

The Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF
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The Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah TSSF, a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, is one of the founding members of what is now the Episcopal-Muslim Relations Committee of the Diocese of New York. He is Pastor of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Bronx; Director of *Roots & Branches: Programs for Spiritual Growth* (www.rootsandbranches.com); and a member of The Third Order, Province of the Americas, the Society of Saint Francis, a religious community in the Episcopal Church and world-wide Anglican Communion.

An African-American born into a family with a Christian mother and a Muslim father, Father Syedullah has developed a keen awareness of and sensitivity for interfaith concerns. Much of his ministry involves bridge-building among people of different faith traditions and helping Christians to understand their call to be in positive relationship with people of other faiths. In 1991 he helped to found The Episcopal-Muslim relations Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Working to bring about greater understanding between Christians and Muslims in the New York City area, this committee has been particularly active since the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

His interfaith background, together with more than twenty-five years of being informed and formed by Franciscan spirituality, has guided his ministry to emphasize the themes of reconciliation and respect for all God's creation. Consequently, his ministry not only includes positive relationship building among Christians and Muslims, but also includes serious work with Jews, Buddhists, and North American Native Peoples.

His Bronx parish, the Church of the Atonement, is host to a series of worship, study, and community building events that bring together members of The Bronx Muslim Center and the Jewish Congregation Tihillah. Through *Roots & Branches* he provides a variety of programs for spiritual formation, including programs to encourage and enhance interfaith understanding and cooperation. *The Neighbor God Has Given Me* and *The People of God: A Sacred Prism* are two programs that he presents nationally and internationally.

For several years Father Syedullah and Imam Bashar have worked together in a variety of interfaith programs to foster better understanding and cooperation among all people.