

Remember. Celebrate. Live.

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH

NOVEMBER

This month, we're honoring the men and women from Africa who have pioneered the faith! Many forget that Christianity didn't start in Europe. Black Catholics have had a huge impact on the history and traditions of Christianity. The church has been celebrating Black Catholic History Month since 1990 when the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States instigated it. November seemed appropriate because it holds special days for two prominent African Catholics: **St. Augustine** whose birthday is on November 13, and **St. Martin de Porres** whose feast day is celebrated on November 3. Three popes: Saints Victor I, Melchiades, and Gelasius I—were born in Africa and led the early church through much turmoil. There are also many Black Catholic saints (Monica of Hippo, Augustine of Hippo, Perpetua, and Felicitas to name a few) and leaders (such as Rev. Augustus Tolton and Daniel Rudd) whose actions and witnesses of faith helped shape the church into what it is today.

The **six African-Americans** who are currently considered for sainthood include: **Augustus Tolton**, the first African American priest in the United States; **Mary Lange**, founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first order of black nuns in the U.S.; **Henriette Delille**, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family, the second order of black nuns in the U.S.; **Pierre Toussaint**, an entrepreneur, whose benevolence helped create the first catholic school for black children in New York City; **Julia Greeley**, a formerly enslaved woman, whose work on behalf of the indigent aided many during Reconstruction; and **Sister Thea Bowman**, a renowned educator and member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in LaCrosse, WI.



Augustus Tolton



Mary Lange



Henriette Delille



Pierre Toussaint



Julia Greeley



Sister Thea Bowman