

ICSB Newsletter

HISTORY OF BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH



On July 24, 1990, while meeting at Fordham University, the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus elected to designate November as Black Catholic History month. November was chosen to highlight the many days of significance in the lives of Catholics, especially for those of African descent.

November 1st is All Saints Day, a day determined by Pope Gregory III (731 -741) when he dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to honor those saints who may not have a specific feast day given to them, but who nonetheless played a significant role in the growth and development of the church. This day allows Black Catholics to review and remember the lives of the hundreds of saints of African Descent who played an important role in the development of the church in the first 300 hundred years.

November 2nd is All Souls Day, a day to remember and pray for those souls in purgatory who are still being purified on their way to heaven. For Black Catholics, this is also a day to remember the Africans lost in the Middle Passage Crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, due to abuse and mistreatment.

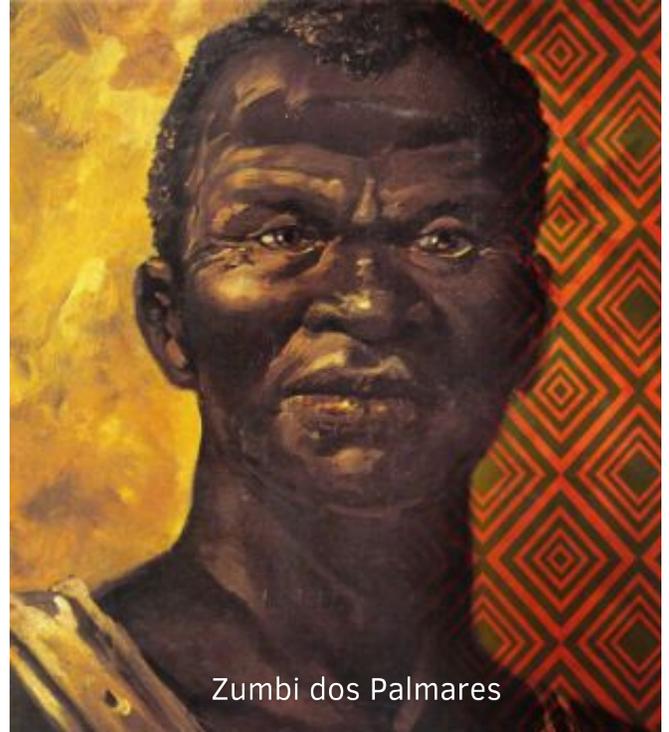
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

HISTORY OF BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH CONT'D

November 3rd is the Feast of Saint Martin de Porres, the first black American saint. Patron saint of mixed race, barbers, public health workers and innkeepers, St. Martin was of mixed race himself. Peruvian law at the time forbade all descendants of African or Indian ancestry to join religious orders. With much persistence and continued praying of the rosary, he journeyed from starting as a volunteer in a monastery to working as a barber and healer, along with kitchen work, laundry and cleaning, eventually being accepted into the Dominican order as a lay brother. There he cared for the sick and infirmed, no matter the status, until his death at the age of 60 due to an extended illness.

November 13th is the birthdate of St. Augustine of Hippo (354 AD), the first doctor of the church from Africa. Eventually converting to Catholicism at a later stage in life, Augustine pursued with great zeal teaching the pagans of his time the truth of the church and the necessity of God in everyday life. Though writing over 400 books, letters, and treatises, his best-known works are “Confessions;” “City of God;” and “Retractions.”

November 20th, we remember the death of Zumbi of Palmares in Brazil, the South American Founder of a free state for Blacks. Though born free in Brazil, Zumbi was enslaved at 6 years of age to a Portuguese priest, where he was baptized and served the Mass. He escaped at the age of 15 and returned to his home. His life was focused upon his people, and he eventually assumed the leadership of his free home state. He maintained this free state until he was captured and killed on November 20th, 1695. November 20th is now celebrated in Brazil as Black Awareness Day (or Black Conscious Day). Additionally, May 13th is a national holiday in Brazil to honor the Abolition of Slavery in 1850.



