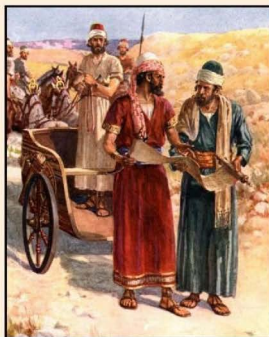
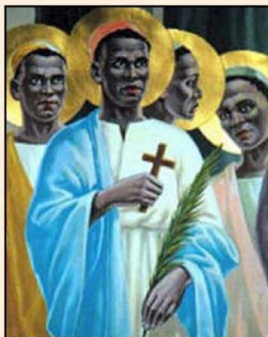
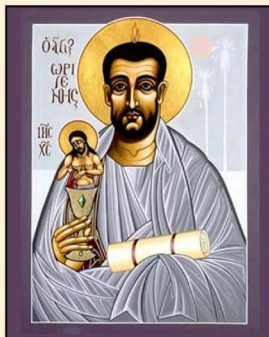
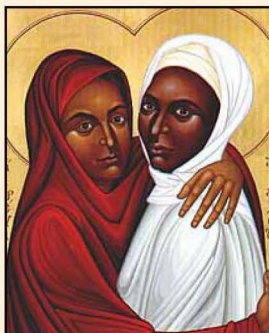


BLACKS IN CATHOLIC HISTORY

MONTH MOMENTS



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLICS

INTRODUCTION

Blacks in Catholic Christianity have a long and vibrant history.

Much of that history is generally unknown to Black Catholics as well as to the rest of the faithful. On July 24, 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate this long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics. During this month, we celebrate the presence of our ancestors who kept the faith and are models of living the Gospel life.

This booklet presents a glimpse of some of the Black Catholic Christians of our past and present. It celebrates the accomplishments of Black Catholics throughout the history of the Church with daily *Blacks in Catholic History Moments.*

You may use this material in your parish bulletin or as a study guide for Black Catholic History Month activities.

(All information was compiled from websites of the Archdioceses of Washington, Baltimore, Chicago & Newark, the Diocese of Raleigh, the Newsletter of the National Black Catholic Congress, and the following books: African Saints by Frederick Quinn, The Saints Go Marching in by Robert Fulton Holtzclaw, Blacks Who Died for Jesus by Mark Hyman and The Anacostia Story: 1608-1930 by Louise Daniel Hutchinson.)

ADW –OCDO / February 2018

DID YOU KNOW...?

... The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC) of the United States voted on Tuesday, July 24, 1990 while meeting in convention at Fordham University in New York, to establish November as ***BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH***. The reason behind the selection of the month of November was the number of important dates to Catholics of African descent that fell within this month.

- **Nov. 1 All Saints Day.** This is an opportunity to review the lives of the hundreds of Saints of African descent in the first 300 years of the Church.
- **Nov. 2 All Souls Day.** This is a time to remember all those African souls lost to cruel treatment in the Middle Passage crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Nov. 3 Feast of Saint Martín de Porres.** Saint Martin is the only saint of African descent from the Western Hemisphere.
- **Nov. 13 The birth of Saint Augustine** in 354 A.D. He is the first Doctor of the Church from North Africa.
- **Nov. 20 The death of Zumbi of Palmares in Brazil.** A South American, founder of a free state for Blacks.

The first celebration of ***Black Catholic History Month*** began in November of 1990 in various cities in the United States with the celebration of St. Martin de Porres Feast day. The liturgy celebrated the 350th anniversary of St. Martin's transition from this life to eternal life.

November 1st

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that married lay couples can become saints?

Saints Julian and Basilissa, though married, lived in chastity by mutual consent about 304, in Antioch during the reign Diocletian. They used all their money in relieving the sick and converted their home into a hospital that sometimes housed thousands. Saint Basilissa tended the sick women in one part of the house while Saint Julian ministered to the men in another part, and became known as the hospitalarian.

Saint Basilissa died before Saint Julian after several persecutions; Saint Julian lived many years longer. Although they both died in peace, the Church calls them martyrs.

Saints Julian and Basilissa



November 2nd

DID YOU KNOW...

...that among the 265 popes of the Catholic Church, between Saint Peter and the current pope Benedict the XVI, are three popes known to be of African descent?

Saint Victor was a deacon when he became the first black and the 14th pope in 189 A.D. He established a set date for the yearly celebration of Easter. Saint Victor died a martyr for the faith in 199.

Saint Melchiades (mel-KY-uh-des) reigned as the Church's second black and 32nd pope, from 311 to 314. He signed the Emperor Constantine's laws that ended persecutions and made Christianity the established religion of the Roman Empire.

Saint Gelasius the First was the Church's third black and 49th pope from 492 to 496. He is known for having saved Rome from famine, composing a book of hymns, and clarifying Church teachings on the Eucharist.

Saint Victor



Saint Melchiades



Saint Gelasius I



November 3rd

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the only saint, of African origin, in the Western Hemisphere to date, is Saint Martín de Porres of Lima, Perú (South America)?

