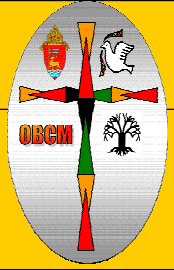




**Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford
Office for Black Catholic Ministries**



GOOD NEWS

Volume 8 Issue 1

SPRING 2011

FREEDOM RIDERS ~ A 50th Anniversary Tribute

Inside this issue:

Always Life	3
Annual Caribbean Mass	3
Bible Quiz Time	3
Save These Dates	4

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD, not for human masters.

Colossians 3:23 TNIV

With all your heart you must trust the LORD and not your own judgment. Always let Him lead you, and He will clear the road for you to follow.

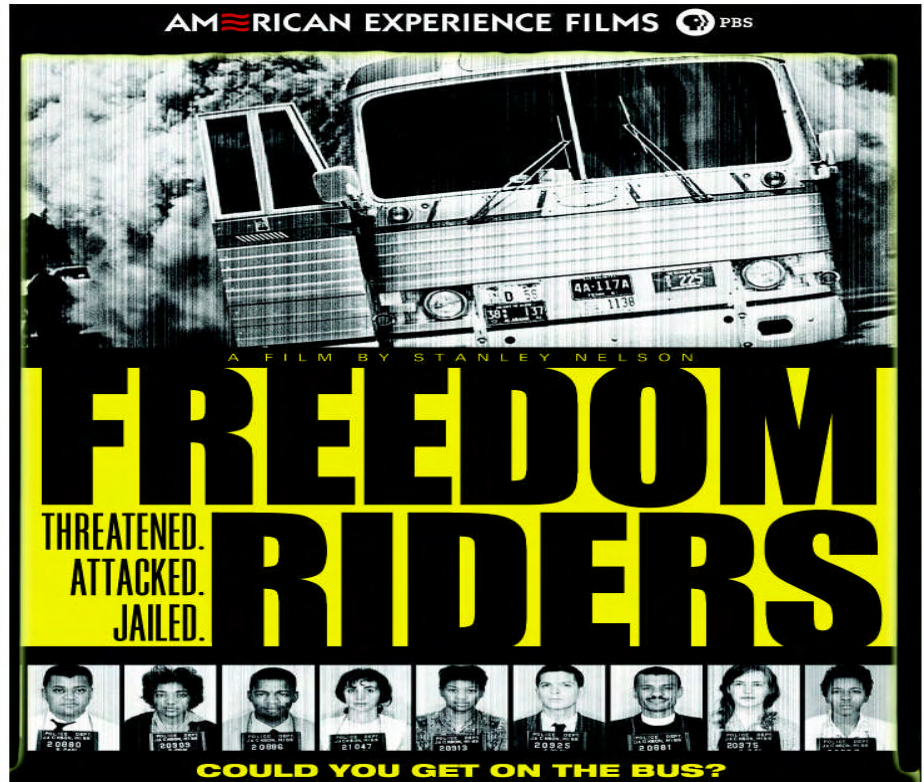
Proverbs 3:5-6 CEV

**God believes in me;
Therefore my situation is never hopeless.**

**God walks with me;
therefore I am never alone.**

**God is on my side;
Therefore I can never lose.**

A. Phillip Parham



This year in May 2011, America marks the fiftieth anniversary of the start of a vital piece of the civil rights movement, the Freedom Rides. 1961 was a time of upheaval in our nation. The changes in our society that was critical to the essence of this nation that chose to be free, had to be faced. Our country was obligated to confront the difficult truth that as long as many of its citizens were not free then the parchment on which its constitution was written had yet to be fulfilled. So it is right, it is proper that we take time to embrace our stories of courageous people who stood and faced grave danger in order to make whole the dream of the U.S. constitution...it is proper that we do this so that we might understand our present and lift up hope for our future.

It is proper that we listen and tell the stories we already know...the stories of brutality and anger ...the stories of faith and courage...to remember it all again...the bus stations with colored and white signs demarking where you could and could not go, and the daring souls who dared to risk their lives because all Americans were not yet free. All one must do is recall the barbaric attack on nonviolent Americans who were riding on a public bus through Alabama to feel the tenor of the times. The Greyhound bus on which the Freedom Riders rode was fired bombed with the direct attempt to burn them alive for having the audacity to sit in any seat on that bus. The freedom riders confronted brutal and demonic hatred with gentle Christ-like peace.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Why did those who fought the difficult and dangerous fight choose to take up that challenge? Why did they choose such a difficult and dangerous path? After all there was little or no support from family or government. Why fight for something that the laws, the culture, tradition, and the suffering told you, you could not win? Everything you saw, everything you experienced, everything your mama and daddy experienced told you to stop trying, for you could not overcome this battle, it was useless, others had tried before and failed...some were killed. So why, why try?...Why? Why?

