

Archdiocese of Detroit

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Area Workshops to Focus on Recovery from Racisms Detroit to Observe Racial Sobriety Month

May is *Racial Sobriety Month*. In the Archdiocese of Detroit and other Roman Catholic dioceses throughout the country, free introductory workshops on *racial sobriety* will be offered. These workshops will be two-hour sessions, except those presented during the lunch hour in downtown Detroit. The lunch hour workshops will be one-hour sessions. The other workshops, in both English and Spanish, will be held on Saturday mornings and afternoons.

"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 Father 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, the free workshops will be held in churches, community and cultural centers and in downtown centers.

Racial Sobriety Month is a national event coordinated by the Institute for Recovery from Racisms® founded by Father Williams to train facilitators to conduct Healing Circles that teach racial sobriety. Space limitations make pre-registration a requirement to attend the free workshops. Those pre-registering will have a reserved place in a workshop, with materials and a discount coupon for the purchase of the book, **Racial Sobriety: A Journey from Hurts to Healing** by Rev. Dr. Clarence Williams. The registration number to call is 313-237-5996.

The free workshops are listed below and can also be found on the web page of the Institute, www.ifrfr.org:

- Thursday, May 1: Noon – 1 p.m., St. Aloysius Community Center, 1234 Washington Blvd., downtown Detroit. For directions, call 313-237-5810.
- Saturday, May 3: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Cobo Hall, 1 Washington Blvd. at Congress (on the Second Level, D-2-11, 12), downtown Detroit. For directions, call 313-237-5810.
- Tuesday, May 6: Noon to 1 p.m., Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison Ave., downtown Detroit. For directions, call 313-963-9200.
- Saturday, May 10: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., St. John Center for Youth and Family, 44011 Five Mile Rd., Plymouth. For directions, call 734-414-1111.
- Saturday, May 10: 2– 4 p.m., Latino Cultural Center (in Spanish), 2020 14th Street (old St. Vincent School Building), Detroit. For directions, call 313-962-8491.
- Saturday, May 17: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., International Institute (for new U.S. citizens), 111 E. Kirby, Detroit. For directions, call 313-871-8600.
- Saturday, May 24: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., St. John Center for Youth and Family, 44011 Five Mile Rd., Plymouth. For directions, call 734-414-1111.
- Saturday, May 31: 9:30 – 11 a.m., Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd at Linwood, Detroit. For directions, call 313-883-8500.

The Archdiocese of Detroit pioneered the training and certification of more than 180 facilitators throughout the nation in the *recovery from racisms* process. The majority of these facilitators are members of Catholic parishes throughout the six counties of the archdiocese and represents various racial groupings. In southeastern Michigan, there are approximately 50 Certified Facilitators; there are another 130 facilitators in 11 states certified by the Institute in the forming of Healing Circles for racial sobriety.

Father 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 needed in church and society as a whole. The certified facilitators have successfully completed 30 hours of training in understanding and presenting this new approach of *racial sobriety* for the healing of racial hurts.

Office for Black Catholic Ministries | Department of Parish Life | www.ifrfr.org
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