

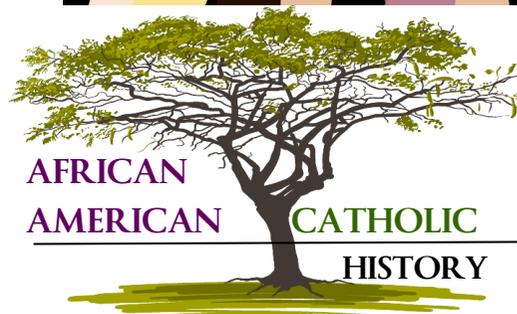
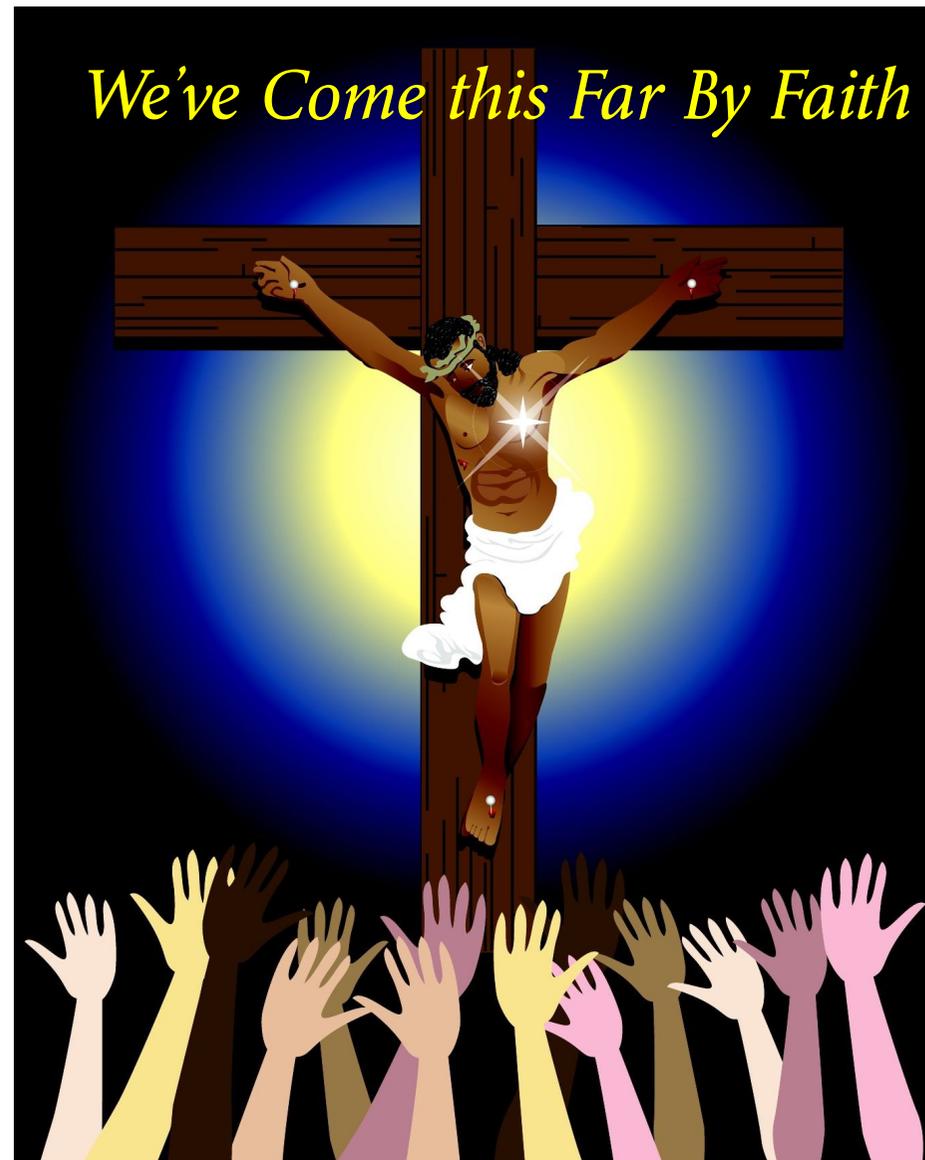
Special thank you to

*Diocesan African American Commission
the committee who worked on putting the
scripture study together:*

*Helen Joyce Dixon, Nikkei Goodwin, Lessie
Grey, Marjorie Lewis, Deacon Daniel
Obeifun, Althea Porter, Deacon Ronald
Walker, Elise Wilson, Maria del Carmen
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Dennis Mahaney for final editing.*

People who gave testimonies:

*Lillian Hently, Helen Roddy Grey, Dea-
con Ronald Walker, Elaine Clyburn and
Shannen Dee Williams and Mikayla Louis.*



**A Lenten Scripture Study of
the Past, Present, and Future**

Diocese of Buffalo

This is a preview of A Lenten Scripture Study African American Catholic of the Diocese of Buffalo. For copies of the Six week Lenten Scripture study, we ask for a donation of \$1.00 each to defray printing cost. Call the Office of Cultural Diversity if you have any questions or to make your orders. 847-2217 or email me at mramos@buffalodiocese.org

Testimony: Mrs. Lillian Huntley

My mother was a cradle Catholic and I was baptized in the Catholic church, likewise all my siblings. We were born in Buffalo but spend time back and forth to Canada. I attended St Mary's Church on Broadway. They accepted us but the welcome was not there. I noticed racism more when I was growing up. When they opened St. Augustine we left St. Mary's Church and went to St. Augustine...