He was born in 1579, as the unwanted son of a Spanish knight and a freed African slave woman. Saint Martín showed signs of the virtues of modesty, humility, and charity for the poor, early in his life. Saint Martín, as a Dominican Brother founded an orphanage and a hospital. He also ministered to hundreds of unhappy people from Africa enslaved in the new western world. Saint Martín is the Patron saint of Perú and of the poor. His feast day is November 3.

Saint Martín de Porres



November 4th**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that perhaps no mother, other than the Virgin Mary herself, is considered to have had as much influence on the early Catholic Christian Church, as Saint Monica of Tagaste, Africa? Why so? Because Saint Monica spent most of her lifetime praying for the Christian conversion of a wayward and worldly son, who eventually became one of the Church's greatest theologians, Saint Augustine. Some observers considered her an interfering, in-your-face kind of mom. Others saw her as a shrewd woman of faith and spiritual anchor for a son whose talents she felt belonged to the Church. A crowning moment for Saint Monica was when she saw Augustine finally baptized in the Church. She died in the year 387.

Saint Monica of Tagaste



November 5th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family, based in New Orleans, Louisiana, is among three African American candidates for sainthood in the Catholic Church?

Mother Henriette Delille (duh-LEEL) was born in 1812 as a “free person of color”. At the tender age of 17, she and two companions began to evangelize the large slave and free-people-of-color populations in New Orleans. Their efforts led to the formation of the nation’s second religious order for women of color in 1842. Their mission: to care for the aged; to instruct the unlearned; and to care for the poor.

Mother Henriette Delille

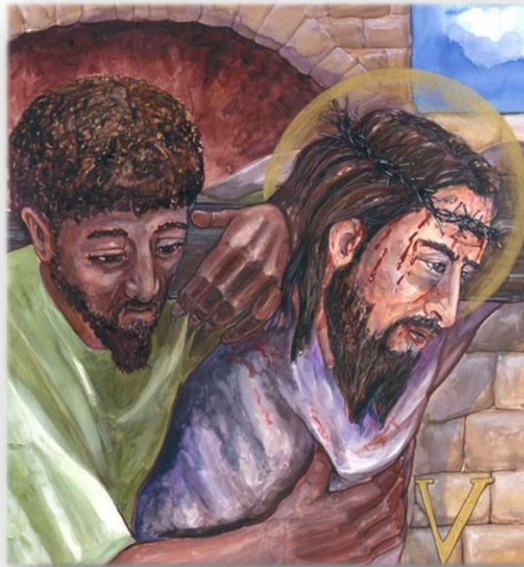


November 6th

DID YOU KNOW...

.... that the New Testament of the Bible speaks of “Simon from Cyrene,” which is in Africa, carrying the cross of Jesus, in the Gospel according to Luke?

Moreover, did you know that in the Book of Acts, Apostle and Deacon, Phillip, helped convert an official from the African kingdom of Ethiopia to follow Jesus, even before the conversion of St. Paul? Some scholars say this event marked the very moment when the Church changed from a primarily Hebrew and Greek community to the truly universal and Catholic Church.



November 7th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the patron saint of southern Germany and parts of France, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland, is a man of African origin?

He is Saint Maurice of Aganaum, born less than 250 years after Jesus Christ. He became a General in the Roman Army, stationed in what is now France. Saint Maurice and his six thousand African soldiers received orders to put down a rebellion against the empire. When Saint Maurice discovered they all were Christians, he and his men refused to fight them. They also refused to sacrifice to the Roman gods. For this, the emperor had Saint Maurice and nearly all his Theban Legion executed. A basilica in Aganaum, Switzerland enshrines their relic remains today.

Saint Maurice of Aganaum



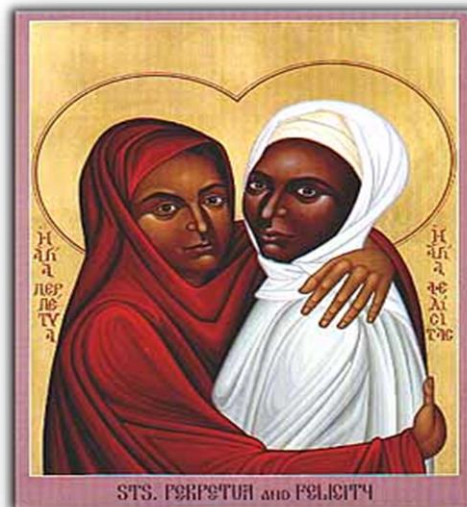
November 8th

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that two young African Christian women and three companions were thrown to wild animals and killed for their faith, at Carthage in the year 203?

Saint Perpetua, a new mother, and her pregnant maidservant, Saint Felicity, were first arrested during the Roman persecution of Christians. Both women had to leave their families because they refused to worship Roman gods. Saint Perpetua's account of their harsh treatment in prison is considered one of the earliest and most dramatic documents of Christian martyrdom. Saint Felicity gave birth to a daughter just three days before she and Saint Perpetua were beheaded for their faith.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity



November 9th**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that the first African woman to be canonized as a saint by the Church in the 21st century, lived her entire childhood as a slave?

