



# Memo

**Date:** December 9, 2019  
**To:** Clergy and Chancery Staff  
**From:** Ashley Morris, Associate Director, Office of Intercultural Ministries  
**Re:** 2020 Atlanta Archdiocesan MLK Jr. Celebration

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The Office of Intercultural Ministries invites you to participate in the 2020 Archdiocesan MLK Jr. Celebration Week, taking place on January 12, 18-19, 2020. Our theme is **“We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)**. Our events honor the life and legacy of Dr. King as a Roman Catholics.

The events will begin on **Sunday, January 12, 2020** with the **Young Adult “Service and Sips” Brunch and Service Opportunity** taking place at **2:00 pm** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, located at 25 Boulevard NE, Atlanta, GA 30312. **Lucia B. Luzondo, JD, Director of the Office of Intercultural Ministries**, will be our guest presenter for the event.

On **Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 1:00 pm**, the **MLK Jr. Eucharistic Celebration** will take place at the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Church, located at 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. Bishop Bernard E. Shlesinger, III will be the principal celebrant and homilist for our annual Mass honoring Dr. King.

Our celebration week concludes with the **Youth Celebration** taking place at **3:00 pm** on **Sunday, January 19, 2020** at St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School, located at 2560 Tilson Road, Decatur, GA 30032. Bishop Joel M. Konzen, S.M. will join us for this event as well. We invited guests attending each event to bring canned goods, clothing, or cleaning products for donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia.

For more information about the 2020 MLK Jr. Celebration Week, please contact Ashley Morris, Associate Director of the Office of Intercultural Ministries, at 404-920-7586 or at [amorris@archatl.com](mailto:amorris@archatl.com).

## 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. “Service and Sips” Young Adult Service Opp.

Office of Intercultural Ministries · Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta

January 12, 2020 • 2:00 PM • Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

25 Boulevard NE • Atlanta, GA 30312 • Fr. Jeffery Ott, O.P., Pastor



Photo by Michael Alexander, The Georgia Bulletin

### What is the “Service and Sips” Young Adult Service Opportunity?

It’s a service-oriented brunch sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Ministries (OIM) taking place during our annual MLK Jr. Celebration Week. This service opportunity invites young adults (aged 18-39) from all around the archdiocese to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through a Christian community

service project. The project consists of building hygiene kits for the homeless and working poor of Atlanta.

**What are “hygiene kits?”** The hygiene kits are small packages of toiletry items with special messages intended for the recipients. A typical kit is made of a Ziploc bag, at least four (4) personal items and an inspirational message written on a small piece of construction paper.

The toiletry items for the hygiene kits include (but are not limited to) travel sized or regular sized versions of the following:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Hand sanitizer
- First Aid Kits
- Mouthwash
- Breath Mints
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hand lotion
- Deodorant Soap
- Lip Balm
- Razors
- Baby Powder
- Body Wash
- Hand warmers



Photo by Michael Alexander, The Georgia Bulletin

## 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. “Service and Sips” Young Adult Service Opp.

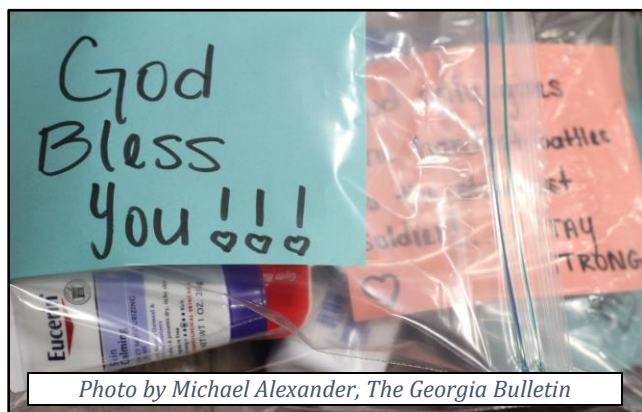
Office of Intercultural Ministries · Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta

**How are items for the hygiene kits purchased?** The OIM invites guests attending the event to contribute a minimum of **\$5 worth of items** for the hygiene kits. Guests typically donate far more than \$5 worth, and the OIM donates additional items towards the event as well. Businesses, individual donors, and non-profit organizations have also donated items towards the event as “sponsors.”

**Where do the hygiene kits go once they are constructed?** The OIM pledges to donate the kits this year to the **St. Francis Table Outreach Ministry of The Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Church** (Rev. Msgr. Henry Gracz, *Pastor*).

**Why donate hygiene kits instead of food or clothing?** Hygiene kits meet a recipient’s **immediate and practical need** in a very different way than food or clothing. Health and hygiene plays just as an important role in our Christian work to restore and maintain human dignity for *all* people, and a simple way to involve young adults in this work is through the collection and construction of the hygiene kits.

While there is a constant need for food and clothing for men, women, and children living on the margins and fringes of society, multiple organizations hold clothing and food drives at this time of



year. We have found that there are very few organizations hosting efforts to provide the homeless or working poor with ways to clean themselves, leaving ministries providing these resources with scant numbers of items to distribute to clients. There are also some instances where working people who receive vouchers for food and donated clothing allocate their financial resources towards rent and utilities. In these cases, living on a fixed income and very tight budget, the individuals may not have enough resources for more than what is vital to maintain their health and strength.

The inclusion of the inspirational message is a way for guests constructing the kits to remember, in real time, that our efforts benefit real people. Each personal message is also a way for the guest to accompany, in a small way, the person receiving the kit.

**I want to support this effort! How can I?** We invite you to join us on January 12 at Our Lady of Lourdes to help us build the kits and enjoy a delectable brunch! If you cannot join us on January 12, you can simply bring donations to the Lake Park Chancery and drop them off in the box located in the lobby! If you would like to give money towards the purchase of items, please contact **Ashley Morris** ([amorris@archatl.com](mailto:amorris@archatl.com) or ext. 7586) for more information.

Most importantly, you can support the event through prayer and asking for the intercession of our saints and Blessed Mother for the success God’s work in or efforts!