



October 2023

We've Come This Far By Faith

By: Dr. Kimberly Lymore



In 1987, the Office of Evangelization, under the direction of Rev. Pat Brennan, approached the Black Catholic Community about having a revival. In October of 1988, we had our first Black Catholic Revival at Holy Name Cathedral. We were excited about all the Black Catholics in Chicago coming together for this event. At that time there were more than 80 Black Catholic parishes. Walt Whitman, founder of the Soul Children of Chicago, put together a mass choir for the event. There were over 100 voices that participated. The revivalist was Rev. Jim Goode, OFM. The church was filled with Black Catholics and those affiliated with the Black Catholic Community. The procession featured African drummers and liturgical dancers. Oh, what a timewe had over the 3 nights.

Over the next several years we continued to have the revivals at Holy Name Cathedral with guest revivalists from around the country such as Fr. George Stallings, Sr. Thea Bowman, Rev. Bede Abrams, Rev. Giles Conwill, Fr. Ray East, just to name a few. In the early 2000's there was a resurgent reminiscence of the early Black Catholic Revivals. It was over 3-days, but it was at 3 different sites. The last Archdiocesan Black Catholic revival took place in 2010 at Old St. Mary's Church with Rev. Jim Goode as the revivalist.

Revival is an act or instance of reviving: the state of being revived. To be revived is to bring back to consciousness or life. After the devastation of the COVID19 pandemic with its shutdown and isolation from one another, there are many that have not returned to the church building and have opted to watch online. It is time for a revival. There is no longer an Office of Black Catholics nor an Office of Racial Justice however, there is still have a large contingent of Black Catholics in Chicago and there is still racism in the Archdiocese. It is time for a revival. In 2016, the Archdiocese of Chicago implemented the Renew My Church process, which has reduced the number of Black Catholic churches down to 9, where have all the Black Catholics gone? It is time for a revival. Frustrated with church closings, many Black Catholics have been through multiple church closings, have become fed-up and disillusioned with the church. It is time for a revival. Our churches are aging and there is a lack of youth and young adults, but what are we offering them? It is time for a revival.

This year's Black Catholic Unity Revival, on October 16, 17, & 18, is sponsored by the Chicago Black Catholics Alliance (CBCA) in collaboration with the 3 church sites, is a way to bring together once again Black Catholics and others from around the city & suburbs of Chicago.

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The CBCA is a lay-led group comprised of current Catholic Theological Union (CTU) Tolton Pastoral Ministry scholars and Tolton alumni. The group was formed to address the lack of communication in the Chicago Black Catholic community with the demise of the Drum Newsletter that was previously distributed by the Office of Black Catholics and then later by the Black Catholic Initiative. The CBCA started distributing the Pulse Newsletter in February 2022. *The Pulse* is emailed out around the first of every month. The second



goal of the group's mission is to host the upcoming Black Catholic Unity Revival. The third goal is to have sessions like the long-standing Theology on Tap that take place in the summer.

The Black Catholic Unity Revival's theme is "Authentically Black and Truly Catholic: Faith, Peace, and Love In Unity." The subthemes are (1) looking back: where we have been, (2) Where We are now and (3) Where we are going.

The format is very similar to past revivals but with a little twist. This revival format will include a segment called, "Word on Fire." It is a theological reflection on the theme for each night. Gardis Watts, current Tolton scholar and founder of the CBCA, saw this same concept at a Jesus Week Revival at Fellowship Baptist Church during Holy Week. In our version, three Black Catholic theologians, Dr. Mark Nimo (St. Moses the Black), Dr. C. Vanessa White (CTU), Dr. Kimberly Lymore (St. Sabina & CTU) will offer their reflection on the theme for each night. The revivalists will be Rev. Mark Thomas Ameh, MSP (Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus), Rev. Carl Gales, SVD (Our Lady of Africa) and Rev. Michael Pflieger (St. Sabina). Each night will include an African Dummer to call us to worship and a cultural expression by a young person, adult and youth choirs and liturgical dancers. This revival is a Sankofa moment in which we look back to move forward. As we navigate this new normal, ALL Catholics, whether you are African American, from the diaspora, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latinx or just need spiritual renewal, we are all in this together and that we need each other to survive and thrive. We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His Holy Word, God has never failed us yet. Oh, oh, oh, can't turn around, we have come this far by faith!



Meet the Revivalists

Three men from very different backgrounds will be tasked on October 16, 17, and 18th to uplift and help unify a community that has been, battered, bruised and left dazed and confused over the past 5 years. From Renew My Church, which has left a number of parishes to close and unify to Covid-19, that has seen a number of people not survive a 100 year pandemic, it has been a challenging season. Now with the seeds of renewal that have been planted, through the power of the Holy Spirit, a Revival is being held.