Zumbi dos Palmares

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

HISTORY OF BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH CONT'D

Black Catholic history traces the start of its' lineage in the Acts of the Apostles (8: 26-40), with the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch by Philip the Deacon. This conversion was prior to the conversions of both St. Paul and St. Cornelius. Many theological historians point to this conversion as the moment in church history when the church transitioned from a Hebrew and Hellenist community to becoming a truly Universal and Catholic Church.

Black Catholics faith history can be traced back to the time known as Christian antiquity, occurring long before other nations heard the "Good News." Three of the early Popes were black; Saints Victor I, Melchiades, and Gelasius I. All three steered the early church through challenging times, with heresies and other fraudulent religions posing a threat to the True Church. Many early black saints helped to shape the early church, strengthening its foundation and making it what it is today, and include Saints Cyprian, Zeno, Anthony of Egypt, Moses the black, Pachomius, Maurice, Athanasius, Pistentius, Mary of Egypt, Cyril of Alexandria, Monica of Hippo, (her son) Augustine of Hippo, Perpetua, Felicitas, and Thecla.



Through the centuries, Black Catholics have endured and outlasted horrific treatment and abuse, and though smaller in number than many other ethnic groups, they continue to strengthen the church in their faith and action to this day. Overcoming the sins of slavery and segregation, and the church itself not committing much time and resources to those coming to America, Black Catholics have forged ahead and established their unique cultural identity and gifts to the church.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:22

HISTORY OF BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH CONT'D



From 1565, when blacks (both slave and free) helped to establish St. Augustine, FL, the oldest town in the United States, to 1829, when the Oblate Sisters of Providence began their ministry in Baltimore, MD, to educate local children (which eventually expanded to Philadelphia and New Orleans), to 1968 when the first Black Clergy Caucus was formed, American Black Catholics have established themselves as a strong, committed, and faithful congregation that serves to enhance the Catholic Church and those who worship with them.

Today, we eagerly await the canonization process for seven Black Catholics who have served as beacons of light and hope for the Church; Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA; Venerable Henriette Delille; Venerable Pierre Toussaint; Servant of God Mother Mary Lange; Venerable Father Augustus Tolton; Servant of God Julia Greeley, and: Daniel A. Rudd.

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:24



JULIA GREELY

CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD

The path to sainthood or canonization, is often a long, arduous path- sometimes lasting a hundred years or more! Canonization begins with an individual, after death, being declared a “Servant of God” by the Church because of the person’s extraordinary faith and actions.

After further investigation of the person’s life, the person may go on to become “Venerable.” If it can be determined that, through the intercession of this venerable person, a miracle can be confirmed, the person can be declared “Blessed.” Once it is determined that another miracle may be attributed to that person, they are then declared a “Saint.” This is, of course, an over-simplification of the process. Six Black Catholics are on the pathway to canonization, but more must be accomplished before they actually achieve sainthood status. Sr. Thea Bowman, Mother Mary Lange and Julia Greely are all Servants of God. Henriette Delille, Pierre Toussaint and Fr. Augustus Tolton have all been declared “Venerable.” Let us continue to pray for their intercession and that their causes may be advanced.

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

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Revelations 14:12

PRAYERS FOR SAINTHOOD

A Prayer for Fr. Augustus Tolton

O God, * we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, * who labored among us in times of contradiction,* times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. * His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time.* We stand in the shadow of his ministry.* May his life continue to inspire us * and imbue us with that confidence and hope * that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love. Father in Heaven, * Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; * we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death.*

If it be your Will, O God,* glorify your servant, Father Tolton, * by granting the favor I now request through his intercession * (mention your request) * so that all may know the goodness of this priest * whose memory looms large in the Church he loved. Complete what you have begun in us * that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom.* Not to us the glory,* but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son* and our Lord; * Father, Son and Holy Spirit,* you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen

A Prayer for Julia Greeley

Heavenly Father, your servant Julia Greeley dedicated her life to honoring the Sacred Heart of your Son and to the humble service of the poor. Grant to me a generous heart like your Son's, and if it be in accordance with your holy will, please grant this favor I now ask through Julia's intercession (insert intention)... I pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FR. AGUSTUS TOLTON

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS FOR SAINTHOOD CONT'D

A Prayer for Sr. Thea Bowman

"Olde Folks Child" from your elders you learned values, survival skills, and how to face pain, life, and death.

