

INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES CERTIFICATE AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

In the holistic learning environment of the Institute, Certificate and Enrichment (C&E) students are immersed in ongoing education and pastoral ministry formation that is “authentically Black and truly Catholic”. C&E programs are currently structured as separate one-week modules to meet the growing demand for accessible and affordable educational opportunities. Each module consists of three learning components: a morning Core Theology Course, an afternoon Ministry Methods course and a Black Religious Expression workshop. Students register for 1, 2 or 3 weeks of courses and are awarded continuing education units (CEUs) in accordance with specific guidelines of each program.

- **MINISTRY SPECIALIZATIONS** are seminars that provide specific methods and resources in three areas:
 - **CATECHIST FORMATION FOR THE BLACK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PROGRAM** - one-week catechetical seminars designed to provide ministry training, as well as ongoing enrichment, support, and networking for catechists, religious educators and/or Directors of Religious Education.
 - **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**- three one week topical seminars for professional and/or volunteer ministers working to develop culturally sensitive and effective Black Catholic youth ministry programs.
 - **LEADERSHIP IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY** – one-week seminars for lay, religious or ordained men and women who seek to 1) update theological and pastoral understandings of issues pertinent to Catholic ministry and 2) continue formation as Christian disciples active in the parish community and the neighborhood at-large. Summer 2009 will focus on various topics relative to EVANGELIZATION.
- **C&E CORE COURSES** (History, Theology/Doctrine, Spirituality, Liturgy, and Canon Law, for example) provide the theological foundations and theory for the ministry courses.
- **BLACK RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION WORKSHOPS (BRE)** – Black artistic expression and symbolism encode the values and theological traditions that have developed through the centuries of sojourn from the African Continent through the Middle Passage into the Americas. Through the study of Art, Drama, Music and Dance students are led into a deeper understanding, appropriation and expression of our distinct and diverse African American culture.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

The Spiritual Enrichment programs – the Elder Retreat (Week 2) and Taste of the Institute (Week 3) are 1-week sessions that engage participants in more relaxed and prayerful learning environments.

ELDERSHIP RETREAT/ SEMINAR – this program was developed for African And African American men and women age 60 years and older who want to explore the vocation of elder in the church and local community.

“ TASTE OF THE INSTITUTE” – this program serves African American/African men and women age 21 and older who wish to spend a week of prayer, spiritual

reflection, study and purposeful play in the context of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies.

CATECHIST FORMATION FOR THE BLACK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Mission

The Catechist Formation for the Black Catholic Community Program is rooted in the teaching mission of the Catholic Church. This program provides a methodological, interactive approach to spiritual growth, self-development, and wisdom. It strives to assist catechists in their ministry by providing theological, educational, and spiritual insights.

Goals

To assist participants in their efforts to

- Present Catholic doctrine, church history, liturgy, and scripture to various age groups using effective methodologies, ministerial skills and resources sensitive to the Black Catholic experience.
- Provide an awareness of Black cultural patterns, idioms, customs, rituals, symbols and aesthetics, such as art, dance, drama and music as expressive means and modes for the catechetical process.
- Examine learning styles of Black children, youth and adults.
- Develop strategies, lesson plans and catechetical, liturgical and formational experiences.
- Synthesize and analyze catechetical documents, guidelines and policies.
- Critique and develop a list of resources appropriate for effective catechesis in the Black Catholic community.

This program focuses on catechetical ministry of the church in Catholic schools and ecclesial communities. The program is designed for clergy, religious, and lay people who serve in the Black community.

The insights of this program are in harmony with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council "... a faith community flourishes when bound to the church universal while retaining it's own specific identity" (Gaudium et Spes # 58).

The program fulfills directives for catechetical formation as discussed in the National Directory for Catechesis (pp. 82 – 83) ... "develop and use culturally appropriate catechetical methods, tools, texts and resources ... and prepare catechists in their native language and cultural situations".

Curriculum

I. Catechetical Seminars

- **CATF 0001 Catechetics I - The Nature and Goals of Africentric Catechesis**
An interactive seminar that explores (1) the mission and tasks of Africentric catechesis including an overview of theological / pastoral documents that

encourage inculturation and holistic faith formation, (2) qualities of a catechist, (3) Black learning styles, catechetical environments and methods, (4) an initial exploration of resources.

- **CATF 0002 Catechetics II - Methodology**

Participants are engaged in designing catechetical learning sessions for use in the Black Catholic community. Participants will work together sharing insights, skills, and practical resources readily adaptable for a variety of catechetical communities and contexts.

- **CATF 0003 Catechetics III - Africentric Catechetical Resources**

This focus is twofold

1. exploring effective resources within the Black community
2. developing strategies to organize and create new Africentric catechetical resources

Among the featured resources is “Keep on Teaching” – 15 catechetical aids produced by the Archdiocese of Baltimore Office of African American Catholic Ministries and Division of Evangelization and Catechesis.

