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life education I received and the people I have met at the IBCS have profoundly and positively affected my life – I am proud to be an IBCS graduate of the Xavier University of Louisiana.”

Fr. Patrick Hyland, S.J., is from Cleveland, Ohio. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Studies from Boston College. Fr. Hyland also received two Master of Art degrees, one in philosophy from Cleveland State University and another in history from St. Louis University during his formation as a member of the Society of Jesus. Fr. Hyland also received a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (S.T.B) from the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain. His first assignment as a Jesuit priest is St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

“I was attracted to the Institute for Black Catholic Studies as a way to deepen my faith and commitment to the universal Church, which is far more diverse, talented, and hopeful than any single parish or diocese can possibly hope to represent,” said Fr. Hyland. “Jesuits are called to the frontiers, and one serious frontier in the Church today is the long history of African American Catholics.”

Fr. Joshua Peters, S.J. was born in Detroit and is a member of the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus. He serves as the Director of Mission and Identity at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep on the West Side of Chicago. Fr. Peters was ordained to the priesthood in June 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, and this experience made him a priest who takes nothing for granted.

“I credit my family as well as the Black Catholic communities in Detroit, Cincinnati, Dayton, Oakland, Chicago, and New Orleans for helping me answer God’s call,” said Fr. Peters.

The IBCS, an interdisciplinary and holistic pastoral theology program, develops laypersons, religious men and women, and clergy for culturally competent, effective ministry. In keeping with Xavier University of Louisiana’s mission , religious

The IBCS will reconvene in 2025 – June 29 to July 18. For more information, please visit the website at www.xula.edu/ibcs or contact the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at (504)520-7691 or ibcs@xula.edu.

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

among the top three HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other u top producers of African American pharmacists in the country.

Established in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African American and Native Americans to receive quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art, business, education, biological science