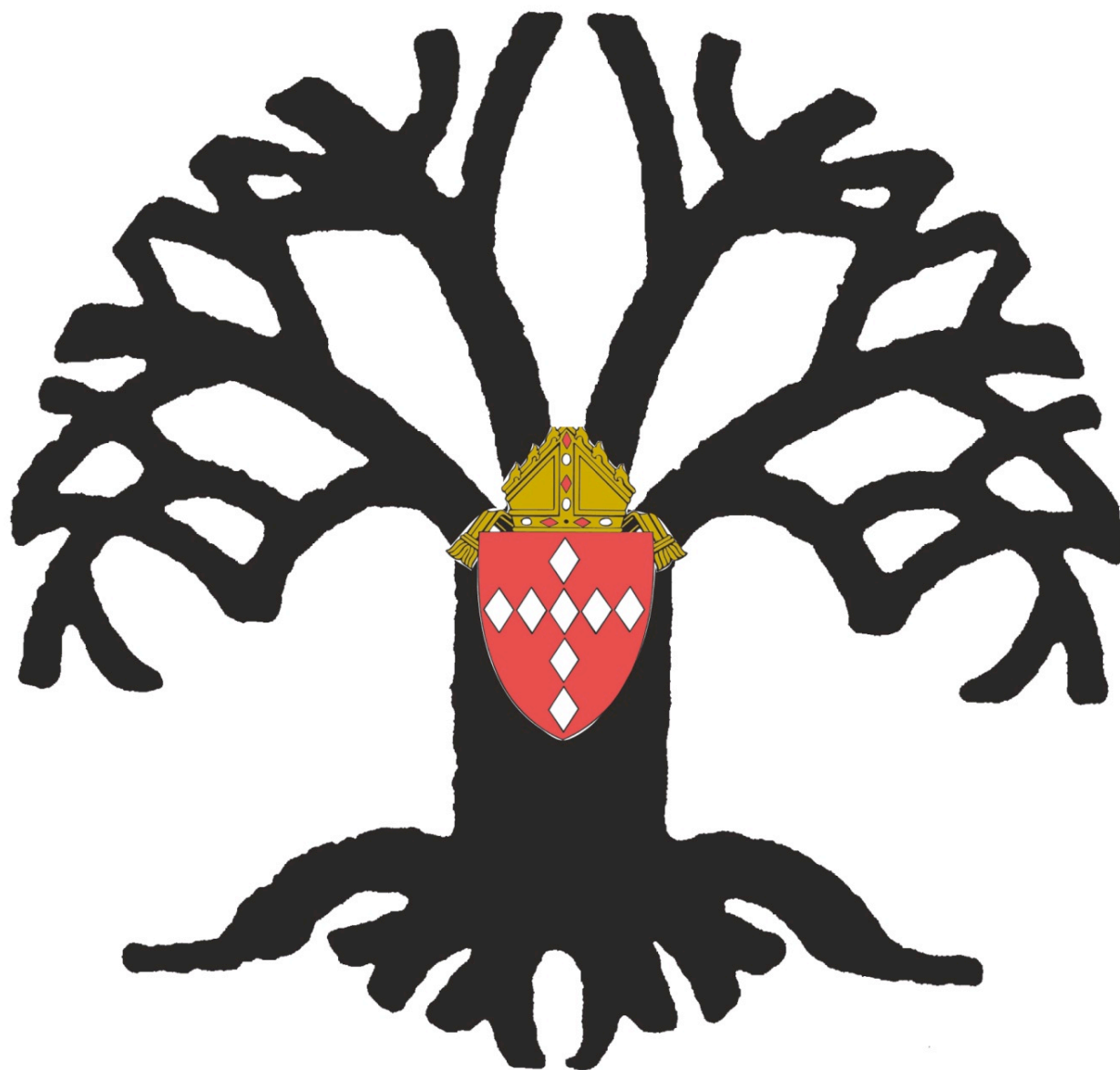
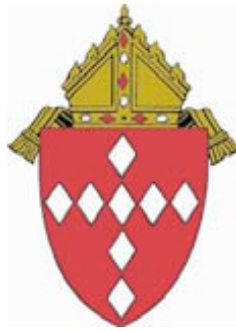


The Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh



The African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization Network Pastoral Plan 2011 – 2012

Based on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2010-2013

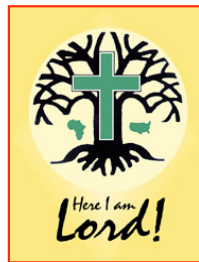


THE DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

With firm belief in God's love and a commitment to serve Him and welcome Him in one another, the mission of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh is to:

1. Celebrate the Presence of God in Word and Sacrament.
2. Strengthen the unity that is ours in Christ Jesus in and through the Eucharist.
3. Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls.
4. Respond to the needs of those in our midst through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and social justice.

With God's grace, we will work to fulfill this mission through the collaborative involvement of all the faithful. We do this always as members of the Universal Church and in union with the Holy Father and our Bishop.



The African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization Network Mission Statement

The African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization is established by the Diocese of Raleigh to foster the mission of the Roman Catholic Church:

- Spread the Gospel,
- Celebrate the Sacraments,
- Form a faith community.

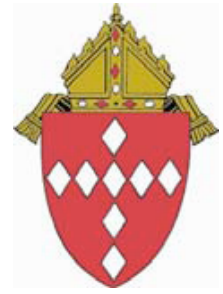
To do this ministry, we must create an atmosphere in which individuals of African Ancestry:

- Can maintain their identity,
- Heighten their visibility,
- Enhance their lives as Catholics.

The ministry will be concerned with nurturing those in the faith, reconciling those fallen away from the faith, and offering a church home to the un-churched through conversion to the Catholic faith.



BISHOP'S VISION STATEMENT



Our task as the People of God in the Diocese of Raleigh is to use all the resources at our disposal to make our local Church faithful in responding to the call of God. To achieve this, it is essential to discern where and how we can make our greatest contribution in the evangelizing mission of the Church and plan accordingly. The planning is ongoing; it needs constant reviewing and updating as time progresses. The parish must be the central focus of our Diocesan outreach and ministry, supported and assisted by a strong deanery structure. The Diocesan Staff is committed to assist and support our parishes in every possible way by being stewards of the resources that God has entrusted to us.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has established five priorities to be the focus for the next three-year planning cycle (July 2010-June 2013). These priorities serve as foundational elements for the Diocese of Raleigh. In addition, we are faced with the continuing challenge of responding to a rapidly growing population of the faithful. Thus, planning to manage growth and continue responsible stewardship are two additional priorities for the Diocese of Raleigh.

This Diocesan Pastoral Plan requires the education of all Catholics in stewardship, a comprehensive communication plan and the identification and development of appropriate resources to progress toward the designated priorities. Keeping these issues in mind, the following key priorities are established:

- Promote the life and dignity of the human person
- Focus on Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice
- Cultural diversity
- Promote Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life
- Implement the national pastoral initiative on marriage
- Practice the effective stewardship of resources
- Plan for the effective management of growth

PROMOTE THE LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

We, the office of African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization (AAMEN) for the Diocese of Raleigh, firmly stands for the respect of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. We recognize the importance of working together by accepting each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We value all human kind and all stages of life, by supporting:

Hospitality Ministry Birth Choice Ministry Prison Ministry
Volunteer Staffed Clinic Transportation Ministry Project Gabriel
Project Rachel Soup Kitchens Food Pantry
March for life (Local, diocesan, and national gathering celebrations)
Homeless Programs Homebound Ministry End of Life Care (Hospice/ Palliative Care)
Social Justice Ministry Etc.

The celebration of Black History Month promoting equality among people.

Mother's Day Father's Day Juneteenth

PROMOTE VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND CONSECRATED LIFE

The AAMEN office of the Diocese of Raleigh will support any effort from the Diocesan Vocations office to promote among young people the importance of the acceptance of the call from God to the priesthood or consecrated life. We will work to promote the presence of African ancestry priests in the parishes.

The Chalice program AAMEN vocation youth retreat
Promote/Support Black Religious orders Promote Black Saints
Black History Month (February) an opportunity to promote and emphasize Black vocations.
Celebration of Saint Katherine Drexel, March 3rd, a day of prayer for vocations.
Black Catholic Month a time to pray and promote vocations.

FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTAL PRACTICE

The AAMEN office of the Diocese of Raleigh will actively participate in the teaching and learning programs offered by the Diocese and parishes in order to better serve and represent the Catholic identity in our community.

Catechists Liturgical ministers Catholic schools volunteers
Support and participate in diocesan events (e.g., Convocation, Ignited by the Truth, Youth Convention). Nursery Program
Black History Month (an opportunity for Faith Formation on Black Spirituality).
Black Catholic Month (a time to teach about African Ancestry Spirituality).

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The AAMEN office of the Diocese of Raleigh welcomes people of every race and ethnicity and participates at Diocesan and parish events in which the cultural diversity will be expressed or represented.

- Ministry fairs
- Encourage Bishop to write a letter for Black History & Black Catholic Months.
- Create task force W/Hispanic, Africans, Asians to explore our similarities.
- Parish celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January)
- Black History Month (February) as an opportunity for Cultural Formation.
- African Ancestry Heritage Celebration.
- African Communities' Mass and celebration (October).
- National Black Catholic Month (November).

IMPLEMENT THE PASTORAL INITIATIVE ON MARRIAGE

The AAMEN office of the Diocese of Raleigh will promote the education of people in the importance and responsibilities of the sacrament of Marriage. It is important to educate and to encourage our teenagers and young adults to build healthy relationships that lead to solid friendships and long lasting, prosperous marriages.

- Theology of the Body for Teens.
- Encourage participation in weekend retreats for engaged couples.
- The celebration of day of prayer for African Ancestry Families (first Sunday of February).

PRACTICE THE EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

The AAMEN office of the Diocese of Raleigh will encourage our members to be active participants in the programs, events and activities of parishes with AAMEN chapters, so their time, talent and treasure is appreciated by the local community. All our energy will be to fully develop this pastoral plan to better serve the people of our Diocese.

AFRICAN ANCESTRY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Youth Ministry

AAMEN Youth Ministry is an initiative to help African Ancestry youth be educated in the Catholic faith. It is an opportunity for the youth to learn how to lead and to practice leadership.

AAMEN Youth Ministry brings them together to celebrate being African and Catholics and to focus their lives on success and making a difference in the Church and in the community.

HARAMBEE

Senior citizens of African Ancestry are called to come together and celebrate being Catholic. This is an occasion for prayer and education. It is a celebration of Catholic faith and African culture. This is an outreach program beyond the Catholic community.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black history month is a yearly celebration in the United States of people who contribute both to their community and to their country.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

A yearly celebration of the work and the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a great leader of the Civil Rights movement.

BLACK CATHOLIC MONTH

In the late 1980's, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus established November as National Black Catholic Month, in order to honor the ancestors who have gone before us.

November was named because it is the month we celebrate the feast of St. Martin De Porres, the first Black Saint for the Americas. It is also the month in which we honor all the saints.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN ANCESTRY MINISTRY

As many ethnic groups in our Diocese, the African Ancestry Ministry members gather once a year in a specific place to prayer for unity and well-being of the family, the ministry, the community, and the Church.

THOMAS P. HADDEN AWARD

This award is presented to an outstanding Catholic of African ancestry who has shown faith, loyalty, and charitable works in the Church and the community. A grant will be given in the name of this person to an organization in their name.

THE RORA SMITH AWARD

This award is given to a Catholic youth who has been active in youth activities of his/her parish and in the youth ministry of the Diocese.

ANNUAL AFRICAN ANCESTRY RETREAT

The African Ancestry office holds an annual retreat for members of all parish chapters with the Diocese of Raleigh. They will pray and learn more about our Catholic faith.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The advisory board meetings and gatherings are opportunities to learn more about the Catholic doctrine.

Activities Calendar

August

August 27, 2011: Feast day of St. Monica. A day for chapters to come together to pray for children, especially those of African Ancestry. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 1.

September

September 9, 2011 - Feast day of St. Peter Claver. A day for chapters to come together to pray for unity in our community. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 3.

