



The Black Catholic Apostolate

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, NY

41st
ANNIVERSARY



"GO HIGHER ANCIENT DOORS. LET THE LORD ENTER"
PSALM 24:9

AUGUST 10, 2025



St. Joan of Arc Church

76 Menand Road,
Menands, NY 12204
Tel: 518-463-0378
sjoa@nycap.rr.com



<http://www.rcda.org/sjoa-bca.com>

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Gloria

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading.....Wisdom 18:6-9

Responsorial.....Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22

Response: *Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own*

Second Reading.....Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Alleluia

Gospel.....Luke 12:32-48

Homily.....Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Prayer of the Faithful

Response: Lord hear our prayers

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory

Presentation of Gifts

Holy, Holy, Holy

The Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Holy Communion

Communion Meditation

Second Collection

Final Blessing

Recessional

Reception immediately following Mass on the Church grounds





Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
Office of the Bishop

July 15, 2025

Rev. Kofi Amissah
The Black Catholic Apostolate
St. Joan of Arc Church
76 Menand Road
Menands, NY 12204



Dear Father Kofi and Parishioners, Family and Friends,

Heartfelt congratulations on the forty-first Anniversary of the Black Catholic Apostolate. There is so much to thank God for!

You continue to inspire me and the people of our diocesan family. Your evangelizing spirit and joyful presence offer great hope in our diocese and remind us of the importance of letting God enter our hearts and minds. May God grant you many more faithful and fruitful years in your mission of prayer, praise and service.

Know that I join with you in prayer and thanksgiving to our loving God on this wonderful occasion. Peace and blessings!

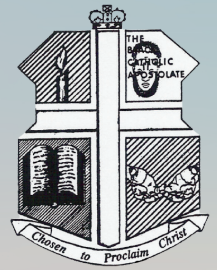
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany



SAINT JOAN OF ARC CHURCH THE BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, NY
76 Menand Road ♦ Menands, NY 12204
518-463-0378 ♦ sjoa@nycap.rr.com
www.rcda.org/sjoa-bca.com



August 10, 2025



My dear Friends in Christ:

Today we celebrate 41 years as the Black Catholic Apostolate with the theme "GO HIGHER ANCIENT DOORS. LET THE LORD ENTER." (Psalm 24:9). By the grace of God, throughout these years we have been able to keep our families together, provided for our children and all our loved ones.

In these 41 years, by bringing our children to church at an early age they experienced our happy songs of praise, grace and thanksgiving, and learned to pray.

Our children have grown from infants receiving the sacrament of baptism, made their first communion and confirmation, and some have even made the sacrament of matrimony. Some of our children have graduated from higher educational institutions, others are aspiring to follow in the footsteps of their big brothers and sisters.

We have faced challenges but our Lord has never failed us. We have grown weary at times at making good our financial obligations to the church but the Lord has never put us to shame. We have continued to allow God's hand to lead us and guide us as His stewards. And when the jubilant voices of our children join us in song and prayer, we become energized, giving us hope for the future.

With our children, may we walk together to build a stronger and better faith community in the years ahead. May the sick and the needy experience the benevolent presence of our God. May the souls of the departed rest joyfully in God's arms.

I thank the members of St. Joan of Arc Parish, the Black Catholic Apostolate, families and friends for your continued support and prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Kofi

Fr. Kofi Ntsiful-Amissah
Pastor

HISTORY OF THE BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

The Black Catholic Apostolate (BCA) was founded as a voice for the Black Catholic community in the Diocese of Albany. It emerged from a need to formally recognize the spiritual, liturgical, and cultural presence of Black Catholics across the Church's life. The BCA unites African Americans and individuals from African and Caribbean backgrounds to form a vibrant and inclusive spiritual community.

The BCA was founded in 1984 by Father Kofi Ntsiful Amissah, an African priest from Ghana, who was part of the Albany Diocese. The Apostolate's goal was to bring Black Catholics, and those looking for a more spirit-filled liturgy back to the Church, in a setting that incorporated the teachings of the Church with the music and rhythm of the African and Caribbean cultures.

