

BOWMAN FRANCIS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Midwest District

January 1, 20212

THE MESSENGER

A New Road for a New Year

Isaiah 60:1-6 - Ephesians 3:1-12 - Matthew 2:1-12



No one can deny that our communities, society, and world are in turmoil. If we look around us, we see that poverty is rampant; the pernicious scourge of racism and classism, the increase of global warming, the crushing economic disparities in this country, conflict is on the rise; disease; especially the Corona Virus is widespread and killing the people in the land; broken families are the rule, not the exception; hopelessness and suicide in our young people is increasing; homelessness in our own backyards, crime, gun violence, and drugs have become the norm in many communities. Without a doubt, Satan, and his empire of evil and death has broken out in our midst, and the tragedy is that Christianity has become impotent. Many people who call themselves followers of Christ are standing by watching all of this happen and not doing anything. Those of us who say we love God have lost our zeal and determination to bring Christ Jesus your Son and our Savior to the forefront of our world.

A new year always brings a sense of hope, doesn't it? The previous year with all its tragedies, problems, disappointments, failures, and sadness is now behind us, and a clean slate lies ahead. This is symbolized on New Year's Eve by the old man with the sickle and the newborn baby. The old has passed away; the new has come. With whistles and horns and parties, and probably more to eat and drink than we should have, we ushered in the new year. Yet, beneath the gaiety and laughter, there's a gnawing feeling – it's all still the same; nothing's really changed. If anything, passing from the season of lights and glitter and carols to the season of dark, cold, bleak midwinter, only makes the emptiness worse, the depression deeper. Also, many of us are feeling *personal* pains or anxieties this new year. Some of us are wrestling with important decisions regarding a primary relationship or a task to be done; some know firsthand the powerful effects of disabling disease or worry about health issues in the upcoming months; some have had to deal recently with a major loss; some wonder if we can make it in the coming year without the presence of one who meant so much; some of us are feeling very lonely, in spite of people all around us; some of us fear growing older, or fear what the future may hold; some wonder if dreams will ever be realized, or whether the new year will be even more frustrating and filled with feelings of futility than the last. Many of us are feeling pain or anxiety this new year. What is this pain or anxiety like for you?

When we feel this way, the temptation is to stay with the familiar and the comfortable, to crawl back into bed and pull up the covers, or to sneak into the manger with Jesus, where it's warm, safe, and secure. The temptation is to stay where we are – in the dark crevices of depression or defeat, of fear or foreboding, in the deep ruts of sameness, boredom, or lethargy. But Epiphany with its emphasis on a light shining in the darkness, reminds us that life



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January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month



Over the last two decades, awareness of cervical cancer has grown significantly. This is due in large part to the [National Cervical Cancer Coalition](#), whose mission is to help women, family members and caregivers battle the personal issues related to cervical cancer and promote prevention through community education. Subsequently, the U.S. government designated the month of January to also raise awareness about this form of cancer.

According to the [American Cancer Society](#), approximately 13,240 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed and about 4,170 women will die from cervical cancer in the United States in 2018. Today, cervical pre-cancer is identified more often than the invasive form of cervical cancer. Years ago, cervical cancer was one of the most common types of cancer that resulted in death for women in the United States. With the advent and increase in usage of Pap tests, the cervical cancer death rate decreased dramatically due to much earlier diagnoses.

How has this screening test helped? Before cancer even starts to develop in the cervix, a Pap test can recognize subtle changes. And if cervical cancer has started to evolve, this screening test identifies the change earlier on, when it's easier to treat and cure. In 1971 when President Nixon signed the National Cancer Act and introduced the federal mandate "war on cancer," the five-year survival of women with Stage 0 cervical cancer was less than 50 percent compared to 93 percent today.

Who is At Risk?

Women between the ages of 35 and 54 are most at risk for developing cervical cancer. It is rare in women younger than 20. Nevertheless, older women need to understand that they aren't without risk as well. In fact, the percent of new cases of cervical cancer in women over the age of 65 is almost 20 percent of all new cases diagnosed.