Revivalist: Fr. Mark Thomas Ameh, MSP



Born into a Catholic Family in Nigeria, Father Mark Thomas Ameh is a “Cradle Catholic.” Growing up in the Catholic faith, he started to go deeper into the Catholic tradition when he was a teenager. During this time, he interacted with people from Protestant traditions asking him questions about the Catholic faith and what do the rituals, principles and traditions mean. To answer those questions for himself, Father Mark went into a journey of self-discovery and went deeper into his Catholic faith. He started being involved in several ministries while praying and studying. As he continued down this road to discover more about the Catholic faith, Father Mark during his high school years was being noticed by several people suggesting him to consider the priesthood. They noticed certain gifts about him that would make him a successful priest. As he continued in his education, he got the opportunity to enroll in seminary school after high school. Through him being a member of Missionary Society of St. Paul of Nigeria, Father Mark was ordained into the priesthood in 2006. He credits his love for teaching, music and traveling for helping him maintain his position as a priest.

He spent his early priesthood years in Africa, particularly Nigeria and Chad. Father Mark identifies his work in Chad as his most successful missionary work to date. After spending six years in Chad, his mission took him to the United States of America. He was assigned to St John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Port Arthur, Texas where he served for five years. After he completed his assignment at St. John, Father Mark was assigned to St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. When he completed a successful ministry in Las Vegas, he was reassigned to Chicago earlier this year where he is the pastor of Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus parish on the far south side.

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Father Mark will be the revivalist on October 16th at St Simon of Cyrene (St. Martin dePorres site) on the west side. His hope is to speak to Black Catholic Chicago where he wants to walk with them on their journey to be heard. He believes that Black Catholic Chicago still matters in the Catholic Church if they just organize as a community. Father Mark encourages Black Catholic Chicago to continued to be rooted in the Catholic faith. He hopes this message resonates and stresses that the church needs a place for the youth. Father Mark feels that the church needs to mentor the youth towards leadership so they can carry the church after we are long gone. Join us with Fr. Mark Thomas Ameh, MSP at 6:30 pm.

-Gardis Watts

Revivalist: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD



The past year has been one of many changes for Fr. Carl Gales, SVD. This young priest grew up in the COGIC church memorizing bible scripture and singing in youth group. Fr. Carl became Catholic in college while studying and receiving a BA in music performance/piano. His life before priesthood was as a concert pianist. The question “What is my purpose” led Carl to come back and work in the church. For several years, he was focused on “How do I want my life to be expressed”? Musical and Liturgical expression became important to him. Yet, there was still a small voice inside of him that was letting him know that this was not quite it. As much success and affirmation from others, as he was getting about his work, he knew that it was not

enough. A job at a couple of SVD parishes led him to meet and become friends with twins Fr. Chester and Charles Smith who were regular celebrants at the church where he worked. The Divine Word Missionaries’ commitment to Black Catholics is what attracted him to the order. Soon, Fr. Adam McDonald, the vocational director, had reached out to Fr. Carl. After a second call a year later, it led to dinner, a come-and-see visit in Chicago, and another one in Iowa, and by May of 2022, Fr. Carl Gales, SVD was ordained a priest and his first assignment was to serve at associate pastor of the newly formed Our Lady of Africa parish in the Bronzeville community.

In April 2023, Fr. Carl Gales was asked to serve as administrator of Our Lady of Africa Parish. He said yes. This new role has been full of new responsibilities and challenges that he has met with the spirit-filled vigor that parishioners have come to enjoy in his dynamic homilies.

For Fr. Carl, his greatest joy has been the weekend masses celebrating with the people and sharing their lives. Getting to know people and journeying with them is fulfilling for them and him. He stated that “As I try to lift people up, they do the same for me.” Parish life is relational. It is all about encounters. As one focuses on the encounter rather than the transaction, one understands the mission of evangelization. He has also learned that the needs of the parish do not fall squarely on his shoulders. There are many people that he can rely on to help him shoulder the needs of the parish. Yet sometimes parish life is filled with the unexpected. From a leaky roof to the air conditioning going out, parish life can be a challenge. For Fr. Carl, it is the unexpected things that come up and he must gauge what issues need to be taken care of immediately. His personality is to solve problems, yesterday. The challenge is to realize that a lot of issues that come up daily may not have an immediate answer. His learning curve has been to learn to calm down, not be anxious, and let time take care of certain challenges that may come up. Or as his wise mother says, “Give time, time.”

