

September 2016
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Mother Teresa is Church's newest saint

On Sunday, Sept. 4, Pope Francis will canonize Mother Teresa as a saint, and she will be known as St. Teresa of Kolkata. This holy nun was one of the most famous and admired women in the world when she was alive, and she continues to be so 19 years after she died.

Mother Teresa devoted her whole life to what she called "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor." She founded the Missionaries of Charity order of nuns to serve the poor, the homeless, the dying and orphans.

The pope has called St. Teresa of Kolkata "a symbol, an icon for our age" of showing mercy to others, serving the poor and having a life of prayer.

Pope Francis once said that "Mother Teresa untiringly invites us to draw from the source of love: Jesus crucified and risen, present in the sacrament of the Eucharist," which led her to see the poor and sick and lonely and homeless as her brothers and sisters.

St. Teresa of Kolkata once called service to the poor and sick a sign of "our love for Jesus in action." She said that when we help others in need we give "wholehearted and free service to Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor."

Mother Teresa began her service to the poor while working as a teaching nun in India. Once, she saw a dying woman lying in a street. Ants were crawling all over the sickly woman and a rat was chewing on her ragged clothing. Seeing that nobody would help her, Mother Teresa picked the dying woman up and brought her to her home. That was how she began to operate homes for dying and abandoned people. After that, anyone who was homeless or hungry or poor or neglected could go to one of Mother Teresa's many homes.

"I do this because I believe I am doing it for Jesus," she once said. "Jesus went about doing good. And we are trying to imitate Him now, because I believe that God loves the world through us."

Pope Francis said that because Mother Teresa served the poor and lonely, she learned how important it is for families to love one another and pray together. The pope said Mother Teresa taught us, "to smile, to forgive, to welcome, to sacrifice for one another, to give



Mother Teresa - who will be known as St. Teresa of Kolkata - is pictured during a visit to the Archdiocese of Washington.

without demanding anything in return, to pray and suffer together, to rejoice and help each other."

Mother Teresa herself said, "What can we do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family."

Her work spread from India to all over the world, and the order she founded quickly grew. Right now, about 5,300 Missionaries of Charity sisters serve in more than 120 countries. In the Archdiocese of Washington and throughout the world, Mother Teresa opened homes for persons with AIDS, soup kitchens, homes for babies awaiting adoption, and contemplative convents where Jesus is perpetually adored and thanked and loved and honored.

Why did Mother Teresa open homes all over the world? Because she believed that everybody was her brother or sister in Christ. "By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the heart of Jesus," she said.

St. Teresa of Kolkata's greatest lesson for us is that we please Jesus when we are merciful and loving to one another.

"The biggest disease today," she once said, "is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference toward one's neighbor."

Pope Francis chose Sept. 4 to canonize Mother Teresa because it is the same time as a Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage to the Vatican for workers and ministers engaged in works of mercy. It is also the day before the day she died - Sept. 5, 1997.

Until the day she died, Mother Teresa not only called us to love one another, but lived her whole life as an example for us. She said, "when I pick up a person from the street, hungry, I give him a plate of rice, a piece of bread, I have satisfied. I have removed that hunger. But a person that is shut out, that feels unwanted, unloved, terrified, the person that has been thrown out from society - that poverty is so hurtful and so much, and I find that very difficult." - By Richard Szczepanowski

Catholic faith inspires athletes at the 2016 summer Olympics

Athletes from around the world gathered in Rio de Janeiro Aug. 3-21 for the 2016 summer Olympic Games. The Olympics is a competition that takes place every two years – alternating between summer and winter – and countries send their best athletes to compete against each other in a variety of sports. Many athletes have said that their Catholic faith helps them find strength and inspiration as they train and compete. Here are some examples of those athletes:

Katie Ledecky is a 19-year-old swimmer from Bethesda. She is a graduate of Little Flower School and Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. In this year's Olympics, she won four gold medals and one silver medal, and broke two of her own world records. This year, she will begin swimming for Stanford University, where she will be attending college. Ledecky attends the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, and she says a prayer or two before every race, because she "finds that it calms me."



