



Office for Black Catholics  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



*Sharing the Good News*



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*My Brothers & Sisters*



**Pope Francis' Lenten message: Let us not grow tired of doing good is an ongoing theme throughout the Bible and our Catholic teaching. Regardless if it is the Corporal Works of Mercy or Bible literature, it is clear we need to help each other. "Whoever is merciful to the poor lends to the Lord. And he will repay him for his efforts." (Proverbs 19:17). In many ways, the mere act of being charitable is its own reward. Nevertheless, as this verse notes, being compassionate to people who are less fortunate is also something that God will reward. My favorite bible verse is Matthew 25:31-46, which also speaks to feeding the hungry and helping others. Currently we witness so many people in the world suffering in many ways. Let us not forget all the refugees who by the grace of God go I. Of course, I am paraphrasing from 11 Corinthians 15: 8-10. As we are taught that giving alms to the poor identifies us as Catholics, it is who we are and what we do!**

# MONSIGNOR JOHN T. MITCHELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Deadline: April 30, 2022**



The Monsignor John Mitchell Memorial Scholarship Fund supports Catholic African American students with exceptional academic ability who are in need of financial assistance. Scholarship(s) are awarded annually based upon the determination of the selection committee. For this scholarship, students must be:

- Catholic and African American
- in good academic standing with at least a cumulative B average at the time of the scholarship award
- eligible for financial assistance as determined by a completed FACTS Grant and Aid application (online)
- committed to serving his/her community
- interested in or currently attending an AOPS high school

The 2022-23 Application is now available online to ensure timely delivery.

**<https://aopcatholicschools.org/financial-aid/>**



**Late submissions will not be considered**

*Archdiocesan*



APRIL 30, 2022

9AM - 4:30 PM

CARDINAL O'HARA HIGH SCHOOL

# *Family Festival*

*featuring:*



*Philadelphia Catholic  
Gospel Mass Choir*



*Deacon Harold  
Burke-Sivers*



*The Messy Family  
Project*



*Corazón Puro  
Youth Ministry*



*Dr. Leonard  
Sax, MD PhD  
Social media Expert*



*Archbishop  
Nelson Pérez*

JOIN US FOR

## *'Family, become what you are!'*

**A fun-filled and blessed day for families in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.  
Come as you are and grow in the Lord together!**

Join Archbishop Pérez for Mass, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers for a dynamic presentation on families & fatherhood, Dr. Sax for family social media guidance, Corazón Puro for fun-filled youth activities, and Mike and Alicia Hernon from Messy Family Project, with amazing tips for your irreplaceable family!

*\$75/family, includes all children and boxed lunches.*

*Bring the grandparents! \$15/grandparent.*



**Purchase Tickets**





ARCHDIOCESEAN CHOIRS OF PHILADELPHIA



# We Find HOPE in YOU

A CONCERT FOR RACIAL HEALING  
W/ WORDS OF INSPIRATION & HOPE OFFERED  
BY ARCHBISHOP NELSON PEREZ



**MAY  
15**



**3:00 PM - ADMISSION FREE**

**CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SS. PETER & PAUL  
18TH ST & BEN FRANKLIN PKWY  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

SPONSORED BY THE ARCHBISHOP'S COMMISSION ON RACIAL HEALING

CAMPUS MINISTRY  
 We search together.



SISTER OF MERCY Cora Marie Billings was the first Black woman to enter her community in Philly. The first Black sister to be a campus minister at Virginia State. The first Black woman to lead a Catholic parish.

**Will you be the first Cora Marie Billings Graduate Resident Minister at Villanova?**

To learn more about this funded graduate student position for a lay Black Catholic who wants to continue Billings' example of leadership and service, visit [Villanova.edu/ResidentialMinistry](http://Villanova.edu/ResidentialMinistry).



