

Milestones in Black Catholic History “Our Story” Archdiocese of Milwaukee	
1886	Catholic Layman, Charles Boettinger a member of Old St. Gall Church which was run by the Jesuit Fathers at 4 th and State Streets, launches efforts to convert Milwaukee Blacks to Catholicism. 140 converts are received that year.
1908	Captain Lincoln C. Valle, a Black Catholic layman from Chicago and his wife organizes (October 2) a few Black Catholics found in Milwaukee at a store on 4th Street. Valle’s efforts won the sympathy of Archbishop Sebastian Messmer who helped him secure a meeting place in the church hall of Old St. Mary’s Church in downtown Milwaukee. Door to door visits by the Valle’s and some priests netted a small increase in the number of Black Catholics.
1909	Archbishop Sebastian Messmer establishes mission headquarters for work among blacks at 530 N. 5th Street with a chapel dedicated to the black saint, Benedict the Moor, with the help of Notre Dame Sisters.
1911	(January 16). Capuchin Fathers of Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 4th Brown Street are placed in charge of the Saint Benedict the Moor Mission.
1912	(September) The Capuchin Fathers under Fr. Stephen Eckert’s leadership at St. Benedict the Moor Mission opened a free day school with two School Sister of Notre Dame. Thirty five children were in attendance.
1912	Capuchin Father Stephen Eckert from Dublin, Ontario becomes first pastor of Saint Benedict the Moor Mission (July 13), at 9th and State Street. With eleven children he establishes a boarding school and a day nursery.
1918	St. Benedict the Moor Mission is in need of more space for the boarding school makes an agreement with Racine Dominican Mother Romana to use their facilities for this purpose. Fr. Stephen Eckert begins classes in Racine County at Corliss in 1920. Five Racine Dominican sisters are working in the school on a volunteer basis.

1919	(May) Milwaukee Knights of Columbus announce plans to help educate and promote the welfare of Colored people by raising funds for a new home to include a nursery and preparatory school.
1923	(February 16) Father Stephen Eckert, saintly "Apostle to the Colored," dies at the age of 53. A large turnout of tearful children and adults file past his coffin. He is buried in the courtyard of Saint Benedict the Moor. The cause for declared sainthood is introduced on his behalf in Rome in 1952 bringing with it the title, "Servant of God Stephen Eckert."
1924	(March 2) Archbishop Sebastian Messmer dedicates a new chapel at Saint Benedict the Moor Mission subsequent to large financial donations made by Mr. Ernest G. Miller. John Taylor Bowen started the first usher board at St. Benedict the Moor.
1942	Saint Benedict the Moor School graduates its first class – 3 students. Richard Bowen was one of students (a member of St. Francis Parish)
1944	(November 7) Brother James Bailey, OP, and former student of Saint Benedict the Moor School died.
1946	First academic course in Negro Literature in the nation is taught at Saint Benedict the Moor School.
1948	Priests and laity petition Archbishop Moses E. Kiley regarding the encroachment of Blacks to neighborhood north in the city of Milwaukee. Archbishop Kiley offers the Capuchin Fathers an abandoned Croation Church Sacred Heart; in the heart of the Black District at 7 th and Galena streets This new church was named Blessed Martin de Porres. With Archdiocesan subsidies, the Capuchins repaired the decaying buildings and made them ready for worship by 1950. Established as a mission, it never had a school, but ran a number of successful summer programs for black youth funded by the Miller Brewing Heir, Harry John. "Father Stephens Day Camp" began in 1953 and was one of the most popular programs of Blessed Martin. It attracted a number of Milwaukee Seminarians as counselors and workers including a young south side Italian named, James Groppi.
1950	(August) Archbishop Moses Elias Kiley takes vacant Sacred Heart Church and re-dedicates it to Blessed Martin de Porres for work among black Catholics, 7th and Galena Street, placing it as a mission under the care of Saint Francis of Assisi Church and the Capuchin Fathers.

