

# PTS NEWSLETTER

PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND — ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

S U M M E R 2 0 2 3 E D I T I O N

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

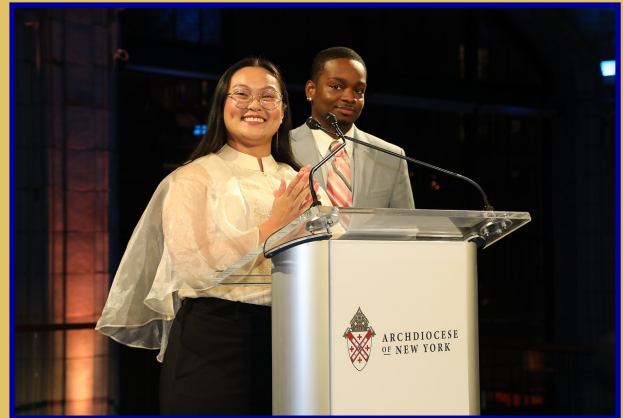


PT Scholar-Alumni at their Holiday Gathering in December 2022  
(pictured above and below)

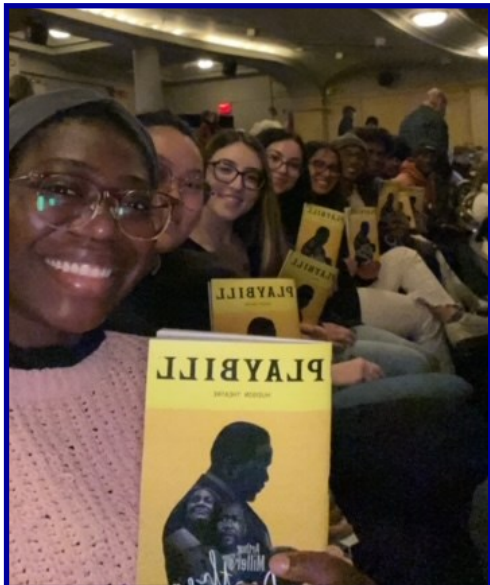
Another academic year has come and gone, and we have 21 new graduates of our program who will be joining the ranks of our esteemed alumni. We have been blessed to have so many of our alumni join us this past November at the annual fundraising Awards Dinner, and again in December at the alumni holiday gathering. Some alumni have been consistent in giving back to the program in a myriad of ways. And it's my prayer that as our new class moves on into the next phase of their academic/professional lives that they continue to remain in contact with THEIR program. Yet, as one class leaves us another class enters, and our new class of Pierre Toussaint and PT-Mother Cabrini Scholars is our largest incoming class to date. We're excited to welcome 29 new students into the PTS Family! We were able to accomplish a lot over the past year but more is yet to come! So to all of our scholars, be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities being offered and never hesitate to reach out if we can be of any support to you! Until next time...work hard & pray often! - Leah



## Annual PTSF Awards Dinner - 2022



On Monday, November 7, 2022, the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner was held at Guastavino's (NYC) and this year we had two Scholar-Alums serve as the hosts for the evening: Mary Lou De Jesus '22 and Keith Guerrant '19. The Invocation was given by Alumnus, Fr. Wesbee Victor '21. Alumni donated and participated in record numbers this year.



This past Fall, Scholars had the opportunity to attend two acclaimed Broadway Shows - **August Wilson's The Piano Lesson** starring Samuel Jackson, and the all black cast of **Death of a Salesman**.

## Giving Tuesday Campaign



**\*GIVE YOUR GRAD YEAR THIS GIVING TUESDAY**

i.e. - \$20.20 - \$202.00 - \$2,020.00

Thanks in advance for your support!

\*Payments can be made online via the website at [obmny.org](http://obmny.org)

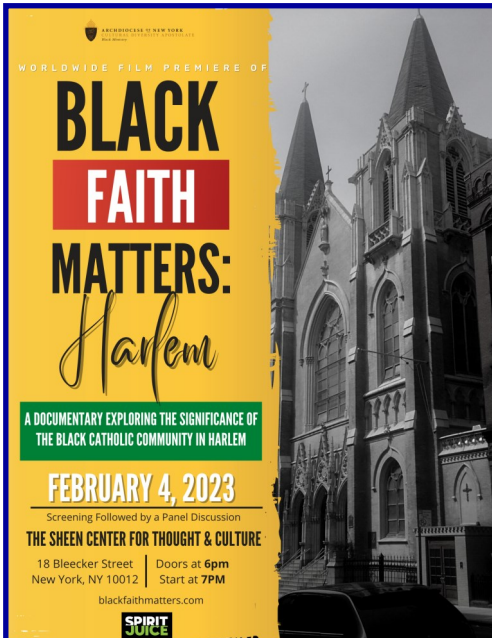
Checks can be made out to the **Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund** and mailed to the office at Archdiocese of New York  
 Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund  
 1011 First Avenue, 7th Floor New York, NY 10033-4112

*Be sure to share the name of the scholar/alumnus you're giving in support of!*




Scholars & Alumni participated in our program's **Giving Tuesday Campaign** by donating their graduation year in any denomination (i.e. \$20.23, \$200.23). Many of our scholars invited their friends and family members to participate to assist with our fundraising efforts! Honorable mention goes out to Samantha H. '26, Robert C. '26, Sophia S. '25 & Omar R. '24; and alumnus, Marie-Elise Milius '22 for their generous contributions (some made on their behalf)!