In looking at ethnicity, Hispanic women are the population with the highest rates of cervical cancer. They are followed by African Americans, Caucasians and Asians.

What predisposes a woman toward cervical cancer? There are several risk factors that can increase a woman's risk in developing this form of cancer.

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month



Glaucoma is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness in the United States. Glaucoma has no early symptoms — that's why half of people with glaucoma don't know they have it.

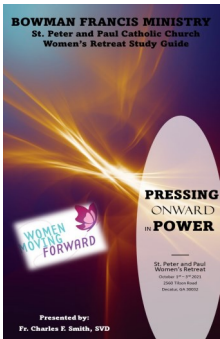
The only way to find out if you have glaucoma is to get a comprehensive dilated eye exam. There's no cure for glaucoma, but early treatment can often stop the damage and protect your vision.

Anyone can get glaucoma, but those at higher risk include: Everyone over age 60, especially Hispanics/Latinos—African Americans over age 40—People with a family history of glaucoma.

Join the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) in encouraging people at higher risk for glaucoma to make eye health a New Year's resolution by getting a dilated eye exam.

ST. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT

By: Ms. Shani Ponteen



Women for thousands of years have been known to change the course of history, Elizabeth mother of John the Baptist and our Beloved Mary mother of Jesus Christ. It was through their faith of saying YES to the Holy Spirit.

Women from across the Nation said yes to growing in their faith by attending the Annual Women's Retreat in Atlanta Georgia. The theme of this year retreat was appropriately named **"Press Onward in Power"** presented by Fr. Charles F. Smith, SVD and his team.

The foundational message of the retreat was given to us ahead of time to allow our mind, body, emotion and spirit to take a first bite of the material in preparation for the light, courage, hope, peace, joy, strength, wisdom, forgiveness, tenderness, love for haters and love for ourselves we were about to experience.

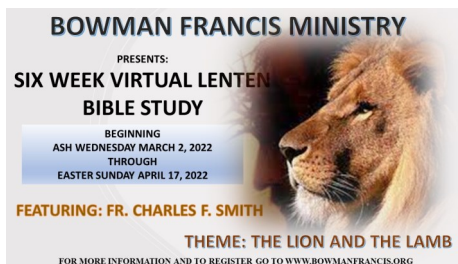
Throughout the weekend we were asked "Is your life working for you?" and if it is not "What are you willing to do about it? As we dug into the lives of Eve, Hagar, Zipporah, Ester, Ruth, and Rebekah we were all able to see ourselves in at least one of these women and glean from their life experience and choices. If ever we need to set our reputation straight, understand how to grieve, get a model of friendship and sisterhood these women were it. We watched them **"Press Onward in Power"** by turning their passive into active, dull into vibrant, routine into surprising, stale into fresh, and pessimism into optimism.

We watched and learned that when we **"Press Onward in Power"** through the process of prayer by having conversations with God, asking God for what He wants by fully giving of ourselves and making ourselves available to God our lives, our family, community and nation will be changed.

We left knowing that in order to find the pathway to the solutions in life, having victory over stress, anxiety and fear, increase trust in God and in one's self we must **"Press Onward in Power"** of our Faith.

We closed the weekend by honoring our ancestors by thanking them for enduring so we can

"Press Onward in Power"



Join us for our 2022 Virtual Lenten Bible Study. This six week bible study will begin on Ash Wednesday March 2nd through Easter Sunday April 17th. We will use our Lenten Bible Study Guide, coupled with 6 Sunday message videos and 6 Tuesday evening live **ZOOM** sessions featuring **Fr. Charles Smith, SVD**. These facilitated discussions *will occur weekly on Tuesday at 7:30 PM EST (4:30 PM PST; 5:30 PM MST; 6:30 PM CST) beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, and*

concluding on **Tuesday, April 12th.**

Sunday Message: **March 6th, March 13th, March 20th, March 27th, April 3rd & April 10th**

Tuesday Spiritual Reflection & Conversation: **March 8th, March 15, March 22nd, March 29th, April 5th, & April 12th.** For more information visit us at www.bowmanfrancis.org

THE MESSENGER

continued

continues, that revelation and growth and new beginnings loom on the horizon, that new roads appear up ahead, new roads that will take us, if we choose to let them, into new adventures, new challenges, new opportunities to be the persons God wants us to be. Epiphany reminds us that life continues, even as one year ends and another begins, “one season following another,” as they sing in “Fiddler on the Roof.”

