

**BISHOP MOSES B. ANDERSON, SSE**  
**AUXILIARY BISHOP FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Moses Bosco Anderson was born in Selma, Ala., on Sept. 9, 1928, the oldest of five children of Henry and Nancy King Anderson. He was baptized a Baptist, and started his education at Presbyterian Elementary. Growing up in a poor family, and in the deeply segregated south, Moses helped care for his younger siblings while his parents both worked. While at Knox High School, he helped form the Don Bosco Boys' Club, an educational and recreational program run by the Society of Saint Edmund. In his teenage years, he grew in appreciation of Catholicism, even in a culture that held a skeptical view of the faith – only four of Knox High School's 2,000 students were Catholic. Secretly taking instructions, he deepened his knowledge of the Catholic faith and converted to Catholicism, receiving his First Communion in 1949 at the age of 20.

By the time he was 21, Moses Anderson was in formation for the priesthood with the Society of Saint Edmund and had enrolled in Xavier University in New Orleans. After continuing his studies at Edmundite College of Saint Michael's in Winooski, Vt., and Saint Edmund Seminary in Burlington Vt., he was ordained a priest for the Society of Saint Edmund. He was ordained May 30, 1958 in Burlington by Bishop Robert Joyce.

As a young priest, then-Father Anderson continued his studies, earning an advanced degree in sociology from the College of Saint Michael. From 1961 until 1964, he served as pastor of St. Catherine Parish in Elizabeth City, N.C., where he began a landmark interracial tutorial program. In 1964, he returned to the College of Saint Michael, where he served as a theology professor and the vice president for student affairs. In 1968, he earned a Master of Arts degree in natural law and theology from Xavier University. Also at that time, he became involved in the New York-Vermont Youth Project, serving as an advocate of educational and civil rights issues for young African Americans. In 1971, he started a 10-year assignment as an administrator and professor at Xavier University, during which time he also taught at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Also during that time, Father Anderson began advanced studies at the University of Ghana in Legon, West Africa. In 1981, Father Anderson was assigned pastor of All Saints Parish in Anniston, Ala. The parish community had 150 members.

On Dec. 3, 1982, Father Anderson was appointed by Pope John Paul II to be an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit. The appointment made him the first black bishop in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and the seventh black bishop in the United States. He was ordained a bishop at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit on Jan. 27, 1983, by then-Detroit Archbishop (Cardinal) Edmund C. Szoka. Bishop Harold R. Perry,

SVD, and Bishop Arthur H. Krawczak served as co-consecrators at Bishop Anderson's episcopal ordination.

As an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Bishop Anderson oversaw what now is known as the Central Region of the archdiocese – including 60-plus parishes in and near the City of Detroit, 250 priests, several schools, three colleges, a university and a hospital. In addition to his pastoral oversight of the region, he was made pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Detroit in 1992, and served at the parish until 2001. During his time as an auxiliary bishop in Detroit, Bishop Anderson also fostered ministry abroad. He built relationships in Ghana, on the southern coast of West Africa – from where Bishop Anderson's research showed his great-great-great grandmother had come to the United States as a slave. In January 1990, Bishop Anderson was made a chief of the Ashanti tribe in Kumasi, Ghana. He also was involved building mission churches and schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands near the Bahamas.

Having a passion for the arts, Bishop Anderson also built strong relationships with artists and musicians. He made contributions from his extensive and international art collection to Catholic educational institutions. Pieces of his collection of African and African-American art reside at Xavier University, Madonna University and Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

Upon reaching the age of 75, the mandatory retirement age for Roman Catholic bishops, Bishop Anderson submitted his resignation in 2003, relinquishing his administrative responsibilities. Still, he remained active in his retirement, performing liturgies, attending local ceremonies, maintaining his international activities, and celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation.

He had been living in Livonia at the time of his death on January 1, 2013.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1958-1959 Associate pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Charlotte, N.C.
- 1959-1961 Lecturer in theology at St. Michael College in Winooski, Vt.
- 1961-1964 Pastor of St. Catherine Parish in Elizabeth City, N.C.
- 1964-1971 Associate Professor of Theology and Vice President of Student Affairs at St. Michael College
- 1971-1981 Director of Religious Affairs and Associate Professor of Theology at Xavier University and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans

- 1981-1982 Pastor of All Saints Parish in Anniston, Ala., and auxiliary chaplain at Fort McClennan, Ala.
- 1983-2003 Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit
- 1992-2001 Pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Detroit

#### **MEMBERSHIPS & TITLES**

- Member, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
- Member, USCCB Secretariat for African American Catholics
- Member, Boysville of America, Inc.
- Member, USCCB Catholic Communications Campaign
- Member, USCCB Committee for Black Catholic Affairs
- Member, USCCB Committee on International Policy
- Member, USCCB Committee for African American Catholics
- Member, USCCB Committee on Contemplative Prayer for Major Religious Superiors of Men and Women
- Member, National Advisory Council
- Member Society for the Study of Black Religion and Culture
- Lifetime Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Founding Member, Covenant House Detroit Chapter
- Trustee, Holy Cross Youth and Family Center
- Trustee, North American College, University of Louvain
- Trustee, New Detroit

Trustee, Madonna University

Trustee, Boy Scouts of America

Trustee, Habitat for Humanity

Fleet Captain, Detroit Yacht Club

#### **AWARDS/HONORARY DEGREES**

Underwood Fellowship (Danforth Foundation)

Lilly Endowment Grant (Models of Ministries to Black Catholics)

Touhy Lecturer (John Carrol University)

The Shield of Saint Xavier Award (Xavier University)

Bishop James A. Healy Award (Xavier University)

Saint Martin De Porres Award (Archdiocese of Detroit Office for Black Catholic Ministries)

Chief of the Ashanti Tribe (Kumasi, Ghana)

Honorary Doctor of Law (Kansas Newman College, Wichita, Kan.)

Honorary Doctor of Humanities (Madonna College/University)

Honorary Doctor of Law (University of Detroit Mercy)