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# The Call of Our People:

The Newsletter for the Subcommittee on  
African American Affairs of the USCCB

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Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church

**"I am Black and beautiful"**  
**Song of Songs 1:5**

If you have a national event that you would like to share, please e-mail  
details to [blackcatholics@usccb.org](mailto:blackcatholics@usccb.org).

***\*The USCCB has the right to accept or deny any submissions.***



***This newsletter ends with a vocation prayer.  
If you do not see it, please click "view entire email"  
in your browser.***



**We are grateful for our subcommittee members:**

***Bishop Roy Campbell (Chair)***

***Archbishop Shelton Fabre***

***Bishop Elect Robert Boxie III***

***Bishop Brendan Cahill***

***Bishop Jerome Feudjio***

***Bishop Jeffrey Haines***

***Bishop Denis Madden***

***Bishop J. Terry Steib, SVD***

***USCCB Staff:***

***Dr. Ansel Augustine***

***Consultants:***

***Fr. Gregory Chisholm, SJ***

***Deacon Melvin Tardy***

***Sr. Nicole Trahan, FMI, Ed.D***

***Mr. Anderson Shaw (in memoriam)***

***Mr. CJ Washington***

*Mrs. Dena Washington*



# **JUNETEENTH**

## **FREEDOM DAY**

We commemorate Juneteenth, on June 19, 1865, when enslaved peoples of African descent in Texas finally gained their freedom.

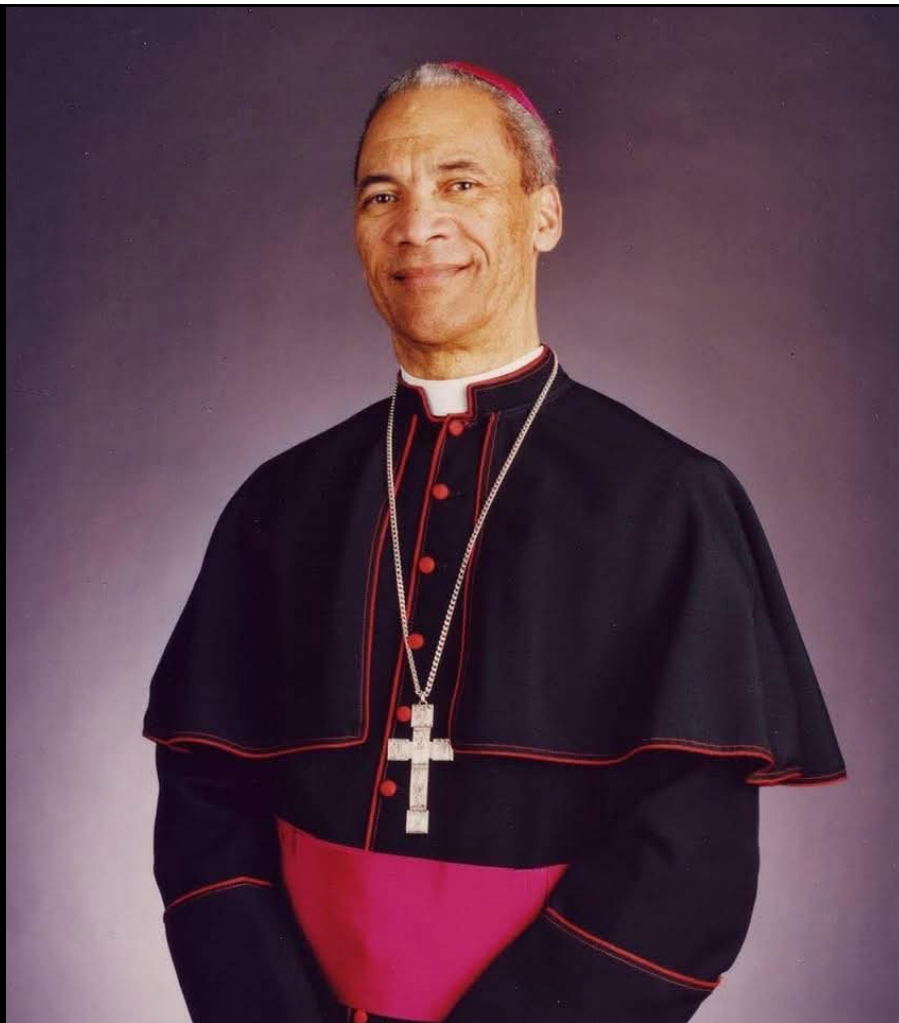
We remember them. We honor their memory. We celebrate freedom for all.

Resources related to Juneteenth can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

June is also Black Music Month. You can learn more about it [here](#).

You can learn more bout Black Catholic Music [here](#) and [here](#).



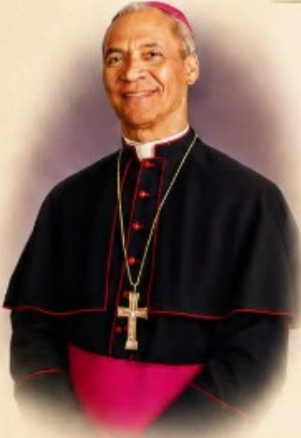


The Subcommittee on African American Affairs is saddened to learn of the passing of Bishop John Ricard, SSJ. We are grateful for his visionary leadership to, not only the Black Catholic community, but the whole Church as well. We join in prayer with the Josephite community, Bishop Ricard's family, and all those who mourn his passing during this period of transition.

You can view the official statement from the Josephites [here](#).

You can view the official statement from the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus [here](#).

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HIS EXCELLENCY



*Bishop*  
**John H. Ricard, S.S.J.**  
SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE JOSEPHITE SOCIETY  
FEBRUARY 29, 1940 – MAY 20, 2026

— + —  
*Funeral Arrangements*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026</b></p> <p>Visitation Begins at 10 a.m.<br/>Mass Begins at 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP<br/>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br/>1600 Morris Rd SE<br/>Washington, DC 20020</p>  | <p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026</b></p> <p>Visitation Begins at 10 a.m.<br/>Mass Begins at 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART</b><br/>1212 E Moreno St<br/>Pensacola, FL 32503</p> <p><i>Well done, good and faithful servant.<br/>Enter into the joy of your master.</i></p> <p>— MATTHEW 25:21 —</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

A FAITHFUL SHEPHERD. A SERVANT LEADER. A MAN OF PRAYER.  
MAY HE REST IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST.

