O Autumn, Autumn! O pensive light and wistful sound!

Gold-haunted sky, green-haunted ground!

When, wan, the dead leaves flutter by
Deserted realms of butterfly!
When robins band themselves together
To seek the sound of sun-steeped weather;
And all of summer’s largesse goes
For lands of olive and the rose!

This poem is in the public domain.
In the beginning, there were Black Catholics

In 1993, Father Cyprian Davis sat down with the editors of U.S. Catholic to talk about Black Catholic history and the future of the Black Catholic Church.

A U.S. CATHOLIC INTERVIEW

Would it surprise you to learn that some people believe St. Augustine, St. Monica, and St. Cyril of Alexandria were Black? Well, were they? “It’s hard to say what color St. Augustine’s skin was,” says Father Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., but “I’m convinced he wasn’t a blond. You could say he was culturally African.”

Davis, a professor of church history at St. Meinrad School of Theology and author of The History of Black Catholics in the United States (Crossroad, 1992), reminds us that the Catholic Church was not European originally but Mediterranean. He adds, “Remember, Ethiopia was a Christian nation earlier than many nations in Europe. It was a Christian kingdom before Ireland was evangelized, before more of North Germany was evangelized, and before Poland was a Catholic country.” Read more...

Cyprian Davis, O.S.B. (September 9, 1930 - May 18, 2015) was an African-American Catholic monk, priest, and church historian at St. Meinrad School of Theology.

The History of Black Catholics in the United States

By Cyprian Davis

This book makes an extremely valuable contribution to our understanding of African-American religious life by presenting the first full-length treatment of the Black Catholic experience. It should be read by all interested in the history and culture of Black Americans.

Item #103611 $26.95 Order Now

Are you called to a religious vocation?
African American Catholicism.
See Fr. Cyprian Davis' book, The History of Black Catholics, under Resources.

A Sister's Story
Q&A Session with Sister Desiré Anne-Marie Findlay, CSSF

Q: What was your life like before the convent?
A: I grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and it was full of all the fun stuff, you know, family, friends, shopping, movies, plus I had the chance to dance on a D-league basketball team while I was in college. I decided to pursue a degree in Secondary Education, and loved the thought of having my own classroom through which I could change the world.

Read more...

New director of Black Catholics Office sees church welcome as essential

When The King Desires Your Beauty
A Practical Guide To Discern Religious Life
From Our Lady of the Angels Trappist-Cistercian Monastery
To learn more about the monastic life of Our Lady of the Angels, visit their website by clicking here.

A Call to Men by Tony Porter
At TEDWomen, Tony Porter makes a call to men everywhere: Don’t “act like a man.” Telling powerful stories from his own life, he shows how this mentality, drummed into so many men and boys, can lead men to disrespect, mistreat and abuse women and each other. His solution: Break
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James Andrews, director of the archdiocesan Office for Black Catholics.

By Matthew Gambino for CatholicPhilly.com

Slowly, Catholics are returning to church, at least those who are able. Even as restrictions from the COVID-19 coronavirus lift, there remain the essentials of inviting people to return to the Mass and sacraments, and James Andrews has good ideas for how to do just that – for the benefit of Black Catholics and everyone in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Read more...

Tony Porter is an educator and activist who is internationally recognized for his effort to end violence against women.

ENCYCLICAL LETTER: FRATELLI TUTTI
Pope Francis encourages fraternity and social friendships to build a more peaceful and just world.

Download by clicking the image below.

Black Catholics: Embracing our past to shape our future
O Autumn, Autumn! O pensive light and wistful sound!

Fr. Cyprian Davis, O.S.B. (September 9, 1930 – May 18, 2015), was a Benedictine monk of St Meinrad Archabbey and professor of church history at St Meinrad School of Theology. He was a founding member of the National Black Clergy Caucus and author of "The History of Black Catholics in the United States" among other books and articles.

