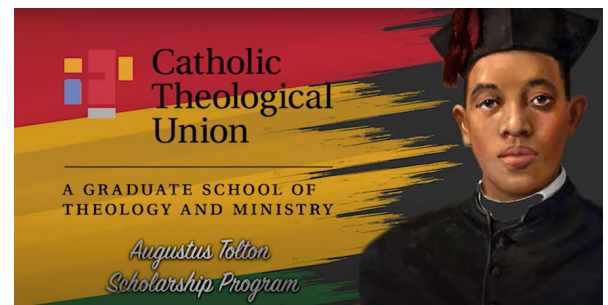


THE PULSE

of Black Catholic Chicago



HARAMBEE SPECIAL 2023



Umoja: Uniting in Faith



**Our Lady of Africa, Our Lady of Kiebhoo,
St. Agatha-St. Martin de Porres, St. Benedict the African,
St. James, St. Josephine Bahkita, St. Katharine Drexel,
Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, St. Moses the Black,
St. Sabina**





A Divine Connection: Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program

In 1989, Dr. Sr. Jamie T. Phelps, OP, a professor at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) noticed the absence of Black lay men and women pursuing theological studies at CTU, even though there were capable Black men and women volunteering in leadership positions at Chicago's 65 predominately Black Catholic churches.

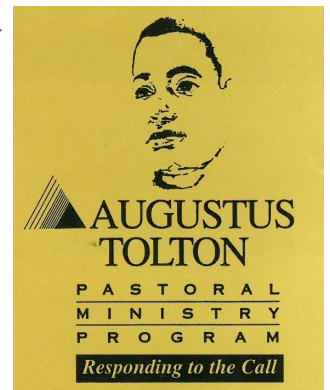


Dr. Sr. Jamie Phelps

After some research, Dr. Phelps discovered there were several factors prohibiting Black lay men and women's presence at CTU. First and foremost, the financial commitment of a Theological education, which cost upwards of \$30,000 dollars, was a major contributing factor for their absence. The second factor for their absence was seeing the usefulness of a theological degree, especially in the Archdiocese of Chicago in the areas of jobs and pay scale.

Dr. Phelps decided that this was a justice issue and approached the president of CTU, Fr. Don Senior. Dr. Phelps was adamant that finances should not prohibit lay Black men and women from getting an advanced theological education. After conversations with officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago and Catholic Theological Union (primarily Bishop Wilton Gregory and Don Senior, CP) and members of the Black Catholic community, she began to develop a program that would provide full scholarships as well as formation (spiritual, intellectual, human and pastoral) for lay Black men and women who wanted to pursue ministerial leadership in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The program that was birthed was named, The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program (ATPM). The namesake, **Fr. Augustus Tolton**, was ordained in 1866 and was the first recognized African American priest in the United States. In 1887, Fr. Tolton became pastor of the first Catholic Church for Black Catholics in Chicago. A tireless minister and man of God, Fr. Tolton died on July 8, 1897.



Tolton Program Brochure 1996

Tolton Scholars may participate in any three master's degree Programs (M.A., M.Div., M.A.P.S.) offered by CTU in conjunction with the Hyde Park Cluster of Theological Schools and the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS).



Tolton Scholars are being educated and trained for ministerial leadership in the Black Catholic Church community as well as the Archdiocese of Chicago at large. To prepare themselves to better understand what being a minister in the Black Catholic church requires, Tolton scholars are required to take at least four black-focused courses in the disciplines of history, theology, biblical studies, pastoral ministry, spirituality, or liturgy.

Formation is also a key component of the ATPM Program. Formation serves as a bridge between theory and praxis. The formation component of ATPM Program has three parts: Spiritual, Professional and Personal Development of the Tolton Scholar. Formation sets the foundation and integrates spiritual formation, theological understanding, and praxis, all within the context of the Black Catholic Church culture.

