



Albuquerque's African American Catholic Community



“We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.”

Paul Robeson on self-reliance

April 2020

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The Coronavirus

The COVID-19 pandemic has effected us all at our social, economical, spiritual (customs), and psychological levels. Archbishop John Wester has provided liturgical guidelines to the Cathedral and parishes of the Archdiocese Santa Fe (ASF) as they relate to mitigation tactics to reduce the virus (see Office of Archbishop, dated March 20, 2020 at <https://archdiosf.org/>). In other words, we are not able to attend mass as a congregation. We are not able to receive the Holy Eucharist and precious blood. Further, Baptisms, Confirmations and First Communions have been postpone. For these reasons we are **VERY SORRY** that the AACC was not able to celebrate the April 26, 2020 mass. This would have been our 28th Anniversary Mass. Please refer to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe website: www.archdiosf.org for updates. Thank you for your patience.

The Mission Statement

In the context of our multicultural church, we support and reinforce the African American Catholic family and individuals. We invite, challenge and develop an appreciation of our African American culture through liturgy, social, spiritual and educational programs. We pray that our culture will enhance the universality of the Church and the cause of evangelization.

The 28th Anniversary of the African American Catholic Community

Albuquerque's African American Catholic Community (AACC)

is in its twenty eight year of existence. Our humble start was the results of a few people getting together in April 1992 to have a mass in the chapel of the Catholic Center.

Why was this gathering different? This mass was different because a small group thought it was time for African-American Catholics, in the Albuquerque metropolitan area, to share its African roots with the Church as prescribed by the Council of Vatican II. Brenda Dabney and Clarence Kirby were introduced to a retired priest from Chicago (Father Rollins Lambert) after a Martin Luther King Jr. mass sponsored by the Office of Social Justice (Joan Leahigh, Archdioceses of Santa Fe). Through Joan's office, Brenda, Clarence, Ethel Davis, Steven Woodbury, Fr. Lambert and many more, planned a humble mass that had a very good turnout. We had Afro-centric music & singing. Fr. Lambert brought his home-made bread for the Eucharist. After the first mass, there was a potluck and fellowship. There was no formal agenda, no direction from the Archdiocese and no perceived outcome of the group. The core members decided to form a committee to sustain our monthly mass/gatherings. After a few meetings the members decided to follow the principles of Kwanzaa which is Kujichagulia (KOO-GEE-CHA-GOO-LEE-YAH); short for Self-Determination. From this seed we named ourselves, defined our mission and conceived our logo. While we are not a parish we are thankful to the parish of St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Church for allowing us to celebrate mass about five times a year. Please see our Mission Statement.



The Lambert Scholars

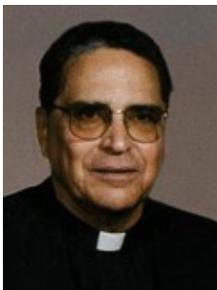
The Fr. Rollins Lambert Scholarship Fund began in 2009 with a small bequest from the estate of Fr. Rollins Lambert, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago who retired in Albuquerque and served as the first spiritual advisor to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe African American Catholic Community (AACC) for 10 years. When Father Lambert was with us, one of the many discussions that came up, with the steering committee, was a scholarship fund that would aid local African-American youth. African-American youth are under-represented in most of the parochial schools in the metropolitan area. As the AACC works to build this small fund, it has sought assistance from the Black and Indian Mission Office (BIMO) to provide grants for scholarships. Since 2010, this Fund has **awarded 80 partial scholarships to eligible African American students, Catholic and non-Catholic from 12 out of 15 ASF elementary schools with a total of \$132,164.00.**

For this year there was \$15, 938.00 available for distribution (BIMO and AACC contributions). There were **23 applications** for scholarships received by the Social Justice and Respect Life Office. Consideration for the Lambert scholarship was given to **eleven applications** that met the eligibility requirements. Certificates will be presented to each recipient at the Scholarship mass. The recipients are:

Riley Abney – Holy Cross, Espanola, NM
 Brayden Hollis – St. Michael
 Suhmani Valdez-Voltaire – Assumption
 Mya Tirone-Jones - St. Thomas Aquinas
 Moses Sena – Annunciation
 Aurora Mullen-Vega – St. Thomas Aquinas
 Kenjiro Henry – Annunciation
 Demarius Hackett – Holy Ghost
 Asante Cole – Santa Nino
 Dante Cole – Santa Nino
 Sophia Arrenius – St. Thomas Aquinas

Special Thanks to the Scholarship Committee Members:

Gerry Harge (chairperson), Louise Davis, Ernie Dorko, Tina Stevenson, Anne Avellone, Brenda Dabney



2020 Census

It's the time again; every 10 years every household must account for their inhabitation. It is very important to complete the 2020 Census so that public goods and services can be distributed appropriately. It is used to determine the distribution of federal fund and political representation for the next 10 years. You can fill out an **ONLINE CENSUS**, respond by **PHONE** or by **MAIL**. You can even respond on your mobile device. The Census asks just a few questions and takes a few minutes to respond. Responding to the Census is a way to participate in our democracy and say **"I count"**.



For more information, please visit the following web sites:

www.icontnm.gov

www.2020census.gov

Special Intentions

Please keep the following people in your prayers as they face their various maladies :



We pray for Rose - Sister of Gabrielle Pierre-Louis; AACC Co-chair and Treasurer

We pray for Janice Georgie - Sisters of Darly Barkley AACC steering committee and picnic director

We pray for George Davis - Husband of Louise Davis; AACC steering committee and choir director

We pray for Deacon Jerry - Friend of Deacon Jones; Steering Committee

We pray for Craig - Nephew of Bernadette Lithgow; AACC steering committee.

Please say a special prayer for the loss of **Brian Lewis**. A long time member of the AACC; He passed suddenly and unexpectedly during the first part of May 2020. Brian is the son of Veronica and Joe Lewis and the Father of Mackensie Lewis. Veronica is the AACC publicity chairperson and Mackensie coordinates the AACC social media. Our prayers are with the Lewis family in these difficult time.

Father Augustus Tolton

Augustine (Augustus) Tolton (April 1, 1854 – July 9, 1897) 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 returned to the United States soon afterwards where he served the black community, mostly in Chicago.

On June 12, 2019, Pope Francis authorized the promulgation of a "Decree of Heroic Virtue", advancing the cause of Servant of God Augustine Tolton. With the promulgation of the decree of heroic virtue, Tolton was granted the title "**Venerable**". If the case progresses, the next stage would be beatification, followed by canonization.

www.toltoncanonization.org

Mother Mary Lange

(Born circa 1784- died February 3, 1882)

Mother Lange was born around 1789 in what is today Haiti to a well-off family. She, along with hundreds of others, fled that country in the late 18th century to Baltimore, where a great number of Catholic, French-speaking refugees had settled. With the help of Sulpician Father James Joubert, S.S., Mother Lange and two other Black women started the first Black Catholic school in the Catholic Church in America. A year later, on July 2, 1829, three Black women, and Mother Lange pronounced vows to become the first religious order of women of African descent.

In 1991, with the approval of the Holy See, Cardinal William Henry Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, officially opened a formal investigation of Lange's life to study it for her possible canonization "Servant of God".

www.motherlange.org

Mother Henriette Delille

Henriette Díaz DeLille was a Louisiana Creole of color from New Orleans, Louisiana, who founded the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of the Holy Family in that city. Composed of free women of color, the order provided nursing care and a home for orphans, later establishing schools as well. In 1988 her order opened the cause for her canonization with the Holy See. Her cause was endorsed "unanimously" in 1997 by the United States Catholic bishops. **Pope Benedict XVI approved her heroic virtues and named her Venerable on March 27, 2010.** The Congregation for the Causes of Saints gave its formal assent on June 22, 2010, for the commencement of the cause of beatification with the declaration of "nihil obstat" (nothing against). DeLille was given the title of "**Servant of God**".

www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com

Julia Greeley

Greeley was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri. At the age of five, her right eye was injured by a slave master as he was whipping her mother. In 1865, she was freed under

the Emancipation Proclamation and became a cook and nanny to Julia Pratte Dickerson of St. Louis who would later marry William Gilpin. William Gilpin was appointed as the territorial Governor of Colorado so the couple moved to Denver and Greeley joined them.

