New CatholicTV Documentary Series Highlights Six Black Catholics on the Path to Sainthood

"Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood" *explores the lives and legacies of six Black Catholics whose stories have shaped the Church in the United States*

WATERTOWN, Mass., November 9, 2026 – In recognition of Black Catholic History Month, CatholicTV is premiering *Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood*, a six-part documentary series exploring the lives and legacies of six Black Catholics whose causes for canonization are advancing within the Catholic Church.

The series introduces viewers to Pierre Toussaint, Henriette Delille, Father Augustus Tolton, Mother Mary Lange, Julia Greeley, and Sister Thea Bowman, examining the faith, perseverance, and service that continue to inspire Catholics today. The first installment, which explores the life of Fr. Augustus Tolton, is <<now available>> for streaming.

"The series explores the witness of Catholics who lived their faith in the face of hardship, discrimination, poverty, and other challenges," said host Dr. Ansel Augustine, award-winning author and longtime leader in Black Catholic ministry. "Their lives reveal the many ways holiness can be expressed: through ministry, education, care for the poor, service to others, advocacy for justice, and an unwavering devotion to Christ and the Church."

The first episode takes an in-depth look at Fr. Augustus Tolton, whose life stands as a testament to courage and perseverance. Born into slavery in Missouri in 1854, Tolton fled to freedom with his mother and siblings and settled in Quincy, Illinois. Despite facing racial discrimination and significant obstacles to pursuing his vocation, he persevered and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1886, becoming the first Black Catholic priest in the United States.

The 30-minute episode features interviews with Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Washington, along with other notable guests who reflect on Tolton's life and legacy.

Throughout *Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood,* viewers encounter the people behind these causes for canonization– not only their accomplishments, but also their struggles, sacrifices, spiritual journeys, and enduring influence. Together, their stories offer a fuller picture of the Black Catholic experience and its vital place in the history and life of the Church in the United States.

"By examining the personal struggles, spiritual growth, and lasting contributions of these six holy men and women, we discover their profound commitment to faith, justice, and service," added Dr. Augustine. "These are stories that need to be told; these are people we need to know during Black Catholic History Month and always."

Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood was produced by Richard Brown, a veteran broadcast television director, editor, and camera operator who previously served as a technical director and editor at

CatholicTV. The documentary series is available exclusively for streaming on the newly redesigned CatholicTV website and apps, with new episodes released monthly.

For more information and a complete press kit, visit https://www.catholictv.org/black-catholics-press.

Dr. Ansel Augustine is available for comment. To schedule an interview, contact Carrie Kline at carriek@missionadvancementpartners.com.

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