

# AAMEN Quarterly Meeting

December 12, 2020

## AGENDA

### Opening Prayer

#### Attendees

- Lauren Green
- Kevin Green
- Adriene Gamble
- Wendy Edwards
- Antony Bishop
- Leon Cooke
- Sandra Deans
- Jennifer Jones
- Margaret Cross

#### Diocesan Update

Tristan provided updates from last meetings.

- Meeting with Endowment Foundation postponed due to Foundation Executive Director resignation.
- Launch of Tuition Assistance Program
- Highlighted the BIMO Collection dates Feb 21, 2021 and Mar 6, 2022
- Explained the mandate of the Black and Indian Mission Organization Grant for tuition assistance
- Outlined the five officially recognized communities that fall under the AAMEN umbrella although there are many more (African American, Igbo, Francophone, Swahili and Afro-Caribbean)
- Reiterated to group that we must take the lead in educating our parishes on Africa's foundational contribution to the universal Church.

#### Goals Team Update

Kevin Green presented the Goals Team's work on Goal Revision

- Team: Antony Bishop, Rene Corders, Margaret Cross, Jennifer Jones, Lauren Green and Kevin Green
- The team utilized a template that states goal, objectives (Key Performance Indicators-KPIs, Strategies, and Tactics)
- **Goal #1:** Addressing Social Justice (Addressing Racism)
  - a) Acknowledge Racism within diocese
  - b) Increase awareness of that racism
  - c) Directly address Racism in the parishes
- **Objectives**
  - a) Concur with Bishop on racism and plans to address
  - b) Acknowledge systemic racism through homilies on parish/diocesan level
- **Strategies**
  - a) Schedule meetings with Bishop and AAMEN leadership

- b) Collaborate with bishop to develop a formal statement addressing diocesan racism
- **Tactics**
  - a) Schedule two annual meetings with Bishop (one before June 2021 and second before December 2021)
  - b) Publish the diocesan formal stand on racism to be published by November 2021
- **Next Steps**
  - Commitment from Chapters
  - Buy-in from Chapters
  - Revise/Augment current goals

### **General Discussions**

- Kevin Green suggested that more emphasis should be placed on Black Catholic History month on the diocesan communications.
- Jennifer Jones expressed that Black Catholic History month should be better focused on Black Catholics during Black Catholic History month. Future activities during the month need to be educated about Black Catholicism.
- Lauren Green expressed that our events are open to all Catholics and will make all aware of the Black Catholic history of the diocese.
- Antony Bishop shared his disappointing experience in the priesthood discernment process within the diocese. Why are most African American priest steered toward religious orders?
- Tristan asked the team to think ahead about how we keep the ball moving down the field even during transitions in pastors and bishops.
- Margaret Cross discussed the Just aith program on Racial Equity and Racial Healing
- Discussed final touches on MLK Mass