



Habari Gani



St. Peter Claver Church ∞ Volume VII Issue II MAY 2011



GOOD NEWS!

This is a publication for and by the people of St. Peter Claver Church and School. It is designed to inform its community of past, present and future events. St. Peter Claver is a vibrant, spirit-filled, evangelizing community that is grounded in the Eucharist and celebrates the culture and traditions of our African-American heritage. Strengthened by our belief in Jesus Christ and trusting in God's word, we transform our community through acts of justice by caring for the spiritual and physical needs of His people..

Very Rev. Michael P. Jacques, SSE

Pastor

Mrs. Cheryl G. Wheeler

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Dear Parishioners:

The apostle Thomas was missing from the Upper Room that first Easter night when Jesus entered the room without us of the door, appearing in his resurrected glory to the Apostles gathered there. When Thomas finally encountered Jesus, he bowed down and cried out, "My Lord and my God" to which Jesus responded, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed (JN 20:29). Jesus blesses those who believe, even when they cannot see what lies hidden beyond the veil of mystery. Part of the glory of Easter is that people dared to believe in the Resurrection of Jesus, precisely because of what they could not see or find—his body in the tomb.

Mary Magdalene was making her way in the predawn darkness to the tomb. She was not going there expecting to find an empty tomb. She, who watched Jesus die, likely came to wash and anoint his body more properly. Jesus had been taken down from the Cross in a hurry because Passover was beginning. Mary found nothing, except the stone that was rolled away and the sepulcher that was emptied of its precious contents. When she finally arrived at the Upper Room to inform the Apostles, she was thinking His body had been stolen, probably as one final cruel act of mockery.

Peter and John ran to the tomb to see what had happened. Whom did they see? No one. What did they see? Nothing, other than the burial clothes Jesus had been wrapped in. The absence of the body of Jesus opened up within them new possibilities. This trip to the tomb most probably had a deep impact on Peter and the other disciple and started them pondering. Could it be as Jesus said? Could He truly be risen? They would soon see Jesus, eat with Him by the Sea of Galilee, and receive the Holy Spirit. They would be strengthened to carry out the mission entrusted to them, that of the preaching of the Gospel and of the building up and leading the Church. From that day on, the Apostles would grow in wisdom, strength and holiness, and would not shrink from the work that lay before them.

The same can happen for us when we encounter the Risen Lord. If we let Him, Jesus can change our hearts so that we, too, will never be the same again. Jesus is still calling us to become witnesses to the Resurrection, even now, more than two millennia after it first took place. The Risen Lord wishes to draw our attention to heaven that we might seek and think of what is above. Jesus is calling us forth to live our faith more deeply, with the sure and certain hope that we are heaven-bound on our pilgrim journey through life.

It is natural for us to look at the empty tomb and feel just like it—empty. Witnesses to the Resurrection such as us—look at the empty tomb and our hearts are filled with faith, and we believe, precisely because of what we cannot see inside of it—the body of Jesus. This reality holds open new possibilities for us. We come to see Him in many and varied ways. He can speak to us through the Bible, as well as in the silence of our hearts. We can encounter Jesus in one another, and see His face as we serve the needs of the poor. As we continue to give thanks for the gift of faith by which we are saved, let us also give thanks for being able to see what others cannot, the face of Christ in one another.

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth living, just because He lives."

Peace in the Risen Lord,

Very Rev. Michael Jacques, SSE, VF

Pastor

"SWEET INSPIRATIONS"

(Taken from "God is in the Small Stuff" by Bruce & Stan)

- God's plans are always perfect. Seek His will.
- Don't make plans and then ask for the Lord's approval. Ask God to direct your planning.
- If you're going to wait for someone, wait for the Lord.
- The call of God is sometimes difficult to hear.
- Once discerned, the call of God is difficult to avoid.
- Remember that God's will is not so much a function of time and place as it is an attitude of the heart.
- If you want to know God's will, spend time with Him.
- No one can please God without adding a great deal of happiness to his or her own life.
- Circumstances may be outside your control, but the way you respond to them is not.
- When you feel like settling for less than the best, think about what God wants for you.
- You will begin to live when you lose yourself in God's purpose for you.
- When God speaks, listen.
- When God commands, obey.
- When God leads, follow.
- God loves you. Love Him back!