## Black Faith Matters Documentary Premiere



WORLDWIDE FILM PREMIERE OF

# BLACK FAITH MATTERS: Harlem

A DOCUMENTARY EXPLORING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BLACK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN HARLEM


**FEBRUARY 4, 2023**

Screening Followed by a Panel Discussion

**THE SHEEN CENTER FOR THOUGHT & CULTURE**

18 Bleecker Street | Doors at 6pm  
 New York, NY 10012 | Start at 7PM

[blackfaithmatters.com](http://blackfaithmatters.com)




The *Black Faith Matters: Harlem Documentary* premiered this past February at the Sheen Center for Thought & Culture (NYC). Scholars/Alumni who attended are pictured with Bishop Joseph Espallat above.

## Resume & Internship Workshops

Two virtual workshops were held this past fall to help our scholars create/update their resumes to make them stand out amongst their peers, and to assist them in finding internships in their respective fields. Our presenter, Ms. Malla Haridat, made herself available for individual consultations throughout the year.

**Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund**  
 Archdiocese of New York  
 Presents

### Resume & Internship Workshops

**7 RESUME MISTAKES THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE MAKING!**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH @ 6:00 PM

Get tips on creating and/or updating your resume that will make you stand out amongst your peers.



WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY MS. MALLA HARIDAT

Ms. Haridat has a wealth of knowledge on career planning and will assist you through these workshops. She'll also make herself available for one-on-one consultations in the weeks to follow.

**INTERNSHIP: WHAT YOU NEED TO DO FOR NEXT SUMMER TO PREPARE.**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH @ 6:00 PM

Do you need an internship? Have you started seeking internship opportunities for next summer? Do you know where to begin or how to prepare?



**Register today for one or both workshops!**

For questions contact [pscholars@gmail.com](mailto:pscholars@gmail.com)

## PTS Alumni Holiday Reception



PT Scholars Alumni held a wonderful holiday reception in December at the Law Firm of Sidley Austin LLP in Manhattan hosted by Scholar - alum and donor, Mrs. Danica Brown Muir, Esq. '14.



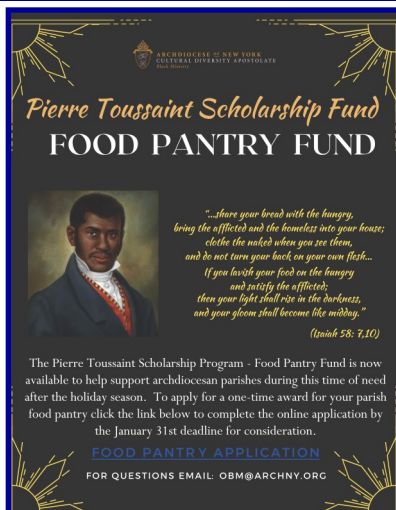
## MLK Day of Service



Abundant thanks to our scholars who painted the hallway of a women's transitional shelter - a Catholic Charities agency in Manhattan - in January for the MLK Day of Service.

Brianna A. '25, Naana A. '26,  
Anthony B. '25, Dramane D. '24,  
Chelsey L. '23, Curtis S. '25 & Emeryc S. '24

## PT Scholars Food Pantry Grants



Congratulations to the parish recipients of this year's PTS Food Pantry Grant:

- St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Harlem
- Holy Name of Jesus - St. Gregory the Great Church, NYC
- St. Francis of Rome Church, Bronx
- St. Lucy's Church, Bronx
- Church of the Ascension, NYC

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Scholar Committee: Tyler G. '23, Ameera H. '22, Samantha H. '26, Omar R. '24 & Joseph S. '24.

## SEEK23 by Joseph Saladino '24

“You are called! SEEK23! January 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis Missouri!” I had heard all these slogans and dates from my campus’s FOCUS missionaries since October. The missionaries were from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and they were talking about the annual conference of Catholic college students from all over the country. I had gotten to know the missionaries well and appreciated the invite, but why would I spend a whole week (and a third of my Christmas break) in St. Louis? I did not understand the appeal of listening to speakers I never heard of and going to daily Mass, praying, and receiving the Sacraments, activities I could very easily do back home. Overtime I opened up to the idea of going to the conference, and I thought at the very least I would get to travel and spend time with friends from the Newman Club at school. With that “yes,” I was headed to SEEK23.

The two most impactful things I learned from SEEK23 were the vibrance of Catholicism and that learning your faith is a lifelong process that should be shared with others. When we finally got to St. Louis, the whole downtown was filled with students. People had traveled from all over the country! UCLA, University of Nebraska, Texas A&M, Florida, Harvard, and everywhere in between. Taking part in daily Masses with over 17,000 people, hundreds of priests, and over 20 bishops showed me just how lively the faith is especially with young people, and it is something I will not soon forget.

