The Lyke Foundation is the sponsor of the Lyke Conference.

Vision
The Lyke Foundation cultivates, celebrates, and commissions leadership to develop powerful and effective Black Catholic worship.

Mission
Being a credible liturgical resource, the Lyke Foundation calls Black Catholics to embrace their birthright and awakens Catholics to engage the richness and giftedness of the Black community in the vibrant nature of the Catholic Church.

In the light of this vision and mission, the primary activities of the Foundation are in-servicing and training. These activities are accomplished chiefly through the annual Lyke Conference.

Everything that is offered at the Lyke Conference has the following goals in mind:

- To provide a culturally rich atmosphere encompassing music, art, ritual, and other activities and experiences that will inspire and enable participants to enrich worship services in their own parishes.
- To provide participants with spiritually uplifting and unifying knowledge that can be shared with their parish communities and families.
- To facilitate an ongoing dialogue involving the African American community and the Catholic Church.
- To grace the prayer life of God’s people through the development of liturgical resources that are rooted in the Black experience and truly Catholic.
- To teach, train, and form liturgical ministers.
- To develop and inspire our youth spiritually and culturally to recognize and share their giftedness and to share their time and talents in fostering Christian values.
- To promote and develop lay ministerial leadership as well as vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the African American community.
- To evangelize within the African American community and other communities.

For Reservations: 1-888-789-3090
or Online
Conference Rate Passkey:
https://book.passkey.com/go/archbishoplykefoundation
James Patterson Lyke was born on February 18, 1939 in Chicago. He was the youngest of seven children born to Amos and Ora Lyke. He grew up in Wentworth Gardens, a public housing project on Chicago’s Southside. From these modest environs, he became a Franciscan friar, a Catholic priest, a teacher, a pastor, a bishop of the Church, and at the time of his untimely death in late 1992, he was the highest ranking African American in the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

After entering the Franciscan Order, Sacred Heart Province, he was ordained a Catholic priest on June 24, 1966. His first assignment was in Cleveland, Ohio where he taught at Padua High School. While in Cleveland, Father Lyke was active in the community and lead the local Operation Breadbasket efforts for civil rights. He served as president of the National Office for Black Catholics and was a close advisor to Bishop Coadjutor of Memphis. While a pastor at St. Thomas, Father Lyke was the first African American chaplain for Marriage Encounter. He authored the filmstrip marriage enrichment program, "Black Married Love." In 1977 he was assigned as chaplain of the Newman Center at Bowling Green University, an assignment that was short lived. For his less than two years, Pope John Paul II called him to the episcopacy as auxiliary bishop of Cleveland. He was ordained August 1, 1979. He served as the Urban Vicar there until 1980 when he became the Apostolic Administrator for the Archdiocese of Atlanta after the resignation of Archbishop Eugene Marino, SVD. On June 24, 1991, the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, James Patterson Lyke, OFM, PhD was installed as the fifth bishop and fourth archbishop of Atlanta. Archbishop Lyke received his Ph.D. in theology with a specialization in catechetics from The Union Institute in Cincinnati in 1968. Among his most noted work is the African American Catholic Hymnal, "Lead Me, Guide Me," which coordinated its production and publication with an outstanding committee of African American Rabbis and musicians. Lyke received his B.A. in philosophy from Our Lady of Angels House of Philosophy through Quincy College, in Quincy, Ill. Following three years of preparation and a Master of Divinity degree from St. Joseph Theological Seminary through Antonianum in Rome, Italy, following study from 1960 to 1967. He also served on the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Catechetical Directory while he was working on his doctorate. Archbishop Lyke received honorary doctorates from Grambling State University in Louisiana, Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and the College of New Rochelle in New York. At the age of 53, Archbishop Lyke died on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 27, 1992.

Clarence Rufus J. Rivers (September 9, 1931 – November 21, 2004) was a priest and well-known composer of Gregorian music. His work combined Roman Catholic worship with traditional African American music. He wrote several books on music and spirituality as well. Clarence Rivers was born in Selma, Alabama, but his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio when he was young. It was there that he began his study for the priesthood. He did graduate work at Xavier and Yale Universities, as well as the Catholic University of America and L’Institut Catholique de Paris. He received his doctorate in African-American Culture and Catholic Liturgy from the Union Institute in 1978. Fr. Rivers was the first African-American to be ordained in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He was passionate about the drama of public worship, as well as the music that was the “soul” of worship. He was equally devoted to African American culture and was known for his lavish vestments and distinctive jewelry. It was his music that made him famous, beginning with his “An American Mass Program,” which combined Gregorian Chant with the melodies patterns and rhythms of traditional African American Spirituals. His most beloved hymn was “God is Love.” He first sang the song at the National Black Catholic Conference in 1964, and received a 10 minute standing ovation. He received the 2003 Berakah Award. In addition to being a gifted composer, he had an acclaimed vocal style. But it was his personal faith and belief in the liturgy as a place where one encountered God that motivated all of his work. He died unexpectedly at age 73.

Archbishop Lyke Conference
Fr. Clarence Rivers Institute
Tentative Schedule

Reconciliation Black and Catholic

Tuesday July 2, 2019
1:00 - 9:00 pm
Rivers Institute

Wednesday July 3, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Rivers Institute
1:00 pm
Lyke Conference Opening
2:00 pm
Workshop Session 1
3:30 pm
Workshop Session 2
5:00 pm
Dinner (on your own)
7:00 pm
Keynote Address
Reception following

Thursday July 4, 2019
8:30 am
Morning Prayer
9:45 am
Workshop Session 3
11:00 am
Workshop Session 4
12:00 pm
Lunch (on your own)
1:30 pm
Workshop Session 5
2:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal
4:00 pm
Evening Prayer
5:00 pm
Dinner (on your own)
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Kumbu Night

Friday July 5, 2019
8:00 am
Excursion to the National African American Museum
5:00 pm
Dinner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday July 6, 2019
9:00 am
Closing Liturgy
Celebrating the Eucharist as Authentically Black and Truly Catholic

Noon
Conference concludes