Xavier IBCS to Host Black Lives Matter Symposium


Through a series of keynote addresses, workshops, and panel discussions, the symposium will address issues such as racial conflict and the need for racial reconciliation, the current culture of violence in our country, and the enduring effects of poverty – especially among those in the African American community.

“'Black Lives Matter’ is an open invitation to the community to participate in a clear and thought-provoking discussion of racial conflict and unrest, but more importantly to be part of an earnest dialogue that can hopefully provide effective solutions leading to understanding and reconciliation,” said the Rev. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R., D. Min, Director of Xavier’s IBCS.

“This year the symposium will focus on poverty and violence as it relates to educational disparities in urban communities,” he said, pointing out that approximately 50 percent of public school children came from low-income households and that children from low-income families represent a majority of public school children in all but two out of 15 Southern States. “More directly we will seek to answer the question of how does poverty and violence affect education?”

Keynote addresses will be given by Rev. Dr. Frederick Haynes, III, Senior Pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas TX, and Brittany Packnett, Executive Director for Teach for America in St. Louis MO and member of the Ferguson Commission.

Other guest speakers include Dr. Calvin Mackie, CEO of Channel ZeRo Group and the Founder/Executive Director of STEM NOLA; and Lezlie McSpadden. the mother of Michael Brown and author of the book, Tell the Truth and Shame the Devil.

Workshops will delve into issues of urban catholic education, racism on America's college campuses, education reform, school-to-prison pipeline, racial and cultural consciousness, and being young, black and gifted.

The event will also feature a panel discussion moderated by Jarvis Deberry, editorial writer and columnist for The New Orleans Times Picayune.
Registration is required. Cost for the symposium is $65. Students with current Xavier ID cards will be admitted free.

For more information on the symposium, including registration, the schedule of events, and information on the respective speakers, presenters and panelists, visit http://www.xulablacklivesmatter.com.

About the IBCS

Founded in 1980, the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) of Xavier University of Louisiana offers programs in pastoral theology, religious education and pastoral ministry. The IBCS provides an intellectual, spiritual and cultural immersion in the Black Catholic experience for all those interested in or committed to Catholic ministry within the black community.

About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier University of Louisiana founded by Saint Katherine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1925 is the only historically Black and Catholic university in the Western Hemisphere. It is a private, liberal-arts based, co-educational institution offering 40 undergraduate majors, five master’s degree programs, and a doctor of pharmacy program.