

**SREP 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. & Anthony Hart, DHA.** (M-F 9:00-11am and 2:00-4pm).



## 2024 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 Black Catholic perspectives. Its curriculum is interdisciplinary; courses focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, youth 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 studies, 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 African-descended people in the U.S. and the diaspora.

## 2024 DEGREE COURSE OFFERINGS JUNE 30 - JULY 19, 2024

**IBTH 5030 Black Approaches to Scripture.** Black history, culture, and experience are presented 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. *Core Course.* **James Okoye, C.S.Sp., D.Phil.** (M-F, 8:45 - 11:45 am, 3 units).

**IBTH 5090 Church: The Mission.** Explores the nature and mission of the Church in contemporary Society with particular emphasis of its significance the evangelization and social justice ministries within and on behalf of the Black Community. *Area Requirement.* **John Segun Odeyemi, Ph.D.** (M-F, 8:45 - 11:45 am, 3 units).

**IBTH 5640 Leadership Styles of Ministry.** Explores ministry in the Black community, including similarities and differences with the white community, especially regarding issues of congregational responsibility, participation and leadership. *Elective.* **Brian Turner, Ph.D.** (M-F, 8:45 - 11:45 am, 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. *Introduction.* **Modeste Malu Nyimi, Ph.D.** (M-F, 1:45 - 4:45 pm, 3 units).

**IBTH 5440 The Spirituals.** Studies a broad range of the black sacred songs known as the "Spirituals." Focus is placed upon a study of their origins, meanings, and purposes. Emphasis is also given to understanding their importance in the foundation of African American culture and Christianity, and their possible uses in Catholic worship, and pastoral ministry. *Area Requirement.* **Kim Harris, Ph.D.** (M-F, 1:45 - 4:45 pm, 3 units).

**IBTH 5600 Moral Questions in the Black Community.** This course 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. *Core Course.* **Craig A. Ford, Ph.D.** (M-F, 1:45 - 4:45 pm, 3 units).

For program information and application:  
[www.xula.edu/ibcs/](http://www.xula.edu/ibcs/)



## IBCS 2024 Summer Session

**Institute for Black Catholic Studies**  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA



"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent...  
I will not keep quiet!" Isaiah 62:1



### Greetings from Xavier University of Louisiana!

God's gift of Blackness is nothing to play with. Shaped in the divine image and rooted in African heritage, Black cultures are bold, diverse, steadfast, and holy. From Sacred Scripture to the current narratives of the African American candidates for sainthood, Black initiative proclaims the goodness of God in a world sorely in need. In this, its 45th annual session, the Institute for Black Catholic Studies continues its assignment of forming in Christ Black faith, Black presence, Black voice, Black social action to evangelize the Black community, the Church, and the whole people of God in this challenging 21st century. I encourage you to pray over the offerings described here and consider joining the Institute community this summer on the campus of Xavier University. Consider yourself invited!



**Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D.Min.,  
IBCS Director**



## 2024 Continuing Education and Enrichment Programs

Valerie Shields, M.A.R.S.,  
Interim Associate Director

### IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2024 JUNE 30 -JULY 19, 2024

C&E Programs provide lifelong learning and spiritual formation for pastoral leaders, clergy, religious, administrators, teachers and others who minister with Black communities or serve in multi-cultural settings. These featured courses offer unique opportunities for students to grow in their understanding of Black Catholicism and its impact on their ministry, community and the Church at-large. Students are graded on a pass/fail basis and will receive 1.5 CEUs for each course successfully completed.

#### WEEK 1: JULY 1 - JULY 5, 2024

**CORE 0006A Catholic Social Justice and the Black Christian Experience.** Examine principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relationship to modern ethical issues from Black and Brown perspectives. Using Scripture, theology and personal narratives, participants will navigate moral dilemmas with the narrative of Jesus Christ as the ethical starting point. **LaShaunda Reese, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45-11:45am).

**CORE 0001H Black Memory, Oral Tradition, and Preservation.** Focus on oral history and the power of storytelling in Black communities while learning the impact of preserving and sharing narratives. This course aims to empower individuals to become effective storytellers, strengthening the bonds of community and amplifying the voices of those on the margins. **Teddy Reeves, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45-11:45am).

**CORE 0004H Sacred Music Ministry.** Delve into the rich history of music ministry and its relevance to biblical teachings. Through practical techniques and strategies, students will learn how to create worship experiences that engage and spiritually uplift God's people. **Samuel Hendricks, Th.M.** (M-F 8:45-11:45am).

**YUTH 0013 Youth Ministry: From Orthodoxy to Orthopraxy.** Today, with tight budgets and worldly challenges, sustaining effective youth/campus ministry programs is not easy. This course will discover strategies to support young people as they journey from the world of orthodoxy (right teachings) to the land of orthopraxy (right actions). **Fr. R. Tony Ricard, Th.M.** (M-F 8:45-11:45am).