[villanova.edu/residentialministry](http://villanova.edu/residentialministry)

**Beginning this year, Villanova University's Campus Ministry has designated one of its Graduate Resident Minister positions as the Sr. Cora Marie Billings, RSM, '67 Fellowship. The fellowship will support a lay Black Catholic who is pursuing a M.A. in Ministry & Theology at Villanova. Through the fellowship, Villanova honors Sr. Cora Marie while training a new generation of leaders to follow her example as an educator, parish leader, and diocesan official. More information can be found at [www.villanova.edu/residentialministry](http://www.villanova.edu/residentialministry).**



**the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has renewed its unique partnership with Villanova University's Center for Church Management (CCM) to offer an innovative two-year, online Master of Science in Church Management (MSCM) degree designed to provide students with a high-level skill set in effective church management.**

**Qualified students who work for any parish or ministry of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and its related entities who are interested in pursuing a MSCM are eligible for a \$14,700 (50 percent) scholarship**

**For more information about the MSCM program, please visit <http://www.mscm.villanova.edu/>. Kindly consider sharing this information broadly with others who may be interested and eligible.**

# Retreat Days for African Catholic Men, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Speaker:** Deacon James Mahoney

## African Men's Responsibility in Building Strong Catholic Family

**Arrival:** Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:30 pm

**Departure:** Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:00 pm

**Location:** Mother Boniface Spirituality Center  
3501 Solly Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136

Available at the Retreat Center include:  
Personal room, three meals, snacks & drinks  
Please register before April 24, 2022 with \$110

Method of payment is by check  
Make check payable to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Memo:** ACM Retreat

**Mail to:** Office for African Catholic Apostolate  
Attn: Sr. Florence Enechukwu  
222 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Contact for information:  
Sr. Florence Enechukwu  
[Sr.fenechukwu@archphila.org](mailto:Sr.fenechukwu@archphila.org)  
267-282-3487



## **Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate**

**I have had the great honor to be the director of this Office with the principal goal to foster the full inclusion of people with all disabilities. About 80% of our parishes have a designated Parish Disability Contact/Advocate that partner with the office in promoting inclusion, accommodations and a sense of belonging for parishioners with disabilities. Statistics inform us that 25% of the population lives with a disability. Being conscience and proactive to assure that persons with disabilities are welcome, have ready access and accommodations that enable them to access the Sacraments, pastoral care and the sense of Catholic community can be transformative in the life of a parish.**

**The OPD also sponsors workshops and events to support and celebrate this mission. Please visit our website for upcoming events - <https://opdarchphilly.org/>.**

**For over 8 years, the Office for Persons with Disabilities together with Catholic Social Services coordinates a program called Lily's Gift, which provides spiritual, emotional and practical supports to couples who have been given a pre-natal diagnosis that may entail a short life or a significant disability for their unborn baby. Trained peer volunteers accompany the parents as they journey through this critical time in their lives. To learn more about this ministry, visit [www.LilysGift.org](http://www.LilysGift.org) .**

**The Deaf Apostolate provides Masses and Sacraments in American Sign Language, pastoral care and religious education to the Catholic community who are deaf/hard of hearing. Father Sean Loomis and Monsignor Paul Dougherty provide Deaf Community Masses in three Parishes. These are Masses entirely in ASL. This means the priest signs; the lectors sign and the Mass responses are in ASL. Those who do not know ASL are welcome to these Masses and utilize an interpreter who voices for them. To see the full schedule of these masses, visit [www.DeafCatholicPhilly.com](http://www.DeafCatholicPhilly.com) . If you have family members who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, please encourage them to participate in these weekly liturgies. Most of the Deaf Community scheduled masses are followed a light meal and time to socialize. We have a lively and close Catholic Deaf community in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Weekly religious education, ongoing faith formation, opportunities for retreats and service activities are just a few of the activities that take place in American Sign Language.**

## OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & THE DEAF APOSTOLATE

This fall the Lay Organization of the Deaf Apostolate called the International Catholic Deaf Association (ICDA – Chapter #8) will celebrate its 70th Anniversary. Like the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, the ICDA is a Deaf run organization that promotes faith and good works among the Catholic Deaf in in the five county arealf you know someone who may be interested to participate or a teen or young adult who uses sign language and can be an assistant, visit [www.CamplnSign.org](http://www.CamplnSign.org).

The Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate is happy to assist you and your parish in any way possible. Your support of the Office is appreciated – get to know a little about our mission, join us for the Mass honoring Persons with Disabilities on April 24, 2022.

Sincerely,  
Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM  
Director  
[Sr.KSchipani@archphila.org](mailto:Sr.KSchipani@archphila.org)



**MASS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & the DEAF COMMUNITY**  
**Celebrant: Archbishop Nelson Pérez**

**April 24, 2022 2:30 pm**  
Cathedral Basilica SS. Peter and Paul *Philadelphia*

*Save the Date*

# **A PLACE AT THE TABLE: AFRICAN-AMERICANS ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD**

**At this moment, there are no African-American Saints formally recognized within the Catholic Church, but that could soon change. There are six incredible men and women who are on the path to Canonization. It's time to hear their stories.**



**Fr. Augustus Tolton**



**Sr. Thea Bowman**



**Mother Henriette Delille**



**Pierre Toussaint**



**Julia Greeley**



**Mother Mary Lange**

# Institute for Christian Formation

## Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

### *School of Theological Studies*

**New group begins  
January 2023**

*\*Please contact our office if  
interested in joining sooner*

Eight Thursday  
evenings per season  
6:30 PM – 9:15 PM

Four seasons:  
Spring & Fall 2023  
Spring & Fall 2024

\$250 per season

Catholic adults  
18 years+ with  
high school diploma  
or equivalent

Sessions held at  
Saint Charles Seminary

Certificate obtained for  
full completion of  
four seasons



*"God of everlasting mercy, ...  
increase, we pray, the grace you  
have bestowed, that all may grasp  
and rightly understand in what  
font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been  
reborn, by whose blood  
they have been redeemed."*

Baptismal Font at the Cathedral Basilica of  
Saints Peter & Paul, Philadelphia

The Institute for  
Christian Formation  
welcomes all those eager  
for a closer walk with  
Jesus Christ to join with  
others on a journey of  
discovery of the riches of  
the Catholic Faith.

*Dynamic presenters*

*Experiential, adult  
faith formation*

*Deepening of relationship  
with Jesus Christ*

*Enrichment of  
participation in the  
Holy Mass and the other  
Sacraments*

*Renewal in faith,  
hope, and love*

*Mutual support in  
living the Faith*

**For more information, please contact us:  
610-785-6287 or [STS@SCS.edu](mailto:STS@SCS.edu)**

**Visit our website: [www.scs.edu/ICF](http://www.scs.edu/ICF)**

Online registration will be available in Fall 2022 on our website.

**If you like to start before 2023 call the number on the flyer!**

A photograph of Rev. Bryan Massingale, a Black man with short hair, wearing a black clerical suit and a red lanyard. He is gesturing with his right hand while speaking.

## MERTON, MALCOLM X, AND CATHOLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH BLACK LIVES MATTER

**Our Mother of Consolation Church,  
9 East Chestnut Hill Avenue, Philadelphia  
Parish Hall**

**(side entrance, underneath the Church;  
accessible entry without steps from parking lot)**

**Saturday, April 30, 5:30 pm  
(feel free to join OMC for its Saturday Mass at 4:30 pm)  
Snacks provided.**

**Join us for a You Tube video featuring Rev. Bryan Massingale, followed by discussion.**

**Fr. Bryan N. Massingale is a professor of Theological and Social Ethics at Fordham University. He is also Senior Ethics Fellow in Fordham's Center for Ethics Education. He's a past convenor of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium, former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, and recipient of four honorary doctorates.**

**The Peace and Justice Committee of Our Mother of Consolation is pleased to cosponsor this program with its counterparts at Holy Cross and St. Vincent DePaul parishes.**

A vertical rectangular sign with a purple border and green leaf graphics. At the top is a white banner with a purple sheep icon. The main text is in black and purple. A large red arrow points from the right towards the sign.

