

MULTICULTURAL CATECHESIS

PHILOSOPHY

Just as all races, ethnicities, and cultures in the world are represented in the population of the United States, so too do they find a home within the Catholic Church. Each group brings its own language, history, customs, rituals, and traditions “for building up the body of Christ” (Eph 4:12). Since persons can only achieve their full humanity by means of culture, the Catholic Church in the United States embraces the rich cultural pluralism of all the faithful, encourages the distinctive identity of each cultural group, and urges mutual enrichment. At the same time, the Catholic Church promotes unity of faith within the multicultural diversity of the people.
(NDC 11C 1)

We as church are called to be a welcoming community to a steady flow of newcomers, who speak a variety of languages and come from diverse cultures. Paying attention to multicultural diversity has become one of the fundamental characteristics of the archdiocese of Los Angeles. Within the mission statement for the archdiocese states that “*With Christ, we affirm the bonds that unite. We commit ourselves to remove the barriers that divide people in the large, complex and multicultural society of Southern California.*” Embedded in the Synod initiatives, we are called to pay attention to the rich diversity in the church and to encourage active participation of all according to each one’s particular gifts.

Faced with this reality catechesis is presented with tremendous challenges and opportunities. For if the starting point of our approach to catechesis is the *life experience* of the learners, then the catechetical process must be rooted in an understanding of the cultural background of its learners. More so, it goes beyond recognition and awareness of the diverse makeup of the church and delve into a deep understanding of how this diverse body incarnate Christ in their context. It is presenting the Gospel in relation to the hopes, questions and problems which culture present. Failure to incorporate this would lead to a danger of making religion and faith irrelevant, and divorced from the reality of everyday living.

The Office of Religious Education committed to its mission statement to “respond to the multicultural diversity of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles” sees its role as an advocate of multicultural catechesis and strongly supports parishes in their efforts of ministry and raising their communities’ consciousness of the growing needs of our ethnically diverse Archdiocese. Even in culturally homogeneous areas and parishes, catechesis should be multicultural in the sense that all should be educated to know and respect other cultural, racial and ethnic groups. The office is committed to serving and forming catechetical leadership that promotes and integrates the diverse perspective of both learners and catechists. Specific strategies and techniques to implement multicultural catechesis are reflected in the following goals that embodies the intertwining of faith and culture.

GOALS

Inculturation of the Christian Message:

“The theology of this multicultural Church is Inculturation Theology, the recognition that faith must become culture, if it is to be fully received and lived.” (Towards a Theology of Inculturation p. xi.). Thus the heart of multicultural catechesis is **inculturation of the Christian message** – a process that brings the transforming power of the Gospel to touch persons in their hearts and cultures at their deepest levels (NDC, 25F). It involves “listening to the culture of the people for the echo of the word of God” (NDC, 21C.) Among the many tasks of inculturation we find that catechesis needs:

- To discover the seeds of the Gospel that may be present in the culture (NDC, 21C) :
 - enabling those being catechized to become more able to explain the faith to others in the culture in which they live and to be able to “give reason for their hope” (NDC,25F)
- To know and respect the essential elements and basic expressions of the culture of the persons to whom catechesis is addressed (NDC, 21C) .
 - engage cultural symbols, integrating them with scriptures
 - develop catechesis that taps into popular devotions of cultural groups.
- To Express the need to communicate the Christian message through patterns of thought, history, culture and experience so that various culture could perceive the “Good News’ as addressed to them, in their own uniqueness and concrete situations.
 - inspire identity and pride in the riches of the cultures in order to bring them forth as an offering of gifts to the larger community.
 - develop and use culturally appropriate catechetical methods, tools, texts and resources (NDC,25F).
- To bring to those in the dominant culture the other cultures’ insight and actions, both as leaven and challenge.
 - Enhance the building up of the Catholic/Christian community and the integration into the larger society by understanding the Church through respect and appreciation of the people and cultures within.
 - Celebrate differences, value diversity as part in building cultural awareness
- To resource a variety of media and draws from a variety of disciplines to communicate and engage in a multicultural dialogue.
 - develop and use culturally appropriate catechetical methods, tools, texts and resources (NDC,25F)

