

Winter 2017

Quarterly Newsletter

OBC/OAM Newsletter

OBC Mission

Statement

The Office for Black Catholics fosters the rich diversity of the Black Catholic Community within the Diocese of Richmond. Its mission is to evangelize, enhance and celebrate the contributions of persons of African descent and the gifts they have to offer the Church and society. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Office for Black Catholics advocates for an increase in vocations, diverse leadership, equality in education, social justice, and pastoral ministries throughout the Church and the community. The office's outreach is accomplished through the coordinated efforts of diocesan staff resources and dedicated volunteers.



Director's Message

This year the National Black Catholic Congress will take place July 6-9, 2017, in Orlando, Florida. This year's theme, "The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me: act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God" is a reminder that God is always present and we must be present to Him. It is also a reminder that we are called to respond to the needs of others, especially those who are most vulnerable, oppressed and anyone whose basic needs are not met. Topics include Evangelization, Catholic Social Teaching, Poverty/Racism, Vocations and Life & Dignity of the Human Person.

In July, 2016, the Office for Black Catholics held its Day of Reflection in preparation of Congress XII. We also reflected on the past five years and what, if any, impact Congress XI made on our communities. We had the privilege of having some amazing speakers who covered the core topics of Congress XI. We were also blessed with a presentation from Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D., as he reflected on his pastoral document, "The Racial Divide in the United States".

If you are interested in attending Congress XII as a part of the delegation from Richmond, please contact the Office for Black Catholics. Registration information for Congress is available online at www.nbccongress.org as well as fees associated with the gathering. Congress is a time for prayer, reflection, networking and action. It challenges each and every one of us to be doers and to be a witness of the Gospel. I invite you to join me as we represent the Diocese of Richmond in strengthening our communities and connecting to our faith.

Janet Harris

Upcoming Events

Rolling Lenten Revival

Sunday, March 5, St. Elizabeth, 9:00 am
Sunday, March 5, Holy Rosary, 11:00 am
Monday, March 6, St. Paul, 6:30 pm
Tuesday, March 7, Holy Rosary, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 8, St. Elizabeth, 6:30 pm

St. Paul/ 909 Rennie Ave, Richmond, VA 23227
St. Elizabeth/2712 2nd Ave, Richmond, VA 23222
Holy Rosary/ 3300 'R' St., Richmond, VA 23223

The Youth Ministry at the Basilica of St. Ministry of the Immaculate Conception annual Valentine's Day Card distribution at Lake Taylor Transitional Care facility in Norfolk, Va.. The Teens at the Basilica design and create personal Valentine's Day for the residents. The volunteer staff at Lake Taylor has invited our Teens back for the third year. We are schedule to distribute on Monday February 13, 2017 @ 6pm.

Thank you,

Ricardo Dee Givens



15th Annual Asians & Pacific Island Catholics Marian Pilgrimage 2017

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception/
400 Michigan Ave, N.E. , Washington DC 20017

Saturday, May 6th, 2017, 12:00pm-4:00pm

Mass: 2:30pm

Celebrant and Homilist:

Donald Cardinal Wuerl/ Archbishop of Washington,
Washington, DC

Kujenga

March 10-12, 2017

Roslyn Conference & Retreat Center/
87727 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229

**A weekend experience designed for rising
Freshmen—Seniors in High School**

Online registration:

www.regonline.com/cdrrickujenga2017

**Cost: \$125/youth, \$150/adult chaperone (covers
food, lodging and supplies)**

**Registration deadline is
February 28, 2017**

SAVE THE DATE!

Join the Office for Black Catholics along with other parishes within the Richmond Diocese at Congress XII, July 6-9, 2017, Orlando, Florida

National Black Catholic Congress XII

Early/Late Meeting Registration \$350.00/\$375.00 Early/
Late Youth Meeting Registration \$225.00/\$275.00 *Early Registration Cut-Off Date to be Announced*

Convention Site: Hyatt Orlando
NBCC Room Rate . . . \$138.50 per day (includes taxes)

Single/Double/Triple/Quad

Transportation via bus and/or air will be provided for total cost. More info NBCC and Congress XII:
www.nbccongress.org

The Office for Black Catholics, Diocese of Richmond, will have color coded OBC shirts available for all attendees as a show of unity. This is the common theme/practice for all dioceses throughout the country that will be in attendance.

For additional information contact the Office for Black Catholics,
obc@richmonddiocese.org or (804) 622-5262.



“Spirit of Service”

**Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Black Catholic Leadership
Awards Banquet**

March 25, 2017/ 6:00pm



MC: Candice Cole from
WRIC Channel 8 News

Location: Hilton Richmond
Hotel & Spa/
12042 W. Broad St,
Richmond, VA 23233

Tickets: General: \$ 65.00

Senior 55+: \$ 40.00

(Tickets are non-refundable)

The purchase of a table of 10 is available. Please
contact the Office for Black Catholics for tickets.

Questions: Contact Office
for Blacks Catholics at (804)
622-5262 or
obc@richmonddiocese.org

(All proceeds from the dinner and souvenir journal will go
toward our Catholic School scholarship fund.)

African Mass

Join us for a
Eucharistic Celebration
as we share in the rich heritage of our
African Ministry in the Diocese of Richmond.

March 18, 2017

Holy Rosary Catholic Church/
3300 'R' Street,
Richmond, VA 23223

February is Black History Month

God of Mercy and Love

We place our African American and African Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground.

Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do.

Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity.

This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

Prayer composed by

FR. JIM GOODE, OFM,

who in 1989 founded this National Day of Prayer

for the African American and African Family.

Recent OBC/ OAM Events

Simbang Gabi Masses



Gospel Music Workshop



Annual Spiritual Retreat



Pilgrimage to Holy Doors



News about activities and events relevant to the Office for Black Catholic, Catholic Diocese of Richmond may be submitted before the 15th of the month. Submissions will be considered for publication under the scrutiny of the Office for Black Catholics. All submissions must be submitted in electric formats using MS word, MS Publisher, or PDF. All rights reserved.



Sunday, March 12, 2017