From very humble beginnings the movement slowly grew, attracting others, many of whom were not even Catholics but were drawn to the worship as they gathered for Mass and Bible study. For a while they met for worship in the St. Joseph's rectory basement. In November 1984, the BCA celebrated its first anniversary at St. Joseph's Church. The 2nd and 3rd anniversaries of the BCA were held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The congregation continued to grow, and before long we were transitioned to what was called "the basement church," (because it was an unfinished structure) at the corner of Livingston and Thornton Streets in Albany.

As word continued to spread, our membership grew, and our choir became even more vibrant. We went on the radio, talk shows, television, anything to get the word out. The choir served as one of the best advertisements for the faith community. Our religious education program teaches our young the Catholic religion, and they are active participants in the life of the church.

The BCA has built a legacy of service. In the 1990's the BCA built a ministry rooted in prayer and evangelization, cultural expression, and celebration; Martin Luther King services; and interfaith gatherings and community forums.

In 2005 we moved to St. Joan of Arc in Menands, where we continue to serve God joyfully, and to honor the legacy of those who came before us.

Ministries & Societies of the BCA

Altar Servers

Lector Ministry

Bereavement Ministry

Women of Faith

Hospitality Ministry

Youth group

Gospel choir

Faith Formation

Men's Fellowship group

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Happy Anniversary to the Black Catholic Apostolate
on its 41st Anniversary Celebration



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BCA/SJOA COUNCIL



Co-Chair: Akunna Ubani

41ST
ANNIVERSARY



Co-Chair: Chris Kippins

Happy 41st Anniversary to The BCA family.

Wishing you many more years of love, unity, peace and happiness Amen.



Jacqueline E. King, Mabatho Matima, Bennita J. Givens, Vanessa Adams
Rachidi-Seidou-Bakari, Donna Cramer



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Let's build clarity together.

BCA HOSPITALITY MINISTRY



We thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on Father Kofi and the Black Catholic Apostolate over these 41 years!

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility, value others above yourselves" Philippians 2:3

Pauline Permaul, Godfrey Mubiru, Elizabeth Peters, Appolinaire Toure, Sybil Chukwudi, Chris Kippins, Marva George, Rachidi Seidou-Bakari, Brenda Rivera



The Capital District Susu Women Congratulate The Black Catholic Apostolate
on its 41st Anniversary.

May the Lord continue to bless you.

Please save the date for our **29th Annual Susu Gala.**

Date: May 2nd, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM-1:00 AM

Location : The Crown Plaza- Desmond Hotel

Parishioner Reflections



My name is Jim Owens, and I am from Wilmington, DE. Forty-one years ago, I served as a member of the Formation Committee to create the Black Catholic Apostolate. The Committee met and formed a plan to create the Apostolate. A meeting with the Committee and Bishop Howard Hubbard resulted in the go ahead. And with the approval of the Diocese, we put this thing together legally in the eyes of the Church. In the beginning, we had no place to go. We celebrated Mass on the side altar in the sacristy of St. Joseph's church.

We then moved into St. George's church which was experiencing a significant decline in its congregation. We tried to get that church for our own, but the Diocese would not allow it. They made it into a soup kitchen, and we had to look for another place to worship. We went to Sacred Heart, but they did not welcome us there. Our presence at St. Joan of Arc has revived this parish, which now thrives.

My background was of a Black Catholic Church in Wilmington, Delaware. I was attending the Cathedral in Albany, and we were not welcomed there. One day, a fellow I was working with tells me I must hear this priest and that he is preaching at a church in Albany on Western Ave. So, I went to that church and Father Kofi was saying Mass. I listened to him, and I have been a loyal follower since that time.

There is a long history of the Owens family in the Catholic Church and BCA allows me to continue to celebrate that history. One of the things that differentiates us from other parishes that I have attended is that we celebrate Mass, we do not just attend. And because of that, I continue to be a faithful member of the Black Catholic Apostolate.

What I love about BCA is that we rejoice, we sing, and we are friendly to each other. I participate in the Lector Ministry. Initially, I cut the grass and took care of the grounds. It was my goal to make the outside of the church look as welcoming as the inside.