**Keep in touch with  
us via email and text!**

Mass times, weather cancellations, ministry  
updates, & more delivered to your phone

—

TO SIGN UP, TEXT  
**BLACK**  
to 84576

Or sign up online at:  
[officeforblackcatholics.flocknote.com](https://officeforblackcatholics.flocknote.com)

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at [flocknote.com/txt](https://flocknote.com/txt)



# 100

Y E A R S

CENTENARIAM CLUB

## Ms. Alma Ross

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Gracious Lady Alma Ross celebrated her 100th birthday on October 22, 2021. We respect and value our parishioner at St. Martin de Porres parish. Until the pandemic, Ms. Ross would attend Sunday Mass and display her beautiful collection of hats that would match perfectly with her attire. She was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina. She became a Catholic convert in 1963. Her story is similar to many born and raised during that time as a Black person trying to live and go to school. She was only allowed to go to school after the farm work was completed. She did receive her GED in Philadelphia. Despite all her struggles, she remains a very happy person and proud member of the Parish. Her secret to a long life is - “keep living, work hard, and pray hard. We salute Ms. Alma Ross!

# PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Vocation Awareness Week - November 6 - 12, 2022

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



*Save the Date!*

Catholic Women's Conference  
October 22, 2022  
Doylestown, PA

[HTTPS://WWW.CATHOLICWOMENSCONFERENCE.ORG/](https://www.catholicwomensconference.org/)

## **The Sheep and the Goats**

**31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.**

**34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’**

**37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’**

**40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’**

**41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’**

**44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’**

**45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’**

**46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”**







**Saturday, April 23, 2022 12:05p.m.**

Mass for those Suffering from Addiction  
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul

**Sunday, April 24, 2022 2:30 p.m.**

Mass Honoring the Gifts of Persons with Disabilities, The Deaf  
Community - Cathedral

**Saturday, April 30, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Archdiocesan Family Festival, Cardinal O'Hara High School

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Making Missionary Disciples: A Training Conference  
[phillyevang.org/events](http://phillyevang.org/events)

**May, 2022 (more details to follow)**

Revival St Cyprian Parish, Fr. Maurice Nutt, CSsR Revivalist

**September 10, 2022 2:00 p.m.**

Saint Peter Claver Mass, Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Galloway, NJ

**October 17, 18 & 19**

Revival - Saint Ignatius Parish, Fr. Anthony M. Bozeman, S.S.J.

**Saturday, October 22**

Catholic Women Conference, National Shrine of Our Lady of  
Czestochowa



**CONGRESS XIII (2023)**

**JULY 20-23, 2023**

**THE GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER  
201 WATERFRONT STREET, OXON HILL, MD 20745**



**colorectal  
cancer  
alliance**

Tomorrow **can't wait**

Colorectal cancer is on the rise in young people, and African Americans are at higher risk. That's why the Office for Black Catholics is partnering with @ccalliance (@colorectalcanceralliance on Facebook and Instagram) to give you a free, personalized #CRC screening recommendation at [quiz.getscreened.org](https://quiz.getscreened.org). Go to the link above or call 877-422-2030 TODAY!

**The Office welcomes Mr. Joshua Brooks to join our staff  
as Student Intern**



**The Office for Black Catholics serves African American Catholics within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in collaboration with local parishes to evangelize and celebrate the contributions of the Black Catholic community. The Office of Black Catholics is committed to evangelization and building a faith community that is truly Black, authentically Catholic, and an integral part of the Universal Church.**

Please share this newsletter with others. If you know someone who would like to be added to our database have them to text the word "**Black**" to **84576**.