

# Ojisé (The Messenger)

Catholic Diocese of Raleigh  
African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization

## The Good Shepherd's Corner

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2012



Allow me to convey profound thanks to all those associated with African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization and to all the African and African American Catholics throughout our Diocese. You are special gifts to me. This is a special time in the life of the Church for all of us to renew our commitment to

proclaim the Gospel of Life in word and deed. We must strive to protect the dignity of each and every person and, with God's grace, to eradicate every form of prejudice, discrimination and bias. We need to collaborate with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ and to work for the unity for which Jesus prayed. We have Martin Luther King's example to inspire us, the intercession

of Saint Katharine Drexel to help us, the protection of our Blessed Mother to guide us and the amazing grace of Jesus Christ to sustain us. Thus, please persevere in all your efforts and be strong in faith and joyful in hope.

Bishop Burbidge



Bishop Burbidge, Ben Briggs (St. Raphael, Raleigh), and Fr. Greg Anatuanya (Sacred Heart, Pinehurst) at the African Heritage Mass

## A Message From Our Vicar

This past summer while attending school, a classmate and I shared a table at lunch to discuss her pain because of a racially motivated incident. She is a writer of novels and stories of love. Recently she wrote a book on Catholic spirituality. The editor was very happy

about the book, and as they were putting the book together, she said: "I have an appointment to have a picture taken for the back cover of the book." The editor looked at her and said because of the importance of marketing, we highly suggest that no picture of

you be placed on the cover of the book." My friend was very disappointed with this decision and the book never was published.

As we are celebrating the need to respect life, the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Black History month, I would

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## A message from our vicar (cont'd from page 1)

like to reflect on the importance of continuing to work and minister to eradicate discrimination in our environment today. As I told you the story experienced by my classmate, perhaps you called to mind your own stories; but the beauty of our African ancestry spirituality calls us to give example of forgiveness and to embrace our brothers and sisters who are doing wrong with prejudice. We must show and express our dignity as children of God by kindly loving them.

We are people who know who we are and to whom we belong too. As children of God we clearly understand that God's love is given to all. God's love is given freely to anyone who accepts it. Let us once again, stand for and firmly recognize our heritage with pride and dignity, because nothing can separate us from the love of God.



Padre Leon in front of the main altar at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, GA after Mass during the Harambee Pilgrimage in September 2011.

## Chapter Highlight; St. Mary, Goldsboro

On Sun., November 20, 2011 St. Mary, Goldsboro hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cultural Explosion. The program was a celebration of the cultural diversity within the parish family; and featured cultural heritage facts, native fashions, foods, and talents. Those present represented cultures from the following countries: Columbia, Italy, Leba-

non, France, Republic of the Philippines, various countries in Africa, India, and African American. There were approximately 150-200 people in attendance to enjoy the presentations, make new friends and taste wonderful ethnic foods. There was an awesome mime ministry presentation by Whitley Church and music by

The Continental Community Youth Choir, both from Goldsboro. Vendors displayed their wares of artwork, holiday wood sculptures, wreaths, oils, and incenses. Next year's program is planned for Sunday, November 18, 2012. Mark your calendar and plan to be with us.



Members of the St. Mary, Goldsboro AAMEN Chapter along with their pastor, Fr. Tom Norris, O.S.F.S.

First annual Youth/Young Adult gathering with Bishop Burbidge

All African Ancestry youth and young adults are invited to join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge for a service project.

Where: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh (Cathedral School Hall)

When: Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 at 9am

RSVP: aamen.director@raldioc.org or 919-821-9762

# January 2012

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## Schedule of Events (All Are Welcome!)

- 1— Kwanzaa celebration at Holy Cross, Durham at 11:30am
- 7— Akwe:Kon (All of us/Together) Native American Pilgrimage to Washington, DC. Cost: \$35/person. Departing from Catholic Center, Raleigh at 5am; returning to Raleigh at midnight.
- 8— St. Ann, Fayetteville AAMEN Chapter meeting at 10am.
- 8— Swahili Catholic Community Mass; Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh at 2pm
- 14— Pro-Life Mass at St. Joseph, Raleigh at 8am
- 14— LML Youth and Young Adult Pro-Life Rally, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh at 11am-12:45pm.
- 15— Mass for Christian Unity to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., St. Ann, Fayetteville at 10am
- 15— Bulletin insert provided by Sacred Heart, Whiteville Canossian Society to commemorate the birth of Dr. MLK, Jr.
- 15— Special vocalist present at Holy Spirit, Kinston at 9am liturgy
- 15— Reading Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" at St. Gabriel, Greenville at 9:30am .
- 16— AAMEN Youth and Young Adult service project with Bishop Burbidge, Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9am
- 16— St. Martin Guild (Holy Spirit, Kinston) will join in the community March in Lenoir County to commemorate the life of Dr. King, Jr.
- 21— Gala to benefit the Neighborhood Youth Center and Scholarship fund at St. Ann, Fayetteville from 7pm-midnight. Tickets are \$20/ person.
- 23— March for Life, Washington, DC. Buses leave from around the Diocese. Cost: \$50/

