



African
American
Affairs
Ministry
Diocese of
Charlotte

African American Affairs Ministry Diocese of Charlotte

Spring
2023
Vol. I



Black History Month celebrates the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.



Black History Month is a time to consider how we can create more justice in our daily lives, how we can help education institutions become places in which all the students we serve, especially African American students, thrive and how can we make sure that all families, particularly those from African American backgrounds, feel welcome in all aspects of life.



During Black History Month, let us pause and reflect on our own biases, stereotypes, gaps in knowledge, and relationships across racial difference so that we can be leaders in creating a system in which equity, inclusion, and social justice are at the forefront



- * ***What actions will you undertake this month to increase your knowledge and appreciation for the struggles, achievements, and contributions of Black/African American people?***
- * ***Where will your light shine that others may gain awareness, understanding and gratitude for Black History and our ancestors' legacy?***

Black History Month Resources

- ◇ Prayers for Black History Month – Xavier University- <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-black-history-month1>
- ◇ Sunday February 5 – National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family – [NDPAAAF 23 INSIDE \(usccb.org\)](https://www.usccb.org/ndp/23/inside)
- ◇ Saturday February 4 & Thursday February 9 – NBCC **Young Adult** Days of Reflection in preparation for Congress XIII (virtual) Registration required. – [Days of Reflection: Congress XIII - Knights of Peter Claver \(kofpc.org\)](https://www.kofpc.org/congress-xiii-knights-of-peter-claver)
- ◇ Black History 365 (www.bh365.org) - This curriculum/text is extensively researched and utilizes current technology to extend the learning experience via QR codes that link to more background, videos, art, and music related to the topic. BH365 aims to cultivate critical thinkers, compassionate listeners, fact-based respectful communicators, and action-oriented solutionists.
- ◇ Teaching for Change explore a plethora of social justice resources at this website (www.teachingforchange.org).
- ◇ Black Catholic History – a K-8 enrichment curriculum for Catholic schools which supplements Religion, Social Studies, and Language Arts teaches the history of Black Catholics from the earliest years of the Church to the candidates for canonization. Contact kayecrawford@blackcatholichistory.com
- ◇ ABC'S of Black History – <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=XoIEH4qzBdE>
- ◇ Ways to celebrate Black History for elementary aged children - <https://www.kidsacademy.mobi/storytime/celebrating-black-history-month/>
- ◇ The art of an American artist by Laura James - <https://www.laurajamesart.com/>
- ◇ A Place at the Table video and 2 study guides created by **Dr. Pearlette Springer** – <https://stellamarisfilms.com/a-place-at-the-table>
- ◇ February 22 is Ash Wednesday. Order your 2023 Pax Christi Lenten Reflection book, **Witnesses on the Way** authored by Michael and Charlene Howard, Founder of Eat the Scroll Ministry and Chair of the Pax Christi USA National Board, respectively. Get the details here: <https://paxchristiusa.org/2023/01/19/pax-christi-usas-2023-lenten-reflection-booklet-now-available-for-order/>

Get Ready !! The National Black Catholic Congress Congress XIII



**The National
BLACK CATHOLIC
Congress**

CONGRESS XIII JULY 20-23, 2023

Founded in 1987, the National Black Catholic Congress organizes a national gathering every five years, renewing our mission with a Pastoral Plan.

FEATURING:



WILTON CARDINAL GREGORY

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC will give the opening Keynote Speech and celebrate the Opening Eucharistic Liturgy.



LYNNE' GRAY

Director of Music for Congress XIII. Ms. Gray is Music Ministry Director at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Washington, D.C.; Chair, NPM African-American Musicians Interest Section.



RAWN HARBOR

Director of Liturgy for Congress XIII. Rawn is one of the preeminent African American Catholic liturgists and musicians in the U.S. today.

Early Registration ends February 28, 2023.

Regular registration ends July 15, 2023.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING
A PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS,
AND TO REGISTER:

nbccgathering2023.org



Write the Vision
A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE
THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

Join with other Black Catholics and those who minister to Black Catholics in the United States for a celebration of our faith and culture.



Scan Me for
More Information!

