

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS 2026



Kayla August is a doctoral candidate at the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College, where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Theology and Education with a focus on preaching, particularly preaching from the lay perspective. Practicing what she preaches, Kayla steps out of the margins to preach as a layperson in a variety of places and communities, recently traveling and preaching as part of a racial reconciliation Civil Rights Pilgrimage with FutureChurch, Future Church's Catholic Women DO Preach Prayer Service in Support of Women's Voices in the Church, and featured on an episode of America Magazine's Podcast *Preach as well as* traveling to Aquinas University with theologians from around the globe in a synodal effort to advance efforts for Lay Eucharistic preaching. Her work as a lay leader also involves contributing a strong lay voice as a member of the Lyke Conference Board, an annual Black Catholic Liturgical conference, and a core member of FADICA's Black Catholic Flourishing Committee. She was recently awarded a doctoral fellowship from the Forum for Theological Exploration for the 2025-2026 academic year and looks forward to bringing a lay Catholic voice to the larger ecumenical conversation of how God is at work in the laity in a variety for Christian frameworks.



Dr. Ansel Augustine is an Emmy-nominated producer and an award-winning author. He has served in full-time ministry for over 25 years in various capacities. He presently works as the Assistant Director of African American Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, DC. He helped rebuild his home church, St. Peter Claver in New Orleans, following Hurricane Katrina. He has keynoted multiple conferences around the country and is an advocate for Black Catholics. He has written and contributed to several books related to ministry including [The African American Catholic Youth Bible](#), [Leveling the Praying Field: Can the Church We Love, Love Us Back](#), and [Praying with Our Feet: Encountering God in the Margins](#). Dr. Augustine serves on the faculty at various institutions of higher learning and has been active in prison ministry. He is also the chaplain for the National Hip Hop Museum in Washington, DC. You can learn more about Dr. Augustine at www.holyhotboy.info.



Christian Bentley of Alexandria, Virginia, is a Certified Mental Health First Aid provider and Peer Support Specialist, committed to blending his faith with advocacy for mental health and social justice. As Director of Evangelization and Discipleship at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, he leverages his role to engage the community in the Catholic faith and in addressing mental health and social justice issues. Christian is passionate about liturgy and catechesis serving as the OCIA Instructor and training as a Sacristan at his Parish. Christian is a descendant of enslaved and freedmen Catholics, whose family roots trace back to Alexandria since the 1700s. He brings this profound heritage into his advocacy and service, representing a voice for historic African American

Catholic communities and young adults. He serves on the Salt and Light Advisory Council for the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University and the Council on Mental Illness and Wellness for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. Christian is a board member of the Archbishop Lyke Foundation & Conference and an advisor with the Collaborative for Catholic Organizing. As a core team member with Josephite Vocations and co-lead for Mental Health initiatives with Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (V.O.I.C.E.), he actively supports spiritual growth and mental health awareness within the Catholic Church and broader communities. He also collaborates with the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnership and the Institute for American Policing Reform, serving as a representative in its pilot community program, where he advocates for humane and faith-inspired approaches to public safety and mental health.



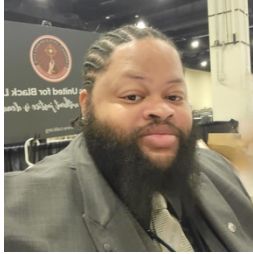
An anointed “Man of God”, **Dr. Patrick Bradley** is the Minister of Worship & Creative Arts at the Westside Baptist, “The Greater Works Church” in Lewisville, Texas. His God-given gifts have allowed him to minister, write, compose, and travel across the United States teaching the gospel of Jesus through song. Dr. Bradley is a distinguished graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University in Point Loma, CA, with a B. A. Degree in Music Education, with a concentration in piano. He graduated and earned his Master of Arts and Worship Leadership from Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, Texas, with the highest honors. He was also awarded his doctorate in music and ministry from the Eastern Conservatory of Music and Bell Grove Theological Seminary. Dr. Bradley is the Director of Music at Paul Quinn College, Dallas, Texas, and a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Incorporated. Dr. Bradley and his wife, Traci, are the proud parents of one son, Josiah Troy.