"My Catholic faith is very important to me," she said, "It always has been and it always will be. It is part of who I am and I feel comfortable practicing my faith. It helps me put things in perspective."

Kyle Snyder is a 20-year-old wrestler who attended Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney. Snyder believes in the importance of hard work to achieve goals, and going into this summer's Olympic Games, he said, "I want to compete as hard as I can and try to wrestle to the best of my ability. If I do that, then the rest will take care of itself."



His hard work paid off, because this summer he became the youngest U.S. wrestler ever to win a

gold medal in the Olympics. While he still gets a little nervous before his wrestling matches, he says his faith has helped him deal with the pressure of competing.

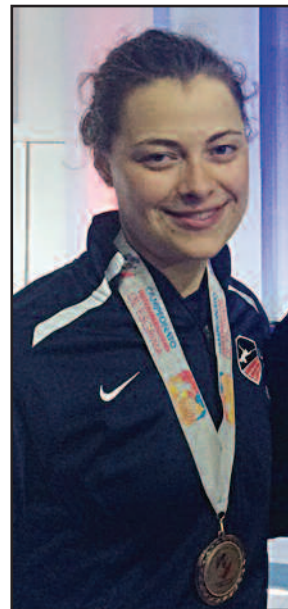
"Knowing that [God] has a plan for me has always helped me live a stress-free and worry-free life," he said. He wants to be the best person and best athlete he can be, "because that is what God has called us to do."

Thea LaFond is a 22-year-old track runner from Silver Spring. She was born in Dominica, a small island in the Caribbean, and she was one of two athletes representing that island nation at the Olympics. She is a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in Silver Spring, and she is grateful for the support that she has received from her parish. She prays often, and one of the first things she did after finding out that she would be going to the Olympics was to thank God.



"While He is high up there and all powerful and all mighty, you can still talk to God like He is your best friend," she said.

Katharine Holmes is a 23-year-old fencer who grew up attending the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Washington. She wants to be a doctor, and is currently studying neuroscience at Princeton University. Holmes said that she "had an almost ongoing conversation with God" while training for the Olympics, "constantly asking for reassurance and strength that I could do it, that I really could qualify, that I could keep going."

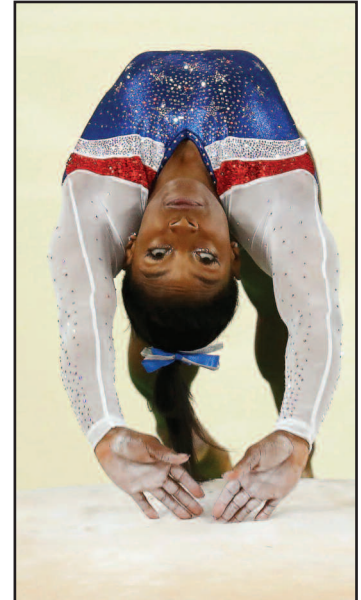


Holmes says that she feels that her talent in fencing is a gift from God, and her training in the sport helps her honor that. "God gave me such a gift through and in this sport and in following my dreams, I feel as if I am living the life He wished

for me, utilizing all that He blessed me with," she said.

Simone Biles is a 19-year-old gymnast from Texas. In this year's Olympic Games, she won four gold medals and one bronze medal. She goes to Mass every Sunday with her family at St. James Catholic Church in Spring, Texas.

When she travels, Biles says she sometimes brings a statue of St. Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes, along with her. She also carries with her a rosary that was a gift from her mom. Biles told "Us Weekly" magazine that she says a regular prayer before she competes, but she carries the rosary with her "just in case."