VENUE: GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT

NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND
201 WATERFRONT ST., NATIONAL HARBOR, MD 20745

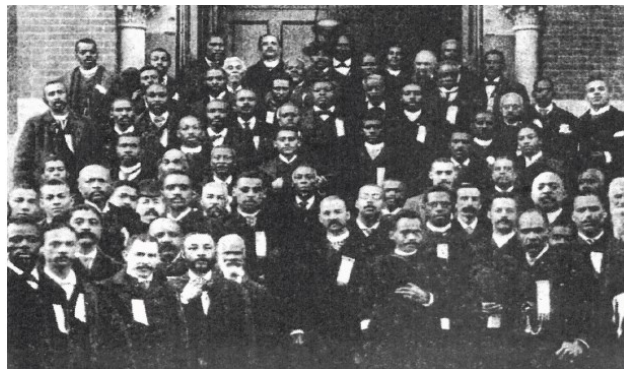


National Black Catholic Congress Congress XII

A Bit of History - The Vision was plain and clear

The very first Black Lay Catholic Congress, led by Daniel Rudd, was held at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Washington, DC from Jan-uary 1-4, 1889. At that moment Fr. Augustus Tolton celebrated High Mass. Fr. Cyprian Davis reports in "The History of Black Catholics in the United States" on page 174... Two hundred delegates met and recognized that "the sacred rights of justice and of humanity are still sad-ly wounded." As a result, they mentioned the areas in which change must occur. First was education, "We pledge ourselves to aid in establishing Catholic Schools." They singled out the need of trade schools "where the hand of our youth may be trained, as well as the mind and heart." They called for literary societies "as a means of completing our young men's train-ing and attainments." They urged the practice of temperance "either individually or within societies already existing in connection with the church." They made an "appeal to all labor organizations and trade unions, etc., to admit Colored men within their ranks... "We appeal to all factory owners and operators, telegraph and railroad companies, store, and shopkeepers, to give employment to Colored people... without discrimination, and on the merit of their individ-ual capacity." They spoke of the children and the indigent and "the need for orphanages, hospitals and asylums."

Additionally, Fr. Davis shares the hope of the Congress "to promote fair and decent housing, seek the endorsement of Rudd's Catholic News-paper, "The Catholic Tribune" and inaugurate good works for the entire (Colored) people through the Catholic Church." William H. Smith, addressed the Delegates in 1889, describing the purpose of the Congress saying, "To talk about our needs as a people and by conference and consultation to try to devise ways and means of bettering our condition both religiously and so-cially." In a significant moment within Congress in 1889, about one hundred of the Congress dele-gates met with President Grover Cleveland at the White House to share these issues. In Fr. Davis book (page 163) President Cleveland told the men gathered that, "good religious people were a powerful help to the government and administration of a nation."



National Black Catholic Congress Congress XII Cont...

The Legacy Continues - It's a witness for this appointed time

The mission towards justice, and the ministry of evangelization for and with Black Catholics links the Congresses of the past to the focus of the Congress of today. We look back over the years, we journey through scripture and ponder over these present times to see how God is speaking to His people and to move them to action. We know that God is always speaking somewhere, so we must go to that place and listen (African proverb). We stop in our busyness and pray and look around and ask ourselves... What is God calling Us to do? God is always speaking some-where; we must go to that place and listen to move a people... to continue to act justly and in the ways of the Lord.

It is the rhythm of the Congress Movement to convene a national Congress every five years to renew and energize our mission, seek wisdom from God's people and devise a Pastoral Plan of Action for these times. Thus, **the thirteenth National Black Catholic Congress** will be held from **July 20-23, 2023 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center located in National Harbor, Maryland** just outside of Washington, DC. The theme is: **Write the Vision: A Prophetic Call to Thrive.**

Scriptural Basis for the Theme

Habakkuk 2:2-4: "Then the LORD answered me and said: 'Write down the vision; Make it plain upon tablets, so that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is a witness for the appointed time, a testimony to the end; it will not disap-point. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late. See, the rash have no integrity; but the just one who is righteous because of faith shall live.'"

In the prophecy of Habakkuk, the prophet complains to God about injustice in Judah and wonders when God will address it. God responds with telling the prophet to write down what God reveals and send heralds to proclaim it. The vision is God's vision. God promises that His justice and truth will prevail. Those who trust in God and God's promises will survive the difficulties ahead. This act of trust is not a passive action. It is a proactive endeavor that asserts that to strive to live according to the truth that God reveals is never in vain. The prophecy of Habakkuk ends with praise for what God is doing and will do.