Looking ahead, my hope for BCA is to continue to welcome people from all over the world and to serve as an example as to what Christianity is all about in the Diocese of Albany. Historically, some parishes have served specific national communities, but BCA welcomes everyone. It is my opinion that in the history of the Albany Diocese, Black Catholic Apostolate is one of the few ministries experiencing growth. Thanks, in great measure to Bishop Hubbard who gave the approval to the Formation Committee to start BCA, 41 years ago.



God's continued blessings on Father Kofi and the Black Catholic Apostolate
on 41 years of faithfully serving God's people!

"All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness."

Psalms 47:2

BCA 41st Anniversary Committee



Ngozi Aghanenu
Lucie Diomande
Tsatsu Fiadjoe
Bennita Givens
Dawn Hewitt
Jacqueline King
Chris Kippins
Mabatho Matima
Sharon Prescott
Brenda Rivera
Akunna Ubani
Veronica Ukpere

The **BCA Music Ministry** offers its most profound thanks and praise for the past 41 years of joyful service ministering in the name of our faith community.



"O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the King of glory!" Psalm 24:7, 8

Through God's grace and our deepest longings, we pray that the doors of our spirits and souls be opened ever wider to embrace God's infinite love and divine mercy.

Martin Amissah, Director
Akunna Ubani
Aniebiet (Anie) Essien-Ido
Bassey (BJ) Essien
Blessing Oki
Brother John Bryda
Dr. Mbuyi (Maguy) Mukendi
ECole (Paakow) Amissah
Elizabeth Amissah
George King
Godspower Ubani

Idongiset (Idy) Essien-Essiet
Jacqueline (Jacquie) King
Jesai Wanzambi
Constantine Kofi Botchey
Marcelin Mukendi
Maria Theresa Nkechi Adigwe
PapaJo (JB) Amissah
Rose Elizabeth Davis
Sharon Prescott
Zacharie Matulu



The BCA Men's Fellowship group expresses deepest thanks and fond farewell to one of our founding members, Chief Dr. Christopher Adigwe, in appreciation of his insightful and meaningful contributions to our mission, especially in furthering the cause of Evangelization.

May your gentle soul rest in Perfect Peace 🕊️



Congratulates

**THE BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE
ON ITS 41ST ANNIVERSARY**



**Mark Your Calendar
ANCD'S 32nd Anniversary**

**Nigeria's 65th Independence Anniversary
on October 4th, 2025 @ 6:00 pm**



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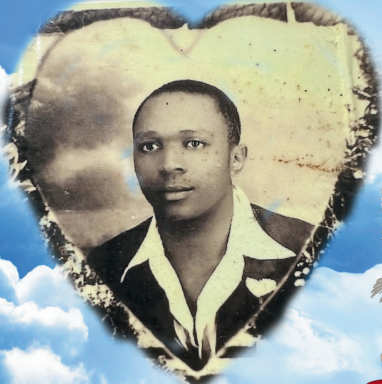
The Hewitt, Joseph, Richards, and Taylor Families Congratulate Fr. Kofi and the Black Catholic Apostolate on its 41st Anniversary!

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalms 91:1-2

**THE FAMILY OF AMY KING CONGRATULATES FATHER KOFI
AND THE BLACK APOSTOLATE ON YOUR 41 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO GOD'S PEOPLE. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AND
PROSPER YOU FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.**



Remembering





Robert Egerton Hall Snr.
Robert E. Hall Jnr.



Walterine Fraser Hall

Norma Christina Hall

You gave us a chance to say goodbye however sad, we will find time to reminisce about what we've had. Our core fabric continues to fray however, our tapestry will not unravel for it's held together by God almighty, who is our hope, our joy, our anchor, our mainstay.

To Our Grandchildren - Teresa Prescott and Sean Prescott We loved you then. We love you still. Always have! Always will!

May your souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercies of God,
Rest in Peace. Amen! ~ Prescott Family



The Ukpere Family congratulates Father Kofi & the Entire Congregation of the Black Catholic Apostolate on this occasion of the 41st Anniversary

May God continue to "Bless The People He Has Chosen As His Own" Ps 31:12 (b) in Jesus Mighty Name

The Faith Formation Ministry
Congratulates Fr. Kofi and the Black Catholic Apostolate
on the 41st Anniversary!



