



National Black Sisters' Conference 1968 - 2011

SIGNS OF SOUL

WINTER 2012



“Lifting Hands In Praise”

National Black Sisters' Conference

Excerpt from *The Survival of Soul: National Black Sisters' Conference Position Paper, 1969*

“We, the members of the National Black Sisters' Conference pledge ourselves to work unceasingly for the liberation of black people.” In NBSC's 43 years of existence, there has been a continuous effort to engage others in the commitment to lift up hands in praise.

Message from the NBSC President
Sister Roberta Fulton, S.S.M.N.



For forty-three years, the National Black Sisters' Conference has been a blessing to vowed women religious who belong to different Congregations. Sisters and Associates who are members of NBSC serve in ministries in inner cities, rural areas and many cities across the U.S., the District of Columbia, Africa & Canada. We serve in African American Catholic schools, universities, hospitals, Centers for Peace & Justice, prison ministry, social service agencies, the elderly, foster care homes, women shelters and wherever there is a need among the poor. We the members of NBSC have reflected on our beginning as well as the blessings and it is in these thoughts that we realize that it is in giving that we truly receive. We now stand on the faith & commitment of those strong women who dared to be a voice for the poor.

Our times call us to look at the challenges facing our world. Signs of violence, homelessness, poverty, global warming, unemployment and students dropping out of school are everywhere. Nonetheless, in the midst of all of this, we are hopeful. In the spirit of our ancestors and NBSC foremothers, we will keep our gaze on the Gospel call to live a religious way of life. We pray that God's spirit will continue to lead & guide us along the way.

These are also exciting times. Young people are using their gifts and talents to help the poor. Scientists & doctors are finding cures for terminal diseases. NBSC is looking forward to sponsoring the next National Gathering for African American Catholic Women. Our Education Within the African American Community Committee is planning to host a spring workshop on "Sustaining Catholic Schools in the African American Community." The Formation Committee will continue to provide network opportunities to support vocations.

As I write this message, we are in the Christmas season. Our liturgies are rich in biblical texts and we pray "come long-awaited Savior." This feast of Christmas awakens in us the desire to be ready for the Lord will come again.

Love & Prayers

Sister Roberta Fulton, S.S.M.N.

Sister Roberta Fulton, S.S.M.N.

NBSC Board of Directors wish each of you a Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year.



Sr. Josita
Coleman,
SNDdeN
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Hall, OP
Secretary



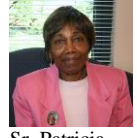
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"The Lord bless you with joy & peace."

Joint Conference

This year's Joint Conference met from July 24-29, 2011 in Greenbelt, Maryland. The Joint Conference is made up of the National Black Sisters' Conference, The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, National Association of Black Catholic Deacons & National Black Catholic Seminarians.

The theme of the Conference was "A People Without a Vision Will Perish: a Vision For the Future." This was an occasion for us to focus on what is important and engage in honest conversation. Coming together is a witness of what is but also a glimpse of new possibilities. Much attention was given to the continued efforts of shaping our vision. The Keynote Speakers were Sister Barbara Jean La' Rochester, OSB & Fr. William Norvel, SSJ.

The Joint Conference attendees spent one day touring historic sites in Washington, D.C. The highlight was the preview tour of the Martin L. King, Jr. Memorial Mounment.



Joint Conference 2011 Committee

Sr. Donna Banfield, SBS Deacon Paul Richardson Sr. Kendra Bottoms, SSJ Fr. Kenneth Taylor
On-site Co-Chairs – Sr. Patricia Ralph & Deacon Bobby White

Thank You

NBSC Spotlight

Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Memorial: A Reflection on a Unique Experience

African American Religious were the first group to tour the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Monument in Washington D.C. on July 27, 2011. About 60 African American Women Religious, 65 Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Seminarians were the first to tour the Monument of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We were excited to have Mr. Harry E. Johnson, President, be our tour guide.

