In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope. In a world filled with anger, we must still dare to comfort. In a world filled with despair, we must still dare to dream. And in a world filled with distrust, we must still dare to believe. — Michael Jackson

June 2021

General Information

THE AACC ANNUAL FR. ROLLINS LAMBERT MEMORIAL MASS

Sunday, June 27, 2021 at 12 p.m. Noon
St Joseph on the Rio Grande Catholic Church
5901 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Albuquerque, NM.
Presider: Msgr. Lambert Joseph Luna

Join us in person at St. Joseph on the Rio Grande. In person attendance is limited currently to 125 with COVID Safe practices in force. Note: This may change if restrictions are changed by the State of New Mexico.

Or you can join us virtually. Mass will be live-streamed and recorded: https://www.facebook.com/Masses-from-St-Joseph-on-the-Rio-Grande-112836890430507.

Donations can be mailed to the AACC at 4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW ABQ, NM 87120 with AACC on memo line or made securely online at https://www.archdiocesesantafegiving.org/AACC.

For more information call 505-401-8983
Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Social Justice and Respect Life at 505-831-8167

The liturgy for this mass celebrates the 13th Sunday In Ordinary Time
Please prepare for this mass by reviewing the liturgy

LITURGY FOR JUNE 27, 2021
(13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME)

First Reading: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 [ETERNAL LIFE]
God does not rejoice in the destruction of the living, Rather God formed human beings to be imperishable, and if we practice justice we will live forever.

Second Reading: 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15 [THE NEED FOR CHARITY]
Christians should be generous to others in imitation of the sovereign liberality of Christ who gave his life for the salvation of all.

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35-43 [NEW LIFE IN CHRIST]
Jesus overcomes the death of Jairus’s daughter and the ailment of the woman with the hemorrhage. Jesus thus prefigures his victory over the death of alienation from God. Jesus is the Prophet of the end-time who has come to bring life, in other words, to restore our relationship of love with God.

Oh it is Jesus, yes it is Jesus
It's Jesus in my soul;
And His blood has made me whole.
Congratulations to The Very Reverent Monsignor Lambert Joseph Luna 43 years as a Priest

The Very Rev. Monsignor Luna attended the seminary at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon where he earned his degree and was ordained a deacon three years later on June 18, 1977 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Albuquerque.

**Ordained on June 24, 1978** by Archbishop Robert Sanchez at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus in Albuquerque, Msgr. Luna came home to New Mexico when he was assigned his first parish - Our Lady of Sorrows in Las Vegas, NM. He has served in New Mexico for over 39 years and has been Administrator of St. Anthony’s in Penasco, San Felipe de Neri in Old Town, Albuquerque, and Cristo Rey in Santa Fe. Monsignor now calls St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Catholic Church home (Pastor).

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan announced that Pope Benedict XVI named Very Rev. Lambert Luna "Monsignor" effective June 16, 2008. Archbishop Sheehan received notification of his request for the honor from Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio. The title of "monsignor" is a papal honor conferred upon priests for outstanding service to the Church.

Monsignor Luna’s family has been tied to the AACC for a very long time. His dearly departed Sister Luella was an early member of the AACC. His other sister Valerie was a chairperson of hospitality for over 15 years. His niece Rachael (Valerie’s daughter) was an altar server, lector and sweeper for many years and his dearly departed mother Erlinda was a Eucharistic minister for the AACC. Yes, this was when the AACC had the majority of their masses at the Catholic Center.

The AACC was invited by Fr. Frank Prieto (former Pastor of St. Joseph’s of the Rio Grande) to hold our masses at St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Church. Shortly after he retired The Very Rev. Monsignor Luna became the new pastor and welcomed us to stay. He has supported and encouraged us and we have grown and are able to share our faith in our Afro-centric customs with others. We are grateful to him. Thank you, Monsignor Luna and congratulations on your 43rd anniversary as a priest of God.

Congratulations to Adolphe Pierre-Louis
Journal Staff Report
May 29, 2021

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Albuquerque Journal won eight first-place awards in the regional Top of the Rockies journalism contest, including first place honors in the coveted public service category for its coverage of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Navajo Nation and other native communities. The Journal competed against top newspapers and other media organizations in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The contest covered the 2020 calendar year.

Journal photographer **Adolphe Pierre-Louis** also won a **first-place award** in the spot news photography/videography category for a photograph capturing the aftermath of the shooting during a protest of the Juan de Oñate statue. The judge called it “a multi-layered image made in a difficult and dynamic circumstance. “The eye naturally moves from the fleeing bystanders in the lower left corner, up to the victim surrounded by both protesters and gunmen,” the judge wrote. “The reactions and posturings of the various subjects strongly told the story in a single frame.”

Pierre-Louis won a third-place award for the same photo in news photography in the Best of the West contest.

Adolphe is the husband of Gabrielle Pierre-Louis; Co-Coodinator of the African American Catholic Community.

Like the Acacia tree, African descendents of the World also have a deep history (roots); can survive the cruelties of slavery and colonization (resilience, perseverance, wisdom, etc.); can still offer spiritual fruit to our communities (stability, fruit bearer, continuity).
The First U.S.A.-born Canonized African-American Saint?

by Br. Gordon H. Boykin, O.F.M.

