



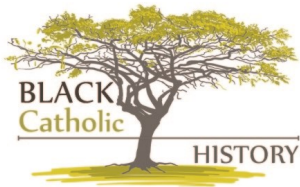
African
American
Affairs
Ministry
Diocese of
Charlotte

African American Affairs Ministry Diocese of Charlotte

Fall 2020
Vol. I

Black Catholic History Month

Uniquely Black: Uniquely Catholic



July 24, 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics.

The reason behind the selection of the month of November was the number of important dates to Catholics of African descent that fell within this month.

Nov. 1 - All Saints Day: an opportunity to review the lives of the hundreds of Saints of African descent in the first 300 years of the Church.

Nov. 2 - All Souls Day: a time to remember all those African lost to cruel treatment in the Middle Passage crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.

Nov. 3 - Martin de Porres became the first black American saint. He was canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 16, 1962. Throughout his life, St. Martin de Porres exemplified God's love for all people, regardless of their level in society.

Nov. 13 - The birth of St. Augustine in 354 A.D., the first Doctor of the Church from North Africa.

Nov. 20 - The death of Zumbi of Palmares in Brazil, South American founder of a free state for Blacks.

Black Catholic History began in the Acts of the Apostles (8: 26-40) with the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch by Philip the Deacon. This text is important for several reasons.

- ♦ It chronicles the conversion of the first Black African in recorded Christian history.
- ♦ The text suggests that the man was a wealthy, literate, and powerful emissary of the Nubian Queen and also a faithful, practicing Jew prior to his baptism. Clearly, he was not an ignorant heathen.
- ♦ The Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion predates the conversions of Saints Paul and Cornelius. Most significantly, many cite this conversion as the very moment when the church changed from a Hebrew and Hellenist community to the truly universal and Catholic Church.



The Baptism of the Eunuch

By Rembrandt - postcard, Public Domain,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7417249>

Black Catholic History Month Cont...

Black Catholics trace their faith history back to Christian antiquity long before other nations heard the "Good News." Christian Africa was a "leading light" in early Christendom.

Three popes who were born in Africa have been historically referenced by Black Catholics:

• **Saint Victor I** • **Melchiades**
• **Gelasius I**

All three shepherded the early church through tough and tumultuous times in history.

In addition, mystics, monastics, martyrs and saints like Cyprian, Zeno, Anthony of Egypt, Moses the Black, Pachomius the Great, Maurice, Athanasius, Pistentius, Mary of Egypt, Cyril of Alexandria, Monica of Hippo, Augustine of Hippo, Perpetua and Felicitas literally made the church what it is today.

King Nzinga-a-Nkuwu Mbemba (Afonso the Good) of the Kongo and his subjects made their

Profession of Faith thanks to the work of Portuguese missionaries one year before Christopher Columbus made his famous voyage in 1492. Pope Leo X consecrated the king's son Henrique; Titular Bishop of Utica in 1518 which was one year before Martin Luther nailed his list of ninety-five theses to the Church in Wittenberg. Bishop Henrique was the first native bishop of West Africa. He died in 1531.

The genocidal slave trade killed true evangelization in sub-Saharan Africa for several centuries.

Notwithstanding the moral crimes of chattel slavery, the French and Spanish missionaries ministered to their free and enslaved African population within their respective colonies. This ministry laid the foundation for Black Catholic communities within the United States, i.e. Mobile, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Saint Augustine, Florida.

Tragically, the American Catholic Church did not seriously commit its time and resources to minister to the African-American population during the ante-bellum or post-bellum periods. In spite of insurmountable obstacles and opposition, African-American Catholics created a remarkable movement of faith and evangelization. Many courageous people played pivotal roles within church history like Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Mathilda Beasley, Daniel Rudd, and the Reverend Augustus Tolton. They witnessed their faith, ministered to their people, and left lasting legacies in the face of prejudice, ignorance, and indifference. One cannot read their stories without feeling tremendous joy, sorrow, and inspiration.

Black History Month provides opportunities to learn and share the whole history and rich heritage of Christian Catholicism.

