

BOWMAN-FRANCIS MINISTRY PROJECT

VISION OF MINISTRY TO GODS PEOPLE

The Bowman-Francis Ministry Team is a community of African-American SVD Missionaries doing Afro-centric creative ministries in the Black Catholic Church. We begin and base this ministry in a deep vision of ourselves, on a "[SANKOFA](#)" journey of recovery, renaming, and reclaiming our Spiritual manhood.

SANKOFA BIRD



What does it mean to be made in the image of God?



Being made in the image of God or "[Imago Dei](#)" which is the Latin translation of "*Image of God*" as found in the *Genesis* creation story. Jesus said that God is "spirit" and that spirit is Divine, not limited to physical corporeality life-giving, and incomprehensible. God does not have physical attributes that we bear, therefore, we're dealing with the unseen qualities of God. Some of the qualities are:

- † **Creative:** Every person has a desire and ability to make things.
- † **Spiritual:** Every person has a spiritual nature that, while unseen, is just as real as our physical nature.
- † **Communicative:** God spoke creation into existence, and our ability to communicate reflects God's ability to converse.
- † **Intelligent:** Just as God has a logical, orderly mind, each of us has a mind that enables us to think and learn.
- † **Morally Responsible:** Just as there are natural laws that govern the universe, universal moral laws govern human behavior, and these laws are written on our hearts.

We are made in the image of a creative, spiritual, communicative, intelligent, and moral God.

The Bowman-Francis Ministry Team is a collective Black Christian voice, urging our nation's decision-makers to end the demonic twin evils of global systemic racism and poverty. Moved by God's grace in Christ Jesus, we reach out to our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state, the next country or the next continent. Through the Bowman-Francis Ministry, we engage in showing God's love, honor, and worth to our neighbors.

We work toward a just world in God's kingdom on earth in which every person has an opportunity to thrive. Six biblical themes that guide our mission as Divine Word Missionaries are:

- God loves us. Jesus' greatest commandments are that we love God and each other ([Deut. 6:4-5](#) [Matthew 22:37-40](#))
- Humanity was created out of God's love; we are call by God to respect the dignity of every person. ([Gen. 1: 26](#))
- God has special concerns for the poor and oppressed people of the world ([Luke 4:18-21](#))
- God provided out of God's abundance ([John 21:1-13](#))
- All creation is reconciled with God, and we are to be agents of reconciliation and change ([2 Cor. 5:17-21](#))
- God loves Justice and requires us to do justice and love kindness. ([Ps 33:5](#); [Luke 11:42](#))