When Saint Josephine Bakhita (*Bah-KEE-tah*) was just a little girl, was kidnapped from her loving family home in the Sudan and sold into brutal slavery. Her different “owners” frequently beat and tortured her. Finally, when she was sold to an Italian diplomat, at age 14, Saint Josephine received Christian instruction for the first time from the Sisters of Charity in Venice, Italy. Later, when the diplomat’s family returned to Africa, Saint Josephine Bakhita refused to go with them. She remained within the protection of the Sisters’ convent in Italy, where slavery was illegal. Saint Josephine Bakhita eventually joined this religious order. For the next 50 years, she joyfully and faithfully served as the convent’s cook, seamstress, sacristan, and doorkeeper, until her death in 1947.

Saint Josephine Bakhita



November 10th**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that a former slave who worked as a hairdresser in New York more than two centuries ago, is on track to become the first African American man, canonized as a saint from the United States?

Pierre (*pee-YAIR*) Toussaint (*too-SAHNT*) was born and raised as a Catholic slave in Haiti when it was still a French colony. To escape the slave rebellions that eventually drove out the French government, Toussaint's owners fled, with him, to New York. He was assigned as an apprentice to one of the city's leading hairdressers and became quite successful. When his slave-owner died, Toussaint quietly supported his owner's widow. She, in gratitude, freed Toussaint from his slave status. He later married and used his considerable wealth to support charitable causes, including work against religious and racial prejudice. Toussaint's death in 1853, at age 87, sparked widespread mourning. Just 13 years ago, Pope John Paul II declared Pierre Toussaint, Venerable – the first step to becoming a saint.

Pierre Toussaint



November 11th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the first African-American priest ever ordained in the United States, was born and raised in nearby Baltimore, MD, 150 years ago?

Charles Randolph Uncles was the son of a B & O Railroad worker and a dressmaker mother. Father Uncles was an extremely bright student in high school and college. He broke the color barrier in Baltimore's St. Mary's Seminary, at a time when segregation within and outside the Catholic Church was the norm. Father Uncles' ultimate achievement, his ordination, in 1891 made headlines around the country, including those of the New York Times newspaper. Two years after his famous ordination, Father Uncles became one of the founders of the St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart. More commonly known as the Josephites, this order's mission is to evangelize African Americans, mostly in the United States.

Charles Randolph Uncles



November 12th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, is the first and oldest religious congregation for women of color in the United States?

Haitian immigrant & educator, Mother Mary Lange, and three companions founded this order in 1829, when Maryland was still a slave state. Under great risk, these sisters dedicated themselves to serving orphans and educating black children. Also around that time, Mother Lange founded Baltimore's historic Saint Francis Academy, which continues to thrive today as a co-ed high school that educates mainly inner city African American and Hispanic youth. Mother Lange's candidacy for sainthood began in 1990.

Mother Mary Lange



Oblates Sisters of Providence



November 13th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that one of the pillars of the Catholic Church, Saint Augustine, wrote 96 books during his lifetime? The two most famous are his autobiography, *Confessions*, and *City of God*. Saint Augustine's writings covered a huge range of subjects such as morals, history, philosophy and heresy. Christian churches throughout the world have used Augustine's works as major references. Pope Leo X admired Saint Augustine so much, that he allowed this bishop's feast to be honored the same as those of Christ's Apostles.

Saint Augustine



November 14th

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that even though he was born into a rich, noble family of African descent in Spain, Saint Peter Claver chose to spend his life serving the sick and downtrodden in South America?

He treated people with the dreaded disease leprosy. Saint Peter Claver met all the slave ships from Africa right on the docks in Colombia. He ministered to their diseases, comforted, and baptized them. Saint Peter Claver also served the neglected and abused Native Indian people in Colombia. Overall, Saint Peter Claver touched some 50 thousand African slaves. One hundred years ago, the Catholic organization, called the Knights of St. Peter Claver was founded in his memory.

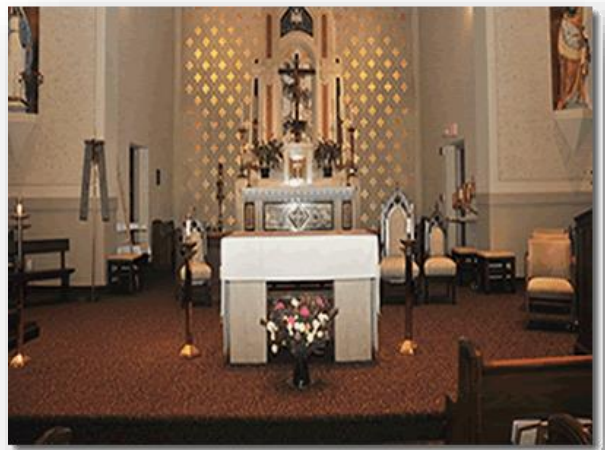
Saint Peter Claver



November 15th**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that a canonized saint who described herself as “the mother and servant of the Indian and Negro races,” helped finance Holy Redeemer Parish and School in Washington, DC? Holy Redeemer is the only parish founded by Black Catholics still housed in its original site in the city.