Learn more about Black Catholic History:

Timeline of U.S. Black Catholic history <https://www.nbccongress.org/history-of-black-catholics.html>

Read :

"In the beginning, there were Black Catholics" A 1993 conversation with Fr. Cyprian Davis and the editors of U.S. Catholic to talk about Black Catholic history and the future of the Black Catholic Church <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202010/in-the-beginning-there-were-black-catholics/>

"The History of Black Catholics in the United States" by Cyprian Davis

Article reprinted from Archdiocese of Washington and The National Black Catholic Congress
<https://adw.org/media-events/events/black-catholic-history-month/>
<https://www.nbccongress.org/>

Pray the Black Catholic History Rosary

© by Dr. Kirk P. Gaddy, July 4, 2014.

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our Father (The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
Amen

The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

The Glory Be (Doxology)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end.
Amen

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy: Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Joyful Mysteries: Education/Social/Economic Justice

- ◇ Dedicated To Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, OSP
- ◇ Dedicated to Venerable Henriette DeLille, SSF
- ◇ Dedicated to Venerable Pierre Toussaint
- ◇ Dedicated to Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton
- ◇ Dedicated to Daniel Rudd

Luminous Mysteries: 50th Anniversaries of Civil Rights Causes

- ◇ Dedicated to the March on Washington
- ◇ Dedicated to the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- ◇ Dedicated to the March from Selma to Montgomery "Bloody Sunday"
- ◇ Dedicated to the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- ◇ Dedicated to the Religious Orders of Men and Women Who Risked Their Lives in the Struggle for Civil Rights

Sorrowful Mysteries: Historical Documents from Black Catholics

- ◇ In Thanksgiving for "Brothers and Sisters to Us"
- ◇ In Thanksgiving for "What We Have Seen and Heard"
- ◇ In Memory of "Rise N Shine."
- ◇ In Thanksgiving for "Lead Me Guide Me!" the Black Catholic Hymnal
- ◇ In Thanksgiving for the Office of Cultural Diversity in the Catholic Church at the USCCB

Glorious Mysteries: The Black Catholic Response

- ◇ Founding of the Black Clergy Caucus
- ◇ Founding of the National Black Sisters' Conference
- ◇ Founding of the National Black Seminarians Association
- ◇ Founding of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators
- ◇ Founding of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies of Xavier University in Louisiana



St Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

Celebrating Eighty years of Prayer, Education and Service in the East Winston Community of Winston Salem



St Benedict the Moor Catholic Church
Winston Sale, NC

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church is a multiethnic and multicultural church, charged with serving the spiritual needs of Catholics in and beyond the East Winston community of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, Winston Salem NC was established in 1940 to serve the African American Catholics living in Winston-Salem's East Winston community. It was named in honor of St. Benedict the Moor ; a Franciscan Friar who lived a holy life of prayer and charity and is the patron saint of African Americans.

The church was founded by Bishop Eugene McGuiness, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh and placed under the direction of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans). Father Ronald Scott, O.F.M was the founding pastor and was a pioneer missionary among the Afro-American people in the South from 1933 to 1945.

A local attorney and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Hosea V. Price and approximately 11 Black Catholics assisted Father Scott in establishing the parish. The first masses were celebrated in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Price. As the congregation grew, the Masses were moved to Robinson Funeral Home with the first Mass being celebrated at the funeral home on November 24, 1940.



Interior of Howard Robinson
Funeral

On April 26, 1940, property for a church, parish hall, and rectory were purchased from the estate of Bishop Kyles of the AME Zion Church. The property, located at Twelfth Street and Hattie Avenue still remains the present site of St. Benedict the Moor Church and Rectory. St Benedict the Moor was dedicated by Bishop McGuiness on September 7, 1941.

August 1943 Father Scott was joined by Father Francis Gorman to assist in ministering the growing church. After eight years the number of parishioners had grown to over one hundred.



September 7, 1946 St. Anne's Academy was opened under the leadership of the Sisters of St. Francis of Allegany, New York.

