

The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry, D.D., L.H.D.

The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry was born on November 14, 1940 and reared in Miami, Florida by his maternal grandparents who insisted that "Barry" be added to his name. He is the offspring of Bahamian immigrants. He is a product of the Miami-Dade County Public School System. He graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 1958 where his portrait hangs in the school's Hall of Fame. He is one of three alumni to be chosen first for this distinction and honor. Richard married his Saint Augustine's College sweetheart, the former Virla Rolle of West Palm Beach, Florida on August 18, 1962. The couple has been married 52 years. When the couple met on campus, Marquess-Barry was poised for a legal career, with a full scholarship to Howard University's School of Law. Were it not for his affection for Virla, his life would have taken a different path; however, the endowment prohibited him from marrying. Instead, Richard began teaching and supported Virla while she pursued her Master of Education at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. Upon relocating to Miami, Florida, Virla pursued her Specialist in Education at Barry University, Miami Shores, Florida. They are the parents of one married daughter, Diana (Ronald II) Frazier and two grandsons, Richard II, a college student and Ronald III, a foreign languages student in a local Miami-Dade County magnet school.

Richard, the first born grandchild of the first born child of Bahamian immigrants, has never been afraid of hard work. When Canon Marquess-Barry retired at the age of 72, he had worked for all but 10 years of his life. Richard began working at the age of 10 for \$15 a week. He collected garbage for the City of Miami during his high school years. Those days began at 4:00a.m. and his shift ended when the garbage truck returned the crew to the incinerator at 8:30a.m. Richard would return home, shower and get to school in time for his second period class. (He arranged for his first hour to be a study period.) In the evenings, Richard was a pot washer at a popular Miami Beach restaurant earning 58 cents an hour from which seven cents was deducted for Social Security. During his college summers, Richard worked double shifts back on the garbage truck for the City of Miami. In 1945, his family was fortunate to secure an apartment in the newly built Housing and Urban Development (HUD) project.

Scholastically gifted, Canon Marquess-Barry holds several degrees from distinguished institutions. Richard received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, North Carolina (1962) and was honored by his alma mater in 2006 with the Theodore R. Gibson Legacy Award. In 1965 he entered the Virginia Episcopal Theological Seminary and was awarded the Master of Divinity degree in 1968. While at Virginia Seminary, Richard was the only person of color enrolled. In spite of despicable, overt racism, he left his mark on that institution. In 1989 he became the youngest person in the more than 200 year history of Virginia Episcopal Theological Seminary to be awarded the Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa. Normally this degree is reserved for Bishops and distinguished theologians of the Church. During his seminary studies, Richard undertook graduate studies in English Literature at the American University, Washington, D.C. He was highly recognized for his work and encouraged to

continue; however, he had to abandon this undertaking because of the overwhelming demands placed on him in his seminary studies.

In 1973 Richard completed the requirements to become a Clinical Pastoral Supervisor at the Winter Haven General Hospital and Mental Institution, Winter Haven, Florida. He went on to successfully pass the examination to become a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors becoming the only person of color in the organization in the Southeastern United States.

Canon Marquess-Barry enrolled in the Doctoral Program at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia in 1970. He completed all coursework, orals and abstract for his dissertation when he received the call to the cure of Saint Agnes' Episcopal Church, Miami, Florida in 1977. Emory University had great hopes for Richard. The University selected and sent him to the University of Munich, Munich, Germany (1979-1980), as a Visiting Fellow. Richard distinguished himself not only scholastically but as a teacher while at Emory. He was commissioned to teach and certify for ordination the Lay Preachers from the many independent Methodist churches who became a part of the United Methodist Church. He certified many of them for Elderships in the newly formed United Methodist Church. Additionally, Richard was an instructor of Pastoral Theology and Ethics while in his course of study at Emory. He was chosen as one of the first participants for the Episcopal Church Leadership Institute from 1991 - 1993. These persons were deemed to be fit persons for the Episcopate. In 2005, Richard was chosen as a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University, Oxford, England. He was later invited to return to Oxford in this capacity, a particularly rare distinction. In 1995, Barber-Scotia College, Concord, North Carolina awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. In 2007, Canon Marquess-Barry was selected by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government for its Study of Black Leaders.

