



African
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Diocese of
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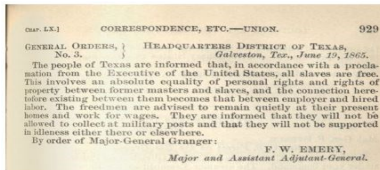
African American Affairs Ministry Diocese of Charlotte

Summer 2021
Vol. I

Juneteenth

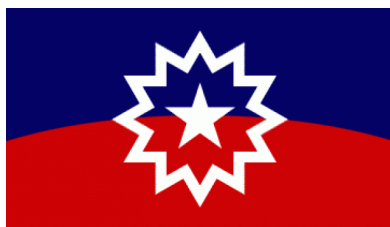
A time: "to celebrate, to educate, and to agitate"

Mitch Kachun



General Orders, No. 3, U.S. House, 54th Congress, 1st Session (H. Doc. 369, Part 2). "General Order Number 3," 1896. U.S. Documents Collection. Y 1.1/2: SERIAL 3437

On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Gordon Granger, a Union general, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African-Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger's announcement through General Orders No. 3 put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.



The Juneteenth flag.

It symbolizes freedom and justice for Black Americans and African Americans

Juneteenth (a blending of June and nineteenth) is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day.

Original Celebrations

Formerly enslaved people in Galveston immediately celebrated after the announcement. The following year, freedmen in Texas organized the first of what became the annual celebration of "Jubilee Day" on June 19. The observances included prayer meetings and the singing of spirituals, celebrants wore new clothes as a way of representing their newfound freedom. Jubilee Day was also civic celebrations that, "took on broader implications for citizenship." During the celebrations, Blacks discussed voting rights, encouraged attendees to participate in the political process and gave voting instructions. In cities where black people were barred from using public parks because of segregation of facilities, freed people pooled their funds to purchase land to hold their celebrations.

In 1872 black leaders raised \$1,000 for the purchase of 10 acres of land to celebrate, today that land is known as Houston's Emancipation Park. During the 1890s Jubilee became known as Juneteenth with the celebration drawing thousands of attendees across Texas with an estimated 30,000 black people celebrating at Booker T. Washington Park in 1898. By the early 1900s, Juneteenth celebrations had spread across Texas, southeast Oklahoma, southwest Arkansas, and parts of Louisiana. Celebrations also appeared in Alabama, Florida, and California as African American Texans migrated.



Juneteenth Emancipation Day Celebration, June 19, 1900, Texas
photo by By Mrs. Charles Stephenson (Grace Murray) - The Portal to Texas History Austin History Center, Austin Public Library., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=879725>

Juneteenth Cont...

Decline

The early 20th century economic and political forces contributed to the sharp decline in Juneteenth celebrations. Texas and all other Confederate states passed new constitutions and amendments that effectively disenfranchised black people and excluded them from the political process; while white-dominated state legislatures passed Jim Crow laws imposing second-class status on their Black citizens. The Depression forced many blacks off of farms and into the cities to find work; many African-Americans migrated north where employers were less eager to grant leaves to celebrate this date. In addition, July 4th was the already established Independence holiday, and a rise in patriotism among black Americans steered more toward this celebration.



Revival



Photo of State Rep. Al Edwards standing next to Miss Juneteenth Tawana Shotwell and Mayor Gus Manuel at Ashton Villa June 19 1980
Phot courtesy of The Daily News, Galveston County https://www.galvnews.com/lifestyle/free/article_ad7031c1-2a32-5e5c-a2f7-dd920044fb00.html

The Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. In Atlanta campaigners for equality began wearing Juneteenth buttons and in 1968 during the Poor People's Campaign to Washington, DC, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference made June 19 the "Solidarity Day of the Poor People's Campaign". In 1974, Houston began holding large-scale celebrations again. Subsequent revivals and large celebrations in Minneapolis, Milwaukee as well as across the Eastern United States emerged. In 1979, Democratic State Representative Al Edwards of Houston, Texas, successfully sponsored legislation to make

Juneteenth a paid Texas state holiday. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Juneteenth continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country as African Americans wanted to ensure that the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten. Many see roots tying back to Texas soil from which all remaining American slaves were finally granted their freedom. By the late 1980s, there were major celebrations of Juneteenth in California, Wisconsin, Illinois, Georgia, and Washington, D.C. The Mascogos, the descendants of Black Seminoles, who have resided in Coahuila, Mexico, since 1852, also celebrate Juneteenth.