Developing Catechetical Leaders

Multicultural catechesis invests in developing and nurturing creative talents that mirrors the “many faces in God’s house.” It ensures that our diocesan cultural makeup is reflected in our formational and leadership program. Multicultural catechesis is informed by those who minister within the individual cultures, therefore the following goals have to be seriously considered:

- Involve persons of various cultures in planning catechetical mission and that various requirements of diverse cultures are responded to (NDC, 25 F).
- Prepare catechists in their native language and cultural situations (NDC 25F).
- Provide catechists the opportunity to further develop their own religious education and spiritual formation in a multicultural perspective for an understanding of each culture's world view, their concept of God and their value system.

Programs/Processes

ORE Consultants

The office has consultants who specialize not only serving the needs of the various communities: African-Americans, Blacks, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic-Americans, but of equal importance ..

They:

- provide information and assistance to the parishes and their diverse cultures in their catechetical programs for children, youth and adult
- provide support for leadership and catechetical training programs to the cultural communities in English or their native languages
- provide consultation to other ORE consultants regarding ..

The great number of Catholics in our parishes that arrive constantly from the different Latin-American countries and speak only Spanish, require special attention. For this reason, the Office of Religious Education also has several Consultants to serve the catechetical needs of only Spanish-speaking, from pre-school to adults.

The Office of Religious Education regularly sponsors programs for the formation of catechists (see Catechetical Ministry section of the guidelines) and other general religious education programs, both in English, Spanish and other languages. These programs are planned and notices are sent to parish's Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education every month.

Catechesis in the Asian and Pacific Islander Perspective

Background and Context of Asian-Pacific Communities

"This Being Asian" is best discovered and affirmed not in confrontation and opposition, but in the spirit of complementarity and harmony. In this framework of complementarity and harmony, the church can communicate the gospel in a way that is faithful both to her own tradition and to the Asian soul. (Ecclesia in Asia, no. 6)

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Asian and Pacific Americans comprise 4.4% of the U.S. population or 12.5 million strong and growing. Their presence is called a "teaching moment" for the American Church. This prompted the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops to issue the 2001 pastoral statement, *Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith* which "focuses attention on the little-known Asian and Pacific communities rooted in the United States, as well as new

immigrants about whom we should learn more, and whom we should acknowledge as integral parts of the Church in the United States” (*Harmony in Faith*, p.4). It is written for all Catholics and especially to our Asian and Pacific brothers and sisters to:

- *recognize and affirm with loving assurance their presence and prominence in the church*
- *facilitate a fuller appreciation of their communities in our local churches*
- *encourage Asian and Pacific communities to take an active leadership roles in every level of church life.*

Ministry to Asian and Pacific Islander communities starts with a recognition that there is no homogeneous Asian and Pacific Islander community. They exhibit great complexities and disparities in ethnicity, language, culture, place of birth and religious tradition. Some of the Asian groups have been in the United States for several generations. Others are recent immigrants. It is vital that those in ministry with them are sensitive and aware of this truth.

The Office of Religious Education is committed in its ministry not only to Asian and Pacific Islander Americans but also to those who are in ministry to/with them. *Catechesis in the Asian and Pacific Perspective* calls for a contextualized and inculturated theology in developing formation programs for catechetical and other lay ministerial leadership in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Such formation programs incorporates Asian and Pacific theology, spirituality, cultures and traditions.

Most Asian and Pacific communities have their own pastoral/catechetical centers within a parish which is important for both the *enculturation* (*on-going transmission of culture*) and *acculturation* (*adaptation to the American culture*) processes. Religious education and adult faith formations programs are conducted in both the native and English languages. The Office of Religious Education collaborates with these centers, sharing resources, inviting participation in the archdiocesan formation programs and at the same time encouraging the communities to share the richness of their respective cultures and expressions of faith to the whole church.

