“This is the greatest country under the sun but we must not let our love of country, our patriotic loyalty cause us to abate one bit in our protest against wrong and injustice.”

Madame C. J. Walker

April 2021

General Information
THE AACC 29TH ANNIVERSARY MASS
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021 – 12 NOON.
Please join the Archdiocese of Santa Fe African American Catholic Community for the 29th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 12 noon. Join us in person at St. Joseph on the Rio Grande. In person attendance is limited currently to 125 with COVID-19 Safe practices in force. Note: This may change if restrictions are changed by the State of New Mexico. Or you can join us virtually. Mass will be live-streamed and recorded: https://www.facebook.com/Masses-from-St-Joseph-on-the-Rio-Grande-112836890430507. Donations can be mailed to the AACC at 4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW ABQ, NM 87120 with AACC on memo line or made securely online at https://www.archdiocesesantafegiving.org/AACC. For more information call 505-836-3627.

Liturgy for April 25, 2021
(4th Sunday of Easter)

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12 [Salvation in Jesus]
Peter explains the cure of the cripple. It was a miracle performed in the name of Jesus, whom the people had rejected and crucified. There is no salvation except in Jesus.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2 [Children of God]
The Father shows his love for human beings by calling them his children. The world does not recognize the followers of Christ because it did not recognize Christ himself.

Gospel: John 10:11-18 [The Good Shepherd]
Jesus compares himself to "the good Shepherd." A shepherd cares for his sheep, lives and dies for them if necessary. There is to be one flock and one shepherd.

The Mission Statement
In the context of our multicultural church, we support and reinforce the African American Catholic family and individuals. We invite, challenge and develop an appreciation of our African American culture through liturgy, social, spiritual and educational programs. We pray that our culture will enhance the universality of the Church and the cause of evangelization.
Please Join Us For
OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS
Part 3:
“Love Goodness:
The Urgent Call of Love”
Ms. Mary Leisring will explore the call to heal racism through love by following the example of Servant of God, Julia Greeley.
Ms. Leisring is the former Director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Denver and is involved in promotion of the cause of Julia Greeley.

The third in a series exploring the Pastoral letter Against Racism,
“Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love” by the U.S. Catholic Bishops

April 26, 2021
6pm-7:30pm (MST)
This event is free. Pre-registration required
Click here (or copy into browse) to pre-register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIvf-Gqqj8uG9doBS0wcUYoVWZqOYOpTckj

Questions, please contact the Office of Social Justice and Respect Life at 505-831-8205 or mgarcia@archdiosf.org

Webinar Series:
(*TBD-Dates, Times and Speakers)

Part 3: Love Goodness: The Urgent Call of Love (April 26, 2021)
Part 4: Walk Humbly with God (*June 2021)

Sponsored by:
Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, African American Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Archdiocese of Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, with support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Racism and the Native American Experience
In the November 2018 Pastoral Letter Against Racism, Open Wide Our Hearts, the Catholic bishops of the United States urge all Catholics to acknowledge “the scourge of racism” that still exists in our hearts, words, actions and institutions. Racism is rooted in a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of people of a different race. It does not reflect the inner life of God—the Triune unity of three-in-one—that we are called to imitate. Racism manifests itself in sinful individual actions, which contribute to structures of sin that perpetuate division and inequality. The Native American experience offers a particular illustration of racism in history and today.

When Europeans arrived on the shores of this country, they were often blind to the dignity of indigenous peoples. Colonial and later U.S. policies toward Native American communities were often violent, paternalistic, and directed toward the theft of Native American land. Native Americans were killed, imprisoned, sold into slavery, and raped. These policies decimated entire communities and brought about tragic death.

The results were massive forced relocations of people as endured by the Cherokee people on the “Trail of Tears” and of the Navajo in the “Long Walk.” Thousands of men, women, and children died during those forced removals. Schools and orphanages began “Americanizing” Native children by forcing them to abandon all facets of their culture, including their native languages. The devastation caused by national policies of expansion and manifest destiny, fueled by racist attitudes, led to the near eradication of Native American peoples and their cultures.

The effects of this evil remain visible in the great difficulties experienced by Native American communities today. Poverty, unemployment, inadequate health care, poor schools, the exploitation of natural resources, and disputes over land ownership in Native American communities are the legacy of these evils today.

In Heritage and Hope: Evangelization in the United States (NCCB Pastoral Letter, 1990), the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote, “As Church, we often have been unconscious and insensitive to the mistreatment of our Native American brothers and sisters and have at times reflected the racism of the dominant culture of which we have been a part.” All Catholics are called to give renewed attention to historical and present injustices resulting from racism against Native Americans, better integrate the needs and contributions of Native Catholics, and work for greater justice for the descendants of the first Americans.
Born into slavery in 1787, Pierre Toussaint [too-SAHNT] was clandestinely educated by his master, Jean Bérnard. The Bérnard Plantation was located on the island of Saint-Dominque, a French colony. After the 1804 revolution, it would became known as Haiti.