Because the arc of the moral universe is long but bends towards justice...Because there beyond that dim unknown standeth God within the shadows keeping watch above his own...

Why? Why? Why indeed? "Because we walk by faith not by sight." So it didn't matter how difficult the road nor how long the path...We walk by faith not by sight. At the heart of this movement was a special black woman, a Catholic woman from Chicago, raised in a Catholic home, educated in Catholic schools, who seriously contemplated the religious life, her name is Diane Nash. Along with John Lewis she formed the Nashville Student Movement, which aimed to desegregate the city's lunch counters. Nash organized the sit-ins that began there in 1960, eliciting a televised admission from the then Mayor Ben West that segregation was wrong. Nash participated in the creation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee along with Dr. Bernard LaFayette and picked the group of students from Nashville who joined the 1961 Freedom Riders.



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, SPECIAL
MEDIA ARCHIVES SERVICES DIVISION

Diane Nash - 1960

That is the path we must learn to choose... The path of faith...even though that path can be difficult, even though that path can be violent, even though that path can be lonely...the path of faith is the only one on which you cannot get lost... Diane Nash lived her faith as she learned it, as a young black Catholic woman, steeped in the teachings of the peace of Christ...At this time and in this place we should all hope to be so faith-filled.

The documentary film Freedom Riders in which Diane Nash is featured had its New England debut at The Archdiocesan Center at St Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT on April 8, 2011. Hundreds viewed the film and listened as Dr. Bernard Lafayette told of his eye witness account of what happened on those Freedom Rides. He

So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society.

John Quincy Adams

spoke of the special training in nonviolence that the civil rights workers employed during that time of extreme violence. This same training is available today. In concert with the Office for Black Catholic Ministries, the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence teaches this philosophy throughout Connecticut. If you, your church social justice ministry, youth ministry or any other ministry would like to be involved in teaching and living nonviolent peace, please give our office (The Office for Black Catholic Ministries) a call at 860-243-0648.

The documentary film Freedom Riders will have its national television debut on PBS on Monday May 16, 2011 at 9:00 PM Eastern.



Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. Freedom Rider

Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., has been a Civil Rights Movement Activist, minister, educator, lecturer and is a global authority on the strategy of nonviolent social change. He co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960, where he was a leader of the Nashville movement. In 1961, he was beaten and jailed during the Freedom Rides. Miraculously, he also survived an assassination attempt by the Ku Klux Klan in Selma, Alabama. He served on the Executive Staff of Martin Luther King, Jr., and was appointed by Dr. King as National Program Administrator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Over the past forty years Dr. LaFayette has been traveling world-wide organizing the development of Nonviolence Centers. Ms. Victoria Christaug, founded The **Connecticut Center for Nonviolence** (CTCN), which is housed at the University of Hartford. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to Peace through Education and the Arts.. CTCN teaches and applies the nonviolence philosophy and methodology of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is actively building a culture of just peace in Harford by working collaboratively with local and regional groups.

Continued on Page 4

ALWAYS LIFE

The Office for Black Catholic Ministries is a proud supporter of the Catholic Church's teaching on capital punishment. The Church's teaching is firmly rooted in our belief that life is sacred from the moment of conception to natural death. As a result, we say that the death penalty is unwarranted in a society that has other means to defend itself from dangerous criminals. In addition, our sense of justice and equity leads us to question the gross disparities in how the death penalty is applied. Since 1973, 138 people have been released from death rows around the country with evidence of their innocence. Economics, race, and politics often play a disturbing role in determining who ends up on death row.

These were some of the reasons given by Bishop Peter Rosazza when he testified on behalf of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Connecticut before the Judiciary Committee of the General Assembly on March 7, saying that the Church's position on the death penalty is "about respect for life from conception to natural death....We value human life. Every person who commits a capital crime doesn't lose the sacredness of human life."

We strongly support the sentiment expressed by Bishop Rosazza and urge you all to take action to make this the year that Connecticut abolishes the death penalty. As this article is being written, a bill is currently waiting on a vote in the judiciary committee; it will then go on to either the house or the senate, and then on to the Governor for signature into law. Right now is the time to

take action by hosting a letter writing Sunday at your parish. Our campaign partner, the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP), has been helping to equip people with letter writing kits that contain all you need to get your parish mobilized on this important life issue. If you are interested, please contact Bo Chamberlin at (614) 581-5109 or bo@cnadp.org for more information. You can also visit their website at www.cnadp.org to find out how to contact your legislators.

For Your Reflection: *"The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away... I renew the appeal I made most recently at Christmas for a consensus to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary."*

-Pope John Paul II, St. Louis, Missouri, January 1999

According to a 2008 NAACP report, among states with at least 10 death row inmates Connecticut was tied with Texas in having the highest percentage, 70%, who are minorities.

