



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Institute for Black Catholic Studies

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## PRESS RELEASE

### The Institute for Black Catholic Studies Announces The 2025 Hallelujah Workshop

Black religious expressions of dance, drumming and sacred music are fundamental to the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) of Xavier University of Louisiana, inspiring its theological scholarship and community life of prayer, worship and cultural activities. The mission of the holistic curriculum is to form lay and ordained persons for Christian discipleship and ministry with the Black community and the Church at-large.

This summer, the IBCS will launch the Hallelujah Workshop on **Monday, July 21- Friday, July 25, 9am to 4pm** daily on the campus of Xavier University. The week of workshops will close on **Saturday, July 26** with a joyful celebration of faith and culture.

Each workshop day will feature interactive presentations of Black spirituality, faith, and church history as foundation for afternoon lessons on the art forms of music, dance and drumming that have traditionally animated African American Christianity and became widely incorporated in Black Catholic worship after Vatican Council II.

The Hallelujah Workshop sessions will help ensure the ongoing presence of Black religious expression in the Institute programs by celebrating the legacies of three longtime Institute instructors, brilliant, faithful and expert in their respective fields: Music Minister Veronica Downs Dorsey, Master Drummer Luther Gray, and Dance Director Judy Legier. As New Orleans cultural bearers, they have mentored generations of creative artists in their hometown and beyond.

We honor these master artists through the Hallelujah Workshop in these days to uplift and engage, revive and encourage the spirits of the people through Black religious expression, including faith-sharing, storytelling, community and the arts. Attendees will receive a certificate for their participation.

Registration is limited. Request more information about the Hallelujah Workshops and registration by sending an email entitled “Hallelujah Workshop” to this address: [bridges.virtualassistant@gmail.com](mailto:bridges.virtualassistant@gmail.com). Please share this **Save the Date** announcement with interested others in your circles. Thank you!