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at a time when this was uncommon. As a result, Fr. Tolton moved to Chicago, where he founded a church called St. Augustine. The church struggled financially, and St. Katharine Drexel, an heiress who was ministering to the Indigenous people of the Midwest, sent money to keep the parish stable, after Fr. Tolton had written to her about the plight of his church, especially as it related to the racism his parishioners encountered in other Catholic parishes. Fr. Tolton passed away during a heat wave in Chicago in 1897.

Fr. Tolton is known for having said, "We should welcome all people into the church, not send them away." This week, let us acknowledge the prophets in our midst, like Fr. Tolton, who remind us of our Christian call to hospitality. And let us reflect on the ways in which we can grow in our ability to welcome all people, rejecting the "-ism"s that have the potential to divide us, never sending anyone away.

*Thank you to Jay Mitchell for connecting the community with more information about Black Catholics in the United States. One such source, which I consulted for this piece, is <http://www.dio.org/tolton/>. Another is an interview with Fr. Cyprian Davis at <http://www.nbccongress.org/features/in-the-beginning.asp#>.

Jen Owens
RCIA Coordinator

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, February 18th: Ash Wednesday, Masses at 8:30 AM and 7 PM

Wednesday, February 25, March 4, March 22, March 18, March 25, Evening Prayer

Sunday, March 29th: Palm Sunday

Monday, March 30th, Reconciliation Service, 7 PM

Thursday, April 2nd: Holy Thursday: Mass at 7 PM

Good Friday, April 3rd: Stations of the Cross and Seven Last Words at 12 Noon. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7 PM

Saturday, April 4th: Easter Vigil at 8 PM

Sunday, April 5th: Easter Masses at 8 AM and 10:30 AM

QUESTION OF THE WEEK**For Adults**

What can you tell others about Jesus with the most assurance?

For Children

What is the most important thing you would like others to know about Jesus? How will you show or tell them?

Art and Environment Update:

The change from Ordinary Time to Lent will be Monday, February 16th, at 6 p.m.

There will be refreshments at both occasions

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

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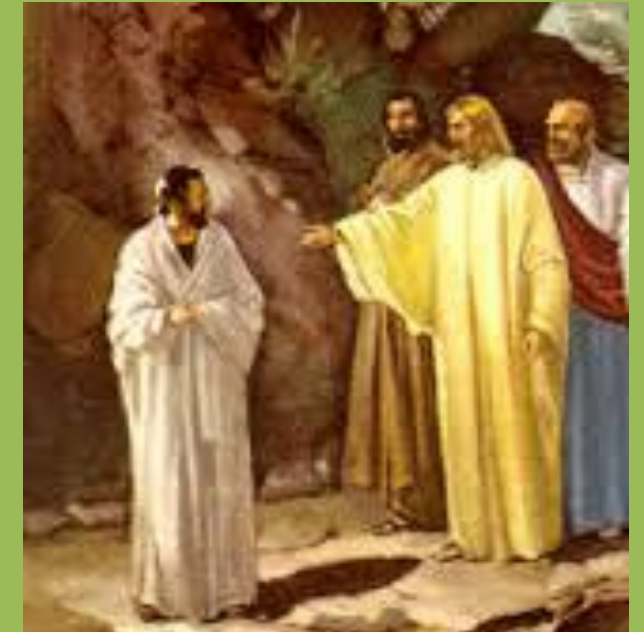


As we begin Black History Month on this Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, I am struck by the connections between the First Reading from Deuteronomy and the life of Fr. Augustus Tolton (1854-1897), the first priest in the Catholic Church in the United States to self-identify as Black and be ordained to ministry. In the First Reading, we hear Moses say, "A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen." In many ways, Fr. Tolton was the kind of prophet of whom Moses spoke.

Born to slave parents Martha Jane Chisley and Peter Paul Tolton, Augustus would have had a challenging family life. He and his two siblings would have lived with his mother on the farm of Stephen and Susan Elliott, in Missouri, a slave state. His father, about whom little is known, only would have been allowed to see his wife and his children on weekends, with the permission of the Hagar family, to whom he was enslaved. Martha and her children fled to Illinois, a free state, when Augustus was seven years old. There, Augustus worked in a tobacco factory to help support his family, and he encountered racism in the first Catholic school he attended, where German Catholic parents threatened to pull their children from the school because of his presence. In 1863, Augustus met Fr. Peter McGirr, who ordered his mother to enroll Augustus at St. Peter's School. After he finished there, he continued to work, and Fr. McGirr searched for a seminary that would accept Augustus. Not finding one in the United States, Augustus continued to study informally with Fr. McGirr and other priests and eventually was sent to Rome for the rest of his formation. Fr. Tolton celebrated his first Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on Easter Sunday of 1886.

