

Cardinal F. E. Baye Landy



Cardinal F.E. Baye Landy has been an active member in the ministries of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church (PAOCC) for over 38 years. Cardinal Baye has taken to heart the great charge:

“My son, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal. Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes. Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honored at the end of your days. Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient, since gold is tested in the fire, and chosen men in the furnace of humiliation.” (Ecclesiasticus 2: 1-5, TJB).

However, even before he united with our church community he belonged to a small group of brothers and sisters whom he grew up with and who shared his belief in the beloved community. They became the Philadelphia Cadre of the Shrine of the Black Madonna. These believers led by Cadre Leader, Sekou Omowale Bell and Assistant Cadre Leader, Baye Okhuyia Landy, studied and worked together to serve for the betterment of the Black community. They were inspired by the teachings and work of The Honorable Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman, (Rev. Albert B. Cleage, Jr.), Founder and First Holy Patriarch.

During Easter weekend of 1973, the Philadelphia Cadre traveled to Detroit and immediately joined, serving the church as missionaries, emissaries and researchers throughout the Northeast. As such, The Philadelphia Cadre is credited with highly productive evangelism and fundraising which was instrumental in early church growth.

In 1976 Cardinal Baye moved to Detroit with other members of the Philly Cadre to undergo additional training. His missionary service has also included work in Flint, Kalamazoo, and Houston. First ordained in 1978, he was subsequently consecrated as a Bishop in 1993 and elevated to Cardinal in 1999. Cardinal Baye has always assumed the responsibility to develop the many gifts given to him. To that end he resumed his post secondary education and received his Associates’ degree in Legal Assistants training from Macomb Community College in 1993. He completed his undergraduate education and was awarded a Bachelors degree with honors from Oakland University. While he desired to become an attorney, he followed Jaramogi Abebe’s wisdom and entered Yale University and earned his Masters of Divinity in 1998.

Many have benefited from his teaching and preaching. However it is in pastoral care that he has had the greatest impact within the church community. Many have been comforted by his kind words and encouraging touch in hours of great personal crises. When our neighbor Cynthia Steele was the victim of racist attacks, Cardinal Baye was one of the first to comfort her and to confront the wrong done to her and her family!

Cardinal Baye is a soft spoken servant leader with a passion for social justice. He has lent his talents to the BCN Law Center where in addition to providing direct service, he worked with others to become legal assistants and paralegals. He contributed his graphic and editorial skills to producing many editions of the Black Slate Digest so that the truth could be known within the community. As a producer of the Black Slate radio program he kept his “ear to the ground” to bring the voice of reason to our community. In addition, he was the chief administrative staff for the Slate here and nationally for a number of years.

He served as staff to the Neighborhood City Halls of the city of Detroit for four years, acting as a citizen’s ombudsman. Many have recently come to know him as the Treasurer, Executive Board Member, and Founding Member of the Unify Detroit Coalition and as a Community Advisory Board Member of the Detroit Medical Center, Vanguard Health Systems, Inc. A minister with standing in The United Church of Christ (UCC), Cardinal Baye serves on the Linking Board of the Detroit Metropolitan Association of the Michigan Conference of the UCC. A co-coordinator of the Social Justice/Mission Outreach Mission Area Team (M.A.T.), he has devoted hours to mission work including, neighborhood clean up, feeding the hungry, and participating in soul-steering “Sacred Conversations on Race”.

Most currently, Cardinal Baye is participating in an historic collaboration with the Fannie Lou Hammer P.A.C., The East Side Community Slate, and The Black Slate, Inc., to inform and motivate Detroit voters. The collaboration's title and slogan are “Voter Education Initiative Network (V.E.I.N.); the life blood of Detroit voters”, and will launch in November of 2011.

One of eight children born to the late Deacon Frank Elijah Landy and Alice Mary Landy, he is devoted to family. His immediate family includes daughters Robyn Byrd and Jasmine (Ayodele) Griffen; grandchildren Emani, Bryan, Elijah, Nkosi, Jeremiah and Malia. He has mentored many youth within the community and is a brother to many who love and respect his quiet strength and integrity.