Continues on page 3



The legacy of Fr. Augustus Tolton is evident today through the commitment of lay men and women of African ancestry who are currently pursuing theological studies at CTU. To date there have been 33 graduates, of which 28 have been women. They are either employed or volunteer as Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Associates, Youth Ministers, Music Ministers, Campus Ministers, Chaplain/Hospital Ministry. One of our graduates is now a Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Families at a non-denominational church. Two of the graduate's work at the Archdiocesan Offices of Evangelization and Human Dignity. Unfortunately, most Black Catholic Churches were unable to afford to pay full or part time lay ecclesial ministers. So therefore, a most of the Tolton alumni are bi-vocational in that they keep their jobs in Corporate or Government sectors and do ministry on a part-time basis.



Tolton Scholars and Alumni with Bishop Perry and Fr. Don Senior at Harambee 2020

CTU is a very liberal and multicultural institution that has been accepting and encouraging of not only black males but black females as well. Men preparing for the priesthood, lay men and women study side-by-side. CTU's environment assists in establishing a collaborative working model among the future clerical and lay ecclesial ministers.

The ATPM program is in its 33rd year. In the past the program had 12 – 15 scholars, currently the ATPM program has 5 scholars. It has been difficult to get Millennials interested in pursuing theological education. I believe it is because they are not present in our churches because they have shunned organized religion because they feel it is irrelevant thereby, not seeing the use or purpose for a theological education. In addition, the number of predominately Black Catholic Churches has diminished from 65 to 10. due to the Archdiocese, Renew My Church initiative, which combined churches and closed some sites.

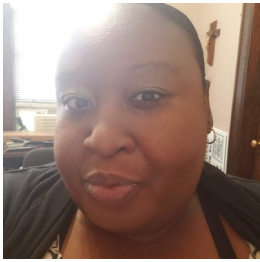
There is a continuing outreach to the Black Catholic Churches to identify and encourage young people to pursue a theological education so that they can be equipped to step into leadership of their church. If we fail to do so, then we will be a church focused on funerals instead of a church focused on baptisms.

CTU and the Archdiocese of Chicago took a bold step in agreeing to this co-sponsorship of theological education of lay Black men and women. This divine connection partnership foresaw the value of continuing the mission of Christ for the church through the gifts offered by Black Catholics. To this day, the ATPM is the only one of its kind in the Catholic Church in the United States. This program can be used as a model for any denominations and theological schools concerned about the theological education of our young Black women and men.



The legacy of Fr. Augustus Tolton is evident today through the commitment of the Black men and women who are currently pursuing theological studies at Catholic Theological Union. For the Black Catholic Church and the church at-large to survive, it needs theologically grounded minister practitioners who are ready to respond to the needs of the Black Church and the injustices of our societies.

-Dr. Kimberly Lymore



Shannon Ambroise

Graduated: MAPS 2019

Greetings! My name is Shannon Ambroise. I am a proud Tolton Alum and graduate of Catholic Theological Union where I received a M.A in Pastoral Studies in 2019. Despite me coming from a family of many Catholics, I often tell others I chose the Catholic faith due to me completing the RCIA program, and officially being baptized in the Catholic Church at the age of twenty one.

Years later, after enduring a tough Cancer battle, volunteering in ministry and working as an office assistant at a parish; I was urged to look into completing a graduate degree at Catholic Theological Union.

It was during this time I was introduced to the Augustus Tolton program. I can recall immediately being fascinated with the Tolton program. There was so much goodness to take in, and quite honestly it was everything I was searching for. I sought a warm community where I could be myself, and be accepted by other members of the Tolton community who not only shared similar beliefs, but also had a sense of Catholic pride, and strong devotion to the Catholic faith. I am grateful to have found this within our Tolton program.

As a Tolton Scholar, Formation was one of my favorite things to attend. Formation was a time where all scholars were expected to gather for a night of prayer, reflection, and learning. From Tolton Director Dr. Kimberly Lymore, and my fellow Tolton scholars, I have learned a great amount of knowledge about prayer, Black spirituality, and Faith, all while creating meaningful friendships.

