

THE OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
AND
ST CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY
PRESENT

THE SISTER BEA JEFFRIES, SBS BLACK CATHOLIC FORMATION PROGRAM



2025 - 2026



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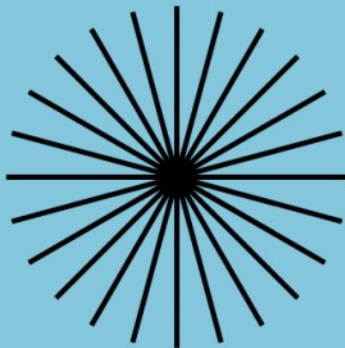
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ABOUT THE BLACK CATHOLIC FORMATION PROGRAM



In ecclesial settings where unity is valued over uniformity, black Catholic spirituality has been fruitful in areas of evangelization, pastoral ministry, social justice, Christian initiation as well as community-building initiatives that respond to the particular needs of the black faithful and others seeking God. Given the hidden, yet provocative, history of black Catholics in the United States, it seems that it will take a supernatural intervention of the Holy Spirit to bring black culture into earnest dialogue with the Catholic faith such that the church can actually incorporate black spirituality and other gifts in the conduct of its evangelizing mission while bringing to bear the moral authority of the Gospels to challenge and uplift the lives of black members of the body of Christ.

Excerpt from "Come, Holy Spirit: Black spirituality and the Catholic Church", an article in Catholic Philly.com (2018) by Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellows, Director of The Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University. She received her doctorate in ministry degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.



With this program, the Philadelphia Office for Black Catholics, inspired by the words of Dr. Bellows and challenged by Archbishop Perez, has integrated Black Catholic spirituality with Catholic faith formation. The Black Catholic Formation Program aims to deliver catechesis in Catholic theology, trace Black Catholic history, explore Black Catholic spirituality, and evangelization. The courses within this program are in conjunction with St Charles Borromeo Seminary, which will handle all registrations. Courses will be taught in parishes throughout the Black Catholic community.

This Black Catholic Formation Program is named after Sister Bea Jeffries, SBS, who throughout her life and ministry never failed to teach Black Catholicism. Her ministry is the genesis of this program.

02



COURSES IN BLACK CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

Our program focus is how Black Catholics know God, worship God, and walk with God in our daily lives.

HBCS

The History of Black Saints and Black Catholics up for Sainthood in the U.S.

A Brief Description of the Course: This course will expound on the lives of six African Americans up for sainthood and two Africans named saints in modern times. We will discuss Catholic solutions to the problems these saints faced and the impact of their faith on the lives they led and those who encountered them while they were alive. This course will also cover the process of sainthood in the Modern Church.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

NT

New Testament

A Brief Description of the Course:

This course was developed for the Catechetical Institute at St Charles Borromeo seminary. It is taught in a video and discussion format, with an accent on Black Catholic traditions. It is an overview of the New Testament

Class Meeting: 1/1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

PJ

Person of Jesus

A Brief Description of this Course:

This course will give an overview of Jesus' divinity & humanity. The history of his life and ministry will be included. Since this class was developed for the Catechetical Institute of St Charles Borromeo Seminary, it will be taught in a video and discussion format.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

WEBC
Witness! The New Evangelization from a Black Catholic Perspective

Brief Description of this Course:

The purpose of this course is two-fold: to be formed more deeply in your friendship with Jesus Christ (discipleship) and to be equipped with the skills for helping others come to encounter Jesus' great love for them (mission).

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 7 weeks

MMBC
Music and Movement in the Black Catholic Community

A Brief Description of this Course:

This course "Music and Movement in the Black Catholic Community" explores the significance of music and movement in Black Catholic spirituality. It delves into the historical context and traditions of music and movement in the Black Catholic Church, the role of music and dance in worship, and the integration of music and movement as forms of prayer. The course also covers challenges and solutions in integrating music and movement in worship and emphasizes embracing music and movement as integral aspects of Black Catholic spirituality.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

GBC
The Gifts Black Catholics bring to the Catholic Church.