Congratulations
First
Communicants!

16. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ~ John 3:16-17

Remembering Ronald Permaul Sr. We loved you but God loved you more. It's been eight years. We can't forget that faithful day. We think of you constantly and miss you more and more each day. You are always in our thoughts, minds, and heart. We cherish the incredible memories you left us.

Your Loving wife, children, grandchildren, and great grands.

Congratulations Father Kofi and the Black Catholic Apostolate on your 41st Anniversary. May God continue to bless us for many more years to come.

The Permaul family



IN MEMORIAM
YOUR MEMORY IS OUR TREASURE
ETEMOWEI JAMES OKI
JULY 26, 1982 - NOVEMBER 26, 2011

In Loving Memory of our Dear Beloved Etemowei James Oki



May your soul Rest in Peace

Oki Family

Remembering Our Brothers and Sisters Who Have Gone to A Place of Eternal Rest



We Remember Them

*In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.
In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.
In the blueness of the Sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.*

ARNOUSE ETIENNE-ABRAHAM
FELICIA ADEWUNMI
STELLA ADEWUNMI
Dr. CHRISTOPHER ADIGWE
MARY ADIGWE
VERNEL ALLEN
FRANK ALPHONSO
HATTIE BARKER
JANICE BIBB-JONES
Dr. DONALD BIGGS
ADRON BUTLER
CORA ALPHONSO BUTLER
EDWARD CHANG
JEAN CHANG
JONELLE CHANG
BARBARA COBB
KING COBRA
SEYI CRAIG
BOBBY DARDEN
BENITA DAVIS
DONALD DEPASS
GERALDINE DORIS
MARIA DRAKE

S. EARL EICHELBERGER
BENJAMIN ELAD
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MARION EMANATION
ELIZABETH ESSIEN
PEARL EVANS
LEONARD FORDE
WALTERINE FRASER-HALL
SISTER JACKIE GARLAND
CONRAD GASKIN Sr.
CONRAD GASKIN Jr.
NORMA HALL-ASHFORD
ROBERT HALL Sr.
ANONA HOLLAND
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ZENOBIA MITCHELL
ALULA MOLLA
SISA MOYO
LUCIE MUAMBA
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JAMES OKI
JOSEPHINE OPALKA
MORRISCENIA OWENS
MIKE PAYNE
RONALD PERMAUL Sr.
SIMONE PERMAUL
NAB PRAH
THERESA PRAH
GABRIEL REGAL
CHRISTOPHER RINGWALD
JAMES ROTI-ROTI
JUDY STEWART
FAITH NAVINKA TOURE
Fr. NELLIS J. TREMBLAY

Parishioner Reflections



My name is David C. Ukpere, and I joined BCA in 2007. What first drew me to BCA was its multicultural community, the opportunity to meet new people, and the genuine warmth of getting to know every member of the church. Over the years, the BCA community has been incredibly supportive of me and my family in every possible way.

I have come to value and enjoy every tradition BCA upholds, from the annual anniversary celebrations to the recognition of members' achievements by the church. I began serving as an altar server when we first joined, and I'm now proud to be a member of the Lector's Ministry. I also participate actively in the Men's Fellowship.

My hope for BCA is that this rich tradition continues to flourish, attracting new members and deepening our sense of community. I look forward to continuing my support and staying actively involved wherever I can lend a hand



My name is Raphael Ogbu. My family and I began attending BCA in 2022, shortly after we immigrated from Nigeria. Our first experience of Catholic worship in the United States was at Saint Anthony. Unfortunately, we were not encouraged by the Mass and began to wonder as a family how we would cope with our spiritual life in this new environment.

Eventually, we received contact information for BCA and decided to attend. It was an immediate connection. The service reflected exactly what we were used to back home, and we all enjoyed it tremendously. The children were impressed, and right then, I knew we had found our family church. One of our greatest concerns upon arriving in this area was how we would continue to grow spiritually. BCA's culture, atmosphere, and mode of worship quickly eased those fears. The songs and the ambiance of the Mass are mesmerizing and deeply engaging.