Today, I currently facilitate a weekly Black Catholic ministry group, I contribute monthly to The Pulse. I owe a great deal of what I do to God, and the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program.



Dr. timone davis

Graduated: MDiv. 2002 & DMin. 2011

Ministry: teaching

Tolton Impact: The Tolton Program awakened in me a leader on my own terms. While a student I was able to stretch myself and grow into my own being and fall in love with the image of God that I present to the world. While I was the Tolton Formation Director I grew even more by asking scholars the deeper questions. The asking allowed me to delve deeper into my own spirituality and faith. I definitely carry the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program with me.



Elder Dr. Dorothy Williams DD , PhD,

Motto: I Depend On God

A Dynamic Surrendered Vessel, God Appointed, Holy Spirit Anointed , Woman of Destiny.

Dorothy is a Licensed Ordained Minister of the Gospel, a committed member of the Faith Community of Our Lady of Africa Church and the Apostolic Ecumenical Network. She exemplifies her love for God, and is humbly and unapologetically HIS servant in the earth realm. Dorothy is a radical for Jesus Christ, practicing Christ-like love and sensitivity in responding to the needs of God's people.

God's Word is The Authority and The Holy Spirit is the Teacher as Elder Williams leads "whosoever" on a delightful spiritual journey of seeking, finding, excepting and growing in Christ. With much prayer ,fasting, and commitment, Dorothy also serves as a Certified Christian Consultant with a special compassion for HIV/AIDS, Prison, and Subway Ministries, and as a volunteer Chaplain at a local hospital. (Rev.22:7)For a number of years, Dorothy was a Presenter in the ministry of Sexual and Relational Healing Retreats. This work was primarily built around conducting group WORDSHOPS and sessions that were solely based upon the Word of God and not popular opinions. In this season she regularly speaks at Prayer Breakfast's, Luncheons, other Forums, and Conferences. As she is busy about her Father's Business, Dorothy strives to constantly develop herself and others spiritually, emotionally, experientially and intellectually. (PSALM 78:72).

As a Father Augustus Tolton Scholar , in addition to her graduate studies locally and nationally Dorothy matriculated from Cross-Cultural Studies in Ghana West Africa. Humbly , she acknowledges that" teachable moments" are a vital component in kingdom building. (Exodus 4:15). Elder Williams is a Widow, Mother, Grandmother, Godmother, and Servant.





Sankofa Spotlight: Tolton Edition



My name is Tanya Bolen, I am a graduate student at Catholic Theological Union, and I am a Tolton Scholar. I have been Catholic all my life. I love introducing myself as a graduate student and Tolton scholar because these are major accomplishments that I am proud of.

My path to Catholic Theological Union and the Augustus Tolton program began after I completed a certificate program in the Fall of 2019 at the Cardinal B. Meyer Center. My Pastor, Fr. Matt O'Donnell suggested that I sign up for Now Is the Time, a one-year program that met one Saturday and one Tuesday each month beginning in September. The Lay Formation program was one of the first that was in conjunction with St. Mary of The Lake in Mundelein. The timing of the program coincided with the church's new evangelization theme.

I was excited about this certificate program because it gave me a new perspective and understanding of the Catholic church and religion and helped me in my faith walk as a Christian. The program was very engaging, and the presenters and facilitators did a very good job of planning the curriculum. Interacting with the other participants was also amazing as it offered different perspectives on Christian topics and the new evangelization. It was towards the end of the program that I wanted to continue with theological studies and learn more.

After the successful completion of the certificate program, it was suggested that I visit Catholic Theological Union. I also learned about the Augustus Tolton Scholarship program through Dr. Kimberly Lymore. I visited Catholic Theological Union for a few lectures and an open house. I applied, got accepted at Catholic Theological Union, and then applied for the Augustus Tolton scholarship. I was very anxious after applying because there was also an interview process that I had to undergo. After going through the process, I learned that I had been accepted into the program; I was elated.

