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UAW’s civil rights panel to honor women activists

Two church women who have worked for many years as teachers and activists in Buffalo’s African-American community will be honored Monday when the United Auto Workers’ Civil Rights Committee holds its fourth annual luncheon in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

They are Sister Philip Marie, SSJ, of St. Boniface Parish and Carolyn B. Thomas, who has long been involved in the administration of area church schools run by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sister Marie was principal of St. Boniface Elementary when it closed several years ago. She now runs a summer inner-city youth program and is executive coordinator of the Fruit Belt Training Center.

Mrs. Thomas has been district superintendent of African Methodist Episcopal Church schools for 22 years. She is past president of the Women’s Missionary Society and founder and first president of the Area Missionary Council.

She has served on the boards of many community organizations and helped organize the Bethel Head Start Program.

Nathaniel Head of the UAW’s Solidarity House in Detroit, will be principal speaker at the luncheon, which will begin at 11 a.m., in the Hearthstone Manor in Depew.