Reflection questions:

1. Were African American Catholics able to express their faith publicly? What temptations stood in their way? Are you willing to stand up for your religion?
2. What were the temptations of the other Church members at the time?
3. What are the similarities between the past and present?
4. Are African American Catholics still "being tempted in the desert" today? Why or why not?

Taking Christ to the Streets...

1. Do you know the roots of your Catholic faith? Do you know why you are Catholic? What is your story? During this week, share your story with your family, friends or neighbors.

2....

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Introduction: *What is the Lenten Scripture Study of the Past Present, and Future of the African American Catholics in the Diocese of Buffalo?*

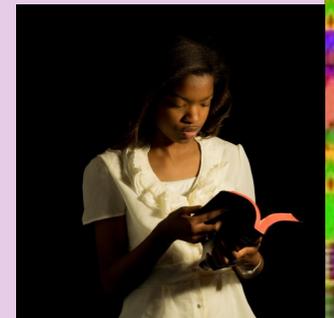
This is a Scripture Study centered on the six Sundays of Lent, 2015, Cycle B and the book written by the late Rev. Roderick M. Brown, O.P. "A Gathering at the River", and the "Report of the Negro Apostolate in Lackawanna, NY" by the Rev. Thomas Galvin A priest of the Redemptorist Order Edited by Paul Lubienecki along with testimonies and other history of African American Catholics of the Diocese of Buffalo.

This Scripture Study is a result of the Pastoral Plan For African American Catholics of the Diocese of Buffalo 2012-2017. This scripture Study began as a one time study but as the committee began its work, we notice that it was too much information for a one time study and so it is our hope to continue this study in the future by following it up with future scripture studies for Cycle C and Cycle A of the church Year.

We pray, may the Lord continue guiding us during this time of Lent and may all those participating in this Scripture Study be guided by the Holy Spirit. May we draw our strength, inspiration and direction from God. We ask this in the name of his Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

We invite all Catholics in our Diocese to join together in meditating this Scripture Study. God Bless You!

*Diocesan African American Commission—
Office of Cultural Diversity—Diocese of Buffalo*



First Sunday of Lent —

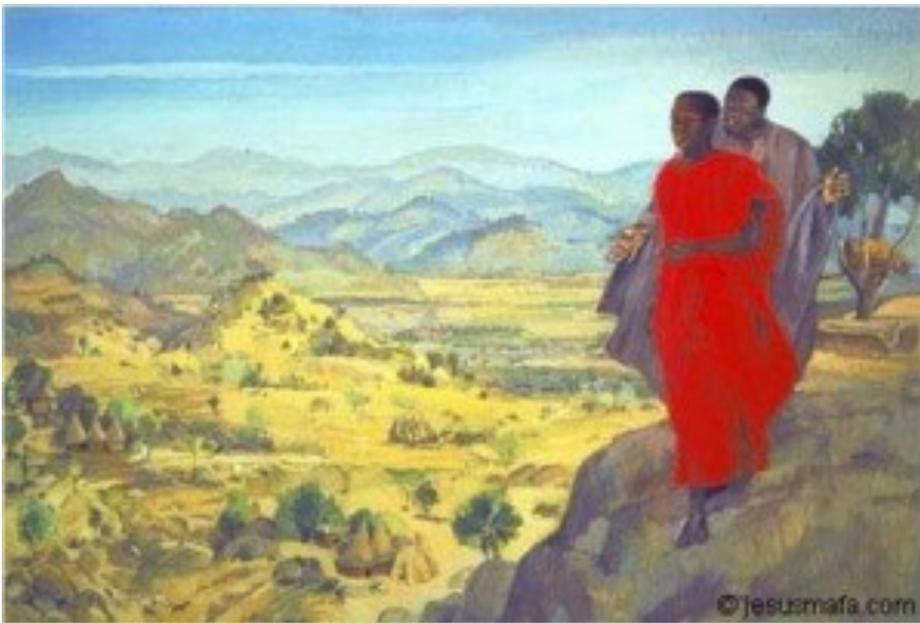
Theme: Be With Me Lord When I Am In Trouble

Readings: Genesis 9:8-15, Ps 25: 4-5.8-9 1, Pt 3:18-22,

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”



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Reflection— “A Gathering at the River” Rev. Roderick

Brown O.P.

1860—1930

“The first known group activities of Black Catholics in Buffalo were nurtured by Reverend Serge de Schonlepnikoff, a Russian noble man who was a linguist and an expert chess player impressed by the faith of the small congregation of Black people in the city, reached out in priestly zeal and with his own money, rented a house on the East Side to serve as a center of religious activity for them. This house that functioned as a chapel, catechetical center, and clubhouse, was known as the St. Augustine’s Club. His friendship and charity, both at the clubhouse and cathedral, interested some Black people in becoming Catholics.

“In 1911 Fr. Biden with the encouragement of Bishop Colton, helped Black Catholics to organize the St. Augustine Catholic Club. George H. Thompson, an outstanding Black man, was elected president of the club.”

“From 1920 onward, two women who actually rendered years of faithful service also helped with the priest’s work. Misunderstandings, factions and reactions compounded, so Bishop Turner turned the mission back to the Cathedral staff....