I am currently enrolled in studies for the diaconate, so I am unable to commit to many ministries at this time. However, I recently joined the Lectors Ministry, and I am also in training to become a Special Minister of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Anthony. My hope for BCA is, in the words of Scripture, that "those who fix their eyes on Him, holding firm in unwavering faith, will be strengthened and renewed." I believe BCA would benefit from more retreats, greater parishioner engagement, and increased evangelism.

My prayer is that BCA continues to nurture its members spiritually and remains a platform through which we can all contribute to the growth of the Church.

St. Joan of Arc/Black Catholic Apostolate

LECTOR MINISTRY

Wishes to Congratulate the Black Catholic Apostolate on its 41 years of faithfully serving God's people with dedication and love.



"The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them." Isaiah 50:4

Mario D. Arthur
Stephanie Bollam
Gloria Chukwudi
Grace Chukwudi
Donna Cramer
Abigail Fiadjoe

Beverly Fiadjoe
Bennita J. Givens
Morena Walker-Howe
Sheila M. Hyatt
Zacharie Matulu
Marcelin Mukendi

Grace Nah-Keta
Annah Nonzi
Raphael C. Ogbu
Jim Owens
Ebubechukwu Ubani
Oluchi Ubani

David C. Ukpere
Matthew Ukpere
Dr. Suzanne Uyanna
Jésai WaNzambi

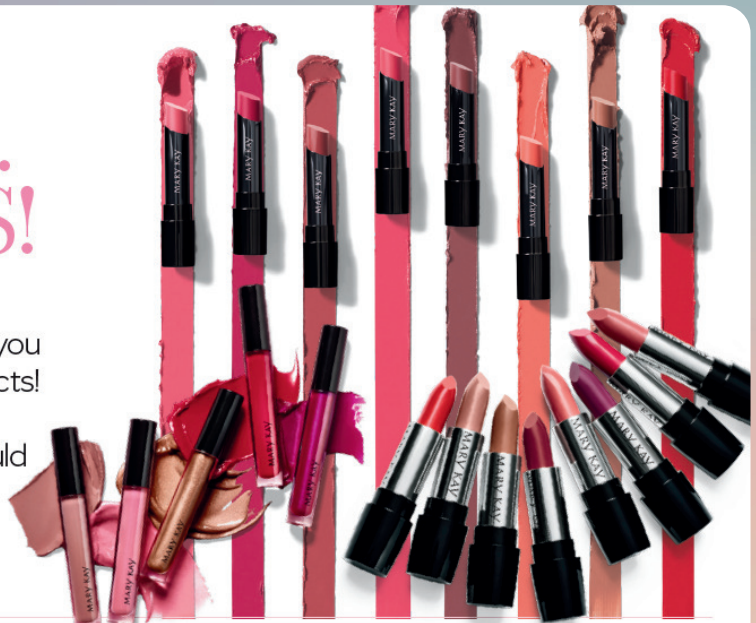
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Congratulations

to the
*Black Catholic Apostolate in Acknowledgment of
41 years of Service and Worship*



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Praise God in his holy sanctuary; give praise in the mighty dome of heaven. Give praise with blasts upon the horn, praise him with harp and lyre. Give praise with tambourines and dance. Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!

Ps 150.

Congratulations to Fr. Kofi N Amissah and the Black Catholic Apostolate on your 41st anniversary serving God's people.



Mabatho Matima



*Congratulations to Father Kofi and the Black Catholic
Apostolate on their 41st Anniversary. May you continue to be
blessed by and through your ministries.*
The Burke Family



Congratulations to the Black Catholic Apostolate Church on its 41st Anniversary!
With love,
The Diomande & Dunmore Family

Parishioner Reflections



My name is Lucy Ansong from Ghana, West Africa, and I've been part of BCA since 1992. I knew Fr. Kofi from Ghana before I came here. When I came, I was staying with my uncle, who was a doctor, in Loudonville. Fr. Kofi and my uncle were friends, and he often visited my uncle. I chose BCA because I would not want any other church other than a Catholic church with a priest who comes from my country. It is like we are family already. Fr. Kofi has always been very encouraging to me. When I came to this country, I was just an associate registered nurse.