The academy, convent and the residence for the girls was dedicated by Bishop Waters on September 29, 1946. September 1950 under the direction of the Franciscan Sisters, St. Benedict Grammar School was opened with 116 students. By 1958, 250 students were enrolled in a program that worked toward academic excellence in an environment that called them to a Christian way of life. The school closed in 1979 because of dwindling enrollment and increasing operational costs.

In 1969 St. Benedict the Moor assumed responsibility for its first mission. Our Lady of Fatima Chapel was opened in downtown Winston-Salem N.C. as a "chapel of ease". Our Lady of Fatima Chapel is now a mission of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

In 1970 Catholics to the east in Kernersville became the second mission of St. Benedict the Moor until 1973 when it was raised to the status of a parish and became Holy Cross Catholic Church.

In August 1987, Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt was named pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem and Good Shepherd Church became a mission church and remains a current mission.

In 1990 the support to the Hispanic community started which was also known as the “migrant ministry”. The migrant ministry referred to the Yadkin County migrant population who worked the tobacco farms and agricultural seasonal work. The church dispensed food and clothes to the families and had an amnesty program. In 1999 the first Mass was celebrated for the Latino community under Father Larry Hunt.

In the summer of 2004 the Community Knowledge Center was established at the church that was sponsored by Winston-Salem State University that offered classes for senior citizens, tutoring for middle school students and income tax service for the Hispanic community.

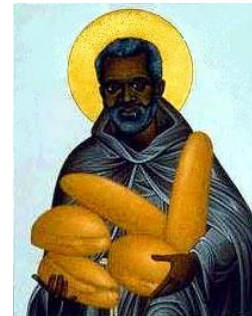
St Benedict the Moor places a high commitment on community involvement. The Parish is involved in The Crisis Control Ministry, The Red Cross Donor Program, Samaritan Soup Kitchen, Narcotic Anonymous and Community Watch Meetings, they operate a food pantry and computer lab.

- Article: St. Benedict the Moor History Committee

- Photos: St. Benedict the Moor History Committee, Catholic News and Herald

Church Address

1625 E 12th St,
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
<http://saintbenedictthemoor.org/>





St Benedict the Moor
Patron Saint of African Americans

“The spirit of St. Benedict the Moor is the source of our identity and purpose and we the parishioners hold to the sacred hospitality personified in our patron saint, with our African American heritage, European heritage, Latin American heritage and African heritage as a community of Catholics that gives honor to God in different languages and cultures”.

The Season of Advent

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of spiritual preparation by the faithful before Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It spans four Sundays and four weeks of preparation. The importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin adventus, meaning coming).

 ADVENT CALENDAR 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 29 The First Sunday of Advent Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	30 Make a resolution at the start of this liturgical year that will bring you closer to Christ.	December 1 Today is Giving Tuesday! Many of our parishes have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consider making a recurring gift to your parish.	2 Use this Advent season to ready your heart for Jesus. In what ways can you improve your relationship with him?	3 Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest In honor of St. Francis Xavier, one of the first Jesuits, try the practice of the Daily Examen .	4 "Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of the worth of every human person, always and everywhere." (Pope Francis, <i>Fraterni Tuti</i> , no. 106)	5 Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation of the birth of Christ. It can be easy to lose sight of this, focusing more on gift giving and receiving. Set aside time to pray with your family, even virtually, to refocus on the greatest gift.
6 The Second Sunday of Advent Today, churches hold a special collection for retired religious . Pray for these dedicated servants of Christ as you light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath.	7 Today is the Memorial of St. Ambrose, one of the Doctors of the Church. He baptized St. Augustine and is the patron saint of catechumens. Today, pray for those seeking to join the Church.	8 On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception , attend Mass and pray the Hail Mary before meals. As Mary is also the patroness of the U.S., take time to pray for our country today.	9 This year has been challenging for many. Bring joy to someone today. Text or call a friend, help a stranger in need, or share today's Gospel with your loved ones.	10 Walking with Moms in Need encourages us to "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need and to learn how we can help. Take the pledge today!	11 "In some areas of our cities, there is still a lively sense of neighborhood.... Where people experience a closeness marked by gratitude, solidarity and reciprocity." (Pope Francis, <i>Fraterni Tuti</i> , no. 152) Seek out volunteer opportunities in your neighborhood this week.	12 On her feast day, pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe , that she may "help us never to see others as burdens," especially migrants to our country and communities.
13 The Third Sunday of Advent Today is Gaudete Sunday when we shift our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." Rejoice as you light the pink candle on your Advent wreath.	14 Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church There are 10 days left in Advent. In honor of a saint known for his deep spirituality and compassion, reflect honestly on your own spiritual journey so far this season.	15 "As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others." (Pope Francis, <i>Fraterni Tuti</i> , no. 89) How can you embrace others today?	16 Las Posadas , a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Pray for migrants seeking shelter around the world.	17 Today marks the beginning of the " O Antiphons ." This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century.	18 In today's Gospel we are reminded of St. Joseph's courage. Reflect on how God is calling you to demonstrate courage in serving him.	19 What's your favorite Christmas movie? Gather your friends or family (in-person or virtually) and watch a Christmas classic .
20 The Fourth Sunday of Advent "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" (Lk 1:38) Mary had complete trust in God, saying "yes" to his will. How would you describe your trust in God?	21 St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas crèche, or manger, for Christmas Eve of 1223. Gather your loved ones, and bless your family's crèche .	22 "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph themselves were refugees in Egypt... with whom Christian migrants and refugees throughout the ages can identify, giving them hope and courage." (USCCB, <i>Strangers No Longer</i> , no. 26) How can you welcome the stranger today?	23 According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this blessing with your family and friends.	24 "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free." (Lk 1:68)		

