“I find it interesting that the meanest life, the poorest existence, is attributed to God’s will, but as human beings become more affluent, as their living standard and style begin to ascend the material scale, God descends the scale of responsibility at commensurate speed.” --Maya Angelou, 1970

February 2021

**General Information**

The next African American Catholic Community (AACC) mass is planned for **April 25, 2021, 12:00 p.m.**, at **St. Joseph’s on the Rio Grande Catholic Church**, located at 5901 Saint Joseph’s Dr. NW. Please see flyer below. Please keep this date open.

Please Join Us For

**OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS**

Part 2:

**“Do Justice”**
A Dialogue with Ms. Donna Grimes

Ms. Donna Grimes is Assistant Director, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church Subcommittee on African American Affairs.

The second series exploring the Pastoral letter Against Racism,

“The Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love” by the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

**February 22, 2021**

6pm-7:30pm (MST)

This event is free. Pre-registration required

Click (or copy and paste into browse) here to pre-register

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrfu6orTgiHtate2gWByzcLgvMG0sFnZGz

Questions, please contact the Office of Social Justice and Respect Life at 505-831-8205 or mgarcia@archdiosf.org

**Webinar Series:**

(*TBD-Dates, Times and Speakers)

Part 2: “Do Justice.” February 22, 2021, 6pm-7:30pm (MST)
Part 3: Love Goodness: The Urgent Call of Love (*April 26, 2021)
Part 4: Walk Humbly with God (*June 2021)

Sponsored by:

Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, African American Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Archdiocese of Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, with support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.
Financial Support Needed for the AACC

Like all organizations the AACC desperately relies on donations to execute its ministries. Please find it in your hearts give if you can. There are three methods available to do this.

The AACC On Line Giving Page

Anne Avellone, Director, Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, and Elizabeth Dominick, Stewardship Office, both of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, have activated an AACC On Line Giving Page. That’s right; One can donate electronically and still have the option of writing a check when donating to the AACC or the AACC Scholarship Fund. What a wonderful way to combat the effects of not being able to meet because of the Covid Pandemic.

The website for this easy to use site is: https://archdiocesesantafegiving.org/AACC [please click (CTRL + click) or copy and paste the link into your browser]

If you have any questions please call 505-836-3626

By Way of Check

To help with the mission of the AACC, please make checks out to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and put either AACC Ministry or AACC Scholarship in the memo line.

Mail to: African American Catholic Community, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, 4000 St. Joseph’s Pl NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!

By Attending the AACC Mass

During the Covid pandemic we have had to postpone many masses. The masses that we are able to have require strict protocols regarding the liturgy, Eucharist, socialization and among other things collections. Given this, please note that there are no announcements regarding special collections for the AACC. To address this, members from our ministry will have a special basket (located in the gathering area) that will be labeled for AACC donations. Please help us.

Thank You.

Josephite Calendar Fundraiser

The AACC have a few 2021 Josephite Calendars to sell. This very important fund raiser supports the various ministries of the AACC including the Fr. Rollin Lambert Scholarship Fund. The Calendar is an evangelistic and educational tool as well as an excellent resource for important Afro-centric dates and events. Please support the AACC with this noble fund raiser. If you would like us to send you a calendar via mail, please drop me a line (ltsteve@copper.net) or contact Brother Gordon Boykin, OFM at (505) 249-5774 or e-mail him at gordyboy45@aol.com.

The minimum price of the calendar is $5.00 to cover the cost of postage and handling. However, we will accept larger free-will donations. Thank You.

The Mission Statement

In the context of our multicultural church, we want to support and reinforce the African American Catholic Family and Individuals. We seek to develop an appreciation of our African American Culture especially at Liturgy and through other social, spiritual and intellectual programs. We pray that our culture will enhance the universality of the Church and the cause of Evangelization.
Elizabeth Clarisse Lange (1784-1882) was born in Cuba after her parents fled revolution in their native Saint Domingue (now Haiti). In the early 1800’s Elizabeth found her way to America and settled in the city of Baltimore, Maryland where other French-speaking refugees from Saint Domingue resided. Elizabeth, a humble and deeply spiritual woman recognized the need for education of the children of other refugees. Despite her status as a refugee herself, she was educated and used her inheritance to offer free education in her home for ten years.

In 1829, Elizabeth and three other women (Roseanne Boegue, Marie Balas and Almaide Duchemin) took their vows and thus the Oblate Sisters of Providence was founded, the first congregation of African American women in the history of the Catholic Church. Elizabeth took the name of Mary and became their first Superior General. Works done by the Sisters were diverse including education of youth, founding of orphanages and caring for the elderly and the ill during the cholera outbreak of 1832. The Oblate sisters taught the “colored” children in all of the Catholic schools in Baltimore by 1860. They now have experienced 200 years of service to schools, day care centers, outreach and catechetical programs for all ages. Sister Mary Elizabeth Lange died in Baltimore in 1882 at the age of 98. Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange’s cause for sainthood began in 1991. Next, the Pope will consider if Sister Mary will be declared “venerable.” After beatification two confirmed miracles will need to be attributed to her before her official canonization can take place.

February is Black History Month

February 03, 1956 Atherine Lucy, the first black student admitted to University of Alabama, attends classes: after white students and residents riot in protest, the school suspends Lucy citing “safety concerns.

February 10, 1915 The Birth of a Nation premieres this week in Los Angeles; with white supremacist themes and white actors in blackface, the hit film celebrating the KKK is screened in the White House by President Woodrow Wilson

February 22, 1898 After Frazier Baker is appointed postmaster of Lake City, South Carolina, enraged local white people burn his home, fatally shoot him and his infant daughter, and wound his wife and other children.

February 26, 2012 Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old black boy is killed in Sanford, Florida; police arrest shooter George Zimmerman only after national outcry against claim the Stand Your Ground law barred his prosecution.

Open Wide Our Hearts Virtual Exhibit

WELCOME
was inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop’s 2018 pastoral letter on racism, Open Wide Our Hearts, launched in November 2019 as a traveling exhibit in the Diocese of Green Bay. This virtual exhibit is a way to share the project with a larger audience who may not be able to see it in person. The exhibit features photos of Catholics from various racial and ethnic backgrounds alongside written narratives that document what life in the church of the Diocese of Green Bay has been like for them as a person of color.

LISTEN
Please recognize that the stories shared here are unique to the individual participant and do not represent all people of their particular race, ethnic, or cultural group.

These stories are shared as examples of what some people have experienced and will hopefully inspire us to take steps to seek out and listen to the stories of others in our parishes and schools.

REFLECT
As you prepare to view this exhibit, we invite you to pause and ask the Holy Spirit to be present with you. Issues of race, diversity, discrimination, and inclusion are emotionally charged and listening to others’ experiences can be challenging to our own ways of understanding the world.

You can expect to feel a range of emotions as you view these portraits and read these stories. We encourage you not to stifle these emotions but to allow God to speak to you through them. Let them be a motivation and an inspiration for where God is calling you to take action on these issues.

(Click Here or Copy and paste into your browser to enter the Virtual Exhibit)
https://www.openwideourheartsnb.org/gallery