



**Evangelization and Liturgy Conference**  
**"AWAKE AND EVANGELIZE...**  
**Through Faith, Hope and Love"**

*"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead and Christ will give you light." Ephesians 5:14*

June 18-20, 2025  
Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake Hotel  
3000 NASA Parkway  
Houston Texas 77058

**INVITED GUESTS**  
**Daniel Cardinal DiNardo**  
Archbishop Emeritus  
**Father Anthony Bozeman, SSJ**  
Conference Pastor  
**Mr. Clark J. Knighten**  
Music Director  
**Ashley Morris**  
**Dr. Ansel Augustine**  
**Dr. DeKarlos Blackmon**

Conference Registration Link:  
<https://archgh.swoogo.com/Unity2025>

Hotel Reservation Link:

[Unity Explosion 2025 Addendum Booking Link](#)

## Conference Information

**Conference Online Registration:** Online Registration Fee is \$150 per person (there is no group rate) and also includes the Bell Music Institute. This fee is available until **May 18, 2025**. After this date, the fee will be **\$175**. Registration Fee includes conference materials, five (5) meals and a conference T-shirt and bag. **All registrations received after June 14, 2025 will be considered on-site registrations.**

**On-Site Registration Fees received after June 14, 2025 will be \$175. However, meals cannot be guaranteed after this date.**

**Conference Meals:** Registration includes five (5) meals: Dinner on Wednesday; Breakfast, Box Lunch for Galveston trip, Reception on Thursday, and Breakfast on Friday. To help us prepare properly, please register by May 18, 2025. Meals are not guaranteed for any on-site registrations received after June 14, 2025. A hotel restaurant is available.

**Conference Attire recommended:**

Wednesday: Parish/Ministry T-shirt;  
Thursday: Unity T-shirt;  
Friday: Cultural Attire.

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:**

Cancellation of conference registration must be in writing and must be received before May 30, 2025. A processing fee of \$50 will be incurred. A refund check will be issued after August 15, 2025. No refunds will be made for any cancellation request received after May 30, 2025.

**Conference space is limited and for security purposes, only registered participants will be admitted to all Conference activities, including all liturgies.**



## Hotel Information

The conference will be held at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake Hotel, 3000 NASA Parkway, Houston, Texas 77058. A block of rooms is being held at \$159 per night flat rate plus 17% taxes for up to four (4) persons per room. This rate is available through May 18, 2025, or until sold out, by contacting the hotel directly to reserve a room(s). Online reservations can be made at:

[Unity Explosion 2025 Addendum Booking Link](#)

or by phone at 281-333-9300. Reserve only the actual number of rooms to be occupied after you have registered for the conference. Please notify the hotel of any special needs (handicapped facilities, etc.)

**A credit card is required for a reservation. Deposits** for room incidentals per room must be secured by credit card payment of **\$50** per day per room. When you check in, a hold may be placed on your card for the full amount to be owed to the hotel, including estimated incidentals, through your date of check-out. Any such hold may not be released for 72 hours from the date of check out or longer at the discretion of your card issuer.

**Cancellation:** If you wish to cancel, please do so by 11:59 pm on June 16, 2025 to avoid any penalty equal to the first night's room rate and tax.

**Hotel Parking:** Parking is free for registered conference participants with a Parking Tag obtained at the Hotel Front Desk on arrival. Make sure the Tag is readily visible on your vehicle. Non-registered conference participants will be charged a parking fee of \$9.00 and vehicles may be subject to towing.

**Vendors/Exhibitors:** Religious art and icons, cultural apparel, handmade jewelry, and African American themed handbags can be purchased in the vendor area. The conference does not assume any liability for goods purchased from vendors. A limited number of exhibitors are available to provide information. **All vendor spaces are sold out!**



## Roderick J. Bell Institute for African American Sacred Music

The Roderick J. Bell Institute for African American Sacred Music was begun by Roderick J. Bell, music prodigy and native Houstonian. The Bell Institute is designed to provide professional, spiritual and networking opportunities for musicians, ministers of music, and those interested in the music ministry. The Institute also provides a venue for composers to present various genres of new sacred music. The Bell Institute runs concurrently with other sessions for conference participants on June 18, 2025, at the Conference Hotel.

