THE PULSE

of Black Catholic Chicago



Issue 28 June 2024

The Kids Are Alright: Student Protest Against Injustice

by: Gardis Watts



On Sunday, May 29, 2024, in Tel al-Sultan, a western part of Rafah, the Israeli Military launched an airstrike in the region. According to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the target of these attacks was supposed to be commanders of Hamas, the Islamic militant group. However, that did not turn out to be the case. Several international media outlets have reported that up to 50 non-Hamas Palestinians were killed in a tent camp by this air strike. Tel al-Sultan was designated as a safe zone for refugees but the IDF launched the attacked despite a United Nations court order to halt the attack days before. Israeli Prime minister Benjamin Net-

anyahu called the strikes a "Tragic Mistake" after several world leaders denounced the attack.

This is one of many examples that cause nations in the world to condemn the State of Israel of genocide. Back in December 2023, South Africa was the first nation to file a complaint with the International Court of Justice against Israel on the basis of genocide. Several nations have stood in support of this case. Most recently countries like Brazil, Turkey, Spain, Ireland and Mexico have joined their support on this case. Even though many nations have joined this cause, the United States opposes it even to the point of defending Israel's inhumane aggression against the Palestinian people.

While there are some condemnations from the U.S. government on the Tel al-Sultan Massacre, it has already given billions of tax payers dollars to Israel to subjugate the Palestinian people. This unmitigated support of the Israeli government in the face of blatant human rights violations makes the United States complicit in this genocide. There are resistance movements against genocide that have attempted to hold the U.S. government accountable for their participation in this crisis. One of the more inspiring demonstrations against the carnage happening in Gaza has been from students at the higher educational institutions.

On April 18, 2024, several students on the campus of Columbia University in New York rallied for a demonstration. They demanded that the university divest their monies from companies that support Israel. This inspired many other students on other college campuses across the country to demonstrate and make the same demands from their educational institutions. Protests on these campuses have lasted for days, even weeks, where protesters were building encampments at these universities.

Unfortunately, most of these protests were met with harsh resistance. Much of the backlash started with verbal attacks by public officials, which includes President Biden, accusing them of being antisemitic. It then got to a point where counter-protesters who supported the Israeli onslaught physically confronted the student protesters. Ultimately, the universities police force, with the help of nearby municipal police forces, physically took down the encampments and forced the demonstrators out of their campus. Even our legislative government has pushed forward a controversial bill called the "Antisemitism Awareness Act." Some have criticized the bill because of the broad definition of antisemitism, which could include criticism of Israel. The timing of this bill made it look like a response to the protest. This bill was used to suppress the student protesters' First Amendment Rights.

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The violent response to the protest has landed many students in jail. Some of the students were either suspended or expelled. Others were barred from the campus. And some students had their scholarships revoked. Nevertheless, these students risked their academic careers to stand against genocide and imperialism.

The recent student protest against the genocide in Gaza has parallels to an event that happened over 60 years ago. When I went to Birmingham, Alabama last month for the Pilgrimage for Racial Justice, I ran across some interesting sculptures in Kelly Ingram Park on their 'Freedom Walk' path. The sculptures of interest represented children participating in the movement. One of the artworks represented children in a jail cell and at the bottom of the artwork are the words "I ain't afraid of your jail." Another sculpture of interest was children against a wall having water hoses



with deadly high-water pressure turned on them. These monuments represent the 1963 Children's March that happened in Birmingham. In May of that year, over 1000 children in the city left school and participated in a march that started from the 16th Street Baptist Church towards downtown to protest against the city segregation policies. Many of the children faced repression from police where they were arrested, attacked by dogs and had fire hoses sprayed on them.

The children of the Civil Rights Movement knew the dangers they would face if they participated in the cause for justice. Their fear did not deter them as they displayed a brave resistance against injustice. As parents, we advise our children to avoid danger and try to protect them from it. However, these children of the Civil Rights Movement were right in the mix with the adults. They did not wait until they became adults. They knew that the time was now and they could not wait until adulthood because by that time it might be too late. Dr Martin Luther King Jr in his "Letter from Birmingham City Jail" expressed how he never participated in a "well timed" direct action movement. He emphasized this point on the fallacy of waiting for liberation to come. Dr. King states, "For years now I have heard the word 'wait.' It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This 'wait' has almost always meant 'never.'" The children of that era understood Dr. King's interpretation of how one gets liberation, and it does not come from waiting.