1955	The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee begins to lay plans for revitalization of selected areas of the black district which bring into question the existence of Blessed Martin Mission. Following questions posed by city officials, Archbishop Meyer broaches the subject matter with the Capuchin Fathers of continuing or gradually integrating the black in the parishes on the north side of the city. Archbishop Meyer informs the Housing Authority of his desire to let the Mission stand, pledging, however, to work with the new development plans to the fullest extent possible.
1963	Despite objections stated by Archbishop Albert Meyer, the City of Milwaukee razes Blessed Martin Church to clear land for the Hillside Redevelopment Project.
1964	(May 16) Father Robert Harrison of Saint Benedict the Moor Church is the first black native Milwaukeean ordained a priest by Bishop Frederick Freking of La Crosse, for service in the Saint Joseph Providence (Detroit) of the Capuchin Order.
1966	Sister Reginalda Polk (Sinsinawa Dominican) becomes the first black principal of a Milwaukee Catholic School at Saint Gall Church on North 3rd Street.
1967	Fr. William Lanser starts the House of Peace at St. Francis Parish.
1968	Capuchin Brother Booker Ashe establishes The House of Peace on 17th and Walnut (doors open officially January 1968).
1968	In the late 1960's there were major closings and consolidations of Catholic Elementary Schools in the Milwaukee area: St. Boniface - closed, St. Elizabeth became Harambee Community School, St. Francis - closed, St. Gall became Martin Luther King Community School, St. Leo became St. Leo Community School, St. Michael became Urban Day School.
	Fr. James Groppi of St. Boniface Catholic Church led open housing demonstrations that brought the church to a conscious awareness of the social injustice of housing discrimination.
1969	Milwaukee Black Catholic Religious men and women convene for the first time.
1970	Capuchin Father Kenneth Stewart becomes the first black pastor of a Catholic Church in the Archdiocese at Saint Boniface Church.
1973	The Black Catholic Lay Caucus is founded with pioneer efforts of Brother Booker Ashe, Sam Sims, Corrine Bryant, Virgil Williams and Betty Thompson.
1975	(May 24) Archbishop William E. Cousins ordains the first two black priests for service in the Archdiocese: Father Marvin T. Knighton of Detroit and Father Joseph N. Perry of Chicago.
	Archbishop William E. Cousins ordains the first two Black Permanent Deacons for service in the Archdiocese: Mr. Edward Blaze of Saint Leo Church and Mr.

	Keith Nicholas of Saint Francis of Assisi Church.
	The Milwaukee School Board purchases land and property belonging to Saint Boniface for the expansion of North Division High School. The parish moves to Center and Teutonia Streets. The new church building is dedicated June 21 by Archbishop William E. Cousins.
1976	Mr. Nathaniel Gillon becomes the first black lay principal of a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at Holy Angels School.
1977	Sister Callista Robinson (Little Falls Franciscan) becomes principal of Harambee Community School at Saint Elizabeth, 2 nd and Burleigh Street.
1978	Central City Catholic Youth under the direction of Brother Booker Ashe and Arlene Skierawski present Godspell
1979	Black Catholic Women (BCW) was founded by Mrs. Nettie Olds of Saint Agnes Church.
	The Office for Racial Integration is established and directed by Mr. Lou Burrell. It is a precursor to the Office for Black Catholic Concerns.
1980	Black Catholic Men Organization founded by Mr. Jesse Hegwood of Saint Boniface Church.
1981	Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B. establishes The Office for Black Catholic Concerns for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Mr. Ricky Townsell is the Director.
	Black and Interracial Christian Couples was founded by Vida and Unis Matthews of Holy Angels Church.
	Ms. Janice Jackson of Washington, D.C. becomes the second director of the Office for Black Catholic Concerns.

