

CELEBRATING BLACK
CATHOLIC HISTORY

Archdiocese of Cincinnati
African American Ministries
Rev. Deacon Royce Winters, Director

TRACING YOUR CATHOLIC ROOTS

Today, our Prayer Partners
are the six African American
Candidates for the Cause of
Canonization:

Venerable Mother Mary Lange

Servant of God Henriette Delille

Venerable Father Augustus Tolton

Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman

Blessed Julia Greeley

Blessed Pierre Toussaint



DONE MADE MY VOW TO THE LORD

Done made my vow
to the Lord, and I
never will turn
back. Oh, I will go,
I shall go, to see
what the end will
be.



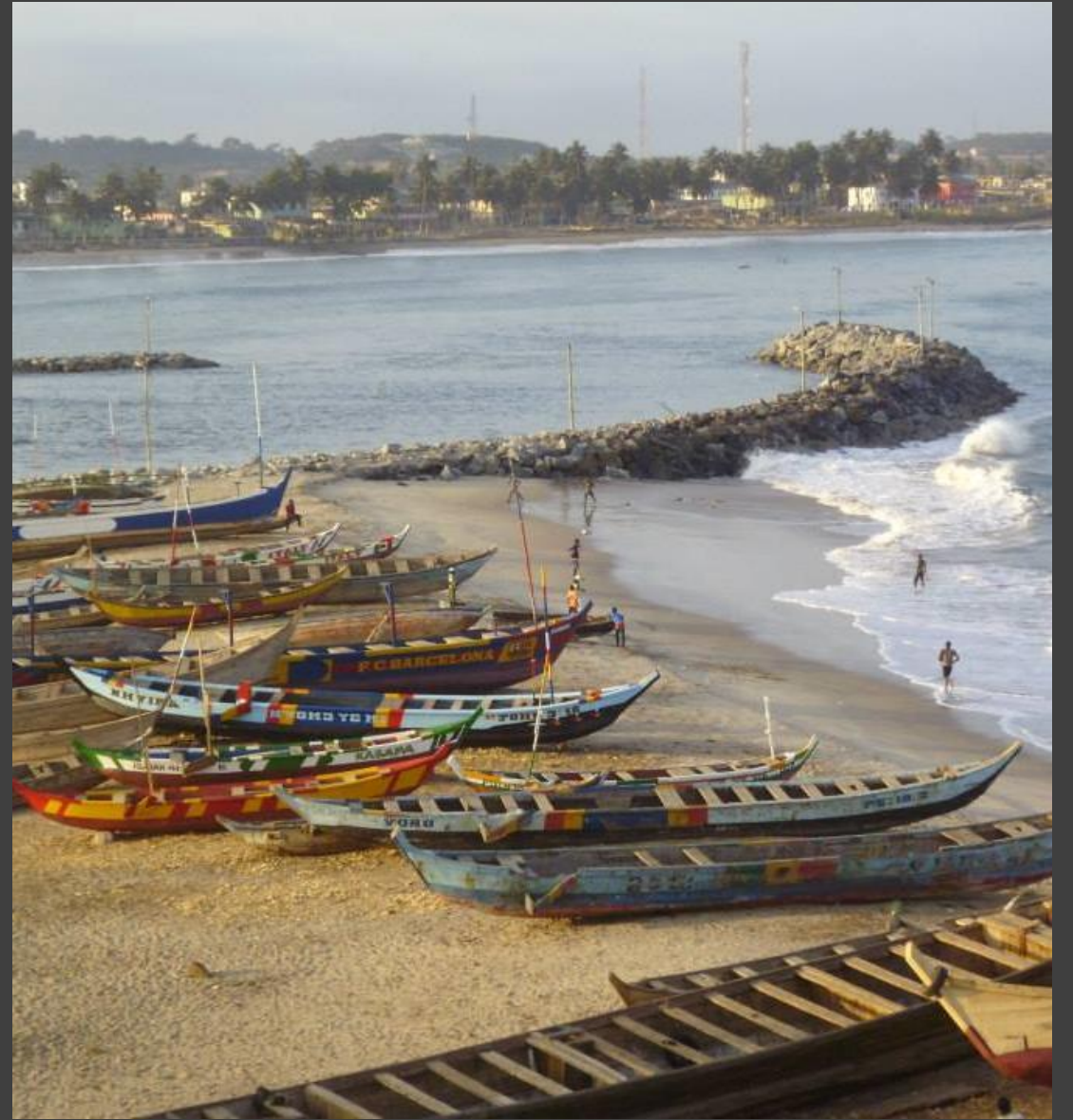
Elmina Castle

Elmina Village, Ghana, West, Africa

Beginning of the Trans-Atlantic
Slave Trade







My Maternal
Grandparents and
Their 17 Children

Temple, Texas,
Bell County



THE DIGNITY OF LIFE

“For a nation to be just, it must be a society that recognizes and respects the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples. These rights precede any society because they flow from the dignity granted to each person as created by God.”

Society of Jesus – Apostolic Preferences – Walking With The Excluded



**Walking with the
Excluded**



REALITY – HOW THINGS STAND

“We see the gap between rich and poor widen across the world and we hear weekly reports of hundreds perishing as they try to reach a new home. Political leaders have kindled hatred and erected walls between rich and poor, young and old, those at home and those who have to migrate. The reality of children who have been abused, physically or sexually, is also painfully and personally present to us.”

Society of Jesus – Apostolic Preferences – Walking With The Excluded



**Walking with the
Excluded**

RECONCILIATION



“It pains me to think that Catholics contributed to policies of assimilation and enfranchisement that inculcated a sense of inferiority, robbing communities and individuals of their cultural and spiritual identity, severing their roots and fostering prejudicial and discriminatory attitudes; and that this was also done in the name of an educational system that was supposedly Christian.” Pope Francis, July 25, 2022

RECONCILIATION