I also learned a lot from the speakers at the conference. One of my favorite talks was by Msgr. James Shea. He began his talk by explaining how Jesus is our advocate and how we often find ourselves believing lies that we are alone, our actions do not matter, and we are not enough. Msgr. Shea went on to explain how Adam, David, and Jesus disproved each of those lies. I enjoyed when he explained the stark

difference between living “for God” and “from God.” When we live “for God” we often feel this pressure to achieve and only then will we receive blessings. However, when we realize we are “from God” we know that God wants to live with us and from the blessings we received we can become fruitful. Msgr. Shea alluded to the story of the burning bush from the Bible, the bush shined and glowed but never burned or withered. In a similar fashion God will help us through all our endeavors and will not leave us to wither and burn.

**Once the conference was over I was tired, but very glad that I went and excited to tell people about my experience! I have been a Catholic all my life. I was raised in the faith, received the Sacraments, and had a Catholic education from k-12. I categorized the faith as a part of my life. SEEK23 helped me to see how vibrant the Catholic faith is and the importance of prioritizing my faith, a daily choice to live with love and trust in God. Not praying when I have free time, but making sure I have time to pray daily. The speakers, the liveliness of the people, and the access to the Sacraments and prayer allowed me to learn much more about my Catholic faith, my relationship with God, and my relationship with others.**





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

**GABRIELA G.**  
**CUNY HUNTER COLLEGE (NEW YORK, NY)**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION & DIETETICS**  
**PARISH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
(GUN HILL ROAD) BRONX  
**HIGH SCHOOL: PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL**

“Being in a faith based academic program has helped differentiate between a job and a vocation. In imitation of Venerable Pierre Toussaint, we are encouraged as scholars to always behave as young men and women of service. This includes using our talents in our various career paths for the betterment of our communities. This is precisely what transforms a job into a fulfilling vocation, in which we demonstrate our values of faith and service in real and tangible ways.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “After graduation, I plan on sitting for my RD license and work as a registered dietitian. I have a standing offer as a site dietitian at St Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm in the Bronx.”)



**AMEERA H.**  
**SUNY NEW PALTZ (NEW PALTZ, NY)**  
**MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
**PARISH: ST. FRANCIS OF ROME, BRONX**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: DEWITT CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL**

“The PTSP has continuously motivated me to be the best version of myself. It has allowed me to help others through service and build community among my fellow scholars. The workshops and retreats I have attended pulled me closer to my faith when my mind seemed to drift. I am thankful for all the support, motivation and mentorship I have received throughout the program. The highlights of my time during the program was my first retreat and the mental health workshop that was held virtually during the pandemic.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I plan to vacation in Mexico and Guyana before committing to a full time role hopefully in Marketing. I will also be attending World Youth Day in Portugal with my fellow scholars.”)

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES



**ALEXIS R.H.**  
**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
(BOSTON, MA)

**MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY**  
**PARISH: ST. JOSEPH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, NYC**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL**

“The P.T.-Mother Cabrini Scholars Program has allowed me the opportunity to be the first in my family to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree from Boston University, but also obtain a Masters Degree from Northeastern University. This has allowed me to reach my full potential academically and also be surrounded by young adults who are also motivated to obtain a college degree and overcome any of their personal obstacles. The program also gave me an opportunity to create lasting friendships from people across NYC who attend different universities. I would like to thank Leah and everyone at the PTSP & PT-MCSP for their continued support through my undergraduate and graduate education journey.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I will remain in Boston and have already started applying to full-time positions. Currently, I am in a co-op placement (throughout Northeastern University) at Wood Mackenzie as a Market Intelligence Data Analyst until the end of June.”)



**OLIVER R.G.**  
**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NEW YORK, NY)**  
**MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY**  
**PARISH: BLESSED SACRAMENT, STATEN ISLAND**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: MSGR. FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL**

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Program was integral to my success in both my undergraduate and graduate studies. It was immensely helpful to know that I had a support system always ready to help me if the time came. Additionally, it helped me to connect with my faith during my university years. This was especially true during the yearly scholar retreats, which became a time to reconnect with friends and have an incomparable experience of faith. Congratulations to all the graduates!”



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

**REGINALD A.**

**ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY**

(ST. BONAVENTURE, NY)

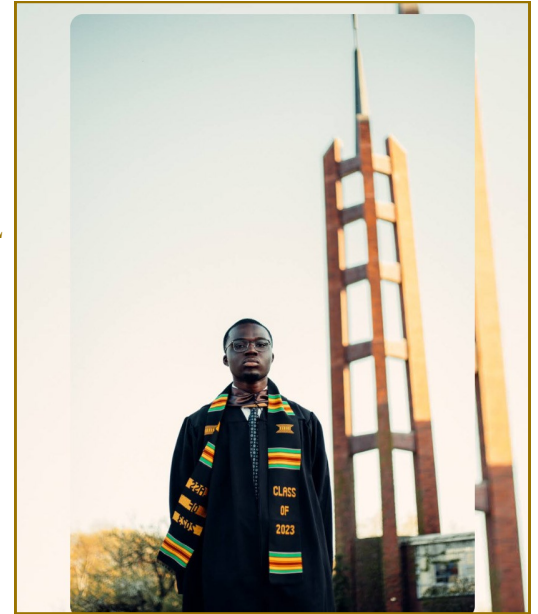
**BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**PARISH: ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, BRONX**

**HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

“Being a member of this scholarship program indicates that I have potential to succeed in society today. It also means that I have a strong support system that has helped me to get this far. Without the PTSP, I would not be in this position that I am in today. It has done more than just provide me with financial assistance. The mentorship I received from the program has been beneficial in my academic success, and has helped me to grow my faith as a Christian. It has allowed me to network with lots of bright individuals through the annual workshops and retreats. I wish everyone the best in their future endeavors and hopefully we can stay in touch.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I will be working as an Assurance Intern at EY.”)**



**JUSTIN D.**

**THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK**

**BA IN FINANCIAL ECONOMICS**

**PARISH: ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE, BRONX**

**HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL**

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been instrumental in my personal and spiritual growth, serving as a constant reminder of my true identity through voluntary and religious activities. This program has instilled in me the confidence to chart my own path to success, enabling me to undertake and accomplish tasks that I once believed were beyond my capabilities. One of the most memorable moments was during the Summer Retreat, where I had the opportunity to sit alongside my fellow scholars and

engage in meaningful conversations. At that time, I was struggling with motivation to complete a project that had spanned two years. However, this experience became a pivotal moment in my life as it helped me stay focused on my project goals instead of deviating from them. The time I spent with the incredible individuals in the PTSP not only gave me the confidence to tackle challenging projects but also provided numerous other valuable experiences. To my fellow scholars, both current and graduated, I sincerely wish you all the best as you have played a crucial role in shaping a better version of myself. And to the incoming scholars, know that I will be cheering for your success!”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I will be searching for positions in Data Analysis or Software Engineering. Simultaneously, I will be my Portfolio Website.”)**



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES



**GABRIELLA B.**

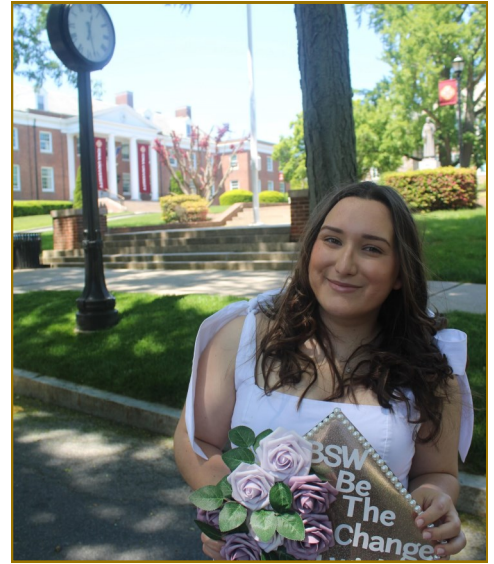
**IONA UNIVERSITY (NEW ROCHELLE, NY)**

**BS IN SOCIAL WORK**

**PARISH: ANNUNCIATION - OUR LADY OF FATIMA,  
CRESTWOOD**

**HIGH SCHOOL: MARIA REGINA HIGH SCHOOL**

“The Pierre Toussaint-MC Scholars Program has been an amazing opportunity. It has connected me to a community of faith based and service driven individuals. It has given me the opportunity to give back to my community through service. I have been able to strengthen my faith by connecting with other individuals who share the same commitment to our faith and to serving others. It has helped me connect with other college students who share similar experiences like mine. I am beyond grateful for receiving this scholarship each year. The scholarship has provided me the opportunity to pay for part of my tuition, service trip opportunities, and textbooks for my courses. Additionally, it has given me the confidence to pursue my education with passion and commitment.”



**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I am will be continuing my education at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service. I will be in the advanced standing master of social work program in the fall.”)



**PATRICK B.**

**PENN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**(STATE COLLEGE, PA)**

**BS IN ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES & METEOROLOGY**

**PARISH: ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NYC**

**HIGH SCHOOL: FORDHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Program is much more than a scholarship. It is a program with a beautiful community that is rich in opportunities. The program is always striving to develop its scholars through their own passions and dedications. While providing academic and professional development, the PTSP also works to find our faith and how it can relate to each of our personal lives. It served as a great place to retreat back to while

I was at school because I did not find many friends or communities who were strong in their faith. So, it was always a relief to know that my friends and mentors at the PTSP were there to practice my faith with me right by my side.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I will be working at Munich Reinsurance America as an International Graduate Trainee.”)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

**LETICIA F.**  
**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY**  
(BINGHAMTON, NY)  
**BA IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PARISH: OUR LADY OF VICTORY -**  
**SACRED HEART, MOUNT VERNON**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: THE MONTFORT ACADEMY**

“Being a part of the Pierre Toussaint-Mother Cabrini Scholars Program has been one of the most memorable parts of my college experience. It was through the program that I was able to meet incredibly bright students who share similar values as me and who are aiming to grow professionally and spiritually. The program does an amazing job making each and every one of us feel valued and supported while encouraging us to reach our full potential by advocating for ourselves and putting ourselves out there. As a graduating senior and having been in the program these past four years, I encourage all of the younger scholars to be fully present and open to the program, to create as many friendships as they can, and to take advantage of every opportunity offered by the program.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “After graduation, I will be continuing my studies at Binghamton University and pursuing a Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Genocide and Mass Atrocity. .”)