Richard A. Cheri lives with his wife, Cynthia, in Montz, Louisiana, near his place of birth, New Orleans. Richard has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Master of Arts in Theology and a Master of Science in Teaching Mathematics. Formerly an adjunct professor of theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, mathematics professor at St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana, on the faculty at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, and retired high school teacher as of May 2018, Richard presently is an adjunct professor of mathematics at Loyola University in New Orleans. Richard served as the Director of Liturgy and Music at several church parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Richard is the coordinating director of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Gospel Choir and Executive Director of the Lyke Foundation, which sponsors the Archbishop James Patterson Lyke Liturgical Conference. He has toured with the Moses Hogan Chorale and is a composer, arranger, and producer with World Library Publications and GIA Publications. Richard was presented the National Pastoral Musician of the Year award in 2021.



Richard A. Cheri, II, is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, and currently lives in Houston, Texas, with his wife, Janay. Richie graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Richie is currently working as a Professional Engineer for the City of Houston. Having accompanied choirs since age six, Richie is currently the drummer at St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church in Houston.



My name is **James Conway**, and I am a young adult Black Catholic from Baltimore City. I have been an advocate for social justice for years and I believe that with God and hard work we can be the generation that heals the ills of racism from the past. I have worked with various Catholic organizations and groups such as USCCB, NFCYM, NCYC, MMATW, and The Archdiocese of Baltimore to name a few. This has led me to be a co-founder of CUBL and to start my own business as a ministry consultant called Conway Ministry Consulting. I look forward to continuing to spread

God's message wherever He may send me sharing his good news with everyone he places in my path!



Veronique Dorsey was born in New Orleans and a musician since the age of six, she's a graduate of McDonogh 35 Senior High School graduating and serving as class of 2009 Valedictorian. In 2013 she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree Cum Laude in English with a minor in Theology from Xavier University of New Orleans. She has spent the last eleven years sharing her gifts as an English educator and is currently working as the 3-8 ELA Content Lead for Firstline Schools. In addition to being an educator, she has a passion for ministry and the people of God, she serves as the drummer, Assistant Director of Music at St.

Peter Claver Catholic Church and active member of the Young Adult ministry. She has preached at various churches in the local archdiocese and across the country, sharing the message that God loves us all and has ordained us to continue the building of the kingdom. Veronique is a trumpeter and member of the award winning Original Pinettes Brass Band where she has developed her own signature style while playing for local festivals and events as well as across the United States and abroad (Turkey, Switzerland, Prague and Amsterdam). They are known as the Red Bull Street Queens, were named 2019 and 2020 Best Brass Band by the Gambit Big Easy Awards, featured during the Super Bowl LIX pregame show and 2025 recipients of the ARTIE Award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. She also has also had the privilege to work as a music instructor for the Roots of Music mentoring the next generation of New Orleans musicians. In her life, Veronique believes in being a servant leader, using her life's gifts and talents to serve others.

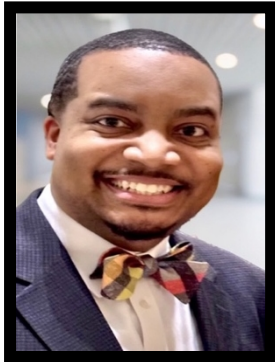


M. Roger Holland, II is a Teaching Associate Professor in Music and Religion and Director of The Spirituals Project at the Lamont School of Music, University of Denver. He earned the Doctor of Pastoral Music degree, with distinction, from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. A graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York City where he received the Master of Divinity degree, Holland also served as Artist-in-Residence and director of the Union Gospel Choir for over 13 years. In 2015 Union awarded him the Trailblazers Distinguished Alumni Award, the first given to a graduate whose ministry is music, for his contributions to the legacy of African American music. He received a master's degree in Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, also in New York, and completed his undergraduate work at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey where he majored in Music Education with a concentration in piano and voice. In 2023 Roger was recognized by the Association of Catholic Publishers as Composer of the Year and awarded Song of the Year for his composition, "All of Me: Ode to Sr. Thea," written in honor of Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, currently a candidate for canonization. Roger is the editor of the In Spirit and Truth series published by GIA Publications, Inc., which reflects the aesthetic of Black Catholic worship. Commissioned works include *The Dream and The Dreamer*, *The Tribulation Suite*, *The Call*, *UBUNTU: I Am Because We Are*, and *This Is the Day*. He has played for the Broadway productions of Oprah Winfrey's **The Color Purple** and the Tony award winning show, **Memphis**. In November 2016 Timothy Cardinal Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York presented Roger with the Pierre Toussaint Medallion for service.



