

# *Acacia*

the annual newsletter of



Recap of 2023

Issue #2, January 2024

*Our 34<sup>th</sup> year!*

## **Colorado Springs Council for Black Catholics**

Diocese of Colorado Springs, CO

In 1990 the Colorado Springs Council for Black Catholics (CSCBC) formed under the direction and endorsement of Bishop Richard C. Hanifen as a council to enhance our identity as Afro-American Catholics doing God's work, and to give one another strength, encouragement, and fellowship.

As such, we have become involved in several activities which allow us to share in accomplishing our mission more actively and to experience the spiritual growth we continually seek.

In 2022 the council implemented its Junior Membership for individuals 13-17 years old.

We are blessed to be a recipient of a grant from the Black and Indian Mission Office to pursue our evangelization and outreach efforts.

The council is diocese-wide.

### **Mission Statement**

- With Christ as our model, provide fellowship and share His word.
- Share talents as we bring new life into the Catholic church.
- Provide positive role models.
- Share resources and network with other organizations to provide services.
- Advocate for Social Justice issues within the diocese.

Our patron saint is St. Martin de Porres.

Our motto is **"BE SEEN"**

(**B**uilding, **E**nlightening, **S**ervice, **E**ducating, **E**vanglizing, **N**etworking).

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[CSCBC FaceBook](#)

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## Evangelization and Outreach

### January

Books related to Catholicism and African Americans were provided to Catholic educational institutions in the diocese during Catholic Schools week. One of the parishes also received books for its parish library.

### February

Members participated in their Spring outreach session of "Catholic Fire" with college students at the Newman Center (adjacent to University of Colorado at Colorado Springs).



Council members attended Mass together during Black History Month and sponsored a reception in honor of Servant of God Julia Greeley after Mass.

### March

Council members led the Stations of the Cross at one of the parishes.

Three new videos were added to the council's YouTube "Black Catholic Series".

### April

One of the council's members attended the annual Black Catholic Retreat sponsored by the Denver Catholics.

### August

Printed material was provided to the diocese for the Bishop's Convocation for Priests. The material included information about the council.

### September

Members participated in their Fall session of "Catholic Fire" with college students at the Newman Center. One of the council members provided transportation for some students from nearby Colorado College.

### November

The annual St. Martin de Porres dinner, in honor of our patron saint, was held at the Newman Center. We were so blessed that a special Mass was held and that our bishop, Bishop Golka, was the celebrant. The dinner also marks the initial distribution of the Josephite calendars for the following year.



Members attended Mass at Colorado College at the request of the Catholic students' organization. The council provided refreshments for the students in celebration of Black Catholic History Month. The celebrant's Mass intention was in support of the work the council does to promote and educate the community on Black Catholic history.



### April

Three members attended one of the Catholic high school's fundraising gala.

### July

Two council members attended the NBCC Conference.





The council puts evangelical and informative ads in the diocese's newspaper, "The Colorado Catholic Herald", and in the Diocesan Directory. Articles written by members/supporters are also printed in the Herald.

Newspaper articles:

- "Philanthropist Lafon supported many charitable causes", Feb 2023
- "Black Catholic retreat offers practical steps for growing in faith", May 2023
- "National Black Catholic Congress celebrates Black spirituality", Aug 2023
- "Advance Care Planning can address racial disparities at end of life", Sep 2023

Ads:

- Black History Month – "Black Resistance: Resistance Leaders you may never heard of", Feb 2023
- Easter – "I am the Resurrection and the Life"
- Juneteenth – "Contrary to popular belief, the Emancipation Proclamation did not end American slavery...", June 2023
- Black Catholic History Month – honoring Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Nov 2023



We would not be able to accomplish our mission without the grant received from the Black and Indian Mission and the supporters who contribute to the mission. Thank you!

Nor could we make it without diocese support, especially our bishop, James R. Golka. When we requested a spiritual advisor, Bishop Golka gave it serious consideration, then appointed Deacon Candidate Clarence Johnson. "CJ", as he is called, has truly been a man with a mission since we met him in November. He and his wife, Sheila, are providing tremendous assistance and support.