

NATIONAL LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

February is African American History Month. Across the United States we acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our Black sisters and brothers. It is no coincidence, then, that we launch this new e-zine for the Black Catholic community and those dedicated to the ministry of the Black and Indian Mission Office during this month.

As Catholics we bring the Gospel to bear on the social fabric of our world. Evangelizing is the grace and vocation proper to the Church in her deepest identity. So it is with great pride that I offer this means of

communication to connect the common corners of the life experience of Black Catholics. Let us affirm the gift of Blackness and the gift of our Roman Catholicism as totally compatible.

In this and future issues we will highlight heroes and heroines of our faith. Take an up-close and personal look at active Church parishes and schools offering an excellent Catholic education. Of particular interest are those faith communities supported by grants from our Mission Office. This year we celebrate ten years since the canonization of Mother Katharine Drexel, a pioneer in the

evangelization of Native Americans and African Americans.

In the enthusiasm of this on-line venture, and since Lent is upon us, I take the opportunity to share a brief insight. This e-zine/newsletter is one of many and varied technologies available today: cell phones, iPods, e-mail, text messages, etc. Each can help us to communicate more effectively with family, friends, and to conduct business.

When we talk to God no satellites are necessary - no batteries or transmitters. The thoughts of our hearts do not even have

to be spoken aloud. Prayer is the lifting of our minds and hearts to God. Spend some quiet time in prayer during Lent.



Father Wayne Paysse is the Executive Director of the Black and Indian Mission Office, Washington, DC. You may contact him at info@blackandindianmission.org Be sure to visit the website www.blackandindianmission.org

Day of Prayer for the African American Family

February 7, 2010 is a National Day of Prayer for the African American and the African American Family. Initiated in 1989 by Reverend James Goode, OFM, it is a day set aside to give thanks to God for our families and to place our every care in the arms of Jesus.



Artwork by Reverend Rey V. Culaba, CSsR

**Jesus ,
consecrate
our hearts
and our
families to
your most
Sacred
Heart.**

INSIDE

Contest	2
Saint Kizito	2
Martyrs Shrine	2
Catholic Schools' Week	3
CNAMB	3
What We Do	4
Rich Resources	4

CONTEST: NAME THIS PUBLICATION

What's in a name? Choosing a business name or that of a club or organization can be an important aspect of getting started. The name chosen will represent the image and label your group. You want that to be clearly conveyed to the public.

But your name is more than just an image—it carries a powerful energy that can lead to success or be a constant cause of struggle and perhaps mediocre participation or performance. The Mission Office is inviting you to name this publication.

How creative are you? What might be a good name for this new electronic publication? It is meant to be a tool for communication and on-going evangelization. Info of particular interest to the Black Catholic Community from coast to coast will also be included. Please send 1) your "title" suggestion and 2) why you chose it as a fitting title to: info@blackandindianmission.org

Deadline for entries is March 15, 2010. A panel of judges will make the final selection. A 1st place and runner up prizes to be awarded.



"The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church."

Tertullian

ST. KIZITO, THE YOUNGEST UGANDAN MARTYR

In 1886, King Mwangwa of Uganda, discovered that some of his pages were Catholic. He killed one page and prohibited anyone from leaving his headquarters. Charles Lawanga, religious instructor to the pages, secretly baptized four young men, including Kizito, a cheerful 13 year old he often protected from the king's

When the baptisms were discovered, Mwangwa assembled all the pages and ordered the Christians to separate from the others. They were asked if they wished to remain Christian and each replied, "Until death." Mwangwa then ordered the execution of every Catholic and Protestant living in the royal household. The soon-to-be

martyrs were taken to Namugongo where they were imprisoned for seven days and then burned alive on June 3, 1880. St. Kizito is the youngest of the Martyrs of Uganda who died in the Mwangwan persecutions. Kizito's martyrdom came just weeks after his baptism. Twenty-two of the Martyrs of Uganda were canonized October 18, 1964.

Basilica Church of the Uganda Martyrs, Namugongo.

Notice the traditional 'kasiisira' style of this modern structure. To honor these modern saints, Paul VI became the first reigning Pope to visit sub-Saharan Africa when he visited Uganda in July 1969; a visit which included a pilgrimage to the site of the martyrdom at Namugongo. He also dedicated a site for the Shrine.



