, and recommit to the work of racial healing and reconciliation.

This year's liturgical celebration opened with a moving Call to Worship led by the Liturgical Leaders in Motion from St. Alphonsus "Rock" Parish, who prayerfully danced to Stand Up, the powerful anthem from the film Harriet. Their grace and conviction set the tone for an afternoon of deep spiritual reflection and communal prayer.

Music filled the sanctuary under the direction of the renowned Gospel Symphonic Choir, led by founder Dello Thedford and musical director Anita Watkins Stevens. Their harmonies uplifted hearts and called forth both lament and hope—a fitting accompaniment to the theme of the Maafa, a Kiswahili word meaning "great tragedy," used to describe the transatlantic slave trade and its enduring legacy.

Deacon Lawrence Houston, Associate Director for School Faith Formation in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, delivered a stirring keynote address. He began by singing a soulful rendition of Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child, grounding his message in the shared suffering and resilient faith of generations. His words invited all present to embrace the power of forgiveness and to walk together toward justice and reconciliation.



The service concluded with a pilgrimage through downtown St. Louis, led by Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski and Vicar General, Most Reverend Carl Scheble, symbolizing a collective journey of remembrance and hope.

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## SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

*Pictured are several Sisters of St. Joseph, including Sister Barbara Moore, who answered the historic call of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to march in Selma.*

*Their continued presence and witness remind us that the struggle for justice and peace is both sacred and ongoing.*

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JUNE 2025



# LOCAL BLACK CATHOLICS

*ATTEND SUMMER INSTITUTE AT XAVIER UNIVERSITY*

The Office of Racial Harmony and Black Catholic Ministries, in collaboration with the St. Charles Lwanga Center and several local parishes, proudly sponsored a cohort of Black Catholics to attend the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) at Xavier University of Louisiana this past summer.

Founded in 1980, the IBCS at Xavier—the only Black and Catholic university in the Western Hemisphere—provides a unique and transformative educational experience. The Institute offers an advanced theological degree for graduates who seek formation for theologically and culturally competent service in the Black community and the Church at large. Among its alumni are bishops, pastors, pastoral ministers, musicians, and directors of Black Catholic ministry offices across the nation.

Our local cohort participated in the Continuing Education and Enrichment Courses, designed to offer lifelong learning and spiritual formation for pastoral leaders, clergy, religious, administrators, and lay ministers serving Black or multicultural communities. Through these courses, participants deepened their understanding of Black Catholicism and its vital role in shaping both community life and the broader Church. The cohort members expressed deep gratitude for this opportunity and excitement about continuing their journey together in 2026.



For more information about scholarship opportunities or participation in the next cohort, contact Joyce Jones at 314-792-7596.

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*Pictured:  
Ronda Smith Branch (St. Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" Parish); Kim Reid (St. Peter Claver Parish); Alfreda Pulley (St. Peter Claver Parish); Alice Prince (St. Josephine Bakhita Parish); Rukiya Anthony (St. Josephine Bakhita Parish); Pamela White (St. Josephine Bakhita Parish); Kim Anderson (St. Norbert Parish); and Cheryl Archibald (St. Pius Parish).*

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JULY 2025



# UPCOMING Events



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of Annual Catholic Appeal

The African Catholic Ministry at St. Norbert in Florissant offers several additional mass options each month.

1st Sunday: Swahili Mass  
12:30 pm

3rd Sunday: French Mass  
12:30 pm

4th Sunday: Unity Mass  
11:00 am



African Catholic Ministry

\*Left to right: Jane Kariuki, Ann Muchiri, Grace Murungaru, Lydia Wambui, and Diana Koskei Donovan played music with Steve Wakaba at Mass celebrated in Swahili at St. Norbert Church in Florissant.

## October 25, 2025

8:30am - 12:30pm

Lymne M. Jackson



Fr. Jeff Harrison, SJ

2025 **DRED SCOTT FOOTPRINTS** & ATTENDANT BLACK HISTORY BUS TOUR

Presented by

Together  
**STL**  
RACIAL UNITY FOCUS TEAM



**EMMANUEL**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Webster Groves, MO



The  
*Dred Scott*  
Heritage  
Foundation



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS  
Office of Racial Harmony  
and Black Catholic Ministries

ALL ARE WELCOME

# ALL SAINTS DAY MASS



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

AND



CATHOLIC RENEWAL CENTER  
*Awakening the Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit*

INVITE ALL TO JOIN

## FR. ROYCE THOMAS

ST. ALPHONSUS "ROCK" PARISH PASTOR

AS HE CELEBRATES THE

### *Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*

## NOVEMBER 1 | 8:30 AM

8240 WASHINGTON STREET, ST. LOUIS, MO 63114

We invite you to scan the QR code and submit the name of a loved one you have lost this past year. A candle with their name will be placed in the church in their memory.



## PRAYER WARRIORS *Needed*

JONAH PRAYER MINISTRY DAY OF REFLECTION/TRAINING will be held immediately after Mass in the Center.

- Limited to 25 individuals, and an RSVP is required
- This ministry is open to all who have a desire to pray with and for others both new and established prayer warriors.
- Jonah Prayer Ministry has been especially blessed to serve survivors of the recent tornado and many others who are standing in the need of prayer.

For information contact *Alfreda Pulley* at [apulley3@aol.com](mailto:apulley3@aol.com)

# Save the Date

## CELEBRATE Black Catholic History Month

### November 22 9am - 1pm

St. Charles Lwanga Center  
8240 Washington St.  
St. Louis, MO 63114





#iGIVECATHOLIC



# Save the Date!

Nov 17 - Dec 1

Advanced Giving

December 2

GivingTuesday

## THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CELEBRATION

*of the* Archdiocesan Mass for the  
Preservation of Peace  
and Justice



*Honoring the*  
DR MARTIN  
LUTHER KING JR  
MODEL OF  
JUSTICE AWARD



*January*  
18, 2026

**SAINT CHARLES**  
**LWANGA**  
CENTER  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis  
4431 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108

## EDUCATION

### *A Journey of Struggle and Triumph*

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The story of Black education in St. Louis is a testament to perseverance, vision, and resilience. From the earliest “tallow candle schools” secretly held in church basements to the bold innovation of floating schools on the Mississippi River, courageous leaders like Rev. John Berry Meachum and the veterans of the 62nd U.S. Colored Infantry forged pathways to learning against formidable odds.

Despite legal barriers, threats, and violence, Black educators and community members—alongside allies like the Sisters of St. Joseph and Jesuits—established schools, advocated for access, and built institutions that nourished minds and spirits. Their efforts paved the way for milestones like the founding of Sumner High School, the emergence of Black professional teachers, and eventual desegregation.

This legacy of struggle and accomplishment calls us to remember that each step forward in education has been hard-won, and that the journey continues.





# ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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and Black Catholic Ministries

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SUPPORTED BY THE



ANNUAL  
CATHOLIC  
APPEAL

BUILD MY CHURCH