The following images are from the statement released from the National Black Catholic Congress:

From Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.,  
National Black Catholic Congress President

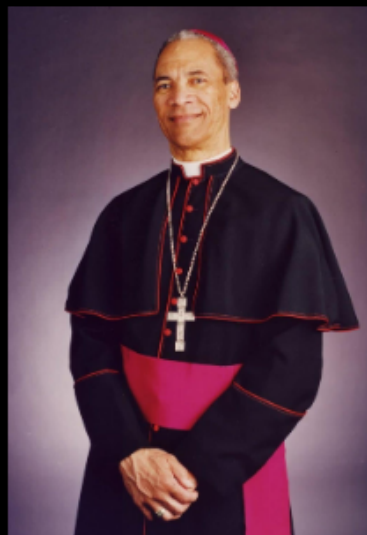
With deep sadness,  
the National Black  
Catholic Congress  
mourns the passing of  
our long-time former  
president and faithful  
leader, Bishop John H.  
Ricard, SSJ

I was informed by the Josephites that  
Bishop Ricard passed from this  
world on May 20, 2026. A tireless  
advocate for Black Catholics and a  
compassionate shepherd of God's  
people, Bishop Ricard dedicated his  
life to faith, justice, and the  
strengthening of our Church  
community. His wisdom and  
unwavering commitment to the  
mission of the Gospel touched  
countless lives across the nation.

Funeral arrangements will be shared  
as they become available.

May he rest in the peace and joy of  
our Lord, whom he served with great  
love and humility.

– Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



February 29, 1940 -  
May 20, 2026



Episcopal Motto:  
God is Gracious

Ordained: May 25, 1968

Installed as Bishop of  
Pensacola-Tallahassee:  
March 13, 1997

*He will be greatly missed!*

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## A Short Biography from the NBCC Website:

Bishop John H. Ricard, S.S.J., was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee on March 13, 1997 by Pope John Paul II. Bishop Ricard moved from the Archdiocese of Baltimore where he served as Auxiliary Bishop. He is the former Chair of Catholic Relief Services where he served from 1995 to 2002. Bishop Ricard was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and upon completion of high school entered the Josephite College Seminary in Newburgh, New York. He completed his theological training at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, D.C., and was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1968. Since ordination, Bishop Ricard continued his studies, receiving a Masters Degree from Tulane University in New Orleans in 1970 and a Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1984. Bishop Ricard served as President of the National Black Catholic Congress from its inception until April 2019. In June 2019, he was elected Superior General of the Society of St. Joseph (the Josephites).



*Bishop John Ricard presents the closing homily at Congress 13 in 2023, admonishing us to "Keep the fire burning!" (NBCC)*



*The superior general of the Josephites, Bishop Emeritus John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, in December 2023. (The Josephites)*



*Bishop John Ricard, superior general of the Baltimore-based Josephites, invokes the Holy Spirit as he lays hands on Father Fred Kaddu during a May 23 ordination liturgy at St. Peter Claver in West Baltimore. (Courtesy The Josephite Harvest/Phyllis Johnson)*



*Bishop John H. Ricard, right, retired bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, speaks with Cardinal Peter Turkson during the National Black Catholic Congress Conference held in Orlando in 2017.*





**Congratulations to Bishop Campbell on his retirement. He will finish out his term as our subcommittee chair. Thank you for your years of faithful service to the Church.**

**We are joyful at the announcement of Bishop Elect Robert Boxie III**

being named as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington.

You can read the USCCB's press release [here](#).

You can read the Archdiocese of Washington press release and view the press conference [here](#).

**Bishop-Elect Boxie III's Ordination Events:**

**Monday, July 6th at 6pm (National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus Prayer Service - St. Augustine Church, DC) - will be livestreamed via [St. Augustine DC YouTube Page](#).**

**Tuesday, July 7th at 2pm (Ordination - Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, DC) - will be livestreamed via the [Archdiocese of Washington YouTube Page](#).**

May God bless both of these men in the next phases of their ministry journeys.



**Pope Leo XIV has published the encyclical, ["Magnifica Humanitas," on preserving humanity in the A.I. age](#).**

You can view the USCCB's statement on the encyclical [here](#).

You can learn more about the Pope's encyclical [here](#).



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

# NEWS

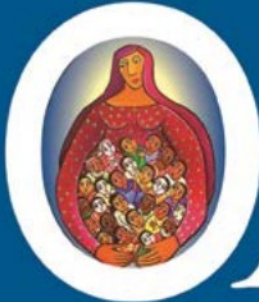
Office of Public Affairs  
3211 Fourth Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20017  
202-541-3173  
Fax 202-541-3173  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will gather for the 2026 Spring Plenary Assembly in Orlando, Florida, June 10–12.

The public sessions on June 10 and 11 will be livestreamed on the USCCB [website](#).

SECRETARIAT OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

Spring/Summer 2026



# One Church Many Cultures

THE GOOD NEWS OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The latest edition of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church's quarterly printed newsletter is available and can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

