

CURRENT CANDIDATES FOR SAINTHOOD



**VENERABLE PIERRE
TOUSSAINT**
1766 - 1853

- Former slave. Became a philanthropist
- Established first Catholic New York orphanage
- Cause for canonization opened in 1968
- Declared “Venerable” in 1997

Lord God, source of love and compassion, we praise and honor You for the virtuous and charitable life of our brother in Christ, Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

Inspired by the example of our Lord Jesus, Pierre worshipped You with love and served your people with generosity. He attended Mass daily and responded to the practical and spiritual needs of friends and strangers, or the rich and the poor, the sick and the homeless of 19th century New York.

If it is Your will, let the name of Venerable Pierre Toussaint be officially raised to the rank of Saint, so that the world may know this Haitian New Yorker who refused to hate or be selfish, but instead lived to the full commandments of heaven and the divine law of love – love for God and for neighbor.

By following his example and asking for his prayers, may we, too, be counted among the blessed in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**“Servant of God”
MOTHER MARY
LANGE**
1794 – 1882

- Co-Founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first US religious order for women of color.
- Educated youths and provided homes for orphans
- Cause for canonization opened in 1991

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 favor (*here mention your request*) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.



**VENERABLE
HENRIETTE DELILLE**
1813 – 1862

- Free woman of color
- Co-founded the Sisters of the Holy Family
- Cause for canonization opened in 1988 – 1st US native born African American to have cause opened
- Declared “Venerable” in 2010

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.

Nihil obstat: Rev, Msgr. Franz Graef, S.T.D.

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Francis B. Schulte
Archbishop of New Orleans Louisiana
August 23, 1997



**VENERABLE
FR. AUGUSTUS
TOLTON
154 – 1897**

- 1st recognized African American to be ordained a priest
- Cause for canonization opened in 2011
- Declared “Venerable” in 2019

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

2010 Bishop Joseph N. Perry



**“Servant of God”
JULIA GREELEY
18(35-55) – 1918**

- Former slave
- Charitable works and assisted poor families
- Secular Franciscan
- Daily communicant and devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Cause for canonization opened in 2016

Heavenly Father, you servant Julia Greeley dedicated her life to honoring the Sacred Heart of your Son, and to the humble service of your children, especially the poor.

If it be in accordance with your holy will, please grant this favor I now ask through her intercession.
(mention your intercession)

I ask also, in the Name of Jesus, whose Sacred Heart filled Julia’s heart with love for all she met, that I may follow her example of humility and simplicity in loving you and my neighbor.

Amen



**“Servant of God” SR.
THEA BOWMAN
1937 – 1990**

- Became a Catholic at age nine
- She joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Worked to break down racial and cultural barriers
- Sainthood cause was endorsed by U.S. Bishops in November 2018

Ever loving God, who by your infinite goodness inflamed the heart of your servant and religious, Sister Thea Bowman with an ardent love for you and the People of God; a love expressed through her indomitable spirit, deep and abiding faith, dedicated teaching, exuberant singing, and unwavering witnessing of the joy of the Gospel. Her prophetic witness continues to inspire us to share the Good News with those whom we encounter; most especially the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. May Sister Thea’s life and legacy compel us to walk together, to pray together, and to remain together as missionary disciples ushering in the new evangelization for the Church we love. Gracious God imbue us with the grace and perseverance that you gave your servant, Sister Thea. For in turbulent times of racial injustice, she sought equity, peace, and reconciliation. In times of intolerance and ignorance, she brought wisdom, awareness, unity, and charity. In times of pain, sickness, and suffering, she taught us how to live fully until called home to the land of promise. If it be your Will, O God, glorify our beloved Sister Thea, by granting the favor I now request through her intercession (*mention your request*), so that all may know of her goodness and holiness and may imitate her love for You and Your Church. We ask this through Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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