

THE NABCA COMMUNICATOR



Newsletter of the
National Association of Black
Catholic Administrators

www.NabcaOnline.org

Summer 2011

A Message from the President



It takes Courage to truly be Catholic

As African American Catholics our history in America is unique. Our extraordinary culture had its origins created by a diverse people of Africa whose languages, customs, religions and cultures were as different as those of European and Asian descent. Our commonality came together in America by our need to survive the centuries of enslavement and our struggle for freedom. We lived experiences as a courageous people that only a graced people could survive and that survival must be celebrated and cherished for we exist nowhere else on this earth. Unlike every other culture except Native Americans we are not from another country to which we can return to celebrate our origins, our culture and our faith. No, we were formed here in America.

An integral part of our struggle has always been our faith for it took profound faith for us to have come this far. As Catholics we are theologians and professors, we are Archbishops and Bishops, we are priests, deacons, religious brothers and religious sisters and we are mother superiors and superior generals. We head colleges, universities, high schools and grammar schools, we run catholic agencies. We are teachers and youth ministers and more. We are gospel choirs and liturgical dancers... WE ARE and because WE ARE our Catholic Church needs us to be us.

NABCA and its members are dedicated to the continued uplifting celebration of our courageous and faith filled people so that our church can truly be Catholic.

Deacon Arthur L. Miller

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Sweat Equity in Pittsburgh



Margretta Stokes - Tucker

For our “sweat equity,” NABCA will travel to the East End neighborhood of Pittsburgh to assist the parish of St. Charles Lwanga with cleaning one of its worship sites, Corpus Christi Church. Located in the Lincoln section of the city, the church is one of three worship sites of St. Charles Lwanga Parish. This section of the city is predominately African American and economically depressed.

Established in 1992, St. Charles Lwanga Parish is the consolidation of about six parishes in the East End. The parish is multiracial, although predominately African American, and older. Fr. David Taylor, who has been the pastor since the consolidation, was also pastor at one of the consolidated parishes—Holy Rosary. Ordained in 1974, Fr. Taylor attended the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and served with Fr. George Clements.

NABCA members will use a little “sweat” at Corpus Christi Church by cleaning the kitchen, washing walls, cleaning pews and kneelers, sorting and organizing items, and doing some interior painting. So bring your cleaning clothes to wear (previous “sweat equity” T-shirts, if you have one), comfortable work shoes, and an energetic spirit of service. Remember, “A single bracelet does not jingle.” (Zaire Proverb)



TREASURERS' CORNER

Johnnie Dorsey -- NABCA Treasurer

- You are reminded to submit your 2011 NABCA dues if you have not already done so. Dues invoices will be e-mailed to those NABCA members who have not submitted their dues by mid-August. Dues are NABCA's primary source of income for operations, so your support and that of your (Arch) dioceses are greatly appreciated.
- Your dues must be current to attend the 2011 NABCA Annual Fall meeting in Pittsburgh or to submit a proxy vote.
- Any expenses expected to be incurred on behalf of NABCA must be pre-approved by the NABCA Executive Board or at a minimum, the NABCA President and Treasurer.
- Limited NABCA funds are still available to assist NABCA Members who are current with their NABCA dues.

You might Consider Reading.....

Theology Brewed in an African Pot - [Agbonkhianmeghe E., S.J., Orobator](#)

Racial Justice in the Catholic Church - [Fr. Bryan Massingale](#)

Say You Are One of Them - [Fr. Uwem Akpan](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 21-24, 2011** **National Association of Black Catholic Administrators [NABCA] Annual Meeting**
Radisson - Green Tree, 101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, PA.
- October 23-29, 2011** Diocese of Richmond, Office of Black Catholics celebrates 31 years
It Takes a Church to Raise a Village. For more information, contact
Pharris@richmonddiocese.org
- February 11-12, 2012** The Roundtable Symposium
February 12-15, 2012 **The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering**
Both events will be held at the Marriott - Wardman Park,
2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, D.C.
- July 19-21, 2012** **National Black Catholic Congress XI [NBCC]**
J.W. Marriot, 10 South West Street, Indianapolis, IN

PASS IT ON! EVANGELIZATION RESOURCES AND MODELS....

Is the title of a new publication of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators [NABCA] written and edited by Jacqueline Etheridge Wilson and Therese Wilson Favors. NABCA commissioned Jackie Wilson to coordinate the production of a user-friendly book of evangelization programs and models submitted by some of the OBM directors in partnership with the NABCA Evangelization Committee. The title, *PASS IT ON!*, was selected as a mandate to pass on the messages of Jesus through the Word and through action. The Foreword is presented and signed by Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, who is also the Episcopal Moderator for the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators. Some articles were written or chosen by the authors because they give guidance for anyone wanting to produce their own programs. The book features a bibliography, an appendix with shared resources and national and regional programs that are deemed helpful for passing on the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The book should be ready for sales and distribution on or before August 31, 2011. Cost will be determined at a later date.

NABCA T-Shirts [shown on front of newsletter]

Limited quantity available; for more information please e-mail Johnnie Dorsey, johnniedd@att.net

Background

One of the worst droughts in the region since 1950-1951 has put 10 million people across the Horn of Africa in need of humanitarian assistance. Most live in Kenya and Ethiopia, countries where CRS has a large presence; however, Kenya is further burdened by an influx of refugees from Somalia, many leaving in search of food due to drought there.

Rains that usually fall from October to December failed to appear in late 2010 in parts of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. In 2011, spring rains were erratic and deficient. As a result, many areas missed two growing seasons. "This drought comes as prices for staple foods are increasing, in some cases more than doubling in the past year," says CRS Africa Team Leader Brian Gleeson. "Those price increases put further strain on the people of this region."

How CRS is Helping

In Ethiopia, CRS is leading a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development that involves working with nine other humanitarian organizations to distribute food. The reach of that effort is expanding from 400,000 to 1 million beneficiaries. CRS is working with Caritas Ethiopia to identify other critical needs.

In Kenya, CRS and partners are responding to the needs of the Somali refugees and their local hosts, who are themselves suffering because of the drought. Through our many ongoing water, sanitation and agriculture projects in Kenya, CRS is also responding to Kenyan's needs during this crisis.

How You Can Help

1. Please pray for the people of East Africa. I have included a prayer and petitions to share in you parish.
2. Make a donation to Catholic Relief Services

Horn of Africa Prayer and General Intercessions

Prayer

Gracious and loving God, as witnesses to the drought in East Africa, continue to provide your people with hearts of service, compassion and solidarity. Console our sisters and brothers living with uncertainty and the scarcity of food. Guide our leaders that they might work together to offer solutions to the needs of the people in East Africa.

May your grace remind us that you are the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. Continue to gather us in your name so as your children we embrace our sisters and brothers as we respond to your call. You call us your people. You taught us to be just and you gave us good ground for hope.

Lord, help us to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the coming weeks. Mold us in your will so that our brothers and sisters will see you reflected in our response. We ask this through your son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

General Intercessions

Response: Gracious God, hear our prayer

For the Church that we may work together with our leaders to respond to the devastation of the drought impacting East Africa, we pray to the Lord...

For world leaders, including political leaders and international organizations, that their response to the drought in East Africa will reflect your will and demonstrate cooperation, we pray to the Lord...

For people in East Africa who are losing hope, who feel abandoned as a result of conflicts, drought, death and the visible threat of famine, may God's people remind them of God's love and providence, we pray to the Lord...

For those of us gathered here, continue to teach us about your way so that we might understand and build the kingdom of God, we pray to the Lord...