“If we want to be reconciled with one another and with ourselves, to be reconciled with the past, with wrongs endured and memories wounded, with traumatic experiences that no human consolation can ever heal, our eyes must be lifted to the crucified Jesus; peace must be attained at the altar of his cross.”

Pope Francis, July 25, 2022

“As bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States, we want to address one particularly destructive and persistent form of evil. Despite many promising strides made in our country, racism still infects the nation.”





Therefore we, the Catholic bishops in the United States, acknowledge the many times when the Church has failed to live as Christ taught—to love our brothers and sisters.

Acts of racism have been committed by leaders and members of the Catholic Church—by bishops, clergy, religious, and laity—and her institutions. We express deep sorrow and regret for them. We also acknowledge those instances when we have not done enough or stood by silently when grave acts of injustice were committed. We ask for forgiveness from all who have been harmed by these sins committed in the past or in the present.



“What is needed, and what we are calling for, is a genuine conversion of heart, a conversion that will compel change, and the reform of our institutions and society. Conversion is a long road to travel for the individual. Moving our nation to a full realization of the promise of liberty, equality, and justice *for all* is even more challenging.”



In their 1984 Pastoral Letter, the ten U.S. Black Catholic Bishops wrote:

“To preach to the powerful without denouncing oppression is to promise Easter without Calvary, forgiveness without conversion, and healing without cleansing the wound.”





“So many of our parishes are richly diverse, composed of people from various cultures and ethnic groups, such that they can be a model for the whole Church and for the country. We will redouble our efforts to promote vocations to marriage, priesthood, and religious life—especially within communities of color—so as to better reflect all of the People of God. We commit to preach with regularity homilies directed to the issue of racism and its impact on our homes, families, and neighborhoods, particularly on certain feast days and national holidays. We direct our priests and deacons to do the same. We call on theologians to help us address these issues as well.”

