Our Lady of Grace
Catholic Parish

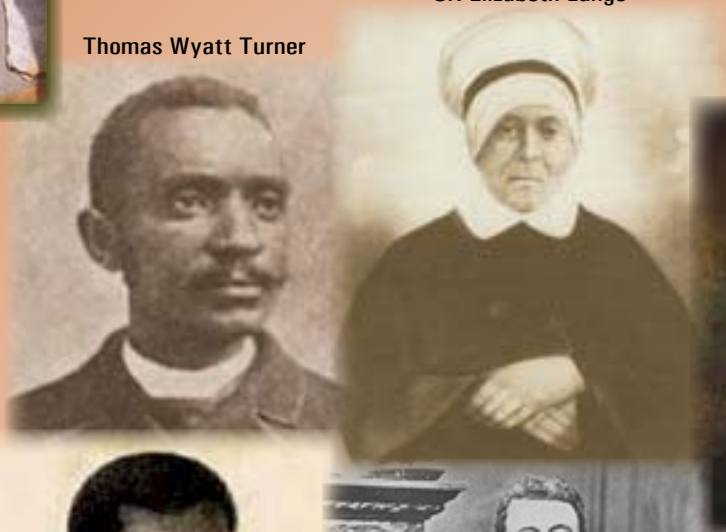
595 East Main Street · Avon Park, Florida 33825

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time **February 1, 2009**

Sr. Elizabeth Lange

Thomas Wyatt Turner

Henriette DeLille



Pierre Toussaint

Bishop Francis Healy

Daniel Rudd

Black History Month

NEXT WEEK – CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Parish Office
· Phone: (863) 453-4757
· Fax: (863) 453-2620
· Monday through Friday
9 AM to 2:30 PM

Pastor
Fr. Nicholas McLoughlin

Spanish Apostolate
Fr. José Gonzalez

Deacon
Fred Simon

Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Gerald Grogan

Assisting Clergy
Fr. Robert Onze
Fr. John Belfield
Fr. Leo Frechette

Administrative Assistant
Betty Heiring

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from our Pastor's desk

Father Augustus Tolton

Dear parishioners: This month, we observe **Black history month** in the U.S. This year is uniquely historic because of the election of the first Afro-American President of the U.S., President Barack Obama. He comes from Chicago. The First 'real' black Catholic priest came from Chicago, Augustus Tolton. The first black president of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, Wilton Gregory, is from Chicago.

1565-1899: St. Augustine, Florida

Black Catholic history in the U.S. began right here in Florida. Blacks, both slave and free, help to found this oldest town in the U.S. **In 1693** Spain offers freedom in Florida to slaves who convert to Catholicism. Until 1763, these freed slaves live in a community northeast of St. Augustine. Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or **Fort Mose, established in 1738, becomes the first free black town in the U.S.**

Born into slavery in 1854, Augustus Tolton would soon know some form of freedom in the U.S. outside of Missouri. In the arms of his mother Martha, Tolton crossed the Mississippi River into Western Illinois. Martha and her three children settled in the quiet town of Quincy. Tolton's story, told in the seminal book, **"The History of Black Catholics in the United States"** by Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis, details a young man with little given his family's poverty. In the face of financial and societal obstacles, Tolton boldly declared his desire to become a Catholic priest. But like Mary and Joseph in search of lodging, no U.S. seminary welcomed him.

