

BOWMAN FRANCIS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Midwest District

July 1, 2021

THE MESSENGER

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021



I believe that we as black men need to be conscious to wake up black men spiritually today in the 21st century. Why must black men be awakened today in the present moment? We are losing our families, friends, and communities to the spiritual warfare on **Black Men-Black Fathers**. Brothers, I believe the world and society in which we live is playing this war game, because we see signs and evidence all around us that too many black men are sleeping the night away. If we would face reality as a community of men, we see a deterioration in our American society, a decline in our families, and all the problems in our homes and communities let us know that

somebody, on purpose, refuses or fears or doesn't know how to wake up our black men-our black fathers!

Brothers, it is essential that you know one thing: the only legacy you will ever truly leave behind is the children you have brought into the world! You are going to leave a legacy in your children whether you like it or not; you are going to leave a legacy whether you believe it or not; you are going to leave a legacy whether you want to or not; **YOU ARE GOING TO LEAVE A LEGACY.**

Brothers, it might be a legacy of abuse. It could be a legacy of mess and trauma. It could be a legacy of chaos and shame. It could be a legacy of promiscuity and addiction. It could be a legacy of abandonment and loss. It could be a legacy of anger and violence. On the other hand, it might be a legacy of peace and happiness. A legacy of compassion and love. It could be a legacy of patience and prosperity. It could be a legacy of hard work and steadfast determination. It could be a legacy of being a family and spiritual man of God. It could be a legacy of all kinds of things; **but you're going to leave a legacy black man.** The Bible makes this very clear in Deuteronomy 6: 6-9. Brothers, we have been sleeping too long when it comes to our families. We ought to serve our families in the same way that Christ serves the Church. Christ serves the church in three ways: as prophet, as priest, and as King. As a prophet, the father speaks from God to his children. As a priest, the father speaks to God for his children. As a king, he governs and qualifies himself to lead his children by his willingness to serve. My brothers, we are called to be kings of our **FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, and CHURCHES!**

It has long been known that a fathers presence in the household is important for the positive well-being of families, neighborhoods, and youth. Men who actively participate in the lives of their families provide a steady source of stability and support. The consequences of such support impact a whole host of child developmental outcomes, including behavior, academics, and health. Involved fathers are also more likely to engage in positive parenting behaviors like academic intervention and constructive discipline.

Continued on page 4



IN THIS EDITION:

TOPIC	PAGE
The Messenger	1 & 4
Your Health & What We Need To Know	2
Ubuntu Synopsis	3
Success Story	5
Lenten Bible Study Synopsis	5
Upper Room	6-8
Men's Conference Flyer	9
Donations and Support	10
Bowman-Francis Ministries On-line Shop	11
2021 Coming Events	11
Mission Statement	12
Calendar of Events	12



Pandemic Takes a Toll on Women’s Mental Health

Article take from verywellmind written by [Cathy Cassata](#)

The pandemic has caused loss, stress, and unemployment for people all over the world. However, women—mothers in particular—are experiencing the effects to a higher degree. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2.5 million women left the job market since the beginning of the pandemic—compared to 1.8 million men—as they take on more responsibilities of homeschooling and everyday parenting.

Women and Mental Health During COVID

CARE International conducted a report based on first-person accounts of more than 10,000 participants’ views of the challenges faced by women during COVID-19. The study found that 27% of women reported an increase in challenges associated with mental illness, compared to only 10% of men. Women especially point to skyrocketing unpaid care burdens as a source of this stress, in addition to worries about livelihoods, food, and health care. According to the study findings, women are also nearly twice as likely to report difficulty accessing quality health services.

Burden of Responsibility

“The extra toll on women's mental health makes sense given what we know about how many women have had to leave the workforce in order to care for children or other family members at home, or are dealing with an impossible and constant juggling act of kids, plus career, plus other responsibilities,” says [Naomi Torres-Mackie](#), PhD, head of research at the [Mental Health Coalition](#).

With the build-up of responsibilities, like homeschooling or caring for sick relatives, she says it becomes harder for women to care for themselves, which in turn affects their mental health. Kennedy agrees, noting that multi-tasking leads to less efficiency and quality in each role, and takes time away from self-care. “Hence, mental health concerns among women, in particular, have been on the rise,” she says.

For those struggling with anxiety, depression, substance use or other mental illnesses, Kennedy says you are not alone. “Help is available, and part of rebuilding a sense of balance is taking even a little sliver of time to care for oneself during an unprecedented experience of social isolation, prolonged strain, and possible grief,” she says.