In 1858, Saint Katherine Drexel was born into great wealth in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As she grew up, Saint Katherine’s parents taught her that their money was meant to be shared with others. Saint Katherine took this to heart throughout her long life, especially in service to suffering Native and African Americans. She gave more than 21 million dollars of her own money to help found dozens of churches, schools and hospitals across the United States. Besides founding her own religious congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, she also established Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, the only Catholic African American College in the country. Saint Katherine Drexel died in 1955 and became a saint in the year 2000.

Saint Katherine Drexel***Inside Holy Redeemer Church***

November 16th**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that the very first African American priests in the United States were three brothers born of a slave mother and fathered by a Georgia plantation owner?

The Healy brothers: James, Alexander, and Patrick were sent north for their education and freedom. Because of the adverse racial climate in 19th century America, the brothers had to be ordained in Europe, beginning with James in 1854; Alexander, in 1858; and Patrick, in 1864. James Augustine Healy later became our nation's first African American bishop in Portland, Maine, in 1875. A year earlier, his brother, Patrick Francis Healy, became the highly regarded president of the Catholic institution, Georgetown University, here in Washington, DC. Ironically, Georgetown did not admit students of color, until the mid-1900s.

Rev. Patrick F. Healy, SJ***Bishop James Augustine Healy***

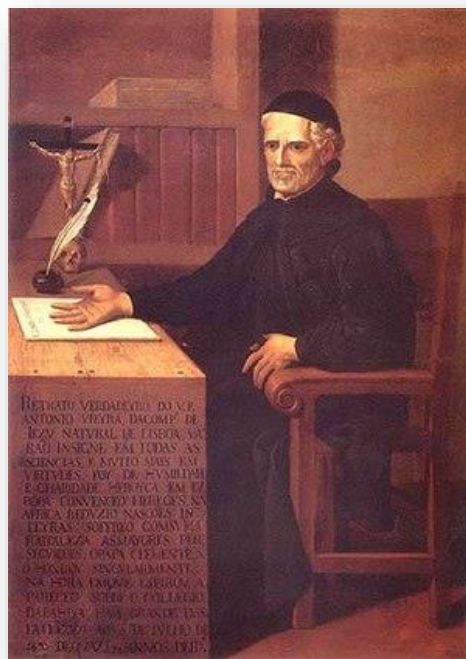
November 17th

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that Saint Antonio Vieira was an African born in Portugal?

When Saint Antonio Vieira was fifteen years old, he became a Jesuit novice and later a professor of rhetoric and dogmatic theology. He went to Brazil where he worked to abolish discrimination against Jewish merchants, to abolish slavery and alleviate conditions among the poor. On the 200th anniversary of his death in 1897, he was canonized.

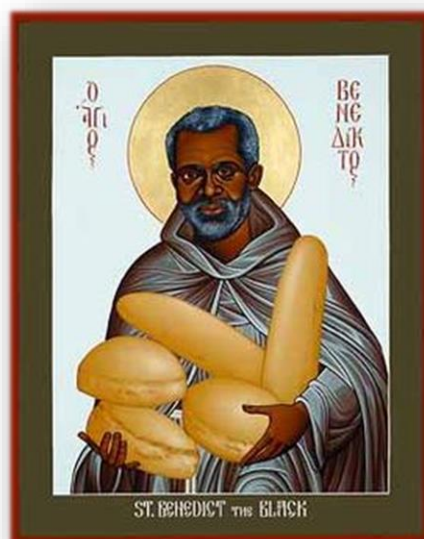
Saint Antonio Vieira



November 18th**DID YOU KNOW...**

...A slave born of Christian parents at Philadelpho in Sicily in 1522 became a Franciscan monk and saint.

Saint Benedict the Moor was known for his mild demeanor and his humble spirit. He became the superior of the community of hermits at Montepelligrino, near Palermo even though as the cook for the community, he claimed to be unworthy. That congregation was ordered to disband by Pope Pius IV in 1553 and Saint Benedict joined the Franciscan Friars Minor of the Observance. The convent was poor and depended on charity, but there was never a shortage of food. Saint Benedict seemed to miraculously multiply their food supply. His reputation for sanctity and miracles soon spread throughout Sicily. He was a very humble man who would sometimes travel at night to avoid being recognized. Throughout his life, he endured most of the austerities of his hermit years, always keeping seven Lents per year. Dying at the age of sixty-three, he was cheered on his deathbed by a vision of Saint Ursula. He was canonized in 1589 and chosen patron saint of Palermo.

Saint Benedict the Moor

November 19th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that a little Methodist girl born, Bertha Bowman, in Yazoo City, Mississippi, grew up to be a renowned Roman Catholic nun, teacher and scholar?

