

# Soul Food Sampler

St. Peter Claver Parish, St. Paul, MN, Feb. 26, 2012



Sister Thea Bowman was definitely with us at St. Peter Claver Parish yesterday! As I visited in the buffet line for the Soul Food Sampler after Mass, a woman I had never seen before, carrying two large framed prints of Brother Michael McGrath paintings of Sister Thea approached me, saying her family wanted to donate the two prints to the Sister Thea Bowman Library of the parish school. "I feel so blessed to have been taught and formed by your Sisters," she said, of her years at Viterbo around 1980. Her only regret was that she had just missed having Sister Thea as a teacher. (She mentioned Sisters Rita Rathburn, Celestine Cepress and Maureen Gengler as influential in her life.) Her son has also since attended Viterbo.

*"To the students,  
families and friends of  
St. Peter Claver  
Catholic School.*

*May you continue to be  
inspired, touched and  
blessed by our  
remarkable Thea  
Bowman.*

*February 2012 Paul,  
Amy and Hannah Moore"*



says a pink card taped to the back of each print.

What a preparation for Sister Charlene Smith's very well-received talk later! Nearly 150 people stayed after Mass for the lunch and presentation, the most ever for the annual Soul Food Sampler event of Black History Month. Personally, my favorite parts of Sister Charlene's talk were whatever followed the phrase, "I remember when we were young . . ." She used about 10 minutes of a DVD of Sister Thea's talk from her wheelchair to the United States bishops at their annual gathering nine months before her death. Afterward many people asked me where they can get a copy of that whole talk of Sister Thea's. I'm planning to show it in the parish hall after Sunday Mass soon.

Thanks, Sister Charlene, for gracing us with your presentation!

Patricia Tekippe, FSPA

St. Paul MN

February 27, 2012