



# SIGNS OF SOUL

NATIONAL BLACK  
SISTERS' CONFERENCE

Summer Issue

2019

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters and Associates,  
July 2019

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

There is gratitude for serving as President of the National Black Sisters' Conference during these past two years. NBSC is a colorful tapestry of faces woven from different Congregations. Each on of us has a gift to be shared. This has been a treasured characteristic from the beginning. It's a blessing to be a member of NBSC.

I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit during our 50th Anniversary Celebration last summer. From the beginning, we have been an organization rooted in Gospel values and support of one another.

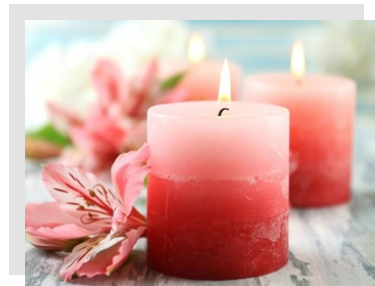
Given the realities of the Social Justice issues impacting the African-American community here at home and globally, we continue to walk with our sisters and brothers. Yet, we are challenged anew to articulate what we hold as essential to implement change. We have moved forward in three areas: addressing racism, sponsoring of the National gatherings for Black Catholic Women and revitalizing our Mission/Vision Statement.

The future of this organization is exciting and full of possibilities. God will continue to lead us in the direction of a vibrant future. Let us hold out the light and generously spread the Gospel with a spirit of urgency and invite new members to our table.

Again, thank you for your support and desire to be an active member of the National Black Sisters' Conference. Together, we will fan love, peace and mercy into the heart of each member and our Church.

With gratitude,  
Sister Roberta Fulton, SSMN, President

*Sister Roberta Fulton, SSMN*





## Members in the News



### Sister M. Shawn Copeland



Boston College hosted a career and scholarly accomplishment conference in May, honoring the achievements of theologian M. Shawn Copeland, who is retiring from the Jesuit University's Theology Department at the end of this academic year.

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Shawn Copeland, who is retiring from the Jesuit University's Theology Department at the end of this academic year.

Copeland is one of the most influential, creative and faithful Catholic theologians of our time. For Copeland, being a professor of theology is not merely a career, but has always been and remains a profound vocation. On the occasion of her installation as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA), she explained, "By using the phrase vocation, I wanted to signal that our theological work, our theological lives, are not so much about careerism, upward mobility, but they are about a response to the word made flesh."

The practice of theology, and theological research and teaching, is never for its own sake, but always for the church and world. "So the world in which we are living is really presenting us, without any effort on our part, a certain demand," Copeland added. "And it's asking us, for whom do we do our theology and by whom? And I think the 'by whom' is really about the word made flesh."

Copeland is the first African American theologian to receive, the John Courtney Murray Award which was bestowed on her by the CTSA.

[Daniel P. Horan is a Franciscan friar and assistant professor of systematic theology and spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. – NCR – May1, 2019]





## Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory installed as the seventh Archbishop of Washington D.C.



For his motto, Archbishop Gregory chose “We are the Lord’s,” taken from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, which expresses his deep Christian belief that in all that we are, and in all that we do, “we are the Lord’s” (Romans 14: 8).

# NATIONAL BLACK SISTERS' CONFERENCE

## Vision Statement

In covenant with God and with one another, as Black women religious and associates of the National Black Sisters' Conference, we are willing to be risk takers; taking a stand and working for the liberation of Black people.

Drawing strength and courage from God and one another, we choose to study, speak, and act on issues that impact Black people globally.

**GOALS:** In response to this vision we choose to:

- Support one another in the faith, in religious life, and in our struggle for justice.
- Foster a positive self-image among ourselves and our people.
- Reclaim our voice and moral authority to speak out against injustice as a national Black Catholic organization.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- ◆ Develop social media platforms for better communication among members and to increase national and global awareness of who we are and our mission.
- ◆ Publish links to educational modules regarding current issues using the web and appropriate social media, as well as workshops and conferences.
- ◆ Design and implement Black religious vocations promotion materials for distribution via print and social media, television ads, etc.
- ◆ Set up regional NBSC networks, appoint conveners for a two-year term, in order to support NBSC action plans. For example, voter registration/get out the vote, and other critical issues.
- ◆ NBSC will collaborate with other religious, civic and social organizations, such as LCWR, NBCCC, NBCC, Black Catholic Bishops, Knights of Peter Claver, Network, etc., to achieve these goals and objectives.

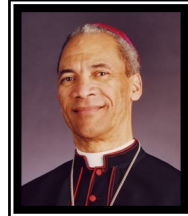
May 27, 2019—Officers & Board



# In the news.....

The new Leadership Team for the Josephite Priests & Brothers.

*Those elected are :*



– **Bishop John H. Ricard SSJ – Superior General**

– Rev. Thomas Frank, SSJ – Vicar General

- Rev. Ray Bomberger, SSJ – Consultor General

*These men will serve in office till June 2023.*

*Let us keep them and their entire leadership team in our prayers.*

**Sr. Marcia Hall, OSP is producing a film encouraging African American vocations**



With the help of Alethea Braggs, Hall is working on a video project

owner of Destiny Productions, that would ultimately come to be

called:

**"The Calling From God: Promoting Vocations in the African American Community."**

Highlighting the experiences of young black religious, the video aims to encourage black Catholics to consider religious life as a viable calling.

Check out the full story:

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/blog/q/trends/q-sr-marcia-hall-producing-film-encouraging-african-american-vocations-56341>

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Signs of Soul is published twice yearly by the National Black Sisters' Conference.

Letters and news items are encouraged and should be forwarded to:

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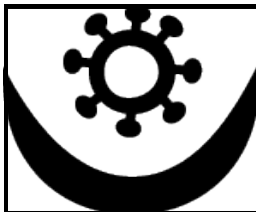
National Black Sisters' Conference



### PRAYER REQUEST

We continually pray for the needs of our members, associates and those who support us. We lift up the needs of their families and congregation members who are in need of prayer both living and deceased.

Fr. Ed Branch  
Sr. Jamie Phelps, OP  
Sr. Elizabeth Harris, HVM  
Sr. Greta Jupiter, SSF  
and all in need of prayer....



Faithfulness & Harmony

## Coming Events.....



Presenter: **Sr. Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND**,  
PhD - Director of the Sankofa Institute  
for African American Pastoral Leadership,  
the Oblate School of Theology

**August 2019**

**August 2nd through Sat 3rd**

### **Black People and the Bible**

Villa Maria Conference and Retreat Center,  
1903 E Lake Shore Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62712

#### **Part I: Introduction to the Bible and the Presence of Blacks in the Bible**

San Antonio, TX

Cost \$40.00/person - Includes meals,  
materials, and services

Register online at:

<http://www.dio.org/plasm/events.html>

For information call 217-698-8500, ext. 161  
or email: [dmoore@dio.org](mailto:dmoore@dio.org)

Deadline for registration is July 22, 2019

August 2: Reception and opening educational session

Check-in 5:00 PM-Opening session 7:00 PM

August 3: Continuation of educational session

Breakfast 8:00 AM - Lunch included.