

## FEBRUARY 2024 BULLETIN NOTES

### JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE

Justice And Peace | Sacred Heart Catholic Church ([sacredheartnorfolk.org](http://sacredheartnorfolk.org))

February 3/4 | 2024

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** | This month we recognize the following 6 African American men and women who have made significant contributions to the Church and our country: Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Henriette Delille, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Servant of God Julia Greeley, and Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman. [watch a video](#) of the men and women on the road to sainthood. These men and women are under formal consideration by the Catholic Church for canonization. [On the Road to Sainthood: Leaders of African Descent | USCCB](#)



**Venerable Pierre Toussaint** was born a slave in Haiti and brought to New York as an apprentice under a popular hairstylist in the city. He became the most sought-after hairdresser of high society women. Upon the death of his master, he gained his freedom and succeeded as one of the country's first black entrepreneurs. He supported the Church and the poor. He founded one of New York's first orphanages and raised money for the city's first cathedral. [Vulnerable Pierre Toussaint \(1776-1853\)](#)

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING** | The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General has designated **February 8** as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. On this day, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to create greater awareness about this phenomenon. February 8 is the feast day of **St. Josephine Bakhita**, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

**GREEN FOR LENT** | Lent begins on **February 14th**. It is not too early to start thinking about your Lenten disciplines. This Lent, consider including action on the environment as one of them. Catholic Climate Covenant offers several options of climate action during Lent. Suggestions include Stations of the Cross Renew the Earth, *Laudato Si* Lent and *Greener Lent* from the Diocese of Raleigh, NC. Check out the Catholic Climate Covenant 2024 Lenten Season resources at [Season Of Lent | Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

February 10/11 | 2024

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**Servant of God Mother Mary Lange** was a native of the Caribbean and believed to be Cuban born of Haitian descent. She was the foundress and first Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence (1829-1832), the first religious congregation of African American women in the history of the Catholic Church. On July 2, 1829, Elizabeth and three other women professed their vows and became the Oblate Sisters of Providence with the goal of educating and evangelizing African Americans. [Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange \(1784-1882\)](#)



**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) MISSION STATEMENT** [Mission Statement | CRS | LENT IS COMING!](#) Join our faith community in a transformative Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in

Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia who are working hard to overcome the challenges of hunger and the impact of climate change. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the table set in the Commons during Lent. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sisters and brothers worldwide can thrive. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more. POC Frank Murphy [wfmern377@aol.com](mailto:wfmern377@aol.com)

**February 17/18 | 2024**



**WEEK 1 LENT | CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)** | Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. [How to fast for Lent?](#) Through the program CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. **As of tradition, we have set a table in the Commons with envelopes for individuals, and small rice bowl boxes for families, and a calendar of activities.** 75% of your CRS Rice Bowl donation supports the work of CRS in more than 100 countries, and 25% of your gifts stay in each U.S. diocese for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. The Eucharist nourishes and connects us as one family in Christ. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can help care for all members of our human family. Read this week's story <https://www.crsricebowl.org/stories-of-hope/intro>, the Lenten pillars will guide us to encounter Christ through our global family members in **Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia**, who are finding ways to overcome hunger and adapt to the impacts of climate change. POC | Frank Murphy [wfmern377@aol.com](mailto:wfmern377@aol.com)

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**Venerable Henriette Delille** was born in New Orleans, LA. She taught those around her that sanctity can be attained in following the path of Jesus. In 1842, she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Henriette died 20 years later. [Venerable Henriette Delille \(1813-1862\)](#)

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** Feb. 14-March 24, 7:00 am-7:00 pm organizes peaceful prayer vigils that provide resources and support to women entering abortion clinics, while promoting the sanctity of life in the community. Parishioners are invited to visit [40daysforlife.com/richmond](http://40daysforlife.com/richmond) to join this effort by reserving a spot and joining us this Lent to pray, fast, and be a voice for the unborn and a resource to mothers in need. POC: **Craig Eller** (757) 287-6428 | +17572876428 | [ellersix@cox.net](mailto:ellersix@cox.net)

**LAUDATE DEUM PLEDGE** | *Laudate Deum* is the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, published in 2023, that calls "all people of good will" to take action on the climate crisis and "*move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes.*" (LD 56) He particularly calls on us in the United States to make personal changes to our consumerist lifestyles, reduce our fossil fuel use, and to also advocate for systemic actions to address the climate crisis.

The Catholic Climate Covenant invites you to take a [pledge](#) of action to respond directly to Pope Francis' call for change (personal, within the Church, and wider systemic change). During Lent 2024 prayerfully consider courageously committing to specific actions that will produce a much-needed culture shift and produce a better future for our common home.

**February 24/25 | 2024**



**WEEK 2 LENT | CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)** | CRS Rice Bowl shares [stories of hope](#) from CRS' work around the world. These stories are examples of how your Lenten alms are helping communities find solutions to problems like hunger and malnutrition. We invite you to take a virtual journey with us to 3 countries, this week, Uganda. Don't forget to try the [meatless recipes](#) each Friday during Lent. Visit [CRS Rice Bowl | A Catholic Program for Lent](#) to learn more.

Our Rice Bowl table is set in the Commons with envelopes for individuals, and small rice bowl boxes for families. 75% of your CRS Rice Bowl donation supports the work of CRS in more than 100 countries. 25% of your gifts stay in each U.S. diocese for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. For online giving at Sacred Heart, [click](#) and select Catholic Relief Services (CRS.) For online giving at CRS, select [Donate to CRS Rice Bowl | Catholic Relief Services](#) . You can also address your check to Sacred Heart Church and write CRS on the memo line.

**UGANDA** In Akwangagwel, Uganda, the climate is hot and dry. Farmers in this region depend on the rainy season for a successful harvest. But lately—due to the changing climate—the rain has been coming later than it used to and is more inconsistent. Sometimes, when it does rain, it causes flooding and ruins the crops. Learn how Adolf and Florence have taken the matter into their own hands, implementing new farming techniques they learned from a CRS to improve their farm and fight against hunger. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for this week’s Story of Hope. **POC** | Frank Murphy  
[wfmern377@aol.com](mailto:wfmern377@aol.com)

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**Venerable Augustus Tolton** was the first U.S. Roman Catholic priest publicly known to be black when he was ordained in 1886. A former slave who was baptized and reared Catholic, Tolton formally studied in Rome. He was ordained in Rome on Easter Sunday at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. Tolton’s success at ministering to black Catholics quickly earned him national attention within the Catholic hierarchy. [Vulnerable Fr. Augustus Tolton \(1854-1897\)](#)

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE CONSTANT VIGIL** Feb. 14-March 24, 7:00 am-7:00 pm | [40 Days for Life Prayer-Reflection](#)  
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” -Luke 2:13-14

The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility in the community. It is a peaceful and educational presence. Those who are called to stand witness during this 24-hour-a-day presence send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion. You might consider including 1 hour at the site as part of your Lenten journey. A prayer partner and a ride can be arranged. **Vigil Location:** Planned Parenthood sidewalk, 515 Newtown Rd. Virginia Beach, VA.  
**POC** | Tony Mentasana [tonyment@verizon.net](mailto:tonyment@verizon.net)