A Brief Description of this Course: Black Catholics bring a wealth of unique gifts to the Catholic Church, enriching the faith community with their rich cultural heritage, spiritual traditions, and communal values. Their deep-rooted faith, resilience, and commitment to social justice serve as a powerful example for the broader Church.

Embracing diversity, advocating for inclusivity, and striving for racial justice and reconciliation within the Church are some of the vital contributions that Black Catholics bring, echoing the powerful message of Sister Thea Bowman.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

CSI
Sacraments of Initiation

A Brief Description of this Course:

This course was developed for the Catechetical Institute of St Charles Borromeo Seminary. In it, students will learn and discuss the initial Sacraments of the Church, their spiritual meaning and practice. It is taught in a video discussion format.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

CTP
Coming Together in Prayer

A Brief Description of this Course: This course explores the significance of prayer in the Black Catholic tradition. It delves into the historical context of prayer in the Black Catholic Church, the incorporation of African spiritual elements in Catholic prayers, the role of prayer in shaping Black Catholic identity, and the importance of communal prayer gatherings.

The course also covers the role of prayer in Black Catholic worship services, the connection between prayer and social justice, and strategies for cultivating a vibrant prayer life within the Black Catholic tradition. It emphasizes the power of prayer, communal prayer, prayer intentions, prayer in action, building community, and expressing faith.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

SHV
Sacraments of Healing and Vocation

A Brief Description of this course: Our Catholic faith teaches about the healing power of God and about our calling and vocations in life. This course will explore what God's healing entails and the process through which our vocations are realized. This course will be given in a video and discussion format, as it was developed for the Catechetical Institute of St Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks

HBC1
History of Black Catholics 1 & 2

A Brief Description of this Course: The history of Black Catholics in the United States is a fascinating and complex story that spans centuries. From the early days of colonial America to the present, Black Catholics have faced unique challenges and made significant contributions to the Church. The story of Black Catholics in the United States is one of perseverance, faith, and resilience in the face of adversity. It is a story that deserves to be told and remembered for generations to come.

Class Meeting: 1 1/2 hour class, 1 night per week for 8 weeks (both parts)



**“THE STORY OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN CATHOLICISM
IS THE STORY OF A
PEOPLE WHO
OBSTINATELY CLUNG TO A
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SUSTENANCE, EVEN WHEN
IT DID NOT ALWAYS MAKE
THEM WELCOME.”**

– FR. CYPRIAN DAVIS, OSB

WHY DO I NEED TO STUDY MY FAITH?



Defend My Faith

Being Catholic means to possess the fullness of faith. We have Jesus as sacrifice and sacrament.

1 Peter 3:15 commands us to defend our faith and to sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts.

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 and dance and gesture and movement and teaching and preaching and healing and responsibility as gifts to the Church.”

---Sister Thea Bowman

Spiritual Enrichment

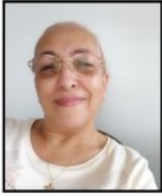
Spiritual enrichment is a process of investigating deep questions, examining ethical challenges, and growing in wisdom, compassion, faith, and connection with others and in this case, your Catholic faith.

It draws from various sources, including our Christian heritage, the wisdom of the Word of God, the spark of Holy Spirit, our Catholic Church teachings, and being recognized and heard in thoughtful conversation with others.

Spiritual growth can also be defined as simply growing and maturing in our knowledge and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

The coursework in this, the Sister Bea Jeffries, SBS Formation Program endeavors to enrich your life.

03



Janet Cosby

Person of Jesus
Sacraments of Healing and Vocation

Janet Cosby is currently the DRE at St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church. She possesses an M.A. in Theology from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, a B.A. in Religion from LaSalle University, Vatican Diploma, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and an A.A. Music, Community College of Philadelphia. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from LaSalle University and holds membership in Theta Alpha Kappa Honor Society for Religion/Theology; Xi Chapter.



