

Venerable Father Augustine Tolton Activity Patch

Catholic Committee on Scouting
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

ALL: Read about Ven. Augustine Tolton. You can find information at:

- <https://tolton.dio.org/story.html>
- <https://adams-ilgw.genealogyvillage.com/letters/they-called-him-father-gus.html>
- <https://tolton.archchicago.org/about/biography>

1st – 5th Grades – Complete 4 requirements and 2 activities.

6th – 12th Grades – Complete 5 requirements and 3 activities.



Requirements:

1. Fr. Tolton is the first publicly recognized priest of African descent to serve in the United States. Read about his life in the online resources. When and where was he born? When and where was he baptized? When and where did he serve as a priest?
2. What was family life like for Fr. Tolton?
3. What challenges did Fr. Tolton face in his ministry? How did he overcome these challenges?
4. Which canonized Saint supported Fr. Tolton's ministry? Why?
5. When and where did Fr. Tolton die? What was the cause of his death?
6. Fr. Tolton was given the title "Servant of God" on February 13, 2012, one of the first steps on the path to Sainthood. Learn about how a person is declared a saint.

Activities:

1. Fr. Tolton was known for expressing deep devotion during prayer. Pray a rosary by slowly reciting the mysteries and each prayer.
2. Visit a seminary or religious community and learn more about how to respond to God's call for your life. Or meet with a vocations director to learn more about discernment.
3. Modeling Fr. Tolton's "suffering servant" disposition, be more attentive to responding positively when a parent/guardian asks you to help with chores or other responsibilities.
4. Fr. Tolton had to overcome many unjust obstacles to be able to be ordained a priest. Compose a prayer asking for God's grace to be able to recognize unjust obstacles and how to overcome these obstacles in a Christian manner.
5. Ask for Fr. Tolton's intercession for people who are still mistreated around the world out of racial prejudice in your daily prayer for one week.
6. Visit Fr. Tolton's grave in Quincy, Illinois (<https://tolton.dio.org/visit-fr-toltons-grave.html>).

Requirements for Adults:

1. Assist young people with this activity.
2. Share your thoughts and experiences with young people about the life and times of Fr. Tolton.
3. Review the responses to the requirements of each participant to confirm accuracy and to ensure understanding.
4. Order patch awards from the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois – <http://dio.org/scouts>

Answers to requirements:

1. Fr. Tolton was born on April 1, 1854, in Brush Creek, Missouri. He was baptized at St. Peter in Brush Creek on May 29, 1854. He served as pastor of St. Joseph in Quincy, Illinois starting in July of 1886. He was later transferred to St. Mary's Church in Chicago where he served a mission society dedicated to St. Augustine. He eventually became the pastor of St. Monica, a Church for people of African descent, with support from St. Katharine Drexel.
2. Fr. Tolton was born into slavery working on a farm near Hannibal, Missouri. His family fled Missouri for fear that slave traders would take children away from their parents, Peter Paul and Martha Jane Tolton.
3. Racial prejudice. Suffering service to others, deep faith and perseverance.
4. St. Katharine Drexel. She was dedicated to using her inheritance to promote Catholic causes.
5. Fr. Tolton died on July 9, 1897, due to heat stroke while serving in Chicago.
6. The local bishop requests that the Vatican investigate the life of the person being considered, and, if the investigation is favorable, the person is declared "Venerable" and given the title "Servant of God." If a miracle attributed to the Servant of God can be documented and approved by the Vatican, the person is "Beatified" and given the title, "Blessed." A second miracle is needed for the Vatican to then declare the person eligible for "Canonization," after which, the person is given the title, "Saint."

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