

Et pluribus unum, Out of Many, One Or the Celebration of Catholicity in the Caribbean

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Et Pluribus Unum is a dictum that appears in the one dollar US bills. This is a relic of when the 13 United Kingdom colonies in the *Abya Yala* (later re-baptized as America) continent became independent from England and united among themselves: "Out of 13 colonies, one entity."



Jamaica's national seal also includes the motto: "Out of Many, One People." In this case it means catholicity: out of many cultures, races, religions, philosophies...one people. Or if you prefer, in the words of a Mexican writer: "The only way to be usefully national is to be generously universal."¹

The ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod practiced catholicity on January 15 through the ordination of a new bishop, when pluralism was everywhere.



At the down of the fourth decade of the birth of the ELCA, Bishop Pedro Suárez, a Venezuelan born, became the second Latino bishop of continental USA.

The first one is Abraham D. Allende, currently in his fourth year as Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod. Bishop Allende not only is like Jesus, namely, the *Trailblazer* (Hebrews 6:20), he also has honored the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) Program from which he graduated. *Allende* in English means "beyond," this Puerto Rican pastor really has push catholicity till its beyondness.



¹ Alfonso Reyes, *La X en la frente*, Mexico City: UNAM, 1993, p. 150.

Bishops Allende and Suárez and many Latin@s pastors have demonstrated that the saying "Latin@ pastors for Latin@ congregations" is not true. What is for sure is that "silo day done!" namely, catholicity is what it's all about.

Out of many, one people came true throughout the plurality of churches that attended the big feast: Haiti, Suriname, Puerto Rico, Guyana, Jamaica...; the diversity of languages spoken during the celebration, e.g., Portuguese, Spanish, French, Dutch, English...; the variety of ethnic groups convoked, Afro-Caribbean, Anglo-Saxon, Indian, African-North-American, Latin@...

During the banquet there was plenty of time to share with Dr. Rafael Malpica, Director of Global Mission, the Rev. Jaime Dubón, Director of the Caribbean and Latin America Missions, P. J. May, Chair of the Florida Bahamas Global Mission, Bishop Livenson Lauvanus from Haiti and alumnus from United Theological College.

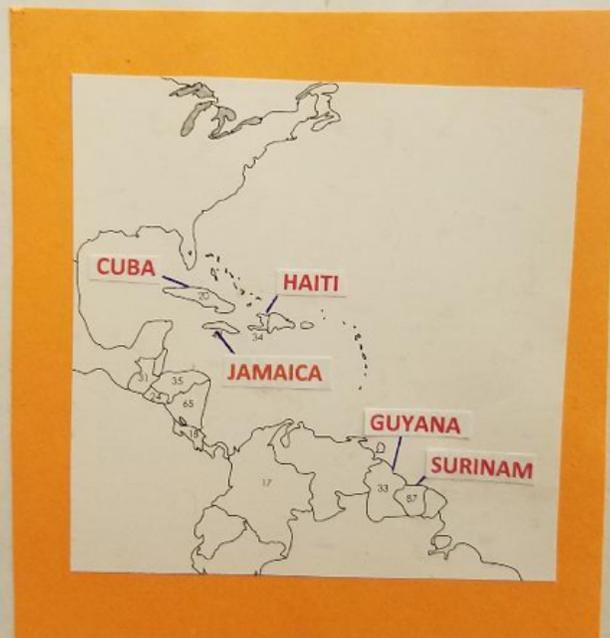


The cherry on the cake was the weekend at Sun City where Eliseo very much enjoyed the hospitality of

Amy and John Minor and the preaching and fellowship with Redeemer Lutheran Church and their Pastor David Allman. Our sisters and brothers from this congregation continue to support with their offerings the theological ministry in Jamaica.

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DONATIONS ACCEPTED HERE FOR SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE AND OUR COMPANION CHURCHES AND THE SEMINARY IN JAMAICA.



May our "Road-Opener" God and our partner congregations continue building bridges —instead of walls— to keep on practicing out catholicity and proclaiming the liberating gospel:

"out of every tribe and nation"

(Revelation 7:9),