Black And Catholic: The Challenge And Gift Of Black Folk Contributions Of African American Experience And Thought To Catholic Theology

Jamie T Phelps


Black Catholics must challenge their fellow believers to live up to the church’s moral teachings on issues of race. Every February we celebrate the heritage of African Americans in the United States. For Catholics, this month has a twofold significance. First, in the words of black Catholic historian and Benedictine monk Cyprian Davis, it provides an opportunity to highlight the fact that ‘the Catholic Church in the United States has never been a white European church.’ Indeed, Father Davis documents how persons of African descent have shaped our church at every stage of its history.