



**Our
Men
in
Black**



**Father
Bonaventure
Okoro**
**St. James Church,
Lee, parochial
administrator**



Favorite prayer

My favorite prayer is the rosary because it gives me interior peace and insight into life. It is a source of empowerment over temptations and evil for me.

What has been a holy moment for you in your priesthood?

It was the experience I had while anointing a lady in the hospital. After first of all confessing her sins and then got anointed and received the Eucharist, she shared with me the interior joy she felt in her heart and how liberating the sacraments were for her. I will never forget that.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

It was the first priest from my hometown, Father Michael, now of blessed memory. He was a military chaplain in the Nigerian army. Father Michael's demeanor and appearance were impeccable. His white cassock

was for the most part immaculate. I used to spend some of my holidays in his station. He will always remind me of the importance of maintaining good clean environment. His great maxim was: "Cleanliness is next to godliness." This equally has some spiritual implication and it enables me to think of how I should always work hard for my interior cleanliness.

Advice for young people considering a vocation

I would encourage them to pray over their vocation, look for a mentor to coach them in discerning God's will for them just like Samuel did with Eli, the priest in the temple.

Something about you few people would know

I have a heavy foot. But, traffic tickets are slowing me down. It still remains a temptation that I struggle with.

Favorite hobby or pastime

It depends on the season of the year. For instance, for the long winter nights, when I don't have meetings

I start the evening with a ride on my exercise bike. I love to read for pleasure as well. I love non-fiction materials like history, psychology, news magazines and journals on spirituality.

For spring, summer and fall, I love to be outside, walking or biking. Occasional readings are also welcome.

Finally, I cherish going out for family dinners as well because through it parishioners come to know me and vice versa. Besides, I love to enjoy good food.

Favorite temporal things

I love recent movies like "Invictus" and "Blind Side." They are quite inspirational, loaded with messages of courage, compassion and love to make the world a better place. I love the "Tonight show" by Jay Leno. It's my relaxation show before bed.

I watch soccer because I grew up with it. I am slowly getting to know baseball and I support the White Sox.