Job loss in itself is a mental health stressor with the American Psychological Association, reporting that unemployment is known to negatively impact depression, anxiety, and loss of life satisfaction. For women who hope to regain employment lost during the pandemic, this poses additional worry about the future. “This is especially the case for women who have additional financial responsibilities like children. Worry about the future is a main component of anxiety, so it would make sense that trying to go back to work after losing your job or leaving it to care for kids would create worry and anxiety,” says Torres-Mackie.

A PRAYER FOR STRENGTH DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME

We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season. We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences. We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them. We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus. We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds. As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

UBUNTU—“THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD” SYNOPSIS



***Ubuntu* Black Catholic Consciousness Raising Ministry**

Our *Ubuntu* (“I am because we are”) ministry began in earnest with a conversation in 2019 with Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, the director of the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, New Orleans [XU/IBCS], regarding how the Bowman Francis team could help promote ongoing and higher education in black Catholic theology, liturgy, and history. This conversation expanded when the idea of a “consciousness raising” ministry was suggested by Fr. Kenneth Hamilton SVD to Fr. Charles Smith SVD, Dr. Cameron Beatty, Frs. Roy Lee and George Kintiba, SVD, and Mr.

Timothy Gholston of the *Kujichagulia* Ministry in Oakland, Ca. Hopefully, this ministry would lead some black Catholics to pursue more serious studies at the Xavier Institute.

All of us shared a concern about the general exclusion of black Catholic voices over the past decades as the US Catholic Church closed or merged their parishes, schools, and diocesan ministries. We saw a need to raise black Catholic consciousness through critical liberation theology, history, economics, psychology, and race/gender/class theory. Our goal is to help U.S. and the more than 200 million black Catholics around the world imagine “where we go from here” as members of the Roman Catholic community and Christian faith. To this purpose, the *Ubuntu* Ministry will call upon renowned black Catholic speaker-activists, artists, and scholars to give lectures under the general theme of “consciousness raising.”

The first series of talks, “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” were introduced with two presentations from Fr. Hamilton sub-titled, respectively, “Talking to Black Catholics about Liberation and Having Better ‘Church’” [summarized last newsletter] and “Our Pan-African Catholic Vision.” The second talk began with establishing the authority of black Catholics to form their own consciousness based on the fact that ancient African Catholics, after all, were key formulators of early Catholic doctrines, such as the Trinity and the Creed. Yet, what is less known is the connection between black African Catholics and the paradigm shift we call Vatican II in 1963! The African students of progressive European missionaries urged them to see their “duty to decolonize” the continent of Africa and the whole world. The urgings of these African seminarians pushed Popes John XXII and Paul VI to open the doors of the Roman church to make it a world church and not just a Eurocentric one.

Fr. Hamilton continued from his first lecture to discuss the effect of the “white supremacist religion” that came with imperialism, conquest, and capitalism and how we as black Catholics must question it in order to find our liberation in this church. Some suggestions he made to “decolonize” black Catholicism included, first, reaching out to fellow black Catholics from all over the world, getting to know their feast days, organizations, and their way of approaching Catholicism, talking to their clergy about cultural sensitivity across the many cultures of the diaspora, etc.; Secondly, we must be aware of white supremacist Christian teachings and preaching that continue to oppress black people, such as the overemphasis on suffering, purity/innocence, and the myth that “money is evil” when 16 of the poorest 20 countries are in Africa. It also means going beyond the skin color of our statues and art figures, all our cultural symbols, and seeing the deeper message found in the gospel of liberation of Jesus Christ! Finally, it means uniting as Pan-African peoples to continue the actual work of justice and self-determination in our local parishes, dioceses, and across the church. Mostly, Pan-African Catholicism is about unity, *Umoja!*

THE MESSENGER CONTINUED

Promoting responsible fatherhood, then, should be the focus of institutions as well as grassroots efforts in society. Involved black men help create well-adjusted youth. Sadly my people, too many of our brothers—our men have nodded off to sleep; and we are experiencing a sharp decay in our society when black men are not in their prophetic position. They aren't carrying out their responsibilities within the institution of the family. Somebody needs to wake up the nation of black men and sound the alarm that all is not well in Black America—in the black family. In the Holy book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 6, God instructs the fathers. It's the father's responsibility to train and teach his children diligently. Where do you teach them? God said, "you teach them at home." God said, "when you sit down at the table, you instruct and give guidance." Men, teach your children what it means to love God with all their hearts, with all their minds, and with all of their souls! Teach them by precepts and example. They must follow you. They must see the positive Godly Christian example that you set. They must see you as a role model.