He urged me to complete my RN degree, and I did. He is always looking out for my best interests. Even with my husband, Father pointed out to me that he was a good man, and he was always ahead of you, looking out for what was best for me. I was not a kid, and it was not easy having children. He has been supportive of my entire family. Even when my daughter, Jennifer, was in the hospital at St. Peter's, he and Bro. John would be there praying and supporting as much as they could. He has been there during difficult moments, like when my youngest passed away. Every step of the way, he is present and there to support my entire family. He gives a lot. All you have to do is to need him or ask and he will be there. Even if you do not ask and he knows it is necessary, he will show up.

I love the songs and the expressions. You have the freedom to express yourself by dancing and clapping your hands, if you want to. Originally, where I come from, that is what we do in church. We give thanks to God, and we express ourselves, we dance, and we clap. It is not awkward. Unlike in other churches where you can't be clapping your hands because people will be looking at you like you are the odd one among them. At BCA, we are able to praise God from your heart. The freedom of worship, I love it. I have been an Usher, and I hope to rejoin the Usher Ministry someday.

Looking ahead, I wish for BCA to continue to be strong. If Fr. Kofi is there or not, we will get a priest who will always mirror what we already do. He will respect our culture, the way we feel. The Black Catholic Apostolate is what we are. I hope that it will continue to be that way and not just a short Mass for 30 minutes and we are out of there. It is good for us to get to know each other, care for each other, and be there for each other. That's my dream for BCA is that it will stay the same and be strong and even grow. I want it to be there forever. It is also my hope that the youth will go on and become a priest and take over when Fr. Kofi can no longer do it.



Our mission is to provide resources and services to support and strengthen the development of children and family globally who are at risk of the devastating effects of poverty, which threaten education, health and the well-being of their communities.

*Congratulations Black Catholic Apostolate
on your 41st Anniversary!*

Flora E. Kippins Foundation, Inc.

*Cordially Invites You to Our
Seventh Annual Fundraising*

Gala

To benefit the global work of the Foundation

Saturday, September 20, 2025

At the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY

Cocktail hour begins at 6:00pm

Our Excellence in Leadership Award Honorees

Reverend Dr. Damone Paul Johnson,

Senior Pastor, Metropolitan NTM Baptist Church

Capital District National Pan-Hellenic Council

Join us for dinner & dancing!

*RSVP at floraekippinsfoundation.org or by using the
QR code on the back or your RSVP card*

By August 20, 2025

*SAVE
THE
DATE*



venmo



Flora E. Kippins Foundation



floraekippinsfoundation@gmail.com

21 Summit Ave., Albany, NY 12209

617-751-9974

THE BEREAVEMENT AND CARE MINISTRY

Congratulates Fr. Kofi Ntsiful Amissah and the Black
Catholic Apostolate on your 41st Anniversary.

May God continue to bless you.



Give Thanks to the Lord, for he is good, His mercy endures forever.

Let those who fear the Lord say His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118 1,4

Bekee Anameze, Audrey Capers, Bennita Givens, Marva George, Morena Howe,
George King, Mabatho Matima, Joseph Mensah,
Viola Munroe, Yvonne Prescott, Akunna Ubani, Veronica Ukpere

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Congratulations on your 41st. Anniversary!!!



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Congratulations to the BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

on the
41st Anniversary
of
serving others and of
spreading the Word of God.



*May this church continue to flourish
and be filled with God's grace.*

Bennita & Larry



*We thank our Lord and Savior for our 24th
Wedding Anniversary and congratulate the
BCA on its 41st Anniversary.*

Sonpon and Victoria Nah

Parishioner Reflections



My name is Volf Soho, and I'm originally from the Ivory Coast in West Africa. When I first arrived in Albany in 2015, I started attending the Church, but after a period away, I returned in 2022 and have been coming ever since. I'm drawn to BCA by the strong sense of community—everyone is always willing to lend a hand. I also really enjoy the priest's sermons; he is approachable and always available when you need him.

