

# BLACK

# CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

## Who are we? Black and Catholic...

Written by **Very Rev. Kevin P. Fausz, CM, VU**, pastor

The noted Black poet Langston Hughes wrote “Freedom’s Plow” in which he exhorts, “Keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!”

For Black Catholics, the plow is symbolic of the perseverance, tenacity, fortitude and courage to keep the richness of their culture as they lived, educating themselves in the Catholic faith amid many obstacles and challenges.

As you will note on the “We Have Come This Far by Faith” page in this issue that Holy Redeemer was founded in 1901 as a chapel to serve the African-American community and has provided an inspiring reminder to all of the archdiocese. In its 121 years it has enriched the faith life of so many people in the archdiocese and is an important part of contribution to San Antonio’s “Black History,” a history that has been enhanced and broadened by African Americans through-

out the archdiocese. These accomplishments have been achieved by “Keeping Our Hands on the Plow” and holding on. The Holy Spirit is still calling us to evangelization and the sharing of our many gifts. Our gift of Blackness – the gifts of prayer, music, liturgy, dance and being a welcoming community, are a part of who we are. Holy Redeemer continues to be that “beacon of hope” for many people, not just here in this archdiocese, but across the country.

Holy Redeemer/Black Catholic Apostolate created a Black Lecture Series that was a beginning vehicle to help us to better understand what it means to be Black and Catholic. These events are always open to the entire archdiocese. This year we will be sponsoring a two-day music workshop in February featuring three great nationally known African American Catholic musicians: Kenneth Louis from Atlanta; W. Clifford Petty from Montgomery, Ala., and Rawn Harbor from Washington, D.C. In March, we will have a Spring Revival with Very Rev. Vernon Hugeley from Birmingham, Ala., as the revivalist. The closing liturgy for Black History Month will be a combined Mass at 9 a.m. with the Igbo Catholic Community. Join us for Mass on the weekends and at these special events as we explore more about what it means to be Black and Catholic.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

## Holy Redeemer CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Parish of Holy Redeemer is a unique spiritual home serving African American Catholics in Bexar County since 1901.

We are a welcoming community that reflects the ethnicity and cultural diversity of the Church of Texas

**MASS SCHEDULE:**  
Tue. & Thur. (OLPH): 9:00am  
Wed. & Fri. (Holy Redeemer): 9:00am  
Sat.: 4:00pm  
Sun.: 9:00am & 12:30

Novena  
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal  
Following the 9:00am Mass  
Wednesday

Religious Education of Youth  
Sun. 10:30am

**Very Rev. Kevin P. Fausz,  
CM, VU, Pastor**

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## Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, statement on 2020 Black History Month

Black History Month in February is annually celebrated as a time to remember the monumental achievements and contributions of African Americans to our country’s history. As Catholics, we most especially recall and remember the great additions made by African Americans to the faith.

Pope Francis has stated that, “The time has come to put an end to age-old prejudices, preconceptions and mutual mistrust that are often at the base of discrimination, racism, and xenophobia.”

The archdiocese has a wealth of Black Catholic history to celebrate, which adds a richness to the secular celebration of Black History Month. Holy Redeemer Church was established in 1910 and was staffed for much of its history by Josephite priests. From 1968 to 1972 the Sisters of Mercy of the St. Louis Province staffed a free health clinic there.

In this archdiocese, we can also celebrate the spiritual wisdom and pastoral care of significant figures who have contributed of the building up of positive racial relations in San Antonio.

Archbishop Robert Lucey was influenced by the traditions of economic and racial justice. One year before the 1954 Supreme Court ruling against segregation in public schools, the archbishop had ordered integration of all Catholic schools in the archdiocese. Shortly after the archbishop’s action the San Antonio Independent School District desegregated its schools and El Paso and Corpus Christi soon followed suit. Other communities eventually fell in line, but not without efforts on the part of the state legislature to prevent integration.

Mother Margaret Mary Healy-Murphy is the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate. Some of the Sisters from the religious order serve as chaplains in hospitals, prisons and nursing homes – anywhere they see the need to serve as set forth by their foundress.

They care for orphans and youth at risk and, in keeping with changing social needs, are focusing on working with the influx of immigrants seeking a new life apart from poverty and persecution.

They express the power of their foundress through their lives as dictated in the order’s constitution: “In order to be imbued with the spirit of the Gospel and that of Mother Margaret, we try to live in such a way that the light of the Holy Spirit guides our life and the fire of the Holy Spirit quickens our love; we endeavor to be open and responsive, like Mary, to the needs of people in the different situations in which we find ourselves.”