Catholic Schools' Week ~ January 31—February 6, 2010

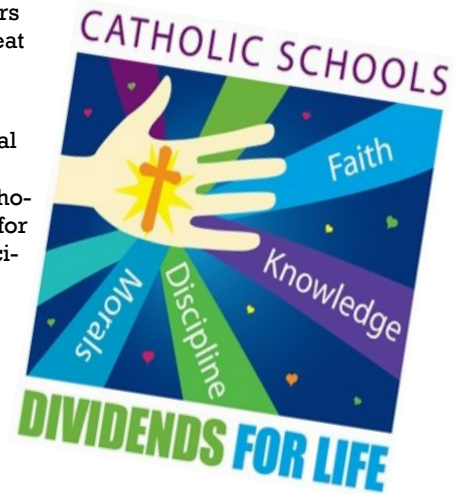
Catholic Schools Week this year is January 31- February 6, 2010. According to the Annual Statistical Report on Schools (2008-2009) published by the National Catholic Educational Association, the state of Alaska has 7 Catholic Schools and California has 692. That's obviously the smallest to the largest number of Catholic Schools by state. There are a total of 7,248 Catholic elementary and high schools in our country, educating more than 2,100,000 children. It is

estimated that 29.3% are minority students and 14.9% are non-Catholic.

The stats are somewhat different when we look at the ministry of the Black and Indian Mission Office. This office supports minority schools across the United States. Through your generosity we provide grants from Alaska to New York and from Washington State to South Louisiana. Without doubt, these schools are about the work of evangelization along with quality academics.

We can be proud of the students enrolled in our Catholic Schools and the dedicated administration and teachers that staff them, often at great financial sacrifice.

Please take time to say a word of thanks to your local Catholic School staff and celebrate the fact that Catholic schools pay dividends for life: faith, knowledge, discipline and morals. Let us continue to invest in our children!



Catholic Negro-American Mission Board

The Catholic Negro-American Board is an evangelization and fund-raising organization established in 1907 by the Bishops of the United States. Four times a year a mailing campaign solicits funds to support Black Catholic Schools. To learn more about the CNAMB or to make a donation, please visit our website at www.blackandindianmission.org The following schools are benefitting from the 6/1/09—6/30/10 grants :

Archbishop John Carroll High School, Washington, DC
 Bishop McNamara High School, Washington, DC
 Holy Child Jesus School, Canton, MS
 Holy Family School, Birmingham, AL
 Holy Family, Natchez, MS
 Holy Ghost Catholic School, New Orleans, LA
 Holy Name of Jesus School, Los Angeles, CA
 Holy Redeemer School, Washington, DC
 Holy Rosary School, Jacksonville, FL
 Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Lafayette, LA
 Most Pure Heart of Mary School, Mobile, AL
 Mother Mary Mission School, Phoenix City, AL
 Our Lady of Fatima School, Birmingham, AL
 Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School, Beaumont, TX

Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel, Lake Charles, LA
 Sr. Thea Bowman School, Jackson, MS
 St. Anthony School, Beaumont, TX
 St. Anthony Padua School, Greenville, SC
 St. Augustine High School, New Orleans, LA
 St. Francis of Assisi School, Greenwood, MS
 St. Francis Xavier School, Baton Rouge, LA
 St. Francis Xavier School, Overtown, FL
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Tuskagee Institute, AL
 St. Martin de Porres School, Columbia, SC
 St. Mary's School, Fairfield, AL
 St. Peter Claver School, Macon, GA
 St. Peter Claver School, Tampa, FL
 St. Pius School, Jacksonville, FL



are welcome at
info@blackandindianmission.org

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THIS E-ZINE,
PLEASE CONTACT US AT
info@blackandindianmission.org AND WE WILL RE-
MOVE YOUR NAME FROM OUR E-MAIL LIST. Thanks!

What We Do

The Black and Indian Mission Office supports Catholic evangelization efforts among Black, Indian and Indigenous communities throughout the United States

The Catholic Negro-American Mission Board has been shining the light of Christ within Black communities since 1907



Happy Valentine's Day !

God has poured out his love to fill our hearts.

Romans 5 : 5



Rich Resources

Rich? It means affluent or wealthy. "That's rich!" we say, when something is ironic. Rich food refers to heavy, buttery or extra sweet morsels. Gardeners compost for fertile, rich soil. No matter!

Here we offer you, our readers, several rich resources for further good information and on-going formation. You'll find spiritual treasures and nurturing insights for continuing growth in the faith:

www.usccb.org/nab/bible puts Scripture, Old and New Testaments, at your fingertips.

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Stationsbooklet.pdf>. has a beautiful Lenten meditation on Jesus, his passion and death.

http://www.usccb.org/saac/saac_subcommittee.shtml links you to the Cultural Diversity Committee's subcommittee on African American Affairs. Chairman: Most Reverend Martin D. Holley. This site offers an extensive sidebar with various topics and interests from current projects to locating the Black Bishops of the United States.

<http://www.ls.cc.al.us/blackhistory/blackhistory.html> let us remember and respect our history and our heritage 24/7.

Help Get the Good News Out and About... please send us e-mail addresses of those who might be interested in this Black Catholic E-zine, info@blackandindianmission.org

In the meantime, please forward them a copy of this issue. Bless you!

Visit us on the web at www.blackandindianmission.org

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