

November 4, 2007

Bicentennial Moments

Did you Know

Since 1962, Archdiocese of Philadelphia has celebrated the canonization of Saint Martin de Porres, a Black Catholic saint of the Church. Born in 1579 in Peru, Saint Martin became a Dominican Brother and is known for his love for the Eucharist and service of the poor. The Saint Martin de Porres Mass, held on the first Sunday of November, welcomes all to experience the history, spirituality and culture that African Americans offer to the Catholic Church.

1. The first recorded baptism of a Black Catholic person in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia took place on April 17, 1743.
2. The Third National Black Catholic Congress was held in 1892 at Saint Peter Claver Church, 12th & Lombard Streets, where Archbishop Patrick Ryan offered Mass for the delegates.

All are welcome to celebrate the great feast of Saint Martin de Porres on Sunday, November 4, 2007, 2:30 PM at the Cathedral. For more information on the Mass, Office for Black Catholics at (215) 587-3634.

November 11, 2007

Bicentennial Moments

Did you Know?

From the days of Commodore John Barry, Father of the navy, Continental Army Brigadier General, Kazimierz Pulaski and Declaration of Independence signer and Revolutionary War physician, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Philadelphia Catholics have a long history of military service to the United States. This week, as our nation celebrates Veterans Day, let us remember all who have served to protect our God-given rights of life and liberty. Let us also pray for the safety of those in active duty who continue to defend these freedoms.

Want to know more about the history of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia? Please visit the Bicentennial website at

<http://www.archdiocese-phl.org/history.htm>

November 18, 2007

Bicentennial Moments

Did you know?

1. The Catholic Cemeteries Office handles almost 8,000 burials every year.
2. In 2006, the Catholic Cemeteries provided 195 burials at no charge for individuals or families with limited funds, as well as for others less fortunate.
3. During the Flu Epidemic of 1917-18, students from Saint Charles Seminary were pressed into service to assist with the burials of those who succumbed to the disease.
4. Proceeds from the operation of Cathedral Cemetery (1849) were used to fund the construction of the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul.
5. During the Blizzard of 1996, while the area was blanketed with nearly 3 feet of snow and in a declared state of emergency for three days, many dedicated men and women reported to work at the various diocesan cemeteries to ensure the continued, uninterrupted operation of the cemeteries.

The Catholic Cemeteries Office can be contacted at 215-895-3450 or at cemetery@adphila.org

November 25, 2007

Bicentennial Moments

The Cardinal's Christmas party is an event for boys and girls served by residential and community programs of Catholic Social Services. This year it celebrates its 52nd Anniversary on December 18th. Begun by His Eminence, Cardinal John F. O'Hara, this annual event has a dual purpose: It is a magical afternoon for children and raises money for their care. Entertainment is provided by more than 400 talented young men and women of the Archdiocesan high schools and by Santa Claus himself.

Did you know?

1. Catholic Social Services has responded to the needs of children for 210 years.
2. The first Catholic Charity recorded in colonial Philadelphia involved the care of children orphaned by a Yellow fever epidemic in 1797.

Financial donations to the Cardinal's Christmas Party for Children support the many services for Children by CSS. To learn more about the Cardinal's Christmas party or to make a donation, visit www.cardinalschristmasparty.org.