

The ADVOCATE

Queen of Peace Quarterly Newsletter

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Editor's Note: "All life has inestimable value. Even the weakest and most vulnerable . . . 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. The Spring issue of *The Advocate* focuses on the many faces of human dignity. There are articles on our physically and intellectually challenged brothers and sisters from the Merica House in Falls church and the L'Arche community in Arlington; the Building Forever Families Ministry which advocates for foster care, adopted and orphaned children; and victims of domestic violence. One OLQP member recounts an unforgettable pilgrimage with Fr. Brandon to two Holy Sites in Europe. Also, don't miss the latest update on Haiti, a column on labor union's role in ensuring worker's dignity, and an item on the UJAMAA 25th Anniversary Annual Scholarship Award Program.

– Paula Cruickshank, Editor, The Advocate

Merica House

Independent Living for the Physically Disabled

By Debra Johnson

"What have we done for the stranger, outsider, the ones who are aching for welcome, acceptance? God's chosen people, blest and holy, what have we done for the stranger here in our midst?"—Lori True



OLQP 11:15 Folk Mass Choir

Cathy Parr, (Dee) Deirdre Shields, and Maureen (Mo) Shields are long-time members of the OLQP 11:15 Folk Mass Choir. Each Sunday they use Metro access to get to and from church. Coming to OLQP and singing in the choir are one of their favorite parts of the week.

Cathy, Mo and Dee live at Merica House, a community-based residential care alternative for severely disabled adults. Without Merica House, disabled adults like Cathy, Mo and Dee, most likely would be living in a nursing home or leading an isolated life with no peer contact and totally dependent on aging parents for their care.

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Merica House accommodates seven young adults with severe physical disabilities that require 24-hour attendant care services. It was founded in 1995 by Harry Merica—a young, disabled man with a dream. Residents are involved in the operation of the home and their own care. The non-profit organization, Alliance for the Physically Disabled, runs Merica House, which is located in two modified condominiums in Skyline Plaza, Falls Church. The residents love and welcome visitors there.



"The Breakfast Club" volunteers Mike McNerney and Lisa Bowen

Cathy, Dee and Mo arrange all the logistics they need to lead active lives. Cathy has a job, while Mo and Dee are involved in various programs around town. While their logistical planning includes their weekly trips to OLQP, once they arrive, Cathy, Dee and Mo need assistance to navigate around the church campus and enter through the side door. Once inside, the three choir members join their fellow musicians, front-and-center.

Cathy needs help at Mass turning the music pages; Dee and Mo are legally blind and sing from memory;



Mo and Dee love socializing

and they all need assistance from choir members to make sure they receive the Holy Eucharist. It's a real team effort. As one of the choir members, I send Cathy, Dee and Mo the songs ahead of time, and Meg Wholey practices singing with them at Merica House.

After Mass has ended each Sunday, the three ladies need help getting to Father Ray Hall for breakfast. They love socializing and having breakfast in the newly renovated center.

There are currently two OLQP volunteers who help out regularly at "The Breakfast Club." Others assist when they are available.

Mike McNerney and Lisa Bowen, the regular volunteers, reflected on their experiences.

Mike: My wife (Katie), family and I have been friends with Cathy,



Mike offers Mo a breakfast bagel

Mo, and Dee for many years. I just wanted to hang out with the girls. Cathy is a big fan of chocolate-covered doughnuts. Mo is more of a full-on breakfast kinda gal. Dee usually sticks to coffee and teas, but I can sometimes persuade her to enjoy a jelly doughnut."

Lisa: "I've come to know them and they are entirely delightful, not to mention inspirational. We share stories, give each other moral support and usually end up laughing a lot. If they thank me for helping them with breakfast, I thank them right back for being such bright, shining beams of warm friendship and fun times. I am grateful to be part of such a special OLQP "Breakfast Club" with these amazing young women."



Lisa helps Dee with her drink

We need more volunteers to help Cathy, Mo, and Dee at the OLQP breakfast. Two people are normally needed when Cathy, Mo, and Dee are all there on a Sunday. If one or two more people volunteer at the Breakfast Club one Sunday a month, this would make a tremendous difference in ensuring there are no gaps.

Merica, continued from page 2

Mike: "It might seem awkward to just start interacting with three strangers in wheelchairs, but we are a pretty friendly, interesting, laid-back, non-judgmental bunch. So feel free to visit us spontaneously, hang out once, commit on a trial basis, whatever you can do would be appreciated."

