



"GENEROSITY" - NOVEMBER 2015

# "Wake up the World!"

Be bearers of the fruits of the Holy Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **GENEROSITY**, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." Galatians 5: 22



God has a divine plan of salvation for all of us. For some men and women, God calls them to a life of generosity by becoming a priest, deacon or religious. One example of such generosity is Reverend Augustus Tolton, Servant of God.

Father Tolton was the first African American priest. Born in 1854, he was the son of slaves and at the direction of his owner, baptized at St. Peter Catholic Church in Missouri. When the Civil War began, his father escaped to the North to fight for the freedom of slaves. He died during the Civil War. His widowed mother made a courageous decision to flee Slave Territory with her children across the Mississippi River to the free state of Illinois. The Toltons met with much prejudice in their new Catholic parish of mostly white people. Due to his color, Augustus was not accepted in the parish school. His pastor, however, recognized his keen intellect and desire to be a priest. He personally tutored him for his priestly studies. Despite this preparation, Augustus was rejected by all U.S. Seminaries. Eventually, he was accepted to study in Rome and ordained in 1886. Convinced that he would be assigned to Africa as a missionary, he was very surprised when the Holy Father assigned him to Quincy, his boyhood home.

Father Tolton became known for his excellent and inspiring sermons, attracting many people of

all races. However, some white Catholic priests and black Protestant ministers were jealous of him and forced him away. Father Tolton went to a very poor part of Chicago and founded St. Monica Church for African American Catholics. He often consulted with St. Katharine Drexel about his ministry. He worked tirelessly in building the parish, saying Mass, celebrating the sacraments and trying to provide for the needs of his parishioners. Overworked, his health began to fail. On July 9, 1897 he collapsed and died of heat stroke at the age of 43.

In 2011, the Church declared Father Augustus Tolton as a Servant of God which is the first step to his canonization as a saint.

During November, the Church celebrates National Vocation Week and Black Catholic History Month. Father Tolton exemplifies both of these themes as he has inspired many African American Catholics to embrace God's call to the priesthood and religious life.

### ✝ Generosity in Action:

Despite prejudice, Father Tolton generously gave of himself for the glory of God and salvation of souls.

*What obstacles do you face when bringing Jesus to others? How is Father Tolton an inspiration to you?*

November 1, 2015 All Saints (Vocations Week -Nov. 1-7)	Deuteronomy 6:2-6	What does it mean to love God with your whole heart, mind and soul?
November 8, 2015 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Hebrews 9:24-28	Why did Jesus Christ die for you?
November 15, 2015 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Daniel 12:1-3	What are your personal "idols" which keep you from loving God?
November 22, 2015 Christ the King	Revelation 1:5-8	How are you a faithful servant of Christ our King?
November 29, 2015 First Sunday in Advent	1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2	Why is it important to pray a Morning Offering every day?



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## BACKGROUND FOR THE RESOURCE

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are based on the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians. Though Paul identifies nine fruits, over time the Church added three more fruits of the Holy Spirit to the list ( goodness, modesty, chastity.)

What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

We often hear the expression, "Actions speak louder than words." The fruits of the Holy Spirit are behaviors or attitudes which help us to respond to every day situations and witness to God's grace working within us. They are signs to others that we are believers and depend on the Holy Spirit to live a faithful Christian life.

The November resource focuses on the fruit of generosity. It is connected to the Church's calendar as we celebrate National Vocation Week (Nov. 1-7) and Black Catholic History Month. This resource highlights the life of Father Augustus Tolton, the first African American priest, who is on the road to canonization.

### Additional Resources:

- ⇒ For more information about Father Tolton, go to: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/>
- ⇒ The title, WAKE UP THE WORLD, is the official theme for the Year of Consecrated life. More information can be found at: <https://nrv.net/275/article/year-of-consecrated-life-logo-4925>
- ⇒ Vocation Lessons for each grade level can be found at: <http://phillyocf.org/resources/>
- ⇒ For more information about National Black Catholic History month, go to: <http://nbccongress.org/features/black-catholic-history-month.asp>
- ⇒ Bulletin Board Ideas on generosity can be found (Courtesy of the IHM Community) as a separate attachment or linked at the OCF website: <http://phillyocf.org/resources/>