You turned life experiences into teaching moments, refusing to be overwhelmed by problems you encountered.

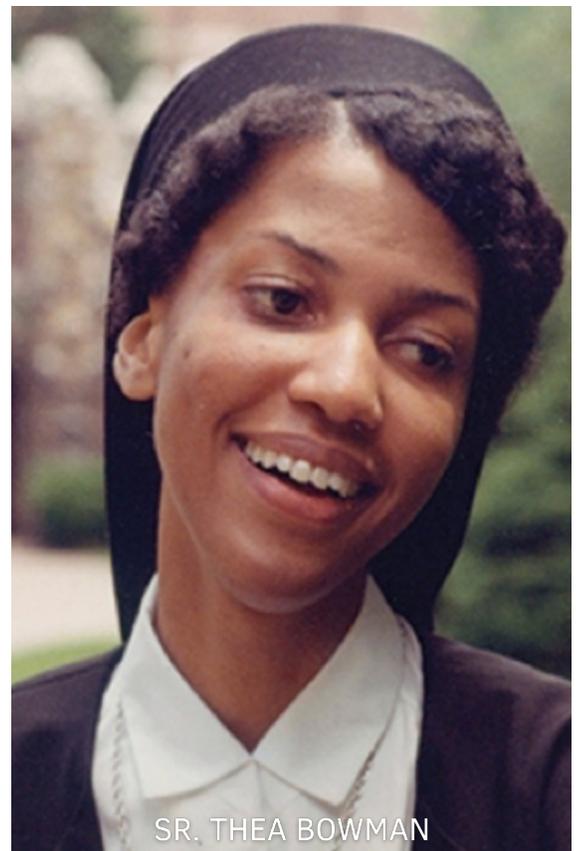
Thea you prayed, sang, danced, and preached your way into places where few people of color dared to go.

You saw beauty in the magnificent mosaic of various cultures and had the gift of bringing others to the profound sense of their own dignity.

Thea, "olde folks child" pray for us to almighty God for the graces we need to hand on your legacy, knowing that the only way we can build the kingdom of God is by working together to build faith and strengthen community.

A Prayer to Venerable Pierre Toussaint

O virtuous Pierre Toussaint, son of Haiti, pray for all the poor and afflicted. Pray especially for your brothers and sisters in Haiti as they seek freedom from the oppression of poverty and calamity. Through your powerful intercession, strengthen the weak, enrich the poor, comfort the downcast and inspire courage and hope among all those who struggle each day. Amen.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

PRAYERS FOR SAINTHOOD CONT'D

A Prayer for Mother Lange

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endowed her with humility, courage, holiness and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and sick. You enabled her to found the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provide educational, social and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision. Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and a more fervent love of You. Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favour (here mention your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange. Amen

A Prayer for Henriette Delille

O good and gracious God, You called Henriette Delille to give herself in service and in love to the slaves and the sick, to the orphan and the aged, to the forgotten and the despised.

Grant that inspired by her life, we might be renewed in heart and in mind. If it be Your will may she one day be raised to the honor of sainthood.

