



Office of the Archbishop

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260

Tuesday 31 January, 2023

Dear Brother Priest,

I write today to share information about the 2023 African National Eucharistic Congress (ANEC) to encourage your participation in this important gathering.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity/Subcommittee on the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers is currently planning the ANEC to be held at The Catholic University of America, July 21-23, 2023. Today, I write to share information about the ANEC and to encourage your participation in this important gathering.

The ANEC brings together African Catholics from across our nation to celebrate the living presence of Jesus in the Church and to uplift and renew their faith as Catholics in the United States. It is my hope that the clergy, Religious and faithful of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington will participate, as appropriate, and support this important gathering. The Most Reverend Jerome Feudjio, Bishop of Saint Thomas in the Virgin Islands, will be the celebrant at the Opening Mass on Friday, July 21, 2023, at 8:30 p.m. It is my pleasure to provide the keynote address on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., and serve as the Chief Celebrant and Homilist for the Unity Mass at 4:30 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston will lead the Eucharistic Procession on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Your presence would be a tremendous inspiration for the people who attend and will contribute to making this Eucharistic Congress a success.

The 2023 African National Eucharistic Congress is a wonderful and timely opportunity for bishops and other Catholics to encounter African Catholics in the diaspora. Our archdiocese is invited to send delegates to the Congress, so that the diversity of African Catholics in our Archdiocese, and of those who minister to them, can be truly represented.

For questions or further information, please do not hesitate to contact Wendi Williams at williamsw@adw.org, or Sister Joanna Okereke, HHCJ, in our office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers: JOkereke@usccb.org or 202-541-3359.

Please know of my heartfelt gratitude for all that you do and be assured of my continued prayers for you and your ministry.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

✠Wilton Cardinal Gregory,
Archbishop of Washington