

Sister Rita Mae Fischer, FSPA, a native of St. Paul, Minn., accompanied me Feb. 25-26. She wrote the following about the Thea event. (Charlene Smith, FSPA)

It was a joy to be present Sunday at the 10 a.m. Gospel Choir Mass at St. Peter Claver Church, St. Paul, celebrating Black History Month. I was happy to see the following FSPAs there: Marcella Anibas, Rosemary Desmond, Karen Grochowski, Grace Ann Schiffer, Evelyn Schlosser, Charlene Smith, Patricia Tekippe, Corrina Thomas. The church holds 300. About 50 more were standing in the aisles.



We were there also to give tribute to Sister Thea Bowman as we heard Sister Charlene Smith's marvelous presentation, "A Thea Sampler", following an abundant "Soul Food Sampler" in the parish hall. At the close of Sister Charlene's talk, we viewed parts of Sister Thea's 1989 dynamic address to the U.S. Bishops. Finally, everyone present stood and sang "We Shall Overcome" with Sister Thea and the Bishops.



Patricia Tekippe, FSPA, coordinated the festivities with her planning committee: Bob Bobst, Dan Glover, Dr. Whitney Harris, Dr. Charles Vickers, and the pastor, Fr. Kevin Mc Donough.

A very moving experience for me, having lived with Sister Thea in Canton, Miss., for seven

years in the 60s. And what a smile the memories brought to the face of Deborah Jackson Pembleton, my student in grades one and two at Holy Child Jesus School, Canton! Deborah, now teaching at St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, Minn., was also a student of Sister Thea.



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