

A note of appreciation for the life and work of Canon Frank Marshall

This note of appreciation is tendered on behalf of the Local Implementation Committee and the Re-engineering Committee of the Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening Project (Jurist). The Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening (JURIST) Project is a five year regional Caribbean judicial reform initiative funded under an arrangement with the Government of Canada. The Project is being implemented on behalf of Global Affairs Canada and the Conference of Heads of Judiciary of CARICOM (the Conference), by the Caribbean Court of Justice, which was appointed by the Conference as its Regional Executing Agency. The Project is working with judiciaries in the region to support their own efforts to improve court administration and strengthen the ability of the courts and the judiciary to resolve cases efficiently and fairly.

Canon Marshall was appointed to these committees by Sir Marston Gibson, K.A. Chief Justice of Barbados. Madam Justice Michelle Weekes and I were appointed Co- Chairpersons of the said committees when they were merged.

The membership is wide and varied to accommodate different points of view on access to justice and the improvement of the delivery of Justice in Barbados. Much is known and has been said about his work as a member of several civic organisations but very little is known about his contribution to social justice through his participation in Jurist. His experience in dealing with the public, assisting them with day to day problems, ministering to their spiritual and social needs placed him in a position of eminence in bringing a practical dimension to our work. We are also blessed to have Bishop Gordon (of the Catholic Church) on board to bring his own perspectives to our work.

Canon Frank was punctual in his attendance at meetings. True to his name and nature, he was frank in giving his opinions and honest and candid in his deliberations with other members of the committees.

His contributions exuded his concern for the ordinary Barbadian, his broad breadth of knowledge, not limited to things pastoral and his concern for the welfare of his fellow Barbadian. In all of our deliberations he would remind us that, even though we were the recipients of aid from the Canadian government, we ought not to be mendicant (beggarly) in our approach to our dealings with the donor country. He was of the opinion that independence, industry and pride should at all times characterize Barbadians in their dealings with each other or with external countries.

We will miss his wise counsel honed on the anvil of experience over the 72 years of his life. We will miss his insight born out his religious teaching and the pastoral care he gave to his parishioners over fifty years of ministry.

Canon Frank bore his illness in a stoic way. He would call if he could not make meetings but this was a rarity. He was a Godly man. He did not fear death. He had been preparing himself for this transition all of his life. His concern was not for himself but principally for his dear wife and her welfare after his passing.

We mourn his loss but we are sure that God had taken him to a higher service. To his wife, children, grandchildren, many relatives and friends, we express our deepest condolences at his loss. Barbados has truly lost an unsung hero. Canon Frank, by his living, did credit to his nation wherever he went. It was heart-warming to see the several dioceses of the wider Caribbean Community all ranged under their respective banners in the Cathedral Church of Saint Michael and all Angels to pay their last respects to this gentleman of the cloth.

We express our gratitude for his service and his example and thank Almighty God for lending him to us as a faithful companion here on earth.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

William J. Chandler

Michelle Weekes

High Court Judge

High Court Judge

Joint Chairpersons for and on behalf of the Local Implementation Committee and Re-engineering Committee of the Jurist Project