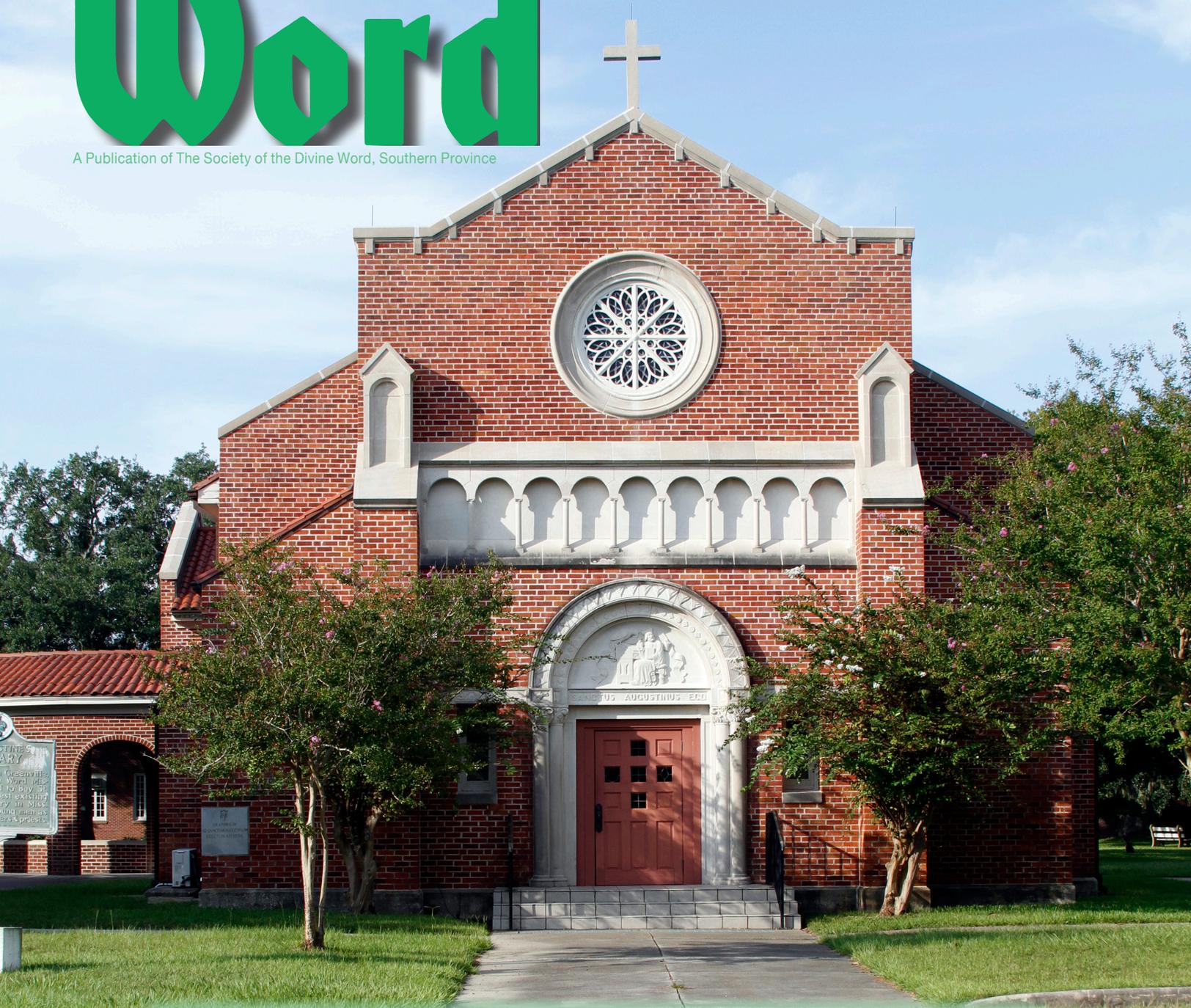


in a

Word™

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**For 100 years
Saint Augustine Seminary
has been
Holy Ground**

(Photo by Fr. James Pawlicki, SVD)

BLACK PRIEST
by
+Rev. Raymond Guidry, SVD

Dear friend, our story's set
In Mississippi State.
The tapestry of prejudice
Smeared with coagulated hate
Lay heavily on backs of Blacks.
Their muted agonized desire
(It's God Himself who stoked this fire)
For sable priests sprung from their
loins
Black icons minted from their coins
Was met with clerical reply:
"Not yet!" How harsh
Terse
Bitter
Dry!

But Christmann and the SVD
Did not agree
Armed with germanic stubbornness
And Jacob's grip
They would not let
The struggling angel go until
Unless
He cried: "yes, you I bless!
I bless!"

Because of this
Upon the altar's edge
I stand
Echo of a starless night.
Forgotten now the awful climb
Forgotten too the bleeding feet
As Black Priest
Takes a tiny bit of wheat.