Nationally, 78% of those executed in the United States were executed for crimes involving white victims even though whites make up approximately half of homicide victims overall.

Continued on Page 4

Annual Caribbean Mass



June 26, 2011 ~ 11 AM

Parish Picnic featuring Caribbean foods immediately follows

St. Justin Church - 230 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford

Principal Celebrant : Archbishop Henry J. Mansell

**Guest Homilist : Rev. Frank Black, Pastor,
St. Laurence Church, Brooklyn, NY**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bible Quiz Time

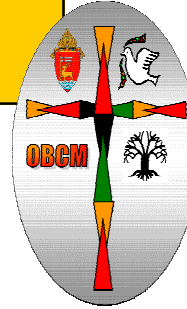
1. Why did Elisha curse 42 children?
2. What happened to the 42 children Elisha cursed?
3. At only two verses long, what psalm is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
4. Who called himself a "dead dog"?
5. What did David do with Goliath's weapons after killing him?
6. How many rivers flowed out of the Garden of Eden?
7. Who is the woman most mentioned in the Bible?
8. Who was the fourth oldest man in the Bible?

See answers below

Answers: 1). They called him baldheaded. 2 Kings 2:23-24; 2). They were killed by two bears. 2 Kings 2:23-24; 3). Psalm 117; 4). Mephibosheth. 2 Samuel 9:6-8; 5). He kept them. 1 Samuel 17:54; 6). Four. Genesis 2:10,14; 7). Sarah. She is mentioned 60 times; 8). Adam. Genesis 5:5,20,27; 9:29

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
OFFICE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

The Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary
 467 Bloomfield Avenue † Bloomfield, CT 06002
 Phone: (860) 243-0648 † Fax: (860) 243-0649 † Email: OBCM@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.aoh-obcm.intuitwebsites.com
 Deacon Arthur L. Miller, Director † Mrs. Kay Taylor-Brooks, Assistant to the Director



NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 P A I D
 PERMIT #4
 BLOOMFIELD, CT

GOOD NEWS is published by the Office for Black Catholic Ministries. Designed by Kay Taylor-Brooks

Time Dated Material

Listen to WJMJ Radio, 88.9 FM Hartford, 93.1 FM Hamden, 107.1 FM New Haven, every Sunday at 8:30 AM for GOOD NEWS! Brought to you by the OBCM Broadcast from ORTV, Prospect, CT

We're on the Web!

www.aoh-obcm.intuitwebsites.com

www.archdioceseofhartford.org

Other Links of Interest

www.nbccongress.org & www.usccb.org

SAVE these DATES

- **OBCM SPRING BIBLE STUDY**
Thursdays, May 19, to June 30, 2011
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
 See website for details.
- **June 26, 2011:**
Annual CARIBBEAN MASS
 Sponsored by the Caribbean Catholics of North America (CCNA) - Hartford Chapter
 St. Justin Church, Hartford, 11 AM.
- **July, 2011**
KINGIAN NONVIOLENCE
 Introduction and Certification Training
 (See cover story)
- **August 6, 2011:**
Archdiocesan SUMMER REVIVAL!
 Sponsored by OBCM
 St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield
 12 noon—3:00 PM
 See website for details

OBCM
Advisory Board

- President**
Ms. Victoria Virgo-Christie
- Vice President**
Mrs. Cheryl Lawrence
- Secretary**
Ms. Donna Shears
- Mr. Edward Adjei-Kensah**
Ms. Shawnee Baldwin
Mr. Robert L. Brown
Dr. Denise Coley
Mrs. Verna Creary
Dr. Brenda DelGado
Mr. Edward Fortes
Ms. Deborah Holloway
Ms. Beverly Plummer
Mr. Bryan Pollard
Deacon Jeffery Sutherland
Mrs. Veronica D. Taylor

Continued from Page 2

As the CTCN Honorary Board Chair, Dr. LaFayette has conducted numerous Kingian Nonviolence trainings in Hartford and throughout Connecticut.

This Intensive training is based on the nonviolence teaching of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It prepares and certifies participant to become facilitators of Kingian nonviolence. It offers a framework for reconciling conflict and analyzing the core philosophy and methodology of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. It also provides the knowledge and skills necessary to support people in applying peaceful strategies for solving personal, inter-personal and community problems. The next certification training will take place in July, 2011 at Central Connecticut State University. If you are interested in participating, please call the CTCN at 860-567-3441 or call OBCM at 860-243-0648 for more details.

Continued from Page 3

Out of the 138 people released from death rows across the country 71 were black and 12 were Latino meaning that more than 60% of those wrongfully convicted of death penalty crimes were minorities.