

in a
WordTM

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**God is good all
the time!**

(Photo by Fr. James Pawlicki, SVD)



Divine Word Missionaries of the USA Southern Province

On these pages we highlight the Divine Word Missionaries as they spent time in Bay Saint Louis for their annual retreat.

Bishop Guillory led the retreat. He shared stories of effective ministry that all appreciated.

The retreat ended with a Mass that honored many of the members celebrating jubilees of vows and priesthood.

When all was finished after sharing with one another the missionaries left for their parishes in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

God is good all the time!



Jubilarians who celebrated anniversary of vows and ordination



SVD from Philippines, Brazil, Poland, Indonesia, and Scotland



Our elders Fr. Aubespin and Fr. Ayem



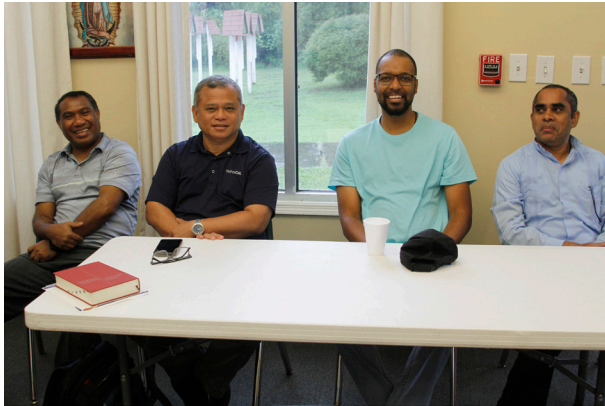
Bishop Guillory with Fr. Mangalath and Fr. Myladiyil



Listening to conferences



Nothing like a good game of cards



Young SVD members



Fathers Sucharski and Andrus



Enjoying one another's company



Jubilarians after Mass

in a word or two

Bloomberg Philanthropies Makes \$5M Founding Gift to XOCOM



XAVIER Ochsner
College of Medicine

Bloomberg Philanthropies announced a gift of \$5 million in seed funding to support the creation of the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine (XOCOM), a newly established medical school in New Orleans founded by Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health.

Earlier this year, Xavier University of Louisiana, a historically Black college and university (HBCU) with a strong track record of sending graduates into the medical field, and Ochsner Health, the Gulf South's leading not-for-profit health system with a long academic record of training physicians, announced their partnership to establish Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine (XOCOM) to address health disparities in diverse communities and helping fulfill the urgent need for more Black and Brown physicians in Louisiana and the nation.

The new medical school will be located in Benson Tower next to Caesars Superdome, in the BioDistrict of downtown New Orleans, and will be the first HBCU medical school in the Gulf South. Bloomberg Philanthropies' investment in XOCOM's planning is part of its Greenwood Initiative – an effort that seeks to advance racial wealth equity by addressing systemic underinvestment in Black institutions and communities. Four already existing historically Black medical schools-- Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science, Howard University College of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, and Morehouse School of Medicine—are the recipients of \$600 million to bolster their endowments, strengthening their financial stability and institutional capacity to respond to the rising costs of tuition, innovative research, and operations.

“We have much more to do to build a country where every person, regardless of race, has equal access to quality health care – and where students from all backgrounds can pursue their dreams,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg L.P. “Addressing health disparities and underrepresentation in the medical field are critical challenges, and Bloomberg Philanthropies is dedicated to making a difference. By building on our previous support, this gift will empower new generations of Black doctors to create a healthier and more equitable future for our country.”

Research has shown that Black people have better health outcomes and receive medical care more frequently when they are treated by Black physicians. Further, Black patients are 34 percent more likely to receive preventative care if seen by Black doctors. Yet, data shows that while the U.S. population is 13 percent Black, only 7 percent of medical school graduates and less than 6 percent of all practicing doctors are Black. Debilitating health problems take an enormous economic toll on families and communities so creating more Black doctors will help to address racial wealth inequities.

“As the only HBCU medical school in the Gulf South, Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine will train physicians who reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and help address a critical healthcare shortage in the region,” said Dr. Reynold Verret, President, Xavier University of Louisiana. “We are profoundly grateful to Mike Bloomberg and Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative for their bold vision and tremendous support which will accelerate our mission to create a healthier, more equitable, more just future for the Gulf South and for the nation.”



Congratulations to Ralph McCloud, who will receive Pax Christi USA's Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award this year, the former director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Among his other accomplishments, the move honors McCloud's

decade and a half of service in the 55-year-old anti-poverty initiative.

According to an announcement from Pax Christi, the award is bestowed periodically “to honor a group or individual who has made a strong and extraordinary prophetic witness for peace in a time or situation of devastating violence or injustice.”

We here at IN A WORD have known Mr. McCloud for many years. He is most deserving of recognition by Pax Christi for his life of service for peace and racial justice.

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.

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