Trevarri Huffington is an exceptional saxophonist, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and arranger. His latest album, "The Modernist," seamlessly blends synthesizers, effects, and various genres, showcasing his innovative cyberpunk-inspired aesthetic. Born in Shreveport, LA, Trevarri discovered his passion for saxophone after seeing a video of John Coltrane and Miles Davis at the age of five. Trevarri continued his musical journey in New Orleans, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music from Loyola University and a master's degree from UNO. In 2017, he released his debut single, "Street Corner Trouble," which secured a place on the Spotify playlist "State of Jazz." Trevarri has since recorded and self-produced three albums, all featuring original compositions and lyrics. In 2021, he joined the esteemed Grammy award-winning group, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, further expanding his musical horizons. With his own projects and as a member of various groups, Trevarri has showcased his talents at renowned venues and festivals worldwide, including the New Orleans Jazz Festival, Blue Note, and Lincoln Center. Additionally, Trevarri is a sought-after session musician in New Orleans, having contributed to the music for various films and projects such as Tyler Perry's "A Jazzman's Blues"

with Terrance Blanchard, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" with Branford Marsalis, and most recently, the music for the upcoming "Tiana's Bayou Adventure" ride at Disney, featuring PJ Morton.



Dr. Aaron Mathews is the Music Director at St. Charles Parish and School in Hartland, WI, and serves as an adjunct piano faculty member at Carroll University. Dr. Mathews has held previous piano faculty positions at Xavier University of Louisiana, Viterbo University, and Allen University. Throughout his career, he has performed extensively as a soloist and collaborative pianist alongside vocalists, choral groups, and chamber ensembles across the United States and internationally. Drawing from over two decades of experience as a liturgical musician, Dr. Mathews has composed sacred choral and piano works, including the *Mass for Sister Thea Bowman*. Dr. Mathews holds degrees in piano pedagogy and performance from Morehouse College, Georgia State University, and the University of South Carolina.



Fr. Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R. is a Roman Catholic priest in the Redemptorist Congregation. He earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree in Preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis (the first African American to receive a Catholic doctorate in preaching), a Master of Theology Degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana, a Master of Divinity Degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Communication from Holy Redeemer College in Waterford, Wisconsin. In June of 2001, he was named a Danforth Fellow and completed the *Leadership Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government* from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In October 2020 he completed his certification in Spiritual Direction from the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction in Tucson, Arizona. He has taught as an adjunct professor at St. Louis University, Hampton University (online instructor), Xavier University of Louisiana, and Catholic Theological Union. Courses taught: *The Black Religious Experience, Introduction to Christian Theology, Pentecostalism, Preaching and Evangelization, Black Preaching, Introduction to Liturgical Preaching, and Advanced Preaching*. He served as Pastor of St. Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" Catholic Church (1993-2002) in St. Louis, Missouri and Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Catholic Church (2005-2011) in Memphis, Tennessee. He is an adjunct professor of preaching in the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana (2007-2017). From 2011-2014 he was a full-time preaching missionary as a member

