

Sr. Jamie T. Phelps, O.P., Ph.D. IBCS Endowed Scholarship

On November 22, 2025, Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P., Ph. D., died at the age of 84 at her Adrian Dominican motherhouse in Michigan. Sister was one of the most significant shapers of and contributors to Black Catholic Theology. A charter member of two seminal organizations for the field, the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) and the Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS), her tenacity and passion helped pave the way for Black Catholic studies.

At the IBCS, she served as Director and as Katherine Drexel Professor of Systematic Theology for eight years. After the first two meetings of the BCTS in 1978 and 1980, the organization became inactive for more than a decade. It was Sr. Jamie, along with Dr. Shawn Copeland, who reinvigorated it in 1991, serving as convenor and associate convenor, respectively, for the next decade. Sr. Jamie's work with the IBCS and the BCTS created space both to educate and support pastoral ministers in Black Catholic history and spirituality, and to foster scholars of Black Catholic theology, providing regular forums to convene, share ideas and ultimately publish their work.

Her books, *Black and Catholic: The Challenge and Gift of Black Folk* and *Stamped in the Image of God*, are foundational to the field. Additionally, Sr. Jamie has published more than fifty articles and chapters that have appeared in some of the most prominent scholarly books and journals in the field, and she has taught and lectured extensively (from "Responding To The Call: A Conversation with Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P., Ph.D.," Journal of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium: Vol. 13, Article 3. Available at: <https://ecommons.udayton.edu/jbcts/vol13/iss1/3>).

Sr. Jamie has been a member of the Adrian Dominican Sisters since 1959. In 2022, the congregation endowed a scholarship in her honor to provide financial support for full-time students enrolled in the Institute for Black Catholic Studies. The endowment is intended to 1) help support the program that Sr. Jamie helped to establish and that plays a vital role in the Catholic Church and society, 2) "make reparation for the congregation's past participation in structural racism and 3) "support new pathways towards racial justice". The Institute for Black Catholic Studies will always bless Sr./Dr. Jamie T. Phelps and her Adrian Dominican Sisters for their dedication to God's beloved people that has established so remarkable a legacy.



Jamie T. Phelps, O.P., Ph.D. IBCS Scholarship Summer 2026 Application GENERAL INFORMATION

To satisfy summer session tuition, fees, room & board for fulltime IBCS Degree and C&E students awardees. Fulltime consists of three weeks of Degree or Continuing Ed courses. Funds available for IBCS 2026 is expected to support 4 Degree and 2 Continuing Education awards.

ELIGIBILITY: 1) Recipients shall be students of African American or African descent, enrolled full-time in the IBCS. 2) Degree students must have a grade point average of 3.0 or better. 3) Demonstration of financial need will be a consideration.

TO APPLY:

- ENROLL and be accepted as a full-time student in the Degree or C&E Program
- USE this XULA Financial Aid link <https://xula.scholarshipuniverse.com/student/dashboard> to complete the Sr. Jamie T. Phelps, O.P., Ph.D. IBCS Endowed Scholarship application w/requested ID, employment and basic income data.

- UPLOAD documentation to support the application:
 - 500-700-word essay, prompt is provided;
 - Copies of applicant's most recent W-2 income tax forms
 - Three (3) letters of recommendation from parish/ school/community colleagues to verify applicant's commitment to Black Catholic community and active involvement in evangelization or other ministry in church, parish or social justice setting; see IBCS website for Recommendation Letter form
 - Degree Students must submit their latest transcript(s) of academic records, including the most recent IBCS transcript.

The deadline for submission of scholarship materials is APRIL 15, 2026. Incomplete or late applications are not guaranteed consideration for a 2026 award.

For more information or to apply, contact the Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships
(504) 520-7835, jmiles@xula.edu or sneal3@xula.edu.

1/21/26



Institute for Black Catholic Studies
XAVIER UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