1982	(February 7) At a Sunday Mass honoring black Catholic senior citizens at Saint Elizabeth Church, Capuchin Father Matthew Gottschalk is presented with memorial plaque amidst sustained applause for almost 30 years of pastoral service in the Milwaukee Black Community. Cecelia Bobo is also honored for 60 years of music ministry at St. Benedict de Moor Parish.
	Saint Boniface Chapter of The Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver founded by Brother Booker Ashe at Saint Boniface Church. Four members from St. Francis Parish were a part of this court: Katherine Levy, Sally Clytus, Joyce Nichols and Keith Nichols.
1983	(May 20) Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B. ordains the first native Milwaukeean for service in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee: Father Bryan N. Massingale of Saint Agnes Church.
	Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B. ordains Dr. Anthony Mensah of Saint Agnes Parish, Permanent Deacon.
	Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B. appoints Father Joseph N. Perry Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese and Episcopal Delegate for Ecclesiastical Processes.
1986	Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B. ordains the second native Milwaukeean for service in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee: Father Roy Lee.
1987	Ten Delegates from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee attend the National African-American Catholic Congress in Washington, D.C.
	Brother Joseph Hager, FMS, of Washington D.C., becomes the third Director of the Office for Black Catholic Concerns.
1989	(July) The Joint Conference: The National Black Sister's Conference, The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, and The National Black Seminarians Association - has their 21st National Meeting in Milwaukee at Marquette University.
	Black Catholic Lay Leadership Program founded in 1989 by the late (Marist) Br. Joseph Hager," "The program had 31 graduates from 1989 until 2003.
1990	(August 12) Sister Vicki J. Chambers, SSND becomes the first black native Milwaukeean to profess with the School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Elizabeth Church.
1991	Pauline and Kenneth Vernon receive Vatican II Award from Archbishop Rembert Weakland for Service to Families that exemplified the virtues of Vatican II.
	Also in 1991, Bryan Massingale receives doctorate in moral theology from the pontifical institute for moral theology in Rome. Noted as the first African

	American Catholic moral theologian. Appointed to the faculty at St. Francis Seminary, the first black professor in the Seminary's history.
1992	Augusta Travitt receives Vatican II Award from Archbishop Rembert Weakland for Service in Society.
	(Feb. 27) Julia and Lincoln Valle Lay Ministry -- First African-American lay ministry students, Corrine Bryant, Ollie Hankins, Jesse Hegwood, Kathie Smith, and Augusta Travitt, commissioned by Archbishop Rembert Weakland.
	Dr. Sandra Noel Smith becomes the first African-American Assistant Superintendent to the Archdiocesan School Office. She was the only African-American in this capacity in the nation. She was a member of St. Francis Parish.
	10 Delegates and alternates from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee attend the National Black Catholic Congress in New Orleans, LA.
1993	Deacon Dr. Anthony Mensah and his wife Theresa receive Vatican II Award from Archbishop Rembert Weakland for Service to the Missions.
	Reuben and Mildred Harpole receive Vatican II Award from Archbishop Rembert Weakland for Service in Society.
	Sister Shawnee M. Sykes, SSND becomes the fourth director of the Office of Black Catholic Concerns. The name of the Office for Black Catholic Concerns is changed to African-American Ministry. The first African-American Marriage UMOJA Enrichment Retreat was held at the Cousins' Center with nine couples in attendance.
1994	Valeria and Acklen Banks receive Vatican II Award from Archbishop Rembert Weakland for Service to Families.
	Mary Bracy receives a Vatican II Award from Archbishop Rembert Weakland for Service in Ecumenism.
	(August 7) Sister Shawnee M. Sykes, SSND becomes the second native Milwaukeean to be professed with the School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Elizabeth Church.
	Reorganization of the Central City Catholic School System to two Urban Academies - St. Leo's Urban Academy and St. Rose Urban Academy.
	Ronn Johnson becomes the first non-Catholic African-American to be a principal of a Catholic School in the Archdiocese, at St. Leo's Academy.
	District 13 Central City Planning Committee and parishioners receive notice of approval from the Archbishop to merge nine parishes. The parishes to be merged include: St. Agnes, St. Anne, St. Boniface, St. Elizabeth, St. Gall, Holy Angels, St. John de Nepomuc, St. Leo, and St. Thomas. Two new sites will be formed and a Chapel. They were Parish East, Parish West and St. John Chapel for Senior Ministry.