Merica House continues to be made possible through the combined support of state and local government programs, community organizations, and both corporate and individual contributions. Volunteers are also needed at Merica House to perform a variety of services for the residents.

If you are thinking of being part of something special, consider volunteering with the "Breakfast Club of Merica House" at OLQP.

There are so many wonderful ministries at OLQP, and there is no doubt that Jesus would be right there doing this one.

For more information, please contact Debra Johnson at debralpholqp@gmail.com.. ♦

Dignity, Differences and Love: My Experience in the 11:15 Choir

By Carey Gauzens

As a member of the 11:15 choir, I am proud and grateful to be part of a community who has embraced singers and instrumentalists from many countries, many of whom are just learning English and who are of different abilities, musically, emotionally and physically. It has been a gift in my life to be a part of this choir, and for me, it has made the difference between feeling like a "person who comes to church" versus a "member of a family."

When a friend and I first attended the OLQP 11:15 Mass, we found it to be a welcoming space for those of all shapes, sizes and abilities.

Although I believe that OLQP is a welcoming

community at all of its Masses, what strikes me the most at the 11:15 Mass is its diversity among the physically or intellectually impaired.

The Mass includes at least one, if not two, pews of L'Arche residents, several individuals in wheelchairs, sometimes some visually impaired/legally blind people and at other times, individuals who are hearing impaired/deaf. Several members of the Merica House community are choir members and sit with and sing with the 11:15 choir.

In my experience, OLQP is a community that works mindfully to welcome each person, whatever the circumstances. In that respect, I find it to be a more disabled-friendly setting than I have ever seen in any other Catholic Church.

I am truly grateful and blessed that my "family" represents the truth of our church and our nation: We do not all look the same, we do not all speak the same language, and we do not all walk, talk, see, hear, feel or live the exact same way. And yet we all can share the same love, welcome and desire to understand one another.

No matter what shape, size or ability, if you love to make music, we would love to have you. The 11:15 Sunday Choir rehearses on Tuesday nights from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the church and on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am in the Founder's Room in the Ministry Center. (FYI, locations may change as the upcoming church construction progresses.)

If you are interested in joining the choir, please feel free to come to a practice! Or if you want more information and/or a friendly face first, contact one of our three leaders:

Katie McNerney: mcnerney5@gmail.com

Tom Leckey: Theleckey@verizon.net

Mike Hanna: Hannakm@bv.com

Or contact me, Carey Gauzens, at persycat@icloud.com.

We'd love to have you!! ♦

All Children Deserve to be Treated with Dignity

Leah and Patricio Tanyag

By Debbie Gattuso

Every year in the United States over 250,000 children enter foster care. There are currently over 430,000 children living in foster homes in the U.S. The children range in age from infants to teenagers. During their time in foster care, it is common for these children to move to multiple times. Their belongings are usually transported using garbage bags. Imagine the indignity of being given a garbage bag to hold your possessions as you move from place to place. This is a daily occurrence across the nation for children in the foster care system.

Two fathers, Rob and Reese Scheer, sought to change this scenario. Rob, a former foster child himself, and his husband Reese adopted four foster children from Northwest DC and currently live in Darnestown, Maryland. Four years ago, they founded Comfort Cases, a non-profit organization with a mission of "Inspiring Communities to Bring Dignity and Hope to Youth in Foster Care."



Building Forever Families Ministry

Comfort Cases works with foster care agencies around the country to provide children a new small duffel bag or backpack to carry their belongings. Within each Comfort Case is a book, new pajamas, a blanket,

a journal (for older children), a stuffed animal and basic toiletries. To date, they have provided over 11,000 cases to children in 32 states. Giving a foster child a Comfort Case in the midst of moving to a stranger's house away from his/her birth family, provides a small amount of dignity during a time of chaos and confusion. This simple act tells the child they are worthy of new pajamas, a new toy and blanket. It takes away the indignity of a garbage bag. It is the goal of Comfort Cases to expand beyond the Washington, DC area to foster care agencies throughout the U.S.



The Building Forever Families (BFF) ministry at OLQP advocates for foster care, adoption, and orphaned children through programs and awareness events throughout the year. May is National Foster Care month. As has been done the last two years, BFF will be collecting donations on behalf of Comfort Cases. The generosity of OLQP parishioners in this effort has grown year over year as more people become aware of the plight of these very special children. More information about the foster care awareness events sponsored by BFF will be in upcoming bulletins.

