



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Secretariat for Evangelization

Office for Black Catholics

222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Pierre Toussaint Black Catholic High School Senior Leadership Award

The *Pierre Toussaint Black Catholic High School Senior Leadership Award* is intended to assist two outstanding Black Catholic High School seniors graduating from an Archdiocesan High School or Philadelphia Public\Charter School. The Toussaint Award will be awarded to students whose leadership, volunteerism, community involvement, integrity, and faith life are emblematic of Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

Venerable Pierre Toussaint, an enslaved person, was brought from Haiti to New York City where he was apprenticed under a popular hairstylist. He eventually became the most sought after hairdresser of high society women. Upon the death of his master, he gained his freedom and was very successful as one of the country's first black entrepreneurs. He became quite wealthy. However, instead of spending his money lavishly on himself, he committed himself to many charitable causes: he and his wife sheltered orphans, refugees, and other street people in their home, and he raised money for the city's first cathedral. Even during yellow fever epidemics, Toussaint risked his life to help others by nursing the sick and praying with the dying.

Recipients of this award are selected based upon academic excellence, community service, leadership skills, and active involvement in their school, community, and parish. Two high achieving college bound high school seniors will be selected to receive a laptop for their collegiate studies.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a graduating high school senior within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Must be a Black Catholic
- Must be accepted into an institution of higher learning (College/University/Technical School)
- High academic performance (*GPA 3.0 or above*)
- Must provide a copy of official school high school transcript
- Letter of Recommendation from Pastor
- Letter from School (Teacher or School Administrator)
- Letter or Recommendation from Club Moderator or Service Organization

Selection Criteria

- Completion of the Application
- **Exceptional academic ability and achievement:** Strong academic record, academic awards and honors (a commitment to learning).
- **Service with Others:** Purposeful and meaningful commitment to others which may be evidenced by participation in volunteer/community service activities or civic engagement.
- **Leadership:** Ability to organize and positively influence others in and out of school (family, parish/school community, sports).
- Proof of enrollment/acceptance into an institution of higher learning
- **Deadline for submission is Friday, April 12, 2019 at 12:00PM**

Office for Black Catholics
215.587-3541 or fr.rowens@archphila.org

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STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

College/University you plan to attend: _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

High School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Parish: _____ Pastor: _____

Parent/Guardian: Mother's Name _____ Father's Name _____

1. Describe how you are involved in your church parish.
2. Co-Curricular/Extra-curricular activities - include offices and positions of leadership; state name of organization(s), position, and year
3. Describe the leadership, volunteer service/community engagement in which you are involved.
4. Identify awards or honors you have received (state nature of honor or award).
5. Please respond to the questions below in essay form on separate paper, no more than 500 words, preferably typed. Attach all separate sheets to your application.
 - Do you know what you want to study beyond high school? If so, why this area of study
 - What are your longer term goals in life? What are your hopes and dreams?
 - Why you should be considered for the scholarship based on goals you have set for yourself spiritually, academically, and personally
 - Pierre Toussaint was a person that despite obstacles was still able to become successful. Can you share an obstacle you faced and overcome? How might you use the lessons you learned and skills you developed in overcoming this obstacle in your college career

Mail Completed Application Packets to:
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