

in a

Word™

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***30th Anniversary
of historic
September 9, 1984
document***

'What We Have Seen and Heard'

*A Pastoral Letter
on Evangelization
From the Black Bishops
of the United States*

Remembering the
30th Anniversary of 'What We Have Seen and Heard'



Authors of 'What We have Seen and Heard'

*(top row from left:) Wilton Gregory; Emerson Moore; Moses Anderson, S.S.E.; Terry Steib, SVD; John Ricard, SSJ.
(Seated from left:) Joseph Francis, SVD; Harold Perry, SVD; Joseph Lawson Howze; Eugene Marino; James P. Lyke, OFM*

“There is richness in our Black experience that we must share with the entire People of God. These are gifts that are part of an African past.

For we have heard with Black ears and we have seen with Black eyes and we have understood with an African heart.

We thank God for the gifts of our Catholic faith and we give thanks for the gifts of our Blackness.

In all humility we turn to the whole Church that it might share our gifts so that “our joy may be complete.”

What We Seen and Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Bishops of the United States (1984), page 4

LEGACY OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Dr. Norman C. Francis announces his retirement as
President of Xavier University, effective June 30, 2015



Dr. Norman C. Francis

Dr. Norman C. Francis, the nation's longest serving university president, today announced that he plans to retire as president of Xavier University, effective June 30, 2015.

"After nearly 47 years, I believe that the time has come to take the brightly burning torch turned over to me by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and pass it on to new leadership," Dr. Francis told a campus wide Convocation of the University community late Thursday morning.

"I did so with the passionate confidence and absolute certainty that Xavier is better prepared than ever to continue its educational and spiritual mission, and to build on its tradition of excellence," Dr Francis continued.

Dr. Francis' has been affiliated with Xavier for most of 66 years, arriving at Xavier from Lafayette as a 17 year old freshman in 1948, and he quickly emerged as a leader. He was elected class president every year of his undergraduate study and student body president in his senior year.

"This morning, my fellow board members and I accepted Dr. Francis' request to retire as Xavier's president, effective June 30, 2015," said Michael Rue, Chairman of the Xavier University Board of Trustees. "We all wish Dr. Francis could remain as Xavier's president for at least 50 more years. We take solace in the realization that Dr. Francis will be forever with us through the institution he helped shape."

Xavier University has been transformed under Dr. Francis' leadership, enrollment has tripled and the university's endowment has grown from under \$20 million to more than \$160 million. A campus of five permanent buildings that could fit on one city block has grown to 16 permanent buildings and manicured green spaces extending out over 63.4 acres.

During Dr. Francis' tenure as president, Xavier has received a constantly increasing volume of national recognition for outstanding academic achievements especially in the sciences and pre-medical areas, rigorous graduation requirements and Xavier's scholarly athletes, as well as the intellectual and moral quality of the alumni.

"There will likely be many questions about who will be Xavier's next president. The responsibility for this decision rests with the Board of Trustees. Having only just approved Dr. Francis' request to retire from Xavier by the end of June 2015, our sole focus today and over the next few days is on beginning the celebration of the life and legacy of the quintessential Xavierite: Norman C. Francis," Mr. Rue continued.

This press release is from
Xavier University of New
Orleans.
Photos by Irvin Johnson III
more at www.xula.edu



FOND FAREWELL: Xavier President Dr. Norman C. Francis (right) announces his retirement to an audience of faculty, staff, and students in the Convocation Center



in a word or two

New Congregational Leader for Sisters of the Holy Family



Sister Greta Jupiter, SSF

Sister M. Greta Jupiter was elected Congregational Leader June 25 during the 14th General Chapter of the [Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans](#). Sister Jupiter had previously served as the Interim Congregational Leader from February

through June of 2014 and as the First General Councilor from June 2010 to February 2014.

Sister Greta has a master's of education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of New Orleans and a bachelor of science degree in chemistry education from Xavier University. She brings to the office a dedicated spirit and administrative experience as a local leader, associate superintendent, president and principal of schools.

Sister said that she plans to continue to promote the mission of Venerable Henriette Delille and the charism and spirituality of the Sisters of the Holy Family; to carry out the mandates of the General Chapter; to encourage vocations to the religious life; and to care for her elderly Sisters.

Assisting Sister Greta is the newly elected leadership team: Sr. Leona Bruner, First General Councilor; Sr. Clare of Assisi Pierre, Second General Councilor; Sr. Alicia Costa, Third General Councilor; Sr. Geneva James, Fourth General Councilor; Sr. Angela Smith, Fifth General Councilor; and Sr. Richard Francis Daigle, Sixth General Councilor. The leadership team is elected for a four-year term.

Theology Courses offered online by Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa

Your theology credits are only a click away. It doesn't matter where you live or when you're available, you can attend classes online. Divine Word College offers fully accredited classes taught by experienced faculty in an online setting.



Courses are open to high school seniors and anyone with a high school diploma or GED. Courses are appropriate for pastoral ministers, lay ministers and other persons engaged in parish ministry. All you need is

an internet connection and a desire to learn.

As a fully accredited academic institution by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), DWC offers credit for all online courses. The cost is \$410 per credit hour. Or, you may audit the class for a nominal fee. Full and partial scholarships are available.

Contact the [Director of Admissions](#) for more information.:luhal@dwci.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

September

- September 19-21 - National Association of Black Catholic Administrators (NABCA) Annual Meeting, Diocese of Richmond

October

-October 9-12 - Black Catholic Theological Symposium - Archdiocese of Chicago

November

-Black Catholic History Month

COMING NEXT YEAR - 2015

January - Poverty Awareness Month

January - National Migration Week

January 18-25 - International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 19 - National Observance of Rev. (Dr.) Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

February - Celebrating Black History Month via (arch) diocesan and local events

February 1 - National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family

February 8-11 - CSMG in Washington, DC

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

June - Abortion and All Acts of Violence Awareness Month

July - Social Action Summer Institute (SASI) at Washington University in St. Louis, MO

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>