Gloria Moseley

Coming Together in Prayer

Gloria currently is a high school teacher at West Catholic High School and also formerly at St Charles Borromeo Seminary. She earned an MA in Moral Theology with Teaching Certification, a B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences with Certification in Theology from Immaculata University, a Certificate in Family and Consumer Sciences with specialization in Education, and a certificate in Youth Ministry from Xavier University.



Dr. Antoinette Reaves

The Gifts Black Catholics Bring to the Church
Music and Movement in the Black Catholic Community

Dr. Reaves possess a D. Min, in Urban Ministry from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, a M.S. in Educational Leadership/Principal Certification w/Autism Endorsement from Neumann Univ, Aston, PA, an M.A., in Theology with Liturgy Concentration, from LaSalle University, a M.A., Theatre, Villanova University, in Villanova, PA, and a B.A., Human Services / Sociology, Villanova University.

She has taught Catholic Catechism from elementary school to the level of seminary. She currently teaches Jesus of Nazareth Part II and The Gift of Prayer at the Catechetical Institute of St Charles Borromeo Seminary.

OUR FACULTY



Melissa Scutt

Witness! The New Evangelization from a Black Catholic Perspective!

Melissa Scutt is currently an eighth grade teacher at St Raymond of Penafort School. She received training in the "New Evangelization" from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Young Adult Office. She also possesses a Bachelor's degree in Education and is very active in the Haitian Community in the Archdiocese.



Darin Williams

Music and Movement in the Black Catholic Community
Sacraments of Initiation

Darin is the Director of Religious Education (DRE) at Holy Cross Parish. He has previously served as DRE in several parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Darrin holds a Roman Catechetical Diploma from St. Charles Seminary. Additionally, he is a talented musician who developed his skills under the mentorship of Fr. Daniel Mackle, a former Cathedral pastor, and Alice Parker, the former Director of the Black Culture through Music Program of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He focuses on benefiting the Catholic Community in Philadelphia, with a particular emphasis on the Black Catholic community.



Stacy Williams

The History of Black Saints and Black Catholics up for Sainthood
The History of Black Catholics I & II
New Testament

Stacy is the current Director of the Office for Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She holds a BS in Psychology from Williams College in Williamstown, MA, a BA in History from Southern New Hampshire University and an MA in History from Southern New Hampshire university, a certificate in Youth Ministry from St Charles Seminary and a Certificate in Teaching for Spiritual Growth from Weston Theological Seminary of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Stacy formerly served as DRE at St Malachy church and served as a teacher in Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese. She has taught Catholic Catechism from elementary school to adult education.

OUR FACULTY

04 Where ?

While created in partnership with St Charles Borromeo Seminary, the Bea Jeffries Black Catholic Formation Program courses will be offered in Black Catholic parishes throughout Philadelphia.

The Winter semester begins in February 2025. Registration opens in January 2025. The following churches will hold courses in the Winter semester: February 2025–April 2025. Courses will begin the week of February 3, 2025.

<u>Church</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Day & Time</u>
St Ignatius of Loyola	Person of Jesus ----- The History of Black Saints and Black Catholics up for Sainthood	Parish Center Fridays 6pm–7:30pm
St Cyprian	Music and Movement in the Black Catholic Community	Mtg Room–Rectory Basement Fridays 5pm–6:30pm
St Athanasius	Coming Together in Prayer	School Library Thursdays 5pm–6:30pm
St Malachy	The Gifts Black Catholics Bring to the Church	Front Meeting Room Thursdays 6pm–7:30pm



The Spring Semester begins April 2025. In March 2025, a new roster of classes offered in the listed churches will be available. Registration will open during this time.

CONTACT US

Office of Black Catholics
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215-587-3541

St Charles Borromeo Seminary
<https://www.scs.edu/school-of-theological-studies/catechetical-institute/>
610-785-6287