### Invited Clinicians include:

Clark J. Knighten  
Dr. DeKarlos Blackmon  
Keith Eason, et al

The Bell Institute will be presented in four sessions on June 18.

9:00-12:00 noon	Sessions I & II
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00-3:00 pm	Sessions III & IV

A variety of sacred music will be presented. Composers will present new music for the liturgical seasons. Compositions will be available for purchase on site. If you wish to submit music for presentation, please adhere to the following guidelines by May 18, 2025:

1. All music works must be copyrighted or submitted with written permission from publishing company and/or composer.
2. Please supply a minimum of 75 copies for distribution.



Join us for a joyous celebration of faith, culture and history as Catholics of African Descent on our spirit-filled journey of evangelization and liturgy during a Jubilee Year of Hope!

This year's Conference is an opportunity to explore our rich past as Black Catholics as we observe the 160th Anniversary of Juneteenth! Our Conference is being held just a short ride away from historic Galveston Island as we come together with the vision to liturgically recognize, embrace, and share the gifts that American Catholics of African descent bring to the universal church. Since 1989, the mission of the Unity Explosion Conference has grown to provide an experience that addresses the expressed leadership, ministerial, catechetical, liturgical, and evangelization needs of families of African descent.

The Conference begins at 8 a.m. on June 18 with the Roderick J. Bell Institute for African American Sacred Music. Concurrent sessions will begin at noon. Reconciliation will be held before evening Mass in preparation for Mass at St. Mary Cathedral Basilica, a Jubilee Year of Hope Site. Reconciliation is a one of the requirements to earn a plenary indulgence at a Jubilee Site. Our Opening Mass will be held in the evening followed by Dinner, Adoration and Night Prayer.

Thursday, June 19, will include 2 General Sessions before we depart for Galveston on a panoramic tour of African American historic sites. We'll discuss Juneteenth, Black Catholic History, Holy Rosary School and Church, the 1900 flood, St. Mary Cathedral Basilica, Reedy Chapel and General Order No. 3, Nia Cultural Center and the famous Juneteenth Mural. We'll return to the hotel for discussion, a reception, and Night Prayer.

Our last General Session will be held Friday, June 20 followed by our Closing Mass and Commissioning.

Come and share with us a joyful time in the Lord!



## Conference Schedule Tuesday, June 17, 2025

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, June 18, 2025

7:00 am Registration (ends at 3:30 pm)  
8:00 am Prayer Service  
9:00 am Bell Institute Sessions  
11:30 am Lunch  
12:15 pm Concurrent Intergenerational Sessions  
4:00 pm Reconciliation  
5:30 pm Mass  
7:15 pm Dinner  
8:30 pm Adoration  
9:00 pm Night Prayer

### Thursday, June 19, 2025

7:00 am Registration (ends at 10 am)  
7:00 am Prayer Service  
7:30 am Breakfast  
8:30 am General Session I  
10:30 am General Session II  
12:00 pm Load Charter Buses  
Depart for Galveston Island  
Panoramic Tour and Box Lunch  
4:00 pm Mass at St. Mary Cathedral Basilica  
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Principal Celebrant  
6:00 pm 160th Anniversary of Juneteenth  
Reading of General Order #3  
At Reedy Chapel  
Depart Galveston  
8:00 pm Reflections & Reception at Hotel  
9:00 pm Night Prayer

### Friday, June 20, 2025

7:00 -7:45 am Breakfast  
8:00 am Praise and Worship  
8:30 am General Session III  
10:30 am Closing Mass & Commissioning  
12:00 Noon Conference Ends  
Hotel Checkout