The student protest on the college campuses across the nation hold a similar determination with the children of Birmingham. They are not going to wait for Israel to stop bombing Gaza to oblivion. They are not going to wait for the U.S. government to halt funding to the State of Israel. They are not going to wait for the world to apply economic sanctions on Israel for war crimes and human rights violations. The students are taking a stance now against the genocide in Palestine despite the repression from those who support Israel. They have a full understanding that they risk their status as students, scholarships and their very lives to support the Palestinian people. They would rather live without degrees from higher education institutions than live in an oppressive world. Dr. King once said that true education is intelligence and character. These students seem to be fulfilling both.

Unlike the student protest on college campuses across the nation, majority of the Catholic Church in the U.S. has been relatively silent on the issue. The leadership of the Church in this country must speak out against this genocide in Palestine. However, there is a petition circulating across the Internet initiated by several U.S.-based Catholic groups calling for a cease fire in Gaza. The Chicago Black Catholics Alliance supports this effort. You can sign your name on this petition by clicking on this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYZFq1ld0pndQbF1rWt2TW01f0MHhadh8Y2mYTKLcrzYz5Qw/viewform

Father Augustus Tolton: The Man who Teaches Us to be People of God By Jordan-Amman Isaiah West-William



Chicago has become home to more than 30,000 migrants who have traveled from various parts of South America, searching for a better life. However, it is unfortunate to see that Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, has not shown our local migrant community the compassion and decent resources that the families deserve. Some of these individuals have been evicted from shelters and left stranded on the streets, which has resulted in some of them breaking into houses for survival or sleeping on the sidewalks and buses. Additionally,

due to many families being crammed into shelters, some of these migrants are suffering from illnesses such as measles, COVID-19, influenza, etc. I plan to explain and elaborate on what Father Augustus Tolton would have done if he were a religious leader in modern times, addressing this humanity crisis in Chicago.

According to my research, Bishop Joseph N. Perry wrote that Father Augustus Tolton faced many challenges in a racially divided America. Father Tolton was born during slavery in Missouri and his family escaped their master, by traveling with the Union Army to Quincy, Illinois. His father died as a soldier in the Union Army. The people in the local Catholic parish did not want the Tolton family sitting next to them in church or school. Father Tolton even had to study for the priesthood in Rome, because they would not accept him in a seminary in the United States. With this type of discrimination against the Tolton family, Father Augustus had lived through some



of the same hate and hurt that today's migrant population experiences. We would not want people denying our education or telling us that we can not sit in a pew at church, so we need to ask what would Father Tolton do to make the people feel accepted as Christian human beings.

The issue of how migrants are treated in society is a problem. Many Chicagoans do not recognize migrants as human beings or people who are worthy of respect. If Father Tolton, a man known for his kindness, compassion, and empathy, were alive today, he would have undoubtedly stood up for the migrant community. Father Michael Pfleger, of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina, has at least 200 - 250 migrants at mass regularly, and he gives them NEW clothes, name-brand food, winter coats, etc. I believe that Pastor Pfleger is doing what Father Tolton would do. As a former slave himself, he knew what it felt like to be put down and treated like dirt. He would have been more than willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. One way in which Father Tolton could have helped the migrant community is by using "Hope Church in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood" as a shelter. He could have assigned different rooms to support different individuals, providing them with a safe and secure place to stay while they get back on their feet. Father Tolton would also have been committed to helping migrants find employment.

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He would have understood that having a job is critical to ensuring that they can support themselves

and their families. Once again, Father Pfleger had a huge job fair on April 10th, where 130 migrants were in the church basement, interviewing with employees. That is the right way to welcome migrants and show them how to get a job.

Father Tolton would have taught the migrants about the Gospel and helped them understand the teachings of Jesus Christ. He would have believed in treating everyone with love, respect, and dignity, re-



gardless of being from the border of South America. Father Tolton's compassion and empathy towards the migrant community would have been a source of hope and inspiration for many people because we would not see hate coming from within the church home.

Father Tolton would passionately urge Catholics to follow the example of Jesus in their daily lives and to serve others with humility and selflessness, just as Christ did.

