

January 6, 2008

## Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

The Secretariat for Catholic Human Services is comprised of Catholic Social Services, Catholic Health Care Services, Nutritional Development Services, and the Office for Community Development.

1. Catholic Social Services operates three residential programs that have served at-risk youth for over 100 years: St. Vincent's Home-Tacony, St. Francis-St. Joseph Homes, and St. Gabriel's Hall.
2. Catholic Health Care Services operates six skilled care nursing facilities, the first of which opened in 1913 as St. Francis Country House in Darby.
3. Nutritional Development Services provided 9,845,000 meals to school based, community based, and emergency feeding programs in 2006-2007.
4. The Office for Community Development transformed the old Starlight Ballroom of Kensington into the Cardinal Bevilacqua Community Center
5. Over **250,000 people** of all faiths were assisted by Catholic Human Services programs last Year.

Learn more about volunteering at or supporting one of the programs or facilities of Catholic Human services at [www.chs-phil.org](http://www.chs-phil.org)

January 13, 2008

## Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has been at the forefront of trying to bring racial harmony among all of God's people on both a diocesan level and most importantly on the grass roots level in our parishes.

Since 1983 the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has sponsored an Interfaith Prayer Service in remembrance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This celebration gathers people of various races, cultures and faith traditions to reflect on the cause of peace and social justice.

The Interfaith Prayer Service in Remembrance of Dr. King will take place at St. Katherine Drexel Church, 20th and Providence Avenues in Chester, PA on January 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Chester is where Dr. King studied, preached and lived as he prepared for his ministry. The theme of the service will be "*He came to Chester to Learn, We Come to Serve*". All are welcome.

For more information please contact the Office for Black Catholics at 215-587-3634 or email at [blkcath@adphila.org](mailto:blkcath@adphila.org)

January 20, 2008

## Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

The Annual Week of prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, is observed mainly through local and regional celebrations. January 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of this major ecumenical observance. Cardinal Justin Rigali will preside at a Christian Unity Week service at St. Hilary of Poitiers Church in Rydal at 7:00 p.m. on January 24, 2008.

Since 1975, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has continued to maintain an active role in ecumenical and interreligious affairs through the office created for this purpose. Highlights of this involvement include:

1. Relations with the Jewish community include: Interfaith Lay Dialogues since the mid-1970's, annual Youth Symposium on the Holocaust since 1978 and Rabbi-Priest dialogues since 1998.
2. Ongoing relations with Lutherans since 1977 through workshops and clergy and lay dialogues.
3. Publication of Archdiocesan Guidelines and Directives for Ecumenism in 1981.
4. Significant ecumenical participation in the 41<sup>st</sup> International Eucharistic Congress in 1976.

For more Information contact the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at 215-587-3624 or e-mail at [ecumen@adphila.org](mailto:ecumen@adphila.org)

January 27, 2008

## Bicentennial Moments

This week our Archdiocese celebrates Catholic Schools week. Catholic Schools week has been observed nationally since 1974. Monsignor Thomas J. Leonard, a priest from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia was on the originating Board of Directors to establish this national celebration.

Initial celebrations from 1974 through 1990 saw Catholic schools place displays in malls throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to create a broad view of what Catholic Schools had to offer. Today's celebrations include tours of the individual schools, eye catching websites, colorful brochures and media clips about what is happening within the school each year to highlight Catholic education.

Did you know:

1. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia was founded in 1808 and began educating children in 1894. Since that time Archdiocesan schools have educated and formed in faith more than **15 million students**.
2. In 2006-2007 Archdiocesan schools saved tax payers **\$97 million dollars**.
3. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia opened the 2007-2008 school year with 184 parish elementary schools, 20 Archdiocesan high schools and 5 Archdiocesan schools of special education.

For more information about Catholic Schools go to [www.keepingfaithinmind.org](http://www.keepingfaithinmind.org).