



Resources for Black Catholic Evangelization
Institute for Black Catholic Studies
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What We Have Seen and Heard': A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Bishops of the United States (1984): "Evangelization is both call and response. It is the call of Jesus reverberating down through the centuries, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation" (Mark 15:16). The response is: "Conduct yourselves, then, in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27). Evangelization means not only preaching but witnessing, not only conversion but renewal, not only entry into the community but the building up of the community, not only hearing the word but sharing it."

Address to the Black Catholic Community (John Paul, II, 1987, New Orleans): "Dear brothers and sisters: your black cultural heritage enriches the Church and makes her witness of universality more complete. In a real way the Church needs you, just as you need the Church, for you are part of the Church and the Church is part of you. As you continue to place this heritage at the service of the whole Church for the spread of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit himself will continue through you his work of evangelization."

Address to the USCCB, (Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA, 1989): "What does it mean to be Black and Catholic? It means that I come to my Church fully functioning...I bring myself, my black self – all that I am, all that I have, all that I hope to become. I bring my whole history, my traditions, my experience, my culture, my African American song, dance, gesture, movement, preaching, teaching, healing and responsibility as gifts to the Church."

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