**TYLER G.**  
**THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK**  
(NEW YORK, NY)  
**BA IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PARISH: ST. JOSEPH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, NYC**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: CRISTO REY NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL**

“This program is more than just access to extra financial means. This program is about family. Every time I meet with the scholars, it is always categorized as one of the best times I've had in my adult life. Along with helping pay for my books and tuition, the program has helped me strengthen my faith and understanding of God. I am, and will forever be, grateful.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I will be attending the City College of New York Graduate Program pursuing a degree in Mental Health Counseling”)

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES



**ELIZABETH H.**  
**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**  
(WASHINGTON D.C.)

**BA IN AMERICAN STUDIES**  
**PARISH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION &**  
**ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, TUCKAHOE**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD**

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Program has meant so much to me over the past few years. As a Black student at a PWI, Pierre Toussaint Scholarship has given me a community of other students of color who I can lean on. It has also helped me remain connected to my faith during a very stressful and tumultuous time. The welcoming and encouraging Pierre Toussaint community has enabled me to gain more confidence in myself over the past four years than I could have ever imagined.”



**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I plan to work as an Associate at LEK Consulting's New York City office.”)



**THOMAS H.**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**  
(AMHERST, MA)

**BS IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING**  
**PARISH: BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH, STATEN ISLAND**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: MSGR. FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL**

“Pierre Toussaint has helped ground my faith these past 4 years in college. After attending Catholic school my entire life, attending a massive public university like UMass was a change. Most people I met were either completely disconnected from their faith or did not believe in anything at all. I respect everyone's right to believe as they see fit, but I was not ready to become disconnected from my faith after spending my entire life building and nurturing it. Our Pierre Toussaint retreats were always a good grounding and reset time to help remind me of my beliefs and that there are many others in college going/working through the same issues as me. PTSP helped me to maintain a strong connection in with my faith during a time when everyone around me was disconnected.”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I will be working at Deloitte as a Software Engineer in Arlington, VA .”)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

**CHELSEY L.**  
**MANHATTAN COLLEGE (BRONX, NY)**  
**BS IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PARISH: CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH, NYC**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: NOTRE DAME SCHOOL**

“I am beyond grateful for the PTSP for shaping my college experience for the better. The bonds that I’ve made and the experiences I’ve had are some that I wouldn’t trade for the world. By reinforcing my sense of belonging and providing me with utmost support, this program has allowed me to create a strong network of peers and mentors, who have become my extended family over the years. The annual retreats, especially, served as opportunities to further strengthen these relationships – allowing scholars to connect with one another through valuable insights and shared experiences. To my fellow scholars, remember to seize every opportunity that the program offers!

Embrace challenges and continue to own your unique light. To the Class of 2023, I’m wishing you all the best as we embark on this next chapter of our lives. I hope you forever cherish the memories you’ve made as a Pierre Toussaint Scholar! ”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “This summer, I will be taking part in the Summer Neuroscience Internship Program (SNIP) at the University of Florida. I will be conducting research under the mentorship of Dr. Paola Giusti-Rodriguez whose work is centered on the genetics of psychiatric disorders, with interests in neuropsychology, mental health, women's health, and biomedical research.”)



**CHRISTOPHER M.**  
**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY (BRONX, NY)**  
**BA IN THEOLOGY / RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**PARISH: OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, BRONX**  
**HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL**

“The PTSP has been an immense blessing for myself and my family. Throughout my college career, I’ve felt loved, supported, guided, and challenged to excel by the PTS program, the staff, and my fellow scholars. I’m incredibly proud to be a PT Scholar following the great Christian example of our venerable patron through the support of such an amazing community of Catholic leaders. I hold in my heart fond memories of our retreats, service projects, and workshops where I felt the joy and presence of Our Lord through fellowship and prayer. Congratulations to all my fellow scholars on

their distinguished academic accomplishments. I am excited to see where our gracious God will take us next!” **(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “For the next two years, I will be attending Notre Dame University through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Teaching Fellows Program, obtaining a Masters in Education. I will be studying in Indiana and teaching second grade in Oklahoma City.”)

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES



**BYANCA M.**

**LE MOYNE COLLEGE (SYRACUSE, NY)**

**BA IN CRIMINOLOGY**

**PARISH: ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO,**

**RESURRECTION & ALL SAINTS, HARLEM**

**HIGH SCHOOL: PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL**

“This program has not only equipped me with the resilience to strive for more in life not only in my career but in my faith. Pierre Toussaint gave me a network of alumni to count on and for help in any endeavor, and alumni to hold me accountable with my goals. I would like to shed light on the summer retreat of 2022 where I gained a deeper understanding of my peers and how connected we all are through the program and our aspirations. Congratulations to the Pierre Toussaint Scholars Program Graduating Class of 2023! I wish you nothing but the absolute best! May we all stay connected and cross paths later on in life. As for the incoming classes, try new things as you never know what's on the other side of that door.”