As we embark on this new year, embodied so well in the spirit of Epiphany and the reality of life moving on, a fair question for us to ask is, “how can we move on?” The answer may be found in the refrain from an old church song I’ll bet many of you remember: “Rise and Shine.” Isaiah tells the people of Israel to “Arise, shine; for your light has come...” They no longer must live in darkness – nor do we. Rise and shine, get up, begin again – there is more to come! There are new roads to travel upon in this new year. But there are also powerful forces working against this directive. Apathy, lack of confidence, our physical or mental state, extreme caution, or timidity – all these tend to hold us back. Worse than any of these is *fear* – disabling, crippling, immobilizing *fear*. Sometime in the early part of the nineteenth century, one dark winter night, a weary traveler came to the banks of the **mighty Mississippi** for the first time. There was no bridge in sight and ice covered the water as far as one could see. Could he dare cross over? Would the ice bear his weight? It was urgent he reach the other side, so finally, after much hesitation, and with fear and trembling, he began cautiously creeping on his hands and knees across the surface of the ice. By distributing his weight in this way, he hoped to prevent the ice from cracking beneath him. About halfway across he heard a noise behind him, and he turned and looked to see a man driving a horse-drawn sleigh filled with coal, starting to cross the river. And here was the traveler on his hands and knees. The man, his horse, and his sleigh-full of coal dashed past him and out of sight, across the same river of ice on which he was creeping!

You and I are sometimes like that traveler, aren’t we? Fear, by whatever name we call it, can prevent us from doing so much. Cautiously, timidly, tremblingly, we venture forth upon God’s promises, as though the lightness of our step might make the promises more secure, yet at the same time, we *doubt* that they are true. God has promised to be with us – **believe this promise! -believe in God’s promises!** God has promised to uphold us no matter what – believe this promise! God has promised to grant us victory over all our spiritual enemies – believe this promise! God has promised to grant us full and free forgiveness of our sins through and because of Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior – believe this promise! Don’t creep upon these promises as though they were too fragile to hold you up. Stand upon them, confident that God is as good as God’s word, and that our living, loving Lord will deliver them as promised. Maybe you’ve heard the expression: “**even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there!**” It’s true! So, in this new year, let’s get up and get going. Let us rise and shine, knowing that it is God’s light that empowers the light within us.

This sounds like a great New Year’s resolution, doesn’t it? But it won’t be complete until we finish the old traditional church song’s refrain, and “give God the glory.” We do this by living thankful lives, thanking God for the blessings we’ve received, and by sharing the Good News with others. We do this individually and together as the church. The mission of the church, as **Paul implies to the Ephesians**, is to reflect the light of Christ, to point to Christ’s work in the world, to declare Christ’s redemption, to reveal the mystery, to make known God’s wisdom, but perhaps most important, to mirror and imitate Christ’s love and deeds of mercy. And this is our individual mission as well.

Each of us has a new road ahead of us in the new year. It’s another road, a different road than any we’ve traveled on before. As we step off down that road, not knowing what we may find, not knowing exactly where we’re going, we can be comforted in knowing that for sure, the light goes with us, leading us, guiding us, showing us the way. God will be with us on our journeys down that new road ahead. Even now God is calling to each of us, whoever we are, whatever our circumstance, calling us to get up off our hands and knees, to stop creeping, and rise and shine, and continue the journey, giving God our praise, and sharing the Good News with others along the way.