When I see migrants outside of Jewels or on the corner in my neighborhood, I do not act ugly. I share bags of chicken and biscuits, with the mothers' so they can feed their children. I speak and I smile, because I do not want them shunned like Father Tolton was pushed away when he was a Black boy in his elementary school.

Tolton would remind us that we are all equal in the eyes of God and that we must help one another during times of need, without any form of discrimination or bias. He would emphasize the importance of prioritizing the well-being of others and putting their needs before our own. By living out the Gospel in this way, we can make a positive impact on the world and uphold the values of our faith, contributing to a more just, unbiased, and compassionate society. If we can all learn from his example and strive to treat everyone with the kindness and respect they deserve, the city would be a better place for migrants to live here safely.

In conclusion, Father Augustus Tolton's legacy lives on, and his example of compassion, empathy, and love toward all people is still relevant today. If he were alive now, he would undoubtedly stand up for the migrant community. The teachings that Bishop Perry wrote about Father Tolton's life serve as a reminder that we all must prioritize the well-being of others and treat everyone with kindness, respect, and dignity. Let us all strive to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ by serving others with humility and selflessness, just as Father Tolton did, and strive to make Chicago a good place to live.



Twelve year old Jordan-Amman Isaiah West-Williams is a musician, dancer and honor roll student at Wendell E. Green Elementary School (CPS). In addition to the honor roll, he is a, science fair winner, and recently completed the Promise Program at the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora, IL. State Senator Mattie Hunter awarded Jordan a new computer for being the first child to win her summer reading contest in 2023. He also serves as an altar server at Our Lady of Africa Parish. Jordan is a member of the Junior National Beta Club and plays on four school teams: basketball, volleyball, track, and tennis and enjoys summer programs with the Ark of Saint Sabina, the Chicago Public Library Summer Reading Program, and the Champs Male Mentoring Program.



Sankofa Spotlight: In Memoriam



Steps Ordered, Order Filled



Sr. Teresita Weind, SNDdeN was a friend of mine for over 40 years. She mentored me and is the reason I am serving in ministry. *Order My Steps In Your Word Dear Lord* is in the first line of a song that had become one of her favorite songs and so befitting of my friend Sr. Teresita Weind. This gospel tune composed by Glen Edward Burleigh is one of the best-known gospel songs of the 20th century and transcends the life of Sr. Teresita as a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur.

Lead Me, Guide Me every day could have been the mantra for how Teresita lived her life. She had the gift of preaching, singing, praying, and a humble stride in her walk with her head held high looking straight ahead. Teresita was very humble, some of that from her humble beginnings growing up in Columbus, OH, in addition to her formation as a sister in a religious order, but most of all, her deep faithfulness to God.

Bridle my tongue let my words edify, let the words of mouth be acceptable in thy sight was a passage of scripture she liked using in preparing those train-

ing to become Ministers of the Word. Teresita wore many hats at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy church. She provided training to willing lay individuals around Minister of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Care and prepared those entering the faith through RCIA. Teresita had a knack for identifying laity and she thought the church could benefit from their unused talents. One Sunday following Mass, she asked me to consider becoming a Minister of the Word, I immediately declined. Teresita saw something in me that I did not see in myself. A week later, she stopped by my home and placed a note in my mailbox and asked me to meditate on the scripture passage that she had written down – Psalm 19:14.

Two weeks passed she queried me following Mass and asked, 'what do you think about the scripture from Psalm?' Followed up by another question 'better yet how is it speaking to you?' At the end of the conversation, I said yes to her request. Teresita had a very calm way of asking you to do something and convincing you that you would be

great at it. She always knew what you needed and provided the support that boosted your confidence.

I want to walk worthy, my calling to fulfill, please order my steps and I'll do your blessed will, the world is ever changing, but you are still the same. If you order my steps, I'll praise your name. Teresita answered the call, she spoke words of kindness, her heart was washed with tenderness, and she did all of it with great presence and grace. When I need a brand-new song to sing, show me how to let your praises ring. Teresita's steps were ordered and are now filled with song and praises of his holy name.



