



Xavier University of Louisiana
Institute for Black Catholic Studies
1 Drexel Drive Box 49
New Orleans, LA 70125

INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES SUMMER 2009 REPORT

Following the summer orientation session, the Institute for Black Catholic Studies Community inaugurated its summer session with the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sunday June 29, 2009. Students from Sixteen States and the District of Columbia [**California**, Fremont, Los Angeles, Sacramento) **Delaware** (New Castle, Wilmington) **District of Columbia** (Washington),**Florida** (Tallahassee), **Georgia** (Atlanta Smyrna Valdosta) **Illinois** (Chicago, Mundelein) **Indiana** (St. Meinrad), **Louisiana** (Carencro, Baton Rouge , Gretna, Harvey, Lake Charles, Metairie , Martinsville, New Orleans, Opelousas), **Maryland** (Baltimore, Derwood, Fort Washington).**Massachusetts**(Boston, Roxbury) **Mississippi** (Carthage) **Missouri** (St. Louis) , **New Jersey** (Erial) **New York** (Mt Necka) **North Carolina** (Charlotte) **Ohio** (Cincinnati, Columbus) **Pennsylvania** (Pittsburgh) , **Texas** (Beaumont)] participated in summer session 2009

The total enrollment for summer 2009 was approximately **89** students. (**28** in the Degree Program; **25** in the Certification and Enrichment programs; **7** in the newly inaugurated evening course for priests and deacons entitled “ **Black Preaching for Priests and Deacons in Black and Multicultural Parishes**”; **29** in the two evening courses offered by the Institute in collaboration with the Office of Religious Education (ORE) and the Office for Black Catholic Ministry (OBCM) of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.¹ The Student participants were comprised of approximately 7 seminarians, 8 Priests, 1 Religious Brother, 7 Laymen, 4 Women Religious and 67 laywomen .

The summer theme “Give out of your abundance... Receive out of your need” was drawn from the second reading of the opening Eucharistic Celebration. The three week summer session was a “retreat-like” experience for all. **Morning Prayer** and the **Noon Eucharistic Celebration** provide opportunity for the community gather to focus their day on the presence of the Lord in the ordinary experiences of our lives and to celebrate God’s presence in Word, Sacrament and Community. Additional weekly communal liturgical and cultural celebrations including **Vespers, Ancestor Celebration, the MAAFA Commemoration** and “culture night” add to the spiritual rhythm of the community. The song, scriptures, reflection, Eucharist and commemorative celebrations are mediums for the spiritual growth and transformation of the community.

The study and critical analysis of texts, videos and on-line resource in the graduate degree seminars spawns the student’s intellectual understandings of God’s presence and self revelation in history and the contemporary experience of the Black Catholic Community. Led by seasoned and freshly minted professors, the students in the Degree Program **explored Black Approaches to Theology** (Dr. Enrico

¹ One course, taught by Mr. Walter Bonam, MTS served as a required course toward catechetical certification with ORE “**To Know, to Love, to Serve**” Course in **Sacramental Theology**; the second course “**Africentric Catechesis**,” an enrichment course offered by OBCM ,was taught by Sharon Winchester M.A.

Joseph (Ph.D.) **the History of Black Catholicism** (Fr. Dr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, D. Hist. Sciences) **The Spirituals** (Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan (PhD, in Theology) **Urban Education in the Black Community** (Dr. Kirk Gaddy, Ed.D.) **Christology** (Fr. John Osom, MSP, Ph.D.in Moral Theology)**Principles of Liturgy/Black Celebration** (Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow (D.Min. in Liturgical Studies))and **Black Approaches to Medical Ethics** (Sr. Dr. Shawnee Daniel Sykes, SSND, Ph.D.in Religious Studies) **Pastoral Leadership in Black and Multicultural Parishes**) co-taught by Fr. Dr. Freddy Washington, CSSp (D.Min in Pastoral Theology) and Fr. Gerald Marable, M.Div, Th.M.) and the **Pro-Seminar** (Dr. Cecilia Moore (Ph.D. in Religious Studies)

Our continuing Education Students studied various aspects and approaches to **Catechesis, Youth Ministry, and Evangelization** as well as the core areas of **Black Catholic History, Black Spirituality, Canon Law and Liturgy** under the tutelage of instructors both educated in their fields and experienced in their pastoral fields. . Rawn Harbor, MTS inaugurated a new Seminar **for Pastoral Musicians**. Most Reverend Joseph Perry, JCL, DD, Dr. Cecilia Moore, Theresa Wilson Favors, M.A., Ansel Augustine, MPS, Ms. Kaffy Babineaux Belvin, M. Ed., Rita Baptist Canton, Th.M., Fr. Derran Combs, Ph.D. Cand. , Fr. Paul Marshall, D.Min. Cand. Sharon Winchesters, M.A., and Ms. Cynthia Battle, animated the Core interdisciplinary theological and methodology courses. Chakula Cha Jua, Dr. Gregory Tillmen, Ms. Veronica Downs Dorsey, MM, Luther Grey and Ms. Judy Legier shared their artistic expertise by helping students develop their artistic ability and explore ways of using them within the context of their ministries.