Through their ministry, they also carry on the legacy of St. Peter Claver (1580-1654), an ordained Jesuit priest from Spain, who dedicated himself by special vow to serve the thousands of Negro slaves that landed monthly in Cartagena (now Colombia), the principal slave market of the New World. His life-long love and care for the slaves and his tireless work toward their abolition has been described as “transcending the natural order.”



## BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

# Outreach activities at Holy Redeemer

Holy Redeemer has been serving those in need through Corporal Works of Mercy for more than 25 years. The program continues to grow and the number of people being served has been overwhelming. Every Tuesday “**The Claver Kitchen**” feeds a hot lunch to 60-plus people who are hungry. When the doors open at 11 a.m. people are lined up waiting to enter. They come early to

### Matthew 25: 35-36 speaks to the Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Clothe the naked
- Care for the sick
- Help the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

bring in resources in to share information about health programs, housing, and care for health problems. During the course of a year “The Claver Kitchen” feeds 800 people. Lunch is served year-round. We are grateful to the 15-plus volunteers who faithfully donate their time on a weekly basis to work with the program.

### MOBILE PANTRY

The distribution of food in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank is held at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and at the beginning of the school year and the end of the school year. These distributions allow the parish to



distribute well over 100,000 pounds of food to more than 687 families and 2,000 individuals annually. At Thanksgiving and Christmas each family receives a turkey in addition to other food. The families in need come from Holy Redeemer, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and St. Michael churches; Sutton Oaks with the San Antonio Housing Authority, St. Philip's Early College High School, MLK Academy, Healy Murphy Center, and Gates, Douglas, Herff, Smith and Poe schools. It is noted that there are one in six people struggling with hunger issues.

Among the outreach activities at Holy Redeemer Church are “The Claver Kitchen,” the mobile pantry, angel tree, and food pantry. The parish has been serving those in need through the Corporal Works of Mercy for more than 25 years.

PICTURES PROVIDED BY IRENE & LEO EDWARDS

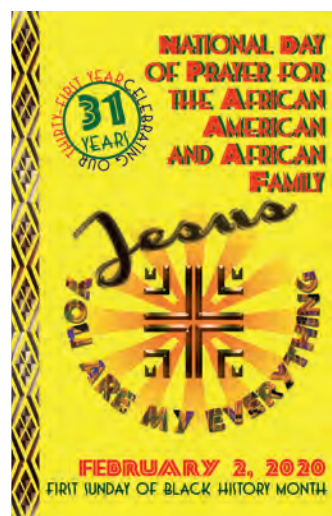
Special thanks go to St. Luke's Men's Club, Hitman Pest Control, The African American Committee of the San Antonio Area Foundation and other private donations to help fund these outreach programs

### ANGEL TREE

Holy Redeemer joined with Our Lady of Perpetual Help to provide Christmas gifts for 70-plus children on the angel tree. Each year parishioners are asked to take name(s) from the angel tree and purchase gifts for the children. They are asked to spend a maximum of \$25 for a gift. These are children who would otherwise not have gifts for Christmas. Krystal Abney coordinated that outreach effort.

### FOOD PANTRY

The next outreach activity will be to create a food pantry for food distribution. Hopefully that will occur sometime this year.



## Prayer for the African American and African Family

God of mercy and love, we place our African American and African families before you today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is

reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior and blessed assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of our Families, pray for us.

PRAYER COMPOSED BY FR. JIM GOODE, OFM, WHO IN 1989 FOUNDED THIS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY



## BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

# 'We have come this far by faith...'

Written by **Carol F. White**, archdiocesan liaison, Black Catholic Apostolate

As we look around the Church today and listen to all that is happening everywhere in the country, we as African American Catholics have a lot to be thankful for. We also have lots of work to do. Our gifts and talents are many, and these gifts need to be shared with others. Holy Redeemer has contributed much to the mosaic of the archdiocese. We continue to bring in nationally known speakers and musicians from the African American Catholic community to share their gifts and talents with us. It is our hope that others in the archdiocese will take advantage of these events and come and join with us to learn more about our culture and history. We have been talking about the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love." Holy Redeemer/Black Catholic Apostolate is planning to have a dialogue session on racism. This dialogue will be open to the entire Archdiocese. We will be bringing in theologians and others to facilitate the dialogue. More on that later.



Carol F. White

Have you gotten your copy of the document? There is now a study guide to go along with it. It good reading and study material. It will prepare you for the dialogue to come. Get your copy now and see what it is saying about racism.

Region X is still working on trying to identify African American Catholics in the region. There are some dioceses that have African American Catholics that are not connected with others in other parts of the region. We are going to need help finding those persons. African American Catholics cannot be served if we don't know who and where they are.

