

PTS NEWSLETTER

PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND — ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

F A L L 2 0 2 3 E D I T I O N

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



Director with Scholars at the Grotto in Lourdes, France (above) & Director with World Youth Day Scholar Pilgrims in Portugal (below)



Director with Senior & Graduate Scholars @ Retreat



Every year is a blessing! As our program continues to grow, we embark on MORE...more workshops, more service projects, more conferences, more opportunities for travel, and more time to grow, learn, pray, serve and be together! This summer we returned to the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, Long Island for our annual scholars weekend long retreat. We had over 80 scholars in attendance, led by Fr. Steven Bell, CSP, our Retreat Director. Scholars had opportunities to participate in daily Mass, service projects, motivational workshops, interactive presentations and a mental health forum. However, the summer activities were just beginning as a week later we volunteered at Astor Services, an agency that provides

counseling services to families, where they spent the day planting and refurbishing the grounds. In July I had the great fortune of accompanying scholars, Allison and Hope, on a service pilgrimage to Lourdes, France where they spent 12 hour days volunteering in various capacities (which you can read about in this newsletter). And then later in the month, Fr. Kareem, our Program Chaplain, and I traveled to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, with 4 of our scholars and 2 alumni.

A busy summer, indeed; yet we still have more work ahead, programs and opportunities being planned that we hope will be beneficial in shaping our now leaders into the best future leaders for the Church! Until next time, as always...work hard & pray often! - Leah

WELCOME OUR NEW CLASS OF SCHOLARS



HARRIS A. - DUKE UNIVERSITY

Riverdale Country School, Bronx

JULIA A. - LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

St. Joseph Hill Academy, Staten Island

AEDAN A.M. - TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn

MARCUS B. - PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Xavier High School, NYC



SOPHONIE B. - NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, Brooklyn

GABRIELLA D. - SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Poughkeepsie

ADAM D. - HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Fordham Preparatory School, Bronx



THOMAS D. - UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood

ALAIN D. - COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood

JEFFREY E. - ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains

TIMILEYIN F. - BOSTON COLLEGE

Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood

LAUREN F. - LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Greenwich High School, CT



DANIEL G. - CUNY CITY COLLEGE OF NY

St. Raymond High School for Boys, Bronx



WELCOME OUR NEW CLASS OF SCHOLARS



ERIKA G. - FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx

NICHOLAS H. - UNIV. OF CONNECTICUT

Msgr. Farrell High School, Staten Island

ANIYA J. - CUNY QUEENS COLLEGE

Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, Brooklyn

JOSHUA J. - UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx



JADEN J. - PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Cristo Rey New York High School, NYC

JONAH J. - COLLEGE OF MOUNT ST. VINCENT

Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, Brooklyn

SHENAN L. - VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Notre Dame Academy, Staten Island



TYLAR M.C. - ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

Cardinal Hayes High School, Bronx



SOPHIE N. - SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood

DAPHNEY P. - VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, Brooklyn

CAROL R. - FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Notre Dame School of Manhattan, NYC



ABENI T. - HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood

MICKEL W. - LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LaSalle Academy, NYC



PTSF Day of Service @ Astor Services



The annual scholars 'Day of Service' is on June 30th which marks the memorial of Pierre Toussaint's death. This year we volunteered at Astor Services, a Catholic Charities agency in the Bronx, where scholars created a garden space in front of the facility. We also donated an outdoor bench for the use of their staff and clients. The scholars enjoyed being of service!



Scholar Visit @ Binghamton University



Binghamton University Scholars: Dayana, Leticia, Melanie, and Sofia, made time in their busy schedules to meet for breakfast on the morning of Sunday, October 15th. We had an enjoyable time catching up in a quaint café in the downtown area. It's always great to check in on the scholars at their schools to treat them to a nice meal and touch base!

St. Michael the Archangel Feast Day Volunteers



Many thanks to scholars: Angel, Daniel & Tyler who graciously volunteered to assist our Program Chaplain, Fr. Kareem Smith, at his parish's Feast Day Celebration in Co-op City on Sunday, October 1st. Bishop Espallat celebrated the Feast Day Mass and PT Scholars worked hard throughout the day helping to set up, clean up, serve food and organize games for the young parishioners.

Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in D.C.



PT/PT-MC Scholars: Abeni, Arianna, Gabriella and Tyler attended the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington D.C. from October 28 - 30th. This was the second year that our Social Justice Coordinator, Colin Bereth, organized scholars for this social justice conference. This is an opportunity for our students to "learn, pray and advocate for justice at the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the U.S." The weekend concluded with Tyler and Arianna having the opportunity to advocate their specific concerns to their state representatives.



NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS by Nathanael P.

The National Black Catholic Congress was truly a sight to behold and a set of memories I will never forget. The organization of so many Black Catholics in one location, much less our nation's capital, struck within me an awe and appreciation for my very own identity as a Black Catholic. This moment of realization came to me as I entered the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Joining Mass just as it began, the Church's Immaculate interior design coupled with Black joyful souls filling its great capacity of thousands left me overwhelmed behind the last pew as I looked around for a seat. Led by predominantly Black clergy and boasting beautiful music, this Mass in an instant rejuvenated a part of my spirit I was unaware was in need of rejuvenation. Entering the Basilica right after a long day of work, I left in a joyful and evangelical headspace, a perfect combination to have as we entered the day's next destination, the National Museum for African American History and Culture.

Having already visited the museum on my own time, I was fully aware of its inexplicable beauty and intense intentionality in expressing the Black history and experience in the United States. However, the museum was very different this time around. First, it was all for us. That speaks volumes. Considering that people in DC often plan months in advance to visit the free-admission museum due to its popularity, to have such an easy and exclusive access to the museum, and resultantly to the display of our history that it offers, was shocking and made me emotional. Add the fact that the night was beyond generously catered for us with food, I still drool over in my dreams, the privilege of time, space, and circumstance made me beyond grateful for PTSP & the NBCC, and aware of the fact that this was an experience we deserved as Black people despite how often this country can make us feel. To be able to have this experience in the country's capital was poetic and impactful beyond the bounds of vocabulary. We would end the night walking through the museum's exhibits together, contemplating on and discussing the history of our ancestors and ourselves through an academic, theological, and personal lens. It is a moment I will remember for the rest of my life

and am grateful to have shared with those in the Pierre Toussaint Program.

The third and main day of the National Black Catholic's Congress was the epitome of unity within Black churches. **There is no better way to describe this meeting of wonderful, kind, and proactive human beings.** The NBCC was held in National Harbor, Maryland and only happens every five years, and boy was this year extra special. As we all know, COVID-19 put the world on a complete pause, affecting the NBCC's efforts a few years ago as well. From what I heard, they were able to have it online, which is amazing, but I can't imagine it being as fruitful and fulfilling of an experience as what I witnessed with my own eyes. On top of being in a beautiful event hall, **the NBCC allowed us to come together for a weekend and be a community striving for change under one roof. It was so wonderful to see so many people happy to see each other.** Whether it was a reunion from the last congress, or it was your first time, these people made me feel so welcomed as if I had known them my entire life. And with the plethora of events we were able to explore and attend, I ultimately wish that it was more than a weekend. The program had so many excellent breakout rooms to discuss different issues like getting the youth involved in the church, how to change your mindset into a positive one, the best ways to evangelize, and informing us about stigmas on mental health. The only thing I wish they could have improved on is not having so many amazing topics and speakers present at the same time! I wish I could have attended so many more breakout sessions, but I am grateful for the experience. **I walked away realizing how much I can do within my church communities and contribute to the effort of making them thriving safe havens for future generations.**



Annual Scholars Summer Weekend Retreat



WORLD YOUTH DAY: A Pilgrim's Experience

This past August, I traveled to Portugal with some of my fellow scholars on a pilgrimage to **World Youth Day (WYD)**. For those who may not be familiar with what WYD is, it is **an event that was initiated in 1986 by Saint Pope John Paul II with the main objective of providing a forum for young Catholics to deepen their faith, interact with other young people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and celebrate their faith together**. And this is exactly what I experienced, and so much more!

