



BCAC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Black Catholic
Advisory Circle of the Archdiocese of Seattle

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National Day of Prayer

WELCOME FROM CHAIR by SeVera Dowe

I am delighted to embrace this new year with great hope and anticipation. The Black Catholic Advisory Circle is growing and welcomes our latest members representing different areas in our Archdiocese. With new members come new ideas and energy to move our mission forward and promote a wonderful camaraderie among our group members.

We are sincerely grateful for the help of our partner groups in hosting guest speakers, promoting events, and financial support. These efforts have brought us all closer together during a time when we are pulled apart by the global pandemic.

Finally, to our supporters and my fellow members, you again set the tone for the year by helping us continue to bring the richness of Catholicism to the people of African descent and the richness of Black heritage to the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Our focus remains to share our gifts as we educate, empower and evangelize our faith.

JOIN THE JOURNEY FOR A LISTENING CHURCH



Synod 2021 2023

For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

Do you have questions about the 2021-2023 Synod?

What is the Synod? The Greek word synod means “journeying together.” Pope Francis is calling all God’s People worldwide across the Church to participate in the 2021-2023 Synod. This is the first time that laity and all of the baptized are invited by the Church to participate in the Synodal Process in this way.

The Synodal Process is described as “mutual listening, conducted at all levels of the Church, involving the entire People of God” (Pope Francis, Sept. 18, 2021). It is not a program or a plan to be implemented, and not a survey or opinion poll. The Pope further explains that it is not an event or series of events, nor is it a study group; it is “a new way of being church.” The synod offers an opportunity to become a listening church.

When will the Synod Happen? The Synod is happening now. Pope Francis officially opened the Synod in October of 2021. In the Archdiocese of Seattle, hundreds of volunteers have signed up as Synod Coordinators and facilitators to lead Synodal listening sessions.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, people in Synodal listening gatherings here and around the world are asked to listen to one another, and prayerfully reflect on these fundamental questions: A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

Who can participate in the Synod? The pope has said that “enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty!” All of the baptized are invited to participate in the Synod. Those who are often unheard, marginalized, or left out are especially encouraged to take part.

Contributor: Lisa Matchette

The Holy Father goes on to say: “The Pope, the Cardinal Vicar, and the auxiliary bishops are not more important than the others; no, all of us have a part to play and no one can be considered simply as an extra.”

“Journey together: the Spirit will lead you; trust in the Spirit. Do not be afraid to engage in dialogue and even to be taken aback by what you hear, for this is the dialogue of salvation.”

Why should I participate in the Synod? Black Catholics know well the power and importance of lifting every voice. Now, for the first time, the entire Church is being asked to participate in a Synod unlike any other. “Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: ‘It’s useless’ or ‘We’ve always done it this way?’” (Pope Francis, Oct. 10, 2021). The Pope asks this and invites the whole Church to become “a Church that does not stand aloof from life, but immerses herself in today’s problems and needs, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of God.”

What happens to the stories shared in Synodal listening sessions? Summary reports from local parish Synodal listening sessions are submitted to the chancery to be read, summarized, and included as part of a 10-page report to the USCCB. The deadline for submitting local listening summaries to the Chancery is May 6, 2022. The time to participate in the Synod is now.

Synod Timeline for Archdiocese of Seattle:

Nov-Dec 2021: Coordinator training
Nov 2021-April 2022: Local listening sessions across the globe and Archdiocese
May 6, 2022: Deadline to submit local listening summaries to the Chancery
June 4, 2022: Pentecost, Pre-synodal celebration, Closing Mass
June 30, 2022: Chancery report due to USCCB
Oct 2023: Synod of Bishops in Rome

Where can I learn more? [Visit archseattle.org/synod](https://www.archseattle.org/synod).

Check your local parish website or bulletin or ask leadership about dates and times for Synodal listening sessions and how to participate.

I have signed up for a session, how do I prepare for it? Materials on this page from the St. James Cathedral website are designed to help you prayerfully prepare for a synodal gathering: <https://www.stjames-cathedral.org/Events/2022/synodhomework.aspx>



A Reflection by Dcn. Carl Mary Chilo, O.P.

A Most Holy Lenten Season

March 2nd marks Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the forty-day penitential season of Lent. The forty days of Lent are meant to be a time of preparation. Christian believers throughout the world will allow themselves to be sprinkled or marked on the forehead with ashes. The faithful receive the ashes as a public declaration that we are sinners in need of God's grace and mercy.

