

Archbishop Samuel Emmanuel Carter
"The Man, the Mission, and the Message"

As we gather to observe Founders' Day at this illustrious institution of learning with a Jesuit bias which champions the holistic formation of young men and women, it may be wise to give a very brief snapshot of the life of this indomitable Churchman, the Most Rev., the Honourable Samuel Emmanuel Carter, the first local Archbishop of Kingston who was also the First Headmaster of the then fledgling Campion College. Because of time constraints, I summarise under three sub-sections: "The Man, the Mission, and the Message."

The Man. In the well-known poetic work of Rudyard Kipling, we hear this description of one who is the ideal man for all seasons: ".....who walked with kings and not lose the common touch. That is a man!" That description fits Archbishop Carter to a "T!" Both in the corridors of the Church and society, he was at home. As Archbishop of Kingston during those turbulent times in the 70s, he was remarkably fearless in venturing into troubled areas of Kingston riding pillion on a motorbike. That was a man for social justice!

The Mission. Archbishop Carter, a true Jamaican Jesuit to the bones, was very much aware of being sent on a mission to bring good news to the poor, to heal and to be as inclusive as was Jesus. An essential component of that

mission was education, a holistic education that furthered the truth of the whole person: body, mind, and soul. He was concerned that no child would be left behind, as can be seen in his preoccupation with the betterment of those schools that unfortunately carried a stigma by virtue of their location.

Message. The personal motto chosen by Archbishop Carter, the indefatigable ecumenist, was "UT OMNES UNUM SINT," "That all may be one," a motto that was taken from the prayer of Jesus as recorded in John 17:21: "May they be one, as you Father in me and I in you, that they also may be one in us." Archbishop's message to one and all--even today, especially today--is that we are our brother's and sister's keepers, no matter our creed, color, or status in life. We could say that Archbishop Carter's Message to us can be capsulised in the words of our National Anthem: "Justice, Truth be ours forever!"

With such a mindset and message, we are all better able and indeed strengthened to build a nation and a culture by the use of the God-given gifts we all have in virtue of our being children of God. This is indeed the quest of all church-sponsored or owned schools in Jamaica as they operate out of the religious ethos that is the foundation of such institutions, including our beloved Champion College.

It is this "man on a mission with a salutary, all--inclusive message" that inspired the creation of the Samuel E. Carter Foundation which grants scholarships to prospective

educators destined for our Catholic institutions. The Foundation is pleased to co-sponsor today along with Campion College on their Foundation Day, this lecture that will be delivered by Professor Trevor Monroe, Founder of the National Integrity Action (NIA) and the indefatigable champion and proponent of good governance characterized by transparency, accountability as well as the integrity of our public servants. Given the present atmosphere, and especially in terms of education, I can't think of a more appropriate topic than that which Professor Trevor Monroe has chosen for this Archbishop Samuel E. Carter's Lecture Series: "Character Formation in the Twenty-first Century Education."

God bless!

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