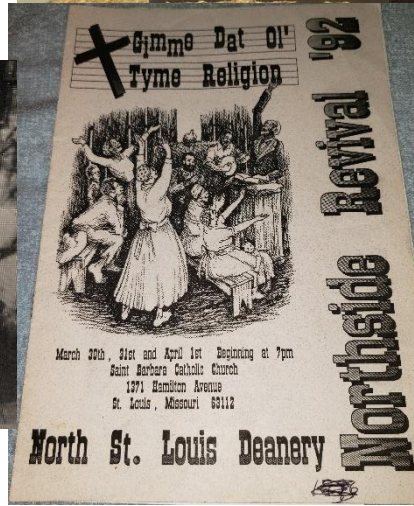
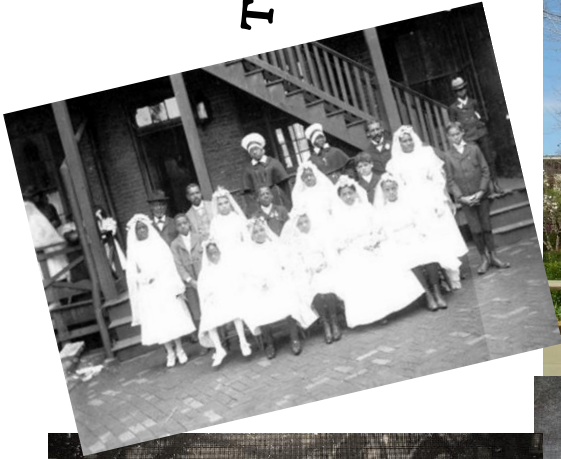


Timeline of Black Catholic History in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri



**St. Alphonsus Liguori 'Rock' Church
Social Action Commission
Education Sub-Committee**

Black Catholics have been part of the faith life of St. Louis from its beginnings. Moreover, from its French history before part of the United States, all blacks in St. Louis were Catholic. Exhibiting a rich tradition, sharing in the southern slavery and northern free state tradition, St. Louis has always been shaped by the black Catholic faith. Sometimes painfully, at other times as an innovative leader in desegregation, St. Louis has contributed to the national identity of Blacks and Black Catholics. Throughout its history, Black Catholics have testified to a strong faith through difficulties and trials, never yielding and constantly calling the Catholic community in St. Louis to a deeper faith that values truly Catholic or universal vision for all people, of all races, of all differences.

(Source: Valuing Our Differences, The History of African-American Catholics in the United States)

A Timeline of Black Catholic History in the Archdiocese of St Louis

1766 – The first baptisms by Rev. Louis Meurin included the infant son named Louis of Marie Catherine, a negress slave of Marie Chouteau. The baptisms took place at Laclede's Village on October 20, 1766.

September 1, 1767 – three years after the founding of the village of St. Louis, Fr. Meurin baptized Paul Gregory, a free Negro.

1776 – 1788 – During his twelve years in St. Louis, Fr. Bernard de Limpach, the first pastor, baptized 106 Negroes and 92 Native Americans

1800 – 1804 – Fr. Pierre Janin, pastor during the first four years of the 19th century baptized 115 Negroes and 58 Native Americans.

1820's – Bishop Louis W.V. DuBourg's black servant, Augustin, was the tenor soloist in the choir of the brick cathedral built in the early 1820's.

1828 – St. Louis Mullanphy Hospital, The Daughters of Charity opened the first hospital in St. Louis. "Black and white, slave and free" patients were accepted.

1832 – St. Mary's Chapel next to Episcopal residence was remodeled and dedicated, seating 600 persons, and "used for the Catholic Negros." It occupied a part of the St. Louis College.

1837 -- Freedom suit filed by Aspisa, a woman of color v. Joseph Rosati. She drops the case against him. She does eventually win her freedom, as does her mother, siblings and children.

