



TOLTON

The Father Tolton Guild Newsletter

FALL 2019

A Message from Bishop Joseph N. Perry

On June 11, Pope Francis issued a declaration of heroic virtue in the sainthood Cause of Father Augustus Tolton (1854–1897). This is a singular recognition along the processes of beatification and canonization as a saint, and is essentially the Holy Father's endorsement of a life which says the Gospel of Jesus Christ was quite evident in the life and ministry of Father Tolton. We now have the makings of a saint and can confidently move on to next steps with the Cause. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our readers for their continued prayers and lively interest in the Cause to date and their financial support for the office incidents involved with the sensitive and detailed procedures as we move ahead.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry
Postulator Cause of Augustus Tolton

Father Tolton raises money for parish with visit to Holy Family Parish in Chicago

By Joyce Duriga

When Father Tolton came to Chicago and was put in charge of the Black Catholic community in the city, one of his first plans was to build a church for their own, St. Monica's.

As with construction of any new church, but especially for one where the congregation was largely poor, raising money for construction was difficult.

Father Tolton arranged fairs for the church and any other efforts he and his flock could think of to raise money but he also took his appeal to neighboring parishes. One of those was Holy Family Church on Roosevelt Road, which at the time was staffed by the Jesuits.

Recently while compiling a history of their high school, St. Ignatius College Prep, located next door to Holy Family Church, the Jesuits uncovered evidence of a visit by Father Tolton in 1893. He preached at all of the Masses and received \$500 in donations for St. Monica's. That translated into almost \$15,000 in 2019.

Father Tolton also accepted appeals to speak around the country in order to raise money for his flock. As soon as he returned from Rome to Quincy the appeals came in but he frequently turned them down in order to be with his congregation.

In a letter to Josephite Father John Slattery, rector of St. Joseph Seminary for Colored Missions in Baltimore, he wished for "27 Father Toltons or colored priests" who could meet the number of requests from around the country to visit and lecture. It would have been "a grand thing," he said, to be a traveling missionary ministering to black Catholics around the country.

That was not where God placed him, however. Instead he was focused on the 270 souls from 400 families in Chicago. He wrote of turning down lectures because he was trying to gather more people for his parish "for these poor people here who had been left in a bag with both ends open if I must say it and the Irish bishop has given them all up to me."



Cardinal Meyer Center
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tolton.archchicago.org

Upcoming Events

Tolton Gala

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 3 p.m.
St. Ignatius Prep, Tully Hall
1076 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608

Archdiocesan Celebration of the Eucharist with Cardinal Blase Cupich

Monday, October 14, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
St. Philip Neri Church
2132 East 72nd Street, Chicago, IL 60649

Please see tolton.archchicago.org for updated information and upcoming events.

PRAYER

O God, • we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, • who labored among us in times of contradiction, • times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. • His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. • We stand in the shadow of his ministry. • May his life continue to inspire us • and imbue us with that confidence and hope • that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in Heaven, • Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; • we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. • If it be your Will, O God, • glorify your servant, Father Tolton, • by granting the favor I now request through his intercession • (mention your request) • so that all may know the goodness of this priest • whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us • that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. • Not to us the glory, • but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son • and our Lord; • Father, Son and Holy Spirit, • you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen

Imprimatur
Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archdiocese of Chicago

2010 Bishop Joseph N. Perry

**To report any spiritual or physical favors granted through prayer in Father Tolton's name, please write:
The Office of the Cardinal, Archdiocese of Chicago,
835 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.**

Walking in the footsteps of the Venerable Reverend Augustus Tolton, the first African American Catholic priest. **Thanks for your support of his canonization!**

