“I have seen this restlessness among the people before. It was in another millennium, another decade, and at another time in our history, but it pushed through America like a storm. In ten short years, there was a tempest that transformed what the American Revolution did not address, what the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were afraid to confront, what the Civil War could not unravel, what Reconstruction tried to mediate, and Jim Crow did its best to retrench. This mighty wind made a fundamental shift in the moral character of our nation that has reached every sector of our society. And this history lends us one very powerful reminder today: Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society.”

John Lewis, Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change

General Information
Our African American Mass is back!!!!
It is scheduled for October 25, 2020 at 12-noon, at St. Joseph's on the Rio Grande Church. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Everyone must wear a mask no exceptions. More information to follow.

Special Thanks
Valarie Branch has recently retired and has moved to Arizona. Valarie has been with the AACC Hospitality Minister for more than 20 years. She has graciously given of her time and efforts to be a part of the AACC family. Thank you Valarie for being with us. We will miss you very much.

The Mission Statement
In the context of our multicultural church, we support and reinforce the African American Catholic family and individuals. We invite, challenge and develop an appreciation of our African American culture through liturgy, social, spiritual and educational programs. We pray that our culture will enhance the universality of the Church and the cause of evangelization.

The Coronavirus
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all at our social, economical, spiritual (customs), and psychological levels. Archbishop John Wester has provided liturgical guidelines to the Cathedral and parishes of the Archdiocese Santa Fe (ASF) as they relate to mitigation tactics to reduce the virus.

As of August 28, 2020 Governor Lujan Grishim details new Covid-19 rules for restaurants and churches to go into effect the following Sunday:
- Houses of worship may operate at 40 percent capacity indoors.
- Food and drink establishments are cleared to provide indoor service at 25 percent of fire code capacity and outdoor dining at 75 percent.
- Museums with static displays may open at 25 percent capacity.
- Mass gatherings are now allowed up to 10 individuals. Gatherings of more than 10 are prohibited.

Businesses are urged to be extra diligent with the loosening of restrictions to avoid a new surge in cases.

Please refer to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe website: www.archdiosf.org for updates on Covid-19 implementations.
John Lewis (1940 - 2020)

John Robert Lewis was born outside of Troy, Alabama, on February 21, 1940. Lewis had a happy childhood although he needed to work hard to assist his sharecropper parents. He was also very restless with his segregated environment. Upon hearing Martin Luther King’s sermons and news of the 1955-56 Montgomery bus boycott it inspired Lewis to act for the changes he wanted to see.

In 1957, Lewis left Alabama to attend the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee. There, he learned about nonviolent protest and helped to organize sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. He was arrested during these demonstrations, but Lewis was committed to the civil rights movement and went on to participate in the Freedom Rides of 1961. Freedom Riders challenged the segregated facilities they encountered at interstate bus terminals in the South, which had been deemed illegal by the Supreme Court. It was dangerous work that resulted in arrests and beatings for many involved, including Lewis.

In 1963, Lewis became chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. That same year, as one of the "Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement, he helped plan the March on Washington. Lewis was the youngest speaker at the event; He spoke just before Martin Luther King Jr. After the March on Washington, in 1964, the Civil Rights Act became law. However, this did not make it easier for African Americans to vote in the South. To bring attention to this struggle, Lewis and Hosea Williams led a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, on March 7, 1965. After crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the marchers were attacked by state troopers. Lewis was severely beaten once more, this time suffering a fractured skull.

The violent attacks were recorded and disseminated throughout the country, and the images proved too powerful to ignore. "Bloody Sunday," as the day was labeled, sped up the passage of 1965's Voting Rights Act.

In 1970, he became director of the Voter Education Project. During his tenure, the VEP helped to register millions of minority voters.

Lewis ran for office himself in 1981, winning a seat on the Atlanta City Council. In 1986, he was elected to the House of Representatives. He represented Georgia’s 5th District since that time; he is one of the most respected members of Congress. Since entering office, he has called for healthcare reform, measures to fight poverty and improvements in education.

In December 2019, Lewis announced that he had been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Lewis passed away on July 17, 2020.

John Lewis on Forgiving George Wallace

Growing up in rural Alabama during the 1950s, it was hard not to know who George Wallace was. Mr. Wallace, first as a circuit judge and then as Governor, fought the civil rights movement with every fiber of his being. He was a demagogue whose words and actions created a climate that allowed for violent reprisals against those seeking to end racial discrimination.

As one of the leaders of the civil rights movement, I remember that George Wallace well. But the George Wallace who sent troops to intimidate peaceful, orderly marchers in Selma in 1965 was not the same man who died this week. With all his failings, Mr. Wallace deserves recognition for seeking redemption for his mistakes, for his willingness to change and to set things right with those he harmed and with his God.

Rarely does our country witness such a conversion by an elected official. Such a conversion of principle can be shaped only by courage and conviction.

