

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

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH, 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 – Knights of Praise Choir	Sisters of the Holy Family
9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration	Bowman-Francis Ministry

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH, 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	Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker – Woke to our Hope	Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Vocational Vendors	
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	SHORT BREAK	
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	WORKSHOPS	
PART 1	"Black Catholic Men Finding H.O.P.E. "Holding Onto Peace Everlasting."	Evangelist Michael Howard
PART 1	Financial Literacy: Ujamaa Now	Mr. Eric Labat
PART 1	How to attract the next generation of African American Men to our Roman Catholic Church	Fr. Tony Ricard
PART 1	Steal Away to Jesus: Spirituality and Social Justice	Mr. Gerald Boudreaux
PART 1 – YOUTH WORKSHOP	Elements of Manhood	Mr. Devin Boucree
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	SHORT BREAK	
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	WORKSHOPS	
PART 2	"Black Catholic Men Finding H.O.P.E. "Holding onto Peace Everlasting."	Evangelist Michael Howard
PART 2	Financial Literacy: Ujamaa Now	Mr. Eric Labat
PART 2	How to attract the next generation of African American Men to our Roman Catholic Church	Fr. Tony Ricard M.Th, M.Div
PART 2	Steal Away to Jesus: Spirituality and Social Justice	Mr. Gerald Boudreaux
PART 2 – YOUTH WORKSHOP	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, SVD
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 6TH, 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.	WORKSHOPS	
PART 1	The Forge: Leading Black Men Through Life, Leadership and Discipleship	Deacon Jesse Watley
PART 1	Feeding the soul of Black Men: Fill My Cup, Let It Overflow	Fr. Sydney Speaks
PART 1	Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave/Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel	Pastor Melvin Jones
PART 1	I Am Black, I Am Catholic, I Am Here: Awakening Spiritual Experiences of Black Men	Deacon Lawrence Houston
PART 1 – YOUTH WORKSHOP	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.	WORKSHOPS	
PART 2	The Forge: Leading Black Men Through Life, Leadership and Discipleship	Deacon Jesse Watley
PART 2	Feeding the soul of Black Men: Fill My Cup, Let It Overflow	Fr. Sydney Speaks
PART 2	Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave/Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel	Pastor Melvin Jones
PART 2	I Am Black, I Am Catholic, I Am Here: Awakening Spiritual Experiences of Black Men	Deacon Lawrence Houston
PART 2 – YOUTH WORKSHOP	Building Young Black Men's Leadership Identity, Capacity, and Efficacy	Dr. Cameron Beatty
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Break *Please change into your Conference T-Shirts*	
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	Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond Archbishop of New Orleans
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 7TH, 2025

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