

## RESOURCES FOR CATECHESIS IN THE BLACK PERSPECTIVE

**Brothers and Sisters to Us.** Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.

*Description:* This 1979 document speaks to racism as a fact of American life and focuses on the economic effects of racism. The document sites scriptural and doctrinal sources to condemn racism. It also acknowledges the Church's participation in the oppression of people of color.

Costen, Melba Wilson. **African American Christian Worship.** Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

*Description:* The author traces the impact of culture on the evolution of forms and styles of worship with engaging stories in a lively history and theology of the African American worship experience. This book answers such questions as: How did African American denominations and congregations emerge? How were African Americans influenced by various denominations? What roles do preaching, prayer, and music play in worship?

Davis, Cyprian. **The History of Black Catholics in the United States.** New York, NY: Crossroads Publishing Co.

*Description:* In the first full-length treatment of the Black Catholic experience Father Cyprian Davis presents the events, tales, and chronicles that bring the reader a truer and more inclusive view of the Catholic Church in this country. This valuable contribution to our understanding of African American religious life is an excellent resource for educators.

**Faith and Culture: A Multicultural Catechetical Resource.** Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.

*Description:* This book is a collection of articles written by some of the leadership of the Black, Hispanic, Southeast Asian and Native-American communities. In addition to presenting theoretical foundations for culture and catechesis, the book also offers suggestions for leadership development, program designs and few current resources.

**Families: Black and Catholic, Catholic and Black.** Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.

*Description:* A collection of articles, program suggestions, strategies and liturgies that describe, nurture and celebrate the Black family.

**God Bless Them Who Have Their Own: African American Catechetical Camp Meetin': A Gathering to Chart a New Course.** Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.

*Description:* Vibrant presentations from a meeting in Baltimore of African American Catholic scholars and catechetical leaders. Based on the historical "camp meetin's" where African religious expression formed and grew. This work explores the pastoral, doctrinal, and historical dimensions of catechesis in and among African American Catholics in the United States.

**Here I Am Lord, Send Me: The National Black Catholic Pastoral Plan.** Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

*Description :* This pastoral plan is a product of the sixth National Black Catholic Congress held in 1987. It is a rich depiction of the message and experience of the Congress. Includes discussion guides.



Holtzclaw, Robert Fulton. **Black Citizens of Heaven**. Shaker Heights, OH: The Keeble Press, Inc.  
*Description:* This book contains short biographical sketches of 30 black saints with minimal art work. It is the second book written by the author on African saints. **The Saints Go Marching In** was his first.

Jones, Nathan. **Advent, Christmas, Kwanzaa: Festivals of Love**. Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

*Description:* This book incorporates the Christian Celebration of Advent and Christmas with the cultural celebration of Kwanzaa with teaching/learning guides and ritual suggestions.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Blood is Thicker Than Water: Celebrating Black History**. Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

*Description:* This teaching/learning guide reflects on the life and values of Blacks in relationships to their Christian heritage. A ritual of discipleship is included.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Crossing Over: Teaching And Celebrating Sacraments in the Black Church**. Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

*Description:* This series of booklets reflect on Black life in the context of the seven sacraments of the church. Pastoral and catechetical guidelines are suggested. Two lesson plans are offered for each sacrament. The authors also provide some suggestions for the liturgical celebration of the sacraments.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Housecleaning: Lent to Easter**. Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

*Description:* This teaching/learning guide on the season of Lent and the feast of Easter explores the need of Blacks to “get their house in order” by identifying the internal and external disorder that prevents Blacks from rising to their full stature as citizens of the world and members of the Church. A ritual of hand washing is included.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Keep it Always: The Spirituality of Black Americans**. Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

*Description:* In this meditation and study resource for personal and ministerial enrichment the spiritual pilgrimage of Blacks is reflected through poems, folktales, biographical vignettes and proverbs.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Sharing the Old, Old Story**. Winona, MN: St. Mary’s Press.

*Description:* This is the first catholic text published for catechist formation in Black communities of the United States. It offers the foundational principles for Black catechesis including a rationale and basic strategies. Excerpts from the book can be readily used in adult education programs for the learners’ reading and enrichment.

**Many Rains Ago**. Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.

*Description:* This historical and theological reflection on the role of the episcopate in the evangelization of African American Catholics includes three presentations and an evening prayer service held to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. church.

Pasteur, Alfred B. & Toldson, Ivory. **The Roots of Soul**. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press/Doubleday.

*Description:* Beginning with an affirmation of Black culture the book illustrates how culture influences Black verbal and behavioral expressiveness. The authors describes the characteristics of Black expressiveness. This book is an important resource for educators and other ministers who wish to enhance their ability to communicate effectively with Blacks.