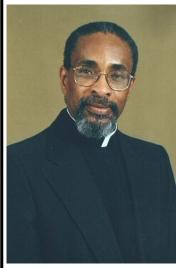
-Valerie Jennings





Sankofa Spotlight: In Memoriam





On May 7, 2024, the Chicago Black Catholic community lost a giant in Father John Walter Calicott. He was an extremely talented homilist and preacher. His preaching revolutionized the way priest in the Black Catholic Community engaged with the congregation. Many people from around the city, and country, came to listen to Father John's homilies. And while Father John was a well renown preacher, his work away from the altar is as equally commendable.

Father John's ministerial work in Chicago started off as a deacon at the old St. Leo's parish guided by the leadership of Father Howard Tuite. In 1974, he was ordained by the Archdiocese of Chicago as a priest where his first assignment was at St Ailbe Parish (now St Katherine Drexel). He served as the associate pastor under the leadership of Father Francis Ciezadlo. During his time at St Ailbe, Father John was called to assist with the vocational work of Father John Fahey at Quigley South. This was important for Father John because he was a graduate of Quigley South. He encouraged many black males to consider vocations in ministry at the school. After working at St Ailbe for six years, Father John was reassigned to Holy Name

of Mary Parish (now Our Lady of Kibeho) where he assisted Father Anthony Vader. During his eleven years at Holy Name of Mary, Father John received two important appointments. One appointment was in the archdiocese Presbyteral Senate and the other was on the Clergy Personnel Board. In 1991, Father John got his first lead role of a parish when he was assigned pastor of Holy Angels Parish (now Our Lady of Africa). With the blessing of the retiring pastor of that time, Father George Clements, Father John was able to pick up the work of Father Clements and run with it. While at Holy Angels, he was able to grow the chapter of the scouts. Father John loved scouting and he was able to develop 14 Eagle Scouts at Holy Angels.

While Father John's time at Holy Angels was fruitful, it was not without controversies and issues. He was removed from his ministry at Holy Angels in 1994 due to allegations of sexual misconduct with minors he worked with during his time at St Ailbe. He was able to return the next year after an investigation into him determined that he was no risk to children. He then was removed again from public ministry in 2002 after the Dallas Charter, a charter created by the U.S. Bishops to remove priests under investigations for sexual abuse. After this incident, Father John never returned to public ministry as a Roman Catholic Priest and was laicized in 2009.

Even after these events, Father John never stopped being Catholic. He encouraged many people, including myself, to stay in the Catholic Church. And while he was stopped from being a priest from the institution, the people he served never stopped looking at him as a priest. He was still a minister in the eyes of many. In his later years he became a bus driver in Kankakee where he was popular amongst his riders. He was favorably known by his riders as Reverend John.

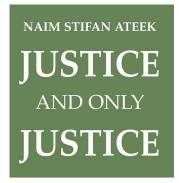
On a personal note, I have known Father John Calicott since he arrived at Holy Name of Mary. As a first-grade student at the school, his presence and dynamic preaching had me thinking about the priesthood. My very first ministry in the church came as an altar boy under Father John in the fourth grade. He not only taught us the duties of an altar boy but defined parts of the Mass for us and why it was important. During a period of my life when I stepped away from the Church, I kept in touch with Father John. He was one of the few people who encouraged me to come back. When he left the priesthood, I remember having several conversations with him and his situation where he maintained his innocence. I can only go by his word because of my experiences with him. I can say without hesitation that Father John has never sexually abused me or anyone I know who worked with him. Father John was still a priest to me even in his later years. He assisted me with an article I wrote in the November 2023 edition of The Pulse about the history of Black Priest in Chicago. The amount of information he gave me was invaluable. I got several compliments about the article and Father John himself called me congratulating me when the article was published. I did not know it would be my last time talking to Father John. However, I'm glad that was the substance of our last conversation. He not only helped me with that article but over the years of my life he helped mold me into a radically Black and truly Catholic person. For that, I am eternally grateful.

-Gardis Watts



Literary Corner





A Palestinian Theology of Liberation

Forword by Rosemary Radford Ruether

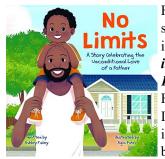
The current situation in Palestine not only has a social and political component but a theological one as well. Much of it is grounded in incorrect doctrine and misinterpretation of biblical scripture. Supporters of the indiscriminate bombing in Palestine by Israeli military forces would refer to the Bible to justify it. And while sacred scripture is used to substantiate their cause, it is also used to incorrectly generalize the Palestinian people as strictly Muslim. There is a significant amount of Palestinian Christians that live there who suffer along with their Muslim brothers and sisters.