Joe Kovacs is a 27-year-old shot putter



from Bethlehem, Pa., where he attended Bethlehem Catholic High School. He is a parishioner of Holy Family Parish in Nazareth, Pa., and also a member of the Knights of Columbus. Kovacs told "Columbia Magazine" that his family is close to priests who are Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and one of them was his confirmation sponsor. In addition to helping him with his faith, Kovacs said the priests taught him how to golf and how to build a wind tunnel. "They weren't just role models, they were friends, and I consider them all part of my family," he said. Kovacs won a silver medal in the men's shot put in this year's Olympics.

Text by Kelly Seegers/ Photos from CNS

Word search (The words are forward, backward, up, down and diagonal!)

St. Teresa of Kolkata shows us how to love others

St. **TERESA** of **KOLKATA**, whom Pope Francis will canonize on Sept. 4, was known throughout the world as Mother Teresa. She took the name Teresa when she first became a nun, but when she was born, her parents named her Agnes.

St. Teresa was born **AGNES** Gonxha Bojaxhiu on Aug. 26 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia, in what was then the Ottoman Empire. She was the youngest of three children born to Nikolle and Dranfile Bojaxhiu. Her middle name means "**ROSEBUD**" or "little flower" in Albanian, the home country of her parents. She had an older brother named Lazar and an older sister named Aga.

From the time she was a little girl, Agnes showed a great **LOVE** for the **POOR**. Her brother Lazar, in an interview late in his life, said "when [Agnes] was a little child she used to assist the poor by taking food to them every day like our mother." He also remembered that Agnes was "a little too serious for her age. Of the three of us, she alone did not steal the jam."

At the age of 12, Agnes felt a call to become a nun serving in the missions. She prayed about it for six years while becoming an active member of her parish's **SODALITY**.

When she was 18, she left her home and traveled to Ireland to join the Sisters of Loreto, an order of nuns known for their **MISSIONARY** work in India. In 1931, she took her vows as a sister of Loreto and chose the name Teresa in honor of St. Therese of Lisieux.

Sister Teresa taught **CATECHISM** and geography until she was named headmistress of the school in which she taught.

In 1946, Sister Teresa experienced what she described as another call from **GOD** to leave the convent and live among the poor and serve them in their needs. "To fail would have been to break the **FAITH**," she said.

After leaving her convent, Sister Teresa started an open-air **SCHOOL** in the slums of Kolkata to teach poor children. She also learned basic medical skills so that she could treat the sick who could not afford to go to a doctor.

In 1952, she opened the first home for terminally ill poor people. She knew she could not cure them, but she wanted them to feel loved. "A beautiful death is for people who lived like animals to die like **ANGELS**, loved and wanted," she said.

Eventually former students of hers began to join her in her holy work. In 1950, the Missionaries of **CHARITY** order that Mother Teresa founded was officially recognized by the **VATICAN**. Her work spread from India to all over the world. Today, the original community of 12 sisters in India now has more than 5,300 sisters serving in Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe and Australia.

Mother Teresa's **NUNS** run homes for people who are dying or who have leprosy or tuberculosis. They also operate soup kitchens, medical clinics, orphanages and schools. The sisters offer their loving service free of charge to all people.

The good and **HOLY** nun said that she did all this to show love for "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone."

Because of her love for the poor and outreach to those nobody else would help, Mother Teresa was honored throughout the world.

She was awarded the Nobel **PEACE** Prize in 1979. She was also honored three times by the United States with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985, honorary U.S. citizenship in 1996, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997.

Despite all the awards and honors, Mother Teresa did her work not for recognition, but out of love for **JESUS**. "I do this because I believe I am doing it for Jesus," she once said. "Jesus went about doing good. And we are trying to imitate Him now because I believe that God loves the world through us."

Mother Teresa died on Sept. 5, 1997 and she was beatified in 2003.