To find out more about Comfort Cases, please go to www.comfortcases.org. The Building Forever Families Ministry meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the Founder's Room. You do not have to be a foster or adoptive parent to participate in the ministry. You just have to have an interest in helping and raising awareness about children without forever families. ♦

The Indignity of Domestic Violence

By Bonnie Carlson

We often may think of domestic violence as one person committing physical acts, such as punching, kicking, or pushing, against their intimate partner. These actions are, of course, abusive, not to mention violations of civil and criminal law. However, actions that make up domestic violence are much broader than physical abuse.

Perpetrators of domestic violence often sexually assault their partners, emotionally or verbally abuse them, manipulate them financially, and stalk them. The American Bar Association defines domestic violence as “a pattern of many behaviors directed at achieving and maintaining power and control over an intimate partner, such as physical violence, emotional abuse, isolation of the victim, economic abuse, intimidation, and coercion and threats.” At its core, perpetrators of domestic violence are seeking to use any means available to them to control their partners.



photo credit: Pixabay

One of my first protective order clients was a middle-aged woman whose family member had stabbed

her in the face with a decorative knife that had been hanging on the wall. Her injuries were well-documented and still visible on her face, and the court quickly ordered all the relief we requested. After about a year of litigating, though, I realized that those extreme acts of violence were not the norm for my cases.

The majority of my clients had few, if any, visible injuries caused by their abusers. Many were victims of emotional and verbal abuse, making a protective order case more challenging to litigate. It was these cases that taught me that domestic violence is truly about how perpetrators can maintain power and control over victims. I looked beyond the horrifying allegations of violence and started to get a more complete picture of how the perpetrator can become abusive so slowly that the victim does not see the escalation and gradually strips away a person's dignity.

One client I had towards the end of my time with legal aid exemplified the slow stripping away of dignity that can occur through domestic violence. Slowly, over the course of her relationship with her husband, he began to permit her to leave the house less and less. At first, he forced her to leave her job to stay at home with their children. By the end of their relationship, she was completely homebound and only permitted to leave when



Bonnie Carlson

accompanied by her husband.

My client's husband also would not allow her to eat meals with him and forced her and their young children to sit on the floor and eat in the kitchen while he ate alone in the dining room. Despite all of his behavior, my client continued to hold

onto hope of their relationship improving and believed her husband when he said he loved her.

There were other factors, too. Her immigration status was tied to his, and he made sure that she knew he would call ICE if she were to ever leave him. Combined with having no job, no education, and limited English proficiency, this threat was enough to keep her in the relationship for nearly six years.

Domestic violence can manifest in many forms, even when physical violence is present, there is often no marks and bruises. Even in cases where a victim is strangled, over 50% of individuals have no physical marks after the fact.

Domestic violence can keep a victim a prisoner not just from experiencing power and control by their abuser but also due to the internal shame and isolation. Abusers often isolate victims from their family and friends. They may even use religion to justify abuse.

No one deserves the indignity of domestic violence. If someone

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you know is a victim of domestic violence, there is hope. Having a consistent supportive network is one of the most important ways to support a victim of domestic violence. There are also local resources that are available, including the following:

Resources in Arlington County:

Doorways for Women and Families – provides emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and supportive counseling.
(703) 237-0881 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline
www.doorwaysva.org

Arlington County Police Department
911 for emergency
(703) 558-2222 – non-emergency
<https://police.arlingtonva.us/>

Victim Witness Program
(703) 228-4410
<https://courts.arlingtonva.us/commonwealth-attorney/victim-witness-program/>

Legal Services of Northern Virginia
(703) 778-6800
www.lsnv.org ♦

An Inspirational Pilgrimage to Two Holy Sites

By Tom O'Connor

In November 2017, Fr. Brandon Nguyen, C.S. Sp., led a group of OLQP parishioners to Fatima, Portugal, Lourdes, France and the two Spanish cities of Burgos and Barcelona. We were joined by a similar sized group of (mostly) Canadians, making our trip that much more enjoyable.

Our first stop was Fatima, where The Virgin Mary appeared in 1917 to three young shepherd children (Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia). Fr. Brandon surprised

us at one of the apparition sites by singing a hymn to her in Vietnamese. We walked the streets of this small village, entered the humble home of the three children, and visited their gravesites. Our stops also included shops where religious souvenirs abound.

Our next destination was the medieval town of Burgos, Spain. We were awestruck by the splendid, gothic-inspired spiral of the famous Cathedral of Saint Mary of Burgos, and we marveled at the spectacular 12th century Monastery of Santa

Maria—home to an order of Cistercian nuns. We later delighted in the quaint town center, where we enjoyed Spanish culture and cuisine.