Covenant of Love

St. Peter Claver Marriage Ministry

By: Henri Reed

You are invited to join us for "Date Night" for Engaged and Married Couples.

Many couples are entering marriage today with unhealthy relational skills that years ago were first taught by parents, and then experienced through community. It was never God's design for His children to figure out how to develop a healthy marriage without the help and support of others. Yet, the culture we now live in seems to welcome isolation.

Here at St. Peter Claver Church, we offer every couple, through the Covenant of Love Ministry, to explore the riches and beauty of marriage. This process has allowed couples to reflect on the dignity and value of the Sacrament of Marriage."

Our "Date Nights" call couples to step back and reevaluate the commitment made when they first came together as husband and wife. The group format allows couples to see how their marriage has been influenced by their daily living, the gospel, and society.

The Covenant of Love invites couples to view their marriage based on what the Church teaches, and allows couples to lean on each other as a means of support. It empowers couples with the practical means to live out a joyous and happy marriage. We are in a culture where we need to look intently at the Sacrament of Marriage to see the fruits that a good marriage can bring.

Understanding marriage also allows the couples to live in a committed relationship with God. The Covenant of Love has been successful in getting couples to come to the table and ask some of the hard questions about marriage. The sessions are tailored to provide not only the questions, but the answers to those questions.

As couples come together in their marriages, they begin to see how their strong relationship enriches the life of the Church. The Covenant of Love Marriage Group provides a forum to talk about the value and dignity of marriage and to learn what God is calling married couples to be.

Welcome to St. Peter Claver Church

2011 Baptism Candidates

James Madison—Auther Price—Ahdija Price—Kynisha Christmas—
Dajanae Billizson—Dinah Billizson—Tymera Sparrow—Rubin Sparrow—
Courtney Bouton—Amari Ceasar—Amani Ceasar—Tai Payton—Dionte
Duperon—Diontrell Duperon—Aaron Maddox—Dylon Gray—Dylon
Williams—Manuel Armstrong—Christopher Armstrong—Kori Matthieu—
Bobby Heno—Brennen Heno—Emoine Brumfield—Casey Griggs—Rashad
Nance—Peyton Hughes—Karmen Franklin—Kaelyn Thomas—Kimora
Winters—Leslie Brown, Jr.—Caden Cleggett—Laylah Cook—Olivia Grif-
fin—Larry DeCuire, IV—Jo-El Smith, Jr.—Solomon Winger—Mallory
Bushnell—Acai Anderson—Vaelyn Bieniemy—Taj Jones



Visit St. Ann's

Shrine

(2100 Block of Ursulines Avenue)

OPEN

Tuesdays and Saturdays

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Mary Boutte'

Director, Youth Ministry

Well I am proud to say that the Junior Ministry is up and running thanks to Devin Boucree. We have been averaging 15-20 kids on the last Saturday of the month. Look in the bulletin in the coming weeks for the schedule for the summer. Hats off to you, Devin. The next feat will be getting our youth involved in is CYO sports, which includes getting coaches and several teams together. If any adults are interested or have some past experience in coaching, please contact the parish office and leave your name and number and we will definitely get back with you.

As the summer approaches, we are preparing for Leadership training for our youth in conjugation with CYO. Several of our children will be attending training throughout the summer and will gain new skills to make them a better and/or stronger leader as well as bring back information to make our youth ministry stronger.

During the next few months, we will be doing some fundraising so that we can do some fun activities and possibly a water park or beach trip. More information will follow as it develops.

The ministries will also be working with the Junior Knights and Daughters to collaborate on some activities this summer.

We will have a number of children graduating from high school this year as well as colleges and other schools. Graduation Mass will be on June 5th at the 11:30 mass. Announcements and sign up will begin in a couple of weeks. Look for announcements from the pulpit as well as in the bulletin.

Finally we have some accolades and awards to acknowledge with our youth for this year.

Altar server of the year award: Jennifer Vicks

Outstanding leadership and service awards: Jeremy Tauriac, Marcus Favre and Esther Faciane

St. Timothy awards from our parish: Ajani Gibson, Devon Watts, and Kyle Houston

We would also like to recognize three of our adults for 5 years of volunteer service with our youth are: Diane Cousins, Christine Coleman and Jason Coleman

All were recognized at a city wide Ceremony at St. Louis Cathedral.