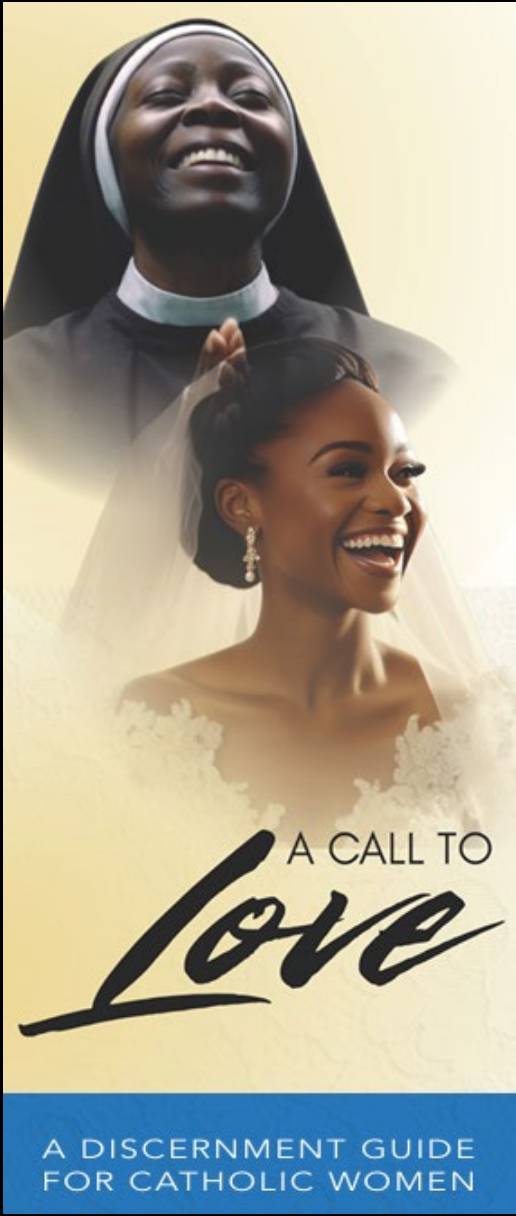
You can view the monthly online Secretariat newsletter [here](#).

## Reframing Black Catholic Life Through *Flourishing*

A national initiative advancing new ways of understanding Black Catholic life—centered in presence, possibility, and lived vitality.



As many of you know, several Black Catholic Leaders have been gathering to work on Black Catholic Flourishing initiative over the past year and a half. A website has been created to detail the work and upcoming opportunities. You can view the website by clicking [here](#).



# A SACRED MOMENT

How to speak with a  
young man about  
the priesthood



The National Black Catholic Congress has produced some new Vocation resources. You can view these brochures under the "Eastertide" section of the [homepage](#).



## Bridging Generations



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Subcommittee on African American Affairs collaborated with the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis to develop a Podcast series of young adults interviewing various Bishops around the country. You can view the series [here](#).



National Black  
Catholic Seminarians  
Association



www.thenbcsa.org  
info@thenbcsa.org



|                                                                   |                                                                     |                                                                 |                                                                    |                                                         |                                                               |                                                               |                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Rev. Mr. Chike Ebofoana<br><i>Archdiocese of Philadelphia</i> | <br>Rev. Mr. Jude Opara<br><i>Archdiocese of Philadelphia</i>       | <br>Rev. Mr. Martin Umataegbu<br><i>Archdiocese of Santa Fe</i> | <br>Rev. Mr. Jessiah Rojas<br><i>Archdiocese of Washington DC</i>  | <br>Rev. Mr. Solomon Akpan<br><i>Diocese of Austin</i>  | <br>Rev. Mr. Terna Paul Adilope<br><i>Diocese of Richmond</i> | <br>Rev. Mr. Duman Booker<br><i>Diocese of Little Rock</i>    | <br>Rev. Mr. Patrick Saint Jean, SJ<br><i>Jesuits</i>              |
| <br>Mr. Louis Nnangera<br><i>Archdiocese of Boston</i>            | <br>Mr. Patrick G. Mbulayi<br><i>Archdiocese of Seattle</i>         | <br>Mr. Franklin Anyanachi<br><i>Diocese of Albany</i>          | <br>Mr. Gilbert Kinyaro<br><i>Diocese of Albany</i>                | <br>Mr. Aeli Poydras<br><i>Diocese of Baton Rouge</i>   | <br>Mr. James Johnson IV<br><i>Diocese of Charlotte</i>       | <br>Mr. Jannay Doreely<br><i>Diocese of Yakima</i>            | <br>Bro. Lawrence Omatola, SSJ<br><i>Jesuites</i>                  |
| <br>Bro. Innocent Oluwarachulowa, SSJ<br><i>Jesuites</i>          | <br>Mr. Pascal Atorou<br><i>Archdiocese of Baltimore</i>            | <br>Mr. Samuel Zure<br><i>Diocese of Albany</i>                 | <br>Mr. Zephyrinus Oghenna<br><i>Diocese of Albany</i>             | <br>Mr. Bill Inuani<br><i>Diocese of Bridgeport</i>     | <br>Mr. Patrice Leguete<br><i>Diocese of Brooklyn</i>         | <br>Mr. Benedictus Ayl Adjanihi<br><i>Diocese of Columbia</i> | <br>Mr. Gilbert Mensah<br><i>Diocese of Savannah</i>               |
| <br>Mr. Stephen Ousu Dwamena<br><i>Diocese of Savannah</i>        | <br>Bro. Barrack Aika, MM<br><i>Maryland Fathers &amp; Brothers</i> | <br>Mr. Joachim Ezora<br><i>Diocese of Pittsburgh</i>           | <br>Mr. Augustine Buhanya<br><i>Diocese of Nashville</i>           | <br>Mr. Jeremiah Obiano<br><i>Archdiocese of Denver</i> | <br>Mr. Gerald Permenter<br><i>Archdiocese of New Orleans</i> |                                                               | <br>Bro. Derrick Turrentine, O. Carm<br><i>Order of Carmelites</i> |
| <br>Mr. Eric Styles<br><i>Jesuites</i>                            | <br>Mr. Nate Tinner-Williams<br><i>Congregation of the Mission</i>  | <br>Mr. Joshua Brooks<br><i>Archdiocese of Philadelphia</i>     | <br>Mr. Samuel Amuchaka<br><i>Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend</i> | <br>Mr. Jaylen Aloney<br><i>Archdiocese of New York</i> | <br>Mr. Francis Iandu<br><i>Diocese of Nashville</i>          | <br>Mr. Edmond Johnson<br><i>Archdiocese of Philadelphia</i>  |                                                                    |

Let us pray for our seminarians.

To learn more about the National Black Catholic  
Seminarians Association, click [here](#).



# GEORGETOWN 272 THE JOURNEY

The hidden history of the 1838 slave sale  
that funded Georgetown University.



