Dr. King memorial set

LAFAYETTE

A memorial service honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held Thursday, Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. in St. John's Cathedral, Lafayette, sponsored by the diocesan Office for Black Catholics.

People of all denominations are invited to attend. There will be readings from Dr. King's writings and some of his favorite songs will be offered by area choirs.

Father Albert McKnight, C.S.Sp., will be the guest preacher for this event. Originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., Father McKnight is a member of the Congregation of The Holy Ghost, a missionary society with missions in the United States and several foreign countries. Since his ordination in 1952 he has been working in southwest Louisiana. He did pastoral work in St. Paul's, Lafayette; Our Lady of Lourdes, Abbeville; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lake Charles, and St. Martin de Porres in Delcambre.

While taking care of the parochial responsibilities of these works, he continued studying. In 1975 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by Mary Holmes College. In 1976 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Human Letters honoris causa by Xavier University, New Orleans.

Since 1970 he has been working full time with the cooperative movement in the south. Father McKnight is the recipient of many awards for his outstanding and untiring leadership in the political and economic arena.

Presently, Father McKnight is director of the Holy Ghost Father, Lafayette House of Studies - a junior seminary program for black students. Father is also president of the Southern Development Foundation, chairperson of the Southern Rural Policy Congress, chairperson of the Louisiana Black Assembly, member of the Executive Committee and Board of the National Share Croppers Fund, board member and vice-chairperson of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, as well as chairperson of the Self-Help Committee.

Father McKnight has several other duties, including area-councillor for the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers in the Louisiana southern region.

He has been very active in the NAACP movement over the years. Father McKnight is very sensitive to the needs of the poor, oppressed, voiceless and neglected in the country and in the world.