1840-1842 – Freedom suit filed by Charles, a man of color v. Peter Verhagen (Jul Case No. 203). Charles filed the suit against Bishop Joseph Rosati, who was out of the country. Fr. Verhagen was Rosati's representative. Charles case was based on the fact that he had been sent to do work in Cahokia, Illinois. The court found several witnesses that testified to seeing Charles working on a building of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. One of those witnesses was a priest, another was a white worker that painted the building right alongside Charles. The lawyers of Fr. Verhagen argued that Charles was in Cahokia for close to 2 weeks to recover his health. Charles won his freedom in 1842.

February 1845 – The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet with Fr. Augustus Paris organized a school for Black Catholic girls, most of whom were daughters of free blacks, at 3rd and Poplar. The school closed the following year under pressures of the controversy over educating African-Americans.

1856 – Six Sisters of Mercy opened a school for the instruction of colored children in spite of the Legislature of Missouri bill outlawing the instruction of Negroes whether slave or free.

1858 – Rev. Peter Koning, SJ outfitted St. Elizabeth of Hungary chapel in upper galleries of St. Francis Xavier Church on 9th and Washington Streets for Negroes

1870 – Church was planned at 17th and Christy (Lucas) by the Jesuits and Archbishop Kenrick but it never materialized. In the correspondence, Kenrick specifies that whites would not be able to rent pews or receive sacraments there.

1873 – Rev. Ignatius Panken, SJ arrives to take charge over ministry to blacks, and erects St. Elizabeth Parish in 1873, dedicated by Kenrick on May 18. First parish for Black Catholics in the State of Missouri. Fourth parish for Black Catholics in the U.S. Boundaries are the entire city, since it was the only parish for blacks. (Closed in 1951). Saint Elizabeth 2nd location, Fr. John McGuire SJ, 3rd pastor, bought the Walsh mansion at 2721 Pine St. to move the church. The building was renovated so it could fit a chapel, school and club rooms.

1884 – Hotspur Wilkerson served as marshal for the Black Catholics in the parade for the cornerstone laying of St. Francis Xavier (College) Church on Grand and Lindell

1887 – On November 22nd, Rev. Augustus Tolton, first recognized African-American Roman Catholic priest, visited St. Alphonsus ‘Rock’ Church, met the Redemptorist Community and offered Mass for the School Sisters of Notre Dame in their convent chapel.

1887-1888 – Oblate Sisters of Providence buy the old Judge Taylor Mansion at Taylor & Page and establish St. Frances Orphan Asylum to shelter, feed, clothe, and educate poor black girls between the ages of two and twelve. The home moved to Normandy in 1897 and closed in 1965.

1889 – Fr. Panken and laymen from St. Elizabeth parish took part in the five Negro Catholic Congresses beginning in 1889

1903 – Six Helpers of the Holy Souls (now known as the Society of Helpers) arrived in St. Louis. Soon after their arrival the Helpers began offering after school and weekend religious instruction for African-American public school children at their convent. The first Christmas they hosted a party for their neighbors featuring a pageant with the roles of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the three kings portrayed by African Americans.

1906 – The Helpers purchased a former convent school at 4012 Washington Avenue and dubbed their new quarters Marydale; it remained the center of their work for sixty years. Archbishop Glennon designated their chapel a public oratory where African Americans, who either were turned away from or grudgingly allowed to occupy a segregated section of most churches could come for instruction and worship. Literally thousands of black St. Louisans were baptized, made their first communion, were confirmed, and had their marriages blessed at the Helpers chapel.

1912 – The Oblate Sisters of Providence opened a boarding school for colored girls, St. Rita's Academy, in December at 3009 Pine Street. In October 1914 the Sisters purchased Judge Taylor's home located at 3128 Laclede. In 1921 they purchased land and a residence at 4650 South Broadway; here they could accommodate 40 to 60 students.

1916 – St. Peter Claver Mission opened in Algum, MO staffed by Jesuits from St. Stanislaus Seminary. Later, the town changed to Robertson, then Kinloch. The Helpers of the Holy Souls visited the mission. The School Sisters of Notre Dame taught at the school beginning in 1945. The mission was located between Summit and Fairview Avenue near Bellair Ave (Fairmount Park division)

1916 – St. Louis City votes for required residential segregation. By November 1917, it's ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Archbishop Glennon's statement in the Post-Dispatch (Feb. 28, 1916) is as follows: "It has come to my notice that some Catholics have united under parish auspices to promote the segregation ordinances. I wish to state that they are acting not under the head of a Catholicity, but as owners of real estate. I personally believe that the colored people will best succeed within the lines of their own race and racial associations, but in so far as the teaching of the Catholic Church goes, it does not stand for enforced segregation – neither residential, educational nor religious."