- By Richard Szczepanowski

The Life of Mother Teresa



Source: Catholic News Service reports

- 1910** Born Aug. 26 in Macedonia
- 1928** Makes first vows with Loreto Sisters in Dublin
- 1934** Named principal of girls school in Kolkata
- 1946** Receives inner call to serve the poor
- 1950** Establishes Missionaries of Charity
- 1952** Opens home for dying destitute in Kolkata
- 1965** Receives pontifical approval for her order
- 1971** Receives first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize
Establishes first U.S. foundation of her order
- 1979** Receives Nobel Peace Prize
- 1990** Resigns as head of order, but re-elected in unanimous vote
- 1997** Turns over leadership of order to Sister Nirmala
Dies in Kolkata Sept. 5
- 2003** Beatified by Pope John Paul II
- 2016** Elevated to sainthood

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V	A	T	I	C	A	N	G	O	D	W	P
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M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	R	Y	F	R

Catholic Kids' 'selfies'

Local Catholic students draw and write self-portraits



Arabella Palor, fifth grade
St. Columba School, Oxon Hill



Julia Palor, third grade
St. Columba School, Oxon Hill



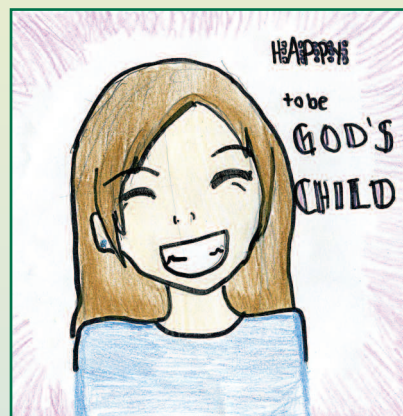
Ricardo Guerrero, eighth grade
St. Joseph Regional Catholic School, Beltsville



Marianna Moawad, third grade
Holy Redeemer Catholic School, Kensington



Aleah Fitzgerald, fourth grade
St. Augustine Catholic School, Washington



Regina Hrabinski, sixth grade
St. Pius X Regional School, Bowie



Alex Herron, eighth grade
Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Solomons

What I love most about my Catholic faith is that through thick and thin, God is there for me. When no one can be trusted, God is there for me. And when I fall and hit the ground hard, God picks me up, dusts me off, and helps me walk with him to a place of complete serenity. That's why I love (and am proud to say) I am of the Catholic faith!"

Sarah Celaya, sixth grade
St. Pius X Regional School, Bowie

"I think my favorite thing to learn about in the Church is knowing that no matter how big or small, or good or bad, God loves us and will always forgive us."

Alexandra Leake, fifth grade
Father Andrew White, S.J. School, Leonardtown

"It is the true faith. My Lord and God looks out for me, every second of every hour of every day. My faith gives me a chance to show my

love for God, and thank him."
Katherine Barnhouse, seventh grade
St. John's School, Hollywood

"I live out my faith by trying to do the best I can to be like Jesus Christ."
Grant Parker, seventh grade
St. Joseph's Regional School, Beltsville

"What I love most about my Catholic faith is Jesus guiding me through the darkness."
Nate Schuknecht, third grade
Holy Redeemer Catholic School, Kensington

"I live my faith in my life by going to church and volunteering to give food to the people that are hungry."
Kebron Zeuda, fifth grade
St. Augustine Catholic School, Washington

NEXT ISSUE

To celebrate the United States' Olympic success, for the next issue of Junior Saints draw a picture of yourself playing your favorite sport or game, and write about which Olympic athlete you admire the most, and why. Please send your drawings and writings by Sept. 19 to:

Junior Saints
P.O. Box 4464 • Washington, DC 20017
Please print or write your full name clearly on your work, and include the name of your parish or school and your grade. Please only send original drawings. Thank you!



November is Black Catholic History Month

November is a busy month for Catholics. This is the month we honor all the saints in heaven and all the souls who have died. We observe Thanksgiving this month and we begin Advent, our time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. And, November is when we celebrate Black Catholic History Month. It is a time to remember the great gifts Catholics of African heritage bring to the Church.

