

ARC Book report written by Father Steve Powers

“No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America,” memoir by Darnell L. Moore, writer and activist.

Here is a story of a Black boy growing up in urban poverty in Camden, New Jersey. He struggles with his queer identity at the same time that he is trying to be tough to survive when he is on the street. He faces violence and racial hatred in the world as well as facing a war within himself. Ultimately, this is a story of forgiveness, honest exploration, and the road to advocacy.

Family, including grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, many cousins, 30 present at any particular time: who are the heroes who work endlessly to provide and protect? Who teaches power-over others in relationships?

Schools, where trying to get an education could mean something personal and could make a difference in the world, but at what cost?

Friends and frenemies: who gets to decide who is OK? What happens to those judged to be "different" or "too unfit to fit in?"

Darnell Moore asks himself as a youth,
What do I want in my life and why should I care?"

Find out why Moore calls his memoir "No Ashes in the Fire"?

Consider reading this Lambda Literary Award Winner.

I'm not saying anything further about Darnell Moore and his Pilgrim's Progress to adulthood. Instead, I am inviting you to read some of his story and join us March 31 for conversation in the parish hall after the 5:00 pm Stations of the Cross.

Don't have time to read it? Pick any page and read a few paragraphs. Listen to some of it on audio. Come. Be a part of the conversation.

Peace, Steven Powers