



**IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2023
JUNE 25 - JULY 14, 2023**

**2023 Master of Theology Degree Program
Associate Director, C. Vanessa White, D.Min.**

The IBCS Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the one graduate theology program in the USA taught from a Black Catholic perspective. Its curriculum is interdisciplinary. Courses focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, family and pastoral ministry, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Established in 1980 in historic New Orleans on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the IBCS is dedicated to academic learning, prayer, worship and community-building. The Th.M. program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious or lay ecclesial ministers in the Black community, church and community at-large. The Degree program also welcomes scholars seeking on-going religious study, visiting graduate students and ministers who desire to expand, enhance and enrich their general theological studies by exploring the Catholic theological tradition and its particular meaning for the social and spiritual experiences of Black people in the U.S. and beyond. New, transient and returning applicants can access the 2023 Degree program application at <https://gradapply.xula.edu/apply/>.

2023 Course Offerings

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. *Simon Ahiokhai, Ph.D.* (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 am). **Requirement for all new students** (3 units).

IBTH 5060 Black Psychology. Constructs effective pastoral communication with Black congregations by review of major interpersonal, social, and systematic issues from a perspective based upon sound analysis stemming from recognition of cultural differences. *Brian Turner, Ph.D.* (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 am) **Core Course** (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, 8:45 – 11:45 a.m.) **Area Requirement** (3 units).

IBTH 5020 History of Black Catholicism. Explores the role played by Blacks in Catholicism from the beginning of the Church, with special emphasis on the presence and contributions of Blacks to Roman Catholicism in the United States *Cecilia A. Moore, Ph.D.* (M-F, 1:45-4:45pm) **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. TBD, (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45 pm) **Area Requirement** (3 units).

IBTH 5660 Issues in Black Family. Investigates the myths, realities, facts, strengths, and weaknesses of the African American community in a way that will assist those who minister in the Black community. Various structures and forms of African American family life are studied to learn how these forms affect ministry in the community and in the church. *Junior Hopwood, Ph.D.* (1:45 – 4:45 p.m.) **Elective** (3 units).