Congress XIII—Useful Links

- ⇒ Registration Page with QR Code - <https://nbccongress.org/>
- ⇒ Registration - <https://www.nbccgathering2023.org/Register>
- ⇒ Venue and Travel info - <https://www.nbccgathering2023.org/Venue-&-Travel>
- ⇒ Adult agenda - <https://www.nbccgathering2023.org/Agenda/Adult-Agenda>
- ⇒ Youth Agenda - <https://www.nbccgathering2023.org/Agenda/Youth-Agenda>

Save The Date !!

In preparation for the National Black Catholic Congress' Congress XIII, the African American Affairs Ministry Diocese of Charlotte will be hosting a Day of Reflection

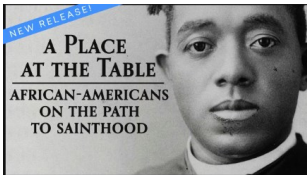
When: Saturday May 20th, 2023

Time: 9am – 3pm

Venue and registration information will be communicated later

There is no cost to attend and the day of reflection is open to all regardless if you plan to attend Congress XIII

Please join St. Therese Catholic Church Peace and Justice Ministry for a showing of *A Place at the Table - African Americans on the Path to Sainthood*. Currently, there are no recognized African American Saints, but that could soon change. This documentary is the story of six African Americans on the path to being canonized.



Click here to see official trailer - [A Place at the Table — Stella Maris Films](#)

Date: Monday, February 27th, 2023

Time: 9:30am (following Morning Mass) in the Family Room

St. Therese Catholic Church
217 Brawley School Rd,
 Mooresville, NC 28117
<https://www.sainttherese.net>

Light refreshments will be served

Useful Resources

- ◇ Catholic Podcasts - <https://nbccongress.org/podcasts/>
- ◇ Catholic Apps - <https://www.nbccongress.org/catholic-apps.html>
- ◇ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(usccb.org\)](https://www.usccb.org)
- ◇ USCCB Committees Cultural Diversity in the Church - [Cultural Diversity in the Church | USCCB](https://www.usccb.org/cultural-diversity)
- ◇ [Open Wide Our Hearts: The Call to Address Racism in Our Hearts and Communities](https://www.usccb.org/open-wide-our-hearts) | [en Español](https://www.usccb.org/open-wide-our-hearts)
- ◇ [Bulletin Message for Open Wide Our Hearts](https://www.usccb.org/bulletin)
- ◇ [Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism \(en Español\)](https://www.usccb.org/stations-of-the-cross)
- ◇ [Prophetic Witness Against Racism](https://www.usccb.org/prophetic-witness) | [en Español](https://www.usccb.org/prophetic-witness)
- ◇ [Scripture Reflection - We Are One Body](https://www.usccb.org/scripture-reflection) | [en Español](https://www.usccb.org/scripture-reflection)
- ◇ [Prayer Against Racism](https://www.usccb.org/prayer)

Adult Education Resources

- ◇ [Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism](https://www.usccb.org/open-wide-our-hearts)
- ◇ [Practical Steps for Eradicating Racism: An Invitation](https://www.usccb.org/practical-steps)
- ◇ [Webinar: Empowering Church Leaders to Address Racism](https://www.usccb.org/webinar)
- ◇ [Responding to the Sin of Racism Resources](https://www.usccb.org/responding-to-the-sin)
- ◇ [Study Guide - Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love](https://www.usccb.org/study-guide)
- ◇ [Examining Our Subconscious Perceptions](https://www.usccb.org/examining-our-subconscious) | [en Español](https://www.usccb.org/examining-our-subconscious)
- ◇ [Intercultural Competencies](https://www.usccb.org/intercultural-competencies)
- ◇ [Letter from Birmingham Jail Study Guide](https://www.usccb.org/letter-from-birmingham)
- ◇ [Rebuilding the Bridge: African American Affairs' 50th Anniversary Initiative](https://www.usccb.org/rebuilding-the-bridge) | [USCCB](https://www.usccb.org/rebuilding-the-bridge)

***Spiritual Enlightenment
Outreach***

***Awareness
Evangelization***



**Contact Us:
African American Affairs Ministry
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church St
Charlotte NC 28203
Rladams@rcdoc.org**

<https://charlottediocese.org/african-american-affairs-ministry/>