



**African Conference of Catholic Clergy  
and Religious in the United States  
ACCCRUS**

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Saturday, August 05, 2017

Dear Fathers and Sisters,

Accept peace and fraternal greetings!

As we wind down from the just ended annual convention in New Orleans, I take this moment to express my sincere gratitude to you for your participation. Our time together as African clergy and religious is always valuable and enriching. I am, once more, deeply grateful to our brothers and sisters in New Orleans who responded to the call of duty with such generosity and selflessness. The presentation from Fr. Allan Deck and the small group discussions on building our own intercultural competency were both very fruitful and encouraging. I thank you for being involved in this process. In conjunction with a team that I established, I intend to use the recommendations from the small group discussions to develop an orientation program for African clergy and religious who come to the United States for ministry.

I am also happy to inform you that about 40 percent of the participants this year were first time participants who all indicated that they will return for future conventions. ACCCRUS is a vital forum for each of us as we seek to minister effectively here in the United States. We must never go at our daily challenges alone. As African clergy and religious, we can and must always be willing and ready to learn and support each other.

I hope you make an effort to join us for the next convention in Phoenix, Arizona from August 1 - 4, 2018. If you need more information, visit our website, [www.acccrus.org](http://www.acccrus.org).

God bless you and your ministry.

Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ, I remain

Fr. Henry Atem  
*National President*