



BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION OFFICE EST. 1884

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Archdiocese of Anchorage, AK
Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA
Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD
Diocese of Beaumont, TX
Diocese of Birmingham, AL
Diocese of Fargo, ND
Diocese of Helena, MT
Diocese of Jackson, MS

Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA
Archdiocese of Louisville, KY
Diocese of Memphis, TN
Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA
Diocese of Phoenix, AZ
Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM
Archdiocese of Seattle, WA

Up-to-date links to diocesan vocations offices can be found on the all-new Black and Indian Vocations Portal at <http://www.blackandindianmission.org/vocations/>.

Want to find out more about serving the Lord?



(Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2)

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Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Belcourt, ND)

St. Ann's Indian Mission



Gila River Reservation (Phoenix, AZ)

Reverend W. Carroll Paysse
Executive Director
Black and Indian Mission Office

You'll find in this brochure a Prayer for Vocations, testimonies from Black and Indian communities and other helpful resources. Rediscover your faith — professed, celebrated, lived and prayed. May you find joy and renewed enthusiasm in your encounter with Christ.

Are you personally being called to consider a vocation to ordination or to consecrated life? Protect and love God's invitation to share in the mission of Jesus. You can use your cultural gifts to serve as a sister, priest, brother or deacon in the Catholic Church today. Please give it serious consideration.

Let them know what you see in them and pray for their discernment. Some say that there is a lack of African American and Native American vocations because there is a history of exclusion...but no more! In your family or parish, do you know a single man or woman, 18 or older, who in your opinion has these qualities?

- Is willing to **sacrifice** personal or material gain for the **service of the Gospel** and the Church
- Considers a personal **relationship with God** — through sacraments, scripture and prayer — as an important part of life
- Has physical, mental and emotional **health**
- **Enjoys life, loves people** and has a good **sense of humor**

Qualities Desired in a Candidate for Priesthood and/or Religious Life

The Black and Indian Mission Office seeks to engage both African American and Native American communities in calling forth from among themselves men and women to experience the joy of discipleship by becoming sisters, priests, brothers and deacons. Our all-good God requests open hearts and faithful servants of the Gospel who will spend themselves for the People of God and their needs.

Pope Benedict XVI has said, "It is essential that every local Church become more sensitive and attentive to the pastoral care of vocations."

Dear Friend,

"We want to witness to young people that vocations are possible for Black people in the Catholic Church."



Holy Family Cristo Rey School (Birmingham, AL)

— Sister Donna Banfield, SBS

— Factoids —

- St. Katharine Drexel (1888-1955) dedicated herself and her inheritance to the needs of oppressed Native Americans and African Americans and was a vocal advocate of racial tolerance.
- *Native American Catholics at the Millennium*, a survey report, suggests that dioceses work to identify and then prepare Native people to be ministers—clergy, religious, lay—to serve the needs of the Native Catholic population.
- More than 340 parishes in the United States serve predominately Native American communities. There are less than 5 Native American bishops and approximately 15 priests
- The *Tekakwitha Conference* began in 1939, when it convened missionaries and Native American laymen to discuss their pastoral concerns about Northern Plains native communities.
- 30% of U.S. (arch) dioceses have offices or programs targeting Native American Catholics.
- You can visit *Profiles in Faith* at www.blackandindianmission.org to learn more about African American and Native American Catholic witnesses.
- There are 3 million African American Catholics in the United States...more than 10 Black Bishops, 200 Black priests, 50 brothers and 350 sisters
- Approximately 20% of all Native Americans residing in the United States consider themselves Roman Catholics. 2.9 million people identified themselves as Native Americans or Alaska Natives. Of this number, it is estimated that 200,000 are Roman Catholics.
- The U.S Catholic Conference authored *Keep Your Hand on the Plow*, a study of the African American presence in and contributions to the Catholic Church in the U.S.
- Almost 100 Black and Indian Catholic Mission schools receive annual grants for their evangelization efforts.
- Since 1987, the Black Catholic Congress has met every five years to discern pastoral priorities.
- Basic Directions in Native American Ministry Institute is held annually at the Sioux Spiritual Center in South Dakota.

*USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity; USCCB Papal Visit Backgrounder; Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions; Catholic Negro American Mission Board

"When you have Native Americans doing the ministry they bring an aspect that no one else can bring."
— Fr. Dale Jamison, OFM
Native American Outreach, Diocese of Phoenix

ALPHA CYBER CONNECTIONS

- Black and Indian Mission Office (<http://www.blackandindianmission.org>)
- National Black Catholic Seminarians Association (NBCSA) www.facebook.com/NBCSA
- National Tekakwitha Conference (<http://www.tekconf.org/>)
- Native Clergy and Religious Association (<http://www.dioceseofmarquette.org/parish.asp?parishID=208>)
- The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC) <http://www.nbccc-us.com>
- The National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) <http://www.nbsc68.com>
- The USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (<http://www.usccb.org/about/clergy-consecrated-life-and-vocations/>)
- USCCB Facebook page for vocations: www.facebook.com/foryourvocation.



Our Lady of the Sioux Chapel, St. Joseph's Indian School (Chamberlain, SD)



St. Augustine Catholic Church and School (Washington, DC)



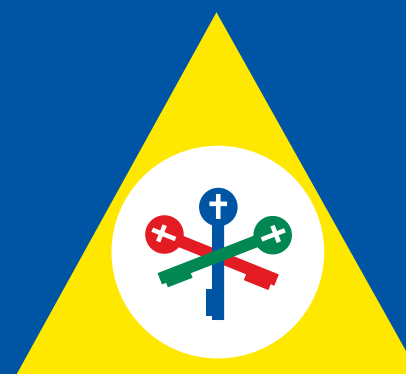
Yankton Sioux Reservation (Marty, SD)

"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them."
— St Katharine Drexel



prayer for vocations

Creator of all peoples and cultures, lead faith-filled men and women to **hear** the call to **serve** your Catholic Church. Bless today's sisters, priests, brothers and deacons with zeal and perseverance. **Rekindle** in them the **fire** of the Holy Spirit. Grant that many will be inspired by their lived faith and lives of **service**. I earnestly **pray** for an increase of vocations among African American and Native American communities. Draw to your extravagant and loving heart, O God, Black and Indian candidates to **serve** not only their own people but also the universal Church. Especially do I pray for _____ ; may I/she/he hear your call to be a prophetic presence, bringing **Christ** to an ever-changing world. **Bless** the evangelization efforts of the Black and Indian Mission Office in its vocation **outreach** across the United States. Through, with and in our brother, Jesus. **Amen.**



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