May God’s hope and peace dwell in *our* hearts, minds, and souls, and may that sunrise, the light of Christ, shine brightly on each of us as we journey on the new road we’ll be traveling upon in this new year. Let those who are redeemed in Christ Jesus, say Amen.

BOWMAN-FRANCIS TEAM MINISTRY SUCCESS STORIES



Daryl P. Whitley

I have been a life-long member of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. My first memory of seeing Fr. Chester and Fr. Charles was when I was a teen-ager. I was in awe of seeing 2 black “twin” priests. I knew this was something special but didn’t quite understand the historical and positive impact their presence and their efforts would have not only on the Catholic community in Indianapolis but throughout the United States and abroad.

Outside of worship services and workshops, I didn’t have a lot of contact with Fr. Chester and Fr. Charles as I was growing up. I got married in 1998 and shortly thereafter, started to feel a little overwhelmed with the role and responsibilities of being a husband. After much prayer and reflection, I reached out to Fr. Chester and asked for spiritual guidance. I can still remember how nervous I was prior to our meeting as this was the first time I had ever reached out to talk with another man about my issues. The meeting with Fr. Chester was very insightful, non-judgmental and he offered me grace and compassion as I shared with him the personal struggles I had been dealing with. After our meeting, I felt a deep sense of spiritual connection and brotherhood with Fr. Chester that would last for years to come.

Later, I would attend the Bowman-Frances Team Ministry African-American Men’s conferences that would be led by Fr. Chester and Fr. Charles. I would get so excited about the opportunity to see both of them leading and charging us as African-American men to become a stronger presence in our homes and church communities. Our conferences always ended with a mass celebration that included a Black Catholic Bishop, many Black priests and deacons and an all-Black music ministry. For me personally, I have often felt “invisible” in many Catholic Church settings whenever I participate in services outside of my home parish. So attending a conference that focused on Black men and our spirituality has provided me the tools needed to serve my church community.

Because of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by both Fr. Chester and Fr. Charles and their charge to hold me accountable for the space God has allowed me to occupy, I currently serve as the chair for our Men’s Ministry Group, Revival Team and Evangelization Team. I also sing in our choir, serve as a lector and have served as a Catechist in the past. Without the inspiration and example of servant leadership demonstrated by Fr. Chester and Fr. Charles, I know I would not be the man I am today. Our church community has benefited greatly by the gifts they have both so unselfishly shared with all who have come in contact with them. And because of Fr. Chester and Fr. Charles and the legacy they have created, I have a greater understanding of the role I must play to ensure that our Black presence remains vibrant and present within the Catholic Church.

May Fr. Chester continue to rest in eternal peace. I pray that as he looks down upon us that he is proud of the work that continues on in his name and that his legacy lives on in all of us. May Fr. Charles continue to be blessed with the strength, wisdom, knowledge and support he needs to fulfill his earthly mission. And may he continue to receive God’s blessings and anointing in his service to our Catholic Church community.

UPPER ROOM

SYNOPSIS FROM FR.. KENNETH HAMILTON, SVD

SYNOPSIS OF NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE 2021



Fr Charles Smith, SVD's welcome address spoke of our time of spiritual "testing." If we as men can cause so much destruction in our world, we can also bring healing from that destruction. Men, equally with women, are the stewards of creation, the family, and the church. This has always been true in the black community and there is no need to apologize for the leadership that God has asked us to take upon ourselves. For the mark of a truly successful man is not maleness, but meekness before that God. Supporting our brothers spiritually why the National Black Catholic Men's Conference continues to, first of all, "be an in-house and self-help movement of education and liberation of black men's mind, bodies, and souls." Beyond our in-house goals, we also reach beyond and bring back the "missing" men in our community, plant seeds of self-esteem, and contribute our "time, skills, knowledge, monies, and leadership, allowing it to happen for all of us."

The opening libation ceremony, featuring the invocation of black Catholic saints ("pray for us") and black Catholic ancestors and leaders ("be with us this day and guide us") was led by Frs. Roy Lee and Kenneth Hamilton, SVD.