Tolton was not the first official black Catholic priest in the U.S. The Healy brothers, all fathered by an Irish born Georgia plantation owner and a black slave woman--are officially the first. Their father sent them north for education and freedom. Three of the Healy brothers--**James, Patrick, and Alexander**--became the first African American priests in the U.S., although they do not identify with being black and never speak out on behalf of blacks – they were "mulattos." **On June 10, 1854**, James Augustine Healy (1830-1900) was ordained a priest in Paris, France. **James was the first Black priest to serve in the US**. He became the **first Black Bishop in the U.S., in the Diocese of Portland, Maine, on June 2, 1875**. On December 15, 1858, **Alexander Sherwood Healy** (1830-75) was ordained a priest in Rome. He became theologian to the U.S. bishops at the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866 and at the First Vatican Council in 1870. The third Healy son, **Patrick Francis Healy, S.J.**, (1834-1910) was ordained a Jesuit priest on September 3, 1864, in Belgium. He became vice-rector of Georgetown University on May 23, 1873. The following year, 1874, he became president of Georgetown University and served until 1882, the first Black to head a major university in the U.S.

Because of the racism he faced in the U.S., Tolton was forced to study for the priesthood at the College of Sacred Propaganda in Rome. Six years later, **Tolton** realized his dream when he **was ordained on April 24, 1886**. Tolton and other church officials were certain that he would soon be deployed as a missionary.

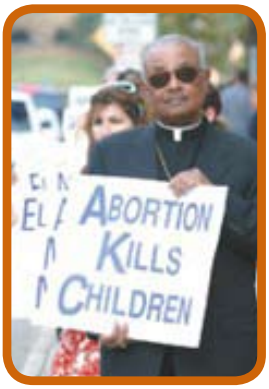
God had other plans for him. Back in Illinois, he spent three short years in Quincy. Stories of his preaching skills quickly spread throughout the town, attracting both Black and white Catholics. Tolton was appointed by Chicago's first Archbishop, Patrick Feehan, **pastor of Old St. Mary's Church**.

The congregation was transformed by Tolton into St. Monica Parish (now St. Elizabeth Parish), the Mother Church of Black Catholics in Chicago. Under his leadership and the financial assistance of **St. Katherine Drexel**, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Tolton established the **first Black Catholic School in the Chicago Archdiocese**. Catholic means being open to all people.

Father Nick

General Facts of the Catholic Church in the United States

- The Church in the United States was established on November 6, 1789 by Pope Pius VI.
- First Catholic diocese: Baltimore, MD in 1789; John Carroll named first bishop
- 17% of the world's population is Catholic.
- 6% of the world's Catholics are from the United States.
- 11% of the world's Catholic priests are from the United States.
- Catholics comprise the largest religious faith group in the U.S. Congress with 155 members (30%):
- 130 House members (42 Republicans, 88 Democrats)
- 25 Senators (9 Republicans, 16 Democrats)
- Five of the nine members of the U. S. Supreme Court are Catholic
- (Roberts, Kennedy, Scalia, Thomas and Alito)
- Catholics comprise 25% of the U.S. military and are served by an Archbishop for the Military Services, presently Archbishop Timothy Broglio.
- The representative of the Holy See to the Church in the United States is as an apostolic nuncio,
- presently Archbishop Pietro Sambi.
- There are 194 U. S. dioceses and archdioceses.



African American Catholics in the United States

It is estimated that African American Catholics make about 3 per cent of all Catholics in the United States. Growing evidence shows that African American Catholics in the United States are becoming more and more involved in parish leadership as they strive to celebrate their Catholic and cultural heritage.

Chicago born Archbishop Wilton Gregory (Atlanta) was the first Afro-American President of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. He served as Vice-President, 1999-2001. He served as President, 2001-04.

- There are 3 million African American Catholics in the United States
- 798 Roman Catholic parishes are considered to be predominantly African American. Most of those continue to be on the East Coast and in the South. The further West of the Mississippi, the more likely it is to find African American Catholics immersed in multicultural
- At present there are 16 living African American bishops of whom 10 remain active.
- Currently, six U.S. dioceses are headed by African American Bishops.
- There are 250 African American priests in the United States, and 75 men of African descent in seminary formation for the priesthood.
- There are about 400 African American religious sisters and 50 religious brothers.
- The Black population in the United States is estimated to be just over 36 million people (13 percent of the total U.S. population).
- By the year 2050 the Black population is expected to almost double its present size to 62 million.