When asked about his hope for Black Catholics in Chicago, Fr. Carl would like Chicago to be a model of what future evangelization can look like for Black Catholics across the country. The Black Catholics of Chicago are a sign of resilience, making “good trouble” and proof that God never abandons his people. This resilience shows that despite the number of parishes that were affected by the Renew My Church process, several parishioners have made the intentional effort to share their time, talents, and treasures and continue to help the parish thrive, defying the odds of failure by their sheer determination. They have chosen to never give up no matter the obstacles that they may be faced with including those within or by outside forces. For Fr. Carl, it is important that we first take a hard look at our own selves and make the necessary adjustments for a successful future. Sometimes we must begin with the Man or Woman in the Mirror in order to make a positive change for the future. Join us with Fr. Carl Gales as the revivalist on the second night of the revival on Tuesday, October 17th at Our Lady of Africa parish beginning at 6:30 pm.

-Tina L Carter

Revivalist: Fr. Michael L. Pflieger



Pastor, preacher, teacher, parent, lecturer, activist, radical disciple, “Blue Eyes, Black Soul,” are just a few names that describe, Rev. Dr. Michael Louis Pflieger. Ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 14, 1975, he is still very active at the age of 73 as he was at 26, when first ordained. Following the example of a mentor and friend, Rev. George Clements, he became a parent, when he adopted an 8-year-old son, Lamar. In 1992, a South Korean women saw a story about him and sent her son, Beronti, to the United States to be adopted by Fr. Mike, as he is affectionately called by everyone. In 1997, he became a foster father to Jarvis Franklin, who was tragically killed because of gang crossfire, around the corner from the church, on May 30, 1998.

In 1966 when civil rights activist Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King marched through Marquette Park in Chicago, Rev. Pflieger witnessed his friends’ parents spewing hateful words, spitting, and throwing rocks at Dr. King. He wondered what inner strength Dr. King possessed that he responded, “we love you.” This placed Rev. Pflieger on a trajectory that would change his life. While attending seminary at St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Rev. Pflieger would come Chicago to hear the well-known Black preachers like Rev. Clay Evans, Rev. T.L. Barrett and Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. He wanted his ministry to be in the black community. He also ministered on the West side of Chicago where he would help, Fred Hampton and the Black Panthers give out food to the residents. Once ordained, he was immediately assigned to St. Sabina Church. When he became pastor in 1981, he was told by the Archdiocese that St. Sabina would be closing in 3 years. Pastor Pflieger said, “not on his watch.”

In the 47 years of his pastorate, The Faith Community of St. Sabina has survived and thrived to become known around the world for its vibrant liturgies and its social justice activism. The campus of the Faith Community of St. Sabina consists of the Employment Resource Center (ERC), The ARK (Youth center), St. Sabina Social Services and the St. Sabina Elders Village in collaboration with Catholic Charities, St. Sabina Academy, MLK Center for Strong Futures (assist justice-challenged youth and young adults) and the Stein Learning Gardens and the Samaritan Building (low-income housing).

As a minister of the Gospel, Pastor Pflieger has sought to break down the walls of racism and denominationalism by building unity among all people founded on truth and based on Jesus’ command to love one another. He is known as the “radical disciple” because he follows Jesus, who was radical. He is a prophetic preacher and leader because he is not afraid to speak truth to power.

We look forward to hear what wisdom Rev. Pflieger has to offer the Black Catholic Community as we move towards the future. Join us with Fr. Michael Pflieger as the revivalist on the third night of the revival on Tuesday, October 18th at the faith community of St. Sabina beginning at 6:30 pm.

—Dr. Kimberly Lymore

¹ Allison Payne, long-time WGN reporter won an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement within a Regularly Scheduled News Program – Specialty Report: — Religion: Blue Eyes, Black Soul: Allison Payne, Reporter; Pam Grimes, Michael D’Angelo, Producers. WGN story based on Pastor Michael Pflieger.

² “Radical Disciple: Father Pflieger, St. Sabina Church and the Fight for Social Justice” by Robert McClory



Word on Fire Speaker: Dr. Mark Nimo DMin.



Dr. Mark Kwaku Nimo, DMin. was born in Ghana, West Africa and grew up in a town called Cape Coast, on a University Campus, where his father taught Psychology. He worships at St. Moses the Black Parish with his wife and daughters. At Moses the Black, Dr. Mark is Director of Evangelization, Coordinator of Faith Formation, is part of the praise and worship music team and teaches the religion courses at the Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy. His other ministries at the church include, Balm In Gilead (B.I.G.), for those experiencing loss and grief and Ministers of Care in which he visits the sick and homebound, issuing Holy Communion and praying with them for healing.

Prior to being here in Chicago, Dr. Mark did lay missionary work in Uganda, East Africa for two years and has also ministered in 45 countries all around the world. He believes that the heart of the Catholic Christian faith is conversion and that the Gospel (the Good News), provides the path to fulfillment of all our human desires. He feels that every heart is hungry for meaning and purpose and that Discipleship and Mission along with everything we do must serve this purpose in some way.

