



## Evangelist Shaniqua X. Wilson

Shaniqua has been active in Ministry since the age of 5. Born and raised in South Jamaica, Queens, NY she is a lifelong member of St. Bonaventure-St. Benedict the Moore. Although she began ministry in the choir, Shaniqua also served as a Catechist (15+ years), a Youth Minister (17+ years), was the Founder and Director of the St. Bonaventure Liturgical Dancers (27+ years), Parish Pastoral Council member and has served a Lector.

As a teen Shaniqua had the privilege of being Confirmed by the late Bishop Emerson J. Moore (auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York) and she was honored to be a soloist and the youngest member of the group that traveled with him and the Brooklyn Diocesan Gospel Choir as they toured Italy and ultimately sing at a Papal Audience in Rome for St. Pope John Paul II, in the Summer of 1989. She has also participated in/traveled to World Youth Days' beginning Denver 1993, where she represented the Office of Black Ministry for the Diocese of Brooklyn & Queens (under the direction of Fr. Martin J. Carter, SA). She has by the grace of God been able to "pay-it-forward" and take young people

on several spiritual pilgrimages, retreats and conferences around the world. As a teen, Shaniqua not only attended the first ever 5 Kujengas' in NC and NY but now an adult she has served on the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens' Vicariate of Black Catholic Concerns Kujenga planning core team.

Shaniqua has sung with numerous professional recorded choirs and even now is a member of the Professor JJ Howell and the JJ Howell Ensemble (Hempstead, NY), The New York Fellowship Mass Choir, with the late Rev. Timothy Wright, the "God-Father" of Gospel Music (Brooklyn, NY), The New York State Choir for the Gospel Workshop of America, under the Direction of Bishop Albert Jamieson, Chairman of the GWA (Brooklyn, NY), James Hall's and Worship & Praise (Brooklyn, NY), Minister Devin D. Olivas' Voices of Praise Ensemble (Queens, NY) and many other choirs and ensembles. She has also ministered a soloist and a member of the Sister Thea Bowman Diocesan Mass Gospel Choir for over 35 years, in which she has had the occasion of singing for Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA, the late Bishop Joseph L. Howez (Bishop of Biloxi, MS), Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory (Cardinal of Washington DC) and a host other African-American prelates of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1997, she graduated from Delaware State University (Dover, DE) and not too long after began working for the Diocese of Rockville Centre's Office for the Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry. While there she served as Assistant Director for the Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry (for 17 years) where she assisted in creating retreats, revivals, theological updates, Youth Jam for Jesus and a host of other programs that are still active and operating today. She also spearheaded the standing-room-only New York Celebration for the 25th Anniversary to the Priesthood for Frs. Charles F. & Chester P Smith, SVD (the only African-American twin priests).

In 2019, along with Minister Ashley Aldrich, Shaniqua co-founded MEET ME AT THE WELL MINISTRIES, MMATW. MMATW is a youth and young adult ministry that is open and affirming that is dedicated to safe spaces and having the sometimes difficult but always honest conversations similar to the one that Jesus had with the Samaritan Woman at the Well. Shaniqua continues to win souls for Christ by spreading the GOOD NEWS of our risen Lord with MEET ME AT THE WELL MINISTRIES which has a major focus on Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

At present, Shaniqua is the Ministry Program, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator for the Bowman-Francis Ministry Team. She also sits on the Board of Directors for Coney Island Cathedral (Brooklyn, NY) and serves as an Evangelist for several ministries both in and out of the Catholic Church throughout the African-American Diaspora as a Minister of Music, Youth Leader, Community Activist and as a Preacher.