



SIGNS OF SOUL

NATIONAL BLACK
SISTERS' CONFERENCE

Winter Issue

2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters and Associates,

This is the time of the year when we reflect on the Christmas gift. Many of the Christmas hymns point us to the true meaning of Christmas. One of my favorite songs is "There is a Star in the East." As we look to the east, we are reminded that our God is in our midst. We hear the cries for justice and peace. Daily we see people begging for bread, love, comfort and life-giving water. The option for the poor is there before us.

This past July 2018 we celebrated 50 years of our sisterhood along with the 4th Gathering of Black Catholic Women. What wonderful & grace-filled opportunities! The themes; "We've Come a Mighty Long Way" and "Standing On the Promise" enlivened our spirits and reminded us of our giftedness. Each presenter challenged us to face the racism, violence, suffering, poverty and injustice where we are.

We have left some things behind. We have been blind-sided by others. Yet, our hope must be to move forward with the stance of our founding grace. Our giftedness: initiative, creativity and zeal serves as our inspiration for the future the future of the NBSC. In closing, I wish each of you a Blessed and Holy Christmas. Look to the Star in the east on Christmas morning!

Lovingly in Christ, *Sister Roberta Fulton, SSMM*

There's a star in the east...



Rise up follow

Members in the News



Servant of God
Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA
1937—1990



On Nov. 14th, at their general assembly in Baltimore The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops voted to approve and support Sr. Thea Bowman's cause, opening the way for a diocesan commission to determine whether she lived a life of "extraordinary and heroic virtue."



The official edict which formally opens the cause for sainthood is presented to the faithful in Jackson, Miss.



The Path to Sainthood

Servant of God -

Title given to a candidate for sainthood whose cause is under investigation, prior to being declared **Venerable**.

Venerable -

Title given to a candidate for sainthood whose cause has not yet reached beatification but whose heroic virtue has been declared by the Pope.

Blessed -

Title bestowed on a person who has been beatified and accorded limited liturgical veneration.

Beatification -

Occurs after the formal process in which investigations prove the heroic level of virtue during the candidate's lifetime and a miracle attributed to the person's intercession is proved and accepted.

Canonization

The formal process by which the Church declares a person to be a saint worthy of universal veneration.

Saint

Title given to someone who has been formally canonized by the Church as sharing eternal life with God and, therefore for public veneration

Important Dates 2018

February 1st —

Bishop Joseph Kopacz appoints Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.S.S.R to begin research on her life

June 1st—

Sister Thea is declared Servant of God

November 14th—

Sister Thea's cause is approved and supported by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

November 18th—

Bishop Joseph Kopacz presents the edict opening the formal investigation into her cause.


 Members in the News
 

Sister Anita Baird, D.H.M
 2018 Recipient
 of the
Outstanding Leadership Award



Anita Baird with members of her community—Daughters of the Heart of Mary.
 ~Pictured from left to right: Srs. Patricia Lucas, Renee, Ann, Nancy , Barbara. Diane and Clare~

In her own words:

“As the first African-American to receive this leadership award, you honor not only me, but every African-American woman religious as you bear witness to the fact that black religious life matters....

Sr. Anita’s life has been one of many firsts, in the struggle for racial equality and acceptance. She is was awarded this honor in August from the Leadership Conference for Religious Women. She has focused much of her ministry on racial justice. She was the first African-American Chief of Staff to the Archbishop of Chicago—Cardinal Francis George. She was the first African-American U. S. provincial for her religious community.

She was attracted to her religious community because of the historical significance of how the members lived. The Daughters of the Heart of Mary were founded in 1791 and never wore a habit or lived in a cloister. Anita learned that the order was founded to live in the midst of world.

Anita has served on our board and various committees in the National Black Sisters’ Conference. She was elected President of the NBSC in 2001. She currently serves as Vice-President.



