

Please pray for the Canonization of:



Henriette Delille is the first United States native-born African American whose cause for canonization has been officially opened by the Catholic Church. A free woman of color in New Orleans, she wanted to be religious but legal and social restraints twenty years before the abolition of slavery and the Civil War prevented local communities from accepting negroes. She, along with two friends, founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1942. Henriette was chosen the leader. They trusted in God and they grew and grew, until today many hundreds of young women have consecrated themselves to God's service as Sisters of the Holy Family. For 168 years, the Sisters of the Holy Family, in the spirit of their foundresses and early predecessors, have continued to serve the youth, the elderly, and the needy members of society. The Sisters have not only served the New Orleans community, but also many people throughout cities in Louisiana; Texas, California, in Washington, D.C., Oklahoma, Alabama, Florida, Belize, and Panama Central America; and Benin City, Nigeria, Africa. She was declared "Venerable" on March 27, 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.

<http://www.sistersoftheholymfamily.com/CanonizationProcess.html>

Augustus Tolton was born on April 1, 1854, from Ralls County, Missouri. He escaped slavery when his mother took her children and walked to freedom by crossing the Mississippi River, eventually reaching Quincy, Illinois. Prior to their escape, the Tolton family was baptized and after getting to Illinois, they became members of the Roman Catholic Church. Augustus wanted to become a priest but the American Catholic Church did not allow Black men to be admitted to studies in United States seminaries. His parish priests began to tutor Augustus themselves. Augustus was later admitted to the Propaganda College in Rome to prepare for priesthood. Fr. Augustus Tolton was ordained on April 24, 1886, as the first known and recognized Black priest in the United States of America. He was declared "Venerable" on June 12, 2019 by Pope Francis.

<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/>



Mother Mary Lange was born in 1784 in Haiti. Her parents fled Haiti during a revolution and went to Cuba, where Lange received her education. She came to Baltimore in 1813 and settled in Fells Point. Baltimore had a large population of French-speaking Caribbean Catholics. Lange, a well-educated free black woman in a slave-holding state, also had money from her merchant father. She saw a need in educating children of Caribbean immigrants and slaves, a practice which was illegal at that time. Lange, the founder and first superior of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, took the name Mary. The Oblate sisters educated youths and provided homes for orphans. They nursed the sick and dying and sheltered the elderly. Mother Mary Lange's deep faith enabled her to persevere against all odds. Lange was a woman of vision and selfless commitment. She personally took action to meet the social, religious and educational needs of poor women and children. Their ministry is particularly felt in Baltimore at the St. Frances Academy.

<http://www.motherlange.org/> , <http://www.oblatesisters.com/MotherLange.html>

Pierre Toussaint was born into slavery on the French colony of Saint Domingue. His master, Jean Berard, encouraged the young Pierre to learn to read and write. In 1787, Berard moved his new wife and several slaves, including Pierre and his younger sister Rosalie, to New York City. Pierre was established a good reputation among New York's elite as a hairdresser. At the age of forty-one, Pierre was a free man and later married. He and his wife continued charitable work Pierre had begun informally, helping Haitian refugees find jobs and caring for orphans. Next, the couple opened a school to teach black children a trade. When the plague struck New York, Pierre personally cared for the victims. When Pierre's sister, Rosalie, died leaving an orphaned young daughter, Euphemia, Pierre and Juliette welcomed her into their home. In 1968, the long process to canonize Pierre Toussaint as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church began.

<http://www.toussaintacademy.org/pierretoussaint.html>



Julia Greeley was born a slave in Hannibal, Missouri sometime between 1833 and 1848, where she endured some horrific treatment – once, as a slave master beat Greeley’s mother, the whip caught Julia’s right eye and destroyed it. Work with the family of William Gilpin, Colorado’s first territorial governor, brought her to Denver in about 1878. After leaving the Gilpins' service, Greeley found odd jobs around the city. At Sacred Heart Parish of Denver, Julia joined the Catholic Church in 1880. She was an enthusiastic parishioner, a daily communicant, and became an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order starting in 1901. The Jesuit priests at her parish recognized her as the most fervent promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Despite her own poverty, Greeley spent much of her time collecting food, clothing and other goods for the poor. She would often do her work at night, so as to avoid embarrassing the people she was assisting. Though she was earning only \$10 to \$12 a month cleaning and cooking, she used much of it to help other people who were poor. Julia Greeley died on June 7, 1918 - the Feast of the Sacred Heart. It is estimated that she was around 80 years old, though because she was born into slavery, her exact age was never known. After her death, her body lay in state in a Catholic parish for five hours, during which a constant stream of people came to pay their last respects to the well-known, well-loved woman. There is only one known photograph of Greeley, holding a child she cared for. The Archdiocese of Denver opened Julia’s cause for canonization in December of 2016, exhumed and moved her remains to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where she is the only person buried.



<http://juliagreeley.org/>

Born December 29, 1937, in Yazoo City, Mississippi, Thea was reared as a Protestant until at age nine when she asked her parents if she could become a Catholic. Gifted with a brilliant mind, beautiful voice and a dynamic personality, Sister Thea shared the message of God's love through a teaching career. After 16 years of teaching, at the elementary, secondary and university level, the bishop of Jackson, Mississippi, invited her to become the consultant for intercultural awareness. In her role as consultant Sister Thea, an African-American, gave presentations across the country; lively gatherings that combined singing, gospel preaching, prayer and storytelling. Her programs were directed to break down racial and cultural barriers. She encouraged people to communicate with one another so that they could understand other cultures and races. In 1984, Sr. Thea was diagnosed with breast cancer. She prayed "to live until I die." Her prayer was answered, and Thea continued her gatherings seated in a wheelchair. In 1989, the U.S. bishops invited her to be a key speaker at their conference on Black Catholics. At the end of the meeting, at Thea's invitation, the bishops stood and sang "We Shall Overcome" with gusto. Thea lived a full life. She fought evil, especially prejudice, suspicion, hatred and things that drive people apart. She fought for God and God's people until her death in 1990.



<https://www.fspa.org/content/about/sister-thea-bowman>