By her prayers, may we live in harmony and peace, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

Believing that, "Jesus is the Rock in a weary land," and believing that the Holy Roman Catholic Church could be a powerful and sure ally as Blacks emerged from the pits of slavery into freedom, Daniel Rudd helped to establish the first National Black Catholic Congress in 1889. Daniel Rudd, born in 1854, was a Black man who became a newspaperman, lecturer, publisher, publicist and leading Catholic representative of the Black race. He published a Black Catholic newspaper in 1886 called the American Catholic Tribune. He felt that the Black race needed to "get its house in order," and thought that the Catholic Church could be a certain help in this regard. In 1888, Rudd proposed a national convention- a "congress"- for African American Catholics. In a Tribune article he wrote: "First then, Colored Catholics ought to unite. Let the leading Colored Catholics gather together from every city of the union in some suitable place, where, under the blessing of Holy Mother Church, they may get to know one another and take up the cause of the race."

A bit later in the same article, Rudd responded to the question of why there should be a congress. He wrote: "A far more desirable boon is that in such an assembly, Colored representative Catholics would get to know one another, and also respect one another and one another's views. There are many able men among our Catholic brethren; but they have never come in contact. Gather them and let them exchange views on questions affecting their race; then, uniting on a course of action behind which would stand the majestic Church of Christ, they must inevitably become the bearer of their race."



**The National Black
Catholic Congress, Inc.**

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS CONT'D



The first Black Catholic Lay Congress was held in January of 1889 in Washington, DC., and began with an opening Mass that was celebrated by the first visibly African American priest, Fr. Augustus Tolton. The Delegates delineated the need for schools for Black children, training in labor skills for Blacks and training in family virtues for Black families. Subsequent congresses were held in 1890, 1892, 1893, and 1894. In total, five African American Catholic Congresses were held before the end of the 19th Century. Only two general American Catholic congresses were held in the 19th Century and the African American Congress was held before any general American congress. Fr. Cyprian Davis states that: “The Black Lay Catholic Congresses... achieved what Rudd set out to do...they demonstrated beyond a doubt not only that a Black Catholic community existed, but that it was active, devoted, articulate, and proud. It also demonstrated that given the opportunity, there was real leadership within the lay black Catholic community...”

From 1889 to 1894, five congresses were held. After these five congresses, a period of almost 100 years passed until the 6th Congress was held in May of 1987, but, the intervening years were not void. Black leadership and many initiatives from both Black lay Catholics as well as Black clergy and religious flourished. Groups such as the Knights and Ladies of St Peter Claver, the Federated Colored Catholics, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, The National Black Sisters Conference and the National Office of Black Catholics came into being. Since the Congress in 1987, Congresses have been held every five years.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS CONT'D



The modern day National Black Catholic Congresses, in keeping with the ideals of Daniel Rudd adopted this mission statement: "We commit ourselves to establishing an agenda for the evangelization of African Americans; and to improve the spiritual, mental, and physical conditions of African Americans, thereby committing ourselves to the freedom and growth of African Americans as full participants in Church and society. Aware of the challenges, we are committed to evangelize ourselves, our Church, and the unchurched African Americans, thereby enriching the Church. We hold ourselves accountable to our baptismal commitment to witness and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ."

The National Black Catholic Congress statement is not just a group of words- it is words that give structure to deeds. As such, the Congress has established eight principles that form a pastoral plan of Action. These eight principles are: Spirituality, parish life, Youth and young adults, Catholic education, social justice, racism, Africa, and HIV/AIDS.

The weary land still exists for us as African Americans and as African American Catholics. But Jesus IS still and forever our Rock in this weary land. He has given us aid in the form of the National Black Catholic Congress which each and every one of us can participate in. For by the power of Christ working through the Church, given to us tangibly in the sacramental life, we can do more than we can imagine. The next Congress is being planned for 2023. We hope that many of us from Immaculate Conception/ St. Bridget Church will be able in 2023 to Come, Taste , See and Hear the goodness of our God- a shelter in the time of Storm!