Front Cover Photos: Bishop Francis Healy, First Black Bishop, Portland, ME (1875-1900): **Fr. Augustus Tolton**, First 'real' Black priest (ordained 1886); **Sr. Elizabeth Lange**, First Catholic school for Haitian children in Baltimore (1829). She was Cuban of Haitian parents; **Henriette DeLille**, bi-racial & of African descent, founded Sisters of the Holy Family, an order for black women (1842), her cause is up for beatification; **Pierre Toussaint**, Haitian immigrant, arrived in New York 1787, hairdresser to New York aristocracy, was able to obtain freedom from his slave owner & bought freedom for his sister & future wife, was known for his widespread charity, his cause is up for beatification; **Daniel Rudd**, journalist and leader of black laity, met with President Grover Cleveland on the last day of the first black Catholic lay congress in January, 1899.

Bishop's Letter for CFA

You will receive Bishop Dewane's letter by mail this week appealing for your support for the 2009 Annual Catholic Faith Appeal.

OLG Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & Paris

Our Lady of Grace Parish will undertake an 8-Day Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Paris, March 27 to April 3, 2009. Fr. Nick will be our spiritual leader. The cost of the trip is $2,500: it includes all hotels, transportation, breakfast and dinner, taxes and tips, etc. Contact Mary Hutchison at c130hutch@comcast.net; & (863) 453-0450.

The Annual Women's Club Yard Sale

is set for Friday, Feb 6, 8 AM - 2 PM, and on Saturday, Feb 7, 8 - 11 AM. Save your usable discards for the sale. Drop off dates: Mon – Thurs, 9 AM – 2:30 PM.

Wedding Anniversary Mass

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to a special anniversary Mass in their honor at 11 AM on Saturday, February 7, in Our Lady of Light Parish, Fort Myers and on February 14, 2009, at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice. Family and friends may join in the celebration at the reception. Please call the Parish office for reservations no later than February 10, 453-4757, or call the Family Life Office at the Diocese, (941) 484-9543.

Marr Encounter Weekend

A good relationship dissipates slowly and unobtrusively because other preoccupations and stresses in marriage and the family detract and distract us from it. We go for annual health check-ups every year. It is just as important to go for a 'marriage-check-up' to make sure that our relationship with our spouse remains healthy. Give your marriage a 'B-12-shot': sign up for a marriage encounter weekend for the weekend of Feb 6-8 in Sebring and April 24-26 in Sarasota. For info & reservation, call (941) 962-9904 or toll-free, (888) 560-1854.

Collection for Church Service Center

9% of our citizens are unemployed. In January, OLG contributed $2,279 to the Church Service Center. A 2nd collection will be taken after communion to help pay bills.

Medication Use & Safety

Along with better nutrition and low cholesterol, low salt diets, the development of drugs that help us as we age has reduced death rates from heart attacks and strokes significantly in the past few decades. But medications used by any ageing person are truly the proverbial double edged sword, since the average Senior takes more than four prescription drugs plus two "over-the-counter" remedies – a confusing regimen by any standard. Indeed, studies show that anywhere from 40%-75% of older adults do not take their medications at the right time or in the right amount.

Come join us, OLG Parish Nurse Ministry to hear an informative talk on "Maintaining Effective Drug Safety: MEDS, presented by Dr. Dennis Mungall, Clinical Pharmacist from Florida Hospital, Sebring, on Thursday, Feb 12, at 2:00 p.m. at the Grogan Center. Come and bring your friends.

First Friday

8 AM Mass on Friday, Feb 6, will be followed by Benediction until 9 AM.

First Saturday

8 AM Mass followed by Confessions.

"Love is a canvas furnished by Nature and embroidered by imagination."