- **YAFF 0003 (Catechetics IV) - Adult Faith Formation**

This course will examine and critique existing modes of adult catechesis and propose ways to incorporate new approaches to adult catechesis in the parish. An African American perspective will be emphasized as students are exposed to the goals, tasks and components of adult catechesis and its connection to evangelization.

- **CATF0004 Catechetics V – Synthesis Seminar**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of CATF 0001, 0002, 0003, three core courses and three BRE seminars.

The Synthesis Seminar requires three consecutive weeks during the second summer. Prior to the second summer, participants, in consultation with the Coordinator of the Catechist Formation Program will choose a topic and target audience for the practicum project. The Coordinator or an officially designated advisor will supervise student’s practicum work during the year.

During the Synthesis Seminar, participants will:

- a. Convene with an advisor to present an outline of the practicum, design a draft which will be edited and revised, and submit the final copy of the practicum at the end of the third week.
- b. Complete three additional Core courses and BRE seminars.

II. Core Courses include:

Doctrine History Liturgy Scripture Spirituality/Prayer Morality

III. Black Religious Expression Seminars:

Art Dance Drama Music

IV. Active participation in IBCS community life experiences is an essential part of the curriculum. Participants will receive a record of attendance listing CEUs earned.

CERTIFICATION

For certification, participants **must**

- Successfully complete Catechetics I, II, III, IV and V (The Synthesis Seminar), 6 core courses, 3 Black Religious Expression seminars and submit approved copy of practicum (a minimum of 17 CEUs).
- Successfully complete requirements within 3 years of the initial application.

In order to determine the appropriate direction of study, participants must state in their initial application or during the first summer session that they are applying for certification.

THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT* * MINISTRY ENRICHMENT AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Program will enable participants to:

- Explore the scriptural basis for Catholic Youth/Young Adult Ministry and how it informs contemporary issues facing Black young people
- Gain deeper insights into the psychology and sociology of Black Youth/Young Adult cultures.
- Identify effective and holistic programming philosophies and strategies.
- Discern relevant literature, media resources, and national programs for use in Black Catholic Youth/Young Adult ministry programs.
- Examine the role of families, school, the church, neighborhood, electronic media peers and world events as socialization agents for Black youth and young adults.

Students may participate in the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Program for enrichment only or may work toward certification. Each summer, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry program presents three one-week seminars from among the following topics:

Ministering with Youth from an African American Perspective

- Mission and Vision of Youth Ministry
- The Adult Leader in Youth Ministry
- Psychological and Social Development of African American Youth

Developing and Managing African American Youth Ministries

- Components for Comprehensive Youth Ministry
- Prayer, Worship, and Justice Ministry with Youth
- Components of Program Management

Participants have the option to receive a certificate of participation or pursue certification*. *Participants may enroll in any one or all of the one-week seminars.* However, it is highly recommended that catechists participate in the 3 week modules to fully achieve the goals stated in this program.

***NOTE 1:** Re-establishment of a certification process for the Youth Ministry Program is under current study.

****NOTE 2:** Young Adult Ministry components have been incorporated into the program as a step before building a separate course devoted to ministry with Young Adults in the Black Catholic community.

LEADERSHIP IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Mission

The Leadership Program offer enrichment for persons engaged in various forms of lay ministry/leadership roles in the parish, diocese, and community-at-large. The primary focus of the program is to direct participants in the refinement of skills and strategies they already possess that they may become more effective in their respective ministries.

Goals

Leadership in the Faith Community seminars, conducted by pastorally seasoned IBCS faculty and respected Black Catholic pastoral leaders, engage participants in critical theological reflection on and discussion of their ministries in light of the church's mission and contemporary Catholic religious traditions as in the context of Black religious experience. Each summer this leadership seminar focuses on three major aspects of a ministerial theme in response to contemporary issues challenging the Black community in general and the Black Catholic Church in particular.

Participants

The following persons are encouraged to apply:

- Directors of Diocesan Offices
- Parish Staff members: Priests, Deacons, Lay Ecclesial Ministers including women and men religious
- Parish Council Members
- The Parish Faithful

Curriculum

The Leadership in the Faith Community program is designed as an on-going course of study that offers participants an opportunity to expand their understanding of leadership roles and responsibilities within the Church and the Black community. The seminar involves in depth reflection on topics and issues concerning pastoral and ministerial leadership in a variety of community contexts. Participants will receive a record of attendance listing CEUs earned.

The course of study includes:

- Leadership Seminar Sessions (typically, MTThF)
- Core Courses (1 per week, M-F)
- Black Religious Expression Seminar (1 per week)
- Active participation in the community life of the Institute