Black Catholic History Month was started in 1990, and November was chosen as the month to do this because several dates important to black Catholics occur during November:

- Nov. 1 is All Saints Day when we celebrate all the saints, including the saints of African descent.
- Nov. 2 is All Souls Day when we remember the faithfully departed, including those who died while in slavery.
- Nov. 3 is the feast day of St. Martin de Porres, the first black American saint. Canonized in



CS FILE PHOTO
St. Martin de Porres

- 1962, his life was dedicated to serving God by serving the poor and needy.
- Nov. 4 is the birthday of St. Monica. Born in North Africa in the fourth century, she was the mother of St. Augustine, and it was her prayers that led to her son's conversion. Her feast day is Aug. 27. One of the oldest cities in the United States is St. Augustine, Florida, named after the great saint. The first Catholic Mass in North America was celebrated there.



CS FILE PHOTO
Henriette Delille

- Nov. 5 is the birthday of Mother Henriette Delille, a 19th century woman of color who was

born in New Orleans and founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, this country's second religious order for black women.

- Nov. 13 is the birthday of St. Augustine, a North African holy bishop, theologian, author and philosopher whose conversion to the Catholic faith came about due to the prayers of his mother, St. Monica. He is the first African to be honored as a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is Aug. 28.



CS FILE PHOTO
St. Augustine

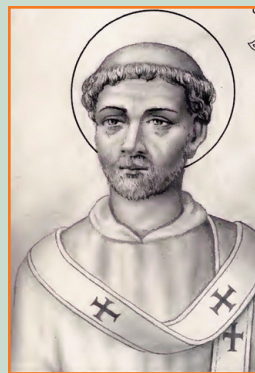
- Nov. 20 is the day that Zumbi of Palmares died in 1695. King Zumbi was a hero and freedom fighter who established a state for free blacks in Brazil.

So, why is it important to study Black Catholic History? Because we have much to learn from those of African descent who have witnessed to the love of Jesus and who lived lives of faith and holiness. They are an example to all people.

Black Catholic history can be found in the Bible. Africa traces its Christian roots to the conversion of an Ethiopian man by Philip the deacon. This event is recorded in the *Acts of the Apostles*. After this man was baptized, Christianity spread throughout Africa, and many Africans who converted to the Catholic faith then converted their countrymen. We also know that Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry His Cross to Calvary. Cyrene is on the north coast of Africa.

Also, in the early years of the Church, there were three popes from Africa: Pope Victor I, Pope Gelasius I and Pope Melchiades.

Pope Victor changed the Church's language from Greek to the Latin that is still used today. Pope Gelasius wrote a book of hymns and outlined Church teaching on the Eucharist. Pope Melchiades helped make



CATHOLIC PUBLICATION SOCIETY PHOTO
St. Melchiades

Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. All three are saints.

When St. Augustine, Florida, was founded in 1565, among those establishing the city were many Africans – some free and some slave. The earliest record of a black child being born in the United States was in 1606 in St. Augustine. The child was Catholic.

There are many African-American Catholics who have had a great impact on the Church in this country, including Mother Mary Lange, founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first order for religious women of color; Daniel Rudd, the son of slaves and founder of the National Black Catholic Congress; Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration who died in 1990 and who was an evangelist and one of the founders of the National Black Sisters Conference; and Father Augustus Tolton, who was ordained in 1886.



Father Augustus Tolton



Mother Mary Lange



Sister Thea Bowman

CS FILE PHOTO

Father Tolton, a former slave, is believed to be the first known black priest to serve Catholics in the United States. He studied in Rome and was ordained there.

Father Charles Randolph Uncles, a native of Baltimore, is believed to be the first black priest ordained in the United States. He was ordained five years after Father Tolton and later helped establish the St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart, a community better known as the Josephites and dedicated to ministering to black Catholics.

It is important to celebrate the contributions that so many black Catholics have made to our faith. Learning about those good and holy people teaches everyone of every race and culture that we are called to live our faith, share it with others, and love one another as brothers and sisters of Jesus. — Richard Szczepanowski

My favorite saint...