Upon returning to the United States, he was assigned to St. Joseph's Church in Quincy, Illinois, the only Black Catholic church in Diocese of Alton. There, he became known as a gifted preacher and speaker, and Black and White Catholics alike attended Mass there. Fr. Michael Weis, a German priest in the diocese, challenged him often because Fr. Tolton refused to send White parishioners away, keeping his congregation integrated

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Douglas Castro/Maintenance

Mission Statement

We are called by Christ to love Him, to follow Him and to bring Him to the world.

Kindly keep the following parishioner in your prayers as she have been placed in **Hospice care**: Marilyn La Placa.

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Mary Hazen, Harold Swamy, Loraine Moran, Patty Wiesner, Lexi Venema, Mary Flynn, Tom Hayes, Andrade, Rose Domaguing, Madeleine Shannon, Matilda Maes, Mary Pavao, Claudia Johnson, Carmon Woodyard.

And those who have died:

Hortense Atkins, Evelyn Vega, George Shaw, Cora Jose., Kay Irwin, Timothy Michael Solovieff, Juanita Morris.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 31st, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, February 1st, 2015 8 a.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, February 1st, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Nathaniel Ottoboni (+)

Sunday, February 1st, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

January 25th, 2015:\$3,910 (includes EFT)

St. Vincent de Paul Stewardship \$73.52

We will continue our Bible Study this Sunday, February 1, 2015, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Rectory dining room. All are welcome. Please bring your Holy Bible, a pen and note pad.

In the Powerful Name of Jesus,

Fr. Freddie Thomas

Please join members of the Prayer Tree to pray "**Rosary for Peace**" on the 1st Sundays of the month.

Rosary for Peace begins at 9:15 a.m. on following days in 2015: February 1st, March 1st, April 12th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th.

End of year tax statements are now available for registered parishioners. Please call Linda in the Rectory office at (510) 653-8631 if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Eucharist

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Eucharist

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:30 a.m.

Communion Service

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4 p.m.

First Sunday Potluck

Join us in the rectory dining room on Sunday night, February 1st, for a potluck dinner following the 6 pm Mass to welcome new folks to the parish. Dishes can be brought to the rectory in the 15 minutes before Mass starts. Bring a friend!

Please come and join us every Tuesday morning at St. Augustine's, combining elements of Taizé music, contemplative prayer, and liturgy of the hours. The service will begin at 7:45 a.m. and will last approximately 25 minutes.

No prior experience or training is necessary in order to participate; all that is needed is a desire to meet with a small group to spend time in prayer. If you would like more information, please contact Susan Schaeffer at lilac52@gmail.com or 415-935-1729



Lent 2015 Message Series

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH • OAKLAND, CA

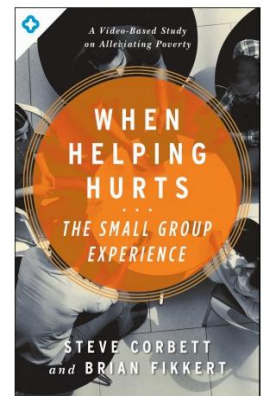
Poverty is a touchy subject. It is politicized, used as a guilt-trip, trivialized, and easily misunderstood. And, paradoxically, some ways that we may try to help the materially poor can cause harm to them... and ourselves.

Our Lenten series offers a different framework for thinking about poverty and its alleviation. Poverty isn't just a lack of material things – it's rooted in broken relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation. Learn more about the series at <http://Gospel.link>.

Small Faith-Sharing Groups

We will gather into small groups this Lent to reflect on *When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. The process is excellent and includes a booklet and short videos.

To sign up, fill out a form in the church or contact Jen at jen.owens9@gmail.com or 510-653-8631 x103.



Meg Bowerman on *Helping without Hurting*

Save the date: Tuesday, March 24 • 7:00-8:30pm

Meg Bowerman is a member of St. Columba Church in Oakland and a former board member for JustFaith, a national program that transforms people and expands their commitment to social ministry. Through these life-changing opportunities, members of a church or parish can study, explore and experience Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable in a lively, challenging, multifaceted process in the context of a small faith community. Meg will lead us in reflecting on this series together as a parish community. For more information, please contact Jenny at jennysacc@gmail.com.