Canon Marquess-Barry was one of five finalists for Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio in 1993 and again for Bishop of the Diocese of Southeast Florida in 2000. He seldom ever speaks about the two opportunities afforded him to be elected to the Office of Bishop in the Church. Each offer was on foreign soil; Belize and the United States Virgin Islands. Canon Marquess-Barry thought and felt that someone indigenous to those island nations should serve as Bishop for their people and he declined both opportunities.

Canon Marquess-Barry became the first priest outside of The African Orthodox Church to be invested an Honorary Canon in 1995. He was invested an Honorary Canon of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, February 24, 2001.

Canon Marquess-Barry has taught on both the secondary and collegiate levels, teaching in the Culpeper Public Schools District, Culpeper, Virginia upon graduating from Saint Augustine's College in 1962. As a teacher in Culpeper, Richard led the move for fairness and equality in the public education system and in the community. This was unheard of in that part of the country in 1962. Richard stood his ground and won the respect and admiration of many who

embraced equality and justice. He served as Adjunct Instructor at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida for six summers. He served as the local Dean and Instructor for the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia for three years. He gave back to these institutions his salary for their scholarship funds.

Canon Marquess-Barry says that the charge given to his undergraduate graduating class by the college President, Dr. James A. Boyer, helped more than anything to focus his energies. As he remembered the President's charge: "As you go from this august institution of higher learning, be mindful that the greatest gift you can return to this institution is to make a difference in the world. Keep ever before you that in the final analysis, your life's worth will be measured not so much by what you have done for yourself – how much wealth you have amassed, but by what you have spent of yourself and talent to lift up others and by so doing change them and their worldview, making a difference for us all."

Richard was one of 13 persons who finished seminary in 1968 from the Diocese of South Florida. He was the only one in the class of 1968 who had not been assigned to a post when they gathered at Camp Wingman for canonical examinations. He approached Bishop Henry I. Louttit to inquire why he had not received an assignment. Bishop Louttit informed him that three Bishops (Virginia, Southern Virginia and Washington, D.C.) had requested that he be released from South Florida. Bishop Louttit told Richard, "If you are that good, you will do well in South Florida." Before leaving Camp Wingman, Bishop Louttit assigned Richard to a yoke ministry: Saint Simon the Cyrenian, Fort Pierce, Florida and Saint Monica's, Stuart, Florida. Bishop Louttit admonished Richard that, "I am sending you out on your own. Everyone else are assistants. I am expecting you to live up to those fine recommendations and commendations coming out of Virginia Seminary and from those Bishops."

Richard was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 22, 1968 at the Church of the Incarnation, Miami, Florida and was priested on December 23, 1968 at Holy Faith Episcopal Church, Port Saint Lucie, Florida. He served Saint Simon the Cyrenian from 1968 - 1977 and Saint Monica's from 1968 - 1975.

As a young priest, Richard answered the call to service religiously and civically. During his time in Fort Pierce, Saint Lucie County, Richard undertook the effort to integrate the public school system. He sued the St. Lucie County School Board seven times in order to integrate the system and was triumphant in each case. His formulation for the integration of the system was put forward to the Federal Court and agreed to by all parties. For his effectual efforts, the Federal Court made Richard an Intervener in the school system to make sure that fairness in promotion and hiring was equitable. Later, when a white cemetery advertised free burial space for any soldier killed in the Vietnam War but denied burial space for black soldiers, Richard sued the cemetery and was victorious. He brought pressure against the City of Fort Pierce and Saint Lucie County leading to the adoption of affirmative action and fairness in hiring and promotion within the police, fire departments and all governmental agencies. He brought