Our "Harambee" Panel discussion this year, facilitated by Mr. Marc Guess, addressed the challenge for us to move through and beyond spiritual loss and hopelessness. Dr. General Johnson addressed the topic from a medical standpoint. Mr. Greg Daniels, Fr. Gerald Marable, and Deacon Mel Tardy addressed the issue from personal, professional, spiritual, and social justice perspectives. Dr Johnson spoke of mental health, addressing infection and vaccination rates, etc. for black peoples in this country. Greg Daniels spoke on the relationship between spirituality and the employment issues we face. He insisted that men of color have a lot of opportunities to excel, by keeping God first, accepting their faults and correcting them, working with mutual respect, and finding peace and joy through it all. Fr. Marable spoke of the need for powerful, thoughtful liturgies, ones responsive to the new paradigm we face. Stopping and listening to God, understanding these apocalyptic times [in which Jesus also lived], allows us to form a vision for the future. For Deacon Tardy, head of the national black clergy caucus, we can only achieve true justice tomorrow when we live in right relationship today. These issues and more specific questions to the panel were addressed.

Fr Ken Hamilton's Friday keynote dealt with the theme "Brothers with the same struggle" and was entitled "Show Up for Our Deliverance." He began by invoking the vision Fr. Chester set before us. Last year we stood out on the plains of loss as we said an earthly goodbye to him; and it was good that we were there. This year, Fr Chester symbolically takes us back to the foot of the cross. There, Fr. Hamilton said, we should once again face that convicted, executed, and lifted-high black man and understand that the history of blacks in the Catholic Church, like all black presence, has always been the result of conquest, colonization, and crucifixion. But we also ask to be "delivered" from "crucifixion sorrow" that we have in our hearts and remember that when we look up at the black Crucified One, we are not supposed to emulate and internalize the things that crucified Jesus. Rather, we are supposed to somehow, in some way, receive the same divine deliverance that Jesus did! With that in mind, we can anticipate deliverance and show up for it!

On Saturday morning of our conference, we were, as always, led into reflection by our brothers from "Men in the Fire." "[We] made it this far by the grace of God!"

Dr. Cameron Beatty's Saturday morning keynote dealt with how we can learn from God's style of leadership. For God has shown us HIS style of leadership, which includes providing for healing and deliverance, and appointing responsible leaders for us. How do we ourselves have a "leader identity?" How do we take off the masks of masculinity and humbly train ourselves for efficacious leadership? How is the power of the group central to true individual leadership? How do we "shepherd," visualize, and communicate future success? How do we take care and grow in our emotional and physical strength so that we might be prepared for leadership? *[A lively discussion followed!]*

Kujichagulia Breakout Workshops I

Deacon Royce Winters in his recorded workshop addressed the question of whether or not black Catholics really matter in the Catholic Church. His first response was that, after centuries of being Catholic, black Catholics do not need to find affirmation from Eurocentric (and often racist) leadership. We know who we are. We determine if and where we belong. We have the great traditions and teachings of Christianity, regarding whether or not black (Catholic) lives matter, that have always given us the affirmation we seek.

Marc Guess' recorded conversation addressed financial stability and goal planning coming out of these times of pandemic. What about preparing for the ongoing challenges and unexpected situations that lie before us? How do we plan for "generational," passed-down, wealth? How do we teach our children to be stewards of the wealth they receive?