**LDER 0038 The Black Parish and the Community.** Following the footsteps of Jesus and attending to the evangelizing mission of his Church, students will explore the role of Black Catholic lay leaders in celebrating, building and caring for the community at-large. **Fr. David Jones, M.Div.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

**CORE 0003J Luke's Gospel: Reaching the Least, the Last, and the Lost.** His Gospel contains some of Jesus' best-loved teachings that deepen our faith. We'll learn about Jesus's mission to reach out to those on the margins of family, society, and church. Discover how Jesus inspires today's disciples with deep spirituality and concern for social justice. **Julie Welborn, D.Min.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

**CORE 0005D Black Boy Joy: A Spirituality.** Explore the intersection of spirituality and self-discovery in response to the ways that Black masculinity is portrayed in U.S. society. Learn how the spiritual dimensions of joy, resilience and empowerment contribute to healthy relationships and self-fulfillment in the Black male experience. **Byron Wratee, Ph.D. Cand.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

#### WEEK 2: JULY 8- JULY 12, 2024

**LDER 0039 We Proclaim Jesus: Conversations on Evangelization.** Discover in the Acts of The Apostles how early Christians proclaimed Jesus Christ. In that biblical tradition, discover 21st century strategies to support the Church's evangelizing mission. From Pope Francis: "Apostolic zeal is the very oxygen of Christian life". Come be strengthened for today's evangelizing work. Our faith communities have all the oxygen we need when we proclaim Jesus! **Therese Wilson Favors, M.A.** (M-F 8:45-11:45am).

**CORE 0002E Tracing the Color Purple: Exploring Womanist Theology.** 40+ years ago, Alice Walker birthed the term womanism and provided one of the earliest demonstrations of womanist spirit through "The Color Purple." Since then, womanism has gone through several waves. Each deepens

the commitments of womanists to center the experience, knowledge, and liberation of Black people. **Nicole Symmonds, Ph.D.** (M-F 8:45-11:45am).

**BRES 0006 The Spirituals.** Explore the historical and biblical perspectives of the Spirituals, timeless African American classics, to find their relevance for the present-day church and world at-large. **Samuel Hendricks, Th.M.** (M-F 8:45-11:45am).

**CORE 0004F Mary, the Black Madonna, and Africana Catholics.** Journey deep into the African diaspora to study the history of Marian popular devotion among Africana Catholic communities during and after the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. This course will examine the Catholic roots of the Americas, explore various Marian devotional sites and study the Black Madonna in the modern and contemporary world. **LaRyssa Herrington, Ph.D. Cand.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

**CORE 0004G Eucharistic Liturgy in the African American Community.** This course will demonstrate how inculturation in Eucharistic Liturgy can promote evangelization in African American community. The course will connect the Eucharistic Liturgy with common values found in the African American community; including, but not limited to collective work and responsibility, unity, and self-determination. **Fr. Roy A. Lee, Ph.D.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

**CORE 0008C Preaching Racial Justice.** Develop a preaching ministry that forthrightly addresses racism and the demands of Christian discipleship. **Fr. Manuel Williams, C.R, Th.M.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

**SREP 003 Black Faith Live!** "A faith that does not become culture is a faith that is not fully received, not thoroughly thought through, not fully lived" (John Paul II, 1982)". This intergenerational retreat invites Baby Boomer (age 61+), Millennial, and Gen Z Black Catholics to reflect on the diverse ways that generations celebrate God's gift of Blackness and prayerfully strategize ways to build up the Church together. Limit 15 retreatants. **Anthony Hart, DHA & Chaplain Thelma Lucas, Th.M.** (M-F 9:00-11am and 2:00-4pm).

#### WEEK 3: JULY 15-JULY 19, 2024

**LDER 0040 Local and Parish Black Catholic Histories for Evangelization.** This course is for people who love history and believe it plays a role in Catholic evangelization. Learn how to

do Black Catholic history by identifying and conserving resources, writing historical pieces and using your local and parish Black Catholic histories to share the Good News today. **Cecilia Moore, Ph.D.** (M-F, 8:45-11:45am).

**LDER 0016 Building Cultural Competence for Ministry in the African Diaspora.** Fruitful ministry is achievable in Africa's Region 6, (aka) the Diaspora. This course brings real talk to real challenges and opportunities affecting culturally diverse Catholics of African descent. We will identify attitudes, knowledge, skills, and strategies for building solidarity as we create the future we will share. **Donna Grimes, B.S. and David Okonkwo, Th.M.** (M-F, 8:45-11:45am).

**CORE 0002F Race, Law and Black Theology.** Join in a critical exploration of race as a social construct that promotes death-dealing inequalities in U.S. institutions, including the Church. Examine the light that Black Catholic Theology brings to the discussion. **Byron Wratee, Ph.D. Cand.** (M-F, 8:45-11:45AM).

**CORE 0005B Spirituality of the Body Black.** Taking care of the African American mind, body and spirit is a Pro Life issue, a Black Lives Matter concern and a social justice theme that promotes human dignity and the sanctity of life. This course will explore the mandate in Catholic Social Teaching and Scripture for a paradigm shift in Church life for the health of clergy and congregations. **Valerie Lewis-Mosley, D.Min.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

**CORE 0008B Preaching from the Pews.** Ineffective preaching is a challenge in our communities. This course will offer approaches for laity to help clergy become more effective ministers and reinforce their preaching skills! We hope to rekindle the fire in the pulpit with the fire in the pews! **Fr. Manuel Williams, C.R., Th.M.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

**BRES 0005 Black Religious Expression:** Learn here how to effectively incorporate the arts - spoken word, drama and song - in pastoral ministry, presentation and classroom settings. Celebrating the Black aesthetic in community encourages dialogue, healing and remembrance. **Sunnie Patterson, B.A.** (M-F 1:45-4:45pm).