By Sr. Jannette Marie Pruitt OSF

“Living the Dream”

“The memorial is the first in Washington, DC dedicated to a person of color, as well as the only national memorial dedicated to Dr. King's enduring principles of **justice, democracy, hope and love.**”

“The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is a quiet and peaceful space. Yet drawing from Dr. King's speeches and using his own rich language, the Memorial will almost certainly change the heart of every person who visits. Against the backdrop of the Lincoln Memorial, with stunning views of the Tidal Basin and the Jefferson Memorial, the Memorial will be a public sanctuary where future generations of Americans, regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation, can come to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King.”

Harry E. Johnson, Sr.
President & CEO

Harriet Tubman Award / Fr. Al McKnight Award

In July 2011, Sister Rosella Holloman, CSA received the NBSC Harriet Tubman Award. Sister Rosella was recognized for her outstanding work in the African American community.

Fr. Bryan Massingale received the Fr. Al McKnight Award from the Joint Conference 2011 in Greenbelt, MD on July 2011. Fr. Bryan was recognized for his outstanding ministry as a Theologian.

NBSC Honor Jubilarians – Joint Conference, July 2011

75th Jubilee - Sr. Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP
60th Jubilee - Sr. Juanita Shealey, CSJ
Sr. Maria Goretti Mannix, FHM
Sr. Francesca Thompson, OSF

45th Jubilee – Sr. Kendra Bottoms, SND
25th Jubilee – Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS
Sr. Patricia Ralph, SSJ
Sr. Patsy Guyton, SFCC

50th Jubilee – Sr. Claire Napoleon, FMM
Sr. Rose Martin Glenn, SSPS
Sr. Cecilia Marie Morton, SSJ-TOSF
Sr. Barbara Spears, SNJM
Sr. Rita Washington, SFCC

30th Year as a Deacon – Rev. Mr. Bradley Seabrook

Hall of Fame

Msgr. Mauricio West, Vicar General of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC, was honored & inducted into the Hall of Fame at Cardinal Newman High School, Columbia, SC on November 6, 2011. He was one of the first African Americans to attend Cardinal Newman High School.

Blessed Sacrament Sisters Foundress, Katharine Drexel was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca, NY during July 2011.

Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, was the first African American to be named Executive Director of Pax Christi.

Awards



Congratulations Three Women Of Color Win Nobel Peace Prize

This year's [Nobel Peace Prize](#) will be shared by three women of color, two from Liberia and a third from Yemen, for their roles in bringing about serious change in the world.

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2011 was awarded to three campaigning women from Africa and the Arab world in acknowledgment of their nonviolent role in promoting peace, democracy and gender equality. The winners were Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf — Africa's first elected female president — her compatriot, peace activist Leymah Gbowee and Tawakul Karman of Yemen, a pro-democracy campaigner. They were the first women to win the prize since Kenya's Wangari Maathai, who died last month, was named as the laureate in 2004. Most of the recipients in the award's 110-year history have been men, and the award seemed designed to give impetus to the cause for women's rights around the world.

Sustaining Catholic Education in and for the Black Community

This book is the work of the National Black Catholic Congress Leadership Commission on Catholic Education. A guiding question was “What is to become of Catholic Schools in the African American Community”?

You can help by donating to the National Black Catholic Education Foundation. All are encourage to make a donation to help save our Catholic Schools. For more information contact Kathleen@catholic-doc.org

Upcoming Events

Joint Conference July 15-19, 2012 – Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis, IN
Congress XI – July 19-21, 2012 - J.W. Marriott Indianapolis, IN
Theme: Faith Engaged: Empower, Equip, Evangelize

Thousands will gather in Indianapolis for the National Black Catholic Congress XI from July 19-21, 2012. For more information, visit www.nbccongress.org/events

African American Catholic Bishops in the U.S.

For more information about the African American Bishops visit www.holyangels.com

Diversity and Vocations

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University conducted a study of 4,000 men & women in the early years of their vocation to religions life. The purpose was to identify effective practices for allowing & retaining members. For the full report, see www.nrv.net

Christmas Reflection

“Carol of the Brown King”

By Langston Hughes

Of the three Wise Men Who came to the King. One was a brown man, So they sing.	Unto His humble Manager they came And bowed their Heads In Jesus’ name.
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Of the three Wise Men Who followed the Star. One was a brown king From afar.	Three Wise Men, One dark like me— Part of His Nativity.
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