Sister Thea Bowman became Catholic when she was nine years old. She later went to college and then became the first African American to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Wisconsin. After 16 years of teaching at the elementary, secondary and college levels, Sr. Thea Bowman was invited to be a special consultant for the Catholic Church. She gave presentations around the country aimed at bridging racial and cultural divisions. She combined her gifts of singing and gospel preaching, with prayers and storytelling. Sr. Thea Bowman was diagnosed with bone cancer in 1984. Yet, she continued her fight against the evils that drive people apart, from her wheel chair, until her death at age 53 in 1990. Sr. Thea Bowman said she prayed “to live until I die – to live fully.” And that she did.

Sister Thea Bowman



November 20th

DID YOU KNOW...

...Father Augustus Tolton, was the first publicly known black Roman Catholic priest in the United States (1886)?

Father Tolton, a former slave baptized and reared Catholic, studied formally in Rome, Italy, because he was rejected from every seminary in the United States. Father Tolton was ordained and served his first Mass on Easter Sunday at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Assigned to the Alton, Illinois diocese, Father Tolton first ministered to his home parish in Quincy, Illinois. Later when assigned to Chicago, led the development and construction of St. Monica's Catholic Church as a black "national parish church", completed in 1893 on Chicago's South side. He died on July 8, 1897 at the age of 43.

In 2011, the late Cardinal Francis George opened an inquiry into Father Tolton's beatification and eventual sainthood. The Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, where he first served as priest and the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri where his family was enslaved are also advancing this cause for sainthood.

Augustus Tolton



November 21st**DID YOU KNOW...**

... Catholics from Africa led the way in being witnesses for Christ in the face of grave persecutions?

Saint Charles Lwanga was one of 22 Ugandan martyrs who converted from paganism. He was the chief of the royal pages, considered the strongest athlete of the court and known as "the most handsome man of the Kingdom of the Uganda." He instructed his friends in the Catholic Faith and he personally baptized boy pages. He inspired and encouraged his companions to remain chaste and faithful. He protected his companions, ages 13-30, from the immoral acts and homosexual demands of the Babandan ruler, Mwanga. He and his companions were burned to death by Mwanga's order on June 3, 1886. Pope Paul VI canonized Charles Lwanga and his companions on June 22, 1964. We celebrate his memorial on June 3 of the Roman calendar. Charles is the Patron of the African Youth of Catholic Action.

Saint Charles Lwanga



November 22nd

DID YOU KNOW...

... that a black African Catholic, Saint Anthony of Alexandria, is known as the patriarch of Monks?

He was born to Rich Christian parents at Aama, a village south of Memphis, near Thebes in Egypt. Shortly after inheriting his parents' fortune, he sold all his vast fortune and gave the proceeds to the poor, sent his sister to a nunnery and retired to an old ruin of a tomb. He ate only every three or four days and spent his time at manual labor and prayer.

Saint Anthony of Alexandria



November 23rd**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that a black Haitian Catholic, Toussaint L'Ouverture played a key role in the first successful attempt by a slave population in the Americas and the world to win independence from European colonialism?

He defeated armies of three imperial powers: Spain, France, and Great Britain. The success of the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) had enduring effects on shaking the institution of slavery throughout the New World. Haiti became the second independent republic in the Americas. After being captured by the French general Leclerc on the ship to France, Toussaint L'Ouverture warned his captors that the rebels would not make his mistake in the following words: "In overthrowing me, you have cut down in Saint Domingue only the trunk of the tree of liberty. It will spring up again from the roots, for they are many and they are deep." Haiti became an independent state on January 1, 1804.

Toussaint L'Ouverture



November 24th**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that one of the greatest Bible scholars, Origen, was from ancient Egypt?

He was born in 185 AD. Early in his career, Origen became head of the church's training school in Alexandria, Egypt. An African teacher named Clement had taught to him some of his most impressive concepts on religion. Origen won wide acclaim for his lectures at Rome, Caesarea and Jerusalem. His Origen life-style was said to have been one of self-denial; yet nothing hampered the excellence of his letters. Critical studies of biblical texts and his vivid explanations of the Scriptures had a strong spiritual quality. They carried great moral influence. Even though he was never in complete harmony with his Bishop and he had some differences with Rome, his strength and influence were in constant demand to fight heretics and the thinking of non-believers. Without question, Origen was a vital part of the foundation and the fabric of what the great Christian Church was to become.

Origen



November 25th

DID YOU KNOW...?

...Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in Washington, DC, was formed because black Catholics were denied full participation in the parish life at St. Teresa's Catholic Church. The members of the "Mission of St. Teresa's" began the construction of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. The parishioners used their own sweat equity to get it done. In August 1920, they began digging the foundation and mixing and pouring cement; work was performed in the evening after the day's labor. The land at Fort Stanton was purchased from Dr. J.C. Norwood, a black physician. Following a procession that began at Douglass Hall up the steep incline of Morris Road, chanting the litany of the Blessed Virgin, 525 church members watched as a twenty-five foot cross was placed atop their hill, and a new (but segregated) parish was begun for the black Catholics of Anacostia.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help



November 26th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that of the one billion Roman Catholics in the world today, at least 20% (200 Million) are Black?