Men, God told you to teach your children without ceasing, morning, noon, and night. This is a spiritual imperative. The Lord said "even write it on the door post, on the gates." Brothers, we must realize even when our children leave home, they leave with our training. They leave with our instruction. They leave with our teaching and knowledge of the secrets of life from God and our ancestors. They leave home with our name, blood, and legacy. Even when they return home, they run into daddy's guidance and leadership. How can this be? Because daddy takes what God has taught him and teaches it to his children, over and over again. In addition to meeting our children's basic needs for food, water, shelter, and safety, every day, we must supply our children with the right guidance, the right instructions, the right training, the technology, and the right diet, and the right modeling. Many of the social problems we are having today in the 21st century are in direct correlation to the sleeping or the comatose mindset of too many males and boys. **Somebody needs to wake up our men—our fathers.** Men, wake up from your nap of despair and depression. Men, wake up from your nap of self-doubt and destruction. Men, wake up from your nap of insecurity and self-hatred. Men, wake up from your nap of complacency and indifference. Men, wake up from your nap of lies and falsehoods that have been taught to you about your God.

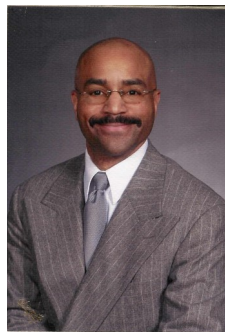
Black men, we ought to be esteemed. We ought to be respected stewards who are greatly rewarded. There's a problem in Fatherhood today. That is a direct result of the crisis in manhood. We seem to be in a spectrum ranging from being a fabulous father to a dead beat dad. America's transition from being a producer to a consumer nation has brought a marked change in our mindset of "family", which has led, in part, to our present-day problems. Young people without the teaching and nurturing and admonition of the Lord from their fathers begin to desire to be satisfied themselves rather than working to satisfy others. This attitude has helped to bring on this "me" generation, where the goal is to satisfy me, myself, and I. Each person's goal is to satisfy self, a purpose that degenerates into the present theology of defying the self. The absence of men and fathers in the home and the absence of our teaching, instruction, and guidance, our children's values are not what they ought to be. This self-aggrandizing philosophy, together with the negative media representation of African American men does not help!

The media plays a large role in how black fathers are viewed in society. There are many media myths that should be addressed and dispelled related to blacks in general and black dads in particular. For example, media reports or depictions often misrepresent black fathers as "absentee" dads who abandon their children by connecting non-marital births with parental involvement. Research tells us, however, that many black fathers are deeply engaged with their children, and physical separation is not always synonymous with lack of father involvement. According to sociologist Patricia Hill Collins, these "controlling images" shape people's thinking about certain groups after being exposed to negative representations repeatedly. Left unchecked, they can make policy and lawmakers unsympathetic to the plight of black dads. Why do these things matter? Because it is not enough to discuss black fatherhood without also understanding the context within which black men operate. Even so, it is clear that black children need their fathers. Although the protests in response to the killing of unarmed black people have been peaceful, the looting and violence perpetuated by a few must be addressed. It was painful watching young people—black and white—breaking into buildings and stealing merchandise. Those images remind us that for many of these youth, dads are likely not in the picture.

That is why promoting responsible fatherhood is more important now than ever. The world is demanding positive change, and black men need to be at the helm. If black fathers are lifted up, black families will be stronger. But this necessary change will not happen if promoting "responsible fatherhood" is used to place blame on a group of people who are often "marked" by the time they are school-aged. Rather, it must mean that as America looks inwardly at how we can be a better nation, we seek to understand the full picture of what it means to be a black father in America. It means to take into consideration what changes need to be made in society even as we work to build the character and resolve of black men. It means affirming black men and black lives, in general. It means declaring that **Black Men, Dads, Uncles, Brothers, Sons, Nephews all matter.** I look forward to share more of this message at:

The National Black Catholic Virtual Men's Conference, October 14th through October 17th 2021. Go to www.bowmanfrancis.org to register. See you then.

BOWMAN-FRANCIS TEAM MINISTRY SUCCESS STORIES



Marc Guess is the Indiana Auto Plan Manager and Vice President of Quad Assoc., LLC. He is also an Investment Adviser Representative for Cetera Advisors. He is a member of St. Monica Catholic Church, Indianapolis, IN.