Repeating and expanded on the ideas he introduced in his opening address, Fr Charles Smith's second recorded presentation addressed the difference between what it means to be a man and not just a male. He connected the ideas of what it means to be masculine with all the exigencies of the world and the global market. Through the use of scripture, Fr Smith pointed to the true meaning of manhood, starting with how Jesus' first goal was to realize and come into his PURPOSE! He elucidated 7 principles that we might use to live in our purpose: 1) God is a God of purpose; 2) Creation has purpose; 3) not all purposes are revealed right away and some are blurred by our lack of understanding; 4) Purpose must be discovered or abuse and exploitation follows; 5) never ask the creation about purpose, ask the Creator; 6) Seek your purpose in the "I AM"; 7) Purpose preceded creation itself because the God of Purpose preceded the creation he initiated to actually fulfill that purpose. It is seen in God's word, which "will not return to me empty but will return only when it has fulfilled its purpose." (Is. 55:11)

There were also three stirring live presentations: "Black Male Keys to Success" by Fr. Roy Lee; "Black Man Building and Nurturing Strong Black Families," by Deacon Bobby White which presented "the five steps of fidelity"; and "Mental and Holistic Health" by Dr. General Johnson. Fr. Lee's *PowerPoint*, for example, gave us a wide view of the mental health and spiritual balance we need and also left us a detailed program of recovery through his powerful "12 Step Program for Black Catholic Men." Fr. Roy, like the other presenters, believes that though we have a serious mental and physical health problems, we black Catholic men and our families hold the solutions to these problems.

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In the Saturday afternoon keynote, Fr. Bernard Kwame Assenyoh spoke powerfully on the question of what a radically inclusive manhood looks like. Fr Kwame asks why we as black men accept the insights of European theologians and philosophers but not the insights of our own leaders and thinkers to inform our Catholic faith and theology. We are preoccupied (and buy into) capitalist philosophies that establish hierarchies that dominate us and the world, but what we neglect is the simple need to pass on our black love to our children and thus help establish an “inclusive humanity” in this world. He suggested balancing the “decreeing” God the Father with the “relational” God the Holy Spirit; focusing on the liberating/freeing meaning of the scriptures; establishing a new relationship with creation and nature; moving away from rigidity, scrupulosity, and legalism...all of which helps us to confront the oppressive notions we have about women, about gender, masculinity, and sexuality. The point is that we can still reclaim and renew our black and African male spirituality, and that that reclamation may well help transform the world. [*A lively discussion followed!*]

After Fr Kwame’s talk our working lunch included a powerful vocation presentation, hosted by Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD, of two young black men (Carl Gale and Ryan Agbim) pursuing a religious vocation.

Kujichagulia Workshops II

The Saturday afternoon sessions were live and featured two workshops. Fr Ken Hamilton spoke on historical and present black religion(s) and philosophical beliefs. [The outline is available from ministry.] And Mr. Eric Saunders spoke insightfully on “Using Your Creative Gifts for the Glory of God.”

After closing reflections and thanks—especially to our musicians and the planning committee members---given by Fr Smith, we all virtually attended our closing conference mass presided over by Fr Anthony Bozeman, SSJ from Transfiguration parish in Los Angeles. He addressed and commissioned us under our theme “Deliver Me From Myself.” He addressed some of the conference themes, such as inclusive manhood, a non-monolithic manhood that acknowledges that black men are different, a faithful manhood that includes our wives and partners and families, a manhood based on the call to see ourselves as fully equal, particularly in this country, in the institutional church. Unity is our strength, for we are not Catholic until we come together! He ended by praying for deliverance from self-doubt, for we have always had the power of God’s deliverance in us. Deliver us, he prayed, from the twin pandemics of COVID and racism, from self-hate, etc. Echoing Fr. Chester Smith’s annual messages, Fr. Bozeman says it’s still our time to “man up.”

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR
OCTOBER 2022
LIVE AND IN PERSON FOR THE
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE**

National Black Catholic Live Wax Museum

By Sister Patti Ralph



St. Francis Xavier students bring historic and contemporary Black Catholics to life by portraying them in a wax museum. A week after the nation's Catholic bishops met in Baltimore, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Academy in Washington, D.C., hosted a gathering on Nov. 22 of some bishops, and also women religious, potential saints, famous entertainers, star athletes and noted writers, all portrayed by fourth and fifth graders there for the school's first National Black Catholic Live Wax Museum. "Because (November) is Black Catholic History Month, we wanted to do something special," said Sister Patricia Ralph, a Sister of St. Joseph who teaches the fourth and fifth grades there.