In Naim Ateek's book, "Justice, and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation", Ateek confronts the false narratives as Palestinians being Middle Eastern Muslims aspiring to be terrorists. Ateek, who is a Palestinian Christian minister, counters the narrative that their land only belongs to the Jews because God said so in the Bible. Ateek carefully critiques these narratives with biblical scriptures that counter this narrative. He breaks down the social falsehood that all Arabs are Muslim. He also breaks down the ideological differences between Judaism and Zionism.

If one wants to know why it is just to support the cause of the Palestinian people and an end to the Israeli/Gaza War, I would highly recommend this book. Ateek's book not only gives a historical and theological background of Israeli claims against the Palestinian lands and people but he offers the reader to discern about the situation and ways to spiritually resist the false propaganda about the Palestinian people.

-Gardis Watts

No Limits: A Story Celebrating The Unconditional Love of a Father



For this month's book review, my son and I had the pleasure of reading *No Limits: A Story Celebrating the Unconditional Love of a Father*, written by author Ashley Finley.

I must say my son and I were very impressed with this book as we both enjoyed every page from the

beginning to the end.

Upon opening the book, we were both immediately captivated by the books vibrant colors and beautiful illustrations, and enjoyed how the book was well constructed; as the book creatively used a catchy rhyming flow to share a supportive and loving relationship between a Black father and son! Within the book you will find several instances where the father shows unconditional love to his son by frequently expressing how much he loves his son throughout the different stages of his son's life.

The book opens with the father admiring his son as a baby while holding him in his arms and sharing how much he loves him. As the son progresses into a toddler, the father shares how much he loves his son regardless of whether his son is quiet or loud, as most toddlers are. As an adolescent the father shares how much he loves his son whether he is happy or mad, or whether he wins a competitive race or comes in last place. As a teen the father expresses how much he loves his son regardless of what he wears, or the different styles of his hair.

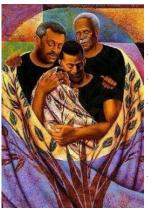
The book closes with an inspirational message to his son confirming that there is absolutely nothing he could do in his life to keep his father from loving him.

I considered this book to be a great read and would definitely recommend this book to family and friends because the book showcases how there are absolutely "No limits" to a fathers love for his child. What I appreciated the most about this book was how the "Black father" was depicted in a positive light, and how the book somewhat advocated for "Black Father's" by showing the world there are Black men out there who are present, available, and willing to provide unconditional love to their children. The book also did a great job of depicting a positive father and son relationship, while reminding children that it's okay for them to be themselves and make mistakes, because after it's all said and done, they can count on having a great deal of support, and unconditional love from their fathers. -Shannon Ambroise

Habari Gani What's the News

The Importance of Father's Day

By Desmond Owusu-Ansah

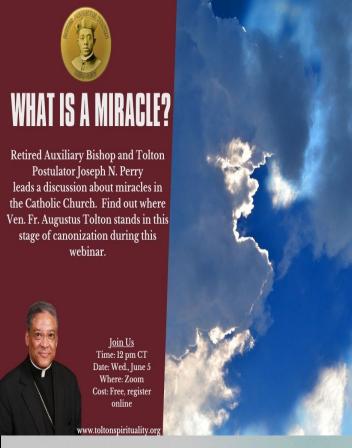


Father's Day holds immense importance as a day dedicated to honoring and appreciating the invaluable role fathers and father figures play in our lives. Its a time to acknowledge their love, support, sacrifices, and the profound impact they have on shaping our values, beliefs,

and character. Fathers are often seen as pillars of strength, providing guidance, protection, and a sense of security. They instill in us important life lessons, teach us right from wrong, and encourage us to pursue our dreams. Their unwavering belief in us empowers us to overcome challenges and strive for greatness. Fathers also provide emotional support, a listening ear, shoulder to cry in and words of encouragement when we need them the most. They create lasting memories through shared experiences, fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening family bonds. Father's Day is an opportunity to show gratitude and love for these individuals. Its a time to reflect on the sacrifices they've made, the lessons they've taught, and the love they have granted upon us. Whether it is a thoughtful gift or simply their presence and spending quality time together. Let's make Father's Day a memorable celebration of fatherhood.