When asked about his thoughts on the revision and reconstruction going on in the various church communities, he speaks about how as individuals, who are part of the Church, that there is a tendency in all of us to hold on to what is familiar and want to stay with the security of how things were. However, the future of the Catholic community is in God's hands and the Church is alive to the extent that its members are alive in Christ. On reflections about serving in the community, Dr. Mark says his greatest joy is knowing that he is trusted to participate in Jesus' mission when he visits the sick and brings them Communion and to serve his family. When asked about his biggest challenge, he remarks that it is helping people focus on the "one thing necessary" and dealing with distractions like in Luke 10:38-42 (when Jesus visited Mary and Martha). People are anxious and restless and worried about so many things and have forgotten to choose the ONE THING NECESSARY.

As Dr. Mark will be speaking on one of the upcoming evenings of Revival this month, he was asked about his thoughts on the event: I think "revival" sounds too weak for me at this time in the Black Catholic Community. It suggests that someone passed out and is looking for revival or resuscitation. I prefer "RESURRECTION." That is my hope! Truth be told, there are aspects of our life that are "dead" and need raising back to life. I am claiming the resurrection power of Jesus over my life and that of our community. The Greek word is "ANASTASIS!" Let this be an "Anastasis" moment for each of us. Join us for Dr. Mark Nimo's empowering theological reflection on the 1st night of the revival on Monday, October 16th at St. Simon of Cyrene Parish(St. Martin de Porres site) beginning at 6:30 pm.

-Stephanie Garrison



Word on Fire Speaker: Dr. C. Vanessa White, DMin



Professor, Womanist theologian, mentor, friend are just a few words to describe C. Vanessa White, D. Min. She is tenured Associate Professor of Spirituality and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and Director of the Certificate in Black Theology and Ministry. She holds a dual appointment as Associate Director of the Th.M. Program (Master of Theology) at Xavier University's Summer Institute for Black Catholic Studies.

Dr. White is the oldest of three (younger sister and brother). She was baptized Catholic at the age of 10 and attended St. Kilian Elementary School, where she was educated by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. She comes from generations of Methodist, Apostolic and Baptist ministers. That family legacy of ministry and service continues through her today.

Her life witness has encouraged many Black Catholic lay people to pursue a vocation in ministry, me included. She has a Master of Theological Studies with emphasis in Mission and Cross-Cultural Studies (1991). and a Doctor of Ministry with a concentration in Spirituality (2005) from Catholic Theological Union. She pursued further post-graduate studies at Loyola University Chicago and Xavier University of Louisiana.

She is a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality and the Black Catholic Theological Symposium, where she served as convenor. She is also a member of the National Black Storyteller Association as well as the National Association of Storytellers.

Her articles and essays are extensive. Her recent contributions to the study of spirituality include the chapter entitled "Deep Down in My Soul: Black Women and the Spirituality of Freedom: Reading the Signs of the Times" in the book *Religion, Women of Color, and the Suffrage Movement: The Journey to Holistic Freedom*. (Lexington House, 2022). Her reflection on the Feast of Pentecost can be found in *Catholic Women Preach* (volume 1) that was recently published by Orbis Books (2022) She is co-editor of the book, "*Songs of Our Hearts and Meditations of Our Souls: Prayers for Black Catholics*. (St. Anthony Messenger Press), is a contributor to the *Black Catholic Studies Reader* (David Endres, editor, CUA, summer 2021) and to the *Wisdom Commentary* series volume on Luke, 1-9 (General editor, Barbara Reid, Liturgical Press, 2020) Dr. White was an inaugural contributor for the *GIVE US THIS DAY*, daily prayer booklet published by Liturgical Press as well as the *Catholic Women Preach* web series.

In February of 2023, she became the first lay woman invited to preach a nine-day solemn novena in honor of St. Jude at the National Shrine of St. Jude which was livestreamed globally. In 2023, she was appointed by Cardinal Blasé Cupich as a delegate for the North American Intercontinental Stage of the Synodal Process.

A womanist practical theologian, her research is focused on the intersections of spirituality and praxis and is attentive to issues of discernment, health, racial justice, diversity/intercultural dialogue, women's spirituality, leadership development, spiritual and ministry formation, spiritual practices, lay ministry, adult faith formation and issues pertinent to the life of Black Catholics.

When asked about her hopes for this revival and/or the Black Catholic Church, she said, "my hope is that there will be a re-awakening or renewal of our sense of community, unity, identity as Black Catholic people of faith and an understanding of our own agency as Black Catholics." We are looking forward to her presentation on the second night of the Black Catholic Unity Revival. Join us for Dr. C. Vanessa's White's vibrant theological reflection on the 2nd night of the revival on Tuesday, October 17th at Our Lady of Africa parish beginning at 6:30 pm.