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| AAMEN Contact List                 |  |
| Vicar:                             | Fr. Marcos Leon ( <a href="mailto:aamenvicar@raldioc.org">aamenvicar@raldioc.org</a> )   |
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| St. Alphonsus Center Administrator | Wilena McPhatter ( <a href="mailto:Wilena.McPhatter@raldioc.org">Wilena.McPhatter@raldioc.org</a> )  |
| French-speaking Community          | Fr. Roger Malonda ( <a href="mailto:romalonda@yahoo.fr">romalonda@yahoo.fr</a> )   |
| Igbo Catholic Community            | Fr. Joseph Oji ( <a href="mailto:joji@stmichaelcary.org">joji@stmichaelcary.org</a> )  |
| Swahili-speaking Community         | Fr. Pius Wekesa ( <a href="mailto:psw2563@yahoo.com">psw2563@yahoo.com</a> )   |
| African Ancestry Priests:          | Fr. JaVan Saxon ( <a href="mailto:frsaxon@bellsouth.net">frsaxon@bellsouth.net</a> )<br>Fr. Gregory Anatuanya ( <a href="mailto:frgregma@gmail.com">frgregma@gmail.com</a> ) |

# February 2012

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### Schedule of Events (All Are Welcome!)

- 5— National Day of Prayer for African ancestry Families
- 5— Holy Cross, Durham Black Heritage art exhibit featuring the artwork of parish youth at 11:30am.
- 7— Sacred Heart Cathedral AAMEN Chapter meeting at 7pm
- 8— Memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita; A day of prayer for all chapters.
- 11— St. Ann, Fayetteville AAMEN Chapter hosting a Valentine Dance; 7pm to midnight. Proceeds to support Knights of Columbus.
- 12— St. Ann, Fayetteville AAMEN Chapter meeting at 10am.
- 12— Swahili Catholic Community Mass; Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh at 2pm
- 18— Sacred Heart Cathedral AAMEN Chapter hosting a Mardi Gras celebration and fundraiser at 6pm
- 28— Sacred Heart Cathedral AAMEN Chapter Black History Month Celebration at 5pm

| Parish                      | Contact  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Deacons:</b>             |  |
|                             | Robert Price ( <a href="mailto:morningbirdfly@charter.net">morningbirdfly@charter.net</a> )        |
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|                             | Pius Gabriel ( <a href="mailto:piusg@embarqmail.com">piusg@embarqmail.com</a> )                    |
|                             | Webster James ( <a href="mailto:wjames408@earthlink.net">wjames408@earthlink.net</a> )             |
| <b>Cape Fear Deanery</b>    |  |
| St. Mary, Wilmington        | William Gibbs ( <a href="mailto:wgibbs@ec.rr.com">wgibbs@ec.rr.com</a> )                           |
|                             | Yvonne Sims ( <a href="mailto:ysims@ec.rr.com">ysims@ec.rr.com</a> )                               |
| Sacred Heart (Whiteville)   | Cora Lewis ( <a href="mailto:cefl@embarqmail.com">cefl@embarqmail.com</a> )                        |
|                             | Allison Toon ( <a href="mailto:atpastasst08@embarqmail.com">atpastasst08@embarqmail.com</a> )      |
| <b>Fayetteville Deanery</b> |  |
| St. Ann                     | Joyce Moreaux ( <a href="mailto:jm7165@aol.com">jm7165@aol.com</a> )                               |
|                             | Esther Patterson ( <a href="mailto:ehp06241@hotmail.com">ehp06241@hotmail.com</a> )                |
| St. Anthony of Padua        | Jim Gaddy ( <a href="mailto:piper@pinehurst.net">piper@pinehurst.net</a> )                         |
| <b>New Bern Deanery</b>     |  |
| Mother of Mercy             | Janice Stevenson ( <a href="mailto:yvette41679@yahoo.com">yvette41679@yahoo.com</a> )              |
|                             | Brenda Jones ( <a href="mailto:pibjones@hotmail.com">pibjones@hotmail.com</a> )                    |