1st Annual Valentines Dinner-Dance-Ball

Saturday, Feb 14, 7-10pm

Prime Rib Dinner with Assorted Drinks

$15.00 per person · $120 for table of 8

Grogan Center Hall

'Have I shown you lately that I love you?'

Sacramental Life of the Parish

Baptisms:
Baptismal orientation is the first Sunday of each month. Ceremonies are performed on the second Sunday.

Marriages:
Adequate preparation is required. Call the parish office six months in advance.

Ministry to the Sick:
Arrangements can be made to have a priest and/or a Eucharistic minister visit on a regular basis, if necessary. Call the parish office.

Registration
Permanent and seasonal members are encouraged to register. Registration cards are available at the main church entrance.

Schedule of Masses and Prayers

Saturday
8 AM with Confession
at 8:30 AM (Nov - May)
Vigil 4 PM
7 PM Spanish

Sunday
8 AM and 10:30 AM
Life Teen Mass 6 PM

Holy Days
Vigil 5:30 PM
8 AM

Daily Mass
Monday - Friday 8 AM

First Friday
Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

First Saturday
Mass at 8 AM

Confessions
Saturday 3:30 PM

Readings for the Week of February 1, 2009

Sunday
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

Monday
Malachi 3:1-4
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

Tuesday
Hebrews 12:1-4
Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday
Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-16
Mark 6:1-6

Thursday
Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24
Mark 6:7-13

Friday
Hebrews 13:1-8
Mark 6:14-29

Saturday
Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21
Mark 6:30-34

Next Sunday
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Please Note: Names will be left on the prayer list for one month. If you would like a name to be kept longer on the list, please call the parish office.

Mass Intentions for The Coming Week

Saturday, Jan. 31
4 PM..... † Mary Budusky by Helene Nassour
† Terrence Darragh by the Oliver family
7 PM..... Spanish Mass

Sunday, Feb. 1
8 AM..... Special intention for Rainald Gervais, Jr. by Rainald & Sandra Gervais
10:30 AM..... † Francis P. Walsh by his wife Lorraine
Special intention for Richard Caracaus by his wife
6 PM..... Nancy Rodriguez and Nelly Diaz by the Sizemore and Barker families

Monday, Feb. 2
8 AM..... † Marie Carducci by Rocky Carducci
In thanksgiving for Melville Riley by Pauline Njie

Tuesday, Feb. 3
8 AM..... † Souls in Purgatory especially ones mentioned by name by Julius

Wednesday, Feb. 4
8 AM..... † Ivy Thomas Shenton by Peg Shaw
Special intention for Peg Shaw

Thursday, Feb. 5
8 AM..... † Kevin Fairfield by Nick & James Sertich

Friday, Feb. 6
8 AM..... † Annie Sheeler by Helene Nassour
† John Casey by Ed & Maureen Castine

Saturday, Feb. 7
4 PM..... Special intention for John & Joan Gunn on their 50th wedding anniversary
† Ron Kowalski by Cathie Kowalski
† Gordan Evans by Loretta Evans

Sunday, Feb. 8
8 AM..... † Marie Carducci by Rocky Carducci
† Phil Sanborn by the Crystal Lake Rosary Group
† Josephine & Charles Behal by Ed & Lila Behal
10:30 AM..... † Karl Hemker by Albert & Carole Dumbleton and family
Special intention for Gerald & Anne Burke on their 62nd wedding anniversary
† Steve Koebbe by Mom & Dad

Please pray for the sick...

Sheri Viera
Joan Southworth
Kathleen Meusel
Joan D'Amanda
Jane Papale
The Mariano Family
Mary Trypuc
Ron Kowalski
Marty McDonough
Dale Pounds
Bob Bland
Rainald Gervais, Jr.
James Curtis
Agnes Belfield
Betty Freeman
Philip Cooper
Jason Pearson

And also for...

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the
hour of our death.
Amen.

those who care for the sick,
deceased members and benefactors of the parish,
and our loved ones.