CARL VAN PRODUCTIONS presents  
A film by Al Moten, Jr.  
Carl Van Executive Producer  
Directed and Produced by Al Moten, Jr.  
Written by Al Moten, Jr. and Carl Van  
Co-Executive Producer Scott Zeitzer

**A new documentary is out about the story of 272  
enslaved people shipped to New Orleans in 1838 and  
why it still matters to about 4,000 descendants. You can  
learn more about this film [here](#).**



# THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC YOUTH BIBLE®

God's Word Through the African American Experience.

The Josephite Pastoral Center is honored to share a powerful resource for our young people.

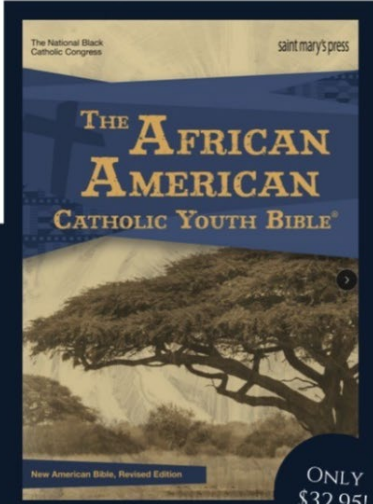
**The African American Catholic Youth Bible®** is the first Catholic Bible for youth created from the African American perspective.

Through inspiring Black art, thoughtful commentary on Scripture, and reflections rooted in African American history and faith, this Bible helps young people see themselves in God's story. It highlights key moments in African American Catholic history and shares the witness of holy men and women whose lives continue to shape the Church.

This is more than a Bible. It is an invitation for African American youth to claim their faith with pride, depth, and belonging.



SOLD EXCLUSIVELY BY THE  
**JOSEPHITE PASTORAL CENTER**  
*The place for African-American Ministry Resources*



ONLY  
**\$32.95!**

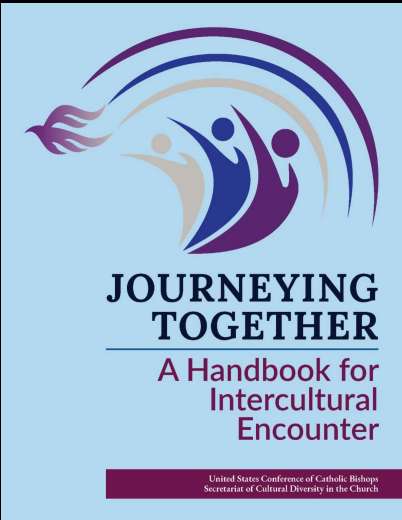


**ORDER NOW!**  
Scan the QR code or visit:  
[bit.ly/aayouthbible](http://bit.ly/aayouthbible)

As part of the **KEEP THE FAITH INITIATIVE**, the Josephites have reprinted the **African American Catholic Youth Bible** in collaboration with our subcommittee.

The press release about the reprinting can be found [here](#).

This will be sold exclusively through the Josephite Pastoral Center and can be ordered by clicking [here](#).



The website and resources have been updated from the

USCCB's gathering of Young Adults several years ago. You can learn more about the Journeying Together Initiative [here](#).

The Leadership Roundtable has also released information about bridging generational gaps in the Catholic Church. You can view the article [here](#).



The Subcommittee on African American Affairs is working with Catholic TV to develop a series that is scheduled to air in November 2026 on Catholic TV stations around the country. The series will focus on the original "Saintly 6" with sainthood causes coming from US Dioceses.

You can view the trailer [here](#).





A new shrine has been announced to honor Venerable Fr. Augusts Tolton. You can read more about it [here](#).





# CATHOLIC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Sister Thea Bowman Foundation provides scholarship opportunities to those African American and Afro-Latino students who might not otherwise have access to quality, Catholic higher education.

### Scholarship Benefits

- ☒ Funds for Tuition
- ☒ Mentoring
- ☒ Faith Formation
- ☒ Awakens hope in students

College Graduation Rate

100%

Questions?

[jbarker2@theabowmanfoundation.org](mailto:jbarker2@theabowmanfoundation.org)

[theabowmanfoundation.org](http://theabowmanfoundation.org)

Click on the flier to learn more about this opportunity for high school students interested in attending a Catholic college/university.

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/...bcommittee-on-African-American-Affairs-Newsletter.html?soid=1113244868326&aid=zqslD1ZIa4M>[5/27/2026 9:29:21 AM]



2025

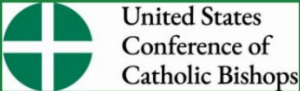
ADVANCING THE NEEDS OF  
**BLACK CATHOLIC  
YOUNG ADULTS**

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM A YOUNG ADULT GATHERING  
AT XAVIER UNIVERSITY IN LOUISIANA

The updated report from our ongoing Black Catholic Young Adult Listening Sessions can be found [here](#).

Mission Directive  
2025-2028

Responding even more deeply to the call of Christ to proclaim the Gospel and form Missionary Disciples, the Committees and Staff of the USCCB, submitting to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, will prioritize the work of the Conference to help equip bishops, clergy, religious, and the laity in evangelizing those who are religiously unaffiliated or disaffiliated from the Church, with special focus on young adults and the youth.



The new Mission Directive, which directs the work of the

**USCCB, has been affirmed. The Subcommittee on African American Affairs will be working towards initiatives that support this work over the next 4 years. Please pray for the subcommittee as we continue to discern how best to advocate for, and serve, our communities. Our initial focus is the several Black Catholic Young Adult (ages 18-40 years old) listening session that have been, and will be, taking place around the country.**











We hosted several Black Catholic Young Adult Listening Sessions around the country. The first took place at **Xavier University of Louisiana** in November 2023. A national report was shared following this gathering, you can view the report [here](#).

In April 2025, we held a listening session in the **Diocese of Birmingham** with a grant from the Catholic Home Missions Collection and support from the diocese itself. You can view an EWTN news report on the gathering by clicking [here](#).