I wanted to share with you all what most resonated with me from the pilgrimage and that was **Pope Francis' message to us young people - it was one of courage and hope for the present and the future. He reminded us that Jesus calls us by our name every single day. He knows our heart, He knows our face. He calls us as we are, and not as we should be because He loves us unconditionally**. With this message, Pope Francis also reminded us that despite all of our limitations and weaknesses, God has given each and every one of us unique talents and gifts. We are not just a number or just another person in the world. He reminded us young people that **we have a place in the Church** and that God calls us to be present and active servants in our communities and to one another. This message ties in so perfectly with what our program is all about - knowing that we have a place in our communities to love and serve in our own unique ways. I hope Pope Francis' message resonates with you all in some way and that you each find the strength to persevere in your faith, knowing that God has called you specifically to be an instrument of His peace and His love.

-by Leticia F.

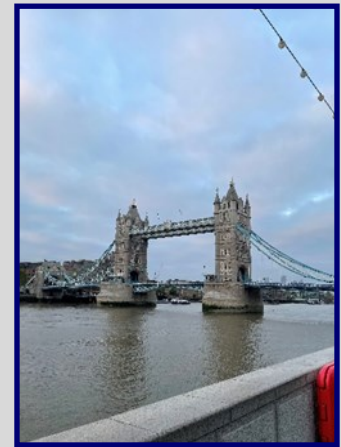


MY STUDY ABROAD IN LONDON by Joseph S.



When I chose Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), being able to complete a project abroad was a major factor in my decision. I chose Venice, Italy and London, England as my first and second choices. After I found I didn't get Venice I was disappointed, but I was extremely fortunate to get London! When I got on the plane, I didn't know what to expect, but I knew it was a trip I had been looking forward to for a long time.

The purpose of my time in London was to work with a charity organization called Historic Royal Palaces, who looked after six unoccupied royal palaces. The project goal was to understand how visitors engaged with the art at Hampton Court Palace to better inform the installation of a new exhibit. The Palace was open to



visitors and had exhibits about the British monarchs, its former occupants. To understand visitor opinions my team and I conducted interviews, surveys, and observations. Through our data collection, interviews with staff, and feedback from our professors, we were able to complete our research paper. At the end of the seven weeks, we were able to present our findings to our professors and members of the HRP staff.

Throughout my time working in London, I was able to explore the city and deepen my faith! One of my favorite parts of London was the train system, also known as the Underground, which along with some helpful apps made traveling incredibly easy. I visited some of the classic London sites, like Big Ben, Tower Bridge, and the Natural History Museum. There was also a very active Catholic parish within walking distance of my housing. I was able to go to Mass on Sundays as well as attend Mass and Adoration during the week. I even took part in a Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi! Thanks to the Underground, I was also able to attend Mass at Westminster Cathedral on the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus! Overall my time in London was a wonderful experience and it is something I will look back on fondly!



Our Time at Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes

“I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials; or perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home.”

-Saint Bernadette Soubirous

We are servants of God each of us destined with our own purpose in this life. We are blessed to have had such an amazing opportunity to serve and be present in a truly sacred place. **Participating in this pilgrimage has opened our eyes to seeing the gift of life** and the constant miracles taking place all around when we share the love of Christ with one another.

On July 14, 2023, we embarked on a 10-day pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. A town teeming with stories of healing, culture, and strong faith. On our first day, we were registered as first year *stage* under the St. Joseph service, focused on welcoming pilgrims and accompanying them throughout their entire stay. We wore straps that were symbolic of ones that *stage* previously wore to help with heavy lifting. From that point on, we became fully immersed in Lourdes’ history and our work.

Lourdes is characterized by the story of St. Bernadette who had visions of the Virgin Mary at the Massabielle grotto. During our classes, **our teacher always stated that we were there because Mary summoned us like she did Bernadette.** We walked the “Steps of Bernadette” visiting her various homes, where she was baptized, and the place where Bernadette confided in Fr. Peyramalle.

