Philippians 1:6 states “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” To our graduates, job well done! I know the road has not been easy for many of you; but you made it, and we are extremely proud of your accomplishments. Know that we look forward to hearing of your successes in the near future and we hope that you will continue to remain active with the program as an alumnus. I also hope to see you at this summer’s Alumni Gathering, an opportunity for you to network and get reacquainted to your fellow alums. To all of our scholars, I look forward another successful program year. As the program continues to grow, so too do our efforts in keeping you actively engaged and spiritually fulfilled. In addition to our summer retreat weekend, we’ll be having a “Day of Service” in memory of our namesake, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, on the anniversary of his death on Saturday, June 30th. Please also save the date for our Fall service project at St. Mark the Evangelist in Harlem, as we assist prepping Thanksgiving dinner on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Always continue to be of service in all that you do! Until next time, work hard & pray.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 GRADUATES

SAMRAWIT A.
WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE (NEW YORK, NY)
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (MD)
PARISH: ERITREAN COMMUNITY-OUR LADY OF LOURDES, NYC
HIGH SCHOOL: ELISABETH IRWIN HIGH SCHOOL
UNDERGRADUATE: CORNELL UNIVERSITY
“One of the best parts of the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program is the amazing, caring and motivating people I met through the program. From Brother Tyrone who has always been a constant support of my educational aspirations, as well as, our parish’s youth group; to Leah who always has a welcoming smile and ready to pray for us. Also, meeting Dr. Ansel during the summer retreat and learning from him how effective service through our God given talents are, have reaffirmed my desire of service through medicine. To current and future scholars, I urge you take advantage of the support system that is in the PTS program, as they have insight into your struggles and prayers to help you through them.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I will be completing my residency in Anesthesiology at UCLA.”)

LISA A.
SILBERMAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AT HUNTER COLLEGE (NEW YORK, NY)
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)
PARISH: HOLY ROSARY, BRONX
HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL
UNDERGRADUATE: STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT FREDONIA
“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program means the world to me! I am so grateful and honored to have been a part of the Pierre Toussaint family since 2008. My five years in SUNY Fredonia, and two years at Silberman would not have been the same without the moral support of Leah and Brother Tyrone. It has helped me grow spiritually through calling the prayer line, prayer books, and attending the yearly retreats. I enjoyed getting to know so many of my fellow scholars through workshops and service projects. I have had the privilege of traveling to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. It has made me feel that I’m not alone as a young Catholic person. To my fellow graduates and my fellow scholars: Always remember to pray. Pray when life gets difficult. Pray when things are wonderful. Remember that you have a network of people supporting you, and you’re not alone. Persevere and be prosperous.

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I plan on studying to take my licensure exam to obtain my LMSW (Licensed Master of Social Work). After obtaining my license, I plan on working with Spanish-speaking clients, providing individual and group therapy.”)
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 GRADUATES

TAMMY O.
UNIVERSITY OF KENT (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM)
L.L.M. HUMAN RIGHTS LAW WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PARISH: ST. BARNABAS, BRONX
HIGH SCHOOL: ST. VINCENT FERRER HIGH SCHOOL
UNDERGRADUATE: MOUNT HOLYoke COLLEGE
“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been a real blessing to me. The scholarship helped me buy me my textbooks and school materials. The program has allowed me to connect with people of the same faith which has really been encouraging. I really enjoyed connecting with scholars during the retreats and I enjoyed going to World Youth Day in Spain.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I plan to work on human rights violations in different countries around the world.”

BRUKER A.
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY (ALBANY, NY)
BA IN ECONOMICS
PARISH: ERITREAN COMMUNITY-OUR LADY OF LOURDES, NYC
HIGH SCHOOL: ELISABETH IRWIN HIGH SCHOOL
“Their throughout my four years in college a lot of things have changed, whether it be academic or personal, the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program remained a constant support. The highlight of the scholarship program for me will always be the workshops and retreats. In our various universities and colleges, us scholars meet many smart individuals and make many friends. However, the network of diverse, intelligent, and passionate, faith-based young people that I have met, shared stories and meals with, will always be the most impactful. It is an experience that can never be overlooked. I am proud to be a Pierre Toussaint Scholar because I know that I am associated with some of the smartest young Catholic minds and a program built on academic excellence and spiritual growth. I wish my fellow graduating scholars all the best in their post-graduation ventures, however, I will not say goodbye as I look forward to keeping in touch and reuniting soon to share stories and break bread once again.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I applied to an Economics Masters Program and am currently waiting to hear back from UAlbany.”)
MACKENZIE D.
UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON (SCRANTON, PA)
BA IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PARISH: BLESSED SACRAMENT, STATEN ISLAND
HIGH SCHOOL: ST. JOSEPH HILL ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
“This program helped me greatly these past four years of college. Not only did it provide me with crucial financial help but it also provided me with great spiritual guidance. This program guided me in my spiritual life in many ways. I greatly appreciated the Morning Prayer Line because it helped me to start my day grateful for what I had, and with an open mind throughout the day. I also benefitted from the push to do more service in the community around me. This program was a constant reminder to get involved and take part in any service I could. I hope future and fellow scholars embrace this scholarship program and all that it offers. I hope it is a reminder to them about the grace of God and the importance of service.