	(Nov. 6) Rev. Fred Alexander O.C.D. is named temporary administrator at Parish East.
1995	The first Congress for African-American Catholics in this archdiocese was held at Marquette University High School. The Most Reverend Bishop Leonard Olivier, SVD, DD of Washington D.C. kicked off the Congress with a keynote address.
	(March 18) The Archbishop officially names the two new parishes: Parish West - All Saints and Parish East - St. Martin de Porres.
	(May) Nigerian Father Romanus Nwaru is ordained priest by Archbishop Rembert Weakland for service in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
	(May 4) Loyce Howard, Cynthia Lee, and Carma Teasley complete the Lincoln and Julia Valle Lay Ministry Program and participate in their graduation and commissioning exercises at St. Martin de Porres Parish.
	(May 28) A tragic death occurs when Master Marcus de Beck, an honor student at St. Leo Urban Academy is shot in the head at a neighborhood park.
	(June 11) At a three-hour liturgical celebration the Rev. Marvin Knighton is named Pastor of St. Martin de Porres.
	(June 13) Sister Shawnee Sykes, SSND, the director/consultant of African-American Ministry receives the Outstanding Woman of Achievement Award through the YWCA.
	(June 18) At a two hour liturgical celebration the Reverend Joseph N. Perry is named pastor at All Saints Parish.
	(September 28) Br. Booker Ashe retires as director of House of Peace for reasons of deteriorating health.
	(October 4) Ms. Betty Thompson receives the Vatican II award for Services to Society. Brother Robert Smith receives the Vatican II award for Services in Education.
1996	Black Catholics in the archdiocese join in a yearlong celebration of their presence in the archdiocese. "A Legacy of Faithfulness: Our Walk in Faith" is the theme for the celebration.
	(January 13) A gratitude celebration for Brother Booker T. Ashe's significant contributions and years of service and presence to many happens at St. Joseph Parish, Appleton, Wisconsin.
	(January 15) Dr. Shawn Copeland, an associate Professor of Theology at Marquette University, shares reflections on "Martin Luther King's Spirituality" at St. John Cathedral during the annual archdiocesan celebration.
	(March 7-10) Revival '96 was held at St. Benedict the Moor Parish (the first mission geared for Black Catholics in the archdiocese). The Parishes involved in planning and implementing Revival '96 sponsored their first female revivalist

	Sister Renee de Porres Fenner from "the Rock Church" (St. Alphonsus Parish) in St. Louis, Missouri.
	(May 1) Sally Clytus, Bea Larson and Bruce Words, Sr. complete the Lincoln & Julia Valle Lay Leadership Program with graduation and commissioning exercises at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.
	(June 14) Sr. Vicki Chambers, SSND first native Milwaukeean to profess with the School Sisters of Notre Dame pronounces final vows and profession at All Saints Parish.
	(August) Dr. Sandra Noel Smith resigns from her Assistant Superintendent position in the archdiocese to be the Superintendent of the Atlanta Catholic School System in Atlanta, Georgia.
	(August 4) Connected with African World Festival at the Summerfest Grounds, The African-American Ministry Office with assistance from St. Martin de Porres, All Saints and St. Francis Parishes hold a Mass to commemorate the 110th Anniversary of Black Catholic presence in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
	(October) Mr. James Cameron a member of All Saints Parish and founder of Milwaukee's Black Holocaust Museum receives the Vatican II Award from Archbishop Rembert Weakland for Service to Society and Arlene Skwierawski - Service in Education.
	(November 12) African-American Catholics from Sts. Francis, Michael and Rose gather at Saint Michael Parish for a conversation relating to their concerns, needs, hopes and dreams for their Tri-Parish commitment.
1997	(January 20) Attorney and Professor of Law, at Marquette University, Phoebe Weaver-Williams, keynotes the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.
	(February-August) Intensive preparation for the 1997 National Black Catholic Congress VIII, August 28-30, 1997 in Baltimore Maryland. There were about 70 African-American Catholics from our diocese to attend the congress.
	(February 15) Brother Bob Smith, President of Messmer High School, keynotes the Archdiocese Youth Ministry Day at the Cousin's Center.
	(March 13-16) Revival 1997 takes place at St. Martin De Porres Parish. The African-American Priests of the diocese are the revivalists, (i.e. Fr. Bryan Massingale, Fr. Marvin Knighton, and Fr. Joseph Perry). Fr. Paul Koenig is the revivalist for youth night.
	(June 6) Bill Larson, Eva Diaz, Janat Davis, and Cecilia Robertson complete the Lincoln and Julia Valle Lay Leadership Program.
	(August 3) Second annual Mass at African World Festival. Fr. Bryan Massingale is the celebrant. The 70 representatives to the Congress VIII were

