

Black Catholic History Month Celebration

Presentation

The Archdiocese of Seattle Black Catholic Advisory Circle, Immaculate Conception Parish, and Seattle University Campus Ministry, Center for Jesuit Education, and Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture celebrate Black Catholic History Month with an event on **November 14 at 4 p.m.-5:30p.m. (Pacific)**, with an evening of conversation, music, and reflection with Dr. Ansel Augustine.

Audience- Seattle University and parishes of BCAC, others

Topic - Living Witnesses: Black Catholic Faith Past, Present, and Promise

Objective of the presentation – We desire to create a space of learning and encounter that lifts up the rich history and stories of Black Catholic faith, and invites attendees to reflect on its implications for the present and future of the Catholic Church. Attendees will reflect on their own experience of bringing their whole selves in all its richness as gift to the Church, and will imagine how to live as a Body of Christ that offers these spaces for all. We hope this event, aimed at both college aged students and wider Seattle Catholic community, will inspire and energize participants to learn about Black Catholic history, reflect on our current reality in its opportunities and challenges, and imagine ways forward for the Church.

Context/Purpose: Inspired by [Sr. Thea Bowman's address to the USCCB in 1989](#), where she posed the question “What does it mean to be Black and Catholic”? And answered: “It means that I come to my Church fully functioning.... I bring myself, my black self, all that I am, all that I have, all that I hope to become, I bring my whole history, my traditions, my experience, my culture, my African-American song and dance and gesture and movement and teaching and preaching and healing and responsibility as gift to the Church.”

Content/Flow of the evening (4-5:30 p.m. Seattle; 6-7:30p.m. Louisiana)

We envision the evening taking 1.5 hours, with an approximately 20 minute presentation by Dr. Augustine, in 3 parts. The 3 main questions being answered by Dr. Augustine. Between each response there will be a song to transition between movements. The music will help give participants a prayerful experience that shows the gifts of Black Catholic worship. Music will be shared by Sherell Mitchell (Director of Music at Immaculate Conception Church), and Bill McNamara (Campus Minister for Liturgical Music)

Note: Times are in Pacific. JoAnn (SU) will run all technology

3:30 p.m. – Planning team to log on to the call.

3:45 p.m. – Waiting Room will be opened to guests
(as people gather: instrumental music)

4:00 p.m.: Introductions, Welcome, Opening prayer - Barbara Connor

(Will include a reference to the question/answer from Sr. Thea to frame the evening., invite folks into reflection on their own life and context, bring your whole self; Give folks the reflection questions to hold through the gathering.)

Praise and worship prayer song to start: “Praise the Lord with Me/Bless the Lord with Me”

4:20 p.m.-5:00 p.m. – Dr. Ansel Augustine speaking, with musical arrangements punctuating, giving folks space to pray and reflect throughout.

4:20 p.m.: Movement 1 (5 mins)

- *Share your own Black Catholic faith story and context, how has your faith impacted your life? (in the context of family, community, states you lived in, etc.)*

4:27 p.m.: Song: *Wintley Phipps “Here’s One” – dialogue naming holy ones from Black Catholic History – pre-recorded by Bill and Sherrell.*

4:35 p.m.: Movement 2 (5mins)

- *What have you learned from the history and the faith stories of Black Catholics? How is Black Catholic Faith authentically Black and authentically Catholic?*

4:42 p.m.: Song: TBD

4:50 p.m.: Movement 3 (5mins)

- *Help us imagine – what would the Church look like if we lived Sr. Thea Bowman’s hope for the Church to be a place where folks can show up as their whole self in all their identity, fully functioning? How might our community, our worship, our leadership, etc. look different?*

4:55 p.m.: Song: *M. Roger Holland “All of Me, Ode to Sr. Thea”*

5:05 p.m.: Q&A ☒ Deacon Joseph to host a Q&A (people submit them in the chat to JoAnn throughout the presentation)

5:15 p.m.: Thank you, Announcements, Closing Prayer: SeVera Dowe

Attendees from Seattle will be invited to join us for in-person 8p.m. Mass at the Chapel of St. Ignatius, with Deacon Joseph Connor assisting at Mass and preaching.

Background/Logistics:

Seattle University staff will take care of all technology (Zoom meetings, etc.).