



Office for Black Catholics  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



# Spreading the Good News

*Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA*

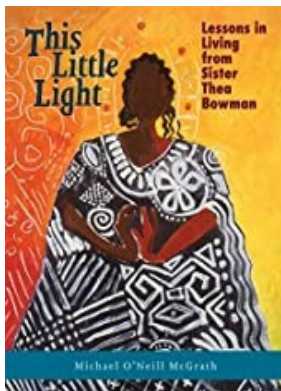
*“She Tried”*



Ever loving God, who by your infinite goodness inflamed the heart of your servant and religious, Sister Thea Bowman with an ardent love for you and the People of God; a love expressed through her indomitable spirit, deep and abiding faith, dedicated teaching, exuberant singing, and unwavering witnessing of the joy of the Gospel. Her prophetic witness continues to inspire us to share the Good News with those whom we encounter; most especially the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. May Sister Thea's life and legacy compel us to walk together, to pray together, and to remain together as missionary disciples ushering in the new evangelization for the Church we love. Gracious God imbue us with the grace and perseverance that you gave your servant, Sister Thea. For in turbulent times of racial injustice, she sought equity, peace and reconciliation. In times of intolerance and ignorance, she brought wisdom, awareness, unity, and charity. In times of pain, sickness, and suffering, she taught us how to live fully until called home to the land of promise. If it be your Will, O God, glorify our beloved Sister Thea, by granting the favor I now request through her intercession (mention your request), so that all may know of her goodness and holiness and may imitate her love for You and Your Church. We ask this through Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

*Servant of God*

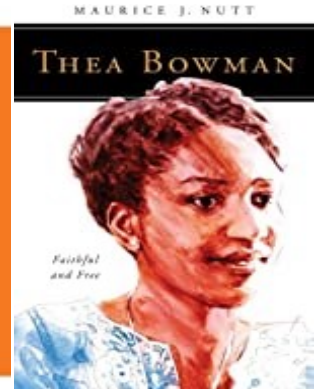
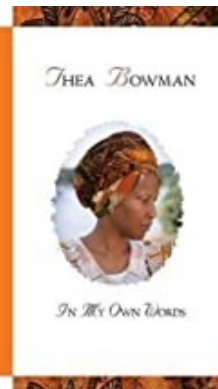
*December 29, 1937—March 30, 1990*



**Sister Thea Bowman**  
Do You Hear Me, Church?



Peggy A. Sklar



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## *The Parish of Saint Barbara*



*Monsignor Wilfred Pashley, Pastor*

*"In the Heart of Wynnefield"*

*Serving Overbrook and Carroll Park*

*Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*



*Rev. Eugene Almonor, OMI,  
Chaplain to the Haitian Community*

In October of 1921, Cardinal Dennis Dougherty established the two parishes of Saint Rose of Lima and Saint Barbara. Msgr. Wilfred Pashley was appointed as pastor of Saint Rose of Lima in 1984. The two parishes were twined in 2000. In 2013, the two parishes were merged under the title of Saint Barbara and Msgr. Pashley remained as the pastor. Our parish was very poorly prepared for life in the pandemic and has worked very hard on developing social media methods of sharing with our parishioners. Allison Walker has come on board as a part-time media person and, along with Sharon Albergotti, the full-time staff administrator, has worked hard in playing catch up. Our website has been updated, Facebook page created and Flocknotes were installed. About 40% of our regular mass attendees have returned to in-person worship. The parish bulletin is published on our website and mailed to several parishioners who have requested in order to stay in touch and informed.

Our parishioners have been very generous to the parish. Collections for this year are running 17% ahead of last year. For the third year in a row, we have exceeded the goal established for us by the Archdiocese in the Catholic Charities Appeal. Parish meetings are being conducted by conference call as some are unfamiliar with zoom. However, during Lent, the Stations of the Cross are being celebrated weekly on zoom. A long standing tradition with the youth of Saint Rose of Lima, now in its 22nd year, provides a hot meal for over 100 clients of the Eastern Delaware County Drop in Shelter at 63rd and Market Streets on the fourth Friday of each month. This past year it has been curtailed because of Covid19. The shelter is not open to the neighborhood as previously, but meals are needed only for the 30 residents. The shelter has requested that bagged lunches be delivered to the site. The teens had always enjoyed preparing the meals and serving them from a steam table in the shelter building. Now salads are purchased and, because of social distancing, lunches are assembled by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament residing in the convent at Saint Barbara. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill provide the funds for this project as they have for over five years.

The merged parish is celebrating her 100th anniversary during this year with the major event being a Mass with Archbishop Nelson Perez as the celebrant on Saturday, October 2nd, at 5:00pm. It is anticipated that there will be some kind of social celebration but the Covid19 restrictions will govern the type of celebration. In this, our jubilee year, we are sharing pictures that we have and that our parishioners have submitted with those who follow us on social media.





The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary  
Social Justice Committee on Racism *presents*



# RACISM IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: BLIND SPOTS



SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021 | 1:00 pm CDT

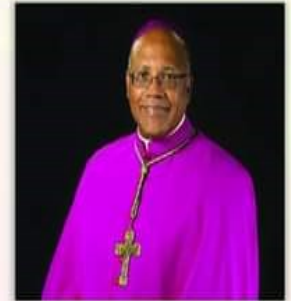
Our distinguished panel will discuss current and historic racism within the Catholic Church and offer ways to rectify and prevent the resulting inequities.