As for our work, we were stationed at several different locations: the grotto, the train station, the underground basilica, and the Esplanade. At the grotto, we managed the line of people walking through the holy site where the rocks were damp with Lourdes water. At the train station, we learned how to transfer the *malades* off the trains onto buses headed for the hospitals and



Allison, Eleanor, Hope, and Mary practicing transferring malades from one wheelchair to another



Leah, Hope, and Allison with David at his Engagement ceremony

vice versa. We witnessed the international mass and ensured its smooth running in the underground basilica. As night fell, we celebrated the Rosary Procession on the Esplanade in front of the Sanctuaries of the Immaculate Conception and the Rosary. Additionally, we came together for daily mass and reflections led by Fr. Sean.

We also got the chance to be on the receiving end of all that Lourdes had to offer. We took a bath in the Lourdes water performing the four gestures that were outlined by Mother Mary. On our last day, we started the day at the Stations of the Cross admiring the Carrara marble. Later that night, we participated in the Rosary Procession singing “Ave Maria” with fellow *stage* and visitors. Finally, we revealed our prayer partners, a person we chose on our first night to pray for throughout the week. As Saint Mother Teresa once said, “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across waters to create many ripples.” Our gestures of love don’t have to be extravagant. The little acts done out of love speaks volumes and can result in domino effects, touching the lives of those around us.



Group after mass on final day

Although the days were very long, they were also very rewarding. **Every volunteer was a true inspiration.** We would love to return to Lourdes, especially to complete our Engagement, a five-year commitment to service at the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes.

We made so many memories and created relationships with people all around the world that will last a lifetime.



Esplanade lit up with candles

We would like to thank Brother Tyrone, Leah Dixon, Our Lady’s Pilgrimage, and the Pierre Toussaint - Mother Cabrini Scholars Program for providing us with this unforgettable opportunity to be of service.



By Allison L. and Hope D.



PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS DINNER

Celebrating Diversity in Leadership

HONORING
VINCENT D. ROUGEAU
PRESIDENT
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Monday, November 6, 2023

COCKTAILS: 6:00 PM
DINNER, AWARD PRESENTATION
& PERFORMANCE: 7:00 PM

GUASTAVINO'S
409 EAST 59TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Dinner Co-Chairs
STANLEY E. GRAYSON
RONALD LAWSON

[Click here to reserve tables or tickets](#)
For more information contact Melecia Ming at Melecia.Ming@archny.org

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS



OBM – Divine 9
Leadership Committee

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023

5:00 PM

The Basilica of
St. Patrick's Old Cathedral
263 Mulberry St., New York, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Archdiocese of New York – Cultural Diversity Apostolate
– Office of Black Ministry | 646-794-2681 | obm@archny.org

Diocese of Brooklyn – Vicariate Office of Black Catholic Concerns
718-924-2549 | BlackCatholicConcernsBK@gmail.com



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BROOKLYN
SERVING BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund (PTSF) and Program were established in 1983 and are administered by the Archdiocese of New York, Office of Black Ministry. PTSF provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors of diverse backgrounds from public, private and parochial schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York, to assist them with the educational fees and expenses associated with their college studies. Students are selected into the PTSF based on their strong academic record, their active participation with their parish and school communities, and their demonstration of good character and sound leadership ability. Scholarship awards are renewable for subsequent, consecutive years of undergraduate and graduate studies, based upon their meeting certain academic and service requirements. PTSF also provides the scholars with ongoing mentorship and advisement: spiritual, educational, professional/career, and personal.

To obtain more information regarding the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund and to support PTSP, contact the office at 646-794-2681 or via email at obm@archny.org.

THE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS A MINISTRY GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE MOTHER CABRINI HEALTH FOUNDATION, SOMOS COMMUNITY CARE, THE BLACK & INDIAN MISSION FUND, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NEW YORK, AND THE CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL.
THANK YOU TO ALL THE SUPPORTERS OF THESE VERY SPECIAL CHARITIES, COLLECTIONS AND APPEALS!

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK - PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND - OFFICE OF BLACK MINISTRY
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