

## Quarterly Meeting Minutes – 14 December 2019

### In attendance:

Don Bennett – St. Ann (Fayetteville)	Esther Patterson – St. Ann (Fayetteville)
Micah Alexander – St. Ann (Fayetteville)	Michael Patterson – St. Ann (Fayetteville)
Ada Horton – St. Joseph (Raleigh)	Robert Cross – St Michael (Cary)
Adriene Gamble – St. Joseph (Raleigh)	Kevin Green – Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral
Ann Hurrey – St. Mary (Goldsboro)	Leon Cooke – St. Francis of Assisi (Raleigh)
Martha Carter-Bailey – St. Mary (Goldsboro)	Tristan Evans – Diocese of Raleigh

### Agenda:

- Roll Call and Introductions
- Recap from Day of Reflection: 3 Goals and Leadership Structure
- Moving our Goals forward
- MLK Day Mass for Peace and Justice
- Calendar Review
- St. Ann Christmas Luncheon

### Discussion:

- **Agenda Topic 1 – Roll Call and Introductions**

Tristan (Diocese) thanked all in attendance and called roll.

6 of 17 AAMEN Chapters were present

0 of the 3 African Communities were present

And there was no Liaison from the Knights of Peter Claver present.

- **Agenda Topic 2 – Recap from Day of Reflection: 3 Goals and Leadership Structure**

Tristan (Diocese) reported the 3 Priorities set for this year for AAMEN to focus on:

- **Spirituality and the Saints**
- **Addressing Social Justice**
- **Youth Ministry**

Also, Tristan announced that Adriene Gamble is now Chairperson for the AAMEN Leadership Board with responsibility to assist the diocesan Coordinator of AAMEN and to represent the Board at parish/diocesan events and finally to sit on the endowment board with the Coordinator of AAMEN and the AAMEN Chaplain to ensure proper oversight of the financial interests of the community's investments.

- **Agenda Topic 3 – Moving our Goals forward**

Due to the smaller turnout for this meeting we decided not to dive too deeply into the Spirituality and the Saints and Addressing Social Justice goals until the March meeting. However, this did lend itself for a robust discussion around Youth Ministry. Tristan outlined the reality of the size of our clergy and reiterated how important it will be for the laity to pick up the ball and run with it if we are to affect anything within the Black Catholic Community.

Tristan also suggested that we look for ways to engage our target audience through Scripture, Service

opportunities, Social activities and Black Spirituality (Prayer, Mass, Retreats, and Adoration).

The discussion on Youth Ministry was fruitful and set the group to look at three priority groups of the young, black, Catholic Church.

\* **Youth Ministry:**

- Strengthening the parent youth bond
- Letting our youth know “We See You” and “We Hear You”
- Addressing the missing step in AAMEN Youth and Young Adult gatherings
- How to be engaging to this audience
- Peer Ministry as an ally
- Service should be seen as “a committed and enduring walk alongside those we serve” rather than a more “petting zoo model” where we show up with food and other items around Thanksgiving and Christmas and our brothers and sisters in need go without for the other ten months of the year. So, what we get involved in must be meaningful and sustainable.

\* **Campus Ministry:**

- We need to be very mindful of our HBCUs and the Catholic or potential catholic youth who attend there, especially when there is no designated Chaplain. How do we support them on their faith journey (for example attending Mass, goin to Reconciliation regularly)
- Transportation was also discussed. This was addressed in the light of Holy Cross once sat across the street from North Carolina Central University however, the small church was decommissioned, and a new larger church building was built several miles away from the college campus which could pose a barrier for the youth to attend. The group tossed around ideas of how we could be instrumental in addressing this challenge on a practical level.
- The group finally expressed a concern regarding Chaplains who do not have enough cultural awareness to engage the youth culture of today in a “Meet them where they are type of way”.

\* **Young Adults:**

- Another important youth population that we need to better engage is the young adult. We need to take into consideration young families, single workers, single parents, recent graduates and those who may be seeking employment, discerning marriage or a vocation to the religious life. How could we better engage evangelize them and bring them closer to Christ?