	commissioned. Each was given a stole to wear during the congress as a sign for being a part of the Milwaukee Archdiocese.
	(August 27-31) Milwaukee Archdiocese's Black Catholics attend the Congress VIII in Baltimore Maryland.
	(September 23) An evening to debrief the congress experience was held at All Saints Parish Hall. Discussions regarding Evangelization occurred.
	(October 1) Mr. Nathaniel Gillon received the Archbishop's Vatican II Award for Service in Education.
	(October 17-19) The 5th Annual Umoja Retreat was held at the Cousins Center. The highest number of couples, since its inception, was present (16). Connie and Fred Sambrone, from Atlanta, facilitated the weekend.
1998	(January 19) Father Jesse de Porres Cox gives the key address at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in downtown Milwaukee.
	(February 28) The Day of Reflection for Black Catholics is held at St. Francis Seminary and Fr. Bryan Massingale facilitated the event. This was the first time a majority of Black Catholics celebrated their culture at the seminary. Fifty five people attended and a fond welcome was given by the Rector, Fr. Andy Nelson, who invited the attendee's to return for more dialogue and to annually celebrate this day each year at the seminary. A revival was celebrated that evening at All Saints Parish, where Fr. Bryan Massingale was the revivalist.
	(March 19-22) The Black Catholic Theologians and scholars have their annual symposium in Milwaukee. Marquette University Co-Sponsored the symposium. On Friday, March 20, a session was held at St. Martin de Porres Parish entitled, "Theologians and Scholars, Listening to the Community". A Sunday morning liturgy was celebrated at All Saints Parish. Bishop Braxton, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, was the presider and Rev. Dr. Bryan Massingale was the homilist.
	(March 29) A vocation day for Black Catholics was held at Harambee Community School. A new vocations brochure highlighting the Black Religious and Clergy of Wisconsin was distributed.
	(May) Messmer High School regains its official "Catholic" title as a Catholic High School in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
	(May 5) It was announced that Father Joseph N. Perry, the pastor at All Saints Parish, Milwaukee, is to be made Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. His episcopal ordination is Monday, June 29, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois.
	(May 15) Five students graduated and were commissioned from the Lincoln and Julia Valle Lay Leadership Program. The graduates were: Schauneille

	Allen, Edna Nash, and Georg Halala from St. Francis of Assisi, Mary Words from Saint Martin de Porres, and Toni Massingale from All Saints and St. Martin de Porres Parishes.
	(June 1) Celia M. Jackson is named the fifth director of the African-American Ministry Office. Sr. Shawnee M. Sykes, SSND, MAPS, resigned on June 30, 1998, in order to pursue doctoral studies in Health Care ethics at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.
	(June 24) A sending off prayer service was held at Messmer High School for Bishop Elect Joseph N. Perry, Sister Vicki J. Chambers, SSND and Shawnee M. Sykes, SSND, MAPS.
	(September 24) The Vatican II awards are presented at the Archbishop Catholic Cousins Center, Mater Christi Chapel. Celia M. Jackson, Director/Consultant for the African-American Ministry Office, receives an award for Service in Society.
	(October 23-25) The Umoja Retreat for African-American married and engaged couples was held at the Archbishop Catholic Cousins Center. The largest turnout of couples, 18, attended the retreat for the three day weekend.
	(December 17) The first annual Kwanzaa celebration was held at the Archbishop Cousins Center. Tony Finlayson, from the Kho Thi Dance Company, presented a wonderful and informative history of Kwanzaa.
1999	(January 18) The annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Rev. Kenneth Hamilton. SVD was the celebrant and gave his reflection on "Being a Good Neighbor" from Dr. King's Book entitled <u>Strength to Love</u> .
	(February 20) The day of Reflection for Black Catholics was held at St. Francis Seminary. Elliot Wimbush, Director of vox Humana was the speaker and spoke about being a Good Neighbor.
	(March 18-21) The Lenten Revival, a four - day event, took place at St. Francis of Assisi at 4 th and Brown Street. The revivalist was Sr. Pat Haley from Philadelphia, PA, Director of the National African American Catholic Youth Ministry Network.
	(July) Celia M. Jackson, African American Ministry Director, was named the Director for Community Services and the Archbishops Delegate for this area also.
	(August) The 3 rd Annual African World Festival Mass took place at the Summerfest Grounds. Fr. Clarence Williams from Detroit, Michigan, and Director for the Office of Black Catholic Ministries, was the Celebrant and Homilist for this event. One of the largest crowds for this event was present.