1923-1931 – Holy Angels in Kinloch, MO was established as Jesuit mission. It was located on Lix (Carson) Road until it moved to Scott Avenue in 1931. It was a Jesuit mission from 1931 to 1952. It became an Archdiocesan parish in 1952 and closed in 2002, merging with St. Bartholomew. Sisters of Notre Dame taught in the school from 1931-1955, and the Oblate Sisters of Providence came in 1955.

1923 – St. Patrick at North 6th and Biddle in downtown St. Louis offers Sunday masses for African Americans.

1923 – Helpers of the Holy Souls Convent, at 4012 Washington set up a catechism center at the convent. Black Catholics attended mass and confession and adults and children received the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, 1st Communion, Confirmation there.

1923 – The white parish of St. Nicholas set up a catechism center for black children staffed by the Jesuits. By 1924, the center grew into a full school. In 1926, the parish was transitioned to a "Black Parish" and the Fathers of the Divine Word took over. In 1938, Fr. Charles Reinelt, SVD, pastor at St. Nicholas opened a high school, taught by the Sisters of Most Precious Blood.

1924 – Rev. Arnold Garvey, SJ opens Holy Guardian Angels mission downtown.

1928 – Fr. William Markoe, S.J. began publication *St. Elizabeth's Chronicle* in March. It became the newsletter of the National Federated Colored Catholics in 1929. In 1932 the Chronicle became the Interracial Review.

1929 – Helpers of the Holy Souls Sister Flora Sapert arrived in St. Louis. During the fifty years she lived and worked here she was involved in nearly every project her community undertook. Her name became so synonymous with the Helpers work that eventually all sisters came to be called "Mother Flora" by several generations of youngsters who could not tell one sister from another but knew that someone named "Mother Flora" loved and cared for them.

1931 – Father Dunne's Home for Negro Boys at 3028 Washington was dedicated on August 2.

1931 – St. Elizabeth Parish hosted the 7th annual convention of the Federated Colored Catholics at SLU gymnasium on September 5-7, attracting 1000 delegates representing 70,000 Negro Catholics affiliated with the Federation and over 40 priests. Catholics of both races came together in an effort to clarify the positions of those two groups and plan a course of action for the amelioration of racial problems through Catholic action.

1932 – Father Dempsey's Lodging House for Colored Men opens at 1127 N. 6th St

1934 – Charles Vatterott, Jr., an innovator in the real estate business, built an 18-room retreat house for the use of Negro Catholics in South Kinloch Park near the St. Louis Airport.

1934 – The Sisters of St. Mary of the Third Order of St. Francis reopened a former all-white hospital, St Mary's Infirmary, south of Union Station, as the first Catholic Negro Hospital, began a nursing school in conjunction with it.

1937 – The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, with the help of Fr. Patrick J. Molloy, courageously opened a high school, St. Joseph High School for Negroes, under the direction of Sr. Anna Joseph, C.S.J., and later Sr. Ann Adelaide, C.S.J.

1937 – Rev. John Lyons, SJ inaugurated the "R" Schools (i.e. Religion) for general and Catholic instruction of blacks, mostly in private homes.

1938 – Charles Reinelt, SVD, pastor at St. Nicholas opened a parish high school. The Sisters of Most Precious Blood taught at the school.

1938 – Sacred Heart Center for catechism of public school children, opened at 4406 Garfield Avenue, operated by the Helpers of the Holy Souls and under the direction of Visitation parish.

1938 – St. Benedict's Center, 3950 West Belle Place, operated by the Helpers of the Holy Souls opens as a social activity center.