We humbly announce to God and everyone that we are sinners as we enter this Lenten season. We soon realize that Lent is not only a season but also a journey that allows time for looking inward, listening to the Lord, self-honesty, and transformation.

Lent calls us to holiness. It reminds us that the Christian journey is not one that we undertake by ourselves. As Christians, we make this journey with Jesus and with each other. We are never alone.

Lent reveals the way of Jesus and echoes the call to fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Such practices are given for our good and the good of the entire holy Church.

This is a season of slowing our pace and sometimes even pausing. It is a time of rising above this passing world. It is a time for spiritual housecleaning. As we continue our journey through the season of Lent, we will reflect and pray. As we continue our journey with Jesus, through the season of Lent, our scripture readings will offer some good points for reflection and prayer.

We will be reminded of Jesus' Transfiguration. When you think about the experience of Jesus' Transfiguration, it is interesting to consider the question, "Who really changed in that moment?"

On the surface, it seems that Jesus is the one who was changed, but that's not really the case. Jesus remained the same both before and after the Transfiguration. Jesus simply allowed others to see His glory as the Son of God.

The people who were most changed by that moment were the disciples. They were given an insight into the presence of God among them. That insight was meant to change the way they saw and experienced life from then on.

During the Lenten season, we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem where He will show the greatest expression of love ever known: the crucifixion and resurrection. He knew He would face death, yet He continued forward in love to conquer sin and death and produce new life.

We must acknowledge that the way of Jesus requires dying to self. The way of Jesus requires change. The world's philosophy says, 'live for self,' but God's Word says, 'die to self.' When we die to self, we are no longer a slave to sin, and we instead live for Jesus.

Following Jesus on the Lenten Journey doesn't necessarily make our lives easier, but it always brings blessings. Lent is about recognizing who we are. It's a time when we take off the mask, look in the mirror, and recognize that our hearts and minds have become saturated with worldliness. Only then can we begin to allow the light of Christ to dispel the darkness of sin, heal our brokenness, and free ourselves from the slavery of sin.

This is the workings of Lent. Once we are blessed with clarity of mind and heart, we meet Jesus on the way and are purified and made clean again.

This is the Lenten journey. We want to journey through Lent with Jesus and pray that we resemble Jesus on Easter morning.

MLK MASS-A REFLECTION

by JoAnn Melina Lopez, Campus Minister for Liturgy, SeattleU

Since 2018, Seattle University has been proud to partner with the Black Catholic Advisory Circle to host the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mass at our Chapel of St. Ignatius on campus. Over the last few years (except in 2021), we have had the chance to gather, pray, learn, and discern together each January, as we consider how to live the legacy of Dr. King today.

In my role as Campus Minister for Liturgy, I worked behind the scenes to help coordinate the logistics for these liturgies, but for a variety of reasons was not able to attend in person until 2020. The experience was incredibly energizing, as we celebrated Eucharist together, connected with the community, and heard from our dynamic speakers. Shortly after, Mrs. Barbara Connor, whom I had met at the Mass, called and asked me to partner in celebrating Black Catholic History Month in November that year. I exuberantly said “yes”! Our SU Liturgy team had been seeking ways to more intentionally reflect the vibrant diversity of our Catholic community in our campus liturgies, and this seemed like a great step towards our goal. Little did we know that we would soon enter into a pandemic! Nevertheless, our Seattle University Campus Ministry partnership with Immaculate Conception Parish and the Black Catholic Advisory Circle has grown and flourished and has expanded to include a celebration of Black Catholic History Month over the last two years, musical collaborations, and ecumenical programs. Our students, staff, and faculty have expressed much gratitude for this partnership and the richness it has brought to our campus community. That this partnership has flourished in the midst of the pandemic is a particular grace – as we joyfully sang together on January 17 when we gathered to worship: “we’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord!”

On a personal note, our collaboration has helped me find new friends in faith, in ancestors like Sr. Thea Bowman, who dreamed of a church where we can all show up with all our identities; Mary Lou Williams, who used her musical gifts to compose a jazz Mass; Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner, who worked for racial justice and civil rights in the country and in the Catholic Church. It has also brought me friends from the Seattle BCAC like Severa Dowe, Deacon Joseph Connor, Sherrell Mitchell, and Barbara Connor, whose faith and passion inspire me daily. These living witnesses of Black Catholic faith have enriched my own life in this Church as a person of color, where I dream of showing up with all of myself and all my gifts, for God’s greater glory.

