



BOWMAN FRANCIS MINISTRY

AKOBEH (WAR HORN) WAR HORN IS A SYMBOLIC SUMMON OR CALL TO ARMS, READINESS AND VOLUNTEERISM

Fr. Chester P. Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference Official Announcement: 2027 Celebration Location Update

October 26, 2026

Dear Brothers in Christ, Conference Supporters, and Members of the Bowman-Francis Community,

Peace and blessings to you! On behalf of the National Planning Committee, we are pleased to officially announce that the **25th Anniversary Celebration of the Fr. Chester P. Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference will take place October 7–10, 2027, in Houston, TX.**

After careful consideration of hotel accommodations, contractual obligations, and the logistical needs associated with hosting this milestone celebration, the National Planning Committee determined that relocating the 2027 conference to Houston would best position us to provide a meaningful and successful experience for our attendees, families, clergy, and community partners.

We recognize that Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was previously announced as the host city for 2027, and we sincerely appreciate the understanding and flexibility of our conference community as we make this important adjustment. We are pleased to confirm that **Milwaukee will now serve as the host city for our 2028 conference**, and we look forward to bringing our national gathering to Wisconsin the following year.

As we prepare to commemorate 25 years of the Fr. Chester P. Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for this historic occasion. For a quarter of a century, this conference has provided a sacred space for Black Catholic men and their families to gather in faith, strengthen bonds of brotherhood, engage in spiritual formation, and renew their commitment to servant leadership within the Church and their communities.

Our 25th Anniversary theme, **"Rooted in Faith, Rising in Purpose" (Colossians 2:6–7)**, reflects both the rich legacy of our conference and our collective responsibility to carry that legacy forward. As we honor the vision, dedication, and contributions of those who have sustained this ministry over the past 25 years, we also embrace the opportunity to inspire future generations of Black Catholic men to remain grounded in Christ and committed to lives of faith, leadership, and service.

We are especially excited to celebrate this significant milestone alongside the broader Black Catholic community, bringing together generations of conference participants, clergy, religious leaders, families, and supporters who have contributed to the enduring mission of this gathering. The 25th Anniversary Celebration will be an opportunity not only to reflect on our history but



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also to celebrate our shared faith, strengthen our community, and envision the future of Black Catholic men's ministry.

We invite you to **mark your calendars for October 7–10, 2027, and make plans to join us in Houston, Texas**, for what promises to be a memorable and spiritually enriching celebration. Additional information regarding hotel accommodations, conference registration, anniversary activities, and programming will be shared in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued prayers, commitment, and support of the Fr. Chester P. Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference. We look forward to gathering with you in Houston as we celebrate 25 years of faith, fellowship, brotherhood, and purpose.

May God continue to bless you, your families, and our beloved Black Catholic community.

In Christ and Brotherhood,

National Planning Committee

Fr. Chester P. Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference

**25th Anniversary Celebration | October 7–10, 2027
Houston, Texas**

Rooted in Faith, Rising in Purpose — Colossians 2:6–7