+Rest In Peace+



Bishop Dominic Carmon, SVD – Bishop Emeritus of New Orleans 1930 - 1946

Bishop Carmon was a native of Opelousas, LA. The oldest of Aristile and Edna Carmon’s seven children entered the seminary of the Divine Word Missionaries in 1946 and was ordained in 1960. He was installed as Bishop and served in the Diocese of New Orleans from 1993 to up his retirement in 2006. His missionary assignments were in Chicago Ill and Opelousas, LA. His first mission assignment in Papua, New Guinea was in his words “ the happiest of my life”

His funeral Mass and interment was held in St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans on November 17th



Rest In Peace+

**Sister Patricia Ann Haley, SCN
November 23, 2018**

Sister Patricia Ann Haley, SCN, founding member of our organization was born in Columbus, GA. When she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in 1963, she was the first black postulant.

She served eighteen years in Philadelphia during which time she ministered at the Mariyama Vocation Center. She was the coordinator of the Spiritual Enrichment Program for the IBCS at Xavier University in New Orleans. In 2011, after ministering in Social and Pastoral ministry in St. Petersburg, FL, she returned to Nazareth, KY.

Sister Pat was very active in the NBSC, and served the organization in many different capacities, including the office of President. Pat served on the first board of the conference which was instrumental in the plans for the incorporation of the organization.

Though her health was not what she may have wished it to be, she journeyed to New Orleans for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Joint Conference.



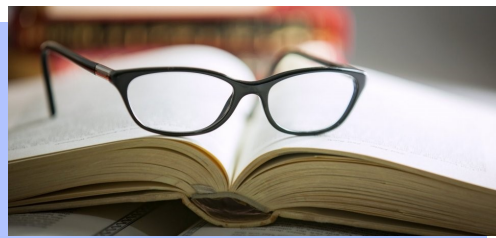
Love does not get lost on the way home...



BOOK NOOK

What are our sistahs reading?

~Send your "Good Reads"~ recommendations to the National Office and our list will grow.~



- **No Crystal Stair – Womanist Spirituality**
Diana L. Hayes
- **A Halleluiah Song!**
Rev. William L. Norvel
- **Tears of an Innocent God**
Elias Marechal
- **Hidden Figures**
Margot Lee Shetterly

- **Stars at Night**
Paula D'Arcy
- **An Altar in the World**
Barbara Brown-Taylor
- **The Invention of Wings**
Sue Monk Kidd
- **The Hate U Give***
Angie Thomas

*Major Motion Picture released Oct. 2018

and of course....

Warm...Wise ... and revelatory,



The deeply personal reckoning of a woman of...

Soul
and
Substance.

.....



Signs of Soul is published twice yearly by the National Black Sisters' Conference.

Letters and news items are encouraged and should be forwarded to:

NBSC
1200 Varnum St., N.E
Washington, DC 20017

Office Phone 202-529-9250
Fax Phone 203-529-9370

E-mail address:
thenationalblacksistersconfer@verizon.net
Website: www.nbsc68.com

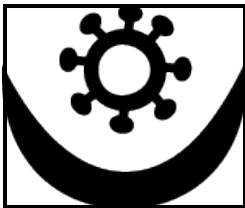
National Black Sisters' Conference



PRAYER REQUESTS

Sister Jamie Phelps, OP
Fr. Kenneth Taylor
Sr. Greta Jupiter

We continually pray for the needs of our members, associates and those who support us. We lift up the needs of their families and congregation members who are in need of prayer both living and deceased.

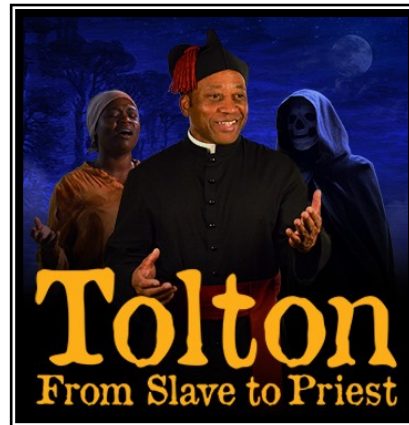


Faithfulness & Harmony

Coming Events

KWANZAA

December 26 to January 1



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SCHEDULE A PERFORMANCE!
360-831-4500**

Save the Date:

Joint Conference 2019



Baltimore, Maryland