

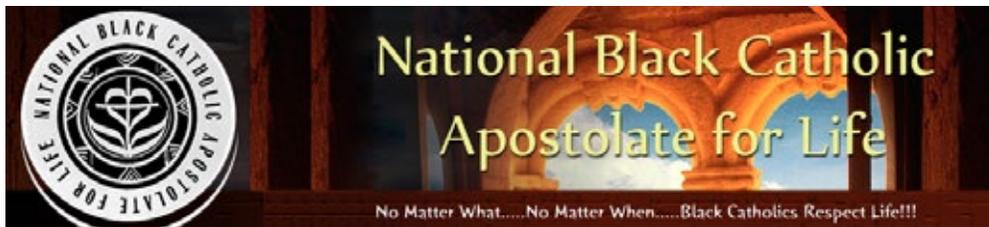
in a
WordTM

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-The legacy of Father Cyprian Davis
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and Sister Jamie Phelps, O.P.



JUNE IS ABORTION AND ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

GO TELL IT
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS,
CHURCHES, SCHOOLS,
ON YOUR STREETS
YES EVERYWHERE
ABORTION IS NOT AN OPTION
BUT LIFE IS
ACTS OF VIOLENCE
ARE NOT OPTIONS
BUT GOODNESS
AND MERCY ARE.



June 2015 marks the 18th annual June is Abortion and All Acts of Violence Awareness Month in the African American community.

In announcing the June is abortion and all acts of violence awareness month Franciscan Father James E. Goode President of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life and the National Board of Consultants stated the following:

“Our message is powerful and prophetic:
Pray for the end of abortion and all acts of violence
and hate in our communities.

Go tell it in
**OUR NEIGHBORHOODS,
CHURCHES, SCHOOLS,
ON OUR STREETS,
YES EVERYWHERE**
**ABORTION IS NOT AN OPTION BUT LIFE IS.
ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE NOT OPTIONS
BUT GOODNESS AND MERCY ARE.**

We are expecting miracles. The 2015 Abortion and All Acts of Violence awareness month has been placed at the feet of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph her most chaste spouse. With divine assurance we are also seeking the heavenly assistance of Saint Martin de Porres, Patron of Black Catholics, St. Josephine Bakhita, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Henriette De Lille, Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lang and Father Augustus Tolton.

Family of God come join us as we give witness to God’s gift of life, and pray for the end of the abortion and all acts of violence and hate.”

The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life was inaugurated in the fall of 1997, with the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the Franciscan Solid Ground Ministry as sponsors and with the support of the late John Cardinal O’Connor, then Archbishop of New York and the Archdiocesan Office of Black Ministry - Brother Tyrone A. Davis, CFC, Executive Director. Since then, NBCAL Affiliates have been established throughout the United States.

“I encourage Catholics to uphold “the inestimable value of all human life. Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect” - Pope Francis -- July 25, 2013

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE
PRAYER FOR LIFE

God,
our help in ages past, our hope
for years to come, gaze upon our African
American community as we pray for an end to
violence and a halt to abortion among us. Touch our
minds and hearts, and fix them on life and love. Turn us
to seek the wisdom of our ancestors.
Jesus the Giver of Life, make us a People for Life.
Bless us, so that we may pass on a legacy of your life
and grace. Strengthen us to sacrifice ourselves for each other.
Shower us with your grace and mercy so that we may be sources
of light and hope to those less fortunate among us.

JESUS THE GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US A PEOPLE FOR LIFE

Bless those who are sick, broken, lonely and forgotten.
Bring us all to your everlasting arms at the end of our journey
with a clean heart, so that we may rest in praise and
thanksgiving, joined to all who have gone before us. We pray
in the name of Jesus. Amen! Amen! Hallelujah! Amen!
Jesus the Giver of Life, make us a People for Life.