Associate Director for the Degree Program , Dr. Cecilia Moore coordinated a surprise anticipatory celebration of Sister Jamie's Golden Jubilee of her entrance into the Adrian Dominican Sisters on September 8, 1959 during culture night. Members of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium an interdisciplinary theological society inaugurated by Fr. Thaddeus Posey, OFM and revitalized by Sister Jamie, travelled from Chicago, Notre Dame, Boston and Milwaukee to join in the celebration, Faculty, Students and guests expressed their gratitude for Sister's ministry at the Institute by reading poetry, singing songs and telling stories of their experiences of her as a professor. A good time was had by all.

The annual summer Seminar, Code [Black Theological Bioethics on the Black Health Care Crises in the USA](#) presented by Sr. Shawnee Daniel Sykes, SSND, Ph.D., alerted the community to the health service crises in the Black community and advocated the development of parish health advocates as an aspect of parish ministries. (See the link to read the entire text of her presentation which is pending publication in the Journal of Black Catholic Theology.)

The Summer Session 2009 culminated with a closing morning prayer after which Sr. Jamie gave the faculty and staff symbolic tokens of gratitude for their summer service. Friday evening the community celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass and commission Ceremony. The final celebration of the Community was the Summer 2009 Commencement. Presided over by **Dr. Loren Blanchard**., Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. During the commencement, **Dr. Norman Frances**, President of Xavier University of Louisiana conferred Master Degrees to three women dedicated to Catholic Elementary Education who

completed their master papers and practicum on various topics. A fourth woman received her certificate of catechist certification

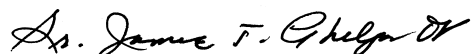
Sister Emmanuella Toyin Ladipo, HHCJ, of Saint Augustine Parish, Washington, D.C Her major research paper was entitled *“The Spirituality of Children: The Pedagogy of Nurturing the Religious Education of Children between the Ages of Seven and Eight in an African American Catholic School;”* and her practicum focus on a method of peer spiritual support was entitled “Children Helping Children” Sr. Emmaunella will be serving as religious education coordinator for St. Augustine Elementary School.

- **Ms. Gwendolyn Young** of St. Benedict the Moor Parish, Pittsburgh, PA completed her master research focusing on the ministry of healing the grief of children, entitled *“Holy Rosary School, A Beacon of Hope: The Impact of Sacred Ground on Loss, Grief, and Hopelessness in Children in Urban Communities.”* Her practicum entitled ‘Your Word, O Lord, Is a Lamp Unto My Feet and a Light Unto My Path’ provided a model for grief spiritual centered counseling and support. Ms. Young will continue her ministry as the President of Holy Rosary School in Pittsburgh.
- **Sr. Selena Wilson, O.P.** of Corpus Christi Parish Mineola, NY. Completed an historical paper entitled *“The History of Nia House: A House of Hospitality for African American Women”* documenting the unique ministry of vocation discernment and support for women considering becoming consecrated women religious. She will be continuing her ministry as a elementary school teacher
- **Mrs. Margaret L. Denson** of Our Mother of Mercy Parish Beaumont, TX, received her catechist certification after having completed her catechetical studies by developing a practicum entitled “Jesus Day.” Ms. Denson will continue her ministry as Director of Religious Education for her parish.

After the awarding of degrees and Certificate and the Passing of the Light from the 2009 Graduates and certification recipient to IBCS student who are anticipating graduation in summer 2010, Dr. Phelps presented Dr. Norman Francis and carved African “walking stick” in gratitude for his 40 years of service as President of Xavier University and for his on-going support of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies from its inception.

The Commencement and summer session concluded with the Recessional Parade of Graduates, Certification Students and faculty as they sang the mission song *“Go Ye Therefore.”*

Submitted by



**Sister Jamie T. Phelps, O.P., Ph.D. Director
Katharine Drexel Professor of Systematic Theology**

July 21, 2009