St. Nicholas by Julia Bielawski, fourth grade
St. Martin of Tours School, Gaithersburg



St. Terese by Maria Derisavi, eighth grade
Little Flower School, Great Mills



St. Kateri Tekakwitha by Gemma Emburri, sixth grade
Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Solomons



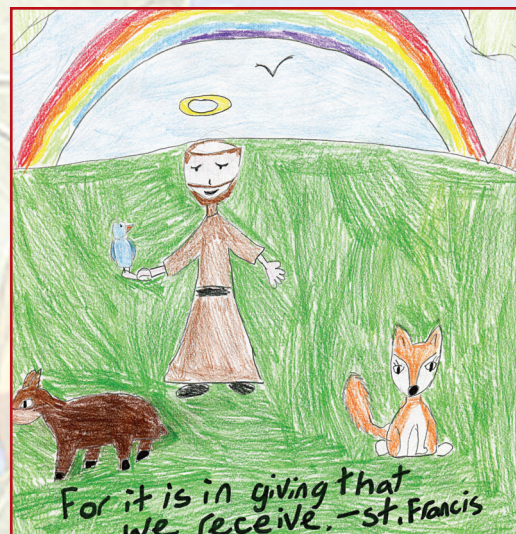
St. Melangell by Lydia Kalshoven, eighth grade
The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle, Lanham



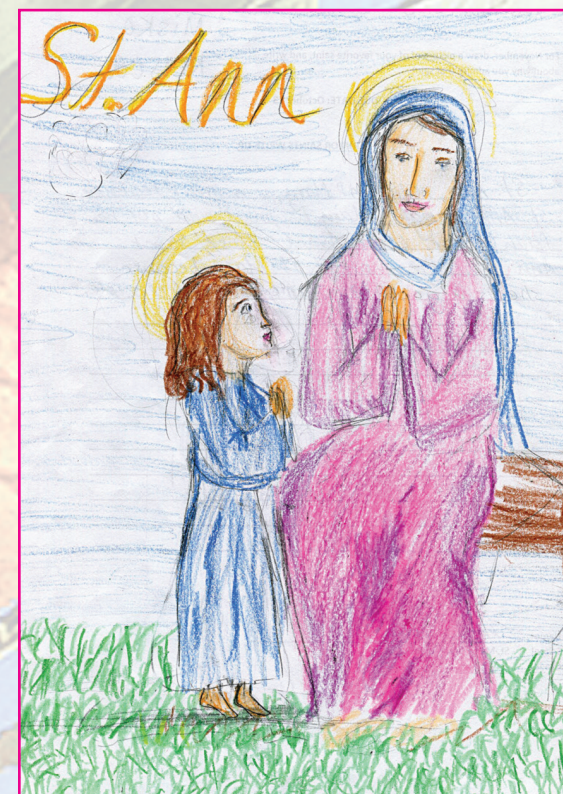
St. Gabriel by Quenton Williams, sixth grade
St. Augustine Catholic School, Washington



St. Teresa of Calcutta by Julia Palor, fourth grade
St. Columba School, Oxon Hill



St. Francis by Piper Mach, fourth grade
Holy Redeemer School, Kensington



St. Ann by Kelsea Misko, seventh grade
St. Mary's School, Bryantown



St. Joan of Arc by Maya Joseph, eighth grade
The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle, Lanham



St. Mary by Sydney Williams, sixth grade
St. Mary's School, Bryantown



St. Patrick by Tiffani Pittman, eighth grade
St. Ambrose School, Cheverly

"The saint I admire is St. Matthew. I admire St. Matthew because he writes about Jesus, and I love Jesus from the bottom of my heart."
- Matthew Morin, third grade, Holy Redeemer School, Kensington

"I admire St. Catherine of Siena because she is really confident in herself. She is so confident that she even told the pope what to do! She is a great role model for kids all over the world!"
- Reese Garayta, fourth grade, Holy Redeemer School, Kensington

"My favorite saint is St. John Bosco. I admire John Bosco because he focused most of his life on helping kids in the streets. John replaced punishment with love. Instead of punishing the poor and hurting them, John Bosco taught them to be kind to people, love God, and do the right thing. He also loved to teach and learn. These are just a few reasons why I admire John Bosco."