Another highlight of the trip was our third stop to Lourdes, where the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Saint Bernadette in 1858. We explored the town's rich historical and cultural heritage and enjoyed a mass at the grotto by Fr. Brandon. It was a beautiful time, and we were given the opportunity to purchase holy water from the spring for family and friends back home.

Our final stop was sightseeing in the wondrous and diverse city of Barcelona, which included a tour of the world-famous basilica, La Sagrada Familia, where Fr. Brandon

said mass in the crypt. Envisioned by architect Gaudi over a century ago, this masterpiece will not reach completion for several more years. The group celebrated with a succulent Spanish dinner at a festive restaurant in town.

Although the trip had numerous memorable moments, what will stand out to most travelers will be the deeply spiritual visits to Fatima and Lourdes; the exposure to Portuguese, Spanish and French charm, culture and cuisine; and of course, the camaraderie built within the group of pilgrims.

All who took part will be eternally grateful for Fr. Brandon's wonderful leadership, and especially, the opportunity to hear his daily masses in such historical locations. ♦



Fr. Brandon leads pilgrimage to Holy Sites

Vatican Conference Welcomes Labor Movement as Partner in Solving Modern Challenges to Poor Workers

By Laura Bandini

When the Vatican wanted to confront the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” of automation replacing human work and growing global income inequality, it turned to its centuries-old friend and partner, the international labor movement, to begin a discussion of what can be done and how each institution oriented towards worker dignity can support and improve the other.

The November 2017 conference was conceived in the Argentine labor movement and by their friend Fr. Carlos Accaputo, who was appointed by Pope Francis to work at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. It was titled “From Populorum Progresso to Laudato Si: Worker and Workers’ Movements at the Center of Integral, Sustainable and Fraternal Human Development.” Among the 50 church participants was the Prefect, Cardinal Peter Turkson. Among the 290 union representatives was Rev. Barber III, on behalf of SEIU, and OLQP parishioner and our fellow Labor Team member, Tim Beaty, who works as the Teamsters’ Director of Global Strategies.

The Labor Team hosted Tim’s presentation about the conference in January. We learned that the conference was a continuation of the institutions’ shared mission of worker uplift and their close relationship particularly since World War I in Italy, Brazil, and the

Pope’s home country of Argentina. Tim framed the conference also as arising on a personal level, from Pope Francis’ ministry to low income workers outside of Buenos Aires.

The conference reflected on the current challenges and changes affecting the poor in the workplace, for instance widening income equality, artificial intelligence replacing human labor, and shared ideas on how unions and the Church may help combat the resulting human suffering. One idea was basic income, through which a government would provide enough money for each person in society to support themselves regardless of whether they can find a job. The conference also sharply criticized neoliberalism, which generally refers to unfettered free market economies prioritizing profits over the common good, including the welfare of workers and the environment. The Church also offered words of advice for the labor movement, and vice versa, on ways each institution could improve in the eyes of the other.

Pope Francis was scheduled to attend, but regrettably was called away at the last moment. Instead, he sent a letter, where in part, he warned against the risks inherent in the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” which would speed up work using robots and other artificial intelligence. The Pope told the conference that “the

world is in need of voices such as ours.” He emphasized that workers face a “utilitarian, short-term and manipulative mentality” where only profits count and it doesn’t matter what is used and discarded, including child labor or the environment. In sum, “[e]verything is justified on the basis of the god of money.”

Speaking directly to the participants, Pope Francis continued, “[g]iven that many of you have contributed to combating this pathology in the past, today you are well placed to correct it in the future. I beg you to confront this difficult theme and to show us, in accordance with your prophetic and creative mission, that a culture of encounter and care is possible.” For Francis, the stakes could not be higher: the dignity of the labor of all people and “our mother earth.”

You can read Pope Francis’ letter in full here - <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2017/11/24/171124g.html> Please feel free to contact Tim Beaty with any questions about the conference at timbeaty@gmail.com. Email me at htlaura1@gmail.com to join the parish Labor Team as we continue in our own little way from South Arlington to try to confront the god of money and enable a culture of encounter and care with poor workers. ♦

Editor’s note: Laura Bandini’s columns for The Advocate are written in her personal capacity and do not reflect the opinions of her employer.

Medor: Success Stories

By Sue Carlson, M.D.