C · E · L · E · B · R · A · T · I · N · G
NATIONAL BLACK
CATHOLIC HISTORY
MONTH

NOVEMBER 1990 – 2009

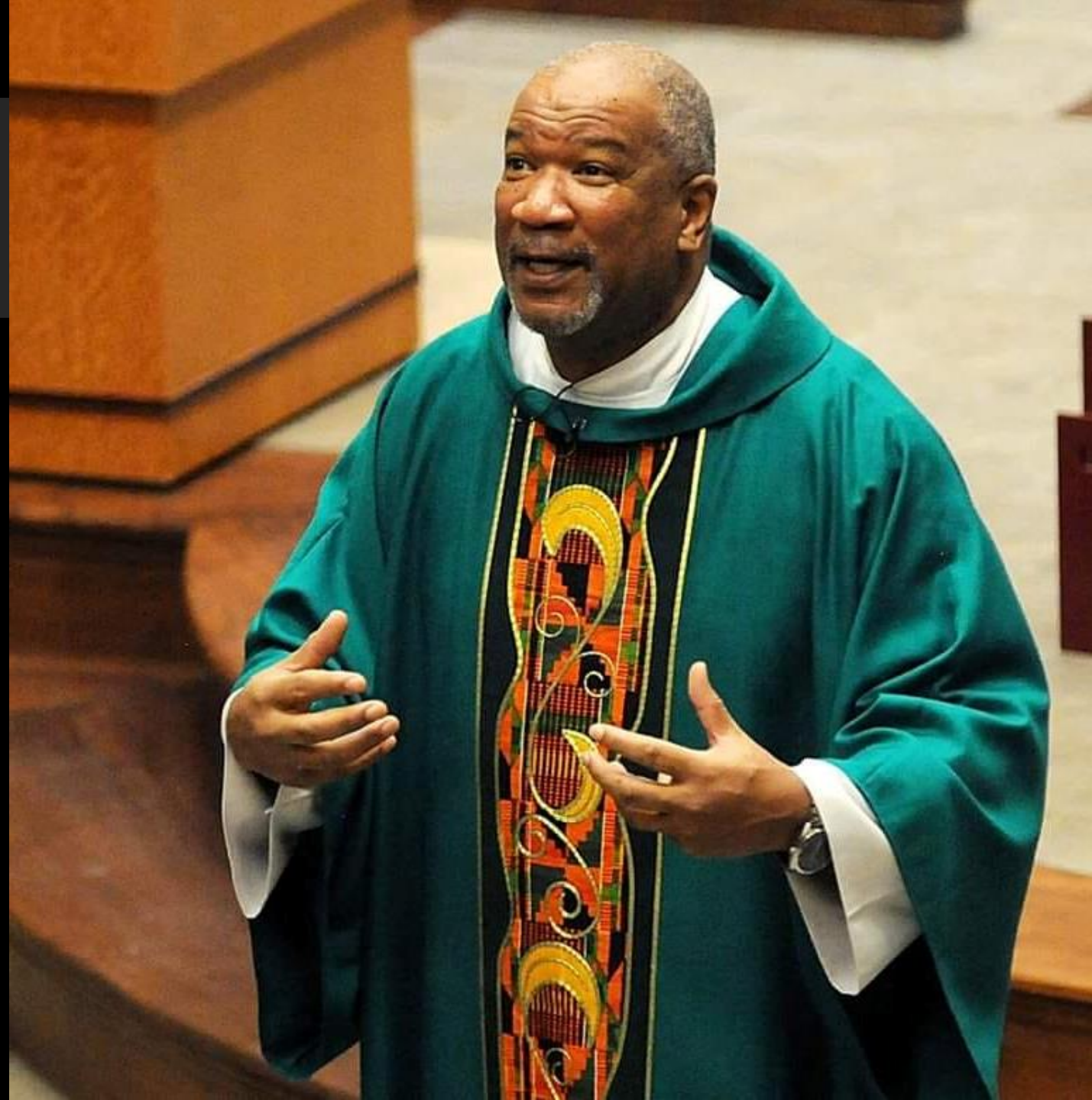
“Tracing Your Catholic Roots”
SECOND EDITION

Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Office of African-American Catholic Ministries
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

[https://resources.catholicaoc.org
/offices/african-american-
pastoral-ministries/publications](https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/african-american-pastoral-ministries/publications)

In 2007, I began the project entitled, “Tracing Your Catholic Roots.” I didn’t prepare myself to hear the voices of our ancestors as I poured through the Archdiocesan archives. But, indeed, they spoke!