1939 – Blessed Martin de Porres mission at Alsobrook and Shelby in Meacham Park, South Kirkwood, MO through St. Peter's Parish in Kirkwood (The Church at Work).

1940's – Black parishioners most likely began attending Visitation Parish in the late 1930s. Mass was segregated with whites and Blacks seated on either side of the aisle. It is assumed that church integration during mass occurred in 1946, if not earlier, when Visitation school was integrated.

1940 – St. Lawrence O’Toole Center opened at 14th and O’Fallon, staffed by one diocesan priest and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

1940 – Archbishop Glennon makes “St. Ann Parish at Page and Whittier available to the Negroes.” However, Negroes were restricted to where they could sit and could receive communion only after all white parishioners had been served.

1941 – Infant of Prague at 623 Holly, St. Louis, MO staffed by the Fathers of the Society of the Divine Word. On the Colored Work chart in Glennon’s correspondence, 2 priests are indicated as working there with 50 colored children.

1941 – Jesuits begin a catechetical center, and Glennon “gives” St. Malachy church to blacks in 1941 in the charge of Jesuit Fathers Bork, Carrol Boland and Joseph McHattie. School is renovated and under care of the Daughters of Charity. Parish establishes a credit union and Aid Society.

1941 -- The Redemptorists of St. Alphonsus “Rock” Parish establish St. Clements mission and school within parish boundaries. Oblate Sisters of Providence teach there from 1941 to 1948 at the segregated parochial school. Oblates start classes for 90 pupils and by 1945, enrollment increases to 203. The school closed in 1950.

1942 – Archdiocese built a temporary school called St. Bernadette at Cook and Taylor, in the charge of Maryknoll Sisters. A few years later, the school became overcrowded and children were allowed into Visitation School but segregated in separate class rooms, restrooms, drinking fountains and playground, and taught by different teachers. In **1946**, Rev. John Smith and Msgr. Patrick Molloy agreed to integrate Visitation school.

1943 – St. Louis Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare is established by Msgr. Patrick J. Molloy, Rev. Charles Reinalt, SVD, and Rev. Donald Corregan, CSSR.

1944 February – Rev. Claude Heithaus, SJ, delivered an impassioned sermon at St. Francis Xavier (College) Church, denouncing racism and urging the integration of the Saint Louis University. Though Heithaus was removed from his post at the university as a consequence of this controversial public statement, the university did admit five African Americans the following semester.

Summer 1944 five African-American students are admitted to Saint Louis University (SLU) — two undergraduates and three graduate students — making SLU the first university in any of the 14 former slave states to establish an official policy of integration.

1944 – The Catholic Interracial Council of St. Louis was the third of its kind in the United States. Formed by clergy and lay people, the Council was under jurisdiction of the Archbishop and affiliated with the Archdiocesan Councils of Catholic Men and Catholic Women. The first spiritual moderator was Rev. Patrick J. Molloy, an activist and leader in integration and racial equality.

May 1944 – The second annual Negro Catholic students field day sponsored by St. Joseph's high school was held at the public school stadium on Saturday, April 29. Three hundred and ninety-one students from 11 schools, centers, and high schools took part in 35 track and field events.

May 1944 – What is believed to be the largest number of persons to be baptized in a single ceremony in the history of the St. Louis Archdiocese received the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Nicholas Church. The Very Rev. Monsignor John Cody presided in the ceremony in which 70 colored persons were received into the Church, with 30 of them being adults.

November 17, 1944 – a black woman named Jane Aileen Kaiser obtained an audience with the Most Rev. John J. Glennon, Archbishop of St. Louis, requesting her children be admitted to St. Thomas Aquinas School. She was an ardent Catholic and the mother of two boys, and this was a period when Catholic parents who failed to educate their children in Catholic schools were considered guilty of a sin.

1945 – Cardinal Glennon suggests the transfer of Black students from St. Elizabeth's to St. Bridget's School if the pastor Fr. Rider agrees.

1945 – Cardinal Glennon privately advises pastor Rev. Thomas Woods at St. Thomas of Aquinas to admit Black students if they meet the necessary requirements and there is not a Catholic Colored school within "reasonable distance" This is most probably in response to Mrs. Jane Aileen Kaiser's appeals to get her son into St. Thomas school.