Desmond Owusu-Ansah will be a freshman attending King College Prep and is an altar server at Our Lady of Africa Parish.



Join us for a special event!

Celebrating Fathers: A Virtual Event



Register Today

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 Time: 6 pm (CT) Host: Tolton Scholar Gardis Watts Cost: Free Topic:
We explore the male influences in
Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton's life
and how each man can positively
impact a child.





Habari gani What's the News?

JUNETEENTH WEEKEND

Summer of Peace Rally & March June 14 @ 7PM

SPECIAL GUEST COMMON



Juneteenth Celebration June 16 @ 10AM

Dr. Michael Eric **Dyson**



The Faith Community of Saint Sabina 1210 West 78th Place 773-483-4300 www.saintsabina.org



Women's Guild invites you to:

Fun and Games

St. Moses the Black Ministry Center Saturday, June 22, 2024 11:00am until 3:00pm \$25.00 per person

SAVE THE DATE

St. Dorothy All School Reunion

It is with a sad heart that our beloved St. Dorothy School and Church are now closed.

To honor the legacy and love filled memories, YOU are invited to an All School Reunion.



Saturday, June 22, 2024

St. Dorothy School, 7740 S Eberhart 3:00-7:00pm

\$35 per person

Dinner will be served, set-ups available, BYOB All proceeds to benefit the scholarship fund Handicap Accessible

Please submit payment via QR code:

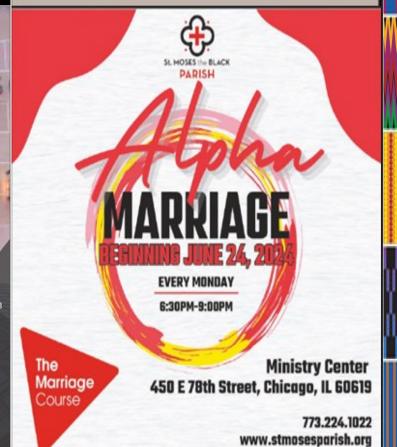
Send check/cash payment to:

St. Moses the Black Rectory

331 E. 71st Street Chicago, IL 60619

Make check payable to St. Moses the Black Memo: St. Dorothy Reunion

Questions, email: stdorothyreunion@gmail.com



Habari gani What's the News?



OUR LADY OF KIBEHO PARISH

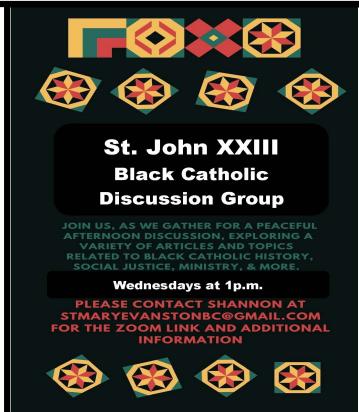
11159 S. Loomis Street, Chicago, IL 60643 Website: olk.archchicago.org Parish email: olofkibeho@comcast.net

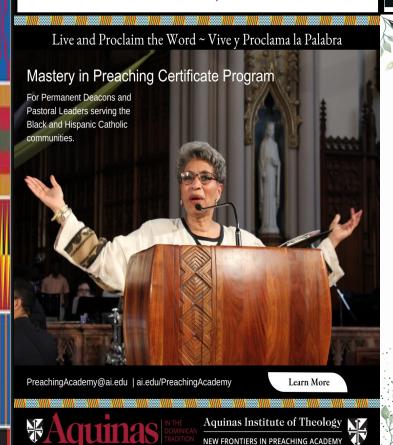
Come and celebration every month! FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY **DEVOTIONS**

May 3 &4, June 7 & 8, July 5 & 6, August 2 & 3 September 6 & 7, October 4 & 5, November 1 & 2, and December 6 & 7

Devotions begin with **9:00** AM Mass Followed by Exposition Prayers- Benediction! If you are looking to improve your personal relationship with our Lord in Adoration - Look no further!

Come with an open heart and you will be transformed! Yes, Let the hearts of Our Lord and Our Lady transform your heart so that you can say: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Make my Heart like unto Thine! The sacrament of Confession is also available on both days after the Mass.





