

Brothers and Sisters

Newsletter of the Race & Reconciliation Dialogue Group
St Paul Cathedral

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2006 Gr Pqh YWCA Social Justice Awardee

Sept 2008

Bishop Zubik to Officiate at King Celebration Mass

Wanted: "Dreammakers"

Bishop David A. Zubik will officiate at Cathedral's '09 Martin Luther King Celebration. Once again St Benedict the Moor Gospel Choir and St Charles Lwanga Choir will join with Cathedral Choir for an inspiring service.

Everyone can help to make this King Celebration special by getting business and individuals to donate to the Dreammakers' campaign (SEE ATTACHED FLYER.) We hope to again exceed 400 at the reception following this incredibly moving Mass.

The Committee has been meeting through summer planning this event chaired by James Degnan with Co-Chair Judy Saunders, Peggy Degnan, Dolores Foley, Jesse Howard, Nadine Powell, Ron Saunders, Donna Scullini, Margaret Wolak, Peggy Bullard, Jim Cunningham and Dorothy Miller. If you want to work on the committee call Jim at 688-0832.

Death Penalty Vigil October 26

The Pittsburgh Faith in Action committee on the death penalty will hold a Silent Vigil against PA executions Sun, Oct 26 at 5th/Craig, at the Cathedral.

This is a vital issue for us in view of the racial disparity in administering the death penalty. 70% of those on death row are of color, 90% are too poor to obtain adequate defense.

Sunday, Sept 28

Fr. Almade To Speak on "Faithful Citizenship"

US Bishops' Statement on "Forming Consciences" for Up-Coming Election

The much-heralded Bishops' Statement on "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" will be aired here Sunday, September 28 at 1:15 p.m. at Synod Hall.

R & R is happy to sponsor this timely topic in view of the upcoming election—an unprecedented opportunity for racial reconciliation,

Speaking on the church's stand on social justice issues will be Fr. Frank Almade, administrator of the Catholic Community in Sharpsburg. Former secretary of Social Concerns for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, he has organized diocesan-wide seminars on the Bishops' statement.

Our own Dr. Jerome McKinney will introduce the speaker.

A call to political responsibility, the Bishops' statement, covers a wide range of social concerns including the church's stand on race and other pertinent issues. Copies of the statement will be available at the event.

The forum will kick off Race & Reconciliation's 2008-'09 season celebrating R & R's 10th Anniversary.

We hope you'll all be there in light of the vital coming election. (SEE ATTACHED FLYER).

Film Fest To Tell "Pittsburgh Story"

The fight for equality in Pittsburgh, part of the larger "Challenge to America" on racial issues, will be featured in three films this fall in R & R's Film Festival.

Slated to open the '08 season Sunday, October 5 is *East of Liberty*, the true story of urban renewal including changes in East Liberty.

Scheduled for November 9 and 23 are two other Pittsburgh-made films--*The Miracle Birth of EMS*, the true story of the Hill's Freedom House's uncredited beginnings of Pittsburgh ambulance service, and a film on Operation Dig..

The films will be held in Synod Hall on Sundays after the 12 noon Mass.

Film Festival Committee members, who also planned the "Faithful Citizenship" forum, are Jim Cunningham, Christine Ley, Margaret Wolak, Jeanne Panella, Dolores Foley, Bob Keseki, Dorothy Miller, Carolyn Olasewere, Nadine Powell, Mary and Jerry McKinney, Martin Ingraham,

Illusion of Race Film Committee Recharged

With the help of new co-chairs Heather Fry and Ron Saunders the "Illusion of Race" Film Distribution Committee will be getting new life.

The committee works to get showings of *Race: The Power of a Myth* to church school, community groups.

In the past year hundreds of individuals and close to 30 groups have borrowed the film for local showing.

Thanks to new member Heather Fry the film had a successful showing Sept 11 at St John Baptist Church in Plum to an audience including area deaneries.

If you or your group hasn't seen this film, viewing is a must! It's a powerful, incisive exposition of the latest DNA bio-medical facts on race plus a history of U.S. legislated "whiteness." Based on the belief "This film should be seen by everyone", the committee has ambitious plans to increase local showings.

This is exciting work. If you're interested in joining the committee call Heather Fry at 412-225-6214 or Ron Saunders at 824-1917

Congratulations To Wendy & Ed!

In a beautiful ceremony at St Paul Cathedral two of R & R's longtime members were wed on July 26. Ed, a member of Cathedral's Pastoral Council, helped get the first R & R training classes started and has been a devoted R & R advocate. Congrats to you both!

Janet Warrick, the gracious voice of our Membership Committee, is laid up with a knee operation but has still managed to call our voluminous list of members. Get well soon Janet!

It's Our 10th Anniversary!

From a small group of four... to hundreds of members...it doesn't seem possible but Race & Reconciliation is celebrating its 10th anniversary. We've set ambitious goals for '08-'09 which hopefully will culminate in a special anniversary event.

Our hats are off to our dedicated volunteers who made these successful years possible!

24 "Graduate" From 08 Leadership Training

Race & Reconciliation's '08 annual Leadership Training in Racism & Diversity awarded certificates to 24 participants at its final session May 4.

Our deep thanks to Drs. Jerome & Mary McKinney who conducted the 6-week sessions for the third straight year. This was R & R's fifth round of training and the third based on the cutting-edge film *The Illusion of Race* with its DNA evidence that "there is no such thing as race."

Among those awarded certificates were Marilen Adams, Pat Bakich, Roseland Batnum, Monica Coraluppi, Brother Coleman Coogan, Dolores Foley, Heather Fry, Alan A. Glaser. Mary Ann Hvizdos Rita Kafutshi, Nora Koren, Elizabeth Laube, Gottfried Laude, Julia Lynn, Joanne Malenock, Beth Middleton, Adrienne Ngoma. Carolyn Olasawere, Jeanne Panella, Angelina Rhodes, Debra Rhodes, Janet Willis, Margaret Wolak and Mary Zangrilli.

Several of the participants have become active R & R members. '08 Class' recommendations for action included

*Confront racial situations and remarks with compassionate response.....***Ask for more sermons on social justice and racism.** *Show the "Illusion of Race" film to priests, deaneries, church & parish workers.* **Get more students involved in education and activities on race.** *Produce a booklet on race for parishioner use. More to come next issue.*

The Leadership Committee is planning a sixth round of training for '09 and special sessions for church/parish workers.

Koran Classes a Huge Success

Also receiving certificates were some 80 participants of the highly successful winter/spring classes on Learning the Koran sponsored by R & R and the Black Saints Committee. This unique program was led by Farooq Hussaini, our longtime friend and brother from the Islamic Center of Pgh. Following the sadness of his death in April the sessions continued under Nayyra Ilyas. Farooq is remembered with love by all who knew him for his work in promoting brotherhood and interfaith understanding.

Our special thanks to Cathedral Black Saints Co-chairs Cecile Springer and Mary Robison for putting this ground-breaking program together.

The Church in Africa

In the coming season the Black Saints Committee will focus on the Church in Africa, bringing in priests stationed in Pittsburgh to speak at events.

For further info on Race & Reconciliation events or newsletter items contact Dorothy Miller, R & R Chair 412-681-8528 or Janet Warrick, Membership Chair 412-662-4095.