

NAACUS CONNECTION

Connecting the African Catholic family to Christ

July 2018 Vol 1 Issue 02

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- At the June Board Members meeting, Membership Registration form was presented and approved. This form details information required from every African Catholic who wants to be a member of NAACUS. Why the need for all this information? It is needed to connect all African Catholics so that, in case of a need, we can direct the member to the closest sister, brother or region that can be of assistance. HELP us to connect all African Catholics. WE NEED EACH OTHER!
- Rev. Fr Hilary Ike joined the NAACUS Board. Rev. Fr. Ike will represent Region 6 which covers Ohio and Michigan. He will be working with Ms. Teresa Dade covering the region.
- Rev Fr. Leonard Gicheru and Rev. Fr. Francis Bakyor also joined the Board as Coordinators for Region 9. They will be working with Mother Ngozi Azoba, Mr. Romeo Kumedjro and Mr. Thomas Miano Ngundo. Region 9 covers Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.
- Condolences go to Mr. David Okonkwo, Coordinator for Region 10 for the loss of his beloved mother Mrs. Matilda Afoma Okonkwo (nee Anajemba).
- Deacon Francis Chan, NAACUS Financial Secretary also lost his aunt by marriage, Mrs. Mary Kiir Deng.



- Dr Zama Kimbi Ndefru, a Cameroonian African, passed on June 13. He studied Political Science at Northern Kentucky U and taught Special Needs children at Marshall High School, Middleton OH. He left behind 4 children and 2 grandchildren. He was 66. He was an active member of Region 6

WHAT IS HAPPENING: - Spread the news

- Sunday, July 29, 2018: Most Rev Cornelius Fontem Esua will celebrate the Annual African Mass at St Agnes Church in Springfield, IL.
- Aug 9—Aug 11, 2018: Kenya Catholic Community embarks on a 3-day conference in Washington, DC that will end with a Swalili mass to be celebrated by Rt Rev Maurice Makumba, Bishop of Diocese of Nakuru, Kenya. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/KenyaCatholicCommunityInAmerica
- June 28-30, 2018: The Congolese Community of the United States will hold a 3-day conference. The conference will include a discussion on "Why a period of transition without Kabila for credible and Transparent Elections in DRC". It will be followed by a march to the US Congress and a mass celebrated by Cardinal Monsengwo.

IN THE NEWS:

- **MME PRES REPRESENTS NAACUS as she reports:**



The Ugandan Martyrs 10th annual celebration and fellowship was held on June 2 at St. Eugene parish, Milwaukee, WI. Over 200 people attended the celebration. The president of the Mass was Fr. Thomas Otanga, OCD whose powerful homily focused on the Ugandan Martyrs. Concelebrant of the Mass was Fr. John Vianney Muwesi, SDS and Deacon John Fritsch and the choir was just vibrant. The Mass included ancestral libation and various African cultural heritage.



After the Mass, there was fellowship that included various African foods. I was introduced to speak about

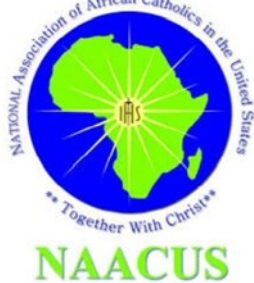
NAACUS. After the presentation, I met with each community in attendance talked to them personally, gave them NAACUS brochure and my business cards. I was impressed to see how different African Catholic communities including African American came together to support this celebration. I was also impressed to see how sister Reine and bro Fessahaye are connected to their community and to their diocese. This is the type of leadership that NAACUS is looking for. Now, we need Wisconsin team to collaborate with the other coordinators in their regions as to have regional activities and I know they can do it...right sister Reine. Thank you team Wisconsin for your hospitality as I felt very welcome.



- **ZIMBABWEANS HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE** by Julia Wenjere



My family and I went to Texas to the Montserrat Jesuit Retreat in Dallas on the 25th of May where they were hosting the annual Catholic Conference for Zimbabweans. (cont'd page 2)



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IN THE NEWS: (Cont'd from page 1)

It was three days filled with learning and fellowship. Our theme was "Missio Ad Gentes" which is derived from the Second Vatican Council's decree, and in our discussions we talked about the Mass, the significance of the Mass, its mission and meaning. It is our role as Christians to share the love and word of God. It was an enlightening experience. We had a meeting and Sister Maria and I were introduced as the current members of the NAACUS in our committee and we educated our fellow Zimbabweans on what the NAACUS is, what they



stand for and what we are trying to achieve for ourselves and our kids as Africans. We had a blessed time on our stay there and on the last day I was officially accepted in the Holy Order of Mary the mother of God



• **ACA of the DMV celebrates the Saints of Africa— Reports Kwame Frimpong**

On June 2, 2018, African Catholics in the DC area gathered at St Camillus Catholic Church in Silver Spring MD to celebrate the Saints of Africa. Its overall goal is to encourage unity among the

various African Catholic Communities in the Washington Metro towards a greater impact of the rich African cultural worship in the Church. For the first time, this event was celebrated by 3 bishops – Most Revs Dorsonville-Rodriguez, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington, who delivered the homily, Dachelem, Bishop of Buachi Diocese, Nigeria and Osei Bonsu, Bishop of Konongo-Mampong Diocese, Ghana. The theme for the program was "Becoming Missionary Disciples". The youth choir performed excellently and the whole congregation erupted to their melodies. The youth and young adults were prevalent in the liturgy and the entertainment.



• **Boston parties on Martyrs Day**



Ugandan Martyrs day celebration in Boston is the best party of the year so far!!! Two Papal Nuncios!!!!

His excellency Archbishop Michael August Blume Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda and His Excellency Archbishop Christopher Pierre Apostolic Nuncio to the United States and over 45 priests from Uganda!!! Great food and dance!!



• **The Igbo Community Celebrates in Grand Style - Reports Sr Joanna Okereke:**

The Igbo Catholic community USA celebrated the Sixteenth Annual ICCUSA Conference from June 22-24, 2018 in Maryland. Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of



Baltimore, was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass. This event gathered about 1000 participants including priests, religious, and the lay faithful.

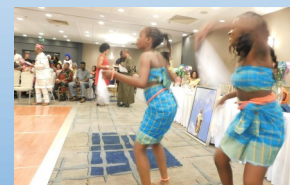
The Igbo Catholic Community USA ministries have Chapters in the various Dioceses and Archdioceses



throughout the United States. The objective of such is to educate one another about the diverse gifts which they bring to the Catholic Church in the United

States. The Igbo Catholics are visible, committed, active and ready to offer their talents in visible ways within the different parishes and communities.

The Eucharistic and the cultural celebration were an opportunity to share God's love and express deep gratitude to God for his gifts. The various Igbo choirs with their beautiful and melodious voice inspired many to praise God. The music directors composed the music that was used during the celebration.



The leaders are committed to imparting the Igbo culture and language to their children born in diaspora. They also hope to preserve the culture for themselves. The Igbo Catholics pride themselves of having many priests and religious. The liturgical and cultural celebration was a source of motivation and inspiration to all who participated.