Region X is again sponsoring Unity Explosion 2020, with the Diocese of Beaumont hosting the event. Save the dates July 16-19. This is an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in the African American Catholic Church in all areas. The key point to remember here is that we as Black Catholics are not separate from the Church, we are a part of the mosaic of cultural diversity that exists in the Church today. With Father Kevin Fausz, CM, pastoring three distinctly different parishes, it has been a joy to share in each other's culture and learn more about our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Come join us at Holy Redeemer on Sunday, Feb. 23, as the Igbo Community joins us to celebrate the closing of Black History Month with Mass, food and fellowship. The Igbo Community celebrates Mass at Holy Redeemer every fourth Sunday at 1:30 p.m.



## Blessings abound at Holy Redeemer

The Holy Redeemer community flourishes with happy events and a sense of purpose: 1. Igbo Catholic Community; 2. Ethel Carroll, celebrating 105 years of life; 3. KPC Fourth Degree Ladies of Grace; 4. High school graduates from Holy Redeemer Parish with Father Kevin Fausz; 5. Father Kevin blesses RCIA class of 2020; 6. Mardi Gras 2019 King and Queen; 7. Father Chester Smith, revivalist, speaks to Holy Redeemer congregation; 8. Baptism of John Lester Battles III.

PICTURES PROVIDED BY IRENE & LEO EDWARDS





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Celebrating the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics

Save the date:

### February 15

Holy Redeemer Mardi Gras Gala

### February 21-22

Music workshop

### February 24

Induction of Father Kevin Fausz, CM, into the Black Worship Hall of Fame

### March 23-25

Spring Revival with Father Vernon Huguley from Birmingham, Ala.



## Black Worship Clergy Hall of Fame

Holy Redeemer has announced that its pastor, Very Rev. Kevin P. Fausz, CM, VU, has been selected to be a 2020 inductee to the Black Worship Clergy Hall of Fame. He has been selected along with the Rev. Dr. Claudette A. Copeland of New Creation Fellowship. The event will take place on Monday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. at the Antioch Community Sports Complex at 314 Eross Street in San Antonio. Tickets to the event are \$65 per person and can be purchased online at [www.Blackworshipusa.com](http://www.Blackworshipusa.com).



## Mardi Gras Gala at Holy Redeemer

Holy Redeemer is sponsoring its 29th Mardi Gras Gala. This is a time to gather as friends to celebrate and to join in the Mardi Gras Spirit! While it is a time for celebration, it is a time to renew friendships with family and friends. It is a time for Holy Redeemer to share and extend its hospitality to the people who are friends of the parish. As we gather, we are connecting with similar celebrations in Louisiana, Alabama and Texas.

This is the largest fundraiser for Holy Redeemer. Funds generated from this event are used for overall programs for the parish.

The King and Queen for Mardi Gras 2019 were Theo Guidry and Janice Mayfield.

## Music Ministry workshop to empower the people of God to pray through amazing sings

“We Must Work – A Music Ministry Workshop,” will be sponsored by Holy Redeemer Parish on Friday, Feb. 21, from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church at 1819 Nevada Street in San Antonio.

Presentations on Friday include “The Pastoral Impact” and “Let Us Go Rejoicing Mass Presentation,” by W. Clifford Petty. Saturday’s presentations are “The Pastoral Impact – II” by Kenneth W. Louis, “Let Us Go Rejoicing Mass Presentation” by Petty, and “Go Ye Therefore – Sending Forth – ‘Go in Peace’” by Rawn Harbor.

Harbor is one of the preeminent African American Catholic liturgists and musicians in the United States today. A gifted pianist and composer, he is a much sought-after workshop facilitator, speaker and liturgist.

Petty’s songs, hymns, and psalms can be found in many World Library Publications hymnals and missals, such as “One in Faith,” “We Celebrate,” “Word and Song,” and “Voices as One,” as well as being a contributing composer of several titles in the African-American Hymnal, “Lead Me, Guide Me: Second Edition,”

published by GIA Publications.

For the past four-and-a-half years, Louis has served as director of Liturgy and Music for Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Atlanta. He currently records and composes for GIA Publications and World Library Publications. His compositions have appeared in not only the “Lead Me, Guide Me” Catholic Hymnal, but also the African American Heritage and Total Praise Hymnals.

The workshop is free, but there will be a \$10 charge for the lunch that will be served on Saturday. Music ministers must register to ensure music packets. Registration can be made by calling (210) 532-5358.



W. Clifford Petty



Kenneth W. Louis



Rawn Harbor



The Vincentians present David Kauffman in concert, “Let us Love in Deed and in Truth,” to benefit the mission in Kenya, on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m., at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 618 Grimes Street in San Antonio.