Catholic Theological Union and the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) degree program is everything and more that I could hope for. The curriculum is rigorous and very engaging. Because I work full-time, I am only able to manage 1 course per semester but that one course and the requisite readings and assignments, and papers keep me busy.

That MAPS degree is intended for those who wish to prepare for ministerial leadership in the Church, those with some ministerial experience, and those who want to improve effectiveness in their current ministries. The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program provides an opportunity for Black Catholics to receive academic, personal, spiritual, and professional education and training in preparation for professional ministry for the specific needs of Black Catholics. Through this program the legacy of Fr. Augustus Tolton is evident today through the commitment of men and women of African ancestry who are pursuing a degree at Catholic Theological Union. What I like about the Tolton program is that formation is a key component.

Since becoming a Tolton Scholar my identity as a Black Catholic Lay Minister has been nurtured through monthly theological reflections, gatherings with other formation programs at CTU., as well as an annual retreat. The Tolton formations have given me a better understanding and deeper appreciation of the ministries I am active in at St. Moses the Black parish, Eucharistic Minister, Greeter, and President of the Women's Guild. The Tolton program has added layers to my life that I was not aware of. I've learned more about what it means to really serve Jesus and his Church. I have had a transformation since being in the Tolton program. Studying your own faith can be challenging because so much of your identity is bound up with it. It is like taking a bicycle apart and putting it back together again after examining and cleaning every part. What has been a welcome result of this program is that I am stronger than I was before.

The Tolton program has anchored within me the reason for Catholic theology, the study and worship of Jesus, and his global mission in and through the Church. The program has given me a reason to look beyond the obvious and see things through a different lens. The great thing about studying theology is that all the academic and book knowledge has a way of running down and soaking into your heart.

I have emerged myself into seeing theology through that distinctively African American, Black Catholic perspective. I have become more aware of Black Catholic theologians such as Thea Bowman, Howard Thurman, Bryan Massingale, M. Shawn Copeland, and Cyprian Davis. Through reflections and readings, the program has given me a frame of reference for my identity as a Black Catholic.



Tolton Lecture Series

The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program (ATPMP) hosts the Tolton Lecture every year prior to the annual Harambee fund raiser. The first Tolton Lecture was held on March 1, 2000 with Fr. Cyprian Davis, professor of Church History at Meinrad School of Theology who wrote the History of Black Catholics.

The purpose of the Tolton Lecture is to recognize and acknowledge Black Catholic theological/historical and cultural scholarship and to provide an arena for the sharing of this research and scholarship with the community at Catholic Theological Union as well as the broader Church.



This year's Tolton Lecture will take place on **March 1, 2023 at Catholic Theological Union at 4:30pm** with guest lecturer Rev. Maurice J. Nutt, C.S.s.R., D. Min.

Redemptorist priest Maurice J. Nutt holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology. He has served as pastor in parishes in St. Louis and Memphis. He is a nationally noted retreat, revival, and parish mission preacher.

Father Nutt is a former director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana, and a past convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium. Father Nutt serves as a doctoral thesis advisor for students pursuing the D.Min. degree in preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology.

He wrote an award-winning biography of his mentor, Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA, titled, *Thea Bowman: Faithful and Free* (Liturgical Press). He is an associate producer of the documentary, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood" produced by NewGroup Media and serves as a consultant of the cause of canonization of Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA, for the Diocese of Jackson. Father

Nutt is a member of the Redemptorists' Denver Province Extraordinary Provincial Council. He was inducted into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in 2022.

His latest book titled *Down Deep in My Soul: An African American Catholic Theology of Preaching* will be published in the Spring of 2023 by Orbis Books. The ATPMP is excited to launch his new book after the lecture. He will be signing copies of his new book at the event. Father Nutt founded Copiosa Care, a Redemptorist Spiritual Direction practice, and lives with the Redemptorist community in New Orleans.