# March 2012

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| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

## Schedule of Events (All Are Welcome!)

- 3— AAMEN Quarterly Communications meeting at 10am at the St. Alphonsus Center, 810 Reid St East, Wilson, NC. Please RSVP if you intend to stay for lunch!
- 3— Memorial of St. Katharine Drexel
- 8— Memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita; A day of prayer for all chapters.
- 8— Bulletin insert provided by Sacred Heart, Whiteville Canossian Society to commemorate the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita and Black History Month.
- 11— St. Ann, Fayetteville AAMEN Chapter meeting at 10am.
- 11— Swahili Catholic Community Mass; Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh at 2pm
- 14— St. Ann, Fayetteville AAMEN Chapter hosting a Family Night; 7pm to midnight. Proceeds to support the Neighborhood Youth Center.
- 24— AAMEN Lenten Retreat for middle school, high school, and young adult males at St. Alphonsus Center, 810 Reid Street East, Wilson, NC 27893

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Newton Grove Deanery</b> |   |
| St. Mary, Goldsboro         | Dorothy Lewis (dorolewis@gmail.com)   |
| Holy Spirit                 | Delano Berry ( <a href="mailto:d.h.berry@att.net">d.h.berry@att.net</a> )                 |
|                             | Robert Lassiter (lassiter1983@aol.com)  |
| <b>Piedmont Deanery</b>     |   |
| Holy Cross                  | Helen Hudson  |
| Newman Center, CH           | Marcia Edge ( <a href="mailto:marciaedge@aol.com">marciaedge@aol.com</a> )                |
|                             | James Mwaniki   |
|                             | (jamesmwaniki54@hotmail.com)  |
| <b>Raleigh Deanery</b>      |   |
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| St. Francis                 | Leon Cooke ( <a href="mailto:COOLEON@aol.com">COOLEON@aol.com</a> )                       |
| St. Joseph                  | Aдриene Gamble  |
|                             | ( <a href="mailto:adriene.gamble@allscripts.com">adriene.gamble@allscripts.com</a> )      |
| St. Michael                 | Jennifer Jones ( <a href="mailto:smc-aamen-jones@live.com">smc-aamen-jones@live.com</a> ) |
| St. Raphael                 | Ben Briggs ( <a href="mailto:bbriggs276@yahoo.com">bbriggs276@yahoo.com</a> )             |
| Sacred Heart Cathedral      | Curtis Deloatch ( <a href="mailto:Cadeloatch@aol.com">Cadeloatch@aol.com</a> )            |
| <b>Tar River Deanery</b>    |   |
| Immaculate Conception       | Dr. Geneva Chavis   |
| Our Lady of Perpetual Help  | Yvonne Hickman ( <a href="mailto:vparker2@yahoo.com">vparker2@yahoo.com</a> )             |
| St. Gabriel                 | Stephanie Tetterton ( <a href="mailto:stept53@yahoo.com">stept53@yahoo.com</a> )          |
| St. John the Baptist        | Carolyn Holmes  |
| St. Therese                 | Barbara Farmer  |

**Mark your calendars!**

What:  
One-day,  
Lenten retreat for teen and  
young adult males

When: Sat., March 24, 2012 at  
9am

Where: St. Alphonsus Center,  
810 Reid Street East, Wilson,  
NC 27893

**More details to come,  
real soon!**

## African Heritage Mass a Blessed Gathering

On a beautiful Sunday in October over 700 people showed up to praise God at the Eucharistic feast at the annual African Heritage Mass. Bishop Michael Burbidge was the presider, and he was joined by Msgr. Brockman, Vicar General; Padre Leon, Vicar Episcopal; and all of our African priests: Fr. Joseph Oji, Fr. Roger Malonda, Fr. Pius Wekesa, Fr. Greg Anatuanya, and Fr. Collins Okafor who was visiting friends and family in the area.

We want to thank all those from the three African communities that

worked to make this year's celebration such a great success. They examined the flow of the people during the reception last year and made changes that made for better movement of people through the Fallon Center. The addition of the canopy, to shelter those not able to be seated inside the Fallon Center, was a very nice touch which many people enjoyed.

The date has already been set for

next year's celebration: Saturday, November 3, 2012 which is the memorial of St. Martin de Porres who was named a saint 50 years ago.

When asked about this year's celebration, Padre Leon stated that he was very pleased with the event; "but we will work on making improvements for next year."