**On August 25th and 26th, we held listening sessions at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in which a dialogue took place between the young adults and several Executive Directors, along with some local Pastors, here at the USCCB.**

**During the Summer of 2025 we held listening sessions with Black Catholic Young Adults at Yale University, the University of San Francisco, the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Oakland, and at the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary National Convention.**

**Upcoming Listening Sessions are scheduled for the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston, the Diocese of Beaumont, and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.**

**Thank you to the Dioceses that have organized past, and future, Black Catholic Young Adult Listening Sessions in their regions. We are very excited about the fruit that these will bring to our Church.**

**One of the attendees of the Black Catholic Young Adult Listening Session held in Birmingham, AL shares his reflection on the gathering. You can read more [here](#).**

**Nyle Grimes, daughter of former Assistant Director of African American Affairs - Mrs. Donna Grimes, and one of the team members and attendees of the Black Catholic Young Adult Listening Session held at the USCCB, shares her reflection on the gathering. You can read more [here](#).**

***If your diocese is interested (must have written support of your bishop) in sponsoring (diocese must cover the cost of the session) a local Black Catholic Young Adult Gathering, please e-mail [blackcatholics@usccb.org](mailto:blackcatholics@usccb.org) to discuss logistics.***



**Job Opportunities:**

**[USCCB Opportunities](#)**





**IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2026**  
**JUNE 28 - JULY 17, 2026**

**2026 Master of Theology Degree Program**  
Associate Director, C. Vanessa White, D.Min.

The Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the one graduate theology program in the USA taught from Black Catholic perspectives. Its interdisciplinary curriculum focuses on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, ministries, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Established in 1980 on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the IBCS is dedicated to scholarship, prayer, worship and community-building. The Th.M. program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious or by ecclesial ministers in the Black community, church and community at large. The Degree program welcomes scholars seeking ongoing religious study, visiting graduate students and ministers who desire to enhance their general theological studies by exploring the Catholic tradition and its particular meaning for the social and spiritual experiences of Black people in the U.S. and beyond.

**MORNING COURSES**

**IBTH 5030 Black Approaches to Scripture.** Presents Black history, culture, and experience as a locus for responding to the Word of Scripture. Methods and tools of biblical exegesis are introduced; similarities between biblical mentality and Black mentality; and problem texts are also

discussed. **Mark Enemoff, C.S.S.P., Ph.D.** (M-F, 8:45am - 11:45am) Core Course. (3 units).

**IBTH 5081 Christology.** Studies the Kingdom of God as announced in the teaching, healing ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, particularly as these are understood in the African American community from the perspective of liberation and black theologies. **Byron Wroble, Ph.D.** (M-F, 8:45am - 11:45am) Area Requirement. (3 units).

**IBTH 5430 Spirituality of Black Literature.** Uses selected works of African American literature as a resource for the study of the spirituality of a people. It attempts to understand and articulate the spirituality expressed in the words, songs, prayers, relationships, and daily lives of Black people, as they are found in imaginative works. **Ernest Gibson, Ph.D.** (M-F, 8:45am - 11:45am) Area Requirement. (3 units).

**AFTERNOON COURSES**

**IBTH 5010 Black Approaches to Theology.** Stresses the nature, methods and sources of Black Theology; the reasons justifying its existence and its relationship to other theologies within the Roman Catholic Tradition. **Cory W. Dabney, Ph.D.** (M-F, 1:45pm - 4:45pm) Introduction. (3 units).

**IBTH 5600 Moral Questions in the Black Community.** Intends to establish a dialogue (a mutual critique and enrichment) between African American and Roman Catholic approaches to ethical issues, focusing on matters of particular concern to African Americans. **Nicole Symmette, Ph.D.** (M-F, 1:45pm - 4:45pm) Core Course. (3 units).







*Greetings!*

The Institute for Black Catholic Studies is a school of pastoral theology and ministry established in 1980 at Xavier University of Louisiana. The Institute's mission is to form Christian disciples for evangelization in today's Church and society. Participants are immersed in the faith through graduate and continuing education scholarship supported by a rich community life of prayer, worship, and cultural activities. In 2026, the Institute will focus on Catholic principles of synodality promoted by the late Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV to form a more inclusive Church, a more collaborative people of God. Consider joining us this summer in historic New Orleans and together, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we will learn and practice synodal values of communion, mission and participation to build up the 21st century Body of Christ. Use the QR code to learn more. Amen!

**IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2026**

**Institute for Black Catholic Studies**  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
1 Drexel Drive - Box 49  
New Orleans, LA 70125  
504-520-7691  
www.xula.edu/ibcs



*"those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength." ~Is 40:31*

**Kathleen Dersow, B.D., M.Min., IBSC Director**





**CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT (C&E) COURSE OFFERINGS**  
Ms. Valerie Shields, M.A.R.S.,  
Interim Associate Director  
**JUNE 28 - JULY 17, 2026**

C&E Programs provide lifelong learning and spiritual formation for the faithful, pastoral leaders, administrators, teachers and others who minister with Black communities or serve in multi-cultural settings. C&E courses offer unique opportunities to grow in understandings of Black Catholicism and its impact on ministry, community and the Church at-large.

Students are assessed on a pass/fail basis and receive 1.5 CEUs for each course successfully completed. There is a limit of 15 students per class unless otherwise noted.

**XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA ~ INSTITUTE OF BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES**

**Week 1: June 29 - July 3, 2026**

**CORE 0004A Black Catholic Ethics: Social Justice and the Christian Experience.** Examine Catholic Social Teaching in relationship with contemporary ethical issues of Black and Brown communities. Engage theology and spiritual narratives to navigate moral dilemmas in the light of Jesus Christ, the epistemological and ethical starting point. **Ms. LaShaunda Reese, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45am - 11:45am).

**CORE 0003I The Pauline Letters and Synodality in Black Church.** Study the intersection of 21st century synodality and the letters of St. Paul, reaching back into the New Testament to imagine Black Catholic approaches that highlight social justice, digital evangelization and leadership development, concerns of Gen X and Gen Z Catholics. **Fr. John Segun Odeyemi, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45am - 11:45am).

**CATF 24 Tie Up a Lion: Catholic Social Teaching and the Nguzo Saba.** Kwanzaa celebrates African American family and culture. Although not expressly religious, Kwanzaa principles echo holy Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching. Using these and other spiritual resources, students will create action plans that support effective pastoral ministry and bold Christian discipleship. **Ms. Charlene Howard, M.A.** (M-F 1:45pm - 4:45pm).