The 1991, exhibition by the Anacostia Museum (part of the Smithsonian Institution) called "Juneteenth '91, Freedom Revisited" gave the holiday increasing mainstream attention in the US. In 1999, Ralph Ellison's novel *Juneteenth* was published, while depictions in entertainment media has helped Juneteenth gain mainstream awareness outside African-American communities

Juneteenth Cont...

Modern Day Celebrations



Juneteenth is usually celebrated on the third Saturday in June. Observances today are primarily local. Celebrations include picnics, rodeos, street fairs, cookouts, family reunions, park parties, historical reenactments, blues festivals, readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, singing traditional songs, readings of works by noted African-American writers, such as Ralph Ellison and Maya Angelou, lectures and exhibitions on African-American culture and Miss Juneteenth contests. Celebrations are commonly accompanied by voter registration efforts and community leaders have used Juneteenth to help instill a sense of heritage and pride in their youth. The modern holiday places much emphasis upon teaching about African-American heritage. By 2019, 47 states and the District of Columbia recognized Juneteenth, although only one state (Texas) has adopted the holiday as a paid holiday for state employees. The only three states yet to establish Juneteenth as a holiday are Hawaii, North Dakota, and South Dakota. In 2020, state governors of Virginia, New York, and New Jersey signed an executive order recognizing Juneteenth as a paid day of leave for state employees.

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

General Orders, No. 3. U.S. House, 54th Congress, 1st Session (H. Doc. 369, Part 2). "General Order Number 3," 1896. U.S. Documents Collection. Y 1.1/2: SERIAL 3437



Emancipation Day celebration in Virginia 1905
Photo By VCU Libraries http://dig.library.vcu.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/poscard&CISOPTR=595&CISOBX=1&REC=17, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14608786>



Members of Urban Masquerade dance down Fillmore Street during the Juneteenth celebration in the Fillmore district in 2016.
Photo: Michael Short / Special To The Chronicle <https://datebook.sfgchronicle.com/guide/juneteenth-2020-how-to-celebrate-virtually-in-the-bay-area>



Emancipation Day Parade Lincolnville, Florida,
Public Domain
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emancipation_Day#/media/File:Emancipation_Day_Parade_Lincolnville,_Florida_\(1920s\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emancipation_Day#/media/File:Emancipation_Day_Parade_Lincolnville,_Florida_(1920s).jpg)

Sources

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- ⇒ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/juneteenth-our-other-independence-day-16340952/>
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The Fight Continues to Eradicate Systemic Racism

Racism is an attack on the image of God that has been given to every one of us by the Creator (Gen. 5:1-3). Because each person has been created by God, we are all united together with the Lord and with each other. Racism rejects what God has done by refusing to acknowledge the image of God in the other, the stranger and the one who is different. The fact that we were created in the image of God should remind us that each person is a living expression of God that must be respected and preserved and never dishonored.

When asked which was the first of all the commandments, Jesus replied the first is this: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”

And the second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’ (Mk 12: 28-31). Obviously, racism goes against the commandment of love. We are all called, therefore, to oppose racism in our communities. Loving neighbors who are different from us through kind and generous actions can be as simple as forming friendships, supporting minority-owned businesses, or participating in community activities with those of other faiths or other races. Loving our God obligates us to love our neighbors as well.

Five Ways You Can Cultivate Peace and Work for Racial Justice

- ◇ **Pray Together** - Visit the USCCB racism page at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism/combating-racism-parish-resources> for prayers, liturgical resources, and links to the bishops’ letter
- ◇ **Reach Out Together**- Create intentional opportunities for members of your faith community to listen to the stories and experiences of people of ethnicities, languages, and cultures different from their own
- ◇ **Bring what you’ve learned through reaching out to pray and reflect on the hard questions.**— Gather with others, including decision makers, in your faith community and ask the hard questions: Does the leadership of our institution reflect the diversity of those we serve? Are the many faces of the diverse body of Christ represented in decision-making processes? How are we inviting and forming leaders? Who is missing around the table? In our worship together, and in activities of our community, do we cultivate welcome, hospitality, and participation for people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds? How do we invite our members to reflect about and understand racism? Privilege? The dignity of all people
- ◇ **Learn Together**- Make an effort to learn more about racial disparities and the causes of racial tension. Learn about the historical struggle for racial justice in the United States and some of the challenges that remain.
- ◇ **Act Together**- Faith communities highlighted at USCCB.org/racism chose to reach across faith traditions, joining ecumenical and interfaith efforts to work together on racial and economic justice.