The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program provides scholarships and formation for Black Catholics studying for ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago



2023 Tolton Week Schedule

Supporting the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program



Fr. Maurice J. Nutt, DMin is a noted retreat, revival, and parish mission preacher. Fr. Nutt is former director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana, and a past convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium. Fr. Nutt wrote an award-winning biography of his mentor, Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA, titled, *Thea Bowman: Faithful and Free* (Liturgical Press), is an associate producer of the documentary, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood" produced by NewGroup Media, and serves as a consultant on the cause of Sr. Thea Bowman's canonization. He was inducted into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in 2022. His latest book titled *Down Deep in My Soul: An African American Catholic Theology of Preaching* will be published this Spring with Orbis Books.

Tolton Lecture

"Rhetorical Agency and the Black Prophetic Tradition"

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

The Black prophetic tradition is best promulgated but not necessarily exclusive to the Black church. Black churches have long since been the locus of political meetings, organized rallies, protests, and boycotts, voter registration and census participation drives. These are known as Black prophetic practices. The passionate prophetic sermons urge congregations to fearlessly march forward toward moral victories. In his presentation, Maurice J. Nutt, CSsR (MDiv, '89) will explore how the rhetorical agency of the Black prophetic tradition commonly embodied in preached sermons, pronouncements, declarations, and resolutions correspond with Catholic social teachings and have a necessary and appropriate place within Catholic homilies. Following Q&A, Fr. Nutt will sign copies of his new book.

March 1, 2023 @ 4:30 pm CT

Harambee!

"Umoja: Uniting in Faith"

IN-PERSON ONLY

Join us as we honor the nine Black Catholic Chicago parishes that have come together through *Renew My Church* as well as the staff who facilitated this unification: Mrs. Valerie Jennings and Deacon James Norman. This joyful event will include a delicious lunch, program, and entertainment.

March 4, 2023 @ 12-4 pm CT

LOCATION

Catholic Theological Union
5416 South Cornell Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615

LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR TOLTON EVENTS: ctu.edu/events



Catholic
Theological
Union



Tolton Program Presents
HARAMBEE
UMOJA: UNITING IN FAITH

Join us as we honor the nine Black Catholic Chicago parishes that have come together through *Renew My Church* as well as the staff who facilitated this unification:

Mrs. Valerie Jennings and Deacon James Norman.

This joyful event will include a delicious lunch, program, and entertainment.

SATURDAY
MARCH 4TH, 2023

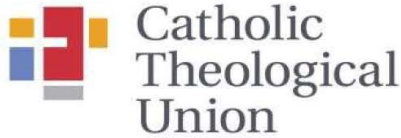
12:00PM
4:00PM

Catholic Theological Union
5416 South Cornell Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615



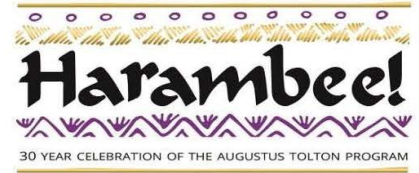
Desserts by Perfect Peace Treats, Julie Welborn (Tolton Alumni)
Entertainment by Robin Watson Combo
Raffle for gifts and cash prizes

LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR TOLTON EVENTS: ctu.edu/events



March 4, 2023

Noon – 4:00pm
Catholic Theological Union



Sponsorships

Venerable Rev. Augustus Tolton

- \$5,000
- Includes a reserved lunch table for 8 guests.

St. Monica Church

- \$2,500
- Includes 4 reserved lunch tickets.

St. Katharine Drexel

- \$1,000
- Includes 2 reserved lunch tickets.

Dr. Sr. Jamie T. Phelps

- \$500
- Includes 6 raffle tickets.

Sr. Thea Bowman

- \$250
- Includes 6 raffle tickets.