	(September) The Vatican II awards were presented at the Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center. Br. Booker Ashe, OFM Cap, former director of the House of Peace, was presented with the award for Service to Society. A special exhibit was displayed in his honor.
	(September) Schauneille R. Allen is named seventh and final Director for the African American Ministry Office in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
	(October 16) The Central City Catholic Parish Youth Revival was held at All Saints Parish Sr. Dr. Oralisa Martin, Director/Professor for the Oracle Institute in Washington, D.C., was the revivalist for the evening.
	A special ceremony was held at St. Mary's Nursing Home in honor of Br. Booker Ashe receiving the Vatican II Award for Service to Society. Bishop Joseph Perry attended along with other family, friends and acquaintances to recognize his achievement and all his years of work for the African American Catholic Community.
	(October 26) David Fields, Jr. was named the Director of Campaign for Human Development.
2000	(July 20) Sr. Shawnee Marie Daniels-Sykes takes final vows with School Sisters of Notre Dame at All Saints Parish.
	Ge'ez Rite Mass celebrated in Archdiocese of Milwaukee for the first time.
	(August 3-5) Fr. Clarence Williams conducts facilitator training at Marquette University for 18 people in the "Recovery From Racisms" process. Five of the participants were archdiocesan staff. Fr. Clarence Williams also celebrated the 4 th Annual African World Festival Sacred Liturgy at Meier Festival Park on August 5, 2000.
	(October 1) Carma and Steve Teasley receive the Vatican II Award for Service to Family
	(November 5) Archbishop Weakland and Bishop Sklba celebrated Jubilee with the Black Catholic community at Messmer High School.
	(December 24) Brother Booker Ashe, CAP beloved founder of the House of Peace passes away after a long illness.
2001	(August 5) The Fifth Annual African World Festival Liturgy took place. The theme of "We've Come This Far By Faith: Our Sankofa Experience." Archbishop Weakland was our celebrant with Fr. Jesse Cox as a special guest.
	(August 25) Sr. Callista Robinson (Little Falls Franciscan) becomes the full-time Coordinator-African American Component of Lay Ministry and Diaconate Programs Certificate Division at Saint Francis Seminary. Replacing Connie Massingale who was the first to hold the position as a part-time employee.
2002	(March 28) Twenty-eight Pilgrims traveled to Ghana, West Africa during Easter Week. The trip was co-sponsored with the World Missions Office.

	(June 8) Troy Major is ordained as Deacon for the Diocese at St. John's Cathedral. He is the only African American candidate in 19 years.
	(June) Dr. Yanick St. Jean of the University of Wisconsin Parkside began research on the Catholic Sacramental Imagination and Anti-Racism in the Milwaukee Archdiocese and surrounding areas.
	(August 4) The Sixth Annual African World Festival Liturgy was held with Frs. Chester & Charles Smith as Celebrants.
	(August 28) Timothy Dolan was installed as Archbishop of the diocese.
	(August 31) Twenty-eight delegates attended the National Black Catholic Congress IX in Chicago.
	(September 16) Archbishop Dolan was officially welcomed by the Black Catholic Community at a prayer service held at All Saints Parish.
	(September 26) Thomas and Viola Brown Family receive the Vatican II Award for Service to Society
2003	(January 21) Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Service was held at St. John's Cathedral with Sr. Anita Baird DHM of Chicago as guest speaker & Archbishop Dolan as Presider.
	(School Sister of Notre Dame) Sr. Shawnee Daniels Sykes, the fourth director of the (archdiocesan) African American Ministry Office, changed the name of the Black Catholic Lay Leadership Program to the Lincoln and Julia Valle Lay Leadership Program. The name was changed to honor the two black Catholic lay people who came from Chicago in 1908 to Milwaukee to evangelize black people."
	(March 21-24) Central City Parishes Annual Revival at All Saints Parish with Fr. Jesse Cox, O.P.
	(March 25) 37 people attended the taping for the evangelization video produced by the African American Ministry Office entitled, "Evangelization of African Americans: Is It Worth the Effort?" Produced by the African American Ministry Office.
	(June 22) St. Martin de Porres Parish dedicates the newly constructed Great Room. Bishop Richard Sklba officiated at the liturgy and blessed the space.
	(August 3) Fr. James Goode OFM, Ph.D. of Solid Ground Franciscan Ministry, N.Y. was the celebrant at the 7 th Annual African World Festival Sacred Liturgy. Fr. Goode also was the keynote at a workshop held on homelessness.
	(August 16) A National Black Catholic Congress Focus Day was held at St. Martin de Porres with a keynote address by Fr. Bryan Massingale. The Congress principles of Spirituality, Catholic Education, Africa, Youth & Young Adult, Parish Life, Racism, HIV/AIDS and Social Justice were discussed with a focus on the development of Plans of Action.