Congrats to all and thank you for your leadership and service.

Please continue to keep our youth in your prayers.



As we go, tell the world.
As we go, tell the world. Tell
the world about Jesus. Tell
them about his love. Tell the
world about Jesus. Tell
about his love. As we go, tell
the world!!

Sister Jannette Marie
Pruitt and the Little Ones
(Pre-K thru 3rd Grade) leave
Mass to attend Children's
Church, where they are
taught the weekly Scripture
and Homily on their levels of
understanding. God bless
the children!!



Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011—SPC Parishioners gathered at Ursulines Avenue and N. Roman Street as Mass began with the blessing, distribution of palms and scripture reading. A procession of clergy, choir members, parishioners and brass band made their way to the church to the delight of neighbors and passersby. Scriptures were read and Father Michael Jacques announced that the gospel would be narrated and acted out by the church members. Each participant did an exceptional job. Actors, musicians, singers and readers are to be commended for a job well done.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011—Over 200 parishioners and guests assembled to participate in the annual Seder Meal Celebration. Each participant brought his/her special dish to be shared with their table mates. Fellowshiping and good conversation could be heard throughout the hall.

Holy Thursday, April 21, 2011—Mass of the Lord's Supper, washing of the feet, procession with the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration and Prayer were celebrated by parishioners and guests.

Good Friday, April 22, 2011—Parishioners observed the Living Stations of the Cross during Mass at 3:00 p.m., then returned to church for the Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 23, 2011—Easter Vigil Mass was observed at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011—HE IS RISEN!!!! ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!!





Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Alena Boucree

Religious Education

Parish Elementary Religious Education will end the year with a Family catechetical day, Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 am. Students will be awarded certificates for completing the course work for the year. Students will be recognized for their attendance and for memorizing prayers and scripture. Parents will share in the games and activities the classes have prepared. Ms. Jan Richardson, a High School Senior has volunteered with CCD for the past 5 years. She has been a great role model of servant leader with the children on Saturday mornings. We thank her for her service and wish her well as she continues her studies in college. May God Bless her and Keep her.

High School Religious Education will end the year with an evening of prayer, activity and fellowship on Wednesday, May 25 at 6:00pm. Students

We are blessed to have 47 children from the parish and school will receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 4:00 pm mass. A reception will follow mass in the school hall please join the children and their families at this celebration.

Cathedral Deanery Confirmation will take place on Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 pm. The host parish is St. Mary of the Angels Church at 3501 N. Miro St. Archbishop Gregory Aymond is the confirming bishop. There are thirty-seven youth from our parish making their Confirmation. There are also three youth who were confirmed as a part of their initiation sacraments. They have continued their Religious Education with their peers and will be recognized by the Archbishop at the Deanery Confirmation. Congratulations.



Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit of Fear of the Lord**—That we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You.
- The Spirit of Piety**—That we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others.
- The Spirit of Fortitude**—That we may bear our cross with You and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation.
- The Spirit of Knowledge**—That we may know You and know ourselves and grow in holiness.
- The Spirit of Understanding**—To enlighten our minds with the light of Your truth.
- The Spirit of Counsel**—That we may choose the surest way of doing Your will, seeking first the Kingdom.
- The Spirit of Wisdom**—That we may aspire to the things that last forever.



Happy
Mother's
Day!!!
May 8, 2011

M is for the many things she gave me.
O is only that she's growing old.
T is for the tears she shed to save me.
H is for her heart of purest gold.
E is for her eyes, with love-light shining.
R is right and right she'll always be.
 Put them all together, they spell **MOTHER**, the one who means the world to me.

GOD BLESS ALL MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS.



Pearl's Place
(Chasasa Mahali)
The Food Bank is
O P E N

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Parishioners are asked to continue bringing your **canned goods and donations** to Mass each Sunday or stop by the Food Bank and leave other items such as macaroni, rice, beans, instant coffee or tea, fruit drinks and bottled water. You may also contact **Mrs. Pearl Dupart**, the Food Bank Coordinator or one of the other hardworking volunteers, **Sylvia Bloom, Gerri Gant, Barbara Green, Mercedes Lewis and Vicki McLaurin**. Ask them if there are any other non-perishable items that are needed. Thanks in advance for your support.