Reservations

Please reserve ____ event ticket(s) at \$60 each.

Please reserve ____ student event ticket(s) at \$30 each (one ticket per student).

Raffle Tickets and Donations

____ raffle ticket(s) at \$5 per ticket; or ____ book(s) of six raffle tickets for \$25 (cash prizes).

I/We wish to contribute to the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed please find a check made out to **Catholic Theological Union**.

Please charge my credit card: *(circle one)* AMEX M/C VISA DISCOVER

Card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CSV: _____

Name on credit card: *(please print)*: _____

Signature: _____

Payment may also be made online at ctu.edu/events.

*Contributions are fully tax-deductible less \$60 per event ticket and \$5 per raffle ticket.
Sponsorships must be received prior to February 28, 2023, to be included in the program.*

*Please contact Rachel Kuhn, Director of Development, with any questions.
Telephone: 773.371.5415 • Email: rkuhn@ctu.edu
Catholic Theological Union, 5416 S. Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60615*

THANK YOU!

A Slave to True Freedom in God's Love (a prayer in the spirit of Fr. Augustus Tolton)



Gracious God,

God of Moses, of Harriet Tubman, God of salvation found in Jesus Christ:
In true freedom you call me daily, in each moment, in every breath, to surrender to the transformative and empowering gift of Your all-embracing, ever life-giving love.

Lord, release me from my enslavement to ego, to the need for control, to unforgiveness and hatred, to apathy and indifference, to prestige and power-over, to prejudice, racism, and sexism, to fear of speaking truth to power.

Center me, ground me, root me in humble and generous servanthood to Your gracious will.
Send me forth to minister where I am needed; and, when I find myself wanting, allow me to humbly invite and accept the ministry of others.

May my every word, my every action this day be worthy of Your blessing.
Loving God, let it be so! Amen!

- Fr. Larry Dowling on behalf of
The Augustus Tolton Scholars Program at CTU

Who are we?

Created by current and former Tolton scholars, **The Pulse** is a monthly newsletter to provide information about the concerns and happenings in Black Catholic Chicago. It will be made up of articles, profiles and information about events and programs happening throughout the archdiocese of Chicago. If you are interested in contributing or have any questions or concerns please email us at chicagoblackcatholics@gmail.com

This month's contributors are:

- **Dr. Kimberly Lymore** DMin, is the director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union and Associate Minister of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina.
- **Shannon Ambroise** MAPS, is a Tolton Alum, facilitator of St. Mary Evanston Black Catholics and member of St. Mary Parish, Evanston, IL.
- **Tanya Bolen** is a Tolton Scholar and part-time student at Catholic Theological Union pursuing a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies. She serves and worships at St. Moses the Black Parish as a Eucharistic Minister, Hospitality, and the Women's Guild.
- **Tina L Carter**, M.Div.; MLIS, is a public librarian, graduate of Catholic Theological Union and Tolton Alum. She is a parishioner, catechist and serves on the technology ministry at Our Lady of Africa Parish in Bronzeville.
- **Jennifer Davis** is a Tolton Scholar, pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Catholic Theological Union, a theology teacher at Mount Carmel High School, a liturgist, and a parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle in Hyde Park.
- **Stephanie Garrison** MAPS, is a retired teacher, graduate of Catholic Theological Union and Tolton Alum. She attends St. Moses the Black Parish, serve in the ministries of Lector, Catechism and RCIA.
- **Gardis Watts** is a Tolton Scholar and part time seminary student at Catholic Theological Union pursuing a Master in Divinity. He attends Our Lady of Africa Parish in Bronzeville.
- **Latrece Winfield** is a part-time student (Augustus Tolton Scholar, M.A P.S. program) and a part-time library assistant at Catholic Theological Union; church affiliation- St. Benedict the African Church, ministers as a commentator and proclaimer.

This is a publication of the Chicago Black Catholic Alliance!