The twinning between St. Joseph parish in Medor, Haiti and OLQP has realized great successes for both parishes. The number of children educated in St. Joseph parish has risen tenfold since the relationship began in 1997. The children all receive a school lunch. Families have the opportunity to participate in clean water and sanitation programs. Livelihoods and the environment are improving through the agro-forestry program. In return, there has been a deepening of faith, hope, and love in the OLQP congregation as we work together with our Haitian family. Here are a few of the individual success stories that have been achieved because of the twinning.

A Farmer's Story

Erilus Charles lives in Potmo, one of the chapel areas of St. Joseph parish. He is 46 years old and has six children. Erilus joined Smallholder Farmers Alliance (SFA) in 2011 when he participated in one of the SFA training programs sponsored by our church.

After his first training, in exchange for his volunteer work at the tree nursery, Erilus received beans seeds for his garden and an agricultural tool. This significantly decreased the expenses to cultivate his land.

After the first harvest, he returned the same amount of seeds he initially received to the seed bank, and he had a surplus of beans for his family to eat and to sell as well as to use for his next crop.

In the first semester of 2017, Erilus received 18 pounds of pigeon pea seeds to plant in his garden. This produced a harvest of 300 pounds. He sold 150 pounds, earning \$142.50 USD, money that he used to pay tuition for his children and to purchase clothes and other household necessities. The remaining pigeon peas were used to feed his family, replant his garden, and return his 18-pound debt to the seed bank. One goal of the agro-forestry program is to better the livelihoods of the participating farmers, while at the same time improve the environment of the area. Erilus Charles is just one example of success!



Erilus Charles in his pigeon pea beans farm

A Teacher's Story

Another notable success story is Rismene Esteme, who attended primary and secondary school in Medor. She was a member of Medor's first graduating class. With a scholarship sponsored by an OLQP parishioner, she attended the University of Notre Dame of Haiti, where she studied business management.

After finishing her course work, Rismene returned to Medor, where she has been teaching economics in the secondary school, while working on her thesis. She also accepted a position on Medor's newly formed Local Development Committee, a key element of the 3Legs Project. She was recently elected to the role of President of Medor's Local Development Committee. Rismene is a role model for other young women in Medor.



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A University Student's Story

The University of Fondwa professors describe Guy Roland Baltazar as a stellar student. Guy Roland's father is one of the supervisors that Pere Luckson hired to hike to the outlying chapel schools and then report back on student and teacher attendance and the general status of each school. His mother is a homemaker.

Ever since he was a boy, Guy Roland wanted to attend university and walk in the footsteps of his two older brothers, who attended the government-funded, tuition-free State University of Haiti. He competed with over 5,000 students for one of the 100 spots and did not score high enough for admission. Without the OLQP-sponsored scholarship, he would not have been able to attend university.

Guy Roland is currently in his third year studying agronomy at University of Fondwa. He chose agronomy because "everybody needs to eat" and "improved agronomy can help end hunger." He is particularly interested in the growth of citrus which, in his observation, is not growing in Medor as readily as it had in the past. He hopes to work with Smallholders Farmers Alliance, the group that implements Medor's agro-forestry program, to explore citrus growth in Medor and help solve any problems that may exist. He would like to say thank you to his supporters at OLQP for giving him the opportunity to expand his knowledge so he can help lead Medor toward prosperity.



A Primary School Student's Story

Roseline Jean Baptiste is in the sixth grade at St. Joseph's Primary School in Medor. During the school week, this is her typical schedule: Arise at 3:00 a.m. to help her parents in the family garden; leave for school at 5 a.m. and walk for three hours in order to arrive in Medor on time for her first class at 8:00 a.m. When school ends at 1:00 p.m., Roseline walks back home and starts her chores around 4:00 p.m., collecting water for the family. And then it is time for homework. She typically spends two hours each day studying, much of this by flashlight, since her family does not have electricity.

There is a different primary school about the same distance from her house, but she prefers to go to school in Medor. In contrast to the other school, the teachers in Medor are excellent and come to school each day. She also gets a daily lunch. Roseline loves to study and hopes one day to become a nurse.

Roseline's parents are both farmers. Her mother sells bananas in Medor's market on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Roseline is the youngest of nine children. One person in her extended family, a cousin, attended university. Roseline hopes to follow the same path as her cousin and reach her dream of caring for sick patients when she becomes Nurse Roseline.



A Worker's Story

Ronald Menard lives in Medor. He is a construction worker who learned to work with rebar and cement through various construction projects in St. Joseph's parish. Recently, he worked on the construction of the new library to repair earthquake-related flaws in the church foundation.

