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Priest to Speak on the Power of Personal History and Spirituality

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Priest to Speak on the Power of Personal History and Spirituality

September 6, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Priest Joseph A. Brown will come to Illinois Wesleyan's campus to speak on Sept. 18 and 19. Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs, Brown will give a speech entitled *"We are climbing Jacob's ladder: Wrestling with our history"* in the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington) on Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. He will also give a talk at IWU's chapel hour, on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 11 a.m. in the Evelyn Chapel (1310 N. Park St., Bloomington). Both events are free and open to the public.

Brown, a native of East St. Louis, Ill., is a Catholic priest with an extensive academic and pastoral career. He is currently a professor and the director of the Black American Studies Program at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIU). Before joining SIU, Brown taught at the University of Virginia and at Xavier University in New Orleans. He received both his Master's degree in African-American Studies and his Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

He has actively lectured on the topics of African and African American spirituality, and African-American history and culture. In 1999 he consulted on the RENEW 2000 project, which completed a five-booklet series in adult spirituality.

Brown has published many articles on black theology and literature as well as a book of poetry entitled, *Accidental Grace*. He also wrote two books, *A Retreat with Thea Bowman And Bede Abram: Leaning on the Lord*, and *To Stand on the Rock: Meditations on Black Catholic Identity*. Most recently, he coauthored a collection of prayer services, *Sweet Sweet Spirit*, which was published in fall 2006.



Joseph A. Brown

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