Africa alone has 130 Million Black Catholics. In fact, the largest Catholic Church building in the world is in Africa, the Cathedral in Yamoussoukro, and the capital city of the West African country known as Cote d'Ivoire. During the selection of the latest pope, many scoffed at the idea that one of the 12 Black cardinals would be picked. However, it would not have been the first; there have been three, all of them have been declared saints, that is, and the Catholic Church feels certain that all three went to heaven. It is interesting to note there are hundreds of revered icons that are statues of Christ and his mother throughout Europe which picture them as Black figures. The last pope, John Paul II, had a Black icon in his personal chapel that he prayed before every day. Black people have been and are a very vibrant part of the church.

Cathedral in Yamoussoukro



November 27th

DID YOU KNOW...

...a native Washingtonian received the Presidential Medal of Freedom?

Dr. Lena Edwards (1901-1986) was born in Washington, DC. She was a dedicated physician, and a mother of six. Lena was a very sincere Catholic. She was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, and was very concerned about the poor. Dr. Edwards was an active member of the Catholic Interracial Council in Washington. In her later years, she taught collage at Howard University Medical School, and began to minister to the Mexican American migrant workers in Texas; Dr. Edwards received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964 for her work with the poor. Dr. Edwards was a determined woman who addressed the needs of the poor and women. She had a very deep faith and dedicated her life to serving others.

Dr. Lena Edwards



November 28th

DID YOU KNOW...?

...one of the first foreigners mentioned in the Bible to be baptized was an African?

In the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8: 26-40, we read the account of the Ethiopian eunuch. This person was a black person baptized by Saint Philip. The Ethiopian eunuch was a court official in charge of the treasury of the Queen of the Ethiopians. “Ethiopian” refers to a person of color from Africa. The Greeks used this word, which means “burnt”, or darker skin.

First foreigners to be baptized was African



November 29th

DID YOU KNOW...?

...every Catholic and many non- Catholics recognizes the name of the largest Catholic lay organization in the world, the Knights of Columbus?

The Knights of Columbus were chartered as a fraternal organization in Connecticut in 1882. Far fewer Catholics and others have heard of the Knights of Peter Claver. This organization was founded in 1909 at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Mobile, Alabama. The organization was founded to give “colored men” a Catholic fraternal organization. (Yes, sadly, there was a time that those other Knights allowed no “colored men” among them. Fortunately, those days are gone.) Like the Knights of Columbus, the Knights of Peter Claver are engaged in charitable works. From their start in Alabama a century ago, they now have over 1,000 subordinate units around the country.



November 30th

DID YOU KNOW...

...that a black priest has written what many believe is the definitive history of black Catholics in the United States?

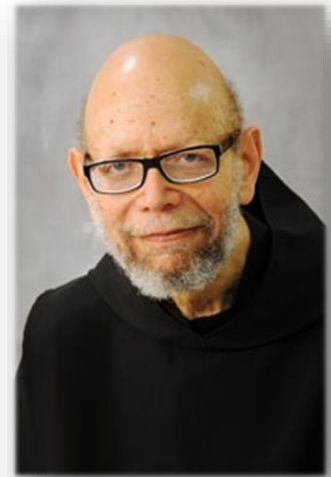
Father Cyprian Davis, a Benedictine priest and professor, has been the single most important leader in historical studies of the African-American Catholic Church in the United States. Father Davis has recovered a story that was largely hidden from public view. His lifelong commitment to recording the African American riches that have been lost to us not only has told us about the diversity of Catholic life in this country but also has restored their potential for our future as a Church. His work has been sheer grace for our Catholic community.

Davis has written numerous books and articles in the area of monastic history and the history and spirituality of African American Catholics in the United States. In 1990, he published "The History of Black Catholics in the United States." (New York: Crossroad), which received the John Gilmary Shea Award in 1991.

In 1994-1995, he served as a visiting professor of Church history at the Monastic Studium established in West Africa at the Abbey of Dzogbégan in Togo and the Abbey of Koubri in Burkina Faso. He was as visiting professor at the Abbey of Keur Moussa in Senegal in 1995-1996, and at the Benedictine and Trappist monasteries in Nigeria in 1997-1998. He also has lectured on the development of monastic archives in monasteries of men and women in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Togo in West Africa.

Davis is a longtime scholar and monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana. He was professed in 1951 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1956. He received a licentiate of sacred theology degree from The Catholic University of America in 1957, and a doctorate in history at the University of Louvain in Belgium in 1977.

A native of Washington, D.C., Davis attended the public schools of the District of Columbia, graduating from Dunbar High School in 1948.



DID YOU KNOW...

...than Julia Greeley took on a life of poverty and dedicated it to Denver's poor?

Born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri, Julia Greeley first went to Colorado with the family of the first territorial governor, William Gilpin. She gained her freedom after the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. As a slave, a beating resulted in a drooping eye.

While in Colorado, Greeley fell in love with the Catholic faith. Converting in 1880, she immediately immersed herself in the devotional and sacramental life of the Church; she attended daily Mass and took up intense fasting, along with constant prayer.

Mrs. Greeley found great joy in her love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which she saw as the font for her many charitable and service-oriented ministries. She was known to spread the devotion, even using it as a tool to evangelize Denver's firefighters.