pressure against Saint Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce forcing them to pave the dirt roadways in the black community. When the City of Fort Pierce was in search of a City Prosecutor, Richard put forward his attorney and he was selected. Later, Richard put forward his attorney for City Judge in Fort Pierce and he was selected. This judge was the last sitting judge selected before the state abolished the city court system. Three attempts were made against Canon Marquess-Barry's life. The first took place as he left Indian River Community College where he was a Guest Lecturer at 11:30p.m. one evening. Richard was blocked by two trucks and dragged from his car with a gun to his head. He was told that, "We ain't gonna kill your nigger ass tonight. We are gonna blow your brains out on U.S.1, scoop them up and feed them to our hogs." After two other attempts were made against his life, Florida Governor Claude Kirk assigned Florida Highway Patrolmen to protect him. Finally, a failed attempt was made to burn down his parish church, Saint Simon the Cyrenian, Fort Pierce, Florida in 1974.

In addition to the many involvements in Saint Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce, Canon Marquess-Barry, at the request of the migrant workers employed by Minute Maid (a subsidiary of Coca Cola Company) in Okeechobee, Florida invited him to come to Okeechobee to see their plight. What he witnessed there was horrendous. The workers lived in shanties in which the ground was their floor. They slept in body bags. There were three outhouses containing 10 showers for over 300 persons. No medical services were provided for them. There was no schooling or day care for their children. They were being treated less than humane. They were fearful because they knew that the only option open to them was to return home where, in many cases, the situation was worse. After careful study and assessment, Canon Marquess-Barry secured a meeting with the company's representatives to discuss the dehumanizing manner to which these persons had been subjected. After an on-site inspection by the Minute Maid representatives and Canon Marquess-Barry, the representatives were appalled and embarrassed by what they saw. They worked closely with Richard to right these injustices. They built and furnished decent housing (two bedroom, one bath homes). A deal was brokered to temporarily set up a clinic in Saint Simon the Cyrenian's Parish Hall where the medical and dental needs of the workers and their families were met. A day care center was housed in part of Saint Simon's Parish Hall while a permanent center was constructed. After the day care center was completed, Minute Maid staffed the center with certified personnel. Canon Marquess-Barry continued to monitor these programs until he accepted the call to Saint Agnes Church, Miami, Florida. Before leaving for Miami, Richard helped the workers organize in order to directly deal with the representatives from the company. Minute Maid offered to pay Canon Marquess-Barry for his assistance with this matter, but he refused to accept any remuneration in righting these gross injustices.

In 1977, Richard was called to lead Saint Agnes Episcopal Church, Miami, Florida, the largest and oldest Episcopal congregation for persons of color in Miami. Upon his arrival, he found an almost dying congregation. He accepted the call taking a pay cut from \$14,000.00 per year to \$12,000.00 per year. He didn't receive a salary increase for over 10 years in order to assist the church's growth. Under his charismatic leadership, St. Agnes' properties underwent many structural improvements, and additionally, Richard initiated several community programs. He

put the congregation in debt for over four million dollars restoring the properties and rebuilding the congregation and left the parish debt free and with a sizable endowment at his retirement.

Canon Marquess-Barry quietly led the move to transform the Overtown community where Saint Agnes is located. He had the parish adopt a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) project, Rainbow Village Housing Project and forced the Miami-Dade Housing Authority to completely renovate the complex. He then prompted an area clean up by having the City of Miami Police Department house a sub-station within the development. Canon Marquess-Barry built a pre-school and family enrichment center in Rainbow Village through government grants and donations from the private sector. The complex cost \$790,000. He partnered with Miami-Dade Community College and had it lead classes to teach and certify persons for early childhood education. He brought the college classroom to the development, removing all excuses. Canon Marquess-Barry opened a computer lab in the development where children and adults are tutored year round. The computer lab is manned by certified Miami-Dade County teachers. Richard initiated a six week summer camp within the complex which children attend free of charge. In 1990, Canon Marquess-Barry combined the Tenant Council of Rainbow Village with members of the Vestry from Saint Agnes to form the Saint Agnes Rainbow Village Development Corporation, Inc. Through this corporation, he led the move to acquire government owned land and on that land he built the Villas of St. Agnes; 85 two-story, three and four bedroom/two and one-half bath single-family homes for low and moderate income families providing them homeownership for the first time. This was a five year process and those who participated had to attend workshops on home ownership, finances and maintenance. All homes were sold and both the Rainbow Village project and the Villas of Saint Agnes are national models. To the north of Saint Agnes' Church, a 75 unit senior manor was built. Miami-Dade County's Board of Commissioners has granted permission for Canon Marquess-Barry to build a second senior complex to the south of Saint Agnes' Church.