(Continued on Page 6)

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CHURCH SISTERS

*Breaking inside,
Trying hard to cover
Just take care of business.
We tick through agenda items,
Deadlines and dates
Contacts and calls.
But my grief leaks out
In a casual mention of the week I’ve had.
I can see their eyes change
even through blurry Zoom boxes
Love comes pouring through
More powerful than
Anything sorry old death can dish up.*

*Anything sorry old death can dish up.
The hole grief tried to carve
Suddenly fills, overflowing with their strength
And the power of Jesus’ words.
They lift me up
With God’s love.
That’s what church sisters do.*

Contributed by: Lisa Matchette

Feeding Your Mind

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS AND CHANGE THE WORLD

Elizabeth Wilkerson; **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** – #1 New York Times bestseller. Wilkerson examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by the hierarchy of human divisions.

Bryan Stevenson; **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** - From one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time comes to an unforgettable true story about the redeeming potential of mercy.

Michelle Alexander; **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness** - The New Jim Crow provides an account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement. Since its publication in 2010, the book has appeared on the New York Times bestseller list for more than a year; been dubbed the “secular bible of a new social movement” by numerous commentators; and has led to consciousness-raising efforts in universities, churches, community centers, re-entry centers, and prisons nationwide. The New Jim Crow tells a truth our nation has been reluctant to face.

Jonathan Kozol; **Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation** - A gently written work, *Amazing Grace* asks questions that are at once political and theological. What is the value of a child's life? What exactly do we plan to do with those whom we appear to have defined as economically and humanly superfluous? How cold -- how cruel, how tough -- do we dare be?

Jane Vennard; **Embracing the World: Praying for Justice and Peace** - reveals the twofold nature of prayer: both contemplation and action. Vennard explains that prayer is a cycle where prayer leads to service and service leads to reflection and back to God. Throughout the book, she explores many different forms of outward-reaching prayer and includes a wealth of vivid descriptions, helpful explanations, captivating stories, and biblical and theological reflections.



Arlisa Norwood; **Black Heroes** - Discover where in the world they lived, and what their lives were like growing up. Learn about the obstacles they faced on the way to making groundbreaking accomplishments. You'll find out how these inspirational figures created lasting change—and paved the way for future generations.

Robert Coles; **The Story of Ruby Bridges** - The year is 1960, and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her. A powerful narrative, Ruby's story of courage, faith, and hope continues to resonate more than 60 years later.

Family Activities

Acts of Kindness during Lent is a great way for families to prepare for the mystery of Easter. Lent helps us get ready. How great for us to do it together.

- Leave a happy note for a stranger.
- Call your grandparents
- Pick up litter
- Let someone go ahead of you in line.
- Return someone's cart to the store.
- Compliment a friend.
- Wash someone's car.
- Plant something
- Bake dessert for a neighbor.
- Walk dogs at an animal shelter.
- Read a book to someone.
- Donate a toy a charity.
- Say thank you
- Teach someone something new.
- Make a homemade gift for someone.
- Donate coloring books and crayons to a Children's Hospital.
- Pay for someone's meal in a drive thru.
- Bring cookies to a friend or stranger.
- Send a postcard to a shut in, service member or elderly.
- Clean the park in your neighborhood.
- Create toiletries bags for homeless.
- Donate new pajamas for foster kids.
- Smile at everyone, it's contagious.

PROFILES

IN OUR HISTORY



Sister Edward Vincent Dugue' SSF (nee Bertha Dugue') was the daughter of Paul and Clemence Dugue', sister to my mother, Eva Dugue' Davidson. Our family, especially my grandfather Paul, was so proud to have a daughter as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family dedicating her life in service to others.

My aunt, Sister Edward Vincent Dugue' entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family on September 8, 1940, professed temporary vows on March 19, 1943, and took perpetual vows on August 15, 1949. For 60 years, Sister administered to God's people in New Orleans at St. Mary's Academy, the Motherhouse and Lafon Nursing facility, at St. Paul School and Holy Rosary Institute in Lafayette, Louisiana, at St. Frances Xavier in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at St. Peter Claver High School in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, at Our Lady of Grace in Reserve, Louisiana, at Holy Family School in Covington, Louisiana, at Holy Ghost in Opelousas, Louisiana, at Holy Redeemer School in Galveston, Texas and at St. Gerard School in San Antonio, Texas.