I will never forget Mr. Wallace's inaugural address as Governor in 1963. Looking defiant, he declared, "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." That day, my heart sank. I knew his defense of "states' rights" was really a defense of the status quo in Alabama. become a force in national politics. Staring down Federal officials, he told every Black American that he or she was not welcome at the University of Alabama.

The Alabama of the 1950s and 1960s was a turbulent place. African Americans were seeking to desegregate restaurants, bathrooms and buses and to secure the right to vote.
Albuquerque’s African American Catholic Community

Prayers Needed for Jocob Blake, His Family and the Nation

Jacob S. Blake is a 29-year-old African American man who was shot and wounded by police on August 23, 2020. He was hit by four of seven shots fired at his back during an arrest by police officer Rusten Sheskey. The incident occurred in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on August 23, 2020, as officers were attempting to arrest Blake. During the encounter, Blake was tasered and scuffled with officers. He was shot as he opened the driver's door to his SUV and leaned in. Three of Blake's sons were in the backseat. Jacob Blake survived the shootings but is paralyzed from a severed spine.

To date much of the detailed information has not been released. For example, why was Jacob arrested, why was he tased, why was he shot, why was he shot in the back at close range. (BTW, looking at most of the TV and movie Westerners, I thought it was very bad form to shot anyone in the back)

This shooting has added to the months of social unrest of police using deadly force on African Americans. The city of Kenosha has had many peaceful protesters and rioters since the shooting. The local law enforcement has issued curfews as a result of the rioters.

Many major league sports, such as, Basketball, Baseball, Hockey, Soccer, Tennis and Football have all demonstrated forms of protest because of this recent shooting. Black Lives Matter (BLM) participants and others are planning a march on Washington DC soon to demand police reform.

To top things off a vigilante (Anglo teenager), who traveled 20 miles to Kenosha, murdered two people and injured one with an assault fire arm. It took a while to arrest him, but, he was not shot in the front or the back.

John Lewis on Forgiving George Wallace

Continued from page 2.

Governor Wallace and his allies drew in every available resource to stem the tide of progress. Much of the bloodshed in Alabama occurred on Gov. Wallace's watch. He created the climate of fear and intimidation in which those acts were deemed acceptable.

Although we had long been adversaries, I did not meet Governor Wallace until 1979. During that meeting, I could tell that he was a changed man; he was engaged in a campaign to seek forgiveness from the same African Americans he had oppressed. He acknowledged his bigotry and assumed responsibility for the harm he had caused. He wanted to be forgiven.

The very essence of the civil rights movement was its appeal to the conscience of those who beat us with batons, attacked us with dogs and stood defiantly at the schoolhouse door. We wanted our enemies to know that every blow they struck was a blow against another human being. The bloodshed that resulted was the blood of all humanity.

When I met George Wallace, I had to forgive him, because to do otherwise -- to hate him -- would only perpetuate the evil system we sought to destroy.

George Wallace should be remembered for his capacity to change. And we are better as a nation because of our capacity to forgive and to acknowledge that our political leaders are human and largely a reflection of the social currents in the river of history. Whether at the bridge in Selma, at a bombed church in Birmingham or on the schoolhouse steps, George Wallace and I were thrust together by fate, by our personal conviction and principle. The civil rights movement achieved its goals in the person of Mr. Wallace, because he grew to see that we as human beings are joined by a common bond.

I can never forget what George Wallace said and did as governor, as a national leader and as a political opportunist. But our ability to forgive repentence causes the soul of our nation to be redeemed. George Wallace deserves to be remembered for his effort to redeem his soul and in so doing to mend the fabric of American society.
A Cross Cultural Mission
Sent by Louise Davis; 15 August 2020

When God gives you an assignment you must follow. The first non Jewish convert by the Apostle Philip was an Ethiopian. The Ethiopian was dark-skinned. Apostle Philip was light skin. Color made a difference in Phillip's day, but it didn't stop the spirit of God then, and it shouldn't stop us now. In the Land of Enchantment let's go on a cross Cultural mission; we call God our Father, in Aramaic the term, Abba. Abba is a term of great Endearment if we are his sons and daughters we must open wide our hearts. We are all precious in His sight. In the upcoming months it gives me great pleasure to introduce five perfect people from the African diaspora that are in line for sainthood. They are:

1. Father Augustus Tolton (1854_1897)
2. Mother Mary Elizabeth Lane (1784_1882)
3. Venerable Henriette Delille (1813 - 1862)
4. Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776_1853)
5. Julia Greeley (≈1833_1848 - 1918)

A Catholic's Perspective on the Church's Response to the Black Lives Matter Movement

Black Lives Matter movement gives Catholics opportunity to join fight against racism, bishop say

Opinion: Catholic Church’s silence on Black Lives Matter is deafening
https://www.mercurynews.com/opinion-catholic-churchs-silence-on-black-lives-matter-is-deafening

Catholic Discussions on BLM
Pope weighing in on side of protests
Francis seen as sending 'clear message'

Can Catholics support 'Black Lives Matter'?

A Black Catholic’s Perspective on the Church’s Response to the Black Lives Matter Movement

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Sent by Louise Davis; 15 August 2020

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