



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

August 28, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, the work of the church doesn't slow down for the summer, and we've been hard at work putting together virtual programming to keep you connected to spread the good news. We are working to celebrate the gifts and faith of the Black community, which is an integral part of our Universal Church.

September 12 – 30th Anniversary Celebration of Keep On Teaching

On September 12th at 1pm we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the *Keep On Teaching* program. *Keep On Teaching* is a catechetical ministry established to engage catechists to factor culture (both Black and Catholic) and its deep roots into their catechetical planning and implementation. This year's workshop theme is "A Dance Between Mystery, Meaning: Exploring the Liturgical Seasons". The featured speaker is Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow. Dr. Bellow is a lifelong Catholic and is the director of the Xavier University Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS.) IBCS is the first and primary national center for the study of the Black Catholic experience. Dr. Ximena DeBroeck, director of the Division of Catechetical and Pastoral Formation will also provide information to evangelize ourselves, our families, our parish and local community. She will highlight resources for catechetical formation with a presentation titled "The Path In Front of Us." Click the link to register for the event [Keep On Teaching Registration Link](#).

September 15 Information Session - Reimagining the Office of Black Catholics

Also tremendously exciting is the reimagining of the Office of Black Catholics. The office is aggressively seeking to propose ways to effectively meet pastoral, social, and cultural issues relating to Black Catholics; and to strive for the evangelization of the broader community. Planning is underway to implement an action plan to deliver on key priorities that foster development of the rich diversity of the Black Catholic community.

Five-Minute Survey – Tell Us What You Think!

We've just concluded an organizational assessment and key findings included to insure that the office is leveraged as a resources for all parishes. As we continue our mission-driven work and supporting parish and our community, we are looking for volunteers to help execute the mission of the Office. If you are interested please join us for an information session on September 15th a 6:00pm. Click the link to register [https://zoom.us/OBCM Information Session](https://zoom.us/OBCM%20Information%20Session)

If you need help with technology please contact us at obcm@archbalt.org. We will seek to pair you with a technology savvy parishioner.

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We are also conducting a pulse survey to obtain about how we can better support the archdiocese. Please take the time to complete the very short, five minute survey which will provide further insight into how members are feeling about the offering of the Office of Black Catholics. Click the link to complete the survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/OBCM survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/OBCM_survey)

Please continue to pray fervently for the wisdom, courage, and resolve needed to live the gospel.

Sincerely,

Sherita Thomas
Interim Director, Office of Black Catholic Ministries