



August 15, 2019

Dear Friend,

The Oblate Sisters of Providence is the first successful Roman Catholic sisterhood in the world established by women of African descent. It was the work of a French-born Sulpician priest and four women, who were part of the Caribbean refugee colony which began arriving in Baltimore, Maryland in the late eighteenth century. In their chapel, they took their vows and the first religious order of women of African descent was officially founded on July 2, 1829. The new chapel built in 1836 was especially significant because it was not only for the use of the convent of the Oblate Sisters of Providence but was also the first time American black Catholics had their own separate chapel for worship, baptisms, marriages, confirmations and funerals.

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, we will celebrate two members of this historic order of religious women who have served in Buffalo community for nearly 50 years, Sister Timothy Howard, OSP and Sister Noreen Smith, OSP who will be leaving Buffalo to return to their community in Baltimore.

A Celebratory Mass will be held at St. Martin de Porres Church, 555 Northampton, St, Buffalo, NY 14208 at 9:30am. There will be a Meet and Greet with the sisters after Mass until 1:00pm. A Luncheon at Grapevine Banquets, 333 Dick Road, Depew will be held from 2:30pm-5:00pm. Reservations for the luncheon are \$30.00 per person, preorders only and limited to the first 250 people. (See separate flyer for luncheon reservations.)

I will never forget the first time I met the Oblates at St. Nicholas School on Welker Street on the east side of Buffalo. I had never met an African American religious sister before, and it didn't take long for me to realize how special they were. They taught us with a passion that we had not experienced before. They taught us how to be competitive in our studies, respectful in our manners and they instilled in us a sense of pride in who we were. Lessons that we never forgot.

At this time, we are inviting you to join our salute to Sisters Timothy and Noreen by becoming a sponsor on their special day. Your donation will help defray the expenses of the day and give us the opportunity to provide a donation to the Sisters. Here are the sponsorship levels:

Gold Sponsor: \$100.00
Silver Sponsor: \$250.00
Platinum Sponsor: \$500.00

With your permission, your generosity will be included in the program and will be acknowledged at the luncheon. The deadline for all sponsorships is September 1, 2019, and a response form is included with this letter. Thanking you in advance,

Mary Craig for The Sisters Planning Committee



RESPONSE FORM

Return with your payment. Please make your check payable to St. Martin de Porres.

YES, I would like to be a sponsor for the Sisters Celebratory Event

_____ ***Silver Level: \$100.00***

_____ ***Gold Level: \$250.00***

_____ ***Platinum Level: \$500.00***

Another Amount: _____

NAME (Please print):

ORGANIZATION/COMPANY (If applicable)

Email Address (print):

Phone:

**Return to
St. Martin de Porres Church
555 Northampton St.
Buffalo, NY 14208.**

Attention, Mary Craig,

by September 1, 2019