



Office for Black Catholics  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



# SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS



*Mr. James E. Andrews, Director*

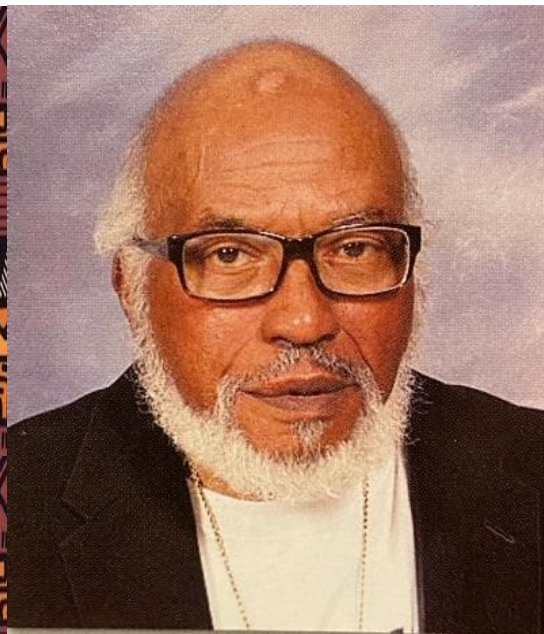
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*Editor: Sister Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS*

*March, 2021*



\*Deacon Stephen Hopkins  
1982

## A LIFE WELL LIVED

SUNRISE

SEPTEMBER 8, 1931

SUNSET

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

What a joyful day it was when on November 7, 1982 along with six other African American men, Mr. Stephen Hopkins was ordained as a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul by John Cardinal Krol. This special group of men had a special name for themselves known as "The Magnificent Seven."

Deacon Hopkins was assigned to Saint Benedict Parish where he served as a deacon for 39 years until his retirement. In 2013 Saint Benedict Parish merged with Saint Athanasius Parish. Deacon Hopkins continued to be active there as well. Deacon Hopkins was a blessing to all those he met on his journey of life. He preached the Good News and became a witness when God put in his heart to walk the walk and talk the talk.

We give you thanks for blessing us and for being a man of humility. You sought the needs of others, rather than seeking your own. You gave us Faith, you gave us Hope and you gave us Love. We remember and we celebrate a life well lived.

Well done! Well done! Good and Faithful servant well done! May your soul and all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.





# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## SAINT RAYMOND OF PENAFORT CATHOLIC CHURCH

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WHERE GOD IS GLORIFIED

&

PEOPLE ARE SANCTIFIED



**FATHER CHRIS WALSH**  
**PASTOR**

**Mr. Bill Bradley**  
**DEACON**

Saint Raymond continues to be a place where God is glorified and His people are sanctified. Through His grace and mercy, we are happy to share that...

We recently upgraded our live streaming equipment to serve those worshipping from home through our Digital Campus (we are grateful to the St. Martin de Porres Foundation for a grant to cover some of the cost).

Our parish will be hosting thirteen small groups (mostly thru Zoom) through the weeks of Lent, offering our members and friends the chance to reflect on the Sunday readings. The groups are lead by Parish Staff and members of the community.

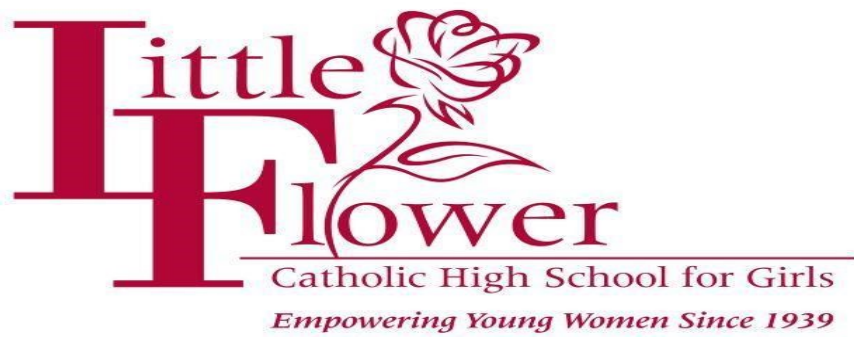
As part of our Year of Saint Joseph celebrations, Deacon Bill will be producing weekly videos featuring the men of our parish reflecting on Saint Joseph. A group from the parish will also be attending a Morning of Retreat on Saint Joseph at the Padre Pio Shrine in Barto, PA.

The parish continues to host FREE COVID Testing on Thursdays (11am to 7pm) and Saturdays (8am to 4pm) in our Parking Lot. We hope to be selected as a site to offer vaccinations as well when they become available. In January, the parish hosted two wonderful webinars offering education and formation on the COVID vaccines as well as a healthy conversation about the virus.



All are welcome to join us at [www.saintraymond.net](http://www.saintraymond.net) to learn more or call us at **215-549-3760** if you desire more information.