All of this together gives me strength, and that's why I'm there every Sunday. I appreciate the extended length of the Mass—it allows me more time to truly worship and connect with God. While some may feel it runs long, I find that extra time meaningful. I also enjoy the singing during services and wish for a greater variety, perhaps incorporating different languages to reflect our diverse community. Another aspect I value is how we pray for different people and occasions, creating a strong sense of care within the congregation. Father Kofi's attentiveness to everyone stands out; he knows each of his parishioners personally, which truly makes a difference and is something I deeply appreciate.

Currently, I am not active in any ministry, though I have an interest in singing and would love to join the choir when the opportunity arises. I do participate with the French-speaking group, which meets every third Sunday after Mass.

Looking ahead, I hope BCA continues to grow and flourish. It would be wonderful to see multiple choirs in the future—each singing in their native languages and exploring different styles of music, especially involving the youth. While we already have Men's and Women's groups, I also envision forming a group specifically for parents and families. Such a group could serve as a space to discuss parenting challenges, offer mutual support during major life events like welcoming new babies, and share advice on raising children.

I believe church should also be a place to build relationships, not just for spiritual growth but for social connection too. Creating more opportunities for people to meet and support each other would only strengthen the sense of community.

BCA WOMEN OF FAITH



TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

For the 41 years of this ministry, God has shown his faithfulness, caring and love in the lives of Father Kofi and the members of the Black Catholic Apostolate!

We, the Women of Faith, trust in God to help us stand strong in our commitment to be of service to God's people!

"God is faithful"



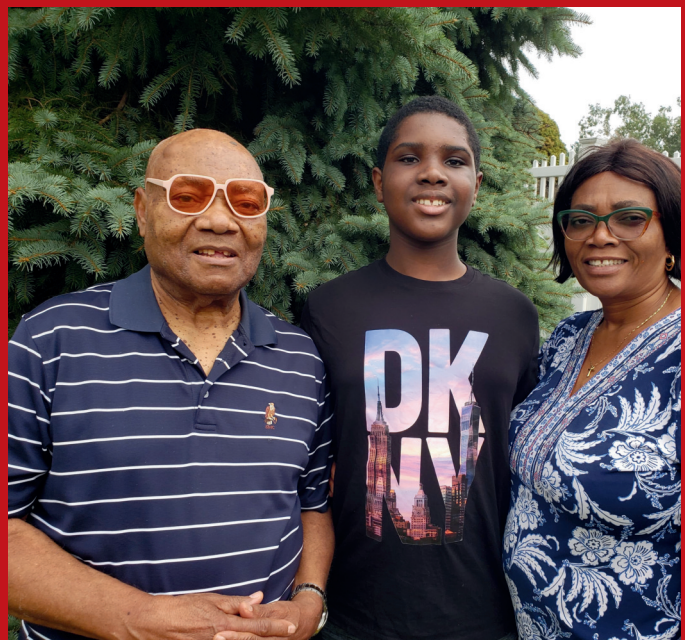
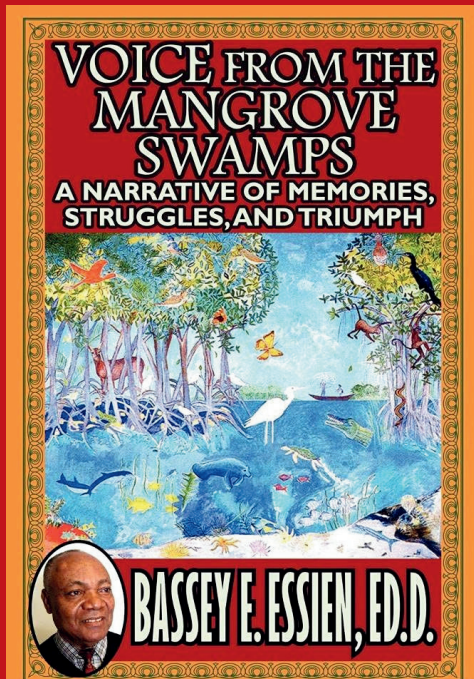
*A Blessed and Happy Anniversary to Fr. Kofi
and the BCA Family*
The Barnett Family



Congratulations and Blessings to the BCA
The Fiadjoes

THE FAMILY OF DR. BASSEY ESSIEN

CONGRATULATES FR. KOFI & THE BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE
ON THEIR 41-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.



