

Seasons of Life

From the another room I heard the TV blare the question, "Are you ready for some football?" For many, the four seasons are football, basketball, hockey and baseball.

Although January marks the beginning of the calendar year, for some, life in "real time" revolves around the school year, Fall to Summer. Happy New year if this is the situation in which you find yourself, your family, your parish!

Personally, this September I am excited when I think of all that lies ahead for us in the Black and Indian Mission Office. And, of course, YOU are a vital part of making our evangelization efforts concrete. Without the on-going cooperation of the Directors of Diocesan Offices, Pastors and Principals of Black Parishes, Catholic Schools and Religious Ed

programs, the ministry of this office could be of little avail. But YOU are the catalysts that bring the Good News of Jesus in an up-close and personal way to the People of God. Thank you!

Know that every opportunity we take to share the Gospel message and our faith in Jesus Christ with others, will bring us blessings. It will not be through our "persuasive words of wisdom" but through "the power of the Gospel" and the witness of our lives.

You may not see a person come to instant conversion. It's not as immediate as a 3 point swish from center court or a home run. Whatever the results, know that God sees our good deeds and delights in them.

"Each one will receive commendation from God." 1 Cor. 4:5



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Man of Vision and Action



Most Reverend
Martin Holley

Bishop Martin Holley is auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington and Vicar General. He attended Theological College in Washington, DC and completed his seminary studies at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Boynton Beach, FL. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL in 1987.

A member of the Joint Conference of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus since 1983, Bishop Holley also serves on a number of committees for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He is the current chairman of the Subcommittee for African American Catholics. He lends his expertise to many boards including that of Catholic Relief Services.

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10th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Katharine Drexel

Weekend Celebration: Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Motherhouse, Bensalem, PA

October 1 ~ Xavier University Jazz Ensemble Concert

October 2 ~ Dinner Under the Stars/Silent Auction

October 3 ~ MASS OF CANONIZATION, Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, PA

For specifics , please contact Mary Martin ~ 215-244-9900 x 38



Fr. Augustus Tolton (April 1, 1854-July 9, 1897)



John Augustus Tolton was born a slave in Brush Creek, MO. His mother led the family across the Mississippi River to freedom in Quincy, IL in 1862.

Eight year old John offered to work for Fr. Peter McGirr for food. Father gave him a meal and asked him if he wanted to go to St. Peter Catholic School. Young John excelled in school. He was baptized

soon afterward and studied with Fr. McGirr to make his Holy Communion. After serving a summer as Altar Boy for the 5 a.m. Mass, Fr. McGirr asked young John if he would like to become a priest—the first African-American priest in the United States. Eager to embark on the 12 years of difficult study, the two prayed for his success.

After high school John graduated from Quincy College. Denied entry to an American Catholic Seminary, Fr. McGirr and a group of Franciscan Fathers assisted with the arrangements for John to study in Rome. At age 32, John Augustine Tolton was ordained a Catholic priest by Lucino Cardinal Parochi, April 24, 1886.

Fr. Tolton returned to the U.S. July 6, 1886 to a hero's welcome and offered his first Mass on American soil at St. Benedict the Moor Parish, New York City. Eleven days later his train pulled into Quincy, a band played "Holy God" as the crowd cheered.

On July 25, 1886, Fr. Tolton was formally installed pastor of the Negro Church of St. Joseph in Quincy, and

began his pastoral ministry.

The Quincy Journal had high praise for Fr. Tolton, citing his "fine educational training," "wholehearted earnestness," and "rich voice which falls pleasantly on the ear."

When African American Catholics began arriving in Chicago during the Civil War, they formed the St. Augustine Society to feed the poor, visit the sick and bury the dead. As their numbers and reputation grew they desired to form a congregation of their own. In 1889 they requested Bishop Foley to secure Fr. Tolton as their spiritual director. He arrived there on December 19, 1889 and began ministry, including the building of St. Monica Parish.

Fr. Augustus Tolton's Cause for Saint-hood is being introduced to the Vatican by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

*Adapted from South Loop Historical Society,
Chicago's Visual History Museum*



Did you know...???

... the National Black Catholic Congress *Stir-Into-Flame Vocation Symposium* took place at Notre Dame University early in the summer?

... the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Black Catholics is celebrating its 25 Anniversary? Congratulations!

... the Diocese of Providence is hosting the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators later this month of September?

... that "Men to Men" is the theme of the National Black Catholic Men's Conference in New Orleans, September 23-26?

... Fr. John Eaton, OFM at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Nashville, will be hosting a *Why Catholic* Series?

... Bishop Joseph N. Perry is leading a pilgrimage to the boyhood home of Fr. Augustus Tolton?

... that the Mission Congress 2010: God's Mission, Many Faces—A Portrait of U.S. Catholics in Mission is scheduled for October 28-31, 2010 in Albuquerque, NM? Contact 202-832-3112 for more information.

... that in recognition of his committed service to Christ and the Church, Anderson Shaw, Director of the Los Angeles Office, will receive the Papal Honor "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" in November ceremonies?



PICTURE THIS





Take God's Word
into the World...

What can I do to
share my gifts and
talents with others?

F. Dekarlos Blackmon of Huntsville, Alabama, has been elected as the next Supreme Knight and CEO of the Knights of Peter Claver. At 33 he is the youngest Supreme Knight in the organization's history. The dynamic, young leader was elected on a platform of unity and progressive change for this century old Catholic Order of the Knights. Over 1,000 members from across the country were in attendance at the annual convention held in August in St. Louis.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Blackmon and prayerful good wishes for continued success in his Servant Leadership role with the Knights of Peter Claver.

Katie Washington ~ Valedictorian, 2010 ~ University of Notre Dame



In the 161 years that UND has been awarding degrees, never had there been a African-American as valedictorian. Until this year!

Katie Washington of Gary, Indiana, carried a 4.0 GPA majoring in biology and minoring in Catholic Social Teaching. Miss Washington plans to continue her studies at John Hopkins University and follow in her father's footsteps into medicine.

While at Notre Dame, Miss Washington directed the Voices of Faith Gospel Choir, was a mentor/tutor for South Bend's Sister-to-Sister program and served as student coordinator of the Center of Social Concerns' "Lives in the Balance: Youth, Violence and Society" Seminar. Aaawesome! Congratulations!

This E-zine, web newsletter, is a periodic publication of the Black and Indian Mission Office and the Catholic Negro-American Mission Board. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS of potential articles and photographs (JPEG) are both welcomed and appreciated. *Fr. PAYSSE*



Visit us on the web at www.blackandindianmission.org

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