**1350 EAST VERNON ROAD, PHILADELPHIA PA 19150**



## “OVER MY HEAD I HEAR MUSIC IN THE AIR”

Black History is about who we are as an African American people. It is a reflection of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Our past meets the present and our present meets the future. And, music is a wonderful way to celebrate the many facets of our heritage.

With Black History in mind, the students, teachers and staff from Little Flower Catholic High School hosted the African American choir known as God’s Men. This all male chorus from Saint Martin de Porres Church sang selections reminiscent of the old-time hymns such as “On the Battlefield” to the R & B classic known as “Why I Love You” with God-infused lyrics arranged by their director, Tonya Taylor-Dorsey. Soprano, Jennifer Allen joined the men as a guest soloist and wowed the Little Flower students and faculty with her singing of “Heal Our Land” and “For Every Mountain”. Needless to say, hands were clapping, feet tapping, and standing ovations were in order.

When the concert was over, students and staff came to the front of the stage for a meet and greet. At one point, time stood still as an impromptu singing of “Motherless Child” could be heard from sophomore Qaniya Benjamin. Music was definitely in the air. And it will continue...

At the invitation of Principal Mrs. Colette Weber, a gospel choir is currently in ‘socially-distanced’ rehearsals under the direction of Tonya Taylor-Dorsey. The gospel choir will feature young women from freshman to senior. We look forward to hearing these young women singing the praises of the Lord as they plan visits to various Arch-diocesan churches.





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## WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION: A SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER ON ZOOM SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

9:00AM - 11:00AM

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**MOTHER MARY**

**MEETING US AT THE CROSSROADS OF LIFE**



*Valerie D. Lewis-Mosley RN, D.Min., MAPM, MSJ*

*Healer, Scholar, Pastoral Theologian,  
Social Justice Advocate*

Dr. Valerie Lewis-Mosley engages faith and culture through the lens of Black Catholic spirituality. She is an evangelist that uses narrative storytelling to empower and lead others to conversion. She is a Lay Associate Order of Preachers - Caldwell Dominicans. She uses her Dominican Spirituality and Jesuit roots to facilitate her work as a Social Justice Advocate: to combat racism, and disparities in healthcare access and within society and the church. She is an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Caldwell University. She is also a member of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS). She is on the faculty at The Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana.

Dr. Lewis-Mosley has been involved in parish ministry as a DRE and children and youth faith formation for over thirty years. Dr. Lewis-Mosley is currently serving on the USCCB project "Journeying Together"- a discussion on youth and young adults within the Church- Listening to the Lambs.

She has written two research projects on the role of Black Catholic Lay Women in the Kingdom Building Mission of the Church and has published articles and essays in various Catholic publications, such as National Catholic Register (NCR).

**Registration is Required**

Register: [sr.lralph@archphila.org](mailto:sr.lralph@archphila.org)

**\*\* A Link will be sent to each participant who is registered\*\***



## Year of St. Joseph Prayer

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



Ever loving God, you called Saint Katharine Drexel to teach the message of the Gospel and to bring the life of the Eucharist to the African American and Native American people.

By her prayers and example, enable us to work for justice among the poor and the oppressed, and keep us undivided in love in the eucharistic community of your Church.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## ON THE ROAD TO SAINTHOOD



Servant of God

Fr. Augustus Tolton



Servant of God

Julia Greeley



Venerable

Pierre Toussaint



Servant of God

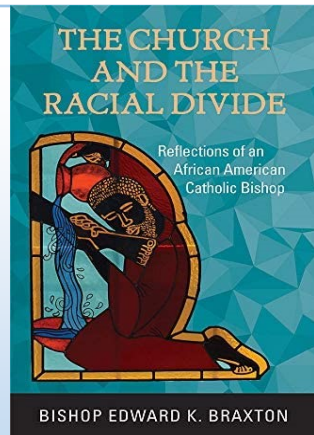
Mother Mary Lange, OSP



Venerable Mother Henriette  
Delille, SSF



Servant of God  
Sister Thea Bowman,  
FSPA



## WHAT'S ON YOUR BOOKSHELF?

### RECOMMENDED READING FOR THIS MONTH

Bishop Edward Braxton, the only Catholic bishop who has consistently written on race matters, begins this timely book with a probing personal introduction. He describes his family's history and his experience as an African American that he brought to his ministry as a Catholic priest and bishop. In speeches, homilies, and pastoral letters--in some cases prompted by police shootings and the Black Lives Matter movement--he lays out a vision of healing for the church and the nation, informed by a quest for conversion, justice, and reconciliation.

## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### THEME FOR 2021

**"Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced."**

## KNOW YOUR BIBLE

### **"Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth"**

What is the shortest book of the Bible?

Who wrote the book of Revelation?

In which book of the Bible can you find the story of Samson?

What term is used for the first five books of the Bible?

What is the longest book of the Bible?

Answers revealed in the April Newsletter

If you're looking to connect with the Office for Black Catholics ministry and receive notices of all activities, text the word "BLACK" to 84576