

Announcement of the July 2011 Death of Mother Elencie Shynes, Elder to the IBCS Community

The Institute for Black Catholic Studies is sad to announce that Mrs. Elencie Shynes, former IBCS student, instructor and community elder, died this past July in Philadelphia, PA at the age of 83. Homegoing services were held soon after she passed. Her family plans a Memorial Service later in the year. Administration will share the details once they are made public.

Mother Shynes, as she was affectionately known, completed the Imani Master Catechist Program in the 1980s and then joined the Institute staff. She taught in the Spiritual Enrichment Program until her retirement in 2007 when the challenges of air travel became just a bit too much.

A woman of great faith, Mother Shynes extended herself in ways formal and informal in Christian service to the Institute and Xavier University community. She was a recognized elder and role model who prayed frequently over the Institute and prayed privately with the many who turned to her for spiritual counsel. Mother Shynes excelled as a cantor and minister of the Word at Mass; a moaned rendition of the responsorial psalm was a signature.

From her biographic notes, we learn much more about our friend and colleague. Mother Shynes held a B.S. in Clinical Nursing from Tuskegee University. She was a graduate of Philadelphia College of the Bible, Temple University, and the Word Program in the Church Ministry Program of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. A certified Master Catechist for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Ms. Shynes served as Director of Religious Education for St. Malachy Catholic Church and taught religion in the parish school.

Mother Shynes retired from Federal Civil Service and was actively involved in several community, civic, religious boards and organizations. She organized a national women's prayer group, "Power of Prayer" that spread out in 22 states. Let us thank God for the gift of Ms. Elencie Shynes who generously dedicated her life as an evangelizer for the Lord. She preached the Good News in word, action and attitude in every walk of life. May she rest in peace!

**The following announcement has been approved by
Xavier University of Louisiana**



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