

1. UNDERSTANDING THE INITIATIVE

The goal is to come together and work together in order to give and serve as church. Building on what has worked to effectively serve African American Catholics in the past, together we will prepare the church for the next generation of black Catholics.

With the change in our leadership, there has been a significant change in philosophy. Joseph Cardinal Bernardin established the Office of Black Catholic Ministry and charged pastoral center agencies to be inclusive.

The Black Catholic Initiative will charge African American Catholics to be fully present and accountable. African American Catholics will be challenged to give our unique gift of blackness as called for by God in the beginning, urged by Pope Paul VI in Uganda in 1969, reiterated by the Black Bishops of the United States in 1984 and no doubt repeated by numerous active baptized Catholics for many years.



Those who define themselves as a part of this ethnic ministry will actively take the initiative to make our work a gift to the local church of Chicago. This initiative of faith will not be a gift from the church to the people; it will be the gift of the people to the church. We will practice kujichagulia, ujamaa and umoja (self determination, collective work and responsibility and unity) in order to first give honor to God and to offer our catholicity to the whole church.

We will work with the Archbishop, not for him. We will stand to give, not beg to receive. We will serve the poor, not be the poor. We will be one church, not many parishes.

In this tried and true Tradition, we will plainly and clearly be Catholic.

2. UNDERSTANDING SUBSIDIARITY

Subsidiarity, n.

The quality of being subsidiary; *spec.* the principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level.

Oxford English Dictionary

Subsidiarity is a catholic organizing principal that recognizes the responsibility of all the baptized to assist with the governance of the church.

By the authority of the Archbishop the most competent and assigned persons closest to the mission are empowered to take prudent action.

Central authority is exercised only when tasks cannot be performed effectively at the local level.

Why did Archbishop Cupich move the Office of Black Catholic Ministries to a Black Catholic Initiative?

Subsidiarity governs the Archbishop so that he does not pretend to govern alone. It guides him to call forth the gifts given by God to each individual and every community so that the church can be effectively governed.

The Archbishop believes that services are more effectively delivered at the local level. In this move he recognizes and appreciates the formation, education and dedication of baptized women and men called to serve.

With clarity of the role of the Archbishop, he reminds us that he too is following the Lord, not pretending to replace him. He is leading by example.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE

The Archbishop of Chicago will appoint an Advisory Board to assist him with his ministry.

- 4. Emigrants and immigrants from the Mother Land are a part of the BCI.**
- 5. A coordinator will be hired to serve as secretary to the Board and coordinate programs. A job description is under development.**
- 6. We will start anew with FOUR areas of FOCUS:
Catholic Identity
Catholic Vocation
Catholic Social Justice
Catholic Education**
- 7. Existing programs are to remain in place.
The Drum will be published on the First Sunday of the month.
God's Praises Tell is not and never was ours as black Catholics.
It belongs to the Communication Department of the Archdiocese.
The BCI will create programs that belong to the BCI.**
- 8. Planning has begun for a Black Catholic Retreat.**
- 9. Some ideas for exploration.
A Pilgrimage to Vatican City
A Pilgrimage to Black Catholic Cuba
Celebrating Marriage Day
A Celebration of priesthood in the African American community
Catholic Heritage Celebration
The re-establishment of the St. Augustine Society
Tolton Principal / Teacher Award Fund
High School Vocation Scholarship
Black Catholic Women's Day / Men's Day
Black Catholic Family Homecoming
Black Catholic Business Directory - Year Book
A daily evening prayer for Black Catholics**

10. SOME FACTS

**Blacks make up 33% of the population of Chicago.
887,608 people**

**Blacks make up 3% of the Catholic Church in Chicago.
66,000 people**

Black Catholics make up 13% of the city's black population.

800 people subscribe to The Drum

**The Office for Black Catholics lists
150 black Catholics as key leaders.**

The Future Depends on What We Do Together

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