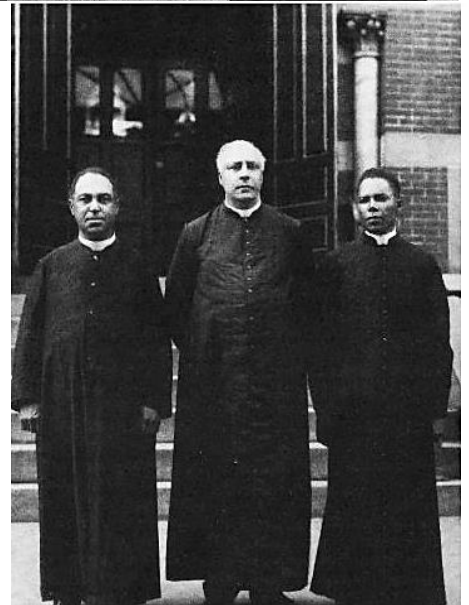




# **BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY**

**ARCHDIOCESE  
of  
BALTIMORE**



***A Celebration of Prayer and Praise***

***&***

***A Glimpse of Rich History***

**November 2, 2020**

On the cover page:

*From left to right*

Mother Mary Lange, O.S.P., founder and first superior of the Oblate Sisters of Providence (1829).

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first Roman Catholic priest in the United States publicly known to be black when he was ordained in 1886.

Fr. Charles Randolph Uncles (in the middle), a Josephite priest who became the very first African American ordained as a Catholic priest in the United States born in 1859.

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Archbishop Curley and the Oblate Sisters of Providence gathered at the cathedral for their hundredth anniversary in 1929.

Mother Consuela Clifford, O.S.P., superior general, is shown standing on the right of the archbishop.

*Photo courtesy of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Baltimore*



# National Black Catholic History Month

## Prayer Service

*In honor of the cause for the canonization of  
Mother Mary Lange, O.S.P.*

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

Welcome/Call to Worship

Reading I

Wisdom 3:1-9

Reading II

Romans 6:3-9

Gospel

Reflection

The Prayer of the Faithful

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Meditation Song

Prayer for the Beatification of Mother Mary Lange

Blessing and Dismissal

Closing Song



The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed  
(All Souls)

**Reading I - Wisdom 3:1-9**

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;  
chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
they shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the LORD shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed  
(All Souls)

**Reading II - Romans 6:3-9**

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus  
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,  
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,  
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,  
so that our sinful body might be done away with,  
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;  
death no longer has power over him.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed  
(All Souls)

**Gospel - John 6:37-40**

Jesus said to the crowds:

“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,  
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,  
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will  
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,  
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,  
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,  
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him  
may have eternal life,  
and I shall raise him on the last day.”

## **PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER MARY LANGE**

O Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endowed her with humility, courage, holiness and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and sick. You enabled her to found the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provide educational, social and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (here mention your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

**Nihil Obstat**  
**Msgr. Carroll Satterfield**  
**Censor Librorum**  
**Archdiocese of Baltimore**

**Imprimatur**  
**His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler, DD**  
**Archdiocese of Baltimore**  
**November 15, 1991**



## **November as National Black Catholic History Month**

On 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. Two commemorative dates fall within this month, Saint Augustine's Birthday (November 13) and Saint Martin de Porres' Feast Day (November 3). More importantly, November not only marks a time when we pray for all saints and souls in loving remembrance, but also a time to recall the saints and souls of Africa and the African Diaspora.

### Ways to Celebrate

- **Exhibit symbols that reflect African-American Culture**  
*Pictures, religious symbols, kente cloth, Bible enthronements Ex: Jesus Mafa (posters of Black Biblical Scenes)*
- **Highlight Black Catholic Role Models**
  - Mother Mary Lange, Sr. Thea Bowman, Fr. Augustus Tolton, Saints, local people
- **Write essays or present plays about Black Catholics**
- **Create/Develop/Design Liturgy Celebrations/Prayer Services**
  - Invite Black priests, sisters, deacons, and lay leaders to celebrate prayer services and other activities with the young people of your parish
- **Incorporate music from Lead Me, Guide Me, the African-American Catholic Hymnal**
- **Recite/Create a Prayer for Various Black Saints**
- **Display the African-American Josephite Calendar**

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRAYER**

### **GOD OF MERCY AND GOD OF LOVE**

we place our African American Families before you today.

May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid  
a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one, and keep our hearts and  
minds fixed on higher ground.

Help us to live for You and not for ourselves and may we cherish and proclaim  
the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians, grandparent's relatives and friends  
Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Help us as your children to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness  
of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do.

Give a healing anointing to those who are less fortunate, especially the  
motherless, the fatherless, the homeless, the broken, the sick and the lonely.

Bless our departed family members and friends.

May they be led into the light of your dwelling place,  
where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption  
and shout the victory for all eternity.

This we ask in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance.  
Amen.

(Composed by Fr. James Goode, OFM, Evangelist)

For more information about the National Day of Prayer for the African American  
and African Family visit:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/national-day-prayer-african-american-family>



### **Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776-1853)**

Venerable Pierre Toussaint was born a slave in Haiti. Philanthropist & Founder of many Catholic charitable works. He is buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He is the first layperson to be buried there.

