

# Blessing of AFJN Office Washington DC

## Tuesday October 14, 2020 11:00-11:45 AM

**Aniedi:** + **Sign of the Cross:** Blessed be God, who has guided us in our ministry of justice for our African sisters and brothers.

**All respond: Blessed be God now and forever.**

**Introduction - Sr. Florence:** AFJN Board Chair welcomes **all** present:

1. Board Members, Organizational members, Individual members, friends and partners
2. Makes special acknowledgement of AFJN coalition partners joining from Africa, especially Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, Liberia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo
3. Sr. Kathleen and staff from SOAR – AFJN neighbors
4. Acknowledge AFJN Staff
5. Gives an overview of AFJN, origin, activities, policy engagements, the work that is done and will be done in the office, etc.

**Aniedi:** The work of the Africa Faith & Justice Network is a continuous participation in God's creation justice as we read in the Scriptures.

**Faustine:** From the beginning of Creation, we see God at work, fashioning life, decorating the world He created with diversity, and bringing order into a chaotic universe. The Creator God commands us as one human family to continue fashioning a better world in love and justice, and to care for one another.

**Sr. Kathleen:** Our Lord Jesus often visited people in their workplaces: Simon Peter and Andrew when they were fishing, James and John in their boat mending the nets, the Samaritan woman at the well, Levi at his tax booth, and others in the market place.

**Eucharistia:** Jesus himself was a carpenter. He told stories about people's work to illustrate God's continuous creation through human agents: He told the story of the sower planting seeds, the reapers at the harvest time, the woman baking bread, and the man planting a mustard seed.

**Lydia:** Saint Paul urged the early Christian sisters and brothers, to progress even more, to aspire to live a tranquil life and to work with their own hands, and conduct themselves properly toward outsiders. (cf. 1 Thes. 4:10-12)

**Baz:** The Lord be with you. **R. All:** And may the Lord also be with you In Matthew Chapter 5: 14-16, Jesus reminds us: "You are the light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a table; they put it on the lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone to see. In the same way let your light shine before people, so they will see the good things you do and give praise to God." **Baz: Thus has God Spoken. All: Thanks be to God.**

## Brief reflection by Aniedi

**Bahati:** Through the work of our hands, we let the light of truth shine in our world, we bring God's blessing upon ourselves and those we serve; we make a difference little at a time, indeed we bring sunshine to the lives of others and share in their joys and blessings.

**Bahati:** Let us pray for all who serve the mission of AFJN – staff, consultants, volunteers, board of directors, interns, coalition partners and collaborators; the many people who contribute time, talent and resources to keep the ministry of AFJN alive and active; organizational members, our partners in Africa, and all those who will share the fruit of our labor.

**Aniedi:** God our creator, all that we have accomplished, you have done for us (Isaiah 26:12). Be pleased to continue blessing the work of our hands. Bless, guide and direct all our undertakings. Grant that all who plan and serve in this office may, through your guidance and support, come to the right decisions and carry them out to the greater glory of your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

### + Blessing of Office with Holy Water +

**Aniedi:** May God our creator who commanded us to love and serve one another as sisters and brothers, bless the Africa Faith and Justice Network Office with His presence and look kindly on all who serve and all who enter here. **R. Amen.**

May God bless us and guide us in all our engagements. **R. Amen**

May God guide us in reading and interpreting the signs of the time. **R. Amen**

May our guardian angels agitate us to respond in faith and trust to the promptings of the Spirit. **R. Amen**

And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**

**Meet and Greet:** **Baz** invites all to self introduce: name, location, and affiliation