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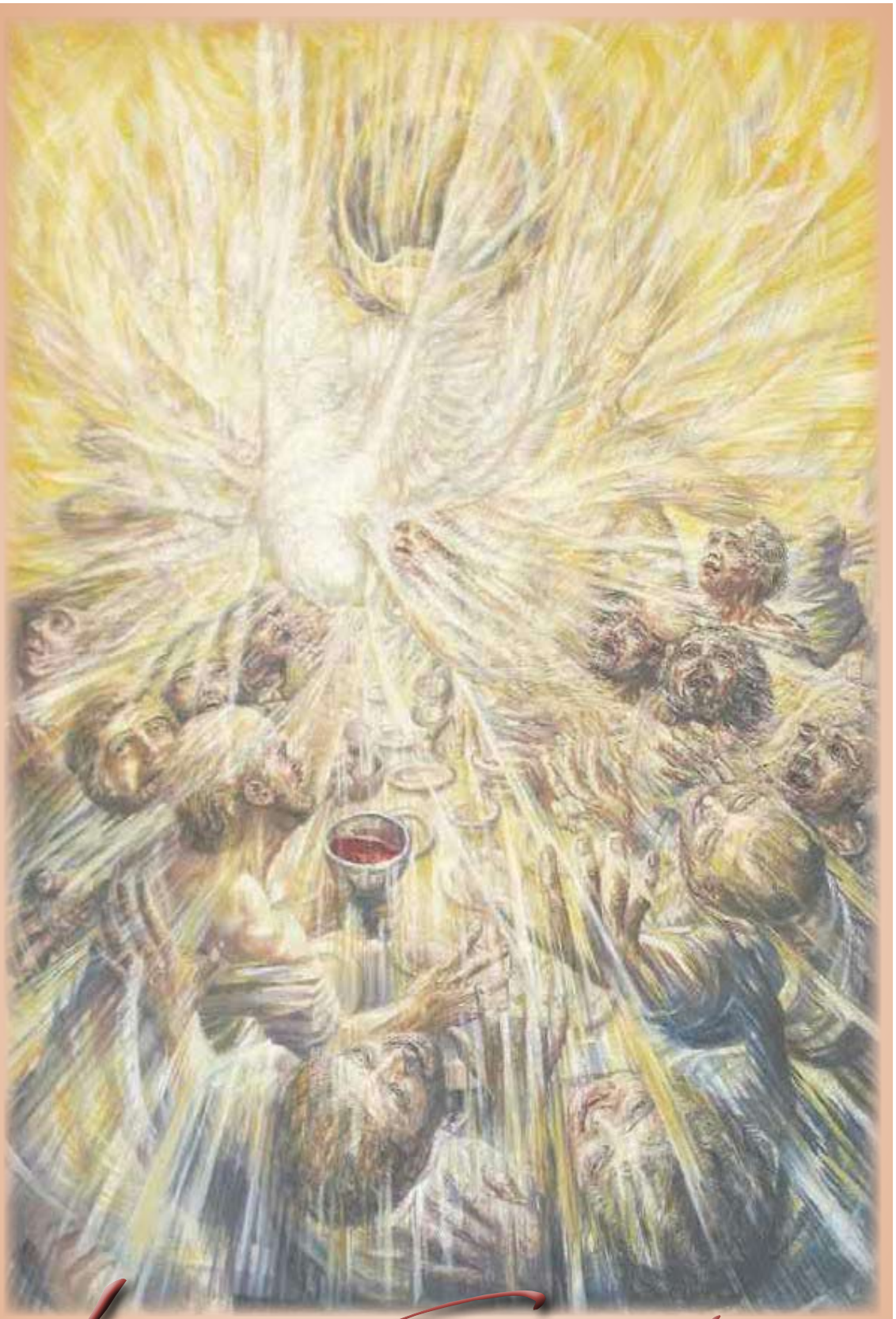

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