**Plenty Good Room: The Spirit and Truth of African American Catholic Worship.** Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.

*Description:* This is a reflection on solid principles, interesting facts, and necessary information that ought to be the foundations of efforts at transforming liturgy for African American Catholics. It is a “must read” for pastors, parish liturgy commissions, and individuals who love liturgy.

Rivers, Clarence. **Soulful Worship.** Cincinnati, OH: Stimuli, Inc.

*Description:* This is a collection of essays on the principle considerations for planning meaningful liturgies in Black communities. The author addresses the nature of liturgy, the role of the worshipping community, the power of the Black oral tradition, the depth of black religious music and the presider’s role. The book also includes a few sample liturgy outlines. The language used in the liturgies is not inclusive. But minimal adaptations will render them useful guidelines for parish liturgical ministers.

\_\_\_\_\_. **The Spirit in Worship.** Cincinnati, OH: Stimuli, Inc.

*Description:* This is a classic work including a collection of essays on issues related to developing Black Catholic liturgy. Fr. Rivers, America’s pioneer Black liturgist, asks questions that are still relevant for today’s liturgical situation. The issues he addresses are still problematic in the Black Catholic community.

Sims, Edward. **Black Family Rituals.** New York, NY: United Church Board for Homeland Missions.

*Description:* This set of booklets offers culturally relevant approaches for celebrating the significant events of life: birth, family meals, passage into adulthood, marriage and death. The author purposefully focuses on life experiences that parallel themes of the Christian sacraments.

**Tell It Like It Is: A Black Catholic Perspective on Christian Education.** Oakland, CA: The National Black Sisters’ Conference.

*Description:* This collection of essays promotes a holistic concept of catechesis by incorporating the areas of theology, spirituality, history, culture, education, psychology, sociology and liturgy. The book offers suggestions for catechist formation and practical strategies for program development.

Thomas, Latta. **Biblical Faith and the Black American.** Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press.

*Description:* This book speaks to the importance of the scriptures for Black people and offers a Black interpretation of scripture. Questions for future study are included in each chapter. The author identifies biblical themes to be highlighted in the context of the Black struggle for liberation.

**U.S. Catholic Historian, Vol.5, No.1, 1986.** East Brunswick, NJ: U.S. Catholic Historical Society.

*Description:* This special issue presents a historical perspective on the Black Catholic experience. Feature articles include Black Catholic history, Black liturgy and evangelization.

**U.S. Catholic Historian, Spr/Sum 1988.** East Brunswick, NJ: U.S. Catholic Historical Society.

*Description:* This special issue on the Black Catholic community from the 1880-1987 includes the texts of all major addresses given at the 1987 National Black Catholic Congress, as well as other timely articles of particular interest to the Black Catholic community. The concerns addressed at the 1987 Black Congress are offered within a historical context of other national gatherings and organizations developed within the U.S. to address the ministerial needs of Blacks.



Walker, Addie; Eva Lumas; Rawn Harbor. **Step by Step, We'll Make this Journey.**  
Oakland, CA: The National Black Sisters' Conference.

**Description:** This book is a program outline and ministerial handbook for implementing the RCIA in the Black community. The text provides a conceptual framework and sample lesson plans for the RCIA's catechetical sessions. Liturgical suggestions are made and there are practical reflections on the role of the RCIA ministerial team.

Walker, Wyatt Tee. **Spirits that Dwell in the Deep Woods.** New York, NY: Martin Luther King Fellow Press.

**Description:** The author plumbs some of the Black prayer and praise hymns to identify their biblical roots, their theological perspective and their contemporary significance.

**We Will Share in Love** . Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

**Description:** This program model for parish renewal based on the Black Bishops' Pastoral letter, "*What We Have Seen and Heard*", includes filmstrips, audio cassettes and guides.

**What We've Seen and Heard.** Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

**Description:** The 1984 Pastoral Letter on Evangelization written by the Black Bishops of the United States encourages Black Catholics to evangelize themselves by drawing on their own distinct gifts: their spirituality, culture and religious sense. It describes Black spirituality, includes Pope Paul VI's call for a Black expression of the faith, and addresses some specific pastoral issues in the Black community: i.e., education, family cohesion and liturgy.

**What We've Seen and Heard: Study Guide.** Washington, DC: Josephite Pastoral Center.

**Description:** The guide offers lesson plans and session designs for discussing and applying the content of the Black Bishops' Pastoral. Allows persons to reflect on the pastoral letter as it applies to their own personal faith journey and to their parish.