She had the idea of having her students select historic or contemporary Black Catholic men and women, research their lives and then portray them in the school's multipurpose room. That morning, the room became an impromptu museum, with students dressed as those figures sitting beside tri-paneled poster boards that included reproduced paintings or photos or their hand-drawn portraits of the people they were portraying, plus facts about their lives, including a timeline and what their childhood was like.

A few of our brother priests were recognized. Father Chester Smith, SVD (Chase Blakeney), Father Charles Smith, SVD (Isaiah Smith), and Father Steve Thorne (Micah Barr). Isaiah had the opportunity to interview Father Charles Smith and Micah had the opportunity to interview Father Steve Thorne. The joy on their faces was priceless after their personal conversation.

One of our fourth graders', Winter McGill, was Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA. It was evident that Sister Thea's spirit was within Winter's heart. The Bowman Francis Ministry Team has really inspired our young scholars. As we continue to celebrate our stories, our history of Black Catholics let us continue to teach our children that they too are the way makers.

Go to [St. Francis Xavier students bring historic and contemporary Black Catholics to life by portraying them in a wax museum - Catholic Standard - Multimedia Catholic News \(cathstan.org\)](#) to read the entire article.

If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in a vocation to the Priesthood or Brotherhood with the Divine Word Missionaries/SVDs; Sisterhood with the Holy Spirit Sisters, and the Deaconate, please contact:

The Divine Word Vocation Department

102 Jacoby Drive SW | PO Box 380

Epworth, Iowa 52045

[563-876-3332](tel:563-876-3332)

[800-553-332](tel:800-553-332)

Or contact:

Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD

Vocation Director

adamsvd@yahoo.com

www.sdvocations.org/contact/meet-our-vocation-team

CONTACT US

Give us a call for more information about our programs.

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HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 1ST—FEBRUARY 28TH

LEARN IT ✦ LIVE IT ✦ EMBRACE IT

COMING EVENTS IN 2022

New Year Message January 1st	Black History Program Saginaw, Michigan February 25th—27th	Virtual Lenten Message March 2nd
Virtual Lenten Bible Study March 2nd—April 6th	Palm Sunday Message April 10th	Holy Thursday Message April 14
Good Friday Message April 15th	Easter Sunday Message April 17th	Mother’s Day Message & Afrocentric Rosary May 8th
6 Week Men’s Bible Study June 1st—July 6th	Father’s Day Message June 19th	Juneteenth Message June 19th

For more information on these coming events visit our website at www.bowmanfrancis.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate, evangelize, empower; and provide an environment for all people to grow spiritually and develop in their spiritual relationship with God. To celebrate our African-American Heritage and the cultural diversity of our universal church.

◆ **Bowman Francis Team:**

(Rites of Passage and Revivals)

Fr. Ken Hamilton—Teaching Ministry

(510) 205-5670

2733 Park Blvd

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THE BOWMAN-FRANCIS MINISTRY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Fr. Charles Smith

January 1st

New Year Day Mass

St. Arnold Janssen Day

January 15th

Mass for Society of the Divine Word

Fr. Charles Smith

January 17th

Dr. Martin Luther King Mass

FEBRUARY

Fr. Charles Smith

February 13th—19th

Fr. Tony Clark

Valentines Novena

Indianapolis, Indiana

Fr. Charles Smith

February 21st

Presidents Day Mass

Indianapolis, Indiana

Fr. Ken Hamilton

February 22nd

Black History Month

University of San Diego

Fr. Charles Smith

February 26th—28th

Black History Program

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Saginaw, Michigan

MARCH

Fr. Charles Smith

March 2nd

Ash Wednesday Mass

Fr. Charles Smith

Lenten Bible Study

March 2nd—April 17th

Fr. Charles Smith

National Association of Catholic Chaplains

Stretched by Life, Lifted by Faith Conference

Buffalo, New York

March 25th—28th