In 1995, Canon Marquess-Barry formed the Saint Agnes Rainbow Housing Corporation. Under this banner, he joint ventured with a partner in the construction of the Overtown Transit Village, a 17-story office complex with a 600 space freestanding garage in downtown Miami. The cost of this project was \$45,000,000. The county agreed to lease this office space, but when Canon Marquess-Barry and his developers applied to build a second complex, the county exercised its option to buy Saint Agnes Rainbow Housing out of the project. Later, via St. Agnes Rainbow Housing Corporation, Canon Marquess-Barry joint ventured with Miami-Dade County in the construction of a 480 unit residential and commercial complex to the tune of \$165,000,000. Canon Marquess-Barry presently has plans on the table for the construction of more single family homes in Brownsville, a community within the city of Miami.

Known and respected for his no nonsense approach to problem solving, Canon Marquess-Barry has generously given his time and executive talents to community boards, civic organizations and church affiliations in order to improve political and economic conditions throughout his native Florida. His distinguished career has earned him a multitude of awards, proclamations and commendations, too numerous to mention here. However, one must note that he has two

keys to Miami-Dade County and one key to the City of Miami - a distinction one doubts many share. He is the recipient of the Florida State Senate Medallion of Excellence, the first awarded (2009) in 45 years. Canon Marquess-Barry proudly remembers being honored by his fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. in the State of Florida as Man of the Year. He has served the Episcopal Church as Dean of the North Dade Deanery; twice Deputy to the General Convention of the Church; Vice-Chair of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry; Diocese of Southeast Florida Budget Commission where he forced the Diocese to put Saint Augustine's College in the Diocesan Budget for the same amount it had for the University of the South. He served three terms on the Diocese of Southeast Florida Executive Board and was an advisor to the Bishop in matters of ethics and polity. He has served our community in a number of positions, among them, he was an original member and First Vice President of the Board of Barry University's Urban Studies Institute; Chairman of the City of Miami's Overtown Review Panel for restructuring the Police Department and City Government. Canon Marquess-Barry's concern for the well being of black congregations extended well beyond the well being of Saint Agnes' Church. With the consent of Saint Agnes' Vestry and the approval of the Diocesan Bishop, he took Saint Paul et Les Martyrs d'Haiti as a mission congregation of Saint Agnes from 1986 - 1989. In 2010, he once again reached beyond the needs of Saint Agnes and took under his wing the Church of the Transfiguration and Saint Kevin's Episcopal Church, Opa Locka, Florida to get them back on their feet. He has sponsored six persons for the Diaconate and four persons for the priesthood. One person, a retired college professor, read for Priestly Orders under his tutelage.

In December 1986, a lifelong member of Saint Agnes' Church (86 years), Jocelyn Newbold Smith, wrote the lyrics of the parish hymn to honor Canon Marquess-Barry's ministry:

*HISTORIC SAINT AGNES your praises we sing;
and ask peace and love from our heavenly King.
For He as our Maker has made you to be,
a Church for all people in this community.*

*We labor with love and concern for mankind
and always is ready to lend a helping hand;
with God as our Leader. He guides us a right!
And always Saint Agnes is filled with His Light.*

*Keep us ever mindful to help those in need
and this be our motto, "Each day a good deed!"
We'll ever be faithful from now to the end
HISTORIC SAINT AGNES,
we praise thee. Amen.*

Canon Marquess-Barry has publicly stated that this is one of the best tributes that has ever been accorded him.

