

**Fr. Chester P. Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference**  
**"THE FORGE"**  
**September 4<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Two Poydras Street - New Orleans, LA 70130**

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	
3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Dinner (on your own)	
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony – St. Augustine Youth Choir	Fr. Charles Smith
9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration	Bowman-Francis Ministry

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Registration	
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast (on your own)	
7:00 a.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Praise and Worship	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Morning Mass	
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker – Black Catholic Liberation Thea/ology of Hope and Healing	Fr. Ken Hamilton
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Vocational Vendors	
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>SHORT BREAK</b>	
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	
<b>PART 1</b>	"Black Catholic Men Finding H.O.P.E. "Holding Onto Peace Everlasting."	Evangelist Michael Howard
<b>PART 1</b>	Financial Literacy: Ujamaa Now	Mr. Eric Labat
<b>PART 1</b>	How to attract the next generation of African American Men to our Roman Catholic Church	Fr. Tony Ricard
<b>PART 1</b>	Steal Away to Jesus: Spirituality and Social Justice	Mr. Gerald Boudreaux
<b>PART 1 – YOUTH WORKSHOP</b>	Elements of Manhood	Mr. Devin Boucree
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<b>SHORT BREAK</b>	
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	
<b>PART 2</b>	"Black Catholic Men Finding H.O.P.E. "Holding onto Peace Everlasting."	Evangelist Michael Howard
<b>PART 2</b>	Financial Literacy: Ujamaa Now	Mr. Eric Labat
<b>PART 2</b>	How to attract the next generation of African American Men to our Roman Catholic Church	Fr. Tony Ricard
<b>PART 2</b>	Steal Away to Jesus: Spirituality and Social Justice	Mr. Gerald Boudreaux
<b>PART 2 – YOUTH WORKSHOP</b>	Elements of Manhood	Mr. Devin Boucree
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)	
1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.	Harambee Town Hall: Black Genius: African American Solutions To African American Problems	Dr. Cameron Beatty
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Youth Harambee Town Hall: Black Genius: African American Solutions to African American Problems	Mr. Devin Boucree
3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Reflection, Altar Call & Praise & Worship	Fr. Charles Smith
5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Dinner will be on your own. A game night for young adults is scheduled afterward. Adult men can refer to the program for evening activities.	
9:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration	

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast	
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Registration	
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Praise and Worship	
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker – Unleashing the Power of Personal Advocacy: Empowering Men to Make a Difference	State Senator Gerald Boudreaux
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Vocational Vendors	
10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	
<b>PART 1</b>	The Forge: Leading Black Men Through Life, Leadership and Discipleship	Fr. Charles Smith, SVD
<b>PART 1</b>	Feeding the soul of Black Men: Fill My Cup, Let It Overflow	Fr. Sydney Speaks
<b>PART 1</b>	Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave/Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel	Pastor Melvin Jones
<b>PART 1</b>	Black Men: Love the life you live	Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SJ
<b>PART 1 – YOUTH WORKSHOP</b>	Building Young Black Men's Leadership Identity, Capacity, and Efficacy	Dr. Cameron Beatty
LUNCH 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker – Black Political Issues: Current Black political issues and how to take action on them.	Mr. Kenneth Boudreaux
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Health Fair	
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	
<b>PART 2</b>	The Forge: Leading Black Men Through Life, Leadership and Discipleship	Fr. Charles Smith, SVD
<b>PART 2</b>	Feeding the soul of Black Men: Fill My Cup, Let It Overflow	Fr. Sydney Speaks
<b>PART 2</b>	Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave/Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel	Pastor Melvin Jones
<b>PART 2</b>	Black Men: Love the life you live	Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SJ
<b>PART 2 – YOUTH WORKSHOP</b>	Building Young Black Men's Leadership Identity, Capacity, and Efficacy	Dr. Cameron Beatty
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Break <b>*Please change into your Conference T-Shirts*</b>	
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Board Busses to St. Peter Claver Catholic Church	
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Men's Conference Mass – THE FORGE – Matt 28:19-20	Fr. Sydney Speaks
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Conference Mass Dinner	Sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans/St. Peter Claver
9:15 p.m. 9:45 p.m.	Board bus to Hilton Riverside Hotel	

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (on your own) Healing & Commissioning	
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