Greeley was baptized into the Catholic Church in 1880 at Sacred Heart Church in Denver. She became known for her charitable works, pulling a red wagon through the streets of Denver in the dark to bring food, coal, clothing, and groceries to needy families. In 1901, Greeley joined the Secular Franciscans and remained an active member for the rest of her life. In recognition of her dedication to the poor, Greeley has been dubbed "Denver's Angel of Charity." **In January 2014,** the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Denver officially opened an investigation for her sainthood. **On December 18, 2016** – Archbishop Aquila officially opened the Cause for Canonization at Immaculate Conception Cathedral Basilica during the 8:30 Mass.

www.juliagreeley.org

Pierre Toussaint

Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1766-1853) was born a slave in Haiti and died a freeman in New York City. Credited by many with being the father of Catholic Charities in New York. Pierre was instrumental in raising funds for the first Catholic orphanage and began the city's first school for black children. He also helped to provide funds for the Oblate Sisters of Providence, a religious community of black nuns founded in Baltimore and played a vital role in providing resources to erect Old Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Lower Manhattan. During a Yellow Fever epidemic when many of the city's political leaders fled the city in search of healthier rural climates, Pierre Toussaint cared for the sick and the dying.

On December 17, 1997, Pope John Paul II declared Pierre Toussaint, Venerable, thus placing him firmly on the road to becoming North America's first black saint.

obm@archny.org

Sister Thea Bowman

(December 29, 1937 – March 30, 1990)

A self-proclaimed, "old folks' child," Thea Bowman, was the only child born to middle-aged parents, Dr. Theon Bowman, a physician and Mary Esther Bowman, a teacher. As a child she converted to Catholicism through the inspiration of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity School in Canton. Gifted with a brilliant mind, beautiful voice and a dynamic personality, Sister Thea shared the message of God's love through a teaching career. Sister Thea Bowman's life was always one of Gospel joy, enduring faith, and persevering prayer even in the midst of racial prejudice, cultural insensitivity, and debilitating illness.

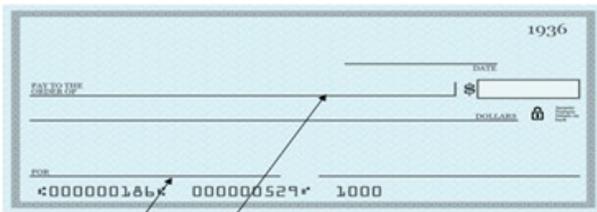
Bishop Joseph Kopacz read the edict to open the cause for canonization for Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA, **Servant of God, at a Sunday, November 18, 2019 Mass.**

www.sistertheabowman.com/cause

Financial Support Needed

During this challenging time when public Masses are suspended, we (the AACC) rely on your donations to continue our ministry! To help with the mission of the AACC, please make checks out to the **Archdiocese of Santa Fe**, and put either **AACC Ministry or AACC Scholarship in the memo line**.

Mail to: African American Catholic Community, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, 4000 St. Joseph's Pl NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!



AACC or AACC Scholarship

Online Mass

Here are a few local and out-of-state online services that you might want to try:

Archdiocese of Santa Fe: www.archdiosf.org

St. Joseph on the Rio Grande www.sjrgcc.org

Msgr. Voorhies at Annunciation Parish www.annunciationparish.org

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary: www.holyrosaryabq.org

Fr. Norman Fischer Lexington KY St. Peter Claver: www.cdlex.org/stpeterclaver

Fr. Tony Ricard: <http://youtube.com/user/staugpurpleknights>

Msgr. Britto St. Cyprian in W. Philadelphia www.saintcyprianchurch.org

Rev. Anthony Bozeman SSJ at St. Raymond and St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in New Orleans. www.srschurch.com

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