**(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “Moving to Syracuse, New York and working for Onondaga County, soon to be starting Grad School at Le Moyne College.”)**



**JENNY N.**

**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY (BRONX NY)**

**BA IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**BA IN URBAN STUDIES (DUAL DEGREE)**

**PARISH: ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE, BRONX**

**HIGH SCHOOL: ACADEMY OF MOUNT ST. URSULA**

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Program has allowed me to meet and connect with motivated, like-minded individuals while also growing in our faith together. The program has also opened my eyes to multiple opportunities. One thing that I will never forget is attending the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice with some of my fellow scholars, Colin, and Leah. This trip not only brought me closer to my fellow scholars, it helped me grow deeper in my faith and realize my interest in a career in public service. It will be sad leaving

the program, but I will remember the time with you all fondly, and we will always be connected as alumni and Pierre Toussaint Scholars!”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I will be taking a gap year to find some work experience. I plan to enroll in graduate school after the year has concluded for a Masters in International Affairs or Public Administration.”)**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

**SELENA P.**

**ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE (BROOKLYN, NY)**

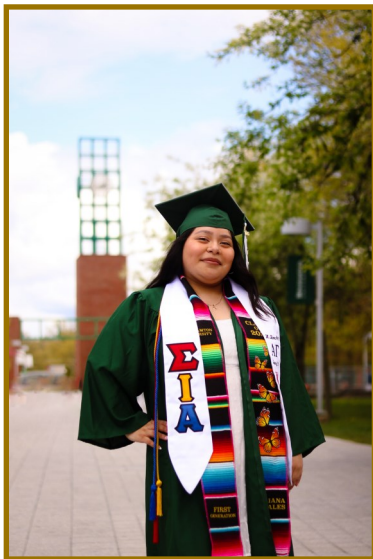
**BA IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**PARISH: OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, BRONX**

**HIGH SCHOOL: AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL**

“The Pierre Toussaint-Mother Cabrini Program guided me to become the person I am today. My sister, Guadalupe Pimentel, is an alumna of PTSP and I remember attending the Sunday Mass and the barbecue at The College of New Rochelle. I loved how everyone felt as one big family and hearing my sister’s experience I knew I wanted to be part of it too. I thank my sister for always encouraging to be the best and because she was my role model I’m glad I was able to take on this opportunity and be a Pierre Toussaint-MC Scholar myself. I am more than lucky to have a second family who brought me closer to my faith. I am grateful for all the advice and resources afforded me to be the successful person I am today. I am proud to be a Pierre Toussaint Scholar!”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “After graduating a semester early from college, I am attending Mercy College pursuing a Masters in Human Resource Management. I have completed a semester already at Mercy College and obtained a 4.0 GPA. As for job plans I have been given the opportunity to work for Reproductive Medicine Association of NY a department for Mount Sinai as a Surgical/Finance Coordinator.”)



**ADRIANA R.**

**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY (BINGHAMTON, NY)**

**BA IN POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY & LAW**

**PARISH: ST. JOSEPH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, NYC**

**HIGH SCHOOL: 47’ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE & ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL**

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholars program has been extremely beneficial to my college career. It has provided me with financial assistance as well as friendships and connections that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of the PT family and program. This program has helped me accomplish my goal of becoming the first person in my family to graduate from college. My college experience would not have been the same without the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship and the entire family's support. To my fellow scholars: Always believe that you are meant to be here, because you are! Don’t be afraid to take up space!”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “Before submitting my graduate school application, I want to take a gap year. In the future, I would like to work in the legal field of immigration.”)

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES



**LILLIAN S.**

**MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE (PURCHASE, NY)**

**BA IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRACK / FRENCH MINOR**

**PARISH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH,  
(150TH ST.) BRONX**

**HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

“Pierre Toussaint-MC Scholars program means opportunity and integrity. It has helped me by being my true self to reach to my goal. It helped me open up more during retreats, especially last year’s retreat which was the first time I remember truly talking more than usual. I do want to tell my fellow scholars do not be afraid to reach out and don't be afraid of any opportunity. My fellow Graduates please, please continue being the beautiful people that God made us to be... LoveY'all.”



**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I am going to continue my studies by going to Iona University for the School Psychology Master's Program.”)



**SARAH G.**

**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY (VILLANOVA, PA.)**

**PARISH: ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NYC**

**HIGH SCHOOL: NOTRE DAME SCHOOL**

“I want to thank the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program for such a meaningful experience throughout my college career. This program has introduced me to such wonderful, intelligent, and driven people. This program also pushed me to think about who I am as an individual and to continuously practice my faith. Last summer’s Retreat was a highlight during my time in the program. It was a weekend of collaboration, reflection, and fun.

Throughout my college career, there have been several workshops in which I was able to take away vital information from. The

program continued to be there for us when most communication went from in person to online during the pandemic. The amount of excitement, ideas, and care that I have seen among my fellow scholars is inspiring. I will forever remember these experiences as I hope to maintain contact with the program. I look forward to see what the future holds, and I wish my fellow scholars the best as they continue their journeys!”