At these ministries, Sister Edward Vincent Dugue' served as principal, teacher, local superior, a participant in parish activities, member of parish councils, school boards, social services, and pastoral ministry. Sister Edward Vincent Dugue' enjoyed her time with her students as she coached them in extracurricular activities. She considered her work with the sick and the elderly a "noble experience."

I have vivid memories of my aunt Sister Edward Vincent Dugue' or as her nieces and nephews called her "Auntie Sister." She would come to our house for dinner on Sundays, catching up on our activities and school accomplishments. When my family relocated to Seattle, she came for a visit for the first time to the Pacific Northwest! As a family, we took her around the city sightseeing and we even went to Canada. It was so interesting to see how people reacted to seeing a woman of color in a traditional habit. Reactions ranged from stares to someone actually approaching her to genuflect, kiss her hand and say, "God bless you!"

Contributor: Gaynell T. Walker

MLK MASS: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

These many personal and communal fruits have grown from our partnership around the celebration of a Mass each year to commemorate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and so our Seattle University community was very excited to celebrate in person again this January at the Chapel of St. Ignatius. Gathered with Catholics from across the Archdiocese, with Bishop Elizondo presiding, we remembered the faith that was the source and wellspring of Dr. King's work. As our speaker Gregory Alex reminded us: above all, Dr. King lived his life not as merely a civil rights activist, or a preacher, or a political figure, but as a prophet of the good news of Jesus Christ. It was Christ's mission – of proclaiming liberty to captives, setting prisoners free, and proclaiming a year acceptable to God – which Dr. King took on as his life's work, in his own time. We gather each year to remember Dr. King's life and legacy, and to ask ourselves how to live Christ's mission and dream for our world, today, in our own context. This Mass is a reminder that we have an invitation to partner now for the uplifting of human dignity, justice, and flourishing of life for Black folks in the US. This year, Mr. Alex shared how he responded to this call in his own life, in his work as founder and leader of the Matt Talbot Center, which supports those experiencing addiction, houselessness, and mental illness in Seattle. (Mr. Alex insisted that God was the founder, he is merely a co-founder!) How might we each, and together, be called to partner in Christ's mission?

"Dawn breaks in when we look into the eyes of another person and recognize them as a sibling," Bishop Elizondo shared, in his homily at our MLK Day Mass. At the table of the Eucharist, we have the opportunity to be formed into the Body of Christ – walking in Jesus' ways, speaking an encouraging word, and seeing with Christ's eyes, recognizing everyone as our kin, in all of our rich diversity. The Eucharistic table gives us a chance to live and imagine that dream of God that Dr. King gave his life to – a dream of a world, a kingdom of God, where all are equal at the banquet table, all have enough, and all recognize our kinship with one another, as children of the heavenly Father. Nourished by our common celebration of the Eucharist at this year's MLK Day Mass, I pray that we, each and all of us, recognize one another as siblings, and see dawn breaking into our world – a dawn that heralds a day of justice, peace, hope, and liberation for all.

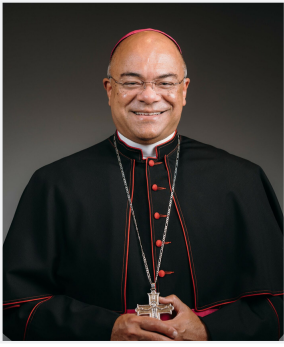
As we wait for that day, we continue to gather, pray, learn, share stories, and celebrate Black Catholic faith in all its richness. May this partnership between Seattle University and the Black Catholic Advisory Circle carry us forward – "let us march on, till victory is won."

Feeding Your Faith

Podcasts available on National Black Catholic Congress Website (nbccongress.org)

- Catholic In Today World – African American Catholic Podcast
- Ask Fr. Josh – Answers question submitted by listeners
- Christ at The Center – Fr. Raymond Harris
- The Gloria Purvis Podcast – Gloria was the Keynote Speaker at the Washington Stated Catholic Cornerstone Conference on Oct. 2021
- In His Light - Fr. Reginald Samuels

ARCHBISHOP SHELTON J. FABRE



Eugene Antonio Marino, SSJ (05/29/1934 – 11/12/2000), an American Catholic prelate who served as Archbishop of Atlanta, Georgia from 1988 until 1990, was the first African American archbishop in history. He was also the first such auxiliary bishop in Washington, D.C., and the first to be secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Another first will take place in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 30, 2022, when newly named Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, one of 12 African American Bishops in the US, will be installed making him the first Black Archbishop of Louisville.