After 44 years, one can still gleam the fire and determination in Richard's eyes. He is constant and focused. His love for humankind is impassioned. His impatience with injustice still burns in his bones. It has been stated that The Reverend Lambert L. Sands was correct when he told the Vestry of Saint Agnes that, *"Father Barry is a rarity among priests."*

The Right Reverend James L. Duncan said of Richard in a letter of recommendation to a brother Bishop in pursuit of Marquess-Barry as an Archdeacon,

"He is a priest's priest . . . with exceptional talent and ability. He is the only person I know who can curse you out with dignity and grace. You don't realize what he has done to you until you sit and process it. I had no hesitation in selecting him to become the rector of Saint Agnes' Church. What he accomplished at Saint Monica's with so few people was remarkable. What he is getting done at Saint Agnes is exceptional and commendable. He is a perfect match for Saint Agnes. To tell the truth, Dick Barry will do good work no matter where he is. I wish there were more of him to go around, the Church wouldn't suffer in many places as it is today."

The Right Reverend Schofield was accurate when he wrote concerning Richard,

"For most of us the Church is simply dessert. For Father Barry, it is the Bread of Life."

Virla Rolle Barry, his wife, wrote of her husband of more than 50 years,

"I know he hears the commission and in his heart feels the will of God to do what he does to uplift others. I've never known him to have a swollen head about anything - he always has goals to make things better, more fulfilling and more enjoyable. He is a very unselfish person; not vindictive in any way -people have to prove their unworthiness of his caring. Sainly, perhaps not; Godly, heaven forbid!"

One of his closest confidants, the late Reverend Dr. Austin Rellins Cooper, Sr. wrote genuinely of his friend,

"(Richard has) superior qualifications; a man of high principles and character . . . not afraid to stand with and for what is right! A man of scholarship, prayer and worship."

The Right Reverend Richard B. Martin wrote before his passing,

"(Richard is) a faithful servant of the Lord with a gifted mind and a compassionate heart. He is a man of prayer and unshakeable faith and trust in the crucified and resurrected Lord. Among his other qualities, he is noted for his efficient administrative ability . . . a person of charm and contagious faith."

The late Archdeacon William E. Thompson penned,

"Richard represents the best that is to be found among the leaders of our great Anglican/ Episcopal family in terms of spirituality, scholarship and integrity. He is noted on this side of the pond for his visionary and energetic way in which he has used the historic spiritual and moral citadel (Saint Agnes' Church) to assist in the full development of all people irrespective of race, class and gender."

Archdeacon I. Ranfurly Brown recorded,

"Canon Barry is forthright and honest in his thinking and conversation; firm in decision making, yet loving. Canon Barry stands as a model of priestly leadership in the Church, theologically sound, spiritually rooted and grounded, devotionally disciplined, socially conscience and involved, scholastically capable and proficient, homiletically eloquent."

Admired Miami-Dade County citizen, Dr. Solomon C. Stinson wrote,

"Father Barry has distinguished himself as a skillful peacemaker and negotiator, without compromising his commitment to equal justice for all."

The Canon has always served above and beyond his calling. His active presence can be felt in government, politics, education and, of course, religion. In addition to these bold acts of faith, Canon Marquess-Barry is a devout champion for the education of our youth. He inspires and emboldens young persons. Canon Marquess-Barry has demonstrated that he is not just a man for himself and his family, but a man for all --especially those underprivileged. He lives a life of passion and continues to serve God and man using his brilliance and competence, quick wit, keen sense of humor and unquenchable faith. He, like the nation's President, Barack Obama, has continually reached out his hand to bridge the divide between races and religions. Canon Marquess-Barry has been cited for these specific endeavors by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Miami-Dade Branch; the African-American Caribbean Heritage Festival; Baha'i Faith; the Greater Miami Council of Christians and Jews and the State of Florida, Office of the Governor. He is respected and beloved by those across all religions and ethnicities throughout our community.