Greeley took on a life of poverty, living in union with the poor of Denver. Taking on odd jobs like cooking and cleaning, she used her meager salary to finance a ministry to the poor. In her trademark floppy hat, the holy woman dragged a red wagon filled with goods to distribute to her city's poor. At times, she even took to begging for them.

A witness of God's love and mercy to all, Greeley's life shows the dignity of every life - especially those on the peripheries. Many of those whose lives she touched were among the nearly 1,000 mourners at her funeral in 1918. The U.S. bishops recently advanced the canonization cause of Mrs. Greeley.

Julia Greeley

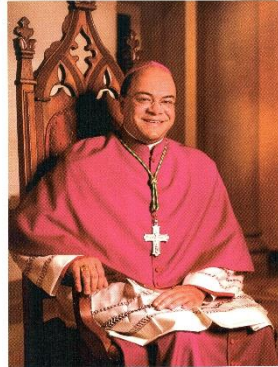


BLACKS IN CATHOLIC HISTORY

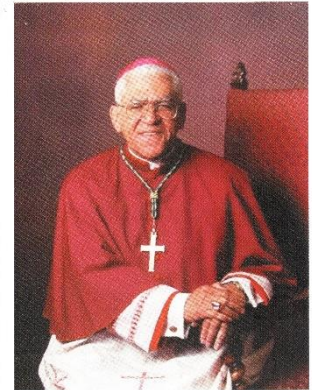
OUR BLACK SHEPHERDS



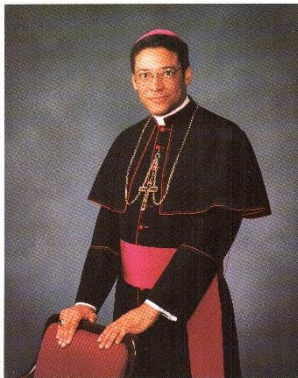
*Most Rev. Martin D. Holley
Auxiliary Bishop
Washington, DC*



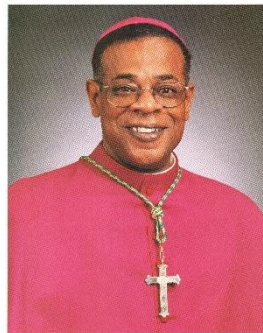
*Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre
Auxiliary Bishop
New Orleans, Louisiana*



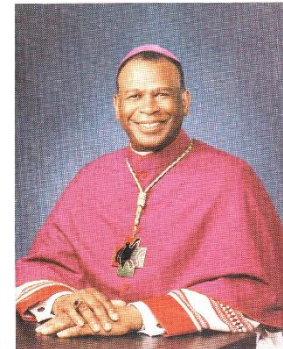
*Most Rev. Guy A. Sansaricq
Bishop
Brooklyn, New York*



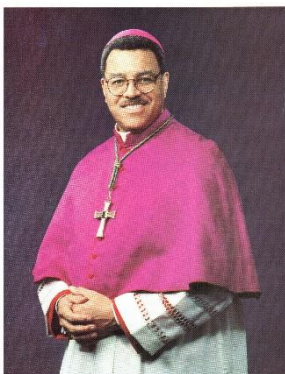
*Most Rev. Joseph N. Perry
Auxiliary Bishop
Chicago, Illinois*



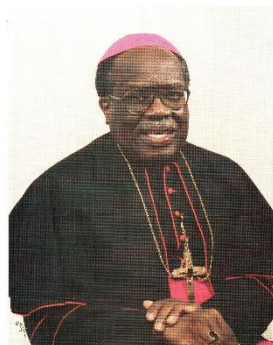
*Most Rev. Gordon D. Bennett, SJ
Bishop
Mandeville, Jamaica*



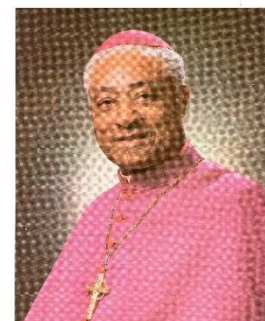
*Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton
Bishop
Belleville, Illinois*



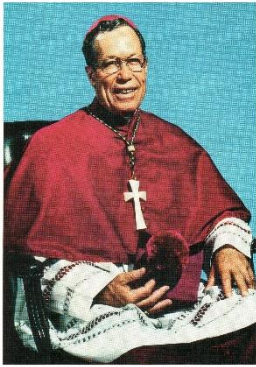
*Most Rev. George V. Murry, SJ
Bishop
Youngstown, Ohio*



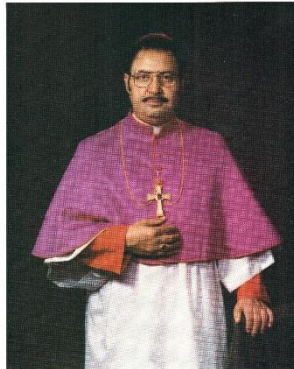
*Most Rev. Elliott G. Thomas (Retired)
Bishop
St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands*



