



# Archdiocese of Detroit NEWS

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## Area Workshops and Race Convocation to Focus on "Racial Sobriety"

# Detroit to Observe "Racial Sobriety Month"

May is "Racial Sobriety Month." In Detroit and other cities throughout the country, free introductory workshops on "racial sobriety" will be offered.

"The object of this healing approach to the 'stinking thinking' of racism is to make a commitment to seeing each person as my sister and brother," said Fr. Clarence Williams, CPPS, Ph.D., a Precious Blood priest who directs the Institute for Recovery from Racisms that trains individuals in this facilitation ministry of racial healing.

To introduce this approach to the Detroit area, several free workshops and a regional convocation will be held. The Archdiocese of Detroit is the major sponsor of these workshops and has been the leader in promoting them in parishes, organizations and institutions in the suburbs and the city.

"Racial Sobriety Month" is a national event coordinated by the Institute for Recovery from Racisms founded by Fr. Williams to train facilitators to conduct Healing Circles that teach racial sobriety. The workshops are two-hour sessions presented at various times and locations during the month in English and in Spanish.

Due to the space limitations, pre-registration is required to attend the free workshops. Those pre-registering will reserve a place at a workshop with materials and a discount coupon for the purchase of the book, "Racial Sobriety: A Journey from Hurts to Healing" by Fr. Williams.

The registration number to call is 313-237-5996. The free workshops listed can also be found on the webpage of the institute at [www.racialsobriety.org](http://www.racialsobriety.org). The Convocation on Racial Sobriety, with break out workshops on various issues, will be held on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit. The dates and locations of the workshops are as follows:

May 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Spanish at St. Gabriel Parish, 8118 W. Vernor, Detroit. To register, call 313- 841-0753.

May 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Holy Name Parish, 630 Harmon, Birmingham. To register, call: 248-646-2244.

May 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Edith Parish, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. To register, call: 734-464-1222.

May 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren, Canton. To register, call: 734-455-5910.

The Archdiocese of Detroit pioneered the training and certification of more than 200 facilitators throughout the nation in the "racial sobriety" process. Most of these facilitators are members of Catholic parishes throughout the six counties of the archdiocese and represent various racial groupings. In southeastern Michigan, there are approximately 65 certified facilitators. There are another 130 facilitators in 17 other states and two countries.

Fr. Williams is the director of the Office for Black Catholic Ministries in the Archdiocese of Detroit. He developed this program to address the healing process that is used in churches, civic and corporate organizations and educational institutions.

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