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I plan to continue and advance my time in the military (Marine Corps Reserves). I also hope to work for the fire department or police department. I have already taken the FDNY test and the New York State Troopers test. I have also signed up for multiple Port Authority tests.”)

NANCY S.
COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT
(RIVERDALE, NY)
BA IN BIOLOGY
PARISH: ST. PAUL’S, HARLEM
HIGH SCHOOL: MANHATTAN CENTER FOR SCIENCE & MATH
“For the past four years, the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been a tremendous support system to me academically, personally, as well as, spiritually. Words can’t describe how grateful and blessed I feel to have the type of love and support I received from not only Leah and Br. Tyrone but from all the other PT Scholars. This program encouraged me to follow my dreams and pushed me to be the best version of me. Personally, receiving a check every semester was a miniscule detail of this program. I looked forward to each workshop, retreat and every service event presented to us. The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been home outside of home and I always thank God for giving me a second family that has given me unconditional love and support from day one.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I plan on taking the year off to prepare for medical school. During my year off, I plan to gain experience in hospitals, as well as, prepare for the MCATs.”)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES
CLASS OF 2018
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES
CLASS OF 2018

Additional Graduate:

ADAUGO E.
CORNELL UNIVERSITY (ITHACA, NY)
BS IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
PARISH: HOLY FAMILY, NEW ROCHELLE
HIGH SCHOOL: NEW ROCHELLE HIGH SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PROGRAM CHAPLAIN
FATHER KAREEM SMITH
ON HIS PRIESTLY ORDINATION
ON SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2018 AT ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL.
I’ve always had a heart for social justice and civic engagement, but the spirit of the Venerable Pierre Toussaint pushes me to work for more than what I already have. One of Pierre Toussaint’s greatest quotes is “I have enough for myself, but if I stop working I have not enough for others.” It’s definitely easy to sit around and do nothing since I have the privilege of being a college student and living in a neighborhood where I don’t have to worry about gun violence. However, inspired by Pierre Toussaint’s ethics I became motivated to help achieve a peace loving society.

Working in a civic engagement office at Pace University, I’ve always heard talk about how life-changing a march/rally is. When I heard about March For Our Lives I was hesitant to go because I was nervous about what to expect. Despite my hesitation, I thought to myself, “I live in a country that allows me to peacefully protest with freedom of speech so I need to check my privilege and go to the march.”

What I can definitely be certain about now is that attending a march is truly a life changing experience. It was welcoming to see so many people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds come together in a unified voice for such an important cause. Gun violence is no joke. It’s appalling and disgusting to see how far America has let it become.

For those that may argue “protesting and rallying won’t actually do anything,” it isn’t true. At the March, we chanted “Show us what democracy looks like. This is what democracy looks like” We live in a country in which we’re privileged to be able to protest peacefully. As a young leader in today’s society, it is so important that we voice our concerns and take action to shape the world into a loving, caring, and empathetic one to benefit us and future generations.

As a Pierre Toussaint scholar of 3 1/2 years, I have learned that my job isn’t only to be a scholar, but also to be leader within the community. This means being involved as a Catholic leader within the church, but it also means being a leader within the community by being proactive within local government and politics. It’s a privilege to be a PT scholar and we have to recognize that in order to embrace the spirit of Pierre Toussaint. Only then can we effect change in this world.
The Annual Venerable Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. Pierre Toussaint Scholars & Alumni volunteered throughout the evening. A panel of scholars and alumni were interviewed during the evening’s program by the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. David Ushery, Emmy Award winning reporter and Co-Anchor of WNBC 4 New York News. Alumnus, Danica Brown, Esq., presented an award to Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of New York, on behalf of the PTSF, for their Centennial Anniversary. Catholic Charities continues to be a staunch supporter of the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund, Program and Scholars.
The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund (PTSF) and Program was established in 1983 and administered by the Archdiocese of New York, Office of Black Ministry. PTSF has provided scholarships to graduating high school seniors of diverse backgrounds from public, private and parochial schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York, to assist them with the educational fees and expenses associated with their college studies. Students selected into the PTSF are chosen based on their strong academic record, their active participation with their parish and school communities, and their demonstration of good character and sound leadership ability. Scholarship awards are renewable for subsequent, consecutive years of undergraduate and graduate studies, based upon their meeting certain academic and service requirements. PTSF also provides the scholars with ongoing mentorship and advisement: spiritually, professionally and personally.

To obtain more information regarding and /or to support the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund contact the office at 646-794-2681 or via email at obm@archny.org.

THE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS A MINISTRY GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE BLACK & INDIAN MISSION OFFICE...
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THANK YOU TO ALL THE SUPPORTERS OF BOTH, VERY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND APPEALS!