**DR. KATHLEEN DORSEY BELLOW**  
*Director*  
Institute for Black Catholic Studies  
Xavier University of Louisiana



**REV. MAURICE J. NUTT, C.Ss.R**  
Redemptorist Missionary  
Denver's Province  
New Orleans, LA



**MOST REV. MARTIN D. HOLLEY**  
*Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Memphis, TN*  
KPC National Chaplain



**SISTER ROBERTA FULTON, SSMN**  
*Leadership Team*  
Eastern Region Regional Council  
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur



**REV. MICHAEL OKERE**  
*Vicar for Black Catholics*  
St. Martin de Pores  
Catholic Church  
Diocese of Charleston, SC



**VALERIE D. LEWIS-MOSLEY, RN, D.Min., MAPM, MSJ**  
Healer, Scholar,  
Pastoral Theologian,  
Social Justice Advocate



**REV. MANUEL WILLIAMS, CR**  
Resurrection Catholic  
Church & Mission  
Montgomery, AL



**NATE TINNER**  
Co-Founder  
Black Catholic Messenger

"But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them."

- I John 2:11

REGISTER ONLINE: [www.kofpc.org/racism](http://www.kofpc.org/racism)





# Cultural Heritage

**Saturday  
April 24**

# MASS 2021



Office for Black Catholics



***Announce the Good News of Jesus Christ:  
Reach out to migrants and refugees....***

*Native American, Asian, African, European, Hispanic, Caribbean, and Brazilian Catholics  
in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia welcome all to join us in this celebration for global solidarity in the alleviation of poverty.*

# One Faith Many Cultures One Family

**PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT & HOMILIST  
Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez**

**Procession - 2:00 p.m. • Mass - 2:30 p.m.**

Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul | 18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway | Philadelphia, PA 19103

Sponsored by:



**The Office for Pastoral Care for  
Migrants and Refugees**  
[migrantsandrefugeesphilly.org](http://migrantsandrefugeesphilly.org)  
215-587-3540



**Pontifical Mission Societies**  
[phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org)  
215-587-3944



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate

Click to  
RSVP

THE ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN CELEBRATION

*Honoring the Gifts of*  
**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES,  
THE DEAF COMMUNITY, FAMILY, FRIENDS &  
CAREGIVERS**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2021**  
**3:00 PM**

Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul  
18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**Principal Celebrant and Homilist**  
**Archbishop Nelson Pérez**

Liturgical Choir  
St. Christopher Parish Schola

*An outdoor reception will follow the Mass.*

RSVP: Online at [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org), Email: [opdarchphila.org](mailto:opdarchphila.org) or call: 215-587-3530  
with number of attendees and accommodations needed. Please arrive by 2:45 PM.  
No tickets or further mailings will be sent. Accessible parking on the premises.

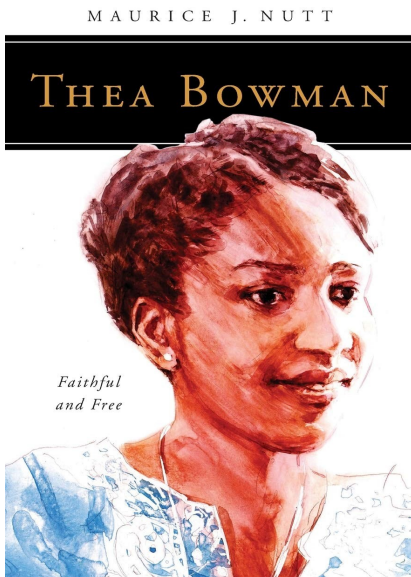
Address Info for Paratransit: 222 N. 17th Street / Philadelphia, PA 19103  
For safety there will be mask wearing and social distancing.

*I pray that each person may feel God's paternal gaze which affirms  
their full dignity and the unconditional value of their life.*

Pope Francis

## What's On Your Bookshelf?

### Recommended Reading for April



Amazon.com

With every passing year since her death in 1990, more people are recognizing Sister Thea Bowman as one of the most inspiring figures in American Catholic history. This granddaughter of slaves became Catholic on her own initiative at the age of nine. As a Franciscan sister, she lived a wide-ranging ministry of joy, music, and justice.

Now Father Maurice Nutt offers a new biography of Sister Thea that introduces her and sheds new light on who she was. Drawing on careful research and the insights of people who were close to her, Nutt explores her personality, her passion, her mission, and her prayer. He captures Thea Bowman as she was: an unapologetically African American woman, a religious sister who deeply loved God and the people to whom she ministered through teaching, preaching, and singing, and who embraced the blessing of her ancestry, the wisdom of the “old folks,” and a passion for justice and equality for all God’s children.

## Know Your Bible?

### Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

1. How many words are in the shortest verse in the Bible?
2. What book in the Bible doesn't mention God by name?
3. Who is the oldest man mentioned in the Bible?
4. Who shut the door on Noah's ark?
5. Which apostle was a tentmaker?

### Answers to March Questions

1. What is the shortest book of the Bible? **Obadiah**
2. Who wrote the book of Revelation? **John**
3. In which book of the Bible can you find the story of Samson? **Book of Judges**
4. What term is used for the first five books of the Bible? **Pentateuch**
5. What is the longest book of the Bible? **Psalms**

Mr. James E. Andrews, Director

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Sister Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS, Coordinator/Editor

sr.lralph@archphila.org

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

April, 2021