



✠ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR ✠

A DIFFERENT LOOK AT “THE MINORITY”

“Faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged.”

(Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2016)

If you are like the majority of other Catholics you probably plan to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday, like Christmas, Palm Sunday, and Easter, is a “defining day” for Catholics that even though non-obligatory, brings the majority home.

Unlike the majority of other Catholics, your practice of the Faith goes beyond the CAPE and extends to Sunday Mass-attendance as well, where you don’t simply fulfill your Sunday obligation to *keep Holy the Sabbath Day* by going to church, but while there, you offer God and His Church the time, talent, and treasure that keeps the sidewalks clear, the doors open, the candles burning, the lights on, the organ playing, and the temperature *just right* for “the majority” whenever they choose to *come home*. And let me not fail to mention that **it is you – the minority – and your sacrificial offering** of time, talent, and treasure that feeds the hungry, gives drink to the thirsty, clothes the naked, visits the sick, instructs the ignorant, in Freeport and, with your contributions to the Catholic Ministries Appeal (which in 2015, as you can note on the following page, surfaced over \$90,000.00), throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre that provided those very same Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy!

Yes, you – the minority – and your sacrificial offering allow the Church in Freeport to *give expression to the Faith in concrete everyday actions that help our neighbours in body and spirit*. Please accept my gratitude for your offering and may your entry into the Holy Season of Lent be defined not by the Ash Wednesday Ashes on the foreheads of the majority, but by the everyday actions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in the lives of the minority. “On such things we will be judged.”

In celebration of Black History month, Ministries to Catholics of African Ancestry (MCAA) is highlighting some of the Saints of African American background.

Saint Martin de Porres

Martin de Porres Velázquez, O.P. (December 9, 1579 – November 3, 1639), was a lay brother of the Dominican Order who was beatified in 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI and canonized in 1962 by Pope John XXIII.

Martin de Porres is often depicted as a young mulatto friar wearing the old habit of the Dominican lay brother, a black scapular and capuce, along with a broom, since he considered all work to be sacred no matter how menial.

He is the patron saint of mixed-race people, barbers, innkeepers, public health workers, and all those seeking racial harmony.

His feast day is 3 November.