It was indeed a privilege to look back over the centuries to claim a Black Catholic history. Hopefully, I’ve captured the resilience, strength, perseverance and hope of a people who love the Lord.



DANIEL A. RUDD

Daniel Rudd delivered an address to the Catholic Young Men's National Union in Cincinnati – June 1888.

“It may seem strange to you, possibly, to hear me talking about colored Catholics or any other sort of Catholic. There are a large number of Catholics of our own race, more possibly, than any one of you have ever imagined. I believe that there are about 200,000 practicing Catholics in the United States of my own race.”

The American Catholic Tribune – Springfield, Ohio



National Black Catholic Congress

The Second Black Catholic Congress was held in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 8 – 10, 1890.

Congress issued a call for the establishment of an industrial school. In addition, the Congress demanded the abolition of the slave trade in Africa. In his address to the Congress, Dr. William Lofton of Washington, DC stated “the most imperative need is education.”



Write the Vision
A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE
THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

2023 - Congress XIII

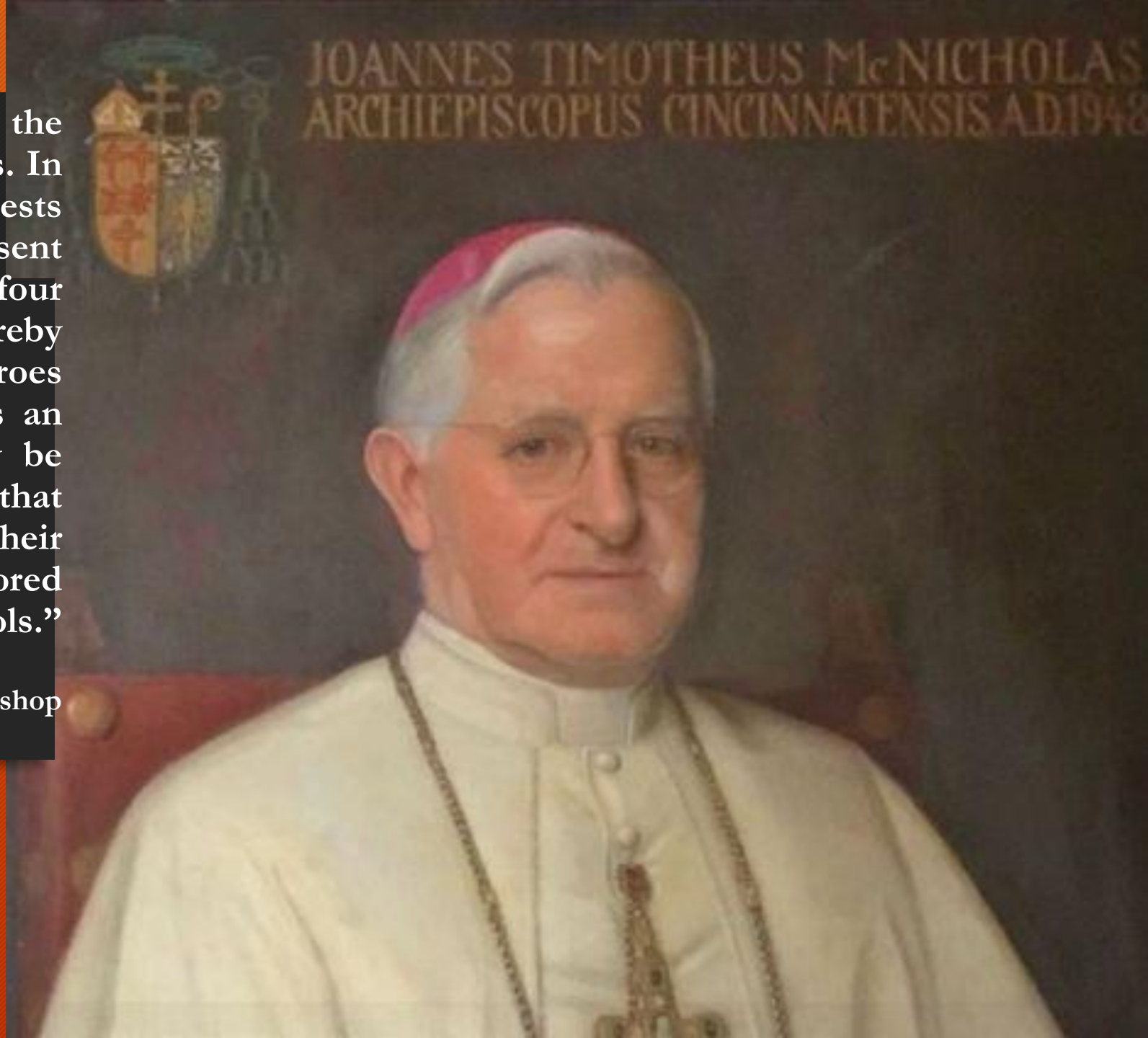
July 20 – 23, 2023

National Harbor, Maryland

“The greatest need for the Apostolate to the Negroes, at the present moment is priests. In the past we have depended upon our priests to volunteer for Negro work. At the present moment, we are urgently in need of four priests to take charge of missions. We hereby declare that henceforth work among Negroes of the archdiocese is to be regarded as an ordinary duty to which any priest may be assigned. Some priests have shown that Colored people were not welcome in their churches and have refused to take Colored children in the parochial schools.”

