



## **FATHER CORNELIUS KELECHI EJIUGU S.S. J.**

**“A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND”**

*(Service-Trails-Purpose)*

Father Cornelius Kelechi Ejiogu S.S.J, is a member of St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart which is a religious community of Catholic Priests and Brothers, who are committed to serving the African American community through the proclamation of the gospel and personal witness. The society’s commitment is expressed through sacramental, educational and pastoral ministry, service to those in need, and working for social justice. Learn more about the Josephites at [www.josephites.org](http://www.josephites.org).

Fr. Cornelius was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He began his elementary education at Tolu Primary School in Lagos. He later attended St. Kizito Catholic Secondary School in Imo State. The desire to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a missionary priest, led him to the Josephites Society. After an initial Spiritual Formation at St. Joseph the Worker House of Formation in Iperu Remo, Fr. Cornelius was sent to the National Missionary Seminary of St. Paul Abuja in 2004. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Port Harcourt in 2008. He came to the United State of America in August 2008 to continue his priestly training and theological studies at the Washington Theological Union. He graduated in May 2013 with two Master’s Degrees (Master in Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology).

Fr. Cornelius was ordained to the priesthood in June 1st 2013 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. He was then assigned the responsibility of pastoring the faithful of St. Luke Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Washington. In addition to ministering to the parish family of St. Luke, he is also the Academic Dean at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, DC. Fr. Cornelius has a passion for preaching the word of God, facilitating retreats, recollections and singing Gospel songs. He works and lives as a parish priest “with the goal of developing a warm and welcoming worshipping community. He advocates a solid Catholic teaching and ministries that speak to the needs of the faith communities.” He is currently the State Chaplain of the District of Columbia, Knight of Columbus.