During these tumultuous times Monsieur Jean Bérnard fled to New York City with his wife (Marie Elisabeth), family, and five slaves. The Bérnard’s hoped to wait-out the revolution, then return to Haiti. As it was, their plantation was confiscated by the revolution. Soon, Monsieur Jean Bérnard died of pleurisy—a painful and suffocating inflammatory lung disease.

Although a teenager, Pierre was quite responsible and compassionate. He considered it his charitable obligation to care for his master’s widow (Marie Elisabeth), the few other household members, and the fellow slaves. Consequently, Pierre worked hard in the trade for which his master had arranged . . . hairdressing, barbering, and wig care. His proficiency and originality provided Pierre notoriety and wealth as he pampered his increasing aristocratic clientele—customarily in their fancy homes.

It was easily evident that Pierre was a very devout young man among those who knew him. Those from St. Peter’s Church who knew him, observed that he was a dally Communicant and pray-er of the Rosary, a wise teacher of catechism and Church dogma, a faithful devotee to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, an almsgiver to the poor, selfless in providing education for the school-age black children, and hands-on caretaking of the cholera and yellow fever local populace.

Treasuring the value of an education, Pierre was very instrumental in funding St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic School (Harlem)—the first New York City Catholic school for black children. And, being a contemporary of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pierre contributed finances and moral support for her efforts toward establishing an orphanage in New York City—because of the times—for white children.

In 1807, Madame Bénard (when Pierre was 41) freed him from slavery. Just a few months afterward, she died. Four years later, Pierre courted and married Marie Rose Juliette, whose freedom he purchased. Pierre and Marie were kindred spirits because they fully supported and acted as one in charitable endeavors.

They adopted an orphan girl, Euphémie. Sadly, she would die at age 14. So, the Toussaints opened their spacious home to homeless sick people, and single men seeking employment—some, to whom Pierre taught hairdressing and/or barbering. The beloved couple was creative in living charity. Once, a gentleman said to Pierre: ―You are very rich. Why do you still work?‖ Pierre answered: ―If I stop, the suffering of others will increase.‖

Although very rich, Pierre was even more humble. Rich, he contributed great finances to the building of the first St. Patrick Cathedral. Humble, an usher turned him away as he was entering the church for its dedication. But, another usher, who recognized him, brought him to a place of honor.

In 1996, Pope John Paul II declared Pierre Toussaint, ―Venerable.‖ Today the faithful make intercession for confirmation of one more miracle that Pierre’s sainthood be celebrated universally.

Matthew 10:30; Luke 12:7

Like the Acacia tree, African descendents of the Western Hemispheres also have a deep history (roots); can survive the cruelties of slavery (resilience, perseverance, wisdom, etc.); can still offer spiritual fruit to our communities (stability, fruit bearer, continuity).
Special Intentions
The AACC ask that you keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Betty Dorko: Betty is recovering from a recent emergency surgery. Betty and Ernest Dorko (Lambert Scholarship Fund member) were very good friends with Fr. Rollins Lambert and have been members of the AACC from the beginning. Betty please get well soon.

Ross Cardinali: Ross is the father of Sean Cardinali. Sean informed us (as of this publication) that Ross is terminally ill. Sean (and his children) are very active members of the AACC. We wish them all comfort and our prayers.

John Caldwell: John has recently had a very serious illness. John is one of the ushers at St. Joseph’s on the Rio Grande Church. He helps with the AACC masses and has been a good friend to the AACC for many years. Get well soon John.

Heddy Long: Recently passed away this month. Heddy was the directory of the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life (ASF). The AACC has interacted with her on several occasions and we consider Heddy a dear friend. RIP Heddy.

Congratulations

Maryah Burrell: Maryah will be graduating for high school soon. She was a three time recipient of the Fr. Rollins Lambert Scholarship while attending San Felipe De Neri Catholic School (see the article on Maryah in the January 2021AACC Newsletter). Maryah we wish you well in your post high school endeavors.

Black Racial Injustice Trivia

April 4, 1968: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

April 11, 1946: President Woodrow Wilson’s cabinet begins government-wide segregation of workplaces, restrooms, and lunchrooms.

April 15, 1896: This week, the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments in the Plessy v. Ferguson; its decision on May 18 adopts “separate but equal” doctrine to uphold Southern segregation laws and practices.