1945 -- Rev. James Higgins, C.Ss.R., Pastor, ended segregation at the "Rock." The parishioners of St. Clements (at 3723 Finney Avenue) were incorporated into St. Alphonsus "Rock" Church. They were relegated to pews in the back of the church and could only receive communion after the white parishioners.

January 1946 – Rev. John Smith and Msgr Patrick Molloy integrate Visitation School.

July 26, 1946 – three young women entered the Sisters of St. Mary as the first black postulants: Sr. Hilda Brickus, Sr. Antona Ebo and Sr. Therese Townsend. Two more candidates – Sr. Mary Benet Gale and Sr. Martine de Porres Handy - would join in December of that year. **On June 9, 1947**, the five black members of the order professed their first vows and were invested with the holy Habit of the Sisters of St. Mary in a segregated ceremony at which the archbishop of St. Louis officiated.

October 16, 1946 – Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter’s first public appearance was at Visitation Church for a meeting of the Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare.

December 10, 1946 – The minutes of the Board of Directors of the Catholic High School Association notes that Archbishop Ritter announced the goal: “To provide for the colored people adequate high school facilities, it being the mind of His Excellency without any fanfare or publicity to admit qualified colored graduates of our existing Catholic grade schools to the high schools. After this is done, if the colored people desire a school of their own, it would be preferable to have the pastors of the Negro parishes make the proposal. As to the admission of our colored children to the Catholic high schools, His Excellency deems it advisable to consult the pastors of the Negro parishes, the general policy to be established that no child otherwise qualified is to be excluded from the Catholic high schools because of race or color.”

1947 – Graduation at the Cathedral Basilica 1947, Archbishop Joseph Ritter ordered that St. Joseph High School students graduate at the Cathedral along with all other Catholic high schools.

September 8, 1947 – The first meeting of the “The Catholic Parents’ Association of St. Louis and St. Louis County” took place at Capstick Hall to protest Archbishop Ritter's decree to integrate Catholic schools. The meeting attracted 500 white Catholics from 10 northside parishes.

September 14, 1947 – around 700 white Catholic parents from 43 parishes met at the Electrical Workers Hall to protest Ritter's decision to integrate Catholic Schools. They vote to consult with an attorney as to whether legal action can be taken.

1947 – Archbishop Ritter instructed all pastors to read a letter at their parishes at Sunday Mass on **September 21**, warning the protesting group that disobeying their prelate is cause for excommunication. That evening, the white Catholic parents met at St. Louis House and voted to send a letter to Apostolic Delegate Amleto Cicognani. Numbering 800, the group met again at the St. Louis House on **October 5** and read the response from Cicognani, which said he had nothing more to add to Ritter's decision. The group voted to disband rather than be excommunicated from the Church.

1948 – St. Clement mission/school closes.

1950 – Ritter closes St. Elizabeth Church

1950 – St. Rita Academy closes.

1951 – St. Joseph High School for Colored closes after graduating its last class.

1955 – Cardinal Ritter called for an end to discrimination in all Catholic hospitals.

1961 – Wendell Sams (Rock church parishioner) is ordained the first African American Redemptorist priest for the St. Louis Province.

August 11, 1963 – Ritter announces the establishment of the Archdiocesan Commission on Human Rights to assert the stance of the Archdiocese within the Civil Rights Movement, and appoints Msgr. Francis Doyle as chief officer of the Commission starting May 1964.

August 28, 1963 – Ritter announced a Pastoral Institute on Human Rights in September, in which every pastor and assistant was required to attend.

November 13, 1963 – Bishop George Gottwald, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, sent a booklet to every priest entitled *The Changing Parish*.

April 1, 1965 – Ritter sent a letter to clergy calling upon them to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the civil rights struggle.

June-July 1969 – Protests by the Action Committee to Improve Opportunities for Negroes (ACTION) at Sunday services at Ascension, Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Gabriel, and Basilica of St. Louis, King (Old Cathedral).

