



Bishop Demosthene Nelson, Presiding Bishop

Community Service Affirmation

"I Am Because We Are, We Are Therefore I AM"

Call: As we celebrate 73 Years of Christian Service, we recognize that we are recipients of a grand legacy. We stand upon the shoulders of those who came before us who created a path and laid the foundation of self-reliance and self-determination.

All: We pledge to further our legacy, doing all we can to fulfill the special calling that we willingly accept.

Call: We willingly work together, understanding the words of our beloved founder, Rev. Albert B. Cleage, Jr. that "Salvation is a group experience" and believe that we are "not saved once, but many times."

All: We pledge to further our legacy, doing all we can to fulfill the special calling that we willingly accept.

Call: "Salvation within the African worldview, is a human responsibility, where we re-awaken to our collective call to be co-creators, by consciously adopting attitudes and behaviors to help manifest the kind of world where African people everywhere can live abundantly, in a sacred space of self-reliance and self-sufficiency." – *Baba Mbiyu Chui*

All: We pledge to further our legacy, doing all we can to fulfill the special calling that we willingly accept.

Call: The tangible expression of an individual's Christian faith can be measured by the difference one makes in the world with their life. This sentiment was expressed by Martin Luther King when he said, "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy."

All: We pledge to further our legacy, doing all we can to fulfill the special calling that we willingly accept.

As a fellowship laboring to make our church a force for good in the world, we in the Shrine of the Black Madonna believe service is the highest praise. Rooted in the belief in the equality of souls, we are dedicated to creating a world where the divine value of all human beings is accepted, respected and protected.

All: We pledge to further our legacy, doing all we can to fulfill the special calling that we willingly accept. Ase, Ase, Aseo