

# BIRTH OF A MOVEMENT

## *Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church*

Olga M. Segura

ORBIS  BOOKS  
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Orbis Books, please visit our website at [www.orbisbooks.com](http://www.orbisbooks.com).

---

Copyright © 2021 by Olga M. Segura

Published by Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version: Catholic Edition, Copyright © 1989 and 1993, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

---

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Segura, Olga M., author.

Title: Birth of a movement : Black lives matter and the Catholic Church / Olga M. Segura.

Description: Maryknoll, New York : Orbis Books, [2021] | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "Birth of a Movement tells the story of the Black Lives Matter movement through a Christian lens. Readers will gain a deeper understanding of the movement and why it can help the church, and the country, move closer to racial equality. Readers will understand why Black Lives Matter is a truly "Christ-like movement."— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020036197 (print) | LCCN 2020036198 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626984202 (print) | ISBN 9781608338832 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Catholic Church—United States. | Race relations—Religious aspects—Catholic Church. | Black lives matter movement.

Classification: LCC BX1407.N4 S44 2021 (print) | LCC BX1407.N4 (ebook) |

DDC 261.8/32808996073—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020036197>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020036198>

# Contents

Foreword, <i>by Tia Noelle Pratt, PhD</i>	ix
Acknowledgments	xiii
Introduction	xv
1. The March for Black Life	1
2. The Black Women of the Movement	23
3. Chattel Slavery and the Catholic Church	38
4. A Servant Leader	53
5. The Role of the U.S. Bishops	67
6. Reparations and the Catholic Church	82
7. Racial Capitalism	97
8. A Liberated and Resurrected Church	111
Index	131