



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
305 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226
www.AODcommunications.org
TEL 313-237-5943
FAX 313-237-4644

To: News Editors, Assignment Desks, Parishes and Schools

From: Archdiocesan Communications

Date: November 10, 2005

Mass to honor musical pioneer Fr. Clarence Rivers

A special Thanksgiving Mass honoring the musical legacy of the late Fr. Clarence Rivers will be celebrated at 3 p.m. this Sunday, November 13. Retired Auxiliary Bishop Moses Anderson, SSE, will be the principal celebrant of the Mass at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Avenue in Detroit. The Mass will also feature liturgical dance provided by the Dearing Detroit Dance Company.

Fr. Rivers wrote liturgical music that blended African-American melodies with Catholic liturgy. The compositions reflected the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. One of Fr. Rivers' compositions was performed at the first official English-language celebration of the Mass, in St. Louis in 1964. Fr. Rivers was the first black priest ordained by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He died November 21, 2004 at the age of 73.

****Note to Media: You are invited to cover this event. We ask that you abide by any instructions you might receive from the cathedral staff. For more information, call 313-237-5943**