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: RALPH DESTEPHANO & MAUREEN CORRAL

Ralph and I are happy for this opportunity to share our Catholic faith experiences. We are both cradle Catholics. In his adult life, Ralph went through a personal crisis and participated in a Catholic retreat where his faith grew stronger, and he helped grow mine. When I went through a health crisis, even though I had Ralph, a loving family and friends, and excellent doctors to support me, it was morning mass that finally calmed my nerves and allowed me to hear the voice of God assuring me He would be with me every step of the way. We were both active members of Holy Name of Jesus Church. When that church closed we decided to church hop and find a church that would be right for us.



The winter before it closed, we had participated in the Corn Hill Holiday Tour of Homes. The gathering place for the start of the tour happened to be Immaculate Conception Church. Denise McGowan gave the greeting to all participating in the tour and welcomed everyone to Immaculate Conception Church for mass on Sundays at 10 o'clock. So we decided to give Immaculate Conception a try. We were immediately drawn to the music. But it was Father Bradler's heartwarming sermon that really hooked us. When mass was finished that day, many of the parishioners greeted us with open arms. We had found our church home! Since we have become members, Ralph joined the men's choir. Unfortunately that choir has since dissolved.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT CONT'D: RALPH & MAUREEN



He has high hopes though that it will return or the women's choir will welcome him every now and then. Ralph is also a member of the building and grounds ministry. He enjoys sharing his knowledge to help maintain this beautiful church and its surroundings as well as the camaraderie of being a member. I am a lector and for three years was a member of the Parish Council. During my time on Parish Council the Council put forth the prayer basket and the Monthly Christian Action. Covid derailed the Monthly Christian Action but I'm hoping that this November it will resurface. We participate in mass at other churches when we travel, but are always glad to return to our Immaculate Conception Church family. We appreciate the warmth and Christian spirit that Immaculate offers. Immaculate Conception helps us be faithful Catholics in today's changing world!

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

THANKSGIVING GREETINGS

Hello Church Family,

During this month of November, I would like to acknowledge everything that I find myself to be thankful for. It is easy to get caught up in life and feel uneasy about what happens around us and to us, but God has bigger plans for everyone. Proverbs 3 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding." Giving it all to God for me means appreciating what I consider to be the good and the bad, because in God's eyes they are one and the same. Whether it is the people in my life and the food on the table, or a missed job opportunity and something not going how I imagined, I know God has a reason for it.



In essence, I am thankful for it all; just being able to be here on Earth at this time and experiencing everything that I am is a blessing in itself. I hope all of you can find tranquility when you are not at peace, and happiness when you are enraged, knowing God has a reason for it all. Peace and blessings to you all.