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Celebrate Advent using these resources! <https://catholiccurrent.org/resources-for-advent/>



Advent Calendar printed from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/advent>

Are you interested or know someone who is interested in a Catholic Education for their child/children?
Financial Aid is available for qualifying families
Now is the time to start your preparations for the 2021 school year!!



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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Pre K - 12

*Are you looking for a Catholic
environment for the Education of
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- 19 Catholic Schools offering an outstanding education
- Financial aid available for qualifying families

MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Angelica Hurtado
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aahurtado@charlottediocese.org

Resource Organizations

Information is only a click away. You just need to know where to go!!!!



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) <https://www.usccb.org/>



The National Black Catholic Congress <https://www.nbccongress.org/>



The Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS) <https://blackcatholictheologicalsymposium.org/>



The Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs>



The Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver <https://www.kofpc.org/>



The National Association of Black Catholic Administrators <http://nabccatholic.org/>



The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life <http://blackcatholicsforlife.org/>



The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC) <https://nbccc.cc/>



The National Black Catholic Seminarians Association <https://gjorda9.wixsite.com/nbcsa>



The National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) <https://www.nbsc68.com/>



The Josephites <https://www.josephites.org/>

Combating Racism Websites

- ◇ The US Conference of Catholic Bishops - <http://www.usccb.org/>
- * Combating Racism - Educational Resources - <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/educational-resources-on-racism.cfm>
- * Combating Racism - Parish Resources - <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/parish-resources-on-racism.cfm>
- ◇ We are Salt and Light - <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/>
- ◇ Pax Christi USA: The National Catholic Peace Movement - <https://paxchristiusa.org/>

Online Events

- ◇ National Black Catholic Congress Webinars - <https://www.nbccongress.org/nbcc-webinar-series.html>
- ◇ Podcasts to Feed the Black Soul - <https://www.nbccongress.org/podcasts.html>
- ◇ Video Archives - <https://www.nbccongress.org/video-archives.html>

National/International Events

December 2020

- ◇ December 26-January 1, 2021 – Kwanzaa

April 2021

- ◇ Apr 23rd - 25th 2021 Annual Black Catholic Retreat
<https://www.nbccongress.org/calendar-of-upcoming-events.html>

August 2021

- ◇ August 25 - August 28, 2021 - National Council of Catholic Women Convention <https://www.usccb.org/events/2021/national-council-catholic-women-convention>

August 2023

- ◇ August - World Youth Day, Lisbon Portugal

***Spiritual Enlightenment
Outreach***

***Awareness
Evangelization***



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