- Leila-Marie Baba, seventh grade, St. Mary's School, Bryantown

"My favorite saint is St. Michael. I admire him because he is the patron saint of police officers. He was watching over my dad on the police force for 15 years and brought him home safe every day. He also watched over my dad's friends. My dad and his friend were in an accident and his friend was severely injured, so I prayed to St. Michael during that time and I still do. My dad's friend is now back on the streets again."

- Cody Trice, sixth grade, St. Pius X Regional School, Bowie

"I admire [Saint John Paul II] because I was going to have serious medical problems. My mom prayed to him. She prayed the rosary to him every day. When I was born I turned out fine!"

- Braden Barlag, fourth grade, St. Jane de Chantal School, Bethesda

"I admire St. Nicholas because he used all of his money to help the needy, the sick and the suffering."

- Sophie Alexander, second grade, St. Elizabeth School, Rockville

"My saint is St. Pope John Paul II because he showed me what love is when he forgave the man who tried to hurt him. I want to follow his example."

- Bella Palor, sixth grade, St. Columba School, Oxon Hill

"My favorite saint is Mother Teresa. She felt that God was leading her to help the poor. She helped the poorest of the poor, she helped the sick, and she lived among them even though they were looked down upon. She found ways to bring hope into their lives. She's my favorite saint because she was compassionate and cared very much for others. I see myself in her, because I love helping and serving others."

- Grace Brigham, eighth grade, St. Pius X Regional School, Bowie

"I admire St. Mary because of her faith. She

puts God before anything. Even in her hardest times, her faith does not waver. I hope to follow her example and accept whatever God wants me to do and make an impact in the world."

- Rosemary Sui, eighth grade, St. Jude Regional Catholic School, Rockville

"I admire St. Sebastian because he is the patron saint of sports. I like to pray to him before a game."

- Fanacio Joy, fifth grade, The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle, Lanham

"I admire St. Elizabeth Ann Seton because she is the patron saint of teachers, and teachers help children learn, and I like to learn so I can be a doctor when I grow up."

- Angel Obidike, fifth grade, The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle, Lanham

"St. Therese of Lisieux, or The Little Flower. She is my favorite saint because of how she still had a temper and was stubborn, but God forgave her, and she loved God every day and never stopped loving him."

- Amanda Maxwell, sixth grade, St. Mary's School of Piscataway, Clinton

"The reason why I chose St. Paul is that he showed that even someone who wasn't a believer in Jesus can be converted and become one of his greatest supporters and teachers."

- Logan O'Neal, fifth grade, St. Augustine Catholic School, Washington

"My favorite saint is St. Cecilia. St. Cecilia has always inspired me to follow my musical dream. She is the patron saint of musicians, so before every audition, concert or play, I pray to her and ask for her help. St. Cecilia is also a martyr, so it shows her faith that she had in God. St. Cecilia helps me to better prove my musical career and helps me to build my relationship with God. Through her examples I can do great things."

- Tina Spurgeon, eighth grade, St. Pius X Regional School, Bowie

NEXT ISSUE

For the December issue of Junior Saints, draw a scene from the first Christmas, and write about what the gift of Jesus means to you. Please send your drawings and writings by Nov. 16 to:

Junior Saints
P.O. Box 4464
Washington, DC 20017

Please print or write your full name clearly on your work and include the name of your parish or school and your grade. Please only send original drawings. Thank you!

Word search (The words are forward, backward, up, down and diagonal!)