What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do, together with your family, neighborhood, parish, school, or other faith community? What will be your first step?



We dedicate this prayer and stand united with our Asian brothers and sisters.

We stand in solidarity with you, your families and your communities.

Every human being is our brother or sister in Christ, created in the image and likeness of a loving God.

Let us all remember God's love and mercy for each one of us and renew the call for conversion of heart so that we may be more united to God's love and share it with all of our neighbors.



Shake Us From Our Slumber

*When our eyes do not see the gravity of racial justice,
Shake us from our slumber and open our eyes, O Lord.*

*When out of fear we are frozen into inaction,
Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.*

*When we try our best but say the wrong things,
Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.*

*When the chaos of this dies down,
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.*

*When it becomes easier to point fingers outwards,
Help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.*

*God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us.
God of hope in your kindness, Heal Us.
Creator of All People, in your generosity, Guide Us.*

*Racism breaks your heart, break our hearts for what breaks yours, O Lord.
Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell
wherever two or three are gathered.*

*In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have
many different cultures.*

*Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of
diversity among us.*

We pray in faith.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

#JUNETEENTH

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
CHARLESTON OFFICE OF ETHNIC
MINISTRIES INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE
JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19TH AT 10AM-11AM
VIA ZOOM

• CELEBRATE • LIBERATE •
• EDUCATE •



Speakers include: Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo and the Honorable Arthur C. McFarland.

Click here to register:


https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B9Iwk6zMR6CDnIj2IzDo_Q

UPCOMING WEBINARS

THE DANIEL RUDD FUND: Demystifying the Application Process

REGISTER

Wed., June 30, 2021 / 4:00 PM EDT | 3:00 CDT | 1:00 PM PDT



The purpose of this webinar is to simplify the process of applying for a DRF Grant and to walk potential applicants through the process of completing an application online. Attendees will learn about the review process and understand how the information they provide can negatively impact a grant award.


Presented by: Rev. Stephen D. Thorne, NBCC Special Consultant

Father Thorne is a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who has served in parish ministry, administration and education for over 20 years. He has earned academic degrees in philosophy, theology and education. From 2004-2011, he was the Director of the Office for Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He is a consultant for the Sub-Committee for African American Catholics for the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops and has participated in all of the National Black Catholic Congresses since 1987. Presently, he is a doctoral student at Bowie State University and chairs the Archbishop's Commission for Racial Healing for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Click here to register:

https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hLVr29gwQVGwXHLIiIxsdw

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT CONGRESS 13!



The National Black Catholic Congress®
320 Cathedral Street | Baltimore, MD 21201
Ph. 410.547.8496 | Web: www.nbccongress.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

To: **NBCC Constituents**
From: **Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.**
Subject: **Congress 13 Update**

Peace and blessings of the Lenten season to you!

After a recent meeting with the U.S. Black Bishops, it has been decided that the National Black Catholic Congress 13, originally scheduled for 2022, should be postponed to 2023.

This decision was made to ensure that the event could be held in person, as the safety of our constituents – especially in light of the necessity for travel and accommodations – is of the highest concern.

I send all the best to you, and I include prayers that God blesses you abundantly.

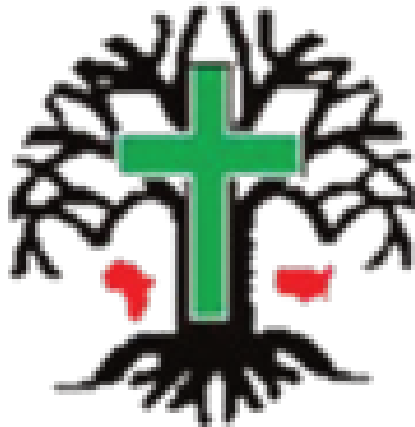
Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
President

Online Resources

- ◇ Podcasts - <https://catholiccurrent.org/communications/podcasts/>
- ◇ Catholic Apps - <https://www.nbccongress.org/catholic-apps.html>
- ◇ Online Masses
 - ⇒ <https://www.watchthemass.com/>
 - ⇒ <https://www.nationalshrine.org/mass/>
 - ⇒ <https://www.catholictv.org/notre-dame-mass.html>
- ◇ Live Perpetual Adoration - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4A6RIOwC2E&feature=youtu.be>
- ◇ National Black Catholic Congress online events - <https://www.nbccongress.org/calendar-of-upcoming-events.html>

***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/>