Canon Marquess-Barry's biography was entered into the United States Congressional Record on June 15, 2012. He received a personal letter from the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama on the occasion of his retirement on December 1, 2012. In December 2014, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed Bill H.R. 4030, introduced by Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24), designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18640 Northwest Second Avenue, Miami, Florida as the, "Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building". On Friday, July 31, 2015, Congresswoman

Wilson hosted the United States Post Office Dedication Ceremony celebrating the religious leader and community activist who, “broke down barriers to education, employment equality, fair housing and jobs across the state of Florida”.

For over 30 years, Saint Agnes' Church has given its entire Thanksgiving Day Service offerings to community agencies helping the homeless and needy. As a final endeavor in a legendary career, in lieu of receiving personal tokens for his retirement, Richard requested that Saint Agnes Church lead efforts to raise \$50,000 for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the proceeds were distributed equally between Florida Memorial University, Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College and Saint Augustine's University. This undertaking, much like his drive for the American Red Cross following the catastrophe of hurricane Katrina, where he raised \$60,000 and after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where he had Saint Agnes match the offerings of The Joint Lenten Services and with The Joint Lenten Services Committee gave \$30,950 for the Haiti initiative further exemplify his constant focus on the plight of those in need. Richard's efforts for the UNCF is the final punctuation for the career of a man who, in spite of living rather modestly, has always felt richly blessed.

Edited by:
Diana Barry Frazier

The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry, D.D., L.H.D.

VITAE

Born:

Miami, Florida
November 14, 1940

Marital Status:

Married to his college sweetheart, the former Virla Rolle of West Palm Beach, Florida, August 18, 1962. One married daughter, Diana Frazier and two grandsons, Richard II and Ronald III.

Education:

2005 Oxford University, Oxford, England
Visiting Fellow

1995 Barber-Scotia College, Concord, North Carolina
Doctor of Humane Letters

1991-1993 The Episcopal Church Leadership Institute

1989 Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia
Doctor of Divinity

1979-1980 University of Munich, Munich, Germany
Visiting Fellow

1968 Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia
Master in Divinity

1962 Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, North Carolina
Bachelor of Arts

1958 Miami Northwestern Senior High School
Diploma

Work Experience:

1990 – Present Rainbow Community Development Corporation
Founder and Chief Executive Officer

1977-11/2012 The Historic Saint Agnes Episcopal Church, Miami, Florida
Rector

Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia

Local Dean and Professor

Work Experience (continued):

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Former Adjunct Instructor of Pastoral Theology and Ethics

Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida
Former Visiting Instructor

1968-1977 Saint Simon the Cyrenian Episcopal Church, Fort Pierce, Florida
Priest

1968-1975 Saint Monica's Episcopal Church, Stuart, Florida
Priest-in-Charge

Culpeper County Schools System, Culpeper, Virginia
Teacher

The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry, D.D., L.H.D.
VITAE continued

Biography Listed (incomplete list):

2011 Cambridge Who's Who
1999 Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals
1997 Who's Who Among Outstanding Corporate Executives
1986 The Dictionary of International Biography
1977-78 Who's Who in Religion
1974 Personalities of the South
1974 Outstanding Young Men of America
1973 Who's Who in Community Service
1971 Community Leaders of America

Church and Board Affiliations (incomplete list):