Ronald's wife is one of the teachers at St. Joseph's primary school. They have one child. Ronald and his wife sing the praises of the Klorfasil and Arborloo programs. They say the family's health has improved since they joined the two programs.

Klorfasil is a water-purification system that uses bleach powder to purify five gallons of water and dispenses the clean water from a bucket retrofitted with a spigot.

An Arborloo is a family latrine consisting of a concrete slab with an opening in its center, surrounded by a privacy hut. The slab is placed over a shallow, one-meter hole in the ground. When the hole is filled with fecal material, the structure is moved to a new hole and the original hole is topped with dirt, where a tree seedling is planted. The tree will grow more quickly because of the fertilizer.

Ronald believes the two programs are wonderful for the whole community since fewer people get sick. He says that having less fecal material on the ground helps protect the water sources, making the springs cleaner and decreasing water-borne disease. He is grateful to be able to participate in both of these important programs.



These are just five out of thousands of people whose lives have been positively impacted through the twinning relationship between St. Joseph's parish and OLQP. The work our parishes share is improving the lives of our Medor family and enriching the faith of OLQP parishioners as we work together to further social justice. ♦

OLQP/UJAMAA 25th Anniversary Annual Scholarship Awards Program

By Veronica Dabney

The 2017 annual Scholarship Awards Program sponsored by OLQP's UJAMAA ministry marked its 25th anniversary at the program held on June 24, 2017. In this special anniversary year, 22 scholarships and 2 community service awards were presented. Two of the scholarships were special awards to college students who submitted outstanding applications. Also as part of the 25th anniversary celebration, Veronica Dabney, President of UJAMAA, was honored with an award for her many years of service.

The 2017 student spokesperson and past scholarship recipient was Keren Charles. Keren received OLQP/UJAMAA scholarships in 2009 and 2010 to do postgraduate work at MIT. She also received a Community

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Service Award in 2015. Keren is an active member of OLQP and the UJAMAA Committee and, with her twin sister Kezia, has twice traveled on missions to Medor, Haiti. She imparted uplifting words for the scholarship sister Kezia, has twice traveled on missions to Medor, Haiti. She imparted uplifting words for the scholarship recipients with her message of encouragement and perseverance.

Deacon Al Douglas Turner was the 2017 keynote speaker. Dcn. Turner is the former Director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Washington. He was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Washington in 2000 and is currently assigned to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo, MD. He delivered an inspirational message focused on character building and giving back to the community.

Again this year, UJAMAA received donations to be used for its scholarship program. The donations in 2017 were received from Mrs. Madelyn Humenay in the name of Warree Green (d), Bob and Gail Meghan, and Phillipa Johnston. OLQP and UJAMAA acknowledge and thank all of the families for their generosity.

Scholarships and Awards:

In its 25 years, OLQP/UJAMAA has awarded, with funds granted by the Diocesan Black and Indian Fund, more than 320 scholarships, valued at over \$300,000. Through a panel review process, the Committee has for the past 25 years provided tuition assistance for students to attend the schools listed below for 2017, as well as for other Catholic elementary and high schools, vocational schools, colleges and universities throughout the country.

2017 UJAMAA Scholarship Awardees

Jasmine Barbour, George Mason University
 Magaly Cabrera-Ortiz, Virginia Tech
 Venise Darisme, No. VA Community College
 Susanne DeSantis, George Washington University
 Anthony Esquivel, The Heights School
 Isabella Esquivel, Siena Academy
 Maria Esquivel, Siena Academy
 Joan Nicole Johnson, Trinity Washington University
 Kenedi Jordan, Elizabeth Seton
 Sarah Valasco Kent, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
 Savannah Kent, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
 DaMoni Key, No. VA Community College
 Jermaine Key, Jr., Virginia State University
 Andre Madry, George Mason University
 Jaleel Moore, Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore
 Anamaria Mingo, Bishop O'Connell High School
 Anthony Mingo, Bishop O'Connell High School
 Sophia Ofosu, St. Bernadette's Elementary
 Tamra A. Phillips, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
 Ian Duane Weaver, Hampton University

Special Awardees

Shaun Herbert Award: Jordan Greene, Temple University

Anthony Smith Award: Terry D. Davis, Jr., Hampton University

2017 Recipients of OLQP/UJAMAA Community Service Awards



Dr. Robert Efimba, P.E.



Kezia Charles

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