● **Agenda Topic 4 – Grants and Endowments**

There have been questions regarding grant and endowment funds for the AAMEN community and Tristan (Diocese) provided a breakdown of the resources that support the AAMEN community. There are currently, three sources of funding designated for the AAMEN community and designated to support education or ministry support. The sources are as follows:

- **The Black and Indian Mission Organization (BIMO):** The Black and Indian Mission Office comprises the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, the Commission for the Catholic Missions among the Colored People and the Indians and the Catholic Negro-American Mission Board, which are three Roman Catholic institutions for mission work in the United States that maintain separate functions but operate with one staff and one board of directors. Since 1887, the Commission for the Catholic Missions among the Colored People and the Indians has administered a national annual Lenten collection to support African American and Native American missions. Since the 1980s, the Commission and its collection have been known respectively as the Black and Indian Mission Office and the Black and Indian Mission collection. And the Catholic Negro-American Mission Board has supported and promoted Catholic missions among African Americans. It was founded in 1907 as the Catholic Board for Mission Work among the Colored

People to provide a second national funding stream for Black Catholic missions. The purpose of the grants from this organization is twofold:

- Primary and secondary school tuition assistance for catholic school students
- Assistance to ministries serving the Black and Indian communities
- **The Monsignor Thomas Paul Hadden Young Adult Education Endowment Fund:** this endowment was established within the Diocese of Raleigh on November 10, 2017 with the purpose of educational funding for young adult African Americans who are actively participating in ministry within the diocese for post-secondary education (college/trade school).
- **The Benjamin J. Davis, Sr. Endowment Fund:** the endowment was established within the Diocese of Raleigh on September 23, 2017 for the purpose assisting with the operating needs of ministry to the African American Catholic Community by sustaining the following areas of evangelization:
  - Maintaining African American Catholic identity
  - Heighten African American Catholic visibility
  - Enhance the spiritual lives of African American Catholics

**Note:** The two endowments are governed by a board made up of the Chaplain for the African American Community (who has the ultimate authority on disbursements), the Director of African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization, and the Chair of the AAMEN Advisory Board.

• **Agenda Topic 5 – MLK Day Mass for Peace and Justice**

The Spirituality and the Saints committee has picked up the ball and ran with it in planning this event. Communications will go out at the beginning of 2020.

**Agenda Item 6 - Calendar Review**

**Note:** Our next major event is the Day of Reflection which will be a day spent setting the goals and priorities of the AAMEN Community for the next 12 months. We will begin with Mass and then move into the major task of breaking open the 2017 Pastoral Plan from the Black Catholic Congress. **The Day of Reflection will be November 9, 2019 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Durham, NC from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

Date	Event	Location (Preliminary)
2020		
Jan. 15	Prayer Breakfast	TBD
Jan. 18	Mass and March for Life	Holy Name of Jesus (Raleigh) 11:00 am
Jan. 20	MLK Mass/Service Project	Holy Name of Jesus (Raleigh) 10:00 am
Jan 23	March for Life Conference	Renaissance Downtown Hotel (Washington, D.C.) 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Jan 24	March for Life Rally	National Mall 12 <sup>th</sup> Street (Washington, DC) 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Feb. TBD	Black History Month	TBD
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)	
Mar. 28	Quarterly Meeting	St. Joseph (Raleigh) 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Apr. 9	Chrism Mass	Holy Name of Jesus (Raleigh)
Apr. 12	Easter	
Apr. 18	Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference	NCSU – Reynold Coliseum (Raleigh)

June TBD (13th/20th/27 <sup>th</sup> )	Family Reunion (and Quarterly Meeting)	TBD (St. Ann – Clayton/St. Mary – Goldsboro)
June 16-20	Lyke Conference	Xavier Univ/La Meridian (New Orleans, LA) 7:00 am – 10:00 pm
Aug. 14	African Heritage Mass Rehearsal (Choir Loft and Sanctuary)	Holy Name of Jesus (Raleigh) 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Aug. 16	African Heritage Mass and Celebration	Holy Name of Jesus (Raleigh) 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm

- **Agenda Topic 6 – St. Ann Christmas Luncheon**

We had a wonderful luncheon with the St. Ann AAMEN Community and Senior parishioners. I would like to thank them all for such a wonderful and well planned event.

As this year draws to an end, I am very grateful to be blessed with the role and opportunity to serve the AAMEN Community. I am learning a lot and am excited and hopeful that we will breathe new life into our parishes by sharing our gifts of blackness.

Peace, Love and Blessings,  
Tristan