JustFaith

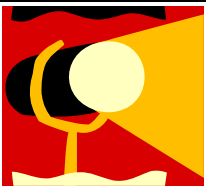
“Journey to Justice”

Each year JustFaith ministries across the country participate in the “Journey to Justice” experience, which is designed to introduce Catholics to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). In 1969, United States Catholic Bishops founded the CCHD in order to address the root cause of poverty in America through community controlled, self-help organizations that educate the public. On Sunday, March 27th, several JustFaith ministries from this region met here at St. Peter Claver to discuss various issues that are important to their missions and to further the development of empowerment of the poor and solidarity between the poor and non-poor.

At the meeting, there were representatives from St. Peter Claver Church, St. Joseph Church, the Archdiocese of New Orleans’ Office, St. Mary of the Angels Church, Holy Name of Jesus Church, St. Francis of Assisi Church and the Covington and Folsom, LA areas. The meeting was spearheaded by Mr. Nicholas Albares, Parish Social Ministry Coordinator of the Archdiocese’s Office of Justice and Peace; with presentations on faith-based organizing by Mr. Daniel Schwartz, Executive Director of the MICAH Project and the MICAH Vice Chair, Ms. Paula Arceneaux.

The group shared information that may be used to enhance each church’s ministry’s mission. They discussed crime in the neighborhoods, the importance of quality education, substance abuse and mental health victims and the need for more peer support volunteers. They also discussed the importance of organizing and the power of one-to-one sessions and how those sessions can be instrumental in bringing about change in communities. Participants were asked to present some of their success stories and to identify what has helped and/or hindered them in gaining opportunities inside and outside of their respective communities. The SPC JustFaith group meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the parish office. New members are always needed and welcome to attend the meetings.





Spotlight On . . .

The St. Peter Claver “Seniors”



Mardi Gras 2011

March 1st—The Seniors of St. Peter Claver began their Mardi Gras season with an exciting trip to the Mardi Gras Museum in Kenner’s Historic Rivertown. Upon their arrival, the seniors were greeted by Kenner’s District 1 Councilman, Gregory W. Carroll . He welcomed the seniors and visited some of the exhibits with them. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful guided tour of the planetarium and the museum. The weather was warm and perfect and a good time was had by all. (Transportation was provided by Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman.)

RCIA

Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church or know someone who is? We invite the following persons to join us here at St. Peter Claver Church:

- A) Un-baptized adults who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of becoming Catholic;
- B) Baptized Christians from other denominations who would like to learn more about the Catholic Church;
- C) Baptized Catholic adults who would like to prepare for first Communion & Confirmation.

Please call the Parish Office at 822-8059 for more information and speak to Deacon Allen or Ken Sears.



“My Journey, My Path, My Life.”

A Living Testimony by an RCIA Candidate

My name is **Ahdija Cheumbike Baker**. Ahdija means “to be loved” and Cheumbike means “one who is blessed.” My name comes from my mother’s Tanzanian heritage. Tanzania is located in east Africa. My father, on the other hand, is from Detroit. He converted to Islam before his travel to Tanzania where he met my mother. Growing up in an Islamic household presented me with a few instances of being misunderstood. The cultural difference this presented me didn't really affect me because I understood at a very young age that not everyone was versed in the culture.



The most people know of Islamic culture are but a few items they have heard such as: Muslims don't eat pork; Muslim women are to be completely covered when in public; and Muslims do not believe in Jesus. Also, these are answers to just a few common questions I've been asked. Muslims wear scarves and cover ourselves out of respect for God. Women are usually covered from head to toe to keep men from lusting after them and to keep their minds on a clear, focused path instead of thoughts of lustfulness. Muslims highly respect Jesus as a great prophet and anticipate his second coming in the future.

We promote and have different gestures that help coordinate our thoughts and actions. For instance, the custom of taking off one's shoes is to promote cleanliness and show respect to God. By not bringing in the filth from outdoors into the home or unto God, you show respect, for your house is where you pray and should be kept sacred.