September 10, 2011 - Advisory Board meeting. Time 10am – 1pm. Location: St. Alphonsus Center, 810 Reid St., E, Wilson, NC 27893. For more information or to RSVP please contact Lauren Green at 919-821-9762 or Lauren.Green@Raldioc.org. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 2.

October

October 15, 2011 - Catholic Convocation. Location: Cardinal Gibbons High School, Raleigh. Time: 8:30am registration and hospitality. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville and Vice President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, will celebrate the Sunday Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. to conclude the day. Cost: \$40. For registration information, contact: Andrea.Stone@raldioc.org. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 2.

October 16, 2011 - African Communities' Mass. Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Raleigh. Time: 2pm. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Michael F. Burbidge. Contact: Lauren Green, 919-821-9762 or Lauren.Green@Raldioc.org. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 3.

November

Black Catholic History Month

November 3, 2011 - Feast day of St. Martin de Porres. A day for AAMEN chapters to come together to pray for the sick in the African ancestry community. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 4.

December

December 3, 2011 - Advisory Board meeting. Time 10am – 1pm. Location: St. Alphonsus Center, 810 Reid St., E, Wilson, NC 27893. For more information or to RSVP please contact Lauren Green at 919-821-9762 or Lauren.Green@Raldioc.org. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 3.

January

January 14, 2010 - Mass for Life. Time: 8am. Location: St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2817 Poole Road, Raleigh, NC 27610. Youth Rally and March in downtown Raleigh to follow. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 1.

January 15, 2012 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass. Celebration of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the social justice that he preached. Location: St. Ann Catholic Church, 357 N. Cool Spring Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301. Time: 10am. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Michael F. Burbidge. Contact: Lauren Green 919-821-9762; Lauren.Green@raldioc.org. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 1.

January 24, 2012 - National March for Life Washington, DC. Buses leave from parishes across the Diocese. Cost: TBD. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 1.

February

Black History Month

February 5, 2012 – National day of prayer for African Ancestry families. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 5.

February 8, 2012 - Feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita: A day for AAMEN chapters to come together to pray for those imprisoned around the world. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 2.

March

March 3, 2012 - Feast day of St. Katherine Drexel: Advisory Board meeting. Time 10am – 1pm. Location: St. Alphonsus Center, 810 Reid St., E, Wilson, NC 27893. For more information or to RSVP please contact Lauren Green at 919-821-9762 or Lauren.Green@Raldioc.org. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 2.

March 23-25, 2012 – AAMEN Youth Lenten Retreat. Location: Short Journey Retreat Center, 2323 Cleveland Road, Smithfield, NC. For more information or to RSVP please contact Lauren Green at 919-821-9762 or Lauren.Green@Raldioc.org. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 2.

May

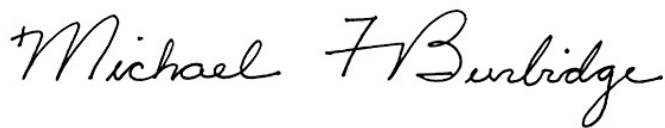
May 7, 2012 – National Day of Prayer for Vocations for the African Ancestry community. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 4.

June

June 23, 2012 – Annual AAMEN Retreat. This day-long retreat is to prepare participants spiritually for their journey to Indianapolis, IN for the National Black Catholic Congress which will be held in July 2012. Time: 10am – 6pm. Location: St. Alphonsus Center, 810 Reid Street, E, Wilson, NC 27893. Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 3.

Events to Come: *July 19-22, 2012. National Black Catholic Congress. Location: Indianapolis, IN. More details to follow. Diocesan group registration rate is \$200.00 per person. Hotel rooms are \$140.00 (tax and fees included) for single, double, triple, or quad occupancy. Transportation costs vary; however we are exploring travelling as a group as we did in 2007 to Buffalo.* Diocesan Pastoral Plan Priority 3.

This plan, promulgated by the Bishop, will seek to accomplish these goals by the collaborative efforts of the pastor, the AAMEN office, the advisory board and the chapters, the parishes, and the appropriate persons and offices of the diocese.



+ Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, D.D.
Bishop of Raleigh

For more information:
Diocese of Raleigh
The Office of African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization
715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606
or call: 919-821-9762
www.dioceseofraleigh.org