As a young man, not too far removed from graduating college, I worked at St. Rita Catholic Church. During my time there, I was introduced to twins who were studying to be priest, Chester and Charles Smith. Chester invited me to a pick-up game in the gym one Saturday. There was a guy playing that just kept talking and talking, whether it was on offence or defense and he rarely moved too far past mid court either way.

That was my introduction to Fr. Ken Hamilton. Little did I know at that time how these men would change my life and the lives of many.

We are all aware of the many ministries they've started and how they continue to this day. They've moved through generations. As an example, my father was involved with the early phases of AOW, to my involvement with AOW to my son's involvement with AOW. From the first Black Catholic Men's Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. That conference was meaningful to me as I was working through a life event. A "Healing Service" was planned for our Sunday morning. For some reason, Fr. Ken pulled me from the attendees and wrapped a blanket over me to symbolize God's Grace, Love and Care covering us as we depart. He wasn't aware of what was going on with me, but we've talked about that day on a few occasions. He told me that is one of the things that drives him to continue that practice of doing a Healing Service on the last day of the conference. The 18th Annual Black Catholic Men's Conference will take place this year.

These men, Fr. Charles Smith and Fr. Ken Hamilton, have exceptional demand for their time. But for some reason, they always find time for us. Fr. Chester Smith was the same way. We can't take that or them for granted. As much as they give to us, please take time to give them time in your prayers. Please continue to keep them encouraged. Please keep these ministries in your prayers.

Bowman-Francis Ministry's "Undeclared" Lenten Bible Inspiration Series, 2021



Our approach in the "Undeclared" 2021 bible study was to present this Lenten scriptures from multiple angles and to shape our presentations to inspire and empower our black Catholic participants. Firstly, Fr. Charles Smith SVD would deliver a sermon each week of Lent 2021. The sermon titles included: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," (Ash Wednesday) "Showdown in the Desert," "Clearing the Temple," "Jesus Teaches Nicodemus," "The End of the Circle," and "Can You do the Wave?" Fr. Smith's sermons, posted online early in the week, would be the theme we then carried into our live sessions on every Wednesday of the season. These live sessions were hosted by Ms. Shaniqua Wilson of "Meet Me at the Well" ministry and Dr. Cameron Beatty, PhD. Each session began with a ritual or guided meditation led by Fr. Ken Hamilton SVD around a single image. Imagery used included dirt/"dust," temples, mountains, deserts, and seeds. The sessions were also filled with song, prayer, testimony, small group discussion, and even an online interview with Evangelist Phaedra Jackson. All in all, a good and inspiring time was had by scores of people from around the country each week!

UPPER ROOM

A MESSAGE FROM FR. CHARLES SMITH, SVD

Welcome the FAB 5 into the SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD

Excerpt from the SVD Ordination Vigil Service of the Sacred Order of Presbyters



In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through God all things, were made. Not one thing in all creation was made without God. The Word was the Source of Life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness; and the darkness has never put it out.

I need your prayers on the subject: “The Enemy Called Average”

Allow me to say to my five brothers: Edoh Adolphe Anato, SVD, Minh Anh Dinh, SVD, Akizou Gerard Kamina, SVD, Hai Ngoc Pham, SVD, and Fransiskus Assisi Santoso, SVD. I am both honored and humbled to be with you today. While today represent a great accomplishment for you, it also propels you young brothers into the next chapters of your lives. You are to be commended for the long nights that you have toiled/and for the incredible perseverance you have demonstrated amidst the toughest of times. I am sure that each of you has a story. A story full of joy and full of pain. My brothers, it is a tale that speaks of the Journey that has propelled you from your humble beginnings as a freshman – a novice to your honored beginnings as graduates – as SVD Missionaries today.

Look at you now: You are the SVD Fab 5. You are now fulfilling the dreams not only of you/and your parents but also of your Ancestors, who refuse to think of themselves as second class. This marvelous journey has been didactic. Indeed, it has taught you may brothers some valuable lessons as you transition to the “hill” countries throughout the world. But there is now a question that arises: What’s next? Now that you brothers have passed the test, fulfilled the credit hours, donned the cap and gown, and stand ready to receive ordination into the Roman Catholic Priesthood. What now my Fab 5 brothers? Where will this moment direct you? What is your path, and where is your destination? You are about to enter a world that is rapidly changing. It is a world that has proved and personified the prophetic science of DARWINISM, for we live in a world where “only the strong survive.”

