



**IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2026
JUNE 28 - JULY 17, 2026**

**2026 Master of Theology Degree Program
Associate Director, C. Vanessa White, D.Min.**

The IBCS Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the one graduate theology program in the USA taught from Black Catholic perspectives. Its curriculum is interdisciplinary. Courses focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, family and pastoral ministry, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Established in 1980 in historic New Orleans on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the IBCS is dedicated to academic learning, prayer, worship and community-building. The Th.M. program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious or lay ecclesial ministers in the Black community, church and community at-large. The Degree program also welcomes scholars seeking on-going religious study, visiting graduate students and ministers who desire to expand, enhance and enrich their general theological studies by exploring the Catholic theological tradition and its particular meaning for the social and spiritual experiences of Black people in the U.S. and beyond. For more information, new, transient and returning applicants can access the IBCS website at [Institute for Black Catholic Studies | Xavier University of Louisiana](#).

Morning Courses

IBTH 5030 Black Approaches to Scripture. Black history, culture, and experience are presented as a locus for responding to the Word of Scripture. Methods and tools of biblical exegesis are introduced; similarities between biblical mentality and Black mentality, and problem texts are also discussed. Mark Enemali, C.S.Sp., Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 a.m.) **Core Course.** (3 units).

IBTH 5081 Christology Studies the Kingdom of God as announced in the teaching, healing ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, particularly as these are understood in the African American community from the perspective of liberation and black theologies. Byron Wratee, Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45-11:45 a.m.) **Area Requirement.** (3 units).

IBTH 5430 Spirituality of Black Literature. Uses selected works of African American literature as a resource for the study of the spirituality of a people. It attempts to understand and articulate the spirituality expressed in the words, songs, prayers, relationships, and daily lives of Black people, as they are found in imaginative works. Ernest Gibson, Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 a.m.) **Area Requirement.** (3 units).

Afternoon Courses

IBTH 5010 Black Approaches to Theology. Stresses the nature, methods and sources of Black Theology; the reasons justifying its existence and its relationship to other theologies within the Roman Catholic Tradition. Cary W Dabney, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45 p.m.) **Introduction.** (3 units).

IBTH 5600 Moral Questions in the Black Community. Intends to establish a dialogue (a mutual critique and enrichment) between African American and Roman Catholic approaches to ethical issues, focusing on matters of particular concern to African Americans. Nicole Symmonds, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45 p.m.) **Core Course.** (3 units).