



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the month of November, the Catholic Church in the United States observes national Black Catholic History Month. This celebration of the gifts of Black Catholics to the U.S. Catholic Church assists us in remembering with gratitude the universal nature of the Church and the diversity of the peoples God has called to be His own.

In anticipation of this special month, I invite you to join me in praying a Novena from October 24 – November 1, the Feast of All Saints. You can register for the Novena here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/122107178859>.

We celebrate the rich history of the Catholic faith handed down through generations of African American believers, a people who proudly proclaim that they are both authentically Black *and* authentically Catholic. When we gather as the universal Church, we remember in scripture and prayer the history of God's grace and mercy in the lives of all people. At this troubled time in our country, we ask for the intercession of the six saintly African Americans who are on the path to canonization: Fr. Augustus Tolton, Mother Mary Lange, Pierre Toussaint, Henriette DeLille, Julia Greeley and Sr. Thea Bowman. Saints of God, pray for us!

As we anticipate the celebration of our archdiocesan bicentennial, may we always remain conscious of the past and the wisdom contained there. We take this opportunity to learn and share the entire scope of faithful Catholic belief and witness in the United States. May we never tire of seeking ways to reform the attitudes and actions that demean or tear down the dignity of life of any person or community of people.

In our Novena, we will use the Confiteor as our guide to seeking a transformation of mind and heart. We acknowledge our need to eradicate the sin and evil of racism that has affected our society and the Church. In so doing, we strive to radiate Christ as we live out our baptismal call "to be holy, as God is holy."

We are united in the one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism in offering God praise for the gifts of our Black brothers and sisters to the U.S. Catholic Church and beyond. Please join me in praying this Novena and in celebrating Black Catholic History Month throughout November.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

RADIATE CHRIST