Catechesis in the Asian and Pacific Perspective will focus on the following:

- Provide leadership and catechetical formation to persons of Asian and Pacific Island origins thus increase their involvement in the mission and ministry of the archdiocese of Los Angeles.
- Implement the U.S. Bishops’ recommendation to a pastoral approach of ministry to the Asian and Pacific Islander communities that fully explores the potential benefit of the *threefold dialogue with cultures, religions, and the poor* which could be fruitful at all levels of the Church. (Asian and Pacific Presence p. 25)

Dialogue with Cultures: “*The duty of catechesis for inculturation of the faith is “to recognize a cultural dimension in the gospel itself while affirming, on the other hand, that this does not spring from some human*

cultural humus, and recognizing, on the other, that the Gospel cannot be isolated from the cultures in which it was initially inserted and in which it has found expression through the centuries.” (Asian and Pacific Presence p. 26).

- Develop an understanding, appreciation, and incorporation of Asian and Pacific theology, spirituality, cultures and traditions
- Bring forth distinctive cultural aspects/values of Asian and Pacific communities that enrich the church, thus ‘proclaiming the transforming and regenerating force that the Gospel works in every culture’ (NDC, 21C).
- Nourish and challenge popular faith expressions so that the positive aspects of the culture could be affirmed and shared, but most of all to lead to an understanding on how the Gospel is incarnated in such a practice thus maintain the integral content of faith (NDC, 21C)
- Welcome and allow Asian and Pacific communities to use their respective language and culture to bear witness and express the common faith of the church (NDC, 21C).
- Incorporate educational materials that utilize evocative pedagogy using stories, parables, and symbols respectful of Asian and Pacific heritage, faith practices and teaching methods (Asian and Pacific Presence p.23)

in a multicultural church to develop increased awareness of “others”, valuing cultural and ethnic realities within church settings, learning the differing cultural modes of expression. This is not just for the Asian and Pacific Islander communities but for the whole church to develop skills in communicating effectively with each other.

Dialogue with Religions: Recognizing that Asia is the birthplace of major religions,

- Engage in the key themes of spirituality and theology of Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Taoism, and other indigenous religions which is essential to understanding Asian and Pacific traditions and values and how these values await their fulfillment in the revelation of Jesus Christ ((*Asian and Pacific Presence p. 16*).

Dialogue with the Poor. The framework of a dialogue with the poor with our Asian and Pacific communities “comes out of the reality of their homelands” ((*Asian and Pacific Presence p. 26*).

- Take into consideration the community experiences of injustices either as a refugee and/or an immigrant, that might have shaped their images of God, concept of church and social justice.

15 May 2006

RESOURCES

Catechesis in the Asian and Pacific Islanders Perspective

Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith; USCCB. 2001

Asian Pacific Pastoral Ministry Handbook; Office of Ethnic Groups Ministry,
Archdiocese of
Los Angeles. 1990.

A Catholic Response to the Asian Presence National Catholic Education
Association.(NCEA),
Washington, DC. 1990

Christianity with an Asian Face, Peter C. Phan; 2003 Orbis Books

Come and See . Columban Mission Education Program (A diversity and global

awareness Resource , School and Parish Editions)
Free loan materials from the Columban Fathers, St. Columban, NE 68056,
(402) 291-1920.

Ecclesia in America, Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Pope John Paul II. 1999,
USCCB

Ecclesia in Asia, Apostolic Exhortation, Pope John Paul II. Pauline Publishing House,
Philippines. 2000.

Handog at Papuri Book - A Resource Manual on Filipino Religious Traditions.
Office of
Religious Education. Los Angeles. 1996

It's the Lord! Tagle, Luis Antonii G. DD. Loyola School of Theology, Philippines.
2003

Journeying with Mary. Castillo. Noemi and Kyte, Rev. Michael, O.P. Editors.
Journeying with
Mary Foundation. 1996.

The Philippine Rites of Mary. Joaquin, Nick. Editor. Philippines. 1982

Welcoming the Stranger Among Us; Unity in Diversity; USCCB. 2000.