-Dr. Kimberly Lymore



Word on Fire Speaker: Dr. Kimberly Lymore



Prophetically and unapologetically speaking truth to power, Dr. Kimberly Lymore, DMin doesn't mince words when she sees that the church she loves is not living up to her full potential. As part of the Faith Community of St. Sabina since 1983, social justice, racial equity, and inclusivity for all of God's children have been at the forefront of her ministries. After leaving corporate America as a systems analyst and pursuing full-time ministry in 2000, she was appointed the full-time Pastoral Associate by the Rev. Michael L. Pflieger on September 1, 2000.

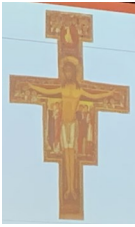
Kimberly is responsible for all the sacramental preparation of the children and adults. She is the team leader for Eucharistic Ministers and is on the preaching rotation for the 8:30 service. She is currently the convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium, as well as the Director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union (CTU). Kimberly Lymore received her Master of Divinity with a concentration in Word from CTU and she received her Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Union. Her thesis article was titled, "*God Doesn't Tilt: Making the Connection Between Worship and Justice.*" Her goal is to be obedient to the plan God has for her life and obedient to his Word.

In talking with Dr. Lymore about why a revival is needed and the relationship that the Black Catholic community has with the Archdiocese, she stated that, historically, Black, and other Catholic ethnic groups have looked to the Archdiocese for support. This support can include schools, the opening of parishes, and various events and programs to uplift one's catholic identity while celebrating one's culture. With the advent of the closing of the Office of Black Catholics and the Office of Racial Justice, it has created a void of advocates who would be at the table to discuss the needs of the community. The creation of the Black Catholic Initiative was supposed to fill that void, however, there has been little funding or support allocated to it. One invests time, treasures, and talents in things that they care about. The lesson is that we as a community must become self-sufficient and work together otherwise, more parishes could face realignment and/or closure in the future.

For Dr. Lymore, she hopes that this revival encourages the community to continue to be collaborative, supportive, and unified. This is the only way to survive and thrive. She also wants people to see that lay-led endeavors are one important way to support the community. Dr. Lymore also recognizes that there is separation and/or division between African Americans and our brothers and sisters from the larger African diaspora. Her hope is to build a unified community by being more inclusive of one another's gifts so we can begin to come together as a cohesive community.

When I asked Dr. Lymore, why is it important to continue to serve in the church in spite of some of the challenges, she told me that as a lifelong Catholic, Dr. Lymore was baptized when she was 5 years old at Ascension parish in Harvey, IL, she has made an intentional choice to stay and hold the church accountable to be the Church that Jesus commissioned her to be. Ultimately, it is easier to work for change from within than being on the outside. Join us for Dr. Kimberly Lymore's dynamic theological reflection on the 3rd night of the revival on Wednesday, October 18th at the faith community of St. Sabina Parish beginning at 6:30 pm.

-Tina L Carter



Archdiocesan Day of Renewal

On a late September day that began with the last vestiges of rain and rain clouds and ended with the warmth of the sun, the Archdiocesan Day of Renewal was held at Rosemont Theatre. Over the course of eight hours, lay leaders and clergy were invited to reflect upon the transformations that have taken place since Renew My Church was first enacted in 2018.

With Dr. Mark Nimo as the MC, Fr. Matt O'Donnell, pastor of St. Moses the Black Church, reminded the leaders that God is constantly calling us to something new. Using the Genesis story of Abram and Sari who later became Abraham and Sarah we were reminded that the power of change means that we must be willing to trust and let go of control. There is an understanding that there is fear of the unknown and where that will lead us, but we must trust that the transformation will make us all stronger and more united. We must have the courage to say yes and embrace new strategies ultimately trusting where the Holy Spirit will lead us. Tyrone Pittman with an ensemble of musicians led the leaders in spirit-filled song.

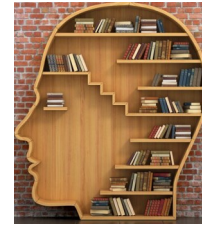
Cardinal Cupich then led the leaders on a refresher on the parts of the Mass and the importance of Christ's invitation to us and the community to join more fully in his work. He challenged the audience to consider how we encounter Christ through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist and to consider ways that we live a self-sacrificial life and how our parishes serve the world around us.

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa joined the gathered via video and reminded us of the essential role that the laity has in evangelization out in the world. Our lives should be a living reflection of Christ on Earth inviting others to join us to serve God and one another.

Fr. John Riccardo from Detroit suggested that we must have clear directives about what our mission is when it comes to evangelization and discipleship. When it comes to questions about discipleship, we must look at what we are being asked to do. The disciple's mission is to build the city of God here on earth. We are the hands and feet of the Lord. It is through our Baptism in the Holy Spirit that we can Catch the Fire, Experience the Fire, and Spread the Fire. It is through our personal experience and relationship with God and our testimony to others that we can accomplish this mission. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are our tools, and we should pray for the grace of magnanimity.

