BLACK CATHOLICS

FOOTSTEPS TO SAINTHOOD

CatholicTV to Premiere ***Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood*** During Black Catholic History Month



Dr. Ansel Augustine hosts the six-part documentary series.

BOSTON, MA — CatholicTV will premiere ***Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood*** on November 2 at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time, during Black Catholic History Month. The six-part documentary series begins with the story of **Venerable Father Augustus Tolton,** a pioneer of Black Catholicism in the United States whose life of faith, perseverance, and service continues to inspire the Church.

The series, produced and directed by CatholicTV's **Richard Brown** and hosted by **Dr. Ansel Augustine**, follows six Black Catholics whose causes for canonization are advancing within the Catholic Church - **Pierre Toussaint, Henriette Delille, Augustus Tolton, Mother Mary Lange, Julia Greeley, and Sister Thea Bowman.** Following the

premiere, CatholicTV will release a new episode each month, with each installment devoted to one of the six featured Catholics.

Through their stories, ***Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood*** explores the witness of Catholics who lived their faith in the face of hardship, discrimination, poverty, and other challenges. 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 series invites viewers to encounter the people behind the causes for canonization: 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.



Wilton Cardinal Gregory being interviewed by Dr. Ansel Augustine.

Episode One: Augustus Tolton

Augustus Tolton's journey is a testament to courage and perseverance. Born enslaved in Missouri in 1854, he fled to freedom with his mother and siblings and settled in Quincy, Illinois. Guided by a deep faith and a determination to overcome discrimination, Tolton pursued his vocation and ultimately became the first recognized Black Catholic priest in the United States.

Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood premieres on ***November 2 at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time*** on ***CatholicTV.***

About Black Catholics: Footsteps to Sainthood

This powerful six-part miniseries chronicles the remarkable journeys of six Black Catholics whose lives continue to inspire generations and whose causes for sainthood are advancing within the Catholic Church: **Pierre Toussaint, Henriette Delille, Augustus Tolton, Mother Mary Lange, Julia Greeley, and Sister Thea Bowman**. By examining their personal struggles, spiritual growth, and lasting contributions, the series highlights their profound commitment to faith, justice, and service.

About Dr. Ansel Augustine



The series is hosted by **Dr. Ansel Augustine**, an Emmy-nominated producer, award-winning author, and longtime leader in Black Catholic ministry. Dr. Augustine currently serves as Assistant Director of African American Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and previously served as Director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He has also served in Catholic ministry and formation at the parish, diocesan, university, and national levels, and is a faculty member at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana. His work as a producer and author has focused on faith, ministry, and the Black Catholic experience, bringing both pastoral experience and a deep understanding of Black Catholic history and spirituality to the series.



About Richard Brown

Richard Brown is an accomplished director, editor, and camera operator with more than 25 years of experience in broadcast television. As a camera operator, he has contributed to major networks, such as ESPN, ABC, and NBC, and has worked on acclaimed productions such as Antiques Roadshow for WGBH. During his tenure at **CatholicTV**, Richard served as a technical director and editor for a variety of programs, including ***WOW: The CatholicTV Challenge, Catholic Destinations,*** and other network productions.

About The CatholicTV Network

Founded in the Archdiocese of Boston in 1955, CatholicTV is a pioneer in Catholic broadcasting and a national leader in using television and new media to share the Gospel and the fullness of Catholic Tradition. Through its 24/7 programming, including the daily broadcast of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, CatholicTV offers prayerful, educational, and inspirational content to millions of viewers through cable, satellite, streaming platforms, and digital media. From its roots in Boston to its growing national reach, CatholicTV remains dedicated to evangelization and to bringing the life and richness of the Catholic faith into homes, parishes, hospitals, and communities.



How to Watch CatholicTV:

Viewers can watch CatholicTV through traditional television—**check local listings for channel availability**—as well as through a growing range of digital and streaming platforms. The network's **livestream and extensive on-demand library** are available at **CatholicTV.com**, where viewers can explore hundreds of programs. CatholicTV is also available through streaming apps on **Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, Google TV, LG and Samsung Smart TVs**, as well as on **iPhone and Android** devices, making Catholic programming accessible wherever viewers are.

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