Best,

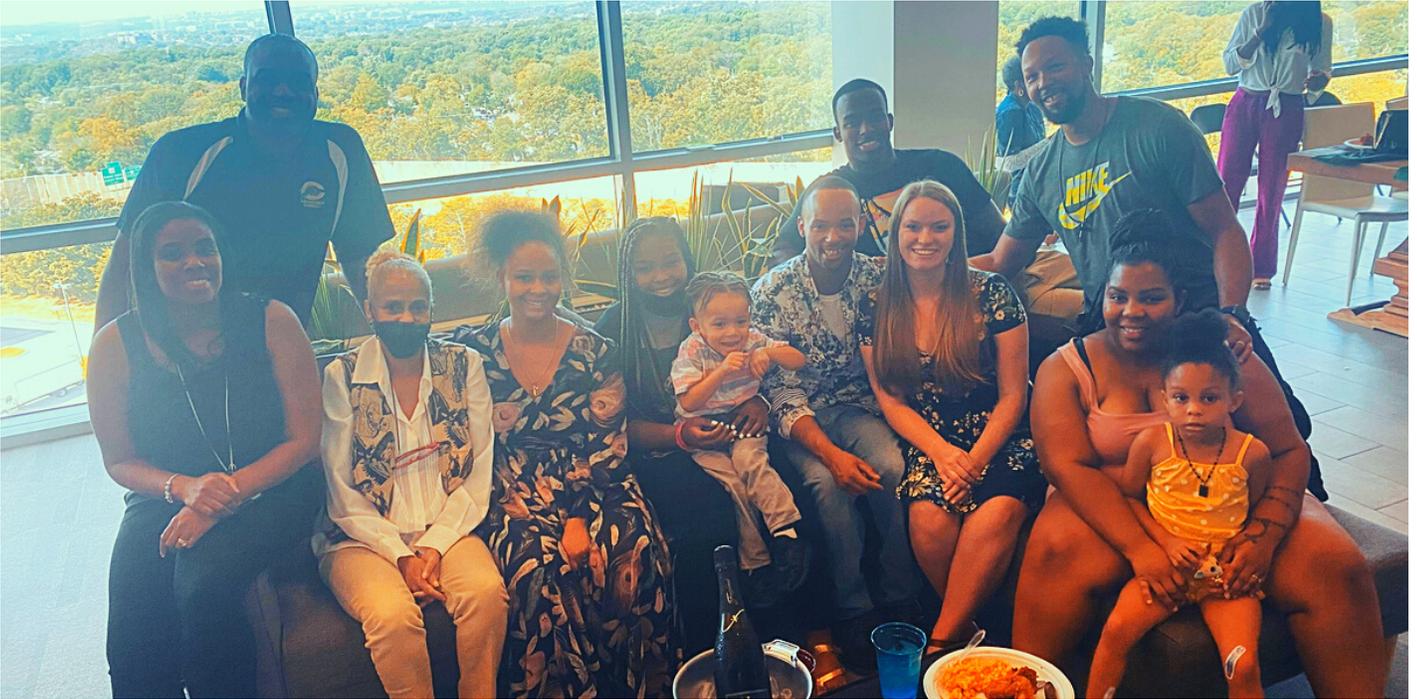
Kobe Barthelemy

*Kobe is currently working right now (usually six days a week) which is why he hasn't made it to church as often as he would like. He's also in the process of looking for a new job and finishing his Fulbright application, which if he is accepted, would take place sometime in the fall of next year.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3: 5-6

THANKSGIVING GREETINGS



Hello Immaculate Conception Family, the Fenderson /Brown family are doing well. We are currently spread out. Two of us are living out of state. Finiece and her family are doing well in Phoenix, Arizona. They currently have a three year old who just started t-ball for the very first time and is doing really well due to his father being a professional Slow-pitch Softball Player. We are looking forward to many more adventures with him.

Kenny is currently living in Durham, North Carolina. He and his fiance' plan to marry sometime in 2022. Nikko got married to his high school sweetheart back in 2020, during the pandemic. It was supposed to be in Jamaica but the location changed due to Covid. They were able to have the wedding right in front of their home in Caledonia and it made it on the news.

Myles is currently living on his own and also looking forward to going to college in January of 2022 for Sports Management. Some of us were able to recently get together after not seeing each other for almost two years due to Covid. We got to spend some time with our sister Monique who lives in Maryland, and we attended a family reunion. It was a very needed time together and we hope we can do it again really soon. We wish you all Happy Thanksgiving!

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

THANKSGIVING GREETINGS



Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

I left Rochester to start my clinical fellowship in Cincinnati. I completed that in Aug 2021, and have now joined the Pediatric Anesthesia faculty at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

I really miss the Immaculate Conception/ St Bridget's community and hope I can visit soon. Wishing everyone great health and continued resilience in these trying times.