The Catholic Telegraph, March 4, 1942 – Archbishop John T. McNicholas

Archbishop John T. McNicholas

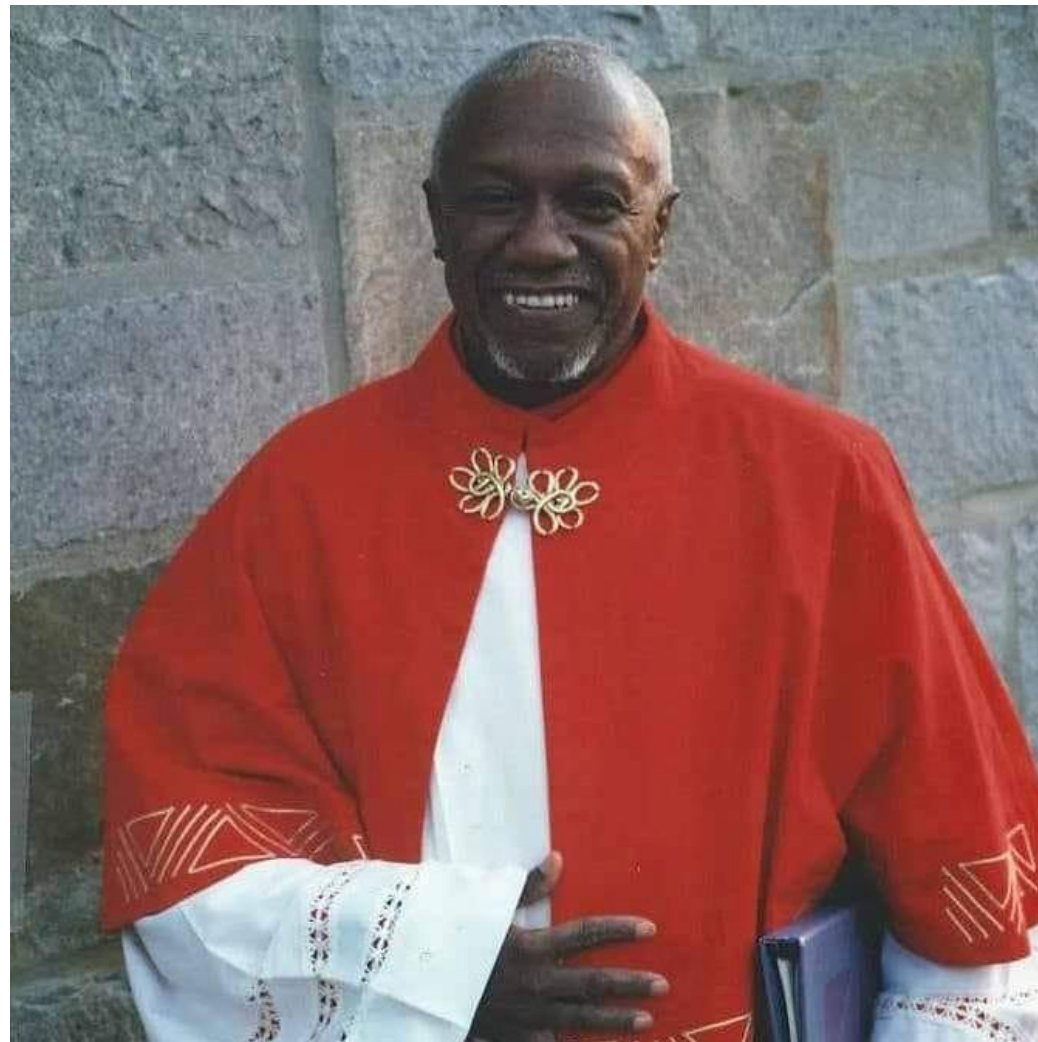


FR. CLARENCE JOSEPH RIVERS

Ordained 1956

“Fr. Clarence Joseph Rivers.’ goal was to share his ‘gift of blackness’ with fellow Catholics and members of other denominations as well. He is considered a pioneer in the introduction of Afro-American culture into