

# Journal of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium

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## Cover and Front Matter

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The Catholic Church in the United States is primarily a white racist institution, has addressed itself primarily to white society and is definitely a part of that Society. We feel her primary though not exclusive work is in the area of institutional maintenance and social change. Within the ghetto the role of the Church is no longer that of spokesman and leader, but apart from a more direct spiritual role, must now be that of supporter and learner. This is the role that White priests have not been accustomed to playing and are not psychologically prepared to play.

The Catholic Church is experiencing a significant change in attitudes in the Black Community and is not making the necessary meaningful and realistic adjustments to these changes. The Black Community has developed to one of Black people controlling and making decisions for the people in the Black Community. The leadership is to be exercised only in the Black Community, but must function throughout the entire gamut of ecclesial society.

It is imperative that the Church recognize this change. White persons working in the Black Community must be educated to these changing attitudes, and must be prepared to accept and function in conjunction with the prevailing attitudes of the Black Community.

One of these changes must be a reevaluation of present attitudes towards Black militancy. The violence occurring in the Black Communities has been categorically condemned and has called forth a wide variety of response, from "shoot to kill" to the recommendation of the Kerner Report. Such violence has even been specified as "Negro violence," as though there were a substantial or significant difference between the violence in the Black community and that which has occurred consistently throughout the history of the United States and of

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