As you go out of here today, I want to warn you that there is an enemy waiting for you the moment you leave this institution. It has consumed many victims and it has deferred many a dream. It is a subtle enemy dressed in the camouflage of complacency. It is an enemy called average. Average seduces its prey by convincing them that they are too tired to go to the next level. It drains its prey of motivation and determination to achieve the vision that has been deposited within their hearts.

You have come to far and experienced too much to be simply another victim of an AVERAGE SVD. The mere fact that you are five men of color sitting here is a testament that you are not acquainted with Average. You see my brothers, Average is a proponent of simply being on the top of the bottom/ or the bottom of the top, and today you are now a graduate and member of the Divine Word; you cannot be satisfied until you are on the top of top and when you finish your service, your tour of service to God’ Kingdom you are inducted into the SVD Hall of Fame.

UPPER ROOM CONTINUED

We live in a dualistic world now; especially in America. The first side is a world of make-believe. It is a world of Goofy and Daffy Duck. It is a world where the illusions of fast money, houses, bling-bling, and being the man is popular. I mean make-believe is big bucks and it is destroying a generation. Make believe has students who think it is cool to give up higher education to live the fast life – rich and famous life in America. It is sedative prescribed by Average that produces the deadly side effect called Mediocrity.

On the other side, however, there is a world where you cannot be “as good as” but you must be better than. “It’s a world of the Apprentice. Where you are not give any special treatment. It is a world where excellence is expected without excuses or “you are fired.” It is a world that looks for the best, brightest and most creative minds to fulfill the choice positions. It’s a world that speaks the language of success and refuses to tolerate Average. What are you going to choose?

Once you leave the theologate for the Missions both sides of this world will summons you. The question is, which side will you answer? How do you see yourself five years from now? Have you gone through the struggle and tears of education and formation only to embrace Average. Or have you determined within yourself to stir up the gifts within you that the trinity has given you to reach your full potential as a family member of the SVD. This community is your Spiritual Foundation. You are always growing and nurturing your SVD Trinitarian Spirituality. Yes, the Vows are not only public promises, but we should nurture these virtues of poverty, Chastity, and obedience to become closer to our Christ Jesus – to be like Christ Jesus. You are now totally committed to dedicating your entire life to serve the trinity. Christ lived without possessions. By his poverty you might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9)

Jesus lived the Chastity of an unmarried person....there are eunuchs who have made themselves so for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 19:12).

In all things, Jesus obeyed his heavenly Father; “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, the accomplish his work” (Jn 4:34). We as SVD call on the trinity to imitate Jesus Christ where we work and live out our religious life.

You have to nurture a Spiritual lifestyle as an SVD.

You have to nurture a Spirituality of caring and taking care of self.

You have to have a spiritual director. You can’t travel on your journey without a Spiritual guide to continue to work on your strengths and weaknesses.

Make time for spiritual reading and study; especially God’s word.

How do we handle the questions of society: The questions of oppression – how do you handle it? Gay & Lesbian issues how do you handle it? The question of women in the church. How do you handle it? The question of the poor, how do you handle it? You cannot handle major questions with denial, rage, or degradation! That’s why we haven’t handle the question of racism. We need the Holy Spirit of willingness to hear, receive, and acknowledge! Let us feel as SVD challenged to move forward with a Spirit of willingness to hear the Holy Spirit and to let the Spirit guide us. I challenge you brothers to examine how we handle questions that involve our neighbor, whether that neighbor fits in the category of the oppressed, the oppressor, or the indifferent. Don’t be afraid to believe something new. God can do a new thing. Let the Spirit speak to us and through us.

Being an SVD who proclaims and preach the Word of God and preaches, I would be remiss if I didn’t share this story with you my Fab 5 brothers. There was a woman in Luke 8:43-48 who had an issue of blood for twelve years. She had gone to one doctor after another to no avail. The woman was frustrated and probably about to give up, yet she heard that Jesus was coming to town. She was determined that she could no longer live with this issue because to live with it would make Average a welcomed guest. When she heard that Jesus was coming, she said to herself, “If I may but just touch his garment I shall be whole.” This woman did what society said would not be done. She defeated Average even though obstacles were present in her life.