**CORE0001I Synodality: What Does It Mean for the Black Church?** Synodality, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, fosters communion, co-participation, and mission among all the Catholic faithful. Explore how Black Catholics across generations are called to transform the church to meet the complex challenges of our parishes and times. **Ms. Trimiko Malençon, Ph.D.** (M-F 1:45pm - 4:45pm).

**Week 2: July 6 - July 10, 2026**

**CORE 0008D Eulogy or Paschal Mystery?: A False Dichotomy.** The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) advises that the funeral homily at Mass focus exclusively on the Paschal Mystery: eulogies are to be avoided. This class will assert that both can be accomplished with integrity in the same homily. Study techniques and homilies which celebrate the homegoing of the deceased in Christ's life, death and resurrection. **Fr. Manuel Williams, C.R., Th.M.** (M-F 8:45am - 11:45am).

**CORE 0003JL Lift Every Voice: Synodality in Black Catholic Liturgy.** Enter into African American liturgy through the lens of synodality, highlighting the role of the assembly as full and active participants. Experience communal song, preaching, gesture and prayer that embodies synodality and celebrates God's liberating presence in worship. **Ms. Lauren Warner, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45am - 11:45am).

**CORE 0005C Rome to Home: Black Catholic Spirituality.** Reflect on the richness of Black spirituality through Fr. Lewis' 2025 pilgrimage experiences in Italy and Montgomery, AL. He will connect culture, memory, suffering, and hope—affirming both spiritual experiences as deeply Black and authentically Catholic. **Fr. Roy A. Lee, Ph.D.** (M-F 1:45pm - 4:45pm).

**CORE 0002J Lord, Teach Us to Pray.** In African American tradition, prayer unites God and humanity to bring about change. But many Christians panic when invited to lead prayer. In this course, gain confidence in praying aloud by leaning into the fundamentals of the ministry, learning different approaches and practicing under the leadership of an experienced prayer leader. **Rev. Dwight Webster, Ph.D.** (M-F 1:45pm - 4:45pm).

**Week 3: July 13 - July 17, 2026**

**LDER 0040 Local and Parish Histories for Black Catholic Evangelization.** History lovers will learn how to use their communities' histories to evangelize by 1) identifying and conserving Black Catholic resources; 2) workshopping ideas for local and parish-based historical pieces; and 3) planning ways to use Black histories to spread the good news of Jesus Christ today. **Ms. Cecillia A. Reese, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45am - 11:45am).

**CATF0003 The Fire This Time: An Introduction.** Join an editor of *The Fire This Time* Black Catholic Sourcebook to explore key cultural and liturgical resources related to the faith journey of the African American community. Guided reflections and discussions will provide invaluable information, spiritual formation and practical insights for pastoral ministry in these times. **Ms. Kim Harris, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45am - 11:45am).

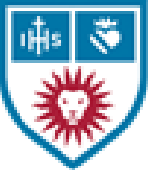
**CORE 0002H Sexuality, Gender, Race and a New Theology of Black Embodiment.** Participants will engage a number of questions: How are the experiences of LGBTQ+ persons changing our understanding of God and ministry formation? On these questions, what does a welcoming Church look like to Gen Z? What difference does our shared Blackness make when we are divided on these topics? **Ms. Craig Ford, Ph.D.** (M-F 1:45pm - 4:45pm).

**LPMU0003 Music Ministers Formed and Fashioned.** Ministers will find safe space for experimenting and developing new skills to lead African Americans—choir and assembly—in sacred song. Explore the rich history of music ministry and its relevance to biblical teachings, perspectives that are fundamental to creating worship experiences that form the people to follow Christ in their everyday walk. **Ms. Meyer Chambers, M.L.M.** (M-F 1:45pm - 4:45pm).

**SEEP 0001 Elders Retreat: Renewed - Revived: Ready!** African American Elders (age 62+) spend the week in prayer, reflection, discussion and recreation. Come celebrate the legacy of eldership in the Black Catholic community. Let the Spirit renew, revive, and get you ready in the spirit of wisdom that continues to sustain our community. Limit 15 retreatants. **Chaplain Thelma Lucas, Th.M.** (M-F, 9am - 11am and 2pm - 4pm).



To learn more about the Institute for Black Catholics Studies, click [here](#).



**Loyola Marymount University**  
**Center for Religion & Spirituality**

Loyola Marymount University is offering several courses on Black Catholic Spirituality. You can learn more about this program by clicking [here](#).



**SANKOFA INSTITUTE**  
for African American Pastoral Leadership  
at Oblate School of Theology

To learn more about the SANKOFA INSTITUTE at the Oblate

School of Theology, click [here](#).

For Permanent Deacons and Pastoral Leaders  
serving the Black Catholic Communities.

Aquinas Institute of Theology

NEW FRONTIERS IN PREACHING ACADEMY

To learn more about the New Frontiers in Preaching Academy, click [here](#).

Catholic  
Theological  
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THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

To learn more about the Tolton Scholars Program at Catholic Theological Union, click [here](#).

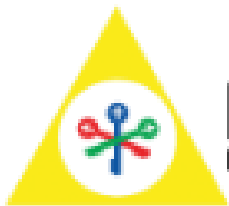


**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:**  
*(click on the images to learn more details & deadlines)*

# THE DANIEL RUDD FUND GRANT PROGRAM



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A private foundation since 1937



**BLACK AND INDIAN**  
MISSION OFFICE EST.1884

**The Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., Prize**

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BLACK CHURCHES**  
**GRANT APPLICATION NOW OPEN!**



National Trust *for*  
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*Save the past. Enrich the future.*



Upcoming Events:

YOUNG  
ADULT  
MINISTRY & MIXER

— + —  
*Here I am Lord: How to Sanctify  
Your Daily Life*



SATURDAY,  
MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026



6:30PM -  
8:30PM



SAINT JOHN PAUL II  
NATIONAL SHRINE

RAFFLE PRIZES • ADORATION • LIVE MUSIC • DINNER PROVIDED





ST. MOSES  
OF ETHIOPIA



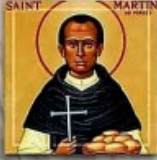
CYPRIAN  
IWENE TANSI



AUGUSTUS  
TOLTON



JOSEPHINE  
BAKHITA



ST. MARTIN  
DE PORRES



PIERRE  
TOUSSAINT



Holy Martyrs of Uganda, Canonized 1964



ACA

OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1006 LARCH AVENUE, TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912

MAIN CELEBRANT AND HOMILIST

**Most Reverend Evelio Menjivar-Ayala**  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington



OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

RSVP

Rev. Fr. Ebuka Mbanude: mbanudee@adw.org | Deogratias Miti Kawunde: 240-605-7987 - acadmvinfo@gmail.com  
Colette Tumenta: 240-302-0975 - yayatumenta@yahoo.com | Alex Danso: 571-337-9797 - lexidan6771@aol.com

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/...bcommittee-on-African-American-Affairs-Newsletter.html?soid=1113244868326&aid=zqslD1ZIa4M>[5/27/2026 9:29:21 AM]



# Blessed are the Peacemakers Essay Contest



Passionate about peace, justice, and nonviolence?  
Share your voice, ideas, and vision!  
*Awards between \$250-\$1,000*

Use the QR code  
to upload your  
essay!!



High school entries:  
750–1,000 words  
  
College & university entries:  
1,000–2,000 words

Enter by June 15, 2026

[www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org)

EVANG./PROF. MICHAEL P. HOWARD, MACS

&

EAT THE SCROLL MINISTRY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

TheMAGNIFICENT7

Seven men, sharing their testimonies, fatherhood experiences, and God’s calling...  
Echoing Isaiah 6:8, “Here I am, send me!”

“PRESSING TOWARD THE PRIZE “

AMPLIFYING THE STRENGTH, FAITH, AND RESILIENT WITNESSES OF BLACK CATHOLIC MEN

FEATURED VOICES INCLUDE



ANSEL AUGUSTINE, D.MIN



DAVID ROBINSON-MORRIS, PH.D



ANDREW “ALLEY CAT” LYKE



O. PAUL-MARK EROMA, M.A



GARDIS WATTS



CHARLES WILEY



TEEJAY NASH, II

TO  
WATCH/LISTEN  
TO THESE MEN

CLICK  
HERE



At a time when the Church is being called to deeper unity and authentic witness, these men stand tall with “steel in their backs” pressing forward in faith and answering God’s call with conviction and purpose.

In June 2026, seven extraordinary Black Catholic laymen will boldly share their stories of faith, perseverance, leadership, brotherhood, and what it truly means to be Black and Catholic in today’s Church. The Magnificent 7 envisions a Catholic Church where the spiritual voices of Black Catholic laymen are fully heard, honored, empowered, and embraced. Through testimony, storytelling, lived experience, and unwavering faith, these brothers offer a powerful witness rooted in courage, resilience, and hope.

Come Listen, Come Learn, Come be Inspired

Because these voices matter and their witness cannot be silenced

For Enquiries Contact:  Call: 301-785-4394  Howard012155@gmail.com



Click on the flier to learn more about this virtual Father's Day (June 21) event, or use the contact information provided on the flier.

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

OBARO VILLAGE

ROOTED & RISING

SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY

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To learn more about this summer youth academy, click on the image above.

**23**  
Apr  
7:00 PM  
Thursday

**30**  
May  
10:00 AM  
Saturday

**29**  
June  
7:00 PM  
Monday

**7**  
July  
6:30 PM  
Tuesday

**23**  
Aug  
12:45 PM  
Sunday

**20**  
Sep  
1:30 PM  
Sunday

**27**  
Oct  
6:30 PM  
Tuesday

**Pierre Toussaint**

St. Susanna Parish - Meyer Center, 500 Reading Rd., Mason

**Mother Mary Lange**

Province House of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur,  
699 E Columbia Ave., Reading