- Past Dean of the North Dade Deanery, Diocese of Southeast Florida
- Twice elected a Deputy to General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Diocese of Southeast Florida
- Past Chairman of the Board, Dade County Opportunities Industrial Center (OIC)
- Founding Board Member, City of Miami Board of Professional Compliance
- Founding Board Member and First Vice President, Barry University Urban Studies Institute
- Past Chairman of the Board, New Washington Heights Community Development Corporation
- Past Board Member, The Overtown Advisory Board
- Past Member and Vice Chairman, The Diocese of Southeast Florida Commission of Ministry
- Past Member, The Diocese of Southeast Florida Budget Commission
- Member of The American Association of Pastoral Counselors
- Three term Past Member of The Diocese of Southeast Florida Executive Board
- Past Chairman, The State of Florida, District Nine Mental Health Board
- Past Chairman, The City of Miami Overtown Review Panel for Restructuring of the Police Department and City Government
- 1995 Invested Honorary Canon, The African Orthodox Church
- 1994 Member, The City of Miami Transition Team
- 1993 Finalist, Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
- 2000 Finalist, Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida
- 2001 Invested Honorary Canon, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Awards/Recognition (incomplete list):

2015 United States Post Office Dedication Ceremony

2014 Congressional Bill H.R. 4030, designating the United States Postal Service located at 18640 Northwest Second Avenue, Miami, Florida as the, "Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building"

Awards/Recognition (incomplete list; continued):

2014 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Social Activism Award

2014 United Negro College Fund Hall of Honor
St. Augustine's University Outstanding Alumni Award

2013 Florida Memorial University - 134th Founders' Day Celebration
Humanitarian Award

2012 President of the United States of America, Barack Obama
Letter on the Occasion of his Retirement

2012 Biography entered into the United States Congressional Record

2010 City of Miami - Key to the City
Richard Dunn II, Commissioner

2009 Florida State Senate
Medallion of Excellence

2009 AT&T - Black History Month Calendar Honoree

2008 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Miami-Dade Branch

20th Annual Freedom Fund Awards
Neal Adams - Richard Powell Civil Rights Award

2007 Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government
Study of Black Leaders

2006 Saint Augustine's College - Theodore R. Gibson Legacy Award

2005 Theodore R. Gibson Memorial Fund, Inc. - Honoree

2005 Saint Augustine's College Alumni Association, South Florida Chapter
"Honoring Our Priests"

2005 Bethune-Cookman College Alumni Association, Miami-Dade Chapter
9th Annual Awards Honoree

2004 African-American Caribbean Heritage Festival
Distinguished Sons and Daughters Leadership Award for

Civil Rights and Community Activism

2003 Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce Inaugural Black History Luncheon - Honoree

2000 Miami-Dade County - Key to the County

Alex Penelas, Esq., Mayor

Awards/Recognition (incomplete list; continued):

2000 Miami-Dade County - Key to the County

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Commissioner, District 3

1998 The National Black Police Association, Southern Region - Distinguished Service Award

1997 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Citizen of the Year

1996 National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women
People in Religion Award

1996 Union of Black Episcopalians, Theodore R. Gibson Chapter
Absalom Jones Leadership Award

1995 Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. - Humanitarian Award

1995 National Women of Achievement, Inc. - Profiles of Prominence Award

1991 The Algonquin Club - Man of the Year

1989 Alpha Phi Chi Sorority, Inc. - Community Service Award

1988 The Sojourner Truth Award in Religion

1988 Metropolitan Dade County Board of Commissioners - Proclamation

1988 The City of Miami - Commendation

1987 The Union of Black Episcopalians, Southeast Florida Chapter
Persons Who Make a Difference in Church and World Award

1987 Garth C. Reeves, Jr. Memorial Advocacy Award

1987 Baha'i Faith - Humanitarian Award

1987 Greater Miami Council of Christians and Jews - Humanitarian Award

1983 The City of Miami - Commendation for Community Leadership and Work

1978 Miami Northwestern Senior High School - Hall of Fame

1977 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Outstanding Work in School and Community Award

1975 The State of Florida Senate,
Citation, Outstanding Contributions for Improved Living in Florida

1974 & 1969 The State of Florida, Office of the Governor

Citations, Outstanding Community Work and Race Relations
1973 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., State of Florida
Man of the Year

End RLMB VITAE