Converting from Muslim to Christianity was not an easy decision. Throughout my young adult life, I juggled with my beliefs as a Muslim, especially since I was going to a Catholic church for worship. But, the message I was receiving from both my church and my heart was clear. I knew I was making the right decision in my life.

This is my own personal journey. I am doing this for me and my relationship with God. After the storm I felt compelled to look for a church home so that I could give my thanks to God. If I had gone to a church that gets you in and out in forty-five (45) minutes, I probably wouldn't have changed my religion. At St. Peter Claver, I feel a deep connection. Father Michael Jacques presents the sermon and speaks in such a way that he moves me. It is very welcoming. I feel at home, I feel accepted and the SPC members have become my family.

St. Peter Claver School



Work continues to be moving right along on schedule. Construction progress is steady and reopening of the school is fast-approaching. Students are getting excited about their new school and can't wait for the move-in!!



SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS & EVENTS

Weekly Events

Sunday Masses 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM
 RCIA, every *Tuesday* 7:00 PM (Ujima Center)
 Young Adult Choir Rehearsal, every *Tuesday* 7:00 PM
 Adult Choir Rehearsal, every *Thursday* 6:00 PM
 CCD Classes, every *Saturday* 9:00 AM (School)
 Food Bank, *Tuesday and Thursday* 10:00 AM-2:00 PM (Sankofa Bldg.)

Hall:

Pastoral Council Meeting *3rd Wednesday* 6:30 p.m.

In the UJIMA Center:

Senior Sodality, *1st Sunday* following the 9:00 AM Mass
 Knights of Peter Claver, *2nd Sunday* after the 9:00 AM Mass
 Ladies Auxiliary—Knights of Peter Claver, *2nd Sunday* after 11:30 AM Mass
 Senior Citizens, *2nd Monday* 3:00 PM
 Legion of Mary, every *Tuesday* 5:00 PM
 Family Life Commission, *1st Tuesday* 6:30 PM
 Social Ministry, *2nd Tuesday* 6:00 PM
 NIA-IMANI, *2nd Tuesday* 7:00 PM
 Liturgy Commission, *4th Tuesday* 6:30 PM
 Local Organizing Ministry, *1st Wednesday* 6:00 PM
 Men of UMOJA, *1st Wednesday* 6:30 PM
 Education Commission, *3rd Tuesday* 6:00 PM
 Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts, every *Thursday* 6:00-7:30 PM
 Bible Study, every *Monday* 6:00 PM



Calendar of Special Events

May 1—Baptism Sunday, May Crowning—9:00 a.m.—SPC Church
May 3—Deanery Confirmation—7:00 p.m.—St. Mary of the Angels
May 8—Mother's Day
May 8—Archbishop Aymond's Mass—9:00 a.m.—SPC Church
May 14—First Communion—4:00 p.m.—SPC Church
May 15—8th Grade Mass—9:00 a.m.—SPC Church
May 20—8th Grade Promotional Ex.—6:00 p.m.—SPC Church
May 21—PreK & Kindergarten Promotional Ex.—10:00 a.m.—Hall
May 29—Mem. Day—Fr. Michael's Priesthood Anniversary (29 yrs.)
June 5—Ascension of Our Lord
June 5—High School & College Graduates' Mass—11:30 a.m.—SPC
June 12—Pentecost Sunday
June 19—Father's Day
June 19—Trinity Sunday—Naming & Claiming—SPC Church
June 20—Baptism Prep—6:30 p.m.—SPC Church
June 26—Baptism Sunday—SPC Church
June 26—Corpus Christi Sunday
July 4—Independence Day



Happy Father's Day!

June 19, 2011

F is for the **favor** God bestows upon him to lead his family.

A is for the **assurance** that Jesus is his.

T is for the **tender** heart that he has for his wife and family.

H is for the **heavenly** crown that he will receive for his goodness.

E is for God's **earthly** existence displayed in his life.

R is for the **Risen Christ** who leads this faithful man of God.

SPC Teachers' Appreciation Week

May 2nd thru May 6th

Monday—Fruit Tuesday—"Thank You" Cards Wednesday—A Small Gift
Thursday—Prayers Friday—A Kind Gesture



NIA IMANI

SISTAH-FRIEND LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2011

TICKETS: \$50.00

HATS ARE DESIRED, BUT NOT REQUIRED.

