

Pastor's Letter

June 9, 2024—10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Area Catholics to commemorate 127th anniversary of Quincy's Father Tolton's death with National Eucharistic Procession

QUINCY, IL - Area Catholics and others devoted to the Venerable Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton – who grew up in Quincy, ministered in Quincy, and is buried in Quincy - will commemorate the 127th anniversary of his death with a Eucharistic pilgrimage procession and prayers for his beatification and canonization on Tuesday, July 9, in Quincy. Father Tolton is recognized as the first black priest in the United States and the Cause for his beatification and canonization of sainthood is underway in Rome.



The St. Junipero Serra branch of the National Eucharistic Procession will join the annual procession to Father Tolton's grave as it makes its way to Indianapolis.

The schedule for the evening's celebrations is as follows:

- 5:30 p.m.: Procession forms at St. Peter Catholic Church at 2600 Maine and begins walking to Father Tolton's grave after a prayer. The processional route will follow the south side of Maine Street until it crosses onto the east side of South 33rd Street until it reaches St. Peter Catholic Cemetery where Father Tolton is buried.
- 6:30 p.m.: Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at Father Tolton's grave.
- 7:30 p.m.: Potluck dinner and witness talk with Q&A at St. Francis Solanus Parish Center.
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Francis Solanus Church.

To help with planning purposes, participants are strongly encouraged to register at dio.org/procession.

Those who wish to participate but cannot walk in the procession are invited to park near the cemetery to meet the procession at the grave. Due to the small size of the cemetery, no one should park in the cemetery itself.

Chairs and bottled water will be provided at the cemetery for those who participate.

Father Tolton was born into slavery in 1854. In 1862, his mother and siblings made a daring escape across the Mississippi River to Illinois. After settling in Quincy, he went to school at St. Peter's Catholic School. Tolton later went to seminary in Rome because no American seminary would accept a black man. Thinking he would minister in Africa, once he was ordained, he was instead sent back to Quincy, where he arrived to thousands of supporters. Known for his incredible singing and homilies, Tolton spent several years in Quincy before transferring to Chicago. He died of heatstroke at the age of 43 on July 9, 1897 and is buried at St. Peter's Cemetery in Quincy. Most recently, Pope Francis declared him "Venerable" on June 12, 2019, the second step of four to becoming a saint in the Catholic Church.

For more information about this event, please contact:

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