**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I am taking a year off from school to explore my interests and opportunities. I hope to return to school for my masters degree in Psychology.”)



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

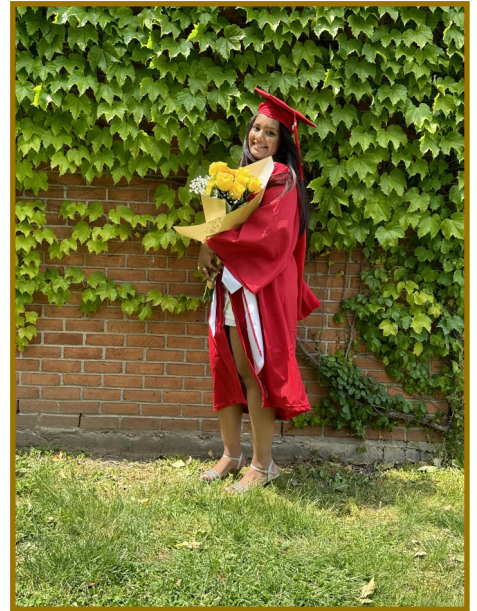
**SHYNA Q.  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

(STONY BROOK, NY.)

**PARISH: ANNUNCIATION - OUR LADY OF FATIMA  
CRESTWOOD**

**HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

“The Pierre Toussaint program has played a very big part in my faith and relationship with Christ during my four years in college. It helped to form my own faith separate from my parents. Furthermore, It is hard to find young people who are deeply rooted in faith, so it was very refreshing to see and meet them here. I have made so many meaningful friendships and relationships that would not be possible without this program. I would like to congratulate everyone else who has also graduated this year. All your hard work has finally paid off and I can’t wait to see how each and every one of you is going to change the world!”



**(POST GRADUATE PLANS:** “I will be continuing on to Nursing School. I am applying to schools currently for a spring start. ”)



## IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE 2023

October 28-30 | Washington, D.C.

TEACH-IN  
Registration

### SPEAKERS

3 KEYNOTES. 5 IGNATIAN NETWORK SPEAKERS. 40+ BREAKOUTS.



Save Your Spot!  
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## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND by Leticia Fabene '23

This past May, I had the blessing of embarking on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, a trip that had been a dream for me for as long as I could remember. I had always wondered what it was like to inhabit the land where so many key figures of our faith had lived and walked, and all of a sudden I had the opportunity to be walking those lands. I knew that it would be a remarkable experience, but I can say that it all exceeded my expectations in ways that I cannot even describe.

Each day of the pilgrimage began with the celebration of the Mass, where we would reflect on the Gospel passage related to the respective location we were visiting. We were accompanied by priests and missionaries that helped us with guided meditations, moments of prayer, and explanations throughout our time there. Our journey started in Nazareth where we visited the Basilica of the Annunciation, the site where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus. This was without a doubt my favorite location because of its beauty and prayerful atmosphere.

The site includes the Grotto of the Annunciation, the area believed to be the exact location where Angel Gabriel appeared to the Blessed Mother.

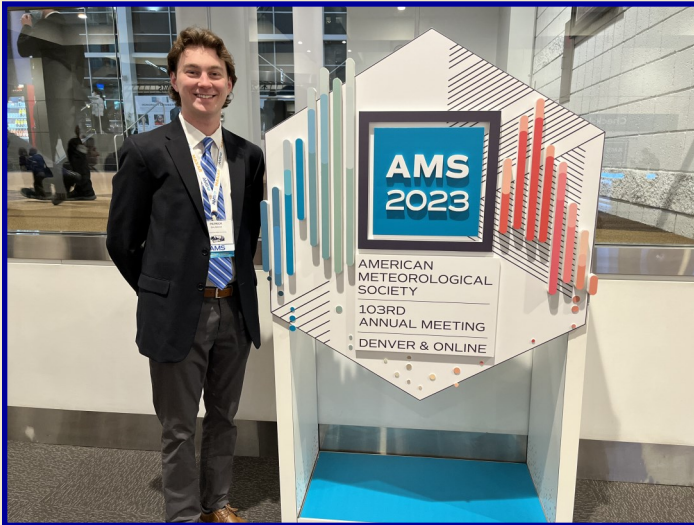
The next few days consisted of visits to places like Cana, the location of the Wedding at Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle; the Sea of Galilee, the scene of many important events during Jesus' ministry; and Capernaum, known to be the "town of Jesus" because of the significant amount of time He spent there as well. I also had the chance to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem which holds the Grotto of the Nativity, the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born. Another extremely notable part of my pilgrimage was our visit to the city of Jerusalem. Walking through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem and making our way up to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre while contemplating the Stations of the Cross was a remarkable experience. I felt so many emotions that day – from an overwhelming feeling of joy and awe to great contemplation and sorrow of being able to pray at Calvary where Jesus was crucified.

