

Venerable Augustus Tolton



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Prayer for intercession & canonization of Ven. Augustus Tolton

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Fr. Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in Heaven, Fr. Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your Will, O God, glorify your servant, Fr. Tolton, by granting the favor I now request through his intercession, (mention your request) so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen.

Ven. Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) while not yet canonized, is on the path towards sainthood. He was the first-known black Catholic priest in the United States after his ordination in 1886. Born into slavery and baptized Catholic in the United States Ven. Tolton studied for the priesthood and was ordained in Rome. He was later sent to the United States to minister to the black community. In 2010, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago announced that he was beginning an official process to open Tolton's cause for canonization. On February 13, 2012, the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints granted Tolton the title "Servant of God." On June 12, 2019 Pope Francis advanced his cause with a "Decree of Heroic Virtue," granting him the title of "Venerable." The next step in his canonization would be beatification, which would grant him the title of "Blessed." Ven. Augustus Tolton's feast day is unknown.

*He needs one miracle to be named "Blessed"!