



## **The Very Reverend Dr. Emmanuel Wea Johnson, Sr. The Dreamer and Founder of LECUSA**

LECUSA (Liberian Episcopal Community in the USA) honors the blessed memory of the Very Reverend Dr. Emmanuel Wea Johnson, Sr. on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday May 24, 2024. The formation of a Liberian Episcopal Community in the USA (LECUSA) was the passion of the Very Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Wea Johnson, Sr, a renowned educator, administrator, faithful priest, and family man.

Fr. Johnson served God and humanity in multiple capacities including Principal of B. W. Harris Episcopal High School which he transformed from the Trinity Parish School (1960-1968), first Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, first Superintendent of the Monrovia Consolidated School System, Liberia (1968-1972), President of Cuttington College and Divinity School, now Cuttington University (1973-1980), Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Monrovia (1980 until the Liberian civil war), Dean for Academic Affairs at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina (1992 to 2004), and Priest in Residence at St. David's Episcopal Church, Ash-burn, VA, where he is buried. LECUSA is grateful to St. David's Episcopal Church

for the Christian love extended to Fr. Johnson in his life, death, and burial. On September 22, 2024, St. David's Episcopal Church invites the presence and participation of LECUSA at the Requiem Mass and Picnic in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Fr. Johnson.

The dream of Fr. Johnson to form a Liberian Episcopal Community in the USA was revealed at the B. W. Harris Episcopal School Alumni Association Convention held the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, 2005 in Minnesota under the leadership of President Wilhelmina Wilson. Fr. Johnson was invited to the Convention and while he was there, he shared his dream with Fr. Himmie Budu Shannon and Fr. James N. Wilson, II and we agreed to work with him to actualize his dream. On August 26, 2006, at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Reston, Virginia, the first leaders of LECUSA were elected: The Reverend Dr. James N. Wilson, II, Chairman, Reverend Dr. Wilmot Merchant, Co-Chairman, The Reverend Edward H. Thompson, Secretary, and the Reverend Maggie B. Dennis, Treasurer.

A broader historical perspective will be provided by Dr. Elwood Dunn. May Fr. Johnson rest in peace as all Liberian Episcopalians residing in the USA, clergy and lay, are encouraged to stand together to perpetuate the dream of Fr. Johnson.