**Fr. Augustus Tolton**

St. Andrew Parish, 552 Main St., Milford

**Sr. Thea Bowman**

Sisters of the Precious Blood, 4960 Salem Ave., Dayton

**Julia Greely**

Lehman High School, 2400 St. Mary's Ave., Sidney

**Sr. Henriette Delille**

St. Benedict the Moor Parish, 519 Liscum Dr., Dayton

**Fr. Martin de Porres Ward**

Church of the Resurrection Parish,  
1619 Resurrection Ave., Cincinnati

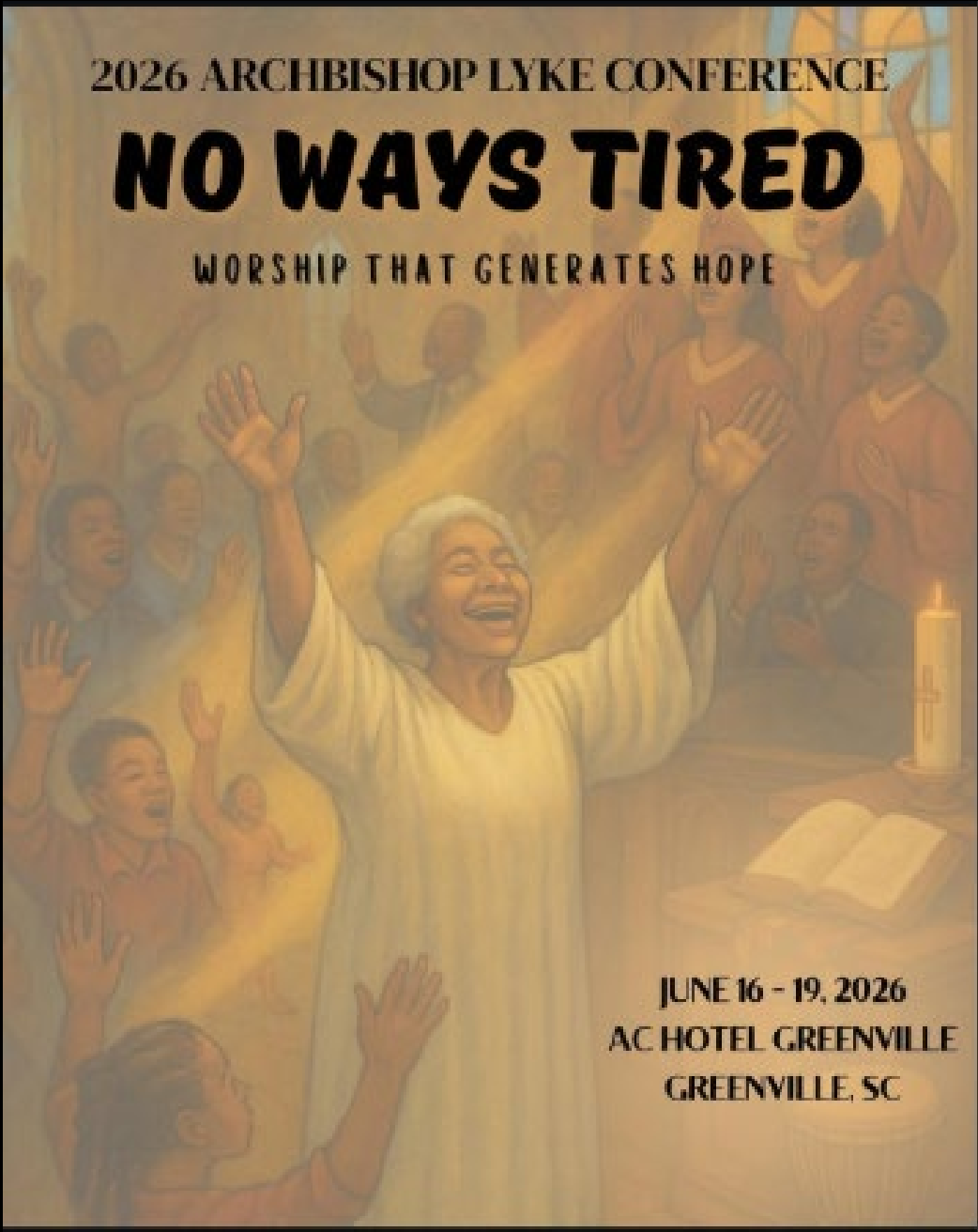


<https://tinyurl.com/SaintlySevenZoom>



# The Saintly Seven

Click on the image above for more information.



**Click on the image above for more information.**

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# SAVE THE DATE

**XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
DMV ALUMNI CHAPTER**



**2026  
FRESHMAN  
SEND-OFF**

**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 1, 2026  
11 AM - 1 PM**

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
711 N COLUMBUS ST.  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314**

**SPONSORED BY:**  **United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops**

**Subcommittee on  
African American  
Affairs**

Fr. Chester P. Smith  
National Black Catholic Men's Conference  
Birmingham, Alabama  
October 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

THE ROCK



I STAND ON

MATTHEW 7:24-26

Sheraton Birmingham Hotel

2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard North  
Birmingham, Alabama  
October 15th - 18th 2026



Type in the passkey link below for hotel reservations  
<https://book.passkey.com/e/509610024>

[Fr. Chester P. Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference Oct2026 - Start Your Reservation](#)

To register, go to the Bowman-Francis Ministry website at:  
[www.bowmanfrancis.org](http://www.bowmanfrancis.org)

Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund presents

"RISE UP WITH THE LORD" PRAYER LINE

Join us every Tuesday  
and Thursday morning for  
10 minutes of guided prayer

7:30AM

720-820-1469



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
CULTURAL DIVERSITY APOSTOLATE  
Black Ministry



The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund of the Archdiocese  
of New York invites all to join their prayer line on Tuesday's  
and Thursday's at 7:30am EST.



### Other Upcoming Events:

**July 21-24, 2026: National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus Convocation**

**July 24-29, 2026: Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary 110th Senior National Convention**



### Black Catholic Resources (continually updated):

For a list of resources and National Partners relevant to the African American Catholic Community, please click [here](#).

For links to various other entities, please click [here](#).

For a list of where Black Catholic Parishes are located (constantly being updated), please click [here](#).

**A Pastoral Reflection on Voting Rights by Bishop Perry**

**Jesse Louis Jackson and I: A Reflection during Eastertide by Bishop Braxton**

**Voting Rights: A People of Hope In the Long Journey Towards Justice by Bishop Daniel Garcia**



## Introducing the “I’ve Known Rivers” Pin



In 2021 the late **Bishop Fernand Cheri III, OFM**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, worked with **Dr. Ansel Augustine** to create a special **Pectoral Cross for the African American Bishops of the United States**. A replica of the front and back of the cross is merged into this pin.

The term “I’ve Known Rivers” symbolizes the unique, and frequently, toilsome, journey that our African American shepherds – as well as many Black Catholics, experience in our Church and country. This is also encompassed within the Langston Hughes Poem that begins with this phrase.



Learn more / order online at: [www.kofpc.org/rivers](http://www.kofpc.org/rivers)

**Introductory  
Price: \$25.00**

*includes shipping & handling*

\*The funds raised by the sale of these pins will benefit the

**Collegiate Units of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary.**

We are grateful to the **Flaherty Family Foundation** for their generous sponsorship in the creation of these pins.

Click on the image above to learn more about this item and how to support the Collegiate Units of the Knights of Peter Claver and the Ladies Auxiliary.



## Please continue to pray for vocations



**SAY ‘YES’ TO GOD!**  
*How will you serve Him?*

**L**ord Jesus Christ, people of African descent have been an integral part of your Church since its beginning. They have joined people of every race, ethnicity, and nation to proclaim your Gospel and to build your Church.

We thank you for those who have accepted their vocation from you to serve as consecrated religious women and men, deacons, and priests.

With the intercession of the Servants of God Mother Mary Lange, Sister Thea Bowman, and Julia Greeley, and the Venerables Mother Henriette Dellille, Father Augustus Tolton, and Pierre Toussaint, we pray that those whom you are calling to holy orders and the consecrated religious life will recognize it and accept it. Raise us up to support them.

You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

NBCCONGRESS.ORG \*2021



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Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church 3211 Fourth Street, N.E. | Washington,  
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