of the Redemptorist Mission Preaching Team based in Chicago, IL. He is a former Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans from 2014-2017. He is a past convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium, a national interdisciplinary association of Black Catholic scholars from the United States, Africa and the Caribbean. In June 2020 he was appointed as an adjunct professor of preaching and evangelization serving as a doctoral thesis adviser in the Doctor of Ministry of preaching program at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO. He also teaches in Aquinas Institute's New Frontiers in Preaching Academy for Hispanic and Black Catholics. Dr. Nutt is an award-winning author. He has published several books, including *Thea Bowman: Faithful and Free* published by Liturgical Press (2019), won awards from the Association of Catholic Publishers and the Catholic Press Association. *Down Deep in My Soul: An African American Catholic Theology of Preaching* published by Orbis Books (2023) won the 2024 second place award for liturgy from the Catholic Media Association. He co-edited *Preaching Racial Justice* by Orbis Books (2023). Additionally, he has published many articles and book chapters about preaching, African American spirituality and culture, pastoral theology, evangelization and social justice. He is a member of the Academy of Homiletics (AOH), the African American Caucus of AOH, the Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, Spiritual Directors International, and the Spiritual Directors of Color Network. In February 2021, he founded *Copiosa Care: A Spiritual Direction Practice*. (www.copiosacare.org) In 2022 he was inducted into the prestigious Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Nutt serves on the editorial board of the Bloomsbury Publishing series, the T&T Clark Library of Homiletics. He is the owner of Britton Duvall Consulting, LLC, a consulting firm offering consultation, training, workshops, lectures, and organizational facilitation. He is also a proud active Life-Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and lives in St. Louis, Missouri.



Reverend Jeffery Ott, O.P. is a friar of the Order of Preachers who leads Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Atlanta's historic first African American Catholic parish, founded in 1912. Before stepping into this pastoral role, Fr. Jeffery ministered as University Chaplain at his beloved alma mater, Xavier University of Louisiana, located in his native New Orleans. Fr. Jeffery contributes to the broader Atlanta community through his involvement on the boards of Mercy Care Services and Interfaith Community Initiatives, Inc. Nationally, he lends his voice and vision to the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests as vice chair of the Leadership Team and is a member of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. Fr. Jeffrey holds an M.A. in Theology and a Master of Divinity degree from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. A lover of the arts and culture, he delights in movies, music, singing, reading, and traveling.



W. Clifford Petty is an accomplished pastoral musician, composer-in-residence, educator, and recording artist who has served at Resurrection Catholic Church in Montgomery, Alabama, for more than three decades. A native of Eufaula, Alabama, he holds a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Music Performance and a Master's in Music Education from Alabama State University, where he graduated *Magna Cum Laude* and was honored as a Presser Scholar. In 2022, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Graham Theological Seminary. With over forty years of service in music ministry and education—including positions at Saint Jude High School and Resurrection Catholic School—Dr. Petty is widely recognized as a performer, arranger, clinician, and liturgical composer. His published works, issued through World Library Publications (GIA), appear in major hymnals such as *One in Faith, We Celebrate, Word & Song, Voices as One, Lead Me, Guide Me* (Second Edition), and *Gather* (Fourth Edition). In 2008, he was commissioned to compose “Through the Eyes of God,” the theme song for the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. His discography includes *In Spirit and Truth, Touch Jesus, Mass of New Beginnings*, and *We Are Filled with Joy*, along with numerous collaborations with leading liturgical musicians. A respected consultant on African American sacred music, Dr. Petty has offered his expertise to dioceses, congregations, and conferences across the United States. His artistry—deeply shaped by studies with Dr. Kay R. Pace in gospel music and Negro Spirituals—is known for its ability to inspire prayer, uplift communities, and touch the soul. Dr. Petty is a member of ASCAP, NPM, NANM, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the Knights of Peter Claver, and he has received numerous honors for his contributions to music and education. He is the proud father of LaKeyla Jones and grandfather of Landon and Journee.



Brian Quezergue's introduction to music began as child while accompanying his father, legendary composer and arranger, Dr. Wardell Quezergue, on various performances and recording sessions. Although never forced to play an instrument during childhood, from his father Brian garnered a love for music and learned the importance of diligence, practice, and the knowledge of one's instrument. Due to this early exposure, no prodding was necessary; Brian decided to become a musician. Initially Brian studied the piano but later became enamored with the bass guitar. His formal training began in 1993 at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and the Jazz and Heritage School of Music where he was instructed by some of New Orleans' most respected and accomplished talents such as Clyde Kerr Jr., Edward “Kidd” Jordan and Elton Heron. During Brian's tenure at NOCCA, he was given the esteemed opportunity to play alongside his mentors. Concurrent to this scholastic period, his persistence and hard work paid off as he was offered and accepted the position of the primary bass player for his father's band, The Wardell Quezergue Orchestra. Brian later attended Southern University at New Orleans where he studied Instrumental Music Education. Eventually Brian began traveling nationally and internationally performing with great musicians such as Wardell Quezergue, The Wild Magnolias, Alvin Batiste, Edward “Kidd” Jordan, Clyde Kerr Jr., Dr. John, Kent Jordan, and Courtney Bryant. Brian's talents have afforded him the opportunity to perform in esteemed

