

He lives, Hallelujah! The narratives of Holy Week, the Triduum and the Easter Season remind us that with God, in Christ, nothing is impossible.

Yet these days, as the nation continues to struggle with issues of racial reckoning, community violence, economic injustice and pandemic recovery, Easter joy seems to be a luxury that few can afford. The Institute owes big appreciation to Associate Director of Community Life, Fr. Roy Lee and Mr. Cary Dabney, C&E instructor, for coordinating the IBCS Lenten Prayer Reflection, "When You See Me, You See Lent" on YouTube. In the season-long program, Institute members and friends acknowledged the exhausting challenges of "Living While Black" even as they reminded us that we are Easter People. The history of God's beloved Black community, our life experience all bear witness to the wonderful power of the Resurrection that defies even death! Christ lives, Hallelujah! And in him, we survive every unspeakable indignity, loss, and pain. In him, we shall overcome!

The IBCS is a summer school of ministry where faculty, staff and students learn and live the hard work required to bring that good news of salvation, that gospel that "Black Lives Matter", to our 21st century Church and world. The 2021 Institute, June 28 to July 17, will again conduct classes and community life online as the pandemic begins to wane. The general expectation is that the IBCS will gather once again in Summer 2022 on the campus of Xavier University as is our custom, with the possibility of online offerings during the Fall and Spring seasons.

PLEASE NOTE: The IBCS 2021 application process for the C&E and Degree programs will close on MAY 18. Degree student registration is in progress; C&E student registration will begin May 15. Late registration and payment of all tuition and fees must be completed before June 26, 2021. Please contact the IBCS Office if you have questions or require assistance.

The theme of the 2021 IBCS is "Holy Spirit, Breathe on Me!" Let us pray that the sweet Holy Spirit will make its presence known in our IBCS studies, reflection and community life, motivating each one of us to work in new and different ways for God's justice, Christ's peace for all.

In faith, hope and love,

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