The MICAHA Project (Moving in Faith, Courage and Hope)

The Local Organizing Ministry (LOM) of St. Peter Claver Church's MICAHA Project organized and conducted a Public Action meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. The meeting was well attended by church parishioners, neighbors and local public officials.

The MICAHA Project is a faith-based organization working to unlock the power of people living in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. At the center of MICAHA's model of faith-based community organizing is a belief in the potential for transformation of people, institutions and our larger culture.

The Public Action meeting on Tuesday was one of a series of meetings held at St. Peter Claver to evoke dialogue between this community and the police department officials, the superintendent of schools and New Orleans City Council members. Those past discussions have been positive and some of the community's requests have been addressed. The meeting held Tuesday night was also geared to reinforce the commitment by the city officials to continue to bring about solutions to problems that are recurring such as replacing broken street lights, repairing streets and preventing nuisance businesses from operating.

City Council Members, Kristin Palmer of District C and Susan Guidry of District A addressed issues of the broken street lights and repairs to the infrastructure. The LOM has requested that the City Council renew the moratorium on issuance of Alcohol Beverage Outlet (ABO) permits to businesses in the area. Ms. Palmer and Ms. Guidry made the commitment to take all of the information back to the City Council and the Mayor and continue to fight against nuisance businesses.

NOPD Captain Robert Norton attended the meeting and has been a regular participant in the effort. The LOM requested that the NOPD continues to conduct surveillance of this community and provide protection from individuals involved in drug activity. Again, the problem of nuisance businesses that exists in this neighborhood was mentioned. Captain Norton responded to questions about the various aspects of crime and nuisance. His continued presence has been reassurance to the community that he is committed in his support of the LOM's involvement. Captain Norton assured everyone that his fellow officers in this district are also committed to provide assistance and protection.

In a surprise appearance by the Superintendent of Police, Ronal Serpas, the meeting participants are now confident that the St. Peter Claver LOM's message is being channeled to the proper parties and that the individuals in positions of power are being apprised of this community's needs and concerns and the. The Superintendent pledged his support to the community and assured everyone that the NOPD has this community's best interest and safety at heart.



Although there were several questions concerning quality education for the children of this community and the rebuilding and charter process of Phillis Wheatley Elementary School, those questions were left unanswered. A seat was reserved on the panel for Mr. Paul Vallas, Superintendent of Orleans Parish Schools, but he did not attend the meeting. Mr. Vallas' absence left the meeting participants in doubt of his commitment to support the mission of the LOM.

At the close of the meeting, Very Reverend, Michael P. Jacques, Pastor of St. Peter Claver Church made remarks on the successes and his disappointments in officials who are not committed to provide assistance to the citizens of this community. Rev. Jacques asked that the public officials who were present sign a covenant, pledging their loyalty and commitment to the causes of the St. Peter Claver's Local Organizing Ministry's mission.

Bravo to St. Peter Claver School for receiving the **Catholic Identity Award** that was presented at the Sadlier Breakfast on April 26, 2011 at the New Orleans Hilton Hotel. The event was sponsored by William H. Sadlier, Inc. of New York, New York during the National Educational Association Convention.

The school received a framed certificate and a monetary award.



 *Though April showers may come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May. And if it's raining, have no regrets because it isn't raining rain you know, it's raining violets. And when you see clouds upon the hill, you soon will see crowds of daffodils. So keep on* 
*looking for the bluebird, and listening for his song, whenever April showers come along. **HAPPY MAY DAY!!! Take time to smell the flowers!!***



Revival—2011



Revival—2011

Our annual revival was on April 11th, 12th and 13th this year. Our revivalist was Father Maurice Nutt. St. Peter Claver Church was packed each night with attendees who were eager to hear the word. God spoke through Father Maurice with words that touched each heart and soul and uplifted every spirit. There was something said for everyone; something to take with us and use in our lives as we grow in Christ

Father Maurice delivered the following messages:

April 11th—Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:9-20—Sermon: "You don't know me like that!" - Hannah, a barren woman, was sick, sad and depressed because she was not able to have a child. For a long time she prayed, cried and did not eat. However, after continuously praying to God, she got up, rose to her feet and faced the public, who had talked about her and called her names. She went to temple to pray, but **she was accused of being drunk** by Eli, the priest. She exclaimed that she was not drunk. She was a woman of sorrowful spirit. She then pleaded with her husband, Elkanah, to pray with her. God, in his mercy, granted them their desire and they were blessed with a child . . . Samuel.

