

For Immediate Release

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Jefferson Award recipient to honor American born Catholic Saint

A Jefferson Award recipient will be in Orange this weekend at an event to honor Catholic Saint Katherine Drexel who ministered to the African-American people of Southeast Texas.

Sister Jane Nesmith, SBS, recipient of the 2003 Jefferson Award, will speak at a reception in celebration of Saint Katherine Drexel following a 2:00 Mass at St. Therese Church, 1409 N. 6th Street, Orange.

St. Katherine Drexel, an American born saint, founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. Three Catholic schools were established in Southeast Texas

by the the order: Blessed Sacrament, Beaumont; Sacred Heart, Port Arthur;

and St. Therese, Orange. Although the schools are no longer in existence, the fruits of her dedication to African- Americans in Southeast

Texas lives on.

Mother Drexel visited the area several times before her death in 1955. The daughter of a Philadelphia banker,

Mother Drexel dedicated her life and her personal fortune to helping the needy