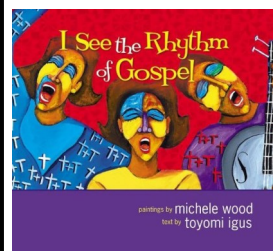
In addition to the main speakers, two-panel discussions took place about evangelization and discipleship. Members of the panels included lay leaders and clergy from various parishes. It is worth noting that there was no representation from the remaining Black Catholic parishes on the panels. Some parishes are using the Alpha program to engage people. A catechist reminded the audience that faith is caught, not taught through relationship and encounter with Christ. We can also strengthen our relationship with Christ through the Eucharist and provide opportunities for radical conversion for those who seek it. The day ended with Mass and a renewed commitment to go out and make disciples in the name of the father and the son and the Holy Spirit. -Tina L Carter

Literary Corner



What is a revival? Revival is the capitalization of the Church for a divine attack on a corrupt society. A revival is the manifestation of God's presence and power. Revivals of the past have swept the world with amazing healings and miracles. *The Quest for Revival*, by international Bible teacher and revival historian Ron McIntosh uncovers key truths of the marvelous moves of God and shares his insights and hopes to ignite revival fires in the present. He draws on the victories and failures of past revivalists such as John Alexander Dowie, Smith Wigglesworth, John G. Lake, Maria Woodworth-Etter, Aimee Semple McPherson, William J. Seymore and Charles F. Parham.

This book uncovers the seasons of revival in 17th through 20th century, activates the power of prevailing prayer, explains the role of repentance for a nation, utilizes the force of divine momentum and experiences fresh communion with the Holy Spirit. The truth of the Holy Spirit is that He clothes us with power. After a revival Christians are "loaded" with the power of the Holy Spirit. Ron speaks to a shift that's coming as culture drifts from biblical values, it's time to shift to eternal perspectives....it's time for REVIVAL. -Tanya Bolen



What is a Revival without the blessings of sweet gospel music? As the final preparations are made for the revival later this month, the book *I See the Rhythm of Gospel* by Michele Wood and Toyomi Igus provides children with a rich and informative history of this divine musical tradition. Beginning with the rhythms from the motherland, the spirit of gospel music traveled deep in the decks of ships onto plantations and in the darkness of night in search of freedom. From the day of Jubilee, in churches and through the neighborhood of Bronzeville, gospel music has comforted, uplifted, and been our voice for struggle, equality, and hope for a better day. The bright illustrations share the story of gospel music, even as it inspires a new generation of holy hip-hop artists today. -Tina L Carter

In Memoriam



Kevin Michael Birmingham
(October 7, 1971 – October 2, 2023)
Vicariate VI Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago

O God, who chose your servant Bishop Birmingham
from among your Priests, and endowed him with pontifical dignity
in the apostolic priesthood, grant, we pray, that he may also be admitted to their company for ever.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God for ever and ever.

–Amen

Source: ICEL, Roman Missal, 2010 www.usccb.org

Habari gani
What's the News?

CHICAGO BLACK CATHOLICS ALLIANCE PRESENTS

*Looking Back: Where
We Have Been as
Black Catholics"*

OCTOBER 16TH

REVIVALIST

REV. MARK THOMAS AMEH, MSP
STS MARTHA,
MARY & LAZARUS

WORD ON FIRE SPEAKER:
DR. MARK NIMO

ST. SIMON OF CYRENE

(St. Martin de Porres site)
5112 W. Washington Blvd,
Chicago, IL 60644



**AUTHENTICALLY BLACK & TRULY CATHOLIC:
FAITH, PEACE, AND LOVE IN UNITY**

OCTOBER 17TH

REVIVALIST

REV. CARL GALES, SVD
OUR LADY OF AFRICA

WORD ON FIRE SPEAKER:
DR. C. VANESSA WHITE

OUR LADY OF AFRICA

615 E. Oakwood Blvd,
Chicago, IL 60653

*Where We are NOW
as Black Catholics"*

5PM-6PM | FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP | 6:30PM-9PM | REVIVAL SERVICE

there will be a love offering collection

*Where we are going
as Black Catholics"*

OCTOBER 18TH

REVIVALIST

REV. MICHAEL PFLEGER
ST SABINA

WORD ON FIRE SPEAKER:
DR. KIMBERLY LYMORE

ST. SABINA

1210 W. 78th Pl,
Chicago, IL 60620

Habari gani

What's the News?

