

## **African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the U. S.**

*Mailing Address: 1243 North Church Street, Rockford, IL 61103*

*Phone: (815)399-4300; Fax (815)399-5266; Email: [accruspub@gmail.com](mailto:accruspub@gmail.com)*

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Dear brothers and sisters:

As our 10<sup>th</sup> annual convention (August 6-9) draws near, I take this opportunity to communicate to you the current state of affairs regarding the convention. First of all, I extend immense gratitude to those of us who have already registered and paid for their accommodation. As you know, we are barely two months away from the convention, and the preliminary plans are now complete. However, a lot more remains to be accomplished on the secondary and more immediate levels, and we cannot make further progress without your participation. For this reason, I call your attention to some of the specifics of our discussion in Chicago last year, regarding the financing of our conventions.

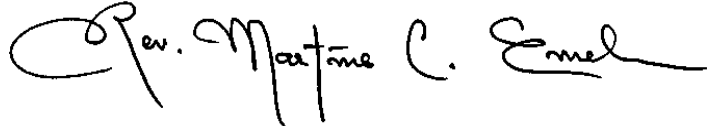
One of the things we agreed upon was that we must enforce the deadline for registrations and late payment charges. **The deadline this year is June 30.** This means that your registration and accommodation fees must be received on or before June 30. ACCCRUS has blocked a total of 120 rooms. However the hotel expects us to make necessary payments latest one month before the convention (i.e., July 6, 2009). So, on that date we shall make payment for rooms according to the reservations already received, and the hotel shall release all other rooms. This will help us to plan for the convention in more concrete terms. We cannot continue to wallow in uncertainties and expectations until the eleventh hour. A quick recall of such “uncertainties and expectations” negatively impacted on our previous conventions, and we need to avoid such abysmal chasm to save ACCCRUS from any financial dilemma or waste of funds we don’t presently have. So, please kindly send in your registration and fees immediately, if you have not already done so.

Another point that was raised in Chicago is the need for each of us to get at least one or two adverts or commercials for the Ad-Journal. In the past, we had benefited from the USCCB, but this resource/money is no longer available to us. Therefore, money from the Ad-Journal is all that we count on to subsidize convention costs. Realize that we are expected to pay only \$25 registration fee, and \$100 (double occupancy) or \$200 (single occupancy) accommodation fee. These fees are really “peanuts”, considering that 3-day stay in any four-star or standard hotel, like the one reserved for us in Atlanta, runs about \$300 per room. This means that ACCCRUS will pay \$100 in subsidies for every occupied room. Nevertheless, we still have to fund the provision of a variety of things, such as feeding, entertainment, gifts, flight expenses for both speakers, and other necessary convention publications and materials. For this reason, I implore you, brothers and sisters, to try and obtain for us at least one full-page advert to help defray the cost of your attendance. Let us all work together to make this a success. Our brothers and sisters in Atlanta Chapter are working extremely hard for us, and reciprocating their noble gesture through our full participation in fund raising would be our least effort to make ACCCRUS a success. I am sure you would agree with me that simply showing up on the last day means putting the burden of subsidizing your room on everybody else. That will not be fair.

The speakers this year are, Mr. Tom Peterson, Founder and President of both Catholics Come Home, Inc., and Virtue Media, Inc., and The Rev. Msgr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, a leading voice in matters pertaining to religion and politics. The keynote address will be given by The Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta. A brochure detailing the curriculum vitae of these men will be published on our website ([www.acccrus.org](http://www.acccrus.org)) at a later date.

Counting on your cooperation, I thank you for your effort and look forward to reuniting with you all in Atlanta.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Martins C. Emeh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Rev. Martins C. Emeh, J.C.L.  
National President.