Celebrating holy men and women of color

Since **November** is the month when the Catholic Church asks us to honor all the saints, here are some holy men and women we can learn about as we celebrate **Black Catholic** History Month.

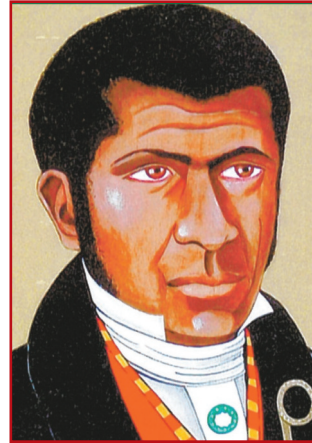
Saints Julian and Basilissa were a married couple from North **Africa** who made their home into a hospital to treat poor people. They were martyred for their faith in the fourth century after suffering persecution for being Catholic.

St. Anthony of Alexandria was a third century African born to wealthy parents. He gave all his money to the poor and lived as a hermit, devoting all of his time to working and **prayer**. He is known as the **Father** of All **Monks**.

Pierre Toussaint was born a slave in **Haiti** and moved to New York City in 1787. He earned his freedom in 1807 and became a hairdresser. He became very wealthy and he and his wife, both of whom were devout Catholics, used their money to serve others. They opened their home as an orphanage and assisted the homeless and the poor.

He helped raise money to construct St. Patrick's **Cathedral** in New York. He died in 1853, and his cause for **sainthood** is being investigated by the Vatican.

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in the **Sudan** in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery where she was treated very badly. At the age of 14, her owners moved to Italy taking Josephine with her. There, she learned about the Catholic faith from the Canossian Daughters of Charity. After converting to Catholicism, she entered the religious order. She was a religious sister for 50 years, serving as a cook, seamstress, and doorkeeper. She was known for her great **holiness** by the time she died in



Pierre Toussaint

1947. She was canonized in 2000.

St. Perpetua was a third century noble woman from Africa. She and her maid, St. Felicity, were devoted to their Catholic **faith** at a time when it was illegal to do so. St. Perpetua and St. Felicity were arrested and tortured, but would not give up their faith. After being held in prison, the two holy women were beheaded for believing in **Jesus**.



St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Maurice of Aganaum was a third century Roman soldier who was born in Africa. He was a devoted **Christian** when it was illegal to be so. Despite that, he became a general and commanded a legion of soldiers in France, Spain, Italy and Switzerland. He was discovered to be a Christian because he refused to fight fellow Christians. The emperor tried to force Maurice to worship pagan gods, but when the holy soldier refused, he was killed.

St. Charles Lwanga was a 19th century convert to Catholicism who was born in **Uganda**. He was a servant to the leader of his tribe and he instructed many people in the Catholic faith. When the leader of the tribe demanded that Christians give up their faith, Charles and 22 others refused. They were tortured before being burned to death. Charles and the others were declared saints in 1964. St. Charles Lwanga is the **patron** saint of African **youth**.

St. Benedict the Moor was born to African slaves in Italy in 1522, but was granted his freedom at the moment of his birth. He was a hermit for a short time before becoming a Franciscan Friar. Even though he was well known for his charity, his holiness and for performing many **miracles**, Benedict was a humble man. When he died, a great tomb was built to honor him.

There are many, many other holy men and women of color whose lives are examples of how **God** wants us to live. Learning about these great black Catholics can help all of us become Junior Saints.

- Richard Szczepanowski
Top left photo from CNS
top right CS photo by Jaclyn Lippelmann

F	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	U	C
A	R	S	E	L	C	A	R	I	M	E	A
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T	O	U	G	S	S	E	N	I	L	O	H
H	D	S	A	C	V	A	R	P	J	R	E
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Y	I	E	A	M	L	Y	H	U	I	P	A
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R	I	V	O	D	C	O	L	U	L	A	A
P	O	M	O	N	K	S	G	V	T	I	N
N	S	A	I	N	T	H	O	O	D	H	C