UPPER ROOM CONTINUED

The cultural reality of her day said that a woman with an issue was unclean, and anyone who touched her would also become unclean. Nevertheless, she was determined to press on, in spite of the disciples whose duty it was to protect Jesus. You see, when your mind is made up, it doesn't matter what the system says. It doesn't matter what people think.

The woman moved in from the rear and bent low enough to crawl through the crowd unnoticed. She pressed her way. Some of you may have come here through another country, and through another culture. You didn't have what everybody else had. You didn't grow up on the right side of the tracks; but you were determined to get down to business, and obtain your degree, and commit to final vows and Sacred Orders (Priesthood). You crawled, you cried, you scratched, and you prayed – but you arrived because you pressed on!

Let me suggest today that Jesus knows the difference between RUB and a TOUCH! Average is being content with rubbing because rubbing doesn't require discipline and relationship, Average simply requires what it can get with minimal effort. But a touch is not Average. A touch points to a story...the story of your journey – the story of your family that took years before you arrived here.

When Jesus saw the woman's faith, he declared her faith made her whole. In the Book of Hebrews it says that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of the things not seen." My Fab 5 brothers faith is simply believing "I can" even when no one else believes it. It is seeing yourself beyond what everyone else sees.

I have come today to tell you that if nobody else sees what you see, don't stop seeing! If nobody believes you can achieve, don't stop believing – and don't stop achieving! You have been preparing for this moment, and today is not the end but it is the beginning of greater things ahead in your religious life as an SVD Missionary Priest of the Divine Word. Press your way my Fab 5 brothers, until all the generations behind you are convinced that average is not an option.

Press your way my Fab 5 brothers until the day is done. You must win the day! Press your way my Fab 5 brothers until you can say like the Apostle Paul, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. You are not pressing to be on the top of the bottom, but the high calling is the top of the top. It is the Trinity. For every test, pass it! Every enemy, defeat it! Every challenge, conquer it! Every lesson, learn it! Every opportunity, seize it! If you experience pain, endure it! Every privilege you get, honor it, and for every blessing, thank God for it.

As I leave you today, remember no matter what you accomplish from this day forward, say "THANK YOU!" For the tuition that was paid and for the "A" that was made, say "THANK YOU!" For the parents who brought you and for a scholar that taught you say "THANK YOU!" The SVDs that trained you, educated you and shared their lives and the SVD way (SVD traditions, constitution and culture) say "THANK YOU".

For all the night that you had to cry and finally for the privilege of saying goodbye, say "THANK YOU!" Hold on to your REALNESS. Trust your own VOICE. Believe in the DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE. THANK YOU! THANK YOU, and welcome into the SVD Family and world.

BOWMAN-FRANCIS MINISTRY TEAM

INVITES YOU TO OUR

18TH ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

† THEME: DELIVER ME FROM MYSELF

PSALM 34:4



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BOWMAN FRANCIS MINISTRY ONLINE STORE

The Bowman Francis Team is selling this beautiful t-shirt displaying strong African American women. We are also selling caps. 1 cap is a commemorative cap honoring Fr. Chester Smith and the other is supporting the National Black Catholic Men’s Conference.

If you would like to place an order for this t-shirt, please visit our website at www.bowmanfrancis.org and click on SHOP

\$28.00 for the commemorative cap and \$25.00 for the Men’s Conference.



VISIT OUR
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COMING EVENTS IN 2021

For more information on these coming events visit our website at www.bowmanfrancis.org

National Black Catholic Virtual Men’s Conference October 14th—17th	Thanksgiving Message November 25th	Advent Study December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
Christmas Day Message December 25th	Khrist Kwanzaa 7 Principles Reflections December 26th—31st	New Year Message January 1, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate, evangelize, empower; and provide an environment for all people to grow spiritually and develop in their spiritual relationship with God. To celebrate our African-American Heritage and the cultural diversity of our universal church.

◆ Bowman Francis Team:

(Rites of Passage and Revivals)

Fr. Ken Hamilton—Teaching Ministry

(510) 205-5670

2733 Park Blvd

Oakland, CA 94606

Fr. Charles Smith—VA Chaplain

(317) 800-1621

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THE BOWMAN-FRANCIS MINISTRY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Fr. Charles Smith

July 1st
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Women's Retreat
Baton Rouge, LA

Fr. Charles Smith

Masses at the VA Medical Center
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

AUGUST

Fr. Charles Smith

Masses at the VA Medical Center
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

SEPTEMBER

Fr. Charles Smith

Masses at the VA Medical Center
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday