

in a

Word™

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Black Catholic Congress XI CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD

Photo by: Father James Pawlicki, SVD



African American Bishops who authored WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD 1984



1987 Congress VI - Washington, DC



1992 Congress VII - New Orleans, LA



1997 Congress VIII - Baltimore, MD



2002 Congress IX - Chicago, IL



2007 Congress X - Buffalo, NY

CONGRESS XI CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD

“[Jesus said,] ‘Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father’” **John 14:12**

In 1987, over 1500 Catholic Christians gathered at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. to revive the National Black Catholic Congress Movement that began in 1889. Our founder, Daniel Rudd, was convinced that the Catholic Church had a powerful message to proclaim within the Black community, across the nation, and around the world.

As they met in five congresses from 1889-1894, our ancestors in the Movement were not afraid to meet the challenges that existed within the Church and society. However, they remained hopeful for the potential of the transformative role of Catholic evangelization in the African-American community and beyond. They gave us the legacy of a **faith that is engaged** to follow the Great Commandment of the Lord (cf. Matthew 22:37-40) and to fulfill the Great Commission from the Lord (cf. Matthew 28:18-20).

Twenty-five years later, thousands will gather in Indianapolis for the National Black Catholic Congress XI from July 19-21, 2012.

God has done great things through us! **Congress XI is a time to reflect on these accomplishments.**

God invites us to do greater works as we consider the needs of our time. Faith that is engaged recognizes that active disciples in the Church need to be renewed and alienated disciples need to be reconciled. All are welcome to experience deeper faith in Christ, actively following Him within the fellowship of the Church. How do we raise the consciousness of each generation within the Church to be actively engaged within it?

How do we help one another to discover our distinctive vocation (i.e., married life or committed single life; consecrated religious life, diaconate, or priesthood) and remain faithful to it?

Our economy struggles to recover with high unemployment and rising poverty. Faith that is engaged addresses practical needs through parochial, educational, and social service institutions. It provides a message of hope that will build individuals, married couples, and families up when circumstances want to break them down. Faith that is engaged also advocates for policies which promote the common good, respecting the dignity of every human being.

Congress XI is a time to renew our commitment to address the challenges of the present.

Make plans now to join your fellow Catholic Christians to engage in this process of Sankofa. Let us remember where we have been so that we can continue to move confidently in the present and the future. God is continuing to do great things through us! Empowered by the Holy Spirit and equipped to fulfill our distinctive vocations within the Church, we are strengthened to joyfully fulfill our baptismal commitment to evangelize.



Congress XI is a time to rejoice with confidence in our future. See you there!
For more information visit the calendar of event section, and check the web site periodically for more information: <http://www.nbccongress.org/events/>.



**Theme: Faith Engaged:
Empower. Equip. Evangelize.**

in a word or two

CONGRESS XI SCHEDULE JULY 19-21, 2012 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Wednesday, July 18, 2012	Thursday, July 19, 2012	Friday, July 20, 2012	Saturday, July 21, 2012
	Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast
	Rosary	Rosary	Rosary
On-Site Registration Check-In	Registration /Exhibit Hall/Adoration Chapel	Registration /Exhibit Hall/Adoration Chapel	Exhibit Hall/Adoration Chapel
	Congress XI officially begins/Opening Ceremony/Roll Call	Keynote Address #1: <i>"Immaculee's Story of Faith, Hope and Forgiveness"</i>	Keynote Address #2: <i>"Pornography and the Path to Christian Purity" (adults only)</i>
	Opening Remarks: <i>"The Challenge to be Catholic Today"</i>	Keynote #1: Immaculee' Ilibagiza	Keynote #2: Jeff Cavins
	Congress Speaker: Fr. Reginald Whitt, OP		Plenary Session (Youth): Wrap up Marching Orders
Exhibit Move-In / Exhibit Hall Set-Up	AM Break (Exhibit Area)	AM Break (Exhibit Area)	AM Break (Exhibit Area)
	Workshops (Adult)	Workshops (Adult)	Youth report-out to the general assembly
	Workshops (Young Adults)	Workshops (Young Adults)	
	Workshops (Youth)	Workshops (Youth)	Vesting for Mass
	Vesting for Mass	Vesting for Mass	Closing Eucharistic Liturgy NBCC Award's Ceremony
	Opening Eucharistic Liturgy/Most Rev. Edward Braxton (celebrant and homilist)	Eucharistic Liturgy/Most Rev. Joseph Perry (celebrant)	
Pre-Optional Tours	Box Lunch	Box Lunch	End of Program/Box Lunch
	Plenary Session: (Adults)	Plenary Session: (Adults)	
	PM Break (Exhibit Area)	PM Break (Exhibit Area)	
	Workshops (Adult)	Workshops (Adult)	
	Workshops (Youth)	Workshops (Youth)	
Welcome Network Hospitality Receptions	Dinner (on your own)	Dinner (on your own)	Exhibitor Move-Out / Exhibit Hall Breakdown
Special Events	Special Events/Gospel Concert/Aaron Thompson/Musicians	Special Events/Healing Service/ Fr. Joseph Ssemakula	Youth Revival Service

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CONGRESS GATHERINGS FROM 1987
TO THE PRESENT GO TO THE
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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.

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; Father Brendan Murphy, SVD consultant.

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