Archbishop Kurtz turned 75 on August 18, 2021, and as required by canon law must resign at the age of 75. Pope Francis accepted his resignation and appointed Bishop Shelton J. Fabre as archbishop of Louisville. He will shepherd about 156,000 Catholics in 24 counties of central Kentucky, has 110 parishes and about 20,000 students are served by 48 schools from kindergarten to high school.

Shelton Joseph Fabre was born October 25, 1963, in New Roads, Louisiana, number five of six children. After graduating valedictorian from high school, he entered St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana, and in 1985 acquired his bachelor's degree in history. He continued his studies in Belgium at the American College in Louvain, a seminary that was affiliated with the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. He earned a bachelor of religious studies degree in 1987 and a master of religious studies degree in 1989 from the Catholic university.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on August 5, 1989, and went on to serve as a pastor and associate pastor. Other areas of service include:

- Chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola
- Defender of the bond for the diocese's marriage tribunal
- Dean of the diocese's Northwest Deanery
- Helped with rebuilding efforts that followed the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005
- Auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans from 2006 to 2013
- Chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism.
- Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux in southwest Louisiana since 2013

His episcopal motto is "Comfort My People," which he chose when ordained a bishop in 2007 as an auxiliary of New Orleans. Congratulations Your Excellency!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25, 2022 – Prayer Service Commemorating 2nd Anniversary of the Murder of George Floyd (TBA). Look for more information in your church bulletin.

June 14 – 18, 2022 - Lyke Conference, "Listen to the Lambs: Black Confirmation - Rejoicing in the Gifts of the Young." Hilton Embassy Suites in Grapevine, Texas. For more information visit <https://www.lykeconference.com>.

July 19, 2022 - Juneteeth - Now a National Holiday

July 20-23, 2023 - National Black Catholic Congress. Gaylord Resort & Convention Center. 201 Waterfront St, National Harbor, MD 20745. For more information visit <https://nbccongress.org/event/nbcc-congress-xiii-gathering>

Various dates – Synod Listening Dates, deadlines for Synod sessions to be completed - Check your church bulletin.



What You Can Do:

- Check out the National Black Catholic Congress website, nbcc@nbccongress.org, on "Celebrating Black Leaders who have made history and a new generation making history now."
- During Lent join a Lenten prayer group in your parish.
- Explore in detail, the steps to sainthood and the candidates for sainthood.
- Read suggested books on Social Justice.
- Volunteer in a local Catholic school, they can always use your help.
- Acknowledge the homeless person when you see them, they are human beings also just in a different circumstance than you.

PRAYER



During the month of February, Black History Month, there were many events and publications celebrating the past and continuing contributions of the African American diaspora to this diverse nation. One commemorative date was on February 6. The National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family.

In 1989 Fr. James Goode, OFM, inaugurated the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family to give special thanks to God for their families and to place their cares in the loving arms of Jesus. It is held each year on the first Sunday of February, a perfect prelude to celebrating Black History Month.

It was May 1972 in New York City, James Goode became the first African American ordained priest from Roanoke, Virginia. Goode is a member of the Family of Franciscan Friars–Province of the Immaculate Conception. He was the Pastoral Director of Solid Ground Franciscan Ministry for many years and retired in 2021. Solid Ground was an evangelization ministry with African American Families in New York. Fr. Goode is also the founder and president of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life. He has served as president of NBCC, (National Black Catholic Congress) and on the Board of Consultants for the USCCB, is a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and a Life Member of the Historical Alpha Gamma Lambda Chapter and member of the Knights of Peter Claver 4th Degree, to mention a few.

In honor of celebrating his life which ended on March 4, 2022, pray for our families often, not just once a year, but remember especially the first Sunday in February. Prayer is even more powerful when an entire nation is praying at the same time.....or same time zone.

You can find more about Fr. James Goode, OFM, Ph.D., on <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sground440> and FRANCISCAN MINISTRY with African American Families www.blackcatholicsforlife.org/credits/credits.html

-Contributor Deborah Tinsley

PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

God of Mercy and Love we place our African American 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.

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