As the days went by, I became increasingly fascinated by the coexistence of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam within Israel. However, I was also made more aware of the fragile balance required to maintain peace and respect among these communities, particularly in the city of Jerusalem. Pope Francis frequently calls for peace in the Holy Land and has explained the importance of interfaith dialogue and reconciliation. My trip allowed me to see the situation there with my own eyes and has fostered in me the urgency with which we need to pray for the peace and for the rights and dignity of all individuals and communities.

**All in all, my pilgrimage was a transformative experience, connecting me even further with our Catholic faith and offering me a new lens to the Sacred Scriptures.** With each celebration of the Mass and each site visit, the Bible came more and more to life for me and I can say that I will truly never read the Bible the same again. **I pray that everyone has the opportunity to visit the Holy Land one day and ask that we all unite in prayer for peace in Jerusalem.**



## METEOROLOGY CONFERENCE by Patrick Baumann '23



As I reflect on my recent experience at the American Meteorological Society (AMS) conference in Denver, Colorado, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunities that have come my way. This experience would not have been possible without the support and generosity of both Penn State University and the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund. I am immensely grateful for their unwavering belief in my potential and their commitment to helping me pursue my passion for meteorology and atmospheric sciences.

Accompanied by a group of fellow meteorology students from Penn State University, I embarked on this adventure with anticipation and excitement. Little did I know that the conference would exceed my expectations. From the moment we arrived we were immersed in a world where scientific knowledge thrived.

At the conference, I had the privilege of meeting many exceptional individuals - students, professors, scientists, and professionals - who shared a common love for meteorology. Engaging in conversations with these individuals expanded my understanding of the field. I was humbled by their expertise, inspired by their dedication, and motivated to pursue excellence in my own endeavors.

One of the highlights of the conference was reconnecting with former colleagues from my internship at the National Weather Service. It was heartwarming to see familiar faces and catch up with each other since we last worked together. We chatted about our own lives, about meteorological research being done, and also about our own plans for the future.

Additionally, I had the extraordinary opportunity to spend time with a Penn State alumnus friend who is now a Weather Launch Officer in Cape Canaveral for the US Space Force. Hearing about his experiences and witnessing his dedication to ensuring successful launches was both awe-inspiring and humbling. It served as a powerful reminder of the diverse career paths that await aspiring meteorologists and the potential for making a significant difference in the world.

Throughout the conference, I immersed myself in a plethora of workshops, presentations, and panel discussions. The depth of knowledge shared by experts in various meteorological disciplines was truly remarkable. I absorbed information like a sponge, eager to deepen my understanding of atmospheric phenomena, data analysis techniques, and the latest advancements in weather prediction models. The wealth of knowledge I acquired during those few days will undoubtedly shape my career trajectory and inform my future work endeavors.

Beyond the conference itself, I had the chance to explore the beautiful city of Denver. One highlight was visiting Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre, a destination I had long desired to visit. The stunning natural rock formations and the incredible atmosphere of the amphitheater left me in awe of nature's magnificence as well as the history attached to it.

As I bid farewell to Denver and the AMS Conference, I am filled with gratitude for the transformative experience it provided. **I extend my deepest appreciation to Penn State University and to the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund for their generosity and unwavering support. Their belief in my potential has empowered me to reach for the skies and pursue my dreams. I am eternally grateful for the opportunities they have afforded me.**

The AMS Conference was not just a gathering of meteorological minds; it was a testament to the power of collaboration, the pursuit of knowledge, and the collective ambition to better understand and predict our planet's weather patterns. It was an experience that will forever shape my journey as a meteorologist, inspiring me to strive for excellence, make a meaningful impact, and contribute to the advancement of the field.



## ***SAVE THE DATE***

*9<sup>th</sup> Annual*

***HARLEM MARCH & Interfaith Day of Prayer to End Violent Loss in  
Our Community***

***PRAYER & ACTION***



***Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023***

at 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

*Do you want to see an END to VIOLENT Loss in Our Community? Please join us.  
Bring your Organization Banners, Bring Pictures of those who were lost.*

***Intergenerational Conversation on Violence  
& Protecting Our Elders***

**OUTDOOR RALLY & PRAYER CONTINUES  
Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Center**

34 West 134<sup>th</sup> Street between Lenox and 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10030

\*\*\*\*\*

***Sponsored by The Parish of St. Charles Borromeo, Resurrection & All Saints***

**Rev. Willem Klaver, Pastor**

***Social Justice Committee – Anti-Violence Project***

**MASKS REQUIRED & SOCIAL DISTANCING OBSERVED**

# Thank You!

The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Program wishes to thank the **Knights of Columbus - Christ the King Council No. 3993** on Staten Island for their very generous donation made on behalf of our Scholar-Alumni Julio & Oliver Ruiz-Gomez.

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 cultural/ethnic 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 selected into the PTSP are chosen 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, service & program requirements. PTSF also provides the scholars with ongoing mentorship and advisement: spiritual, educational, professional career, and personal.

To obtain more information regarding and /or to support the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund contact the office at 646-794-2681 or via email at [obm@archny.org](mailto:obm@archny.org).

The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Program and the Pierre Toussaint - Mother Cabrini Scholars Program (for scholars preparing for careers and ministries in fields of healthcare & social work)

are made possible through the generosity of:

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation  
The Black and Indian Mission Fund  
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