2023

FR. CHESTER P. SMITH NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE



October 12th - October 15th

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES

- OPENING CEREMONY
- 20 WORKSHOPS
- MASS CHOIR
 - (HONORING FR. CHESTER P. SMITH)
- HEALTH FAIR
- VOCATIONAL VENDORS
- PRAISE AND WORSHIP
- CONFERENCE LUNCHEON
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THE FIRE



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre
The Least of These "Your
Name is Written In Heaven"



Rev. Andre Barns
Causes, Effects, & Solutions
to Black on Black Male
Violence



Fr. Kenneth Hamilton
Mercy Mercy Me: The Art,
Loves & Demons of the Black
Man



Fr. Urey Mark
Evangelization and Emerging
Adults in the Catholic Church



Mr. Marc Guess
Moderator
Harambee Town Hall
Don't Be Your Own Enemy



REGISTRATION

www.bowmanfrancis.org

More information
317-800-1621

Habari gani
What's the News?

* * * **LUNCH & SHOW** * * *

For the annual celebration of the union of our great West Side churches, please save **November 5, 2023**:

**St. Simon of Cyrene
Unity Mass at 10 am**

*St Martin de Porres
5112 W. Washington Blvd*

followed immediately in the School Hall by

Lunch & Entertainment

The entertainment is a one-act play based on the brilliant short-story *Beatitude* by St. Agatha's **Mr. Mark Boone**. Mark is a successful writer who sets his fiction on Chicago's West Side.

Church members and friends will perform: **Olivia Patterson, Linda Russell-Richardson, Staci Mahaffey & Charlie Casper**

Ms. Tara Levy of St Martin de Porres will grace the occasion with a reading of a poem from her recent book, *All Is Well*.



Everything is free-of-charge. Friends and Family Welcome!

Habari gani What's the News?

2023-24 Free Family Concerts

Of Hope, Healing & Discovery

October 8 - 4pm
Christ Our Savior Parish
880 E 154th St, South Holland, IL 60473

October 15 - 3pm
St. Julie Billiart
7399 W 159th St, Tinley Park, IL 60477

Holiday Joy & Fanfare

December 3, 2023 - 4pm
St. John Neumann
17951 Dixie Hwy, Homewood, IL 60430

December 10, 2023 - 4pm
Christ Our Savior Parish
880 E 154th St, South Holland, IL 60473

A Mass for Troubled Times

May 19, 2024 - 4pm
All Souls Parish
3010 Ridge Rd, Lansing, IL 60438

June 2, 2024 - 4pm
St. John the Evangelist
10701 Olcott Ave, St. John, IN 46373



Philip Bauman
Music Director

Mission:

The South Holland Master Chorale's mission is to use musical performance and innovative community collaboration to inspire, connect and educate, enhancing the quality of life for all.

Vision:

The South Holland Master Chorale will be a diverse, welcoming community of singers that uses the power of music to heal, enrich and inspire.

Contact the Chorale

South Holland Master Chorale
16226 Wausau Avenue
South Holland, IL 60473
Phone: 708-210-2913

Web: SouthHollandMasterChorale.org
info@SouthHollandMasterChorale.org

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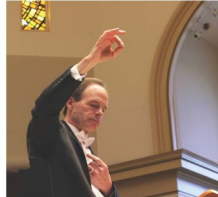
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2023-24 Free Family Concerts Music Down in My Soul

Of Hope, Healing & Discovery October 8 & October 15



Discover masterful composers of today in this concert that explores themes of hope, healing, joyfulness, spirituality, reflection, and nature. Featured prominently are African American composers Margaret Bonds and Rosephanye Powell and other leading women composers, including Carol Barnett, Gwyneth Walker, Barbara Baker, and Susan LaBarr, alongside renowned composers of Art Music such as Dan Forrest, Christopher Tin, Frank Tichelli, and Stephen Paulis. Renowned authors e.e. cummings, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, W.E.B. DuBois, the Old and New Testaments and others offer inspiring texts to these award-winning composers. Together, we will experience the rich traditions of Spirituals and feel the music down in our souls.

Holiday Joy and Fanfare December 3 & December 10

Bring the family to experience joy, grandeur, fanfare and seasonal favorites. The ever-popular Gargoyle Brass along with organist Mark Sudith and pianist Marilyn Bourgeois will join the Chorale in this festive Christmas concert featuring Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata," holiday favorites, and sing-alongs. Don't miss this Master Chorale tradition that ushers in the season with glorious fanfare bringing your family and the community together in a joyous celebration.

We certainly live in troubled times. This concert celebrates the amazing things God has given us, things to be thankful for, and a cry for peace in the world.

The concert presents the stirring work "I thank You God for most this amazing day" by Dan Forrest (text by e.e. cummings), paired with the "Mass for Troubled Times" by Franz Joseph Haydn. Written in 1798 when the world was in turbulent times with Napoleon's army challenging European powers, this work is considered by many scholars to be Haydn's greatest single composition.

It's a Masterwork for the ages.