MORAL: You can't judge a book by its cover. Never let anyone indict you before they investigate you. Don't deal with people who don't discern you. Ignore people who gossip about you. Your condition is not your conclusion. Believe in God! He will deliver you and grant you the desires of your heart.

April 12th—Scripture: 2 Samuel 9:1-13—Sermon: "I'm Covered" - King Saul hated his son Jonathan's best friend, David. King Saul forbade Jonathan to associate with David, not knowing that **David was God's chosen one**. But David made a promise to his best friend, that when he became king, he would forever take care of Jonathan's lineage. It came to pass that after many years, the house of Saul had crumbled. King David discovered that there was only one descendent of Jonathan's still alive. Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, had survived. **He was lame and lived in a lowly place**. King David sent for him. He showed Mephibosheth kindness and restored all the land and all the riches of Saul's house.

MORAL: You don't have to be fixed to be favored. No matter how low you go, God will keep His promise to deliver you. As long as you shall live, you will always have a place at the King's table.

April 13th—Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:5-10—Sermon: "Making Your Mess Your Message" - God's says, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." When the messenger of The Enemy places a thorn in your side to torment you, God will always grant you the strength to withstand the temptation, because in the midst of that temptation, God is faithful. God wants us to know that when we are weak, we are strong. Sometimes our weaknesses are inherent or invented, but everyone has them, public or private. God lets us go through things so we can trust Him to make us stronger. He will step in and keep us alert. He will turn our weakness into power. When we are tired, God will renew our strength.

MORAL: No cross, no crown. No burden, no blessing. Depend on God!!!





Relaxation Techniques

To prolong life, we should all include some type of exercise. That does not mean we have to do anything strenuous. We can get the exercise we need by participating in low cardio activities such as walking, meditating and breathing, getting a massage, stretching and practicing Yoga or Tai chi. These exercises are not only good for the body, they're good for the mind and spirit. They help us to relax and relieve us of stress. Remember, relaxation techniques are skills. As with any skill, the ability to relax improves with practice. We must be patient with ourselves. Don't let the effort to practice relaxation techniques become yet another stressor. Try to stay committed without feeling pressured. Take your time. And last, but certainly not least, **PRAY!**



"NO MORE LIQUOR LICENSES TO NUISANCE BUSINESSES!"

"St. Peter Claver Church Marches for Justice"

On Sunday, April 10th, the pastor and congregation of St. Peter Claver gathered in solidarity and marched to a nearby nightclub that has been the main focus of their community nuisance cleanup efforts. The Domino Effect Nightclub at 810 N. Claiborne Avenue has recently been shut down due to the public outcry from the community and negative publicity in the media. Since 1992, that particular site has changed names and operators several times. However, the name of the owner remains the same. Permanent closure of that site will be one giant step toward the betterment of our city and our society.

Nuisance bars and businesses that turn a blind's eye to violence and crime will no longer be tolerated and accepted by the people of New Orleans, especially, the St. Peter Claver parishioners and their neighbors. Efforts to close those establishments will continue by community active organizations such as the MICAH Project.

New Orleans community leaders gathered at the location for a press conference led by Pastor of SPC, Father Michael P. Jacques. Notable speakers in attendance were: NOPD Superintendent Ronal Serpas, Deputy Police Chief, Marlon Defillo, who grew up in this neighborhood, NOPD District Commander, Robert Norton, State Rep. Austin Badon, State Sen., Edwin Murray, and City Councilwoman, Kristin Palmer.

A FACELIFT FOR THE CLAVER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION BUILDING

REPAIRS DONE IN PART BY PARISHIONERS OF

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

(Thanks to all who contributed to the renovation of the site.)



If you have any suggestions, articles and pictures for future Habari Gani issues, please email them to the Editor at: cwheeler@spclaverchurch.org