

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Celebration of Freedom: Remembering Our Shared History

JUNETEENTH · SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021

RACISM IS A SIN PRESENTATION

This presentation will encourage meaningful conversation and dialogue on the challenging topic of racism. It will also address how we as people of faith must take part in the process of dismantling racism and working toward racial healing and equity.

Keynote Speaker: Sr. Patricia Dual, O.P.



Sr. Patricia Dual was born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia. The oldest of five children, Sr. Pat, is a life-long Catholic. She earned a B.A. in Religious Studies from St. Leo University and completed an M.A. in Religious Studies from Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2005, Sr. Pat relocated to Columbus, Ohio and became a member of the Dominican Sisters, St. Mary of the Springs, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace where she professed Final Vows in December 2011. Prior to becoming a Dominican Sister, Sr. Pat worked for many years in finance for a large healthcare system in Virginia. Sr. Pat ministered for four years as the Pastoral Associate at St. James the Less Church in Columbus. She has served as a member of the Ministry of Welcome-Vocation Team and currently ministers as the Coordinator of Formation for the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Sr. Pat has two adult sons and is a grandmother.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BLACKS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TODAY

There has been a Black presence in the Catholic Church since its founding. What do you know about the contributions of Black people to the Church? In this discussion we will open these topics and share about the gift of “blackness” in our church.

Speaker: Ansel Augustine, D.Min.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Dr. Ansel Augustine began his career in ministry more than 20 years ago when he became the youth minister at his home parish of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in the Treme area of New Orleans. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina that devastated the New Orleans area in August 2005, he tirelessly helped to rebuild Treme, the oldest Black neighborhood in the country. Dr. Augustine is Executive Director of the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach for the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. He formerly served as the Director of the Office of Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and in campus ministry at St. John's University in Queens, New York.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and his Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, Dr. Augustine received his certification in Youth Ministry from Xavier University of Louisiana's Institute for Black Catholic Studies. He then earned his Doctor of Ministry at the Graduate Theological Foundation.

He has spent years feeding the homeless, working in prison ministry, serving youth, and empowering those who may be seen as on the periphery. In an interview for the Black Catholic Voices series by Mark Zimmermann (editor of Catholic Standard), Dr. Augustine said: “...*despite what may be in front of us, hope also comes from faith. What does the Bible say? Faith is the substance of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1) So, we may not see the outcome right now, but as people of faith we know that the world will be better. But it's up to us not to sit on our laurels and wait, but for us to take action. And as I said before, don't just do the easy thing, but to do the right thing.*”

NEW ORLEANS BLACK CULTURE BEFORE & AFTER JUNETEENTH

From architecture, foodways, and benevolent societies during enslavement to changes after the Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth, here is a visit to the cultural features developed and sustained by its community.

Speaker: Mona Lisa Saloy, Ph.D.

Mona Lisa Saloy, Ph.D., is an award-winning author and folklorist, educator, and scholar of Creole culture in articles, documentaries, and poems about Black New Orleans before and after Hurricane Katrina. Currently, Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Professor of English at Dillard University. Dr. Saloy has documented Creole culture in sidewalk songs, jump-rope rhythms, and clap-hand games to discuss the importance of play. She wrote on the significance of the Black Beat poets – especially Bob Kaufman, and on the African American Toasting Tradition, Black and Creole talk, and on life and keeping Creole after the devastation of Katrina. A poet, her first book, *Red Beans & Ricely Yours*, won the T.S. Eliot Prize and the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award. Her collection of poems, *Second Line Home*, captures day-to-day New Orleans speech, family dynamics, celebrates New Orleans, and gives insight into the unique culture the world loves. Saloy's screenplay for the documentary *Easter Rock* premiered in Paris at the Ethnograph Film Festival and with Folklorists in Washington, DC at the National Black Museum. She has lectured on Black Creole Culture at the Smithsonian, Purdue University, and the University of Washington. Her documentary, *Bleu Orleans*, is on Black Creole Culture. She is an editorial reviewer for *Meridians: Feminism, race, transnationalism*.