	(August 27) An Advisory Committee was formed by the Director of Vocations for the St. Francis Seminary to address the issue of recruitment of African American men to priesthood.
	(October 1) Tanya & Jake Keenan, members of All Saints Parish receive the Vatican II Award for Service to Families.
	(October 16) “Rejoice, Praise Worship and Renew” Liturgical Workshop with the team of Richard Cheri, Timothy Jones, Jr., Jennifer Broyard Bonan and Jalonda Robertson of New Orleans and Composer Kenneth Louis of Washington D.C. was held at St. Rose de Lima Parish.
	(October 24-16) UMOJA Couples celebrate its 10 th Anniversary with 17 couples in attendance and presentations from Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago and Fr. Bryan Massingale of Milwaukee.
2004	(January 19) Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Service was held at the Church of the Gesu with Rev/Dr. Trinette McCray of Milwaukee as guest speaker.
	Rev. Bryan Massingale hired as a tenured professor of theology at Marquette University, the only African American male with tenure at the university.
	(March 11) Six community members attended-“Basic Understanding of Theology of Black Folks”-Notre Dame-South Bend IN
	(March 19) Central City Parishes Revival held at St. Francis Parish with sr. Pat Haley as revivalist
	(May 7) St. Francis Seminary Certificate division graduated Ms. Tonya Johnson
	(August 1) AWF- All Saints Parish planned and implemented the mass due to organizational changes at the diocese.
	(August 6) Several women attended the National Black Sisters Conference-Houston-2 nd -National Gathering of Black Catholic Women
	(October 22) UMOJA Couples Retreat Weekend-Schoenstatt Center
	(December 2) Vatican II Awards go to Tianna McCullough for youth Award in Education and Ana Garcia Ashley for Service to Society both of St. Martin de Porres Parish
	(December 18) Anthony Cureton a member of All Saints Parish-Ordination- for the diocese of Gaylord MI
2005	(January 17) MLK Prayer Service-Bishop Joseph Perry guest speaker at all Saints Parish
	(February 25) Central City Revival at Mary Queen of Martyr Cluster-Fr, Manuel Williams, revivalist.
	(August 7) AWF Mass- Fr. Chester Smith, SVD was the homilist.
	(November 29) Vatican II Awards to Henry and Peggy Bowles of St. Martin de Porres for Service to Family and Joshua Moore in the Youth Category

	(December 31) Deacon. and Mrs. Anthony Mensah celebrates with family and friends their 50 th wedding anniversary.
2006	(January 16) Dr MLK Prayer Service held at St. Francis of Assisi - Msgr Patrick Wells was our guest speaker and choir from St. Francis Parish in Houston, TX-
	(February 8) Evangelization Video "A Call...A Response"- premiere held at St Martin de Porres written and produced by Director Schauneille Allen
	(May 21) Schauneille Allen, Director of African American Ministry Office receives her Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Cardinal Stritch University along with Certification in Urban Ministry.
	(May) Ms. Mable Johnson receives her certification in ministry from St. Francis Seminary.
	(June 3) The first annual Midwest gathering of African Religious and Clergy held at St. Pius High School.
	(June 19) Mr. James Cameron a member of All Saints Parish and founder of Milwaukee's Black Holocaust Museum is eulogized at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral.
	(August 6) AWF Mass was held with Fr. Ken Hamilton as homilist.
	(September 30) UMOJA Day of Reflection held at Bethany Center
	(October 15) Arlene Skierwaski All Saints and St. Francis Choir Director- Anniversary Celebration held at Stephen Martyr Chapel
	(December 5) Antoinette Mensah, African American Ministry Advisory Board Chair receives Vatican II Award for Service in Communication
2007	(January 10) Reestablishment of Lay Leadership Program for Black Catholics and others who minister in the Black Community -- The Brother Booker Ashe Lay Ministry Program begins at St. Martin de Porres Parish with six 3-yr. program and 3 audit students. The program, the only one of its kind in the area, stemmed from the commitment of the Black Religious and Clergy of Wisconsin to bring recognition to the contributions of black Catholics address black Catholic history and offer support.
	(January 15) Dr King Prayer Service held at St. Michael Parish with Rev. Dr. Bryan Massingale as guest speaker.
	(February 8) On St Josephine Bakita's Feast day, the African American Ministry Office Director was restored to full time.
	(March 30) Sr. Shawnee Daniels Sykes successfully defended her dissertation at Marquette University becoming the first African American Catholic Bioethicist Theologian.
	(April 15)- New Sanctuary at All Saints is dedicated with Archbishop Dolan