Websites

Asian Cultures

Asian (general)

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/> (UCLA Asian American Studies)

<http://asianpacific.la-archdiocese.org/feastdays1999.htm>

Chinese

<http://www.chinapage.com/newyear.html> (Chinese calendar – its meaning and symbols)

<http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phalsall/texts.html> - (Chinese culture list of resources)

<http://www.formosa-translation.com/chinese/> (Chinese symbols-clipart)

<http://www.childbook.com> (Chinese children's activities)

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/China/proverb.html#pierce> (chinese proverbs)

<http://www.saintjonah.org/chinesemartyrs.htm>

http://www.asianinfo.org/asianinfo/china/society_celebrations.htm

(Chinese societal celebration)

Filipino

<http://home.pacbell.net/polgas/simba.html> - History of Simbang Gabi – Filipino Advent Novena mass

<http://www.stlouisreview.com/article.php?id=3330> -short description of Filipino religious celebrations

<http://pasko.houseonahill.net/index.php> - Filipino Christmas

http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/how_to_make_a_parol.htm

(how to make a “Parol” – a Filipino Christmas lantern)

<http://www.sinulog.ph/stories/backgrounder.html> -

http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Cynthia/festivals/philippine_christmas.htm

(Filipino Christmas traditions)

Hmong

<http://www.hmongcenter.org/bookmuledpre.html> (Hmong cultural center)

Korean

http://www.catholicculture.org/docs/doc_view.cfm?recnum=4740 (Korean martyrs)

<http://www.familyculture.com/holidays/chusok.htm> (Korean tradition)

<http://www.columban.org/missioned/programs.html>

Samoan

<http://www.ipacific.com/samoa/wedding.html> samoan wedding

<http://www.ipacific.com/samoa/brothers.html>

<http://silentnight.web.za/translate/samoan.htm>

<http://lc.byuh.edu/Samoan/Les1/SL1gr.html>

<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/anth210/samoa.html> (mead and Flaherty works)

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/pac/jpolys/ssc.htm> (creation story)

<http://www.inmotionmagazine.com/pi.html> (people of Samoa)

<http://www.ipacific.com/samoa/speak.html> (language)

http://www.samoan-sensation.com/samoan_language.html

http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/american_samoa.htm

http://www.janesoecania.com/samoa_religion/ samoan religion

Tongan

<http://www.brookvale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/PROJECTS/tongan/people.html>

<http://www.slc.k12.ut.us/webweavers/lindam/hunttonga.html>

http://islandtime.typepad.com/photos/tongan_dress/picture_049.html

tongan dress

http://islandtime.typepad.com/photos/tongan_dress/picture_049.html

tongan migration

<http://www.tonga.islands-travel.com/culture.html> (tongan culture)

<http://www.tonga.islands-holiday.com/feast.html> (tongan feast)

<http://www.tonga.islands-holiday.com/feast.html> (history)

<http://www.tonga.islands-holiday.com/feast.html>

Vietnamese

[Vietcatholic network](#) (Bible readings in Vietnamese)

www.adoptvietnam.org/vietnamese/

(Vietnamese culture : Vietnamese Holidays and Celebrations)

Story on Our Lady of La Vang

Vietnamese Culture Art Projects for Children)

www.vietcatholic.net - in Vietnamese language

<http://missionaries.claret.org/bulletin/VietnameseCatholicPeople.html>

(Vietnamese Saints/Martyrs)

<http://missionaries.claret.org/bulletin/Vietnamese%20Saints%20A.html>

(Vietnamese Saints)

Japanese

www.japansecatholic.center

http://home.att.net/~Local_Catholic/Catholic-Japan.htm (local catholic church history and genealogy)

<http://www.pauline.or.jp/history/e-history02.html> (history of the Japanese Catholic Church)

<http://www.cbcj.catholic.jp/eng/ehistory/table02.htm>

(overview of the history of the Catholic Church in Japan)

<http://www.nihongo.org/english/culture/> (Japanese culture)

<http://www.explorejapan.com/jlinks.htm> (Japanese culture)

Catechesis in the Black Perspective

Catechesis in the Black perspective encourages catechists in Black communities to approach their ministry with the realization that Black Catholics are simultaneously rooted in both the larger Black community and the larger Catholic community. Catechesis must reflect and resonate with both. A successful catechesis will enable Blacks to relate the historical and existential realities of their lives to the experience of God and to the mission of the Church. In this way, catechesis enables Black Catholics to rise to their full stature in the image and likeness of God. A catechesis that does not resonate with a people's cultural identity diminishes their full understanding of their humanness.

The Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church clearly illustrates that the church has no interest in stripping people of their culture when it says,

. . . from the beginning of her history, (the church) has learned to express the message of Christ with the help of ideas and terminology of various peoples, . . . thus her purpose has been to adapt the gospel . . . for each (people) to develop their own ability to express Christ's message in its own way. At the same time, a living exchange is fostered between the Church and the diverse cultures of people (Article #44).

Catechesis must lead Blacks to a realization that their Blackness is a gift from God, to be shared for the betterment of all humankind. If not, the creative wisdom of God is denied; Blackness is dispossessed; and the world, including the Church, is impoverished. It was with this understanding that Pope Paul VI said to Black people, "You (are) capable of bringing to the Catholic Church the precious and original contribution of "Blackness" which she (the Church) needs" (The Teachings of Pope Paul, p.205).

Rather than ignoring culture, catechists in Black communities must guide their learners on a spiritual journey that travels the road of Black life, Black culture, Black history, Black values, Black world-views, Black ways of perceiving reality and a Black religious sense. A catechesis that does not lead Blacks to embrace their Blackness, cannot lead Blacks to fully appreciate that they are an intentional creation of God.

Black Christian education resources are created so that the cultural heritage of Blacks can be included among the cultural riches of the Christian family. Using Black Christian education resources will enable catechists "to know (Black) culture and its essential components . . . to learn (its) most significant expressions; and to help (Blacks) bring forth from their own living traditions original expressions of Christian life, celebration and thought" (Catechesis in Our Time, Article #53).

Without culturally relevant resources, catechists are not properly prepared as guides on the journey of faith. They will not be able to lead blacks to fully appreciate what God *has done* and *is doing* in the concrete realities of Black life. And, if they cannot incorporate the Black experience with the Catholic experience, they will not be able to lead Blacks to fully appreciate that Blackness and Catholicity do embrace each other.

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 Sister' 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.

Resources

Multicultural Catechesis

A Handbook on Inculturation Schineller, Peter SJ. . Paulist Press 1990

American Catholic Experience. Dolan, Jay P.. University of Notre Dame Press 1992

An Inculturation Model of the Catholic Marriage Ritual Antoino, David William. Liturgical Press, MN. 2002.

An Introduction to Intercultural Communication. Condon, J.C. & Yousef, F, NYC: Macmillan Publishing. 1985.

- Constructing Local Theologies.** Schreiter, Robert J., C.P.P.S. Orbis Books 1985
- Cross-Cultural Encounters.** Brislin, R. Elmsford, NY: Pergamon. (1981)
- Earthing the Gospel. an Inculturation Handbook for the Pastoral Worker,** Arbuckle, Gerald, SM. Orbis books, 1990
- Faith and Culture, A Multicultural Catechetical Resource.** Department of Education, USCC Office of Publishing and Promotion Services USCC, 1987
- Faith, Culture, and the Worshiping Community, Shaping the Practice of the Local Church.** Warren, Michael. The Pastoral Press 1993
- Fashion Me a People.** Harris, Maria. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989
- Following the Way of the Disciples.** De Mesa Jose M. . East Asian Pastoral Institute, Philippines, 1996
- Inclusion.** Law, Eric H.F. Chalice Press, MO 1996
- Intercultural Sourcebook; Cross-Cultural Training Methods Vol 1** Fowler, Sandra M. Editor . Intercultural Press 1995.
- Liturgies of the Future, Process and Methods of Inculturation.** Chupungco, Anscar, OSB. Paulist Press 1989
- Managing Cultural Differences 4th Ed.** Harris, P. & Moran, R. Houston, Tx: Gulf. 1996
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