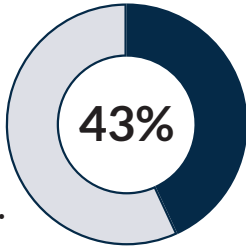




UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Multicultural Ministries is one of 11 diocesan ministries that encounter God, and offer all who seek God an opportunity to encounter Him and enrich our spiritual lives, fostering our response to God’s call to serve. Through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, this group of ministries will receive \$3.8 million, or 43%, of the total \$9 million appeal goal to carry out their good works.



The Annual Diocesan African Mass invites all to come and experience the celebration of the Eucharist with diverse African languages and cultures. The 2023 Mass, celebrated at St. Paul Parish in Tampa, drew more than 700 priests and parishioners from parishes across the Diocese and representing various African countries gathered as one unified community to celebrate Mass and worship God together.

“The African Mass was an awesome experience of the unity in diversity of our Catholic Church. I witnessed parishioners of St. Paul Parish in Tampa from diverse ministries and cultural communities working together to set up for the reception which would follow the Mass,” said Carlos Flores, Director of diocesan Multicultural Ministries.

The reception that followed offered the opportunity to continue the celebration and experience. “At the reception, there was food not only from African countries, but also from other ethnic communities like the Brazilians and the Filipinos,” Flores shared. “I sat at a table with persons from Puerto Rico and a couple from Philadelphia who expressed they travel every year to experience the African Mass in our Diocese.”

As part of our diocesan Multicultural Ministries, the Black Catholic Commission was established in 2011 in the Diocese of St. Petersburg for the purpose of supporting the Bishop in providing spiritual, cultural, and social nourishment to Catholics of African descent, thereby facilitating their enrichment within the diocese and encouraging them to partici-

pate more fully in the life and activities of the Church.

For more information about Black Catholic Ministry in our Diocese, please visit www.dosp.org/intercultural/blackcatholic.

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CARLOS FLORES

**DIRECTOR OF
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES**

VISIT WWW.DOSP.ORG/CATHOLICMINISTRYAPPEAL/ TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MINISTRIES SUPPORTED THROUGH THE APPEAL.