



Saint Augustine Catholic Church Africa & Diaspora Ministry - Black History Committee

The Dines Family

During Black History Month, we are celebrating the contributions of the Black families who contributed to the legacy of St. Augustine parish.

In the mid-20th century, the Dines family was one of the mainstays of parish organizations and gave vital support to the CYO, Credit Union, Sanctuary Choir and contributed much to the development and growth of St. Augustine Catholic Church.

In the 1940's George Dines, Sr.'s interest in wholesome activities for youth, with the help of Willis Thomas, enabled St. Augustine to join the newly formed Catholic Youth Organization(CYO) in Washington, DC. This was part of the wider organization began in Chicago, but due to local segregation custom they had to form a separate CYO in the District for black students with George Dines as its director in 1946. Despite discriminatory practices within the Church and the community, the parish pushed for racial parity.

Mr. Dines, Sr. and other parishioners helped establish the St. Augustine Federal Credit Union and received the charter in 1952.

Mr. Dines, Sr. was also a member of the Sanctuary Choir (later renamed The Chorale) and his wife Nancy, a recent convert to Catholicism, was asked to be the organist by choir director George A. (Gus) Jackson where she served on and off until the parish merger with St Paul's in 1961.

Their son George Dines, Jr., after returning from college, joined the choir and three years later was asked to lead it due to his knowledge of music theory and leadership skills. Soon after his appointment as director of the choir (1961), he directed concerts in honor of Gus Jackson and the Oblate Sisters of Providence and went on to lead the merged choirs of St. Paul and Augustine. Dines concentrated on improving the quality of performance. It was at this time that St. Augustine routinely joined forces with Augustana Lutheran Church for an annual ecumenical service on Thanksgiving Day. Mr. George Dines, Jr. remain the director until 1979, his eighteen-year tenure the longest in the choir's history.

Mr. Dines continued his involvement with the music ministry and in later years his wife Pauline joined the Gospel Choir.

The legacy of these great parishioners lives on in the church today especially in our youth sports and our various choirs.