New Orleans (A.K.A. N’Awlins)! Its name might conjures up images of Mardi Gras—especially on the naughty, bawdy night of Bourbon Street. Founded in 1718, this Mississippi Delta city has a lot of history that navigated its banks.

Recall that the U.S. Civil War lasted from 1861 - 1865. These were four, long years of absolute horror. Modern war is bad enough, but the before-and-after the Civil War period predated penicillin, was barely considered within the era of the U.S. Industrial Revolution, and had questionable access to pasteurization.

Further, the Louisiana mores of the time were governed by something called Le Code Noir—the Black Code—of French origin. It legislated the inter-cultural lives for the French Anglo, African, Spanish, and Native American populace. In the midst of this, a providential event happened between 1813 and 1862; it was the 49-year life of Henriette Diaz DeLille.

This candidate for canonical sainthood was raised only two generations from abject slavery. Her maternal grandmother was a slave from the West Indies; her mother, a so-called "free woman of color." Henriette, and her three siblings (two brothers and a sister), were raised by her mother—a French citizen who emigrated to the region in the late 1700s. They were very fair-complected. One brother died in infancy. As Henriette's mother was raised, so would she and her sister be. The girls were taught knowledge of French (language, literature, music, and dancing), sewing, and nursing skills. These were valued competencies for recognition as young women availed to the placage [PLAY-kahj] system—a highly legislated contract of serial monogamous concubinage with influential white men. According to records discovered in 2004, Henriette probably gave birth to two boys from the same man. Because of the times, each died as a toddler.

As young as 14, Henriette had the learning and conviction to be an accomplished teacher and catechist. Supported by her pastor, She instructed both children and adults in literacy and the Catholic religion. (Although children and adults of color were instructed after dark because it was illegal to educate them.)

Henriette's religiosity did not bode well with her mother at all. She felt it was disadvantageous for a young, bi-racial woman of the placage system; that it might deter the white suitors. But, as Henriette matured in her faith, she accepted the Sacrament of Confirmation at the age of 21. This further nurtured her conviction that the placage system was immoral in relation to the Catholic Sacrament of Matrimony. Her action to withdraw from this system must have further infuriated her mother. The issue did not cause Henriette to disrespect her mother. She loved her. Yet, Henriette remained firm in her resolve.

Henriette became increasingly interested in joining a religious community. She knew that mixed-race communities were forbidden by law. Since she was so fair, Henriette could have kept her mouth shut and passed for white. But, earlier in her young adult life, she chose to be identified as "a free person of color." This was yet another attitude that irked her family. They did not want to raise suspicion that would cost the loss of societal privilege. Her brother even moved his wife and children out of New Orleans.
Tragically, Henriette's mother became bedridden with a nervous breakdown. Henriette took good care of her. Later, judged in court as incompetent, Henriette was made executor of her mother's estate. But, her growing interest to enter a religious community did not go unnoticed by a local group of French Sisters called *Dames Hospitalières* (Hospital Women). In 1836 they helped Henriette (and two of her long-time girlfriends) establish an "ecclesiastically unrecognized" congregation. They called themselves Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In a short while, they numbered nine. Henriette used the money from her mother's estate to buy a house to serve their increasing ministry.

Being a very prayerful young woman, a statement in French was found in one of her prayer books. In simplicity it reads: "I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God." Even though their small community's love of God and dedication to ministry was exemplar, life was very hard. Besides the things previously mentioned, in 1853 (and, again, in 1897), they rolled up their sleeves to help - and calloused their knees in prayer - to contend with the needs brought on by the yellow fever epidemic.

Some elderly women needed more than regular home care. The Sisters took them in. Within several months, through the help of her pastor, Henriette received formal recognition authorized by the Vatican in 1837. In 1842, the community changed their name to Sisters of the Holy Family-French/Latin initials SSF. The increased care of elderly women caused the expansion to yet another facility. It was to be the first nursing home in the nation. Through a benefice, it became known as Lafon Nursing Facility. It still operates today - although the 2005 Hurricane Katrina necessitated evacuation and renovation.

The path toward canonization of Henriette Diaz DeLille continues to advance. There are four major steps for this to be celebrated: Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed, and Saint. In 1988, Pope St. John Paul II declared her Servant of God. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI declared her Venerable. A confirmed miracle is needed to declare her Blessed. And another miracle to canonize her a Saint. Two such events have been put forth through Venerable Henriette's prayerful intercession: a four-year old girl suffering from double pneumonia complicated by severe bacterial infection; and a 19-year old woman with a brain aneurysm. Although both seem to be miraculous cures, a Vatican medical board is studying each one's pre- and post conditions.

Meanwhile, continue to familiarize yourself with this amazing woman's life. There is literature and religious items online.

Visit https://www.sistersoftheholyfamily.com/history

For those with access, view the docudrama of Henriette's life via Lifetime Television. This 2001 production, entitled "The Courage To Love," stars Vanessa Williams and Gil Bellows.
Juneteeth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. Confederate soldiers surrendered in April 1865, but word didn’t reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to Galveston, Texas. That was also about two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in the Southern states with an effective date of January 1, 1863.