Catholic worship. There are a large number of people who feel there is no such things as different cultures in the Church. To such people he says, ‘The Church is one big happy family and giving in to ethnic concerns is wrong. To them there is one faith, one Baptism, one church, and one culture namely, European.’”

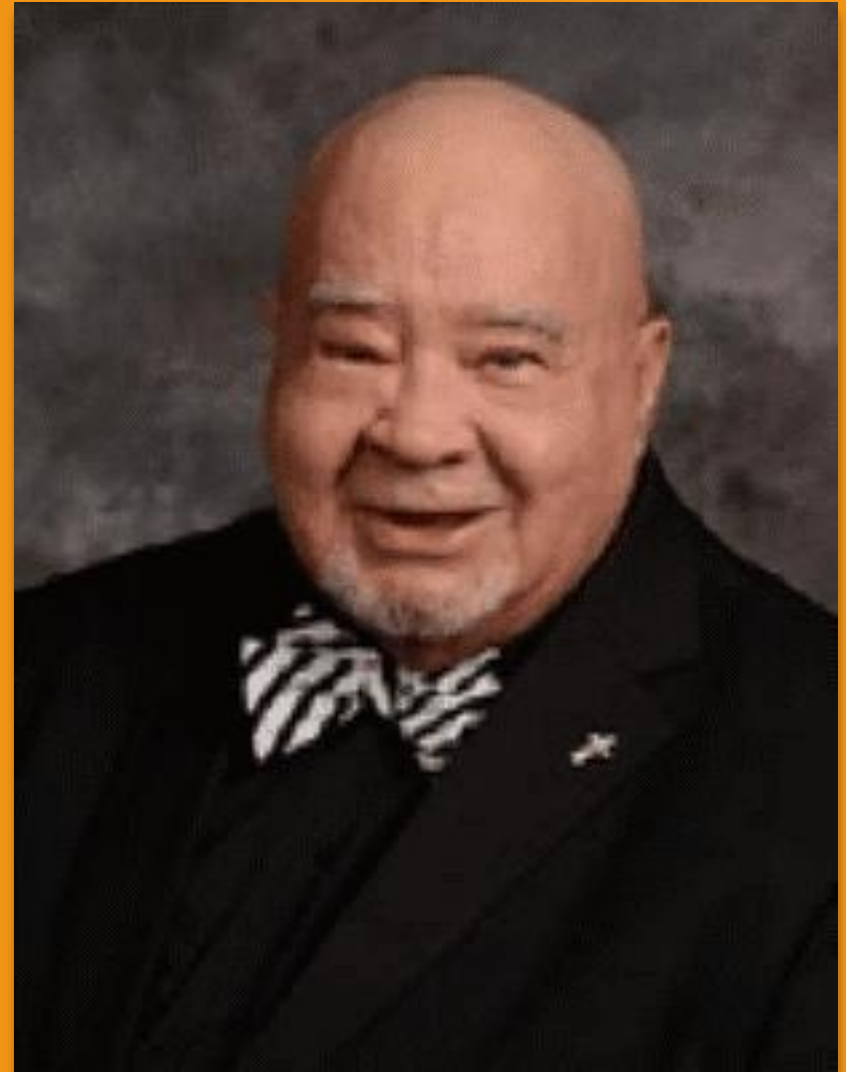
The Catholic Telegraph - November 11,
1977



