Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Dear Fathers and Sisters,

I invite you to the 2017 ACCCRUS annual National Convention. Our theme this year, *Building Intercultural Competency for African Priests and Religious in the United States* is aimed at offering us an opportunity to establish a basic orientation guide for African priests and religious in the United States. I am thrilled to inform you that Fr. Allan Deck S.J. will be the keynote speaker. Fr. Deck served as first Executive Director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church at the US Bishops’ Conference and currently is a distinguished scholar of Theology and Latino studies at Loyola Marymount University. We are deeply grateful that Fr. Deck will guide us in this effort.

For each of us to be fully engage in this task, I ask you to read the USCCB document on *Building Intercultural Competency for Ministers* which can be found on [www.acccrus.org](http://www.acccrus.org).

The convention will take place from July 26 – 29, 2017 at the *Maison Dupuy Hotel* (1001 Toulouse St., New Orleans, LA 70112). Phone: (504) 586-8000.

I ask you to make an effort now to secure your flights, make hotel reservations and register for the convention. Note that when you call to make your hotel reservation, please use the promo code “ACCCRUS” to get the discounted rates. Also, the deadline for registration is June 30, 2017 and a late fee of $25.00 will be assessed on all registrations processed between July 1 and July 20. After July 20, no more registrations will be accepted.

I also ask you to consider putting an ad in our ad-journal brochure. It keeps us informed of the wonderful ministry you are involved in while at the same time, helps defray some of the growing cost of hosting the convention. Also, I urge you to visit our website, [www.acccrus.org](http://www.acccrus.org) for more information. There you will find all the forms and do your registration.

Conventions usually offer us the opportunity to relax and reconnect. Hope you take advantage of this and invite other African clergy and religious in the US to do same.

God bless you and see you in the Big Easy!

Fr. Henry Atem
National President