The power of the human voice can change the world. Our voices resound in glorious harmony and in one accord as we conclude the Mass exclaiming: "DONA NOBIS PACEM!" - GIVE US PEACE!

A Mass for Troubled Times May 19 & June 2



Support your Chorale
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NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023 | INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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The young church needs you. NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) is calling pastoral ministry leaders and parents to accompany the young Church as they encounter Christ in a groundbreaking way.

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HOSTS



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Mari Pablo

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023



HONORING



Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis



Fr. Paul Whittington, OP
AND
Pastor, St. Katharine Drexel Parish,
Chicago, Illinois

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NCYC.US

Habari gani

What's the News?



Black Catholic Initiative Radio

Tuesdays: 8 – 8:30 a.m.
WNDZ 750 AM

<https://radiotv.archchicago.org/>



Fr. Michael Trail hosts this weekly half-hour program that explores a wide range of topics relevant to Chicago's Black and Catholic communities.

Fr. Trail is pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.



The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union

The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program provides an opportunity for Black Catholics to receive academic, personal, spiritual and professional education and training in preparation for professional ministry for the specific needs of Black Catholics.

- Applicants from the Archdiocese of Chicago are eligible for a full-tuition scholarship.
- Applicants outside of the Chicago dioceses are encouraged to apply for the Tolton program and will be considered for other scholarship funds.

For More information or to apply visit us online at ctu.edu/Toltonprogram

St. Benedict the African Church



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
ENGLEWOOD

340 W 66th St, Chicago, IL 60621
(773) 873-4464

Parish office:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

<https://benedicttheafrican.org/>

Join us for Mass:

In-person on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
or via Zoom at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting ID 86894110061

Passcode 722 722

Join us by Zoom Daily
Monday – Friday at 12 Noon

- ♦ **Connections with the Continent** with Rev. McCay
- ♦ **Know Your Faith** with Deacon Kurt Davis
- ♦ **Writing** with Fr. Lee
- ♦ **What Just Happened?** with Fr. Tom Jackson O.P.

XAVIER
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA



INSTITUTE FOR
BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES

save the date

June 30, 2024 - July 19, 2024

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent... I will not keep quiet!" Isaiah 62:1

Prayer for October

Father God,

We ask that you hear our prayer.

For it is you Lord that we need, it is you Lord that we seek.

*Father God, have mercy on us, for we have greatly sinned.
Light our path, and show us a better way; comfort us all our days.*

*Revive us Lord, as we start a new; ensuring to put you first,
while walking hand in hand with you.*

Father God, let us dance, let us sing, and let us rejoice in all of the goodness revival will bring.

Cleanse us with your blood Lord. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Let us be there for our families and our church, let us forgive others, help one another, provide safer schools for our children, and be a source of peace within our communities.

Revive us Lord, let us be more like you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

-Shannon Ambroise



Who are we?

Created by current and former Tolton scholars, **The Pulse** is a monthly newsletter to provide information about the concerns and happenings in Black Catholic Chicago. It will be made up of articles, profiles and information about events and programs happening throughout the archdiocese of Chicago. If you are interested in contributing or have any questions or concerns please email us at chicagoblackcatholics@gmail.com

This month's contributors are:

- **Dr. Kimberly Lymore** DMin, is the director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union and Associate Minister of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina.
- **Shannon Ambroise** MAPS, is a Tolton Alum, facilitator of St. John XXIII parish Evanston Black Catholics and member of St. John XXIII Parish, Evanston, IL.
- **Tanya Bolen** is a Tolton Scholar and part-time student at Catholic Theological Union pursuing a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies. She serves and worships at St. Moses the Black Parish as a Eucharistic Minister, Hospitality, and the Women's Guild.
- **Tina L Carter**, M.Div.; MLIS, is a public librarian, graduate of Catholic Theological Union and Tolton Alum. She is a parishioner, catechist and serves on the technology ministry at Our Lady of Africa Parish in Bronzeville.
- **Jennifer Davis** is a Tolton Scholar, pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Catholic Theological Union, a theology teacher at Mount Carmel High School, a liturgist, and a parishioner at St. Benedict the African Parish in Englewood.
- **Stephanie Garrison** MAPS, is a retired teacher, graduate of Catholic Theological Union and Tolton Alum. She attends St. Moses the Black Parish, and serve in the ministries of Lector, Catechism and RCIA.
- **Gardis Watts** is a Tolton Scholar and part time seminary student at Catholic Theological Union pursuing a Master in Divinity. He attends Our Lady of Africa Parish in Bronzeville.
- **Latrece Winfield** is a part-time student (Augustus Tolton Scholar, M.A P.S. program) and a part-time library assistant at Catholic Theological Union; Latrece attends St. Benedict the African Church, and ministers as a commentator and proclaimer.

This is a publication of the Chicago Black Catholics Alliance!