Best regards,
Adaora Chima

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men

Colossians 3:23



Michelle Horman: November 1

Tracy Bell: November 2

Vincent Stroud: November 3

Anuarite Hicuburundi: November 4

Bilaine Seide: November 6

Violet Booker: November 7

Norma Thom: November 7

Lily Wheeler: November 9

Deacon Richard Rall: November 9

Louise Miles: November 15

Raymond Moore: November 15

Rose Stokes: November 26

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

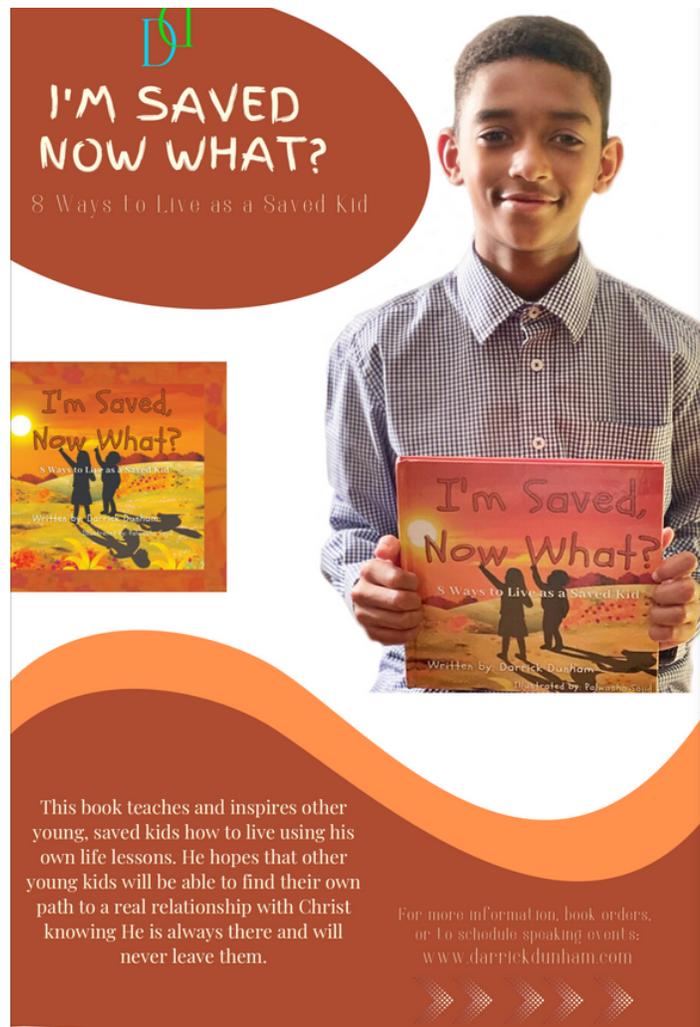
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James 1:17

CONGRATULATIONS TO AUTHOR DARRICK DUNHAM

Darrick Dunham is 12 years old and attends World of Inquiry #58 School. He accepted Jesus Christ at the age of 9 years old and his life has never been the same. He was first inspired by a lesson taught by his Pastor Bishop Roderick L. Hennings during a bible study and then led by God to write his first book I am Saved, Now What? 8 ways to live as a saved kid. This book teaches and inspires young, saved kids how to live using his own life experiences. He hopes that other young kids will be able to find their own path to a real relationship with Christ knowing He is always there and will never leave them.

In Darrick's spare time he loves to research about history, computers, cars, and DIY projects. He likes to skateboard, play video games, and spend time with his family. **Darrick will be at ICSB on November 14th to speak at the conclusion of Mass.**



**I'M SAVED
NOW WHAT?**
8 Ways To Live as a Saved Kid

This book teaches and inspires other young, saved kids how to live using his own life lessons. He hopes that other young kids will be able to find their own path to a real relationship with Christ knowing He is always there and will never leave them.

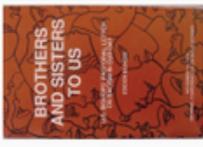
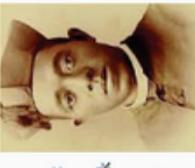
For more information, book orders, or to schedule speaking events:
www.darrickdunham.com