venues such as The Blue Note in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Brian graduated in 2003 from Southern University at New Orleans. After more than a decade of traveling and recording, Brian decided that the time was right for him to add his voice to the cultural and musical landscape as a solo artist. As a result of his multi-genre exposure dating back to childhood, Brian's original compositions can be best described as an amalgamation of various musical forms. With first his first solo effort *Reflections*, Brian seeks not only to promote himself as a solo artist; He seeks to help lift the bass guitar from its lowly perceived position as a secondary and/or background instrument to a more prominent and respected position in the minds and psyche of music-lovers and aficionados alike. Brian is currently a music instructor in the Firstline Charter School system and The Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp. He is also a Minister of Music at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church. In May 2014, he received a Master of Music degree from the University of New Orleans. In 2024, Brian released his second solo effort, *The Pilgrim*, which is available on most streaming platforms.



Fr. R. Tony Ricard is a Priest for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and is the Director for the Office of Black Catholic Ministries. He is the Campus Minister at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans and is an Instructor of Church Doctrine and Youth Ministry for the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana. He also serves as the Catholic Chaplain of the New Orleans Saints. He has written fourteen awesome books which include “Don’t Be Stupid! Lessons You Should Already Know” and “Dreams I’ve Never Had! Justice Denied/Justice Supplied”.



Yvette Tunley is a Kansas City, Missouri native and a dedicated member of St. Therese Little Flower (STLF) Parish. She has a long-standing history of service as both Youth Group Coordinator and Praise Dance Coordinator. Yvette also volunteers as the “head elf” for the STLF Christmas Basket program which services approximately 200 families, assists with Senior Center activities, and serves on various fundraising committees. Over the years, she has chaperoned numerous young people to Unity Explosion, the Lyke Conference, and the National Catholic Youth Conference, helping guide and support their faith journeys. Professionally, Ms. Tunley has worked as a Human Resources Manager for a governmental agency and has coached basketball at grade school, high school, and collegiate levels. Yvette firmly believes that when you are blessed, you are called to bless others. She brings her unique perspective and joyful spirit to sharing the power, beauty, joy, and purpose of praise and liturgical dance as a meaningful part of the worship experience.



Fr. Manuel Bragg Williams, C.R. was born on July 24, 1957, in Aliceville, Alabama. He attended R.J. Kirksey Elementary from grades 1-4 and completed his primary education at Resurrection Catholic School in Montgomery. He graduated from Montgomery's St. Jude High School in 1975. Fr. Williams professed first vows on May 30, 1982, and was ordained on May 23, 1987, as a member of the Congregation of the Resurrection. After ordination, Father Williams served on the faculty of Gordon Technical High School in Chicago as theology instructor and director of student activities. He has preached revivals and missions throughout the U.S. and has also lectured in the areas of Black Catholic spirituality and history, as well as fundraising and development. Since July of 1990 Father Williams has been director of Resurrection Catholic Missions of the South and pastor of Resurrection Catholic Church, both in Montgomery. Resurrection Missions is an ecumenical, multifaceted, educational, advocacy, and social service organization employing over 50 persons in its various programs and institutions. Father Williams is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive, a certification granted by the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives in April 2000. In 2021 he co-taught a course on Anti-Racism Preaching with, Fr. Greg Heille, OP, DMin, of Aquinas Institute of Theology. Fr. Williams authored a chapter in *Preaching Racial Justice* (Orbis Books 2023). In the spring of 2024, he will teach an online course on African American Catholic Preaching and History in the *New Frontiers of Preaching* program offered by Aquinas Institute and the Lilly Foundation.