Joseph Batta (French-speaking community) and Ted Ondatto (Swahili-speaking community)

## Advisory Board Takes Catechetical Tone

With the appointment of Padre Leon as the vicar for the ministry, one of the changes is that the Advisory Board meeting will take on a different name and role. Starting next year, the AAMEN Advisory Board will be called the AAMEN Quarterly communications meeting, and it will be an opportunity for all who would like to attend to come and learn more about a dif-

ferent aspect of the ministry.

At the last Advisory Board meeting, Padre Leon led the session which focused on an evaluation of the African Heritage Mass. Mark your calendar and be sure to RSVP for our March Quarterly Communications meeting at the St. Alphonsus Center, 810 Reid St East, Wilson, NC 27893.



Padre Leon has a "catechetical moment" with a few attendees at December's Advisory Board meeting.

## Papal Awards

On the evening of Tues., Dec. 6, at St. Michael, Cary, Bishop Burbidge, acknowledged the dedication of 20 individuals from across the Diocese of Raleigh with awards



from Pope Benedict XVI. Two of our own, Milton Jenkins, St. Gabriel, Greenville,

and Agnes Penny, St. Raphael, Raleigh were awarded the Benemerenti Medal for their service. Please be sure to congratulate Milton and Agnes when you see them; and while you're at it get a picture taken with "our" papal awards!

## “Directed Point” by Lauren Green

I want to talk about two women and why they are so important to what we do. The first woman is Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. She converted to Catholicism and devoted herself to Christ Jesus at a young age. Many of her people did not understand why she would want to follow the way of the Christians; after all, they spread deadly disease, from which her parents and younger brother died, and invaded tribal lands.

She is the first Native American to begin the canonization process, and her second miracle has been accepted. Soon she will be canonized, and she will join the ranks of



*Taken at St. Augustine Cathedral, Tucson AZ*

because as a young child I was attracted to her because she (like me) was young, brown, and born in the country. I tried to learn everything I could about Kateri; and as I struggled to find where I fit into the Church she was the only person that spoke to me. She was a symbol that the Church was not just European and old; but American and young.

The other woman of great importance to me, is someone I “met” in the past decade. She is the patroness of Sudan; Mother Moretta, but you are probably more comfortable calling her Saint Josephine Bakhita. Her conversion story is remarkable. She was captured and sold into slavery at a young age. She was sold to an Italian family to serve as an aid for the children and returned with them to Italy. It was during the children’s catechet-

ical instruction that she was introduced to Christ; and when the family was scheduled to return to Africa for another international assignment she was wise enough to point out that she needed to remain behind to receive additional instruction so she could be confirmed. It was during this period that she entered the convent of the Canossian sisters.

Kateri and Josephine suffered tremendously in their lives; but their love of God, their faith in Him and His plan for them was the driving force in their lives. They realized that it’s not what people do to you, it’s how you respond. Many of us have suffered indignities in our lives as well; but let us use the lives of Kateri and Josephine to inspire us to respond in a manner which will provide our Heavenly Father with a proud parent moment.

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Kateri and Josephine suffered tremendously in their lives; but their love of God, their faith in Him and His plan for them was the driving force in their lives. They realized that it’s not what people do to you, it’s how you respond. Many of us have suffered indignities in our lives as well; but let us use the lives of Kateri and Josephine to inspire us to respond in a manner which will provide our Heavenly Father with a proud parent moment.

***Pope advances sainthood causes of Marianne Cope, Kateri Tekakwitha.***

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1104958.htm>



**Catholic Diocese of Raleigh  
African Ancestry Ministry and  
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**We're on the web!**

**[Dioceseofraleigh.org/  
how/African](http://Dioceseofraleigh.org/how/African)**

**[Facebook.com/dorAAMEN](https://Facebook.com/dorAAMEN)**



*Interested in  
having your  
chapter or  
community  
highlighted in*

*the next edition of the news-  
letter? Submit an article of a  
recent event and a picture,  
and your chapter could be  
chosen!*

*Send your entry to: [aamen.director@raldioc.org](mailto:aamen.director@raldioc.org)*

**National Black Catholic  
Congress XI**

**"Celebrating 25 years of  
What We Have Seen and  
Heard"**

**Theme: Faith Engaged:  
Empower. Equip.  
Evangelize.**

Congress XI is a time to renew our commitment to address the challenges of the present. Make plans now to join your fellow Catholic Christians to engage in this process of sankofa. Let us remember where we have been so that we can continue to move confidently in the present and the future. God is continuing to do great things through us!

It's not too early to start thinking and planning for the National Black Catholic Congress!

Mark your calendars: July 19-21, 2012

Registration forms are available from the office and on the website!