	(July 12) Attendance at the Tenth National Black Catholic Congress in Buffalo, NY
	(August 5) 10 th Sacred Liturgy at African World Festival- Fr. Paul Whittington, OP homilist
2008	May 2008, Bryan Massingale celebrates Silver Jubilee/25th Anniversary of Priesthood with a dinner at St. Martin de Porres parish and a mass at All Saints Church.
	June 4, 2008: Br. Bob Smith elected Provincial Vicar of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph
	Rev. Bryan Massingale elected the Convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium
	African American Ministry Office is closed due to the structural changes at the Archdiocese....a delicate matter but certainly part of the history.
	1 st Ugandan Mass
2009	(May) An associate professor of theology at Marquette University, Fr. Massingale also received the Robert and Mary Gettl Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, Marquette University's highest teaching honor. (June) Fr. Bryan Massingale (First Black man to ever serve in this capacity) was installed as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the principal association of Catholic theologians in North America, during its 64th annual convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in early June.
	that Nathaniel Gillon also won an award this past school year as top guidance counselor (or something similar) in the state! (2009-2010)
2009	Sr. Callista's celebrates Jubilee, April 20, 2009 -- Ms. Augusta Travitt makes her transition to God's heavenly Kingdom
2010	Fr. Bryan Massingale receives 2010 Harry A. Fagan Award for Catholic Social Justice
	<p>May: Seven lay ministers commissioned</p> <p>After participating in the course, seven lay ecclesial ministers were commissioned in late May at St. Benedict the Moor Church, Milwaukee. Students Peggy Bowles, St. Martin de Porres Parish; Earl Bracy, All Saints Parish; Armitta Kilgore, St. Benedict the Moor Parish; Minnie Linyear, St. Martin de Porres Parish; Carma Teasley, St. Martin de Porres Parish; Jolie Zimmer, All Saints Parish; and Henry Bowles, St. Martin de Porres Parish, studied the Old and New Testaments, black spirituality, social justice, servant leadership, Catholic social teaching and canon law</p>

2010	December: Shanedra Johnson becomes next Advisory Board Chair replacing Antoinette Mensah
2011	June 6 -- After years of struggle, the African American Ministry Advisory Commission is formally installed as the Black Catholic Ministry Commission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
	June 2011, Bryan Massingale's book "Racial Justice and the Catholic Church" receives a First Place Book Award from the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.
2012	Black Catholic Ministry commission hosts Augustus Tolton event to promote his cause for sainthood with Bishop Joseph Perry. Archbishop ListECKI subsequently submits letter of support for the cause making the Archdiocese among the first on record and a part of the process.
	Annual Lenten Day of Reflection facilitated by African Catholic Committee of the Black Catholic Ministry Commission launches
	Approximately 36 delegates representing ten parishes from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee travel to Indianapolis for the National Black Catholic Congress. The Theme was Faith Engaged!
2013	After 30 years of ministerial service, Deacon Anthony Mensah makes his transition to God's heavenly kingdom April 18, 2013
	Antoinette Mensah appointed Director for the Office for World Mission Ministry – the first African American to hold this position in the history of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee,
	Archbishop ListECKI approves the formal establishment of the Mariam-Tsion Ge'ez Rite Catholic Community in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The Ge'ez Rite Christianity is the oldest in Sub-Saharan Africa that traces its official establishment to the early part of 4th century C. E.
2014	Bishop Hying begins work with the Black Catholic Commission to develop a new Black Catholic Pastoral Plan
	6 th Annual Ugandan Martyrs Mass of Remembrance offered celebrating those of Milwaukee's Black Catholic Community who had made transitions. Also celebrated the legacy of the Ugandan Martyrs and their faithful commitment to the Gospel.
	Sr. Dr. Shawnee Sykes receive Alumna of the Year award from Divine Savior Holy Angels – the 1 st African American student to be recognized with this honor.
	Fr. Brian Massingale to receive the 2014 Eliminating Racism Award from the YWCA of Milwaukee