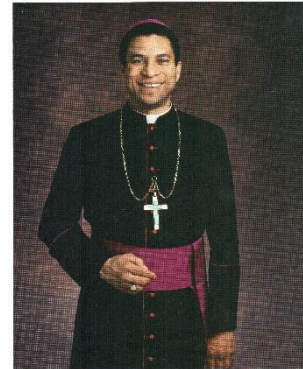
*Most Rev. Dominic Carmon, SVD
(Retired)
Auxiliary Bishop – New Orleans,
Louisiana*



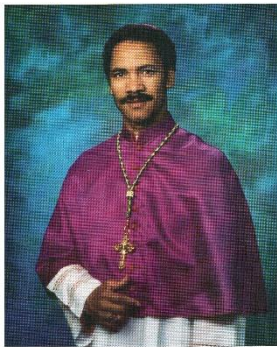
*Most Rev. Leonard J. Olivier, SVD (Retired)
Auxiliary Bishop
Washington, DC*



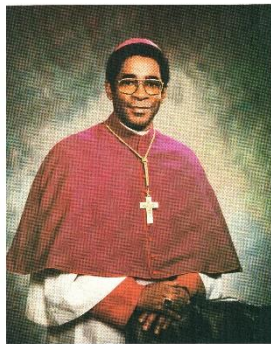
*Most Rev. Curtis John Guillory, SVD
Bishop
Beaumont, Texas*



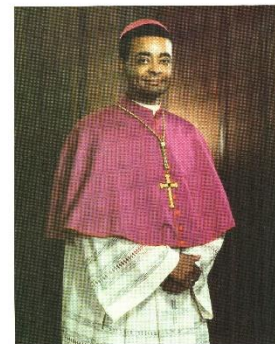
*Most Rev. Carl Anthony Fisher, SSJ
(Deceased)
Auxiliary Bishop – Los Angeles, California*



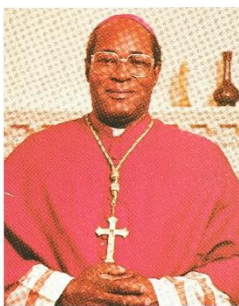
*Most Rev. John Huston Ricard, SSJ
Bishop
Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida*



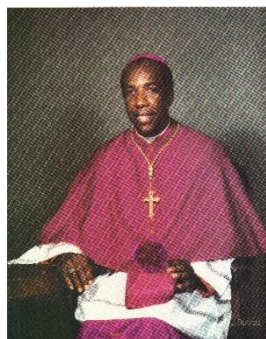
*Most Rev. James Terry Steib, SVD
Bishop
Memphis, Tennessee*



*Most Rev. Wilton Daniel Gregory
Archbishop
Atlanta, Georgia*



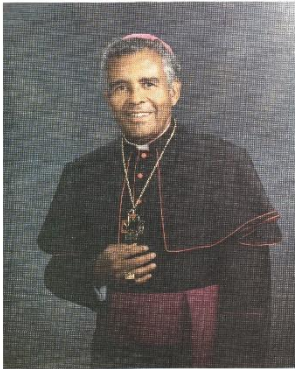
*Most Rev. Moses Bosco Anderson, SSE
Auxiliary Bishop
Detroit, Michigan*



*Most Rev. Emerson John Moore (Deceased)
Auxiliary Bishop
New York, New York*



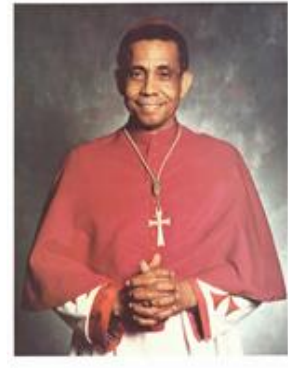
*Most Rev. James Patterson Lyke, OFM
(Deceased)
Archbishop – Atlanta, Georgia*



*Most Rev. Joseph Abel Francis, SVD
(Deceased)
Auxiliary Bishop - Newark, New Jersey*



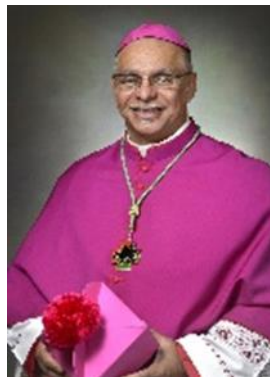
*Most Rev. Eugene Antonio Marino, SSJ
(Deceased)
Archbishop - Atlanta, Georgia*



*Most Rev. Joseph Lawson Howze
Bishop
Mobile, Alabama*



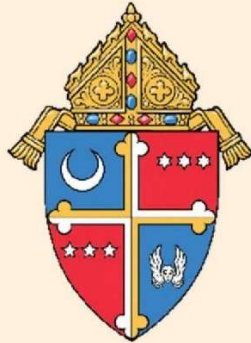
*Most Rev. Harold Robert Perry, SVD
(Deceased)
Auxiliary Bishop - New Orleans, Louisiana*



*Bishop Fernand J. Cheri, III,
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana*



*Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
Auxiliary Bishop
Washington, DC*



Archdiocese of Washington
Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach

Sandra Coles-Bell

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