



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

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ANNOUNCEMENT

BISHOP EDWARD K. BRAXTON TO SPEAK IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS ON THE RACIAL DIVIDE IN THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 18-19, 2017

**February 18th: 8:00 PM Address at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 4625 N. Kenwood Avenue
Title: “The Racial Divide in the United States”**

**February 19th: 10:30 AM Celebrant and Homilist of Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Title of Homily: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”**

**2:30 PM Address at Marian University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, 3200 Cold Spring Rd
Title: “The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement”**

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D., Bishop of Belleville, Illinois will speak in the Archdiocese on the Racial Divide in the United States in two addresses and a homily February 18-19, 2017. The Bishop’s addresses will examine key elements contributing to the racial divide in the United States and the emergence of the Black Lives Matter Movement from the perspective of the Catholic Church. He will explore the reasons why only a small number of African-Americans are Catholics (2.9 million out of nearly 70 million), the “all lives matter” vs. “Black lives matter” debate, the negative impact of the erroneous expressions “minorities” and “minority groups,” conflicts over issues of morality, and the impact of Catholic social doctrine and the Good News of Jesus Christ on the racial divide.



The Bishop was invited to the Archdiocese by Joseph Cardinal Tobin, when he was Archbishop of Indianapolis, the Reverend Steven C. Schwab, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and Ms. Donna Proctor, Associate Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Marian University.

Bishop Braxton was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1970. He served as Associate Pastor of Holy Name Cathedral, Sacred Heart in Winnetka, Director of Calvert House, the Catholic Student Center at the University of Chicago, and Pastor of St. Catherine of Sienna and St. Lucy Parish in Oak Park, Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. and S.T.D. from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. He did his post-doctoral studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He was ordained a Bishop in 1995, serving initially as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The Bishop’s formal education and writings in systematic theology have led to teaching positions at Harvard Divinity School and University of Notre Dame but, in recent years, he has turned his scholarship to the question of the racial divide. In 2015, he issued his Pastoral Letter, “The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015.” In 2016, he published the companion Pastoral Letter, “The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial Divide Revisited.” These were followed by, “Moral Leadership in Action: All Lives Really Do Matter” and “There are No Minority Voters.” Since their publication, Bishop Braxton has lectured nationally, becoming a leading voice in the Catholic Church on improving race relations. His writings and addresses are intended to invite individuals and groups to enter into conversations about important and sensitive subjects without judging others in the hope of attaining greater understanding, mutual respect, and realistic efforts to bridge the racial divide.

All are welcome to attend both lectures and to participate in the Eucharist. There is no entrance fee for the lectures. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.