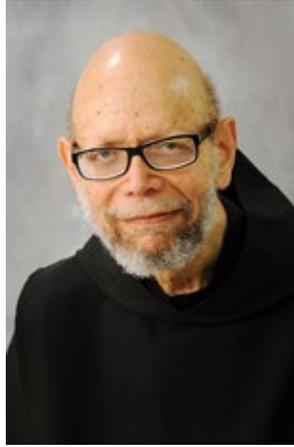
Composed by James Rodman
Theresa Wilson-Farrell & Fr. Glenn D. Parker, CSCJ
Inspiration: J. Larry Stahl, SVD
Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee, May 14, 2007



www.obmay.org www.blackcatholicsforlife.org

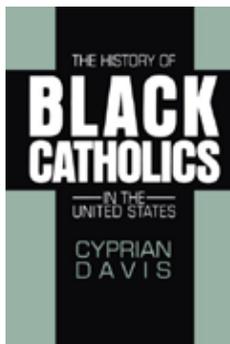
Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, died on May 18, 2015. He was 84. Fr. Cyprian was born in Washington, D.C., on September 9, 1930, to Clarence W. and Evelyn (Jackson) Davis, who named him Clarence John. He joined the Catholic Church as a teenager.

He studied at Saint Meinrad Seminary from 1949 to 1956. Invested as a novice monk on July 31, 1950, he professed his simple vows August 1, 1951, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1956.



Fr. Cyprian received a licentiate in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America in 1957, and the license and the doctorate in historical sciences from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, in 1963 and 1977, respectively. He was professor emeritus of Church history at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, where he had begun teaching in 1963.

He also served as an archivist of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation, and of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, of which in 1968 he was a founding member. He also belonged to the American Catholic Historical Association and the Society of American Archivists. He was also a teacher and faculty member for the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana.



In addition to dozens of articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia and dictionary entries, Fr. Cyprian wrote six books. But it is his 1990 work for which he will be especially remembered. *The History of Black Catholics in the United States* is a 350-page study of the American Black Catholic experience from the early Spanish explorations to 1970, and it is regarded as the essential study of the American Black Catholic experience.

Among the honors he received for this book were the John Gilmary Shea Award in 1990, and the Brother Joseph Davis Award in 1991. Fr. Cyprian was preparing a revised edition of this work at the time of his death.

In addition, Fr. Cyprian contributed to the second draft of *Brothers and Sisters to Us*, the 1979 pastoral letter on racism published by the United States Catholic bishops, and he helped write the initial draft of *What We Have Seen and Heard*, the 1984 pastoral letter on evangelization from the black Catholic bishops.

He also had also written what is considered the definitive biography of Mother Henriette Delille, the black foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family in antebellum New Orleans.

Her sainthood cause was opened in 1988 and she was declared venerable in 2010.

In a 2007 interview with Catholic News Service, Father Davis said his love of history is what helped motivate him to join the church. "I would never describe my odyssey as being an intellectual journey. It was more or less a falling in love with history. It made me fall in love with one of the things history talks about, and that would be the Catholic Church," he said.

He added his interest in U.S. black Catholic history started upon his return from his studies in Belgium in 1963. "All those times were in ferment, especially in regard to civil rights, and that's when I began to realize its importance. People began to come and ask me about being black and Catholic: 'What is my place in the church?'" he recalled. "That's when I began to realize that this is important. ... That's when I began to do my own research."

Interviewed at length by CNS in 1999, Father Davis said, "I think to a large extent the mentality of many black Catholics has been that we are a people who are almost like still on mission." However, he added, "we also should have an understanding of contributions that have been made and are being made. And that there is more to being black and Catholic than the fact that we've got nice music," he noted, laughing, "and that we probably do very, very wonderful liturgies."

"There are more things that are out there. And we should be aware. And that we are a part – **we are an integral part of the church. That is very important part. We're an integral part of the church, and we're not negligible.**"



These B/W photos were taken when Father Cyprian was teaching a class at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies in July of 1985. Besides being a well sought after speaker Father Davis was a well liked teacher. At the Institute for Black Catholic Studies folk flocked to his classes. We will certainly miss him. His wry smile, gentleness and kindness will be missed but not forgotten.

in a word or two

Congratulations and kudos to three individuals who have contributed much to **IN A WORD**.