DEACON PAUL RICHARDSON

Deacon Paul Richardson was the first African American ordained a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati – September 25, 1976.

Deacon Richardson was a resident of Yellow Springs, Ohio.



U.S. AFRICAN AMERICAN BISHOPS

There are currently four [non-retired] African American Bishops in the United States: *Most Rev. Roy Campbell Jr., Most Rev. Shelton Fabre, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, and the *Most Rev. Joseph Perry.

Cardinal Wilton Gregory; Most Rev. John Ricard [Emeritus]; Most Rev. Martn Holly [Emeritus]; Most Rev. Joseph Perry; Most Rev. William Braxton [Emeritus]; Most Rev. George Murry [Deceased]; Most Rev. Guy Sansaricq [Deceased]; Most Rev. Terry Steib [Emeritus]; Most Rev. Shelton Fabre, Most Rev. Curtis Guillory [Emeritus]



SAINT ANN'S CHURCH

A CULTURAL TRENDSETTER

Saint Ann's Church, Cincinnati, which held liturgical services for the first time on July 6, 1866, was the third Catholic Parish in the United States to exclusively serve African Americans. The parish, known historically as St. Ann's Colored Church.

The Catholic Telegraph, February 10, 1995



Mother of God Mission Church was founded in 1938 and completed, June 1939. The 10th Anniversary was commemorated on May 8, 1949. The celebration began when 11 children received their First Communion. The mothers of the mission were honored at a dinner after the Mass.

The Catholic Telegraph, May 20, 1949

**A MISSION OF
ASSUMPTION
CHURCH**

Family Joins Church



Saint Richard Chichester was built as a missionary church to convert the black people in Steele Division [West College Hill] to Catholicism.

My friends and I decided to take Catechism Classes and eventually baptized by Fr. Hartke.

**Lillian Kimbrough,
Parishioner of Mother
of Christ**



WHAT IS THE RIGHT RESPONSE?

Within the history of every Christian community there comes the time when it reaches adulthood. This maturity brings with it the duty, the privilege, and joy to share with others the rich experience of the “Word of Life.”

What We Have Seen And Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization From the Black Bishops of the United States - 1984



*Bishop Wilton Gregory, Bishop Emerson Moore, Bishop Moses Anderson, *Bishop Terry Steib, *Bishop John Ricard, Bishop Harold Perry, Bishop Joseph Francis, Bishop Joseph Howze, Bishop Eugene Marino, Bishop James Lyke

WHAT IS THE RIGHT RESPONSE?

“We as Black Catholics have before us several opportunities to assure the universal aspect of the American Church. We can do so by permitting the Catholic Church in this country to reflect the richness of African American history and its heritage.

This is our gift to the Church in the United States, this is our contribution to building up the Universal Church.”



What We Have Seen And Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization From the Black Bishops of the United States

WE'VE COME THIS FAR
BY

Faith
**COURAGE &
PERSISTENCE**

Committed Black Catholics at the end of the 19TH century and in the 20TH century saw themselves as very much a part of the Roman Catholic Church; they were not going to leave the church. They thought they were truer to Catholicism than those who were racist.