WITNESS TO CHANGE: FROM JIM CROW TO POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Sybil Morial began documenting her remarkable life while exiled from her beloved hometown of New Orleans. In her memoir she focuses on the sweeping changes – desegregation, the end of Jim Crow, the fight for voting rights, and political empowerment – that transformed the country during her lifetime.

Speaker: Sybil Morial, M.Ed.

Sybil Haydel Morial's involvement in human and civil rights dates to the early 1950s. At that time, shortly after the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, she participated in some of the first tests for integration of New Orleans universities, attempting to enroll at Tulane and Loyola. In 1962, when the Louisiana legislature enacted laws in response to the court decisions outlawing segregation, she was the lone plaintiff in a successful challenge to a statute prohibiting public school teachers from being involved in any organization advocating integration.

Throughout her early life, she made inroads in both education and voting rights for blacks. Earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University where she met fellow student Martin Luther King Jr., she was one of the first African Americans to teach in the Newton, Massachusetts public school system. Returning to New Orleans, Mrs. Morial became an energetic force in several organizations, particularly Urban League of Greater New Orleans and League of Women Voters. Out of that experience she became a founder of the Louisiana League of Good Government (LLOGG), a non-partisan, interracial women's organization devoted to guaranteeing civil liberties and full participation in government for all Louisiana citizens. This organization engaged in constant battles to get African Americans on the voting roles in Louisiana. At the same time, it educated new and potential voters in the structures and workings of government as well as community issues.

After a teaching career spanning 1950 and 1960 in New Orleans, she became an administrator at Xavier University where she served for 28 years. While raising five children, she became an active participant, and eventual leader, of several major community organizations in New Orleans. She

campaigned for her husband's election as both state legislator in 1968 and mayor in 1978 – both firsts for an African American. After her husband's death in 1989, she was asked to run for mayor, but declined, preferring to continue her personal work on selected causes. Her eldest son Marc became mayor of New Orleans in 1994 and served for two terms and today is the president of the National Urban League.

She was a catalyst for educational programs designed to sharpen community awareness of the past and current status of the American Civil Rights Movement. In 1984, during the Louisiana World Exposition planning, she insisted that a black presence was imperative in a city with a majority African American population. In 1987, while Associate Dean at Xavier University, she was executive producer of the acclaimed film, *A House Divided*, which documented desegregation in New Orleans. Today Sybil Morial maintains her position as the matriarch of a family synonymous with social progress and leadership both in New Orleans and in the nation. In 2014, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Xavier University.

SISTER MARY ANTONA EBO: THIS FAR BY FAITH

Sister Mary Antona Ebo, F.S.M. was an African American sister who is best known for the courageous witness she provided in 1965 in Selma, Alabama, during the voting rights campaign. This presentation will offer the story of her life as a model, to be emulated, of enduring faith and ardent social justice advocacy.

Speaker: Winnie Sullivan, M.S.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Winnie Sullivan is a writer, an editor, and the director and founder of PenUltimate Press, a nonprofit publishing company in St. Louis. Publishing is a second career for Ms. Sullivan whose initial training was in the field of psychology. She has earned bachelor's and master's degrees in that discipline and pursued doctoral studies in the Policy Analysis and Public Administration program at St. Louis University. She is a lifelong student of French language, literature, and culture and a self-described Francophile. Initially, she wrote *Notes from Paris* as a journal of her first visit to Paris, "...to preserve the memory of it with a full written record, beyond what photographs could provide." At first the journal was a gift to her friend and traveling companion, Robin, who was moving from St. Louis to Boston. Today, *Notes from Paris* is a travel-sized memoir that recounts her experiences in the City of Light. Ms. Sullivan resides in St. Louis where she attends St. Francis Xavier (College) Church and serves on the pastoral council, co-chairs the Antiracism Team, is a member of the Racism and Reconciliation Committee, and sings in the church choir. Currently, she is completing a biography of the life of Sister Mary Antona Ebo, F.S.M.