

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**"Brothers and Sisters To Us"**  
**Selected Chronology**

- ✚ 1639      Death of St. Martin de Porres in Lima, Peru.
- ✚ 1824      Unsuccessful foundation of a community of Black women religious by Charles Nerinckx in Loretto, Kentucky.
- ✚ 1829      Elizabeth Lange, Marie Ballas, Rosine Boegue, and Almeide Duchemin Maxis begin religious life in Baltimore as the Oblate Sisters of Providence. First Black congregation of women religious in the United States.
- ✚ 1839      Condemnation of the slave trade by Pope Gregory XVI in the bull *In Supremo Apostolatus*.
- ✚ 1842      Henriette Delille and Juliette Gaudin begin the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- ✚ 1843      Formation of the Society of the Holy Family in Baltimore, first known Black Catholic society of lay persons.
- ✚ 1824      Death of Pierre Toussaint in New York. Toussaint, a slave in his native Haiti, was brought to the United States and worked as a hair dresser. He was declared "Venerable" by Pope John Paul II, and if canonized will become the first African American saint.
- ✚ 1854      Ordination of James Augustine Healy in Paris. Ordinations of his brother, Alexander Sherwood Healy in Rome (1858) and Francis Patrick Healy, S.J. in Liège (1864).
- ✚ 1871      Arrival of Mill Hill Fathers (Josephites) in Baltimore.
- ✚ 1874      Francis Patrick Healy, SJ is named president of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.
- ✚ 1875      The Civil Rights Act concerns itself primarily with the prohibition of racial discrimination in places of public accommodation. In 1883, however, the Supreme Court rules the law unconstitutional. This decision virtually removes the federal government from the civil rights arena, particularly in regard to enforcement of the 14th Amendment.
- ✚ 1886      Ordination of Reverend Augustus Tolton in Rome. Tolton was denied ordination in the Catholic Church in the United States because he was Black.
- ✚ 1886      Daniel Rudd, a former slave, establishes *The American Catholic Tribune*, a weekly Black Catholic newspaper. The paper is currently being published by the National Black Catholic Congress as a newsletter, *The African American Catholic Tribune*.



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- ✚ 1889** First Black Catholic lay congress, in Washington, D.C. Other congresses are held in Cincinnati (1890), Philadelphia (1892), Chicago (1893), and Baltimore (1894).
- ✚ 1889** Ordination of Reverend Charles Uncles, SSJ, in Baltimore. First Black priest ordained in the United States.
- ✚ 1891** Foundation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People by Blessed Katherine Drexel.
- ✚ 1891** Death of Reverend Augustus Tolton in Chicago.
- ✚ 1908** Lincoln Vallè opens Catholic mission for the black community in Milwaukee.
- ✚ 1909** The Knights of St. Peter Claver is founded.
- ✚ 1913** Thomas Wyatt Turner organizes a committee on behalf of black Catholic servicemen.
- ✚ 1916** Mother Theodore Williams and Father Ignatius Lissner begin the Handmaids of Mary in Savannah, Georgia.
- ✚ 1920** First seminary for Black candidates for the priesthood is started by the Society of the Divine Word in Greenville, Mississippi, later moved to Bay St. Louis (1923).
- ✚ 1921** Founding of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver.
- ✚ 1924** Founding of the Federated Colored Catholics of the United States.
- ✚ 1931** Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, is established by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and becomes the first Black Catholic university in the United States.
- ✚ 1934** Organization of the first Catholic Interracial Council in New York City, by John LaFarge, SJ.
- ✚ 1964** Dr. Lena Edwards Madison (1901-1986), a social activist and Catholic obstetrician/gynecologist, receives the Medal of Freedom for her work and dedication to impoverished communities, especially among migrant workers.
- ✚ 1966** Episcopal ordination of Harold Perry, SVD, as the auxiliary bishop of New Orleans. Second Black bishop in the history of the United States.
- ✚ 1968** Formation of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus in Detroit, results in the subsequent development of the National Black Sisters' Conference (1968) and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association.



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- ✚ 1971** The National Office of Black Catholics is founded in Washington, D.C.
- ✚ 1978** Death of Llewellyn Scott, a Catholic layman, who founded the Blessed Martin de Porres Hospice for poor Black men.
- ✚ 1987** The sixth National Black Catholic Congress is held in Washington, D.C. after a hiatus of 93 years. Other Congresses held in New Orleans (1992), Baltimore (1997) and Chicago (2002).
- ✚ 1989** James Goode, O.F.M., designates the first Sunday in February (Black History Month) as a National Day of Prayer for the African American Family.
- ✚ 1997** Dedication of Our Mother of Africa Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.
- ✚ 1990** The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus designates November as Black Catholic History Month.
- ✚ 1998** Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, is elected Vice President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- ✚ 2000** Mother Josephine Bakhita becomes the first African woman to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church in the new millennium.
- ✚ 2001** Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Bishop of Belleville, elected President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- ✚ 2001** First Gathering of Black Catholic Women (Charlotte, NC) organized by the National Black Sisters Conference.
- ✚ 2002** Ninth Black Catholic Congress held in Chicago, under the theme "Leadership on One Accord."
- ✚ 2003** The formation of the National Black Catechetical Network.
- ✚ 2004** Second Gathering of Black Catholic Women (Houston, TX).
- ✚ 2004** 25th Anniversary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Racism – "*Brothers and Sisters to Us.*"

