

## Office for Black Catholics Pastoral Plan 2017-2022

### **GOAL 1: Faith Formation**

Objective: Present opportunities for a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ through formation focused on the Sacraments and scripture

Strategy 1: Provide fun, exciting and proven educational opportunities for the youth.

Strategy 2: Collaborate with Office of Christian Formation and local parishes to deepen our knowledge and understanding and provide meaningful ongoing formation

Strategy 3: Honor Black Catholic History Month each November

### **GOAL 2: Strengthening Marriage and Family Life**

Objective: Promote and advocate for traditional marriage in the African-American Catholic Community

Strategy 1: Collaborate with the Center for Family, Marriage and Life

Strategy 2: Promote programs that support traditional marriage in the African-American Catholic Community

Strategy 3: Promote participation in pre-marriage preparation programs in predominantly African-American parishes

### **GOAL 3: Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

Objective: Raise awareness to protect the sacredness and dignity of all human life

Strategy 1: Increase African-American involvement in the pro-life activities of Church organizations at the national, diocesan and parish levels

Strategy 2: Engage the African-American Catholic Community on issues of social justice through knowledge and study of Catholic social teaching

Strategy 3: increase awareness of the importance of VIRTUS for to ensure a safe environment for children and young people

**GOAL 4: Parish Life and Evangelization**

Objective: Provide opportunities to spread the gospel and evangelize in the parish and community

Strategy 1: Collaborate with predominantly African-American parishes in their work personally to invite those who have left the Church and prayerfully to consider coming “home”

Action Item 1: Black Catholics Come Home Initiative

Strategy 3: Provide more opportunities to renew our commitment to the sacramental life of the Church, especially Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and the sacrament of Reconciliation

Strategy 4: Offer leadership development for youth and young adults so they can encourage their peers to be active participants in all aspects of parish life

Strategy 5: Provide African-American Catholics with the impetus to use their gifts of the Holy Spirit to engage fully in parish life

Strategy 6: Appoint liaison between each parish and the diocese

**GOAL 5: Vocations**

Objective: To promote vocations in our parishes and schools and support our priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters

Strategy 1: Collaborate with the Office of Evangelization to invite African American priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters to speak at diocesan events

Strategy 2: Encourage young adults to attend the Diocesan Discernment Weekend for Vocations

Strategy 3: Offer opportunities for African American youth and young adult to participate in events and activities where presenters are African American Priests and/or Religious Brothers and Sisters

Action Item: Intentionally Create an Environment for Vocations in our African and African American Communities