

Centering on Service

Office of Black Ministries



The Office of Black Ministries attempts to establish and maintain a strong cooperative relationship with parishes within the diocese, particularly those with representative black congregants. We strive to be supportive whenever necessary as well as being responsive to events, celebrations and programs

sponsored by local parishes. In addition, we attempt to involve all parishes in the social ministry programs emanating from our office. The Office of Black Ministries is controlled by a functional Board of Directors which meets monthly in both Executive and full Board sessions. The Board of Directors, apart from the general governance

of the office, also participates in committees including those on liturgy, personnel, youth and finance.

A constant effort is maintained to have a wide parish representation on the OBM Board of Directors.

As a logical aspect of our diocesan community involvement, OBM has developed an ongoing relationship with the local black churches specifically through the United Church Ministry, and have collaborated on a number of major items including the forming of Anti-Ku Klux Klan committees and support for Haitian and African refugees.

The Office of Black Ministries stresses strong reciprocal relationships with other diocesan departments and agencies. Our office, in league with other departments of the diocese, has been able to utilize the vast resources and materials available through other departmental offices, and this has been of immense value to the facilitation of our own programs and projections.

Our strongest relationships have been forged with the Office of Family Life, the Office of Human Development and the Spanish Apostolate. Other departments with whom we work closely are the

Departments of General Education, Religious Education and Vocations; the Board of Urban Ministries, Social Ministries, and the Office of Liturgy.

The Office of Black Ministries has prioritized six areas of intense emphasis through which the major aspects of our programs are channeled. They are education, family, evangelization, youth, liturgy, and services to the institutionalized.

The Office of Black Ministries will be the host for the tenth semi-annual National Association of Black Catholic Administrators on April 23-25.

Retreat Planned

The Sisters of Mercy have scheduled a weekend retreat March 27-29 at High Acres, Geneva, for women considering their vocations.

The retreat will begin at 6 p.m., Friday, and end at 2 p.m., Sunday, and is one of several opportunities planned this year by the RSM vocation team as part of a faith-sharing program for women.

More—information and registration is available from Sister Kathleen Mary O'Connell at 1-243-4663 or by writing her at 83 North St., Geneseo, N.Y. 14454.

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