In this video, recorded in Roanoke Virginia, Fr. Cyprian gives an insightful understanding of African-American religious life at Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

Photo Credit: Creative Commons, La Cancillería de Ecuador

AMERICA The Jesuit Review

Five theologians on the biggest takeaways from ‘Fratelli Tutti’

Vincent J. Miller | Kate Ward | Drew Christiansen | Kevin Ahern | C. Vanessa White

A Call to Discern the Depths of Our Politics

With the release of every encyclical, there is a rush to assess what is new and noteworthy, to find the most media-worthy and tweetable lines. There are plenty of these in “Fratelli Tutti”: forceful critiques of the divisive effects of capitalism and technology, an unambiguous magisterial rejection of the death penalty and what is perhaps the church’s most sustained denunciation of nationalism and populism since “Mit Brennender Sorge” in 1937. Read more...
After the shooting death of Michael Brown by a white police officer in nearby Ferguson, Missouri, Bishop Braxton of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, issued his first major pastoral statement on the racial divide in America. This timely and thought-provoking volume opens with that statement, and concludes five years later with the bishop’s reflection on the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. These events, five years apart, are the bookends on an ongoing effort to contend with the persistent racial divide and its meaning for the nation and the Catholic Church in America.

Read more...
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— Brad Paisley

There is truly music in the air, there must be a God in the air.

Aziza and Siani Kayani are shown on their wedding day at the Baltimore Basilica. (Courtesy of Bradley Images Photography, with permission of Aziza Kayani)

Sturdy foundation via Baltimore, Tanzania

By Kyle Taylor
Special to the Catholic Review

Third in a series about married couples who met through the Catholic Church or one of its institutions.

It was at the Mother Mary Lange Awards in 2015 when Aziza Cooper, the administrative assistant for the Office of Black Catholic Ministries, was approached by Ava Brown about “a good man, a man of God” at her church, St. Edward in Baltimore.

“She said ‘I have a nice young man I’d like you to meet,’ ” she recalled. “At first I was apprehensive, but then I was like, ‘Yeah, sure.’ ” Read more...

Calabash Presentation (first) -- Welcoming of the bride to the groom’s family with traditional brew from Tanzania’s Chagga ethnic group called Mbege. Mbege is served in a wooden Calabash to the bride and groom to drink. Mbege is traditionally made from green bananas.

Kanga Presentation (second) -- The Kiswahili translation for this ceremony is “Kumpamba bibi harusi ana kumkaribisha kwa Watanzania” (“To shower the bride
A special note from Aziza and Siani Kayani

As we approach our second-year wedding anniversary, we’re filled with joyful, but anxious expectations of what the future holds. The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the unforeseen social unrest and passionately uncompromising political divisions in America, have added an unimaginable degree of complication and uncertainty to our lives. However, we can honestly and gratefully say that the social distancing measures and widely adopted full-time working from home policies, have brought us even closer together than we ever expected going into this marriage. We strongly feel that this has been possible primarily because of the time we intentionally set aside weekly to pray with one another. Sunday Catholic mass has also taken an extraordinarily amazing new life as a result of the pandemic because it has enabled us to share mass via Zoom weekly with our family members who reside in Maryland, Delaware, Canada, and England.

Our prayer time together and with family has been especially valuable on those rare occasions when the two of us are at odds with one another. When we unite during our own personal prayer moments, and with family during Sunday mass, it in a way compels us to communicate with one another through prayer. This essentially reconciles whatever disagreement or issue that we might have had with one another that day or week. This togetherness through prayer deflates our passion that might have created the disagreement or issue, and opens up our willingness to speak with one another after the prayer to further mend our disagreement or issue. As we look to the future, we are filled with unrelenting hope at the power of attending mass, praying, and praising of God, but most importantly, doing it all together, as one unit, a family, in both challenging and encouraging times.

About the Study

The Study of Spirituality in the United States is a qualitative and quantitative inquiry into how people—of all spiritual and religious backgrounds—from across the country describe their spirituality. Through illuminating personal stories and survey data, the
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| Study reveals how the spiritual dimension of our nature informs our understanding of ourselves and each other. This study seeks to build on existing spirituality research by reflecting how people understand spirituality and live spiritual lives in their own words, and exploring the relationship—and perceptions of the relationship—between spirituality and public engagement. Access the study here.

UPCOMING NBCC WEBINAR:

OCTOBER 28, 2020 | 4:00-5:30 PM EDT

Healthy Mind, Healthy Faith: How brain health impacts spiritual health, and vice-versa.

This webinar will focus on identifying what brain (mental) health is, its pervasiveness in the Black community and how we can be champions of change in our community around this issue. We will focus on the intersection of mental health and faith and give tangible signs and resources to help increase our positive response to mental health.

Facilitated by:

**Tricia B. Bent-Goodley, Ph.D., LICSW, LCSW-C**

Dr. Tricia Bent-Goodley is a Howard University Professor Emeritus, School of Social Work and a Graduate Professor, Department of Public Health, Graduate School.

Panelists:

**Robert J. Wingfield, Ph.D.**

Dr. Robert Wingfield is a licensed psychologist and Director of Behavioral Health at Boys Town in Washington, DC where he provides outpatient behavioral healthcare to children, teens, families, and young adults.

**Dwight Hollier, LPC, NCC**

Mr. Dwight Hollier is a National Board Certified Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor with extensive experience working with adolescents, families, and adults around a variety of clinical and non-clinical issues.

REGISTER NOW!
DID YOU MISS THIS WEBINAR?

Watch the video recording now!

The Male Viewpoint on Domestic Violence

This webinar will explore the role of men of faith in responding to domestic violence. Through an interactive panel discussion with male experts, we will explore how to support men exposed to domestic violence, how to support healthy manhood conversations, and ways to build conversations with young men and boys on these topics.

The first thing Mother Teresa did every morning

The first thing Mother Teresa did every morning
NFCYM WEBINAR
(National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry)

10 Key Findings About the Religious Lives of U.S. Teens and Their Parents

Thursday, October 29, 2020
2 pm - 3 pm ET | 11 am - 12 pm PT

Parents have a lot of influence over their teenagers – including when it comes to religion. But while teens in the United States take after their parents religiously in many ways, they stand out in some others, according to a new Pew Research Center report. This webinar will highlight those recent findings and features panelists reflecting on the meaning and impact it has upon the Catholic Church and those who minister to and with young people and their parents.

REGISTER HERE!
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UPCOMING OBSERVANCES AND CELEBRATIONS:

NOVEMBER:
Black Catholic History Month
All Saints Day -- Sunday, November 1, 2020
All Souls Day -- Monday, November 2, 2020
Election Day -- Tuesday, November 3, 2020

From the USCCB, Prayers for Death and Dying
In your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.
In this life you embraced them with your tender love;
deliver them now from every evil
and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:
welcome them into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain,
but fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

PROFILE:
Most Reverend Guy Sansaricq
(First name is pronounced hard [g]+ long e)

Born in Haiti, Guy A. Sansaricq decided at age 13 that he wanted to become a priest. He attended seminary in the Jeremie Diocese, after which he attended St. Paul's Pontifical Seminary, where he studied philosophy and theology. In 1960 he was ordained a priest in the cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He was assigned by his bishop to serve as chaplain for Haitian immigrants in the Bahamas, then he was given a scholarship to study social
Diocese of Brooklyn and was appointed diocesan coordinator of the Haitian Apostolate, and in 1987 he was selected to head the National Haitian Apostolate. He retired as an active Bishop in October 2010.

In his apostolic letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* (RVM), St. John Paul II tells how we are to assimilate the mysteries of the rosary by meditating on the life of Jesus as we contemplate each mystery. When we immerse ourselves into the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, with the aid of the Blessed Virgin and by means of contemplation, we enter more deeply into the life of Jesus, and we are rewarded by the "fruits" of the mysteries, which are listed below:

**Joyful Mysteries:**
- Annunciation: *humility*;
- Visitation: *love of neighbor*;
- Birth of Jesus: *detachment*;
- Presentation: *obedience*;
- Finding in the Temple: *greater devotion to Jesus*.

**Luminous Mysteries:**
- Baptism: *openness to Holy Spirit*;
- Miracle at Cana: *Mary's intercession*;
- Proclamation of the Kingdom & Repentance: *Christian witness*;
- Transfiguration: *courage to bear the cross*;
- Institution of the Holy Eucharist: *greater love for the Holy Eucharist*.

**Sorrowful Mysteries:**
- Agony in the Garden: *trust in God*;
- Scourging at the Pillar: *purity*;

- Crowning with Thorns: *fortitude*;
- Carrying of the Cross: *perseverance in trials*;
- Crucifixion: *forgiveness for others*.

**Glorious Mysteries:**
- Resurrection: *faith*;
- Ascension: *hope*;
- Descent of the Holy Spirit: *gifts of the Holy Spirit*;
- Assumption: *To Jesus through Mary*;
- Coronation: *final perseverance*. 
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Interview With God -
www.InterviewWithGodSite.com
http://www.InterviewWithGodSite.com - Photographed and created by Floyd Holdman, Willie Holdman, & Richard Holdman. We hope you enjoy this as much as we had creating it.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.
John 15:1-4

Ongoing Crisis in Haiti

Congressional Research Service Report | Updated March 5, 2020

Haiti’s Political and Economic Conditions

Plagued by chronic political instability and frequent natural disasters, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the poorest countries in the world. Haiti’s poverty is massive and deep. Almost 60% of the population lives under the national poverty line of $2.41 per day. Almost a quarter of the population lives under the national extreme poverty line of $1.23 per day. In addition, Haiti continues to recover from the 2010 earthquake that devastated the capital of Port-au-Prince, whose original estimated economic damage was $8 billion to $14 billion. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew, which the World Bank characterized as the most devastating disaster since the earthquake, caused damage estimated to equal 32% of Haiti’s gross domestic product (GDP). The agricultural, livestock, and fishing sectors suffered losses of about $600 million. A two-year drought, compounded by Hurricane Matthew, largely destroyed Haiti’s food supply. More than 96% of Haiti’s 11 million people are at risk from natural disasters, and Haiti is one of the most exposed countries in the world to climate change (Pg. 4). Read more...

What Can You Do to Help?

Love A Child

About Love A Child

Love A Child, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian humanitarian organization, serving the needs of children in Haiti.

Founders Bobby and Sherry Burnette live year-round in Fond Parisien, Haiti at the Love A Child Orphanage. They are full-time missionaries who minister to the poorest of the poor in Haiti. Working to spread the Word of God, showing Christ's love by example, Love A Child's team focuses on easing suffering, providing nourishment, and changing lives in the name of Jesus.
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Our outreach programs include (Click to learn more):

- Schools
- Feeding Programs
- Orphanage
- Medical Care
- Sustainability

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MORTEL FOUNDATION

High Hopes for Haiti

What We Do

Our goal is to Cultiv8 Haiti by providing education, support and hope to the economically, socially and intellectually deprived children living in one of the poorest nations in the world.

Our approach combines excellent academic curriculum with an environment that builds strong character to produce a new generation of competent and compassionate leaders that will Cultiv8 Haiti.

The Cultiv8 Haiti Approach

Investing in Students, Elevating Communities
Educate Students
• Form Leaders
• Cultiv8 a Nation

DONATE TODAY!

Photo by Marie Arago for CRS

Catholic Relief Services

CRS in Haiti

For more than 60 years, CRS has worked in Haiti to tackle poverty, create more powerful and just societies, and help communities develop the knowledge, understanding, and skills to bring about desired change so they can drive their own recovery and development. Partnering with the Catholic Church, the Government of Haiti, and more than 200 faith-based and community-based organizations, our work includes:

• Emergencies
• Education
• Health and Social Services
• Agriculture
• Partnership

DONATE TODAY!
Lunchtime Concert Series: Lunchtime in Louisville

Enjoy the submissions to our Composers’ Forum. You’ll hear from the four composers regarding their inspiration and process as well as suggestions for liturgical use of the composition. Don’t miss this opportunity to support our composers!

Compton pilot program will guarantee free, recurring cash payments to hundreds of its low-income residents

By Simret Aklilu, CNN

(CNN) The city of Compton is launching a pilot program that will guarantee free, recurring cash payments to 800 of its low-income residents -- with no strings attached.

The launch of the Compton Pledge, a guaranteed income program that seeks to "challenge the racial and economic injustice plaguing both welfare programs and economic systems," was announced by Mayor Aja Brown in a statement released Monday. Read more...
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The National Black Sisters’ Conference is an inclusive Catholic Organization of vowed Black Catholic Women Religious and Associates from many congregations of religious across the United States, the Caribbean and of the continent of Africa.

The National Black Sisters’ Conference (NBSC)

POSITION AVAILABLE: Executive Director

CATEGORY: Full-Time Employee

EDUCATION/SKILLS REQUIRED: Master’s Degree in Administration or a related field; Experience in a senior leadership/management position; Demonstrated ability to develop, implement and coordinate a successful strategic plan inclusive of several projects; Strong communication skills to include interpersonal, verbal, written, and technical; Promote effective, collaborative relationships among persons and groups in keeping with the strategic plan.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Implement and oversee the strategic plan to advance the Mission and activities of NBSC; Ensure commitment to all applicable laws and regulations; Create a culture of transparency and clear communication; Develop positive collaborative relationships with NBSC Board Members and identified constituents

SALARY RANGE: $30,000.00-$65,000.00

ACCOUNTABILITY: Accountable to the NBSC Board and reports directly to the NBSC President
As the temperatures drop, those impacted most need your help!

FUNDING/ FINANCING | BIZFLUENT

Instructions for a Successful Blanket Drive

By: M.H. Dyer

Many low-income people don't have enough money to buy warm blankets -- especially the homeless, who often suffer from the cold during the winter months. Even our four-legged friends living in shelters and kennels can make good use of soft, warm beds padded with blankets from kind humans. Although blanket drives are often organized by community groups, employee groups, schools or churches, you can plan a successful drive with a small group of friends or family. Read more...

You can also give to:
Blankets for the Homeless

A 501(c)(3) Providing blankets, coats, hoodies, JEANS, clothes, hats, gloves, shoes, back packs, tents, tarps, toiletries, etc., & lunches to the homeless.

PLEASE WATCH THE VIDEO TO LEARN MORE
The Best Ways to Lose Belly Fat for Good, Say Doctors

It's not as hard as you think!

BY LINDSAY TIGAR

When we change our diets and commit to a fitness routine, we start to see a difference in our bodies' tone. That's because weight loss looks different for everyone. While some instantly see a less puffy face, others see it in their backends first. However, one of the most stubborn and tricky areas to lose fat is our stomachs. Though each person is unique, most of us will struggle to lose belly fat as we blow out more birthday candles every year. Rather than logging more hours on the treadmill or only eating salads for every meal, we've determined a few lifestyle hacks can help you win the battle against a muffin top once and for all. Read more...
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Published by the Society of the Divine Word Missionaries in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi since 1983.

We bring out the gifts and blessings of African American Catholics.

With sparkling photos and challenging information we share the otherwise unrecognized gifts of African American Catholics.

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GOD'S WILL:
The Life and Works of Sr. Mary Wilhelmina, Foundress of the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles
Written by her community

The cost of $20.00 includes domestic shipping.

If shipping outside the USA, please add $25 to your total.

ORDER NOW!
Book Review:  
**Ignatius Note-Taking & Journaling Bible**  
The Revised Standard Version, Second Catholic Edition

The *Ignatius Note-Taking & Journaling Bible* is a beautiful edition with a leather-like cover and sturdy protective end sheets. The pages are a soft ivory, and are very pleasant and easy on the eye, although older readers may have some difficulty with the smaller type.

The outer margins of each page are ruled to allow for neat note-taking. The bottom of the pages feature footnotes, and the back of the book contain concise and easy to ready maps that beautifully illustrate geography in the Biblical periods.

The volume is light enough to be easily portable and overall is a compact, but visually-appealing Bible with pages that beg to be annotated!

ORDER NOW!

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