It’s the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created in 1983. The vast majority of states recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or have an official observance of the day, and most states hold celebrations. Juneteenth is a paid holiday for state employees in Texas, New York, Virginia and Washington. Under the legislation, the federal holiday would be known as Juneteenth National Independence Day.

Sts. Charles Lwanga, Joseph Makasa, and Companions, Feast Day June 3rd

One of 22 Ugandan martyrs, Charles Lwanga is the patron of youth and Catholic action in most of tropical Africa. He protected his fellow pages (aged 13 to 30) from the homosexual demands of the Bagandan ruler, Mwanga, and encouraged and instructed them in the Catholic faith during their imprisonment for refusing the ruler’s demands.

For his own unwillingness to submit to the immoral acts and his efforts to safeguard the faith of his friends, Charles was burned to death at Namugongo on June 3, 1886, by Mwanga’s order.

Congratulations to Franklin Iwuagwu

Archbishop John Wester (ASF) have ordained five seminarians to the transitional diaconate in the Roman Catholic Church, on May 20, 2021 at St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Church. Franklin Iwuagwu (of Nigeria), one of the five, has been assigned to the Sacred Heart parish in Clovis, NM. Upon recommendation of the Archbishop, it is possible that Franklin could be ordained as a priest as early as December 2021.

The AACC offers our support to Franklin and all the transitional diaconates in their religious endeavors.

Rev. Rollins E. Lambert
First Black Ordained in the Archdiocese,
Chicago IL; (1922 - 2009)

Fr. Lambert was a Chicago native of both African-American and Cherokee Indian heritage. He attended Chicago public elementary and secondary schools and earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago, where he converted to Catholicism while studying political science. He graduated from the University of St. Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary in 1949.

In that year, he was ordained by Samuel Cardinal Stritch and began an eight-year assignment as assistant pastor of St. Malachy Parish on the west side. He was named assistant pastor of St. Dorothy Parish in 1957, serving there for four years. For seven years, beginning in 1961, Fr. Lambert was the assistant director of the Newman apostolate at Calvert House on the campus of the University of Chicago. He returned there for a two-year stint as director from 1970 until 1972. In the period between the Calvert House assignments, Fr. Lambert returned to the south side, first as pastor of St. James Parish on Wabash for a year, then as pastor of St. Dorothy Parish for two years.

Fr. Lambert had many other assignments that included: advisor on African Affairs for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Development and World Peace Department, director of the Office of Human Relations, associated director of Community Services and as Dean in Vicariate VI (covering Chicago’s south side and south suburbs).

Father Lambert retired in 1991 and moved to Albuquerque, NM (at the request of his friends Ernie and Betty Dorko). He volunteered his services to St. Bernardette Catholic Church and was one of the founding members of the Albuquerque African American Catholic Community.

Father Lambert passed away on January 25, 2009. One of his visions was to provide financial aid to needy African-American youth so that they could attend parochial schools. As part of the vision Father Lambert bequeathed some of his personal finances to kick-start the AACC for a scholarship fund. Using his close friend, Ernest Dorko, he gave the AACC some broad directions on how to use these funds (the mustard seed). Gerry Harge (The Scholarship Chair) and team members are happy to report that after 11 years the AACC Scholarship Fund (The Lambert Scholars) will distribute $17,313 to 18 candidates for the upcoming school year. Thank You Fr. Rollins Lambert.
Special Intentions
The AACC ask that you keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Betty Dorko: Betty Dorko passed away on June 11, 2021 from a serious illness. Betty, wife of Ernest Dorko, (Lambert Scholarship Fund member) were very good friends with Fr. Rollins Lambert and have been members of the AACC from the beginning. We are very sadden to loose Betty. Please pray for Betty, Ernest and their family.

John Caldwell: John recently passed away from a very serious illness. John was one of the ushers at St. Joseph’s on the Rio Grande Church. He helped with the AACC masses and has been a good friend to the AACC for many years.

Linda Adamsko: Recently passed away on May 16, from a serious illness. Linda is the sister Sylvia Adamsko, the AACC piano instrumentalist. We are very sorry for Sylvia’s loss. Please pray for her and Sylvia’s family in this time of grief.

Francis Avellone: Father of Anne Avellone. Francis recently passed away May 28th in Chicago, IL. Anne is the Directory of the ASF Social Justice and Respect for Life. Anne supports, advocates and works very hard on behalf of the AACC. We are very sorry for her loss. Please keep Anne and her family in your prayers.

Congratulations To the Pierre-Louis Graduates

Deandra Pierre-Louis: Daughter of Gabrielle and Adolphe, graduated with a Master in Special Education with emphasis on the area of Learning and Behavioral Disorders. She was a multiple recipient of the Fr. Rollins Lambert Scholarship.

Gabrielle Pierre-Louis: The mother, graduated with a Bachelor of Science In Instructional Technology and Training. Gabrielle is our Co-Coordinator of the AACC.

African American Catholic Community
4000 St. Joseph’s Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Exodus 20:12
“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you."