This is my Body.



+Rev. Raymond Guidry, SVD
Ordained 1957



Matthew Christman with
first four 1926



+Rev. Raymond Guidry, SVD
1928-2011

As the Divine Word Missionaries remember the 100th anniversary of St. Augustine Seminary we feature two poems by Fr. Raymond Guidry, SVD. Father Guidry was ordained at St. Augustine in 1957. He was a poet, storyteller, army chaplain, pastor, missionary to Ghana and proud of St. Augustine and the Divine Word Missionaries. A special issue on Father Guidry can be found in the [2011 Archive section of IN A WORD](#).

St. Augustine Seminary

Beneath a canopy of
oaks and palms
cicadas, crickets chant
their praise in psalms
Magnolias green and bright
With
blossoms white
Camellias and azaleas pink
adorning the ground
Recalling Eden –
man's first honeymoon
When God with Adam
walked
and Eva talked.
Look, look up at the oaks
and the stalactite moss.
Look, look down at the ground
And its stalagmite pines.
Remove your shoes for this –
this is holy ground.

Author: Fr. Raymond Guidry, SVD



The Holy Ground of St. Augustine's in Bay Saint Louis, MS

in a word or two



Write the Vision
A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE
THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

Ms. Valerie Washington, Executive Director of the National Black Catholic Congress Office has sent us the following information concerning the upcoming Congress XIII gathering. **Theme of Congress XIII "Write the Vision: A Prophetic Call to Thrive". It will be held July 20-23 at National Harbor, MD**

"I am writing to make you aware of the comprehensive Adult Track Agenda that has been posted on the Congress XIII dedicated website. Listed in the agenda, you will find the breakout sessions with the presenters identified, expanded descriptions of the optional activities, and the Eucharistic Liturgy celebrants and homilists, in addition to much more information. You can access the agenda by clicking this link: <https://www.nbccgathering2023.org/Agenda/Adult-Agenda>

We are in the process of confirming events for the Youth Track, and will launch that upgraded agenda in the near future. One important additional note for Youth Track chaperones is that we are requiring proof of Virtus certification or certification through their home diocese's equivalent Child Protection Program. For more information, please go to:" <https://www.nbccgathering2023.org/Register#chaperones>

June 11 - July 1: Light the World Youth Institute at Catholic University of America (Washington, DC)

Light the World! is a chance for high school students to investigate, research, and learn how faith and culture interact with everyday activities. Each day we witness how this is achieved at a locale in D.C. Students witness faithful excellence in action in business, science, politics, sports, and the arts. Visiting places such as the Capitol, National Gallery of Art, and D.C.'s professional baseball stadium and hearing from people who have achieved success in those realms talk about how faith intersects with those activities.

Light the World! has welcomed nearly 300 youth to our campus in person and, in 2020 and 2021, welcomed over 40 to join us for virtual programs.

Secondary, this is an opportunity for students to experience a taste of college life while still in high school.

Students live in a dorm for the week, eat at the dining hall, live with their peers, and get a taste of the intellectual, social, and spiritual life that a university like Catholic University offers. Part of the follow-up even involves help with college application essays even if it is not our university. The summer institute will be facilitated by CUA's own college students who are faith-filled students in all areas discussed above. for info go to:

<https://trs.catholic.edu/academics/summer-programs/light-the-world/index.html>



June 25-July 14: Institute for Black Catholic Studies

For more info: <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs/>

July 21- July 23: 4th African National Eucharistic Congress

The Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church in collaboration with the National Association of African Catholics in the United States (NAACUS) and the African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (ACCCRUS) are convening the fourth African National Eucharistic Congress (ANEC), July 21-23, 2023 at The Catholic University of America, 620 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20017.

The Congress theme: "*African National Eucharistic Congress, A Response To The Lord's Prayer, "That They May All Be One"*", has its roots in Jesus' prayer for us to His Heavenly Father that believers would be united. We stand united together at the foot of the cross. Our challenge is to find ways to deepen that unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17.21). The Congress will feature keynotes, plenaries, workshop sessions, Mass, adoration, United in the Eucharistic Procession and more.

You are invited to attend the Congress and a special Unity Eucharistic Celebration on Saturday, July 22, 2023, 4:30PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Please Contact with questions at anec@usccb.org or during participant support hours: Monday through Friday; 9 am - 5 pm at 202-541-3359.

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/pastoral-care-migrants-refugees-travelers/african-national-eucharistic-congress-anec>

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, Florida and Arkansas.

IN A WORD is a publication of The Society of the Divine Word's Media Production Center. Rev. James Pawlicki, S.V.D., Director and Editor; Cathy Green-Miner, office manager; consultant.

Correspondence to Media Production Center, 199 Seminary Drive, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520, Phone: 228-344-3166..

Electronic messages to our inawordsvd@gmail.com. IN A WORD is not published during July and August.

Web page can be found at <http://www.inaword.com>