St. Josephine Bakhita **Evangelization Team** Would like to invite you to join us to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet Every day at 3:00 pm via Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 862 5822 4978 Passcode: Divine1

(Prayer begins promptly at 3:00 pm and usually ends before 3:20 pm)





Black Catholic Initiative Radio Tuesdays: 8 – 8:30 a.m. WNDZ 750 AM

https://radiotv.archchicago.org/



Fr. Michael Trail hosts this weekly half-hour program that explores a wide range of topics relevant to Chicago's Black and Catholic communities.

Fr. Trail is pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.



The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at

Catholic Theological Union

The **Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program** provides an opportunity for Black Catholics to receive academic, personal, spiritual and professional education and training in preparation for professional ministry for the specific needs of Black Catholics.

- Applicants from the Archdiocese of Chicago are eligible for a full-tuition scholarship.
- Applicants outside of the Chicago dioceses are encouraged to apply for the Tolton program and will be considered for other scholarship funds.

For More information or to apply visit us online at ctu.edu/Toltonprogram

St. Benedict the African



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLEWOOD 340 W 66th St, Chicago, IL 60621 (773) 873-4464
Parish office:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. https://benedicttheafrican.org/

Join us for Mass:

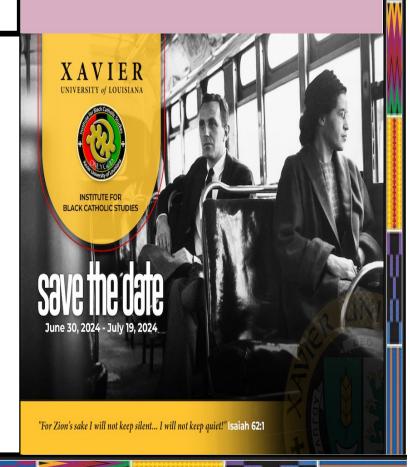
In-person or via Zoom on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting ID 86894110061

Passcode 722 722

Join us by Zoom Daily Monday – Friday at 12 Noon

- ♦ Know Your Faith with Deacon Kurt Davis
- ♦ *Writing* with Fr. Lee
- What's Happening @SBA? with Philip Armstrong



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.....

"Now then," Joshua continued, "honor the LORD and serve him sincerely and faithfully. Cast out the gods your ancestors used to worship....and serve only the LORD. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."-Joshua 24:14 –15

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of Dads, and for You being the greatest Dad ever, Abba Father, because You cover us all with Your grace, mercy and great love. Bless all fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, and all men who provide leader-ship, guidance, and protection to those who look to them.

Give them wisdom, patience, and the ability to love in a way that reflects Your love.

Keep their footsteps firm while quarding their way.

Help them to always stand strong and to be men of faith, covering their lives with great peace.

For those who struggle in fatherless families,

Help them to know that You are their Father,

And that through Your love, providence and care they will feel complete.

In Jesus' Name we pray,



Measure of a Man By LARRY BROWN

-Stephanie Garrison

Who are we?

AMEN

Created by current and former Tolton scholars, **The Pulse** is a monthly newsletter to provide information about the concerns and happenings in Black Catholic Chicago. It features articles, profiles and information about events and programs happening throughout the archdiocese of Chicago. If you are interested in contributing or have any questions or concerns please email us at chicagoblackcatholics@gmail.com

Our regular contributors are:

- **Dr. Kimberly Lymore** DMin, is the director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union and Associate Minister of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina.
- Shannon Ambroise MAPS, is a Tolton Alum, facilitator of St. John XXIII parish Evanston Black Catholics and member of St. John XXIII Parish, Evanston, IL.
- Tanya Bolen is a Tolton Scholar and part-time student at Catholic Theological Union pursuing a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies. She serves and worships at St. Moses the Black Parish as a Eucharistic Minister, Hospitality, and the Women's Guild.
- **Tina L Carter**, M.Div.; MLIS, is a public librarian, graduate of Catholic Theological Union and Tolton Alum. She is a parishioner, catechist and serves on the technology ministry at Our Lady of Africa Parish in Bronzeville.
- Mia Cornelius, a parishioner at St. Simon of Cyrene parish, serves on the parish council, choir, adult and youth evangelization, and women's ministry.
- **Jennifer Davis** is a Tolton Scholar, pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Catholic Theological Union, a theology teacher at Mount Carmel High School, a liturgist, and a parishioner at St. Benedict the African Parish in Englewood.
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