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

National Black Catholic History Month

November* 2021

*July 24, 1990, the National Black Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as National Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All Saints Day</p> <p><i>In loving remembrance of all saints and all souls of Africa and the African Diaspora</i></p>  <p>Charles Uncles, 1891 broke the color barrier, first Black priest ordained in the US.</p>	<p>All Souls Day</p> <p>A fundamental teaching for Black Christians is equal dignity of all peoples in the signs of God. How do you and your place of worship exemplify this?</p>	 <p>St. Martin de Porres</p>	<p>Black, not the color, but a culture, an experience undergone by the fact that one is of African American origin.</p>	<p>The Black struggle is to say, <i>I am somebody because God made me. I am because I belong to somebody, I am because I am sent.</i></p>	<p>Acts 8:26-40</p> <p>The Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion predates the Conversions of Paul and Cornelius.</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>The Knights of Peter Claver, founded in 1909 in Mobile, Alabama, an organization where Catholic men of color could come together in fraternity and charity.</p> <p><i>St. Peter Claver, patron and minister to slaves, pray for us.</i></p>	<p>8</p>  <p>U.S. Bishops publish Brothers and Sisters to Us, 1979 pastoral condemning racism (cf Jn 17:21)</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>If the Catholic Church is to be viable, meaningful, and relevant in 21st century U.S. Society, it must become a proactive force for racial justice.</i></p> <p>Brian Massingale, Racial Justice and the Catholic Church</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make changes; but if each one would light a candle, we'd have tremendous light.</i></p> <p>Thea Bowman Servant of God</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Xavier University of Louisiana, America's only historically Black Catholic University, was founded in 1915 by St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, first publicly known Black Catholic Priest in the US</p>	<p>13</p> <p>First Doctor of the church from North Africa, <i>St. Augustine</i> wrote, <i>You have made us for yourself, Oh Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.</i></p>
<p>14</p> <p>Jesus said, <i>let the little ones come to me</i> (Mt 19:14)</p> <p>Integration in New Orleans, La. schools introduced Black students into all-white schools.</p> <p>Brown v. Board of Education.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Signed into law on this day in 1983, a bill was approved making the third Monday in January a federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Read the Pastoral Letter on racism called <u>Open Wide Our Hearts: The enduring Call to Love</u>. What do you think about it? Have you heard your pastor speak or reference it ever?</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Venerable Henriette Delille, a free woman of color and foundress of The Sisters of the Holy Family.</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Interrupt the pattern of white silence and talk to a friend or family about what you have been learning from this calendar for Black Catholic History Month.</p>	<p>19</p>  <p><i>Know who you are and whose you are.</i></p> <p>Franciscan Sr. Antonia Ebo struggled against white supremacy, inside and outside the Catholic Church.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>In 1829 women from Baltimore's Haitian refugee colony under the direction of Elizabeth Lange educated children in their homes, beginning the foundation of the Oblate Sisters of Providence.</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Julia Greeley</p>  <p>Our Model of Mercy</p>	<p>22</p> <p>There are over 3 million Black Catholics in the US, 250 Black priests, 437 deacons, 75 men of African descent in seminary formation for the priesthood in the US. Do you see them in your church?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>There are 16 living African American bishops, 6 heads of US dioceses. There are 400 African American religious Sisters and 50 religious Brothers in the US.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>In 1781 Governor Don Felipe de Neve recruits 11 families to settle on the Porciuncula River, now Los Angeles. The settlers were all Catholic, a mix of Africans, Spanish and American Indians.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>On this Thanksgiving Day we give thanks for the gifts that the Black community has given to the Catholic Church.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>In 1781, as a result of the Jesuits evangelizing their slaves, Maryland's Black Catholic population grew to 3,000.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>In 1829 women from Baltimore's Haitian refugee colony under the direction of Elizabeth Lange educated children in their homes, beginning the foundation of the Oblate Sisters of Providence.</p>

28 1842 the Srs. of the Holy Family in New Orleans was the second religious order of Black women (see 11/17 above). American Cardinal in Catholic history.

29 Nov. 28, 2020, Pope Francis appoints Bishop Wilton Gregory to the College of Cardinals, the first African American Cardinal in Catholic history.

30 1958 the National Catholic Welfare Conference issues a statement on discrimination and Christian Conscience.

What struck you the most from reflecting on this month designated as National Black Catholic History Month?