



Office for Black Catholics
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS



BE WATCHFUL
STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH
ACT LIKE MEN
BE STRONG
LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE
IN LOVE

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The Venerable Father Augustus Tolton

1854-1897



Father Augustus Tolton was the first black priest in the United States. Born in 1854 in Missouri, he was a former slave who was baptized as an infant and raised Catholic.

After studying at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, Father Tolton was ordained to the holy priesthood in the Basilica of St. John Lateran upon the Easter Vigil of 1886. He offered his first public Mass a day later in St. Peter's Basilica.

Upon returning to the United States, Father Tolton was assigned to the Diocese of Alton in Illinois, and first ministered to his home parish in the City of Quincy.

Eventually he was sent to Chicago, where he was charged with establishing St. Monica's Church on the city's South Side as a "national parish" for black Catholics.

Father Tolton's success at ministering to black Catholics quickly earned him national attention within the Catholic hierarchy. "Good Father Gus," as he was called by many, was known for his "eloquent sermons, his beautiful singing voice, and his talent for playing the accordion."

On July 9, 1897, Father Tolton died in the hospital after having collapsed the day previous due to the summer heat wave in Chicago. He was 43 years old.

Father Tolton's cause of canonization was initiated in 2010 by Archbishop Francis Cardinal George of Chicago. In 2019, Pope Francis granted Father Tolton the title of "Venerable."

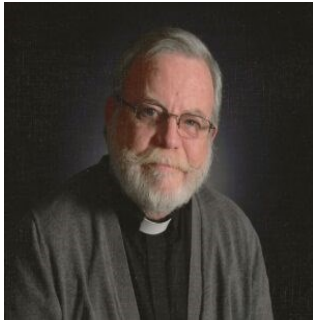
For more information on the life of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton visit the website at:

Tolton.archchicago.org

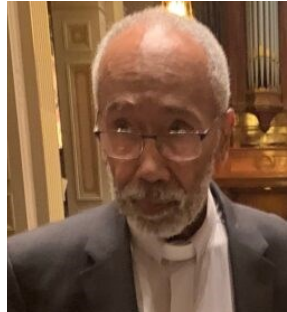
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Holy Cross Parish

A Catholic Community in Mt. Airy



Fr. Bill Grogan, Pastor



Deacon Edward Purnell



Fr. Rayford Emmons, Parochial Vicar

Holy Cross Parish is a combination of Holy Cross Church, St. Madeleine Sophie, and St. Therese of the Child Jesus. The transition from 3 parishes to 1 parish has taken time, energy and understanding from everyone for this hybrid to function properly. The direction of Fr. William E. Grogan and the men, women, and children of the parish make this a place where HOPE LIVES! When the pandemic came to the United States, Fr. Grogan kept the church open so that people had a quiet place to sit and pray. It was a decision that the parish as well as neighbor appreciated.

Holy Cross has a vibrant community ready to pitch in and meet the needs of its parishioners as well as those who stop by the food pantry on Tuesdays between 10 am and noon. The food pantry was run by Deacon Richard Coyne, as illness took him away from this ministry another stepped forward to fill the gap. Mrs. Elizabeth Walker organized and streamlined operations and the pantry itself. She partnered with the local Acme Market as well as Weaver's Way Co-Op in Chestnut Hill, and their own parishioners to keep the pantry filled. At Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter the pantry can furnish the fixings for the holiday meal for those who need it most. Mrs. Walker has stepped down and Ms. Diana Wood has taken the helm as she and her volunteers render service to the community.

Holy Cross has been blessed to have Mr. Darin Williams as its DRE. In 2020 when the pandemic hit Philadelphia he held PREP Classes, Pre-Jordan, First Communion, and Confirmation classes virtually.

The Ladies Guild has sponsored trips to the Live Scripture plays and events so that children as well as young adults can meet God in a different and more exciting way. One of the ladies writes an article each week, STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH, All of God's Creation. This is a reminder that God still speaks to all of us, especially for Climate Change, Racism, etc.

There is a Social Justice arm to Holy Cross that keeps the parish informed about injustices that do not always make the national or local news.

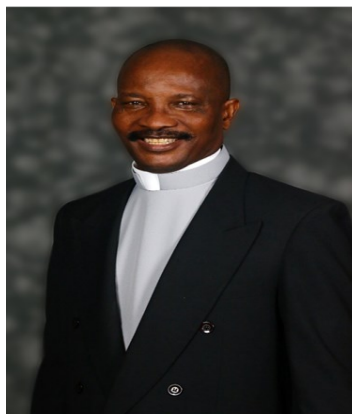


140 E. Mt. Airy Ave. Mass Schedule: Saturday-5pm, Sunday, 9am (live stream), 11am, 6pm

www.holycrossphl.org



Archdiocese
of
Philadelphia



*WITH PRAISE AND
THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD,
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
JOYFULLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE
ORDINATION OF*

SAMUEL O. UJOR

*TO THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACON
THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF HANDS
AND THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BY*

*THE MOST REVEREND NELSON J. PEREZ, D.D.
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA*

*CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF Ss. PETER & PAUL
AND THE SHRINE OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
1723 Race Street*

*SATURDAY JUNE 12, 2021
10:00 A.M.*

VIA LIVESTREAM

*FACEBOOK.COM/ArchPhila
FACEBOOK.COM/StCharlesSem*

The Third Encyclical of Pope Francis

"Fratelli Tutti"

FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP



In "Fratelli tutti" the Pope Francis underlines that in the common house we all live as one family and proposes concrete actions to restore the world and overcome the ailments generated by the pandemic crisis, which has now become a health, economic, social and political crisis: peace, because no work will be possible if nations and peoples continue to fight each other; dialogue, because each one finds its completeness in the other; the strengthening of multilateralism and no to any kind of war; the fight against the globalisation of indifference and the promotion of social inclusion.