October 1971 – Archbishop John J. Cardinal Carberry appoints Msgr. John A. Shocklee, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission.

May 24, 1975 – Fr. Herbert Harrison is ordained the first Black Catholic priest in the St. Louis Archdiocese.

September 1975 – Archbishop John J. Cardinal Carberry appointed himself Vicar for City Parishes, and the Human Rights Commission was split into two components with the Human Rights Office becoming the active service agency for the Black community. On **January 15, 2009**, the Office was officially closed and its programs were absorbed by Catholic Charities, St. Charles Lwanga Center and Hispanic Ministry.

January 1976 – The first Liturgical Observance Commemorating the Life and Ideals of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was held and sponsored by the Commission on Human Rights, Archdiocese of St. Louis. It became an annual event thereafter.

1976-1979 – There was a desire for a house or center of spirituality within the African-American Catholic Community and the parishioners and staff of the former Most Blessed Sacrament Parish explored the possibility of using the former convent as a house of spiritual formation and leadership development. The St. Charles Lwanga Center was established in **1978**.

In consultation with Archbishop Robert Carlson, the Board of Directors of the Lwanga Center ratified a revised Constitution and Bylaws in **April, 2017**, affirming the expanded scope of the Center. As such, the St. Charles Lwanga Center, while retaining its proper name and symbol is also known as the Office of Black Catholic Ministries.

January 28, 1977 – Daniel S. Austin was the first Permanent Deacon and the first African-American ordained for the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. He was assigned to the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish.

1979 – Father Charles Brown, C.Ss.R. was the second African American Redemptorist priest ordained from St. Alphonsus Liguori ‘Rock’ Church. He also was the first African American to teach in the Redemptorist College seminary in Waterford, Wisconsin.

September 6, 1979 – Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School opened its doors, named after Cardinal Joseph Ritter. In **1977-1978**, a community representative task force was established by the Board of Catholic Education of St. Louis to study the future existence of a Catholic School in the old Laboure (all girls) location in North St. Louis. Arrangements to establish Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School as a co-educational college preparatory high school began in **August 1979**.

December 6, 1983 – Rev. J. Terry Steib, SVD, was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis and Titular Bishop of Fallaba by Pope John Paul II. He received his episcopal consecration on February 10, 1984, from Archbishop John L. May, with Bishops [George Gottwald](#) and [Charles Koester](#) serving as [co-consecrators](#). He was the first African-American Bishop in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

1985 – The first Gospelfest was hosted at the "Rock" Church with the support of other north St. Louis City parishes. The event was turned over to the North City Deanery and renamed the North City Deanery Catholic Revival.

1986 – Sister Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A., evangelist, scholar, and gospel singer from Canton, Mississippi visited the "Rock" Church. She sang at the Sunday Mass. She is currently being considered for canonization as truly an inspiration to African American Catholics and to the entire Catholic Church. Sister Thea died on March 30, 1990 at the age of 52 of cancer.

1986 – 1987 The Archdiocesan Committee for the National Black Catholic Congress began preparing for the first National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) since 1894 began with a Day of Reflection, held at the old CBC location on Clayton Rd. **November 22, 1986**, Archbishop John L. May appointed 10 area Black Catholics to represent the Archdiocese of St. Louis at the National Black Catholic Congress VI in Washington, D. C. The Commissioning Service of ten delegates on **May 11, 1987**, was held at Most Blessed Sacrament Church.

1989 – On June 10th, the third African-American St. Alphonsus Liguori 'Rock' parishioner, Maurice Nutt was ordained to the priesthood by African-American Bishop J. Terry Steib, S.V.D. The ordination was held at the 'Rock' Church.

September 1989 – Black Catholics share their faith by taking it to the streets. Black Catholics in the St. Louis Diocese hosted a "Share Our Faith Rally at Fair Grounds Park. The rally was cosponsored by the St. Charles Lwanga Center with the evangelization commission of the Archdiocesan Council of Laity.

1993 – Rev. Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R., was appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus "Rock" Church. At age 30, he became one of the youngest Roman Catholic pastors in the United States and the first African-American pastor at the "Rock."

