

## **Faith and Resilience: Education and Partnerships**

### **September 13, 2025**

VCRJ partnered with Journey for Change as part of the Office for Black Catholics Faith and Resilience Series. The event featured presentations on both organizations' histories, discussions about slavery and racism, and emphasized the importance of storytelling. Attendees discussed why it is vital to collect, preserve, and share Black Catholic stories, especially about lost churches and schools.

#### **Why These Stories Matter**

- They highlight the significance of Black Catholic institutions for both church and community.
- Black Catholic history is integral to U.S. history, revealing isolation and flaws within the church and society.
- Preserving diverse stories demonstrates both independent and collaborative roles in the church.
- Recording these truths ensures all Catholics learn from them.
- Collecting these accounts is urgent as witnesses age and untold stories risk being lost.
- It's crucial to intentionally save these documents, given ongoing erasure of racial history.
- These stories provide accurate records of past decisions and their consequences.

#### **The Healing Power of Stories**

- Sharing stories can disrupt segregation and foster connections.
- Documenting personal experiences prevents loss and promotes truth.
- Stories build awareness, help avoid repeating mistakes, and celebrate achievements.
- They remind us that the church serves as a community and family, not just a place of worship.