

For immediate release

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Press contact: Erin Foley
Marketing/PR Coordinator
(708) 458-7600, Ext. 252

Peace Senior Honored With “Woman of Purpose” Award

For the 32nd consecutive year, hundreds of Catholic school students gathered for a special Mass on Feb. 4 at Holy Name Cathedral to celebrate African-American Heritage Month and the fifth Kwanzaa principle NIA, or purpose. Queen of Peace senior Megan Graves, of Oak Lawn, was among those honored at the service with the NIA Woman of Purpose Award. Ten Peace students, along with campus minister Kathleen Greenan, also attended the Mass that featured traditional African drumming and liturgical dancing.

Other honorees included political activist and community leader Timuel Black and TV broadcast legend Merri Dee. Because of their many accomplishments, Graves, who plans to study theology at Dominican University, said she felt a little intimidated about receiving her medal.

“It was a real honor to stand up with everyone who has had such an impact on the community,” Graves said. “I didn’t feel I could live up to their standards. When I get to their ages, I hope to have had an impact like they did.”

Even at the age of 17 Graves exemplifies Peace’ Dominican values, especially this year’s focused value of community.

Graves is involved in Peace Ambassadors, Student Council, Dominican Preachers, Human Rights Task Force, Chamber Singers and Tri-M, Music Honor Society. She is president of Spanish National Honor Society, and the weekend after being honored at the heritage Mass, led a VERITAS retreat for the second time.

“I like doing service; it’s a little way of Jesus Christ’s hands working through mine,” Graves said.

Photo caption:



Ten Queen of Peace students attended a special Mass on Feb. 4 at Holy Name Cathedral to celebrate African-American Heritage Month and the fifth Kwanzaa principle NIA, or purpose. Senior Megan Graves (top row, right), of Oak Lawn, was honored with the NIA Woman of Purpose Award. Students from various schools presented handmade banners honoring a range of leaders, past and present; Peace created a sign for St. Martin DePorres.