March 28, 1995 – Rev. Edward K. Braxton was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Saint Louis by Pope John Paul II on March 28, 1995. He was consecrated by Justin Francis Cardinal Rigali on May 17, 1995 at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis.

January 1999 – Black Catholics participated in a unity choir made up of Black Catholic Churches from the Archdiocese to honor Pope John Paul II's visit to St. Louis, at the Papal Mass held at the Trans World Dome. At the youth rally held at the Kiel Center St. Alphonsus Liguori 'Rock' Church dance ministry, Liturgical Leaders in Motion (youth only) expressed their faith by dancing before thousands of youth.

1999 – a 14-foot high, welded stainless steel sculpture, The Angel of Harmony, was installed on the side lawn of the Cathedral Basilica. It features a winged angel with African-American features, standing behind three children with Hispanic, Asian and European features, playing a song of peace on their instruments. The statue's base is of granite and is inscribed with quotations from the New Testament, Pope John Paul II, and Martin Luther King Jr. The sculpture emphasizes a theme of harmony, peace, and racial justice, according to Auxiliary Bishop Edward Braxton, who suggested the project to Archbishop Justin Rigali.

2001 – A Gathering of African-American Men in Ministry, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus convened in St. Louis. Two services were held, Liturgy at St. Alphonsus Liguori 'Rock' Catholic Church and a prayer service at St. Nicholas Church.

May 18, 2003 – Cardinal Justin Rigali dedicated the new Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School at 701 N. Spring Avenue. The school doors opened to students in **August 2003**.

June 2005 – The Archbishop James P. Lyke Foundation which cultivates, celebrates, and commissions leadership to develop powerful and effective Black Catholic worship, held their 2nd annual Lyke Conference in St. Louis. The Archdiocesan Committee of the National Black Catholic Congress co-sponsored the conference.

August 2010 – The Knights of Peter Claver, the largest African-American Catholic lay organization in the United States, held their 95th annual national convention in St. Louis August 1st through the 4th at the Millennium Hotel, Archbishop Robert Carlson celebrated Mass.

2012 – The St. Louis American Newspaper Salute to Excellence in Health Care, presented the Lifetime Achiever Award to Sister Mary Antona Ebo, FSM.

March 7, 2015 – Sts. Teresa and Bridget Parish hosted “Sacred Conversations on Race (+Action)” To address these issues.

March 10, 2015 – Sister Mary Antona Ebo, FSM, lead the 6th “Faith in Ferguson” prayer service held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and organized by Sister Cathy Doherty, SSND.

May 2015 – Archbishop Carlson appointed 27 individuals to serve as members of the newly formed Peace and Justice Commission, reinstating part of the work of the Human Rights Commission that was decommissioned in early 2000’s.

March 2016 – Honoring the legacy of Leon Henderson, president emeritus of Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School (CRCP), a Memorial Service was held. Henderson served as president of CRCP from 2002 - 2014 and was a teacher and administrator there for 30 years. Has was recognized as “a crusader for racial and economic justice” by Fontbonne University and for Distinguished Service in Education with a Founders Award from Fontbonne.

November 11, 2017 – Sister Mary Antona Ebo, a Franciscan Sister of Mary whose courageous words during the March 10, 1965, march in Selma, Ala., became a rallying cry for many in the Civil Rights movement, died. A funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 20, at St. Alphonsus "Rock" Church, Archbishop Robert J. Carlson presided.

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- 1991- *Plenty Good Room: The Spirit and Truth of African American Worship*, NCCB
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Cover Photos:

Oblate Sisters of Providence with a group of first communicants at Saint Elizabeth Church in Saint Louis in the early 1880's

Angel of Harmony Statue, Cathedral Basilica

8th Grade Graduation St. Clements School

Three African-American women enter the Sisters of St. Mary as Postulants

Holy Angels Church, Kinloch, MO

Altar Servers, St. Elizabeth Parish

Old St. Elizabeth Parish

St. Elizabeth Parish Crusaders Band

North St. Louis Deanery Northside Revival Worship Aide 1992

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