We also thank the Congregation for reading our memoir, *Voice from the Mangrove Swamps* (2012). The book shows how divine intervention can lead to triumphs over all struggles. Please obtain your copy from the author or [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Contact bepco45@gmail.com. Bless the Lord!

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Parishioner Reflections



My name is Catherine S. Yomoah, and I joined BCA in January 2025. Prior to that, I was attending services at St. Thomas Church in Delmar until my son introduced me to BCA. From my very first service, I was mesmerized by the deep sense of brotherhood and sisterhood among the members.

The music is uplifting and soul-warming, creating a worship experience that truly resonates with me. Thanks to the welcoming spirit and support of Sister Veronica Ukpere, I have joined several prayer groups, which have helped deepen my communion with God. One of my favorite parts of BCA's culture is the celebration of fathers and mothers—a beautiful tradition that honors the pillars of our families. I also hope to see more celebrations and engagement for the youth in the future. In the past, I served as an altar server at Sacred Heart Church in Auburn, Maine, and I look forward to joining a ministry at BCA that aligns with my calling.

My hope for BCA is that it continues to maintain its vibrant worship life, foster growing attendance, and remain financially sustainable as we serve God and our community together.



My name is Joelle Kabamga, originally from Congo, and I joined BCA in March 2011, following in the footsteps of my sister, Mbuyi. I was a Catholic back home, and when I arrived in this area, I found that BCA felt very much like the church I knew—the style of worship, the songs, and the uplifting atmosphere all mirrored the faith experience I was used to.

Since joining, the church has helped me grow spiritually and has been a tremendous source of support for me and my family, especially during difficult times. When I lost my mother in 2013, Lucie was incredibly supportive, and Father Kofi and Lucie organized a prayer service in her honor. Shortly after, I experienced a serious illness and was hospitalized for an extended period. During that time, Father Kofi and Brother John stepped in to help care for my children. For that, I remain deeply grateful. Though I have not officially joined a ministry due to work and family commitments, I am currently a part of the Women's Ministry.

My hope for BCA is that it continues its rich traditions, grows into a thriving Catholic community, and remains a pillar of strength and faith for all Catholics in the area. May BCA continue its wonderful work of nurturing spiritual growth and service among its members.

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Charles N. Adomfeh, BSc, MB, ChB, MD, PhD, FACP

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DR. CHARLES ADOMFEH AND FAMILY, OFFICE STAFF, AND PATIENTS JOIN AND CONGRATULATE FATHER KOFI NTSIFUL-AMISSAH AND THE WHOLE CONGREGATION OF THE BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE OF ALBANY ON THIS BEAUTIFUL OCCASION. MAY THE GOOD LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST SMILE OVER YOU AND BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES IN THE YEARS AHEAD! AMEN!!!



DR. CHARLES ADOMFEH IS A HIGHLY-TRAINED AND COMPASSIONATE PHYSICIAN WHO IS BOARD-CERTIFIED IN INTERNAL MEDICINE. DR. ADOMFEH IS A CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE, AND IS AFFILIATED WITH ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL HOSPITAL AND ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL.

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MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA AND US ALL.



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THANK YOU

The members of the 41st Black Catholic Apostolate Anniversary Committee first give praise to the Lord for 41 years of his grace and mercy to this Apostolate!

We would also like to thank our BCA/SJOA members, friends, and benefactors, and acknowledge that it takes all of us working together to have a dynamic, vibrant church community.

A very special Thank You to our dynamic Pastor and spiritual leader, Father Kofi Amissah and to his Excellency, Most Reverend Edward Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany for his continued prayers and unwavering support of the Black Catholic Apostolate.

"Your every act should be done with love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

BCA 41st Anniversary Committee



01/01/1928 - 05/09/2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO 41 YEARS OF SPREADING THE GOSPEL AND
ENSURING THE CATHOLIC FAITH REACHES DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

Adigwe family



ST. JOAN OF ARC

BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

518-463-0378 email: sjoa@nycap.rr.com

MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 4:00pm

SUNDAY MASSES: 9:00 am (St. Joan of Arc)

10:15 am (Black Apostolate)

DAILY MASS: 8:00 am (Monday – Friday)

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:30 pm