To purchase: [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or visit website: www.humandevlopment.va/en/fratelli-tutti.html

Pray 4 Philly

June 1, 2021—September 1, 2021

93 DAYS OF PRAYER

*Coming together in
Unification to work towards
Decreasing gun violence in
The city of Philadelphia
For further information go to: pray4philly.com*

PAST THE WORD

If you know of anyone who would like to be a part of our Office For Black Catholics database,

email Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS

sr.lralph@archphila.org

Mr. James E. Andrews, Director

Sister Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS, Coordinator/Editor

Updates: 84576 text black

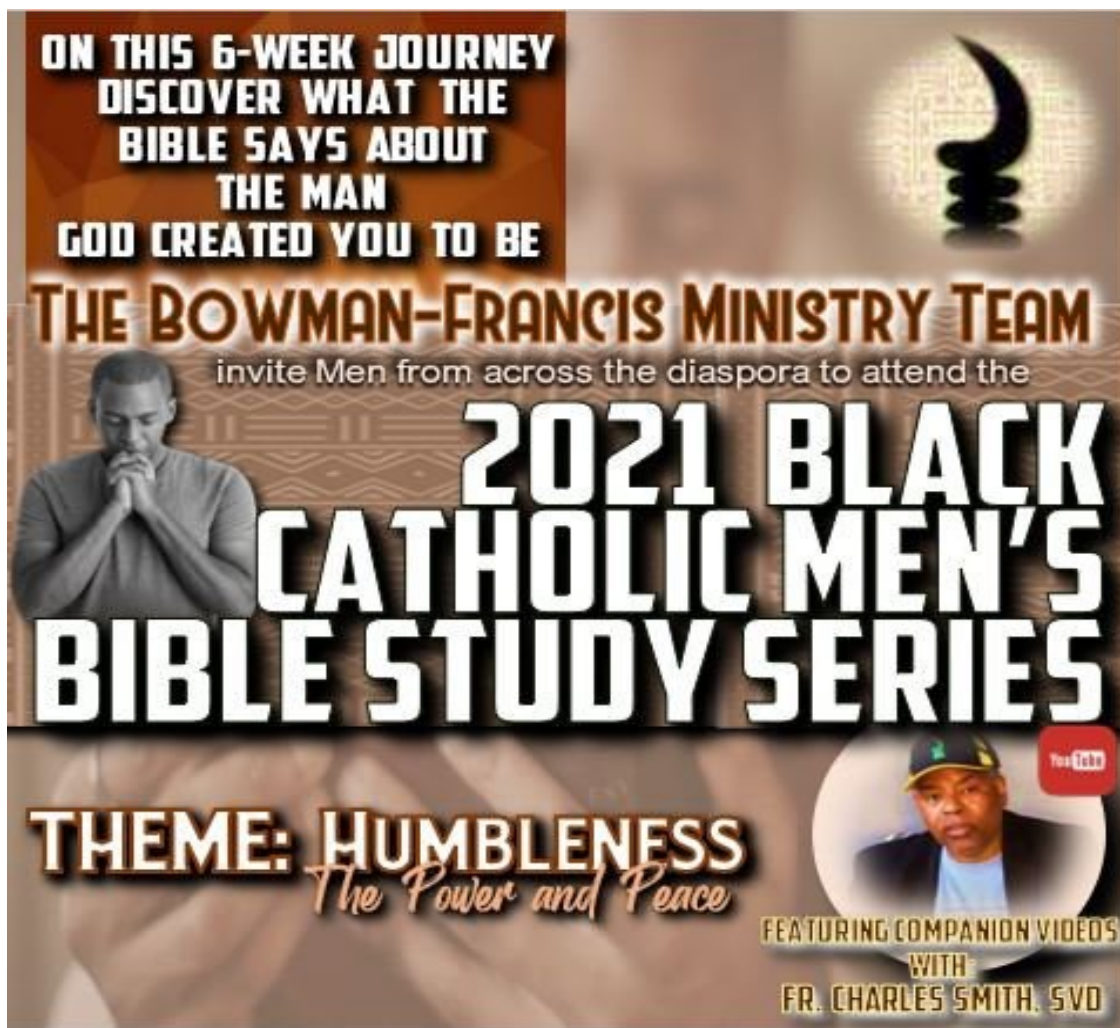
June, 2021 Newsletter

The Bowman-Francis Ministry Team

Join the Bowman-Francis Ministry Team as we embark on this Men's Bible Study Series. The guided curriculum provides engaging lessons that will equip the men with basic biblical disciplines that lead to spiritual growth. They include current and culturally relevant topics that Black Catholic men are facing today. Each lesson clearly connects the truth of God's Word to the life of the user and presents a choice for life transformation. Also, we have provided a teaching tool with companion video series featuring Fr. Charles that will be emailed weekly and will heighten the Black consciousness of the study guide which can be found on the website. Together we will use our Lenten Bible Study Series Guide, coupled with companion videos by Fr. Charles Smith, SVD. As a bonus for this series, Fr. Charles will answer questions weekly live via ZOOM where participants will pray, share encouraging discussions, and highlight our Black Catholic manhood.

Registration: www.bowmanfrancis.org

Father Charles Smith, SVD



Mark your calendars for WEDNESDAYS beginning June 2nd thru July 7th, 2021 and join us on ZOOM for a debrief with Fr. Charles Smith, SVD at 7:00 PM EDT (6:00 PM CDT; 4:00 PM PDT). Connect with like-minded Black Catholic men from across the diaspora and reconnect with God. Don't forget to bring a pen & paper, your Bible and a friend.