### **Mother Mary Lange, O.S.P., Servant of God (1784-1882)**

Mother Mary Lange was the foundress and first Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence (1829-1832), the first congregation of African American women religious in the history of the Catholic Church. She is believed to be Cuban born of Haitian descent.

### **Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862)**

Venerable Henriette Delille was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she lived all of her life. In 1842, she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family. This was the second congregation of African-American women religious in the USA.

### **Fr. Augustus Tolton (1854-1897)**

Fr. Augustus Tolton was the first Roman Catholic priest in the United States publicly known to be black when he was ordained in 1886. A former slave who was baptized and reared Catholic, Tolton studied formally in Rome. He was ordained at St. John Lateran (Rome).

### **Julia Greeley (1833 and 1848-1918)**

Julia Greeley was born into slavery, at Hannibal, Missouri, sometime between 1833 and 1848. Freed by Missouri's Emancipation Act in 1865, she joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901 and was active in it till her death in 1918. She is buried in Denver's Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

### **Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA (1937-1990)**

Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA was born in 1937 and reared in Canton, Mississippi. As a

child she converted to Catholicism. She was a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration. During her short lifetime (52 years), she was dedicated to preparing priests and seminarians working in the African-American parishes and institutions in the USA.

<https://www.nbccongress.org/history-of-black-catholics.html>

### ***To learn more about Black Catholic History...***

#### **Resources**

##### **Books:**

1. First and Forever: The Archdiocese of Baltimore-A People's History by Rafael Alvarez published by Editions du Signe- info@editionsdusigne.fr
2. The History of Black Catholics in the United States by Rev. Cyprian Davis, OSB , 1990, The Crossroad Publishing Company, New York, NY 10017
3. Persons of Color and Religious at The Same Time: The Oblate Sisters of Providence, 1828-1860 by Diane Batts Morrow in 2002, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London
4. The Premier See: A History of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, 1789-1989 by Thomas W. Spalding in 1989, The Johns Hopkins University and Press
5. Stamped With The Image of God: African Americans as God's Image in Black, Editors include Rev. Cyprian Davis, OSB and Sr. Dr. Jamie Phelps, Op; includes a segment entitle "American Catholic Identities: A Documentary History by Christopher J. Kauffman- Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York, 10545 in the year of 2003.
6. What We Have Seen and Heard: Essays and Stories of Black Catholics in Baltimore by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Office of Black Catholic Ministries, Therese Wilson Favors- editor.
7. Keep On Teaching Black Catholic History (2012) by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Office of Black Catholic Ministries, Therese Wilson Favors- editor

8. Commemorative Journal; The Josephites and the African American Community: Baltimore and Washington D.C, 1871-1996

DVDs:

1. “America’s Basilica” by the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2011, John E. Ball Productions, Inc
2. “Continuing the Journey” by the Office and Board of African American Catholic Ministries (– 410- 625-8472) in 2010 formatted by Destiny Productions
3. “Enduring Faith” produced by Daybreak TV Productions
4. “The Mother Seton House and the Historic Seminary Chapel” produced in 2010 by the Associated Sulpicians of the United States.

Black Catholic Saints:

The National Catholic Reporter - <https://www.ncronline.org/feature-series/black-saints/stories>

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

## **Historical Sites- Baltimore Metropolitan Area**

### **1. St. Mary's Spiritual Center and Historic Site**

(Visit Chapelle Basse- Lower Chapel where Mother Lange and early Black Catholics, prayed , worshiped and catechized. Sr. M. Paul Lee, OSP said it was “holy ground” and would never enter into the Chapel without taking off her shoes.)

600 N. Paca Street, Baltimore, MD. 21201

410-728-6464

### **2. Josephite Fathers and Brothers- House of Central Administration and Archives**

1130 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202

410-727-3386

### **3. Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Cathedral and Mulberry Streets, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-727-3564 Website: [www.baltimorebasilica.org](http://www.baltimorebasilica.org)

### **4. Historic, St. Francis Xavier Church**

Caroline and Oliver Streets, Baltimore, MD. 21213

410-727-3103

### **5. St. Frances Academy and Community Center**

(Home of the oldest Black Catholic School in the United States. Visit the room where Mother Lange said her last prayers and took her last breath.)

501 E. Chase Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

410-539-5794



**6. Our Lady of Mount Providence**

(Oblate Sisters of Providence Motherhouse - Visit their beautiful Chapel where the history of the Oblate Sisters is depicted in their stain glass windows. Archives also on site.)

701 Gun Road, Arbutus, MD 21227

410-242-8500

**7. St. Peter Claver and St. Pius V. Church - Baltimore**

1546 N. Fremont Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217

410-669-0512

**8. Charles Uncles Senior Plaza**

(Formerly St. Joseph Seminary renovated from the old Western Hotel)

607 Pennsylvania Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-523-3890

Go across the street from here to visit a monument of Oblate Sisters of Providence at the site of 610 George Street , the historic formal founding of the Oblates. Here is where Sister Mary Lange, Sister Mary Frances Balas, Sister Mary Rose Boegue and Sister Mary Theresa Duchemin took vows for a religious congregation, the first of its kind in the world.