First we send congratulations to Madison Miner for graduating from St. Mary's Academy on May 14, 2015. Madison is the daughter of Wayne and Cathy Green-Miner who many know as the long time office manager for us here at **IN A WORD**.

Cathy brought Madison to the office almost as soon as she could walk so we are so proud to see her walk in the graduation exercises as the third ranking member of her class. She has received scholarship offers from 7 colleges but has chosen to attend LSU in Baton Rouge this Fall. Again congratulations to Madison and her parents Cathy and Wayne. We are proud of you!



Madison (also seen on the front cover) poses with her proud parents.



Praises also go out to Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D. who has written for us on previous occasions. She was recently featured in an interview about the Catholic Church. She shared her life story about being an African American Catholic. This brilliant historian shared much that are interesting reading.

One of the quotes that are worth mentioning are her thoughts on Cyprian Davis whom we remembered on the previous page. She said...

"First, let me state again that I remain a member of the Church of my birth because of the uncommon faithfulness of those African-American Catholic men, women, and children, like Father Cyprian Davis, who understood that racism and segregation had no place in the Church and dared to fight to make it truly Catholic. Father Davis embraced the religious state at a time when most non-black members of the Church considered people of African descent inferior and subhuman, and we all owe him and so many others for their sacrifices, fortitude, and courage."
"I am also deeply indebted to Father Davis's pioneering scholarship on the African-American Catholic community. He laid the intellectual foundation for examining the history of black Catholics in the United States, established some of the key theoretical frameworks for identifying and understanding black Catholic resistance, and challenged church historians and everyday practicing (non-black) Catholics to take black Catholic lives and experiences seriously."

You can read the interview at <http://dailytheology.org/2015/05/05/the-church-is-not-yet-dead-an-interview-with-dr-shannen-dee-williams/>

Sister Dr. Jamie Phelps, O.P., Ph.D. responded on her **FACEBOOK** page to an article titled *TOO PRETTY TO BE A NUN*. It was the a story about a young woman named Angela who decided to become a Sister despite many people asking "why...you are so pretty". Angela at the end of the article says ..

"I was raised Catholic in a loving home in Belleville, Ill. I envisioned a white-picket-fence future of marriage and motherhood and even got engaged at one point. But I was always seeking something more. In many ways, my attraction to consecrated life is a reaction against the trappings of modern, secular life. I yearn for service and simple living. I crave a sisterhood centered on my deepest values, not a sorority based on boys and booze. I've had the privilege of visiting convents across the service and simple living. I crave a sisterhood centered on my deepest values, not a sorority based on boys and booze. I've had the privilege of visiting convents across the country looking for the right fit, and I meet with a spiritual director regularly to guide me as I determine my next step.

I may not look like a nun, but my heart is shaped for this vocation. I see religious life as an adventure that will exceed my wildest dreams." Read entire article at.....

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/angela-svec/too-pretty-to-be-a-nun_b_6819678.html

Sister Jamie's response was...

"I have been a woman religious (aka "sister" or "nun" since 1959 (my day of entrance). As a member of the Adrian Dominican Sisters whose mother-house (headquarters) is in Adrian, Michigan, I was surprised by this article because many of our members were physically attractive when they entered at age 17 and a few years older and many have retained their physical beauty as they have aged!

Angela is beautiful and a woman of cultivated spiritual depth. Religious Congregations of women welcome all who discern that God is calling them to a life of prayer and service as they commit it themselves to follow the Way and continue the Mission of Jesus Christ in today's world. Young women interested in such a life should visit many congregations until they find the "right fit" for their vocation. Please take time to check the Adrian Dominican Sisters web page and contact our vocation and formation team. <http://www.adriandominicans.org/WhoWeAre/AboutUs.aspx>



Divine Word Missionaries is an international missionary community of over 7,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

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