

PTS NEWSLETTER

PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND — ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

S U M M E R - F A L L 2 0 2 0 E D I T I O N

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



Scholars & Alumni - David, Chelsey, Tyler, Byanca, Darling & Celestine with Director, Leah (L) at Father's Heart Ministries for the MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 20, 2020

When we parted ways after our annual winter workshop, who could have guessed that we were just a few months away from a global pandemic? In a matter of weeks, things changed drastically as many of you had to return home and transition to online classes. For some it was a big adjustment and yet others were able to make the best of this difficult situation. We all had to pivot as we endured changes in our day to day lives, and adjust to the

new normal. I thank each of you for taking time to meet with me during the first few months to share your experiences. It was great hearing your voices, seeing your faces (via Zoom or FaceTime) and listening to your stories. Although life has changed a bit, your continued faith and steadfast tenacity are evident that we'll all get through this. So know that you're being prayed for daily and that this too shall pass...and as always work hard & pray often! - *Leah*



36th Anniversary Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner



Left: PT Scholars with Associate Director, Leah Dixon;



Right: Alumni / Planning Committee enjoying a good laugh;

Below Left: Scholar, Tyler G, with former NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly;

Below Right: PT Scholars with the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Mr. Maurice DuBois, CBS News Anchor..



PT Scholars in attendance at the 36th Annual Fundraising Dinner alongside, Leah Dixon, Associate Director (R) & Fr. Kareem Smith, Program Chaplain (L).

The Annual Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner was held at Guastavino's, in Manhattan, on Monday, November 4, 2019 honoring the Order of Malta American Association & remembering Ms. Toni Morrison, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and Educator.

Thanksgiving Service Project at St. Mark the Evangelist Church

On Wednesday, November 27, 2019, the Pierre Toussaint Scholars and Alumni returned for a third year to assist the parish of St. Mark the Evangelist in Harlem with their annual Thanksgiving dinner - serving the greater Harlem community. Scholars worked to prep food and set up the school cafeteria while enjoying fellowship with the parishioners.



Annual Scholars Winter Workshop



The Annual Scholars Winter Workshop was held on Monday, December 30, 2019 at the Catholic Center. The day focused on “Mental Health & Wellness: The Challenges of Being a Student.”

Deacon Michel Hodge, VP of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs at NYC College of Technology served as the day’s presenter and Ms. Tiffani Blake, M.S., Ed.M., Interim Assistant Provost for Student Engagement & Development at NYIT facilitated the alumni panel.



PARIS IN THE PANDEMIC by Alexis Rosales-Hernandez

The study abroad experience is meant to be a memorable experience for any college student! Yet my study abroad experience has been quite different compared to the typical study abroad experience. Have been accepted in the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) Exchange Program at Boston University, I was excited to be spending a full semester in Paris as a student in a world-renowned university. After studying French for five years and declaring in a minor in French, I would be immersing myself into the French culture and saying à bientôt to my friends, family, and the American culture for five months. Once in Paris, as any American, I began to sightsee all of famous landmarks while enjoying the photogenic streets of the city with friends from orientation and from Boston University. I had met



people from all over the world: Canada, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Colombia, Italy and many other nations. I pushed myself to speak French everywhere I went, not allowing myself to be stopped by my American accent in an effort to truly become a Parisian. I was living the Parisian dream!

My time in Paris had been like a movie for the first three months (drinking coffee at the local café, eating exquisite food, taking le métro, seeing la Tour Eiffel light up at night) until reality hit in March with COVID-19. The pandemic had hit the European continent much sooner and the effects of COVID-19 were already visible in France, yet France and

Parisians carried on with daily life and so did I, determined not to let the coronavirus ruin my Parisian experience. This all came crashing down in mid-March with oversea Americans rushing back home due to the unexpected travel ban from Europe by the Trump Administration. Though, the ban cut my study abroad experience short, during my time in Paris I had met people from all over the world who I will remain friends with for the rest of my life while giving me unforgettable memories to keep for myself.

Upon reflection, I would have enjoyed those two remaining months I had in Paris but at the same time, I will always cherish the three months I had in Paris. I know that my Paris will be there waiting for me to return back to her one day. Jusqu'à la prochaine fois Paris!



INTERNING DURING COVID by Marie-Elise Milius

This summer, I am blessed to say I interned at not 1, but 2 of the largest financial and accounting institutions. In early July, I began work as an Advancing Black Pathways Apprenticeship-Chase Small Business intern. Working for the #1 financial institution, I was able to become knowledgeable of all things JP Morgan Chase & Co. In the mornings, we spent time on professional development, highlighting personal branding, as well as technical skills where we worked on useful Excel and PowerPoint skills. In the afternoons, I worked with my team, T.O.K.E.N Consulting Group to execute on a business challenge presented to us by a protégé bank that wanted to increase their 1-to-1 consulting atmosphere. Don't get me wrong being on Zoom at 8:30 every morning took some time to get used to, but I would not change this opportunity for the world.

The week after I started my internship at JP Morgan, I started my internship with KPMG. As a KPMG Embark Scholar Intern, I rotated through the Tax, Audit, and Advisory practices. Advisory was my favourite! I was a team member on an actual team member on an engagement team working in the Customer Experience division. I participated in their weekly morning stand up calls where they discussed goals for the week and updates on their tasks. On my last day, I had the opportunity to present on Clarity PPM, a project management tool, which was being implemented with their client's organization. While working on the engagement, I had opportunities to learn about other divisions in Advisory and went through technical trainings.

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13, is a bible verse I often reflected back on these past 2 months. It was definitely not easy to stay on top of both internships at one time. Several times, I had a meeting with a JP Morgan professional and then switched over to my other laptop to have a meeting with a KPMG professional right after. Most nights I had worked till 8-9pm, rather than 5pm to ensure I dedicated enough time and thought to all my tasks and presentations. I often thought to myself, "Did I take on more than I could handle"? As New York entered Phase 4, I returned back to my parish and brought these questions to God in prayer. Though, it was a difficult balancing the two, this experience has made me much more prepared for the upcoming Fall semester and recruiting for next summer internships.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

DEBORAH A.
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK (NEW YORK, NY)
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK
PARISH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, STATEN ISLAND
HIGH SCHOOL: SUSAN E. WAGNER HIGH SCHOOL

“I am so grateful to the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program for its financial and spiritual support during my academic journey. Graduate school had many challenges and the wealth of resources and connections from PTS helped me navigate through it. PTS has rejuvenated my faith, notably when everything shut down. The prayer line is one of the many blessings I appreciated as a scholar and will continue to participate in as a professional. It is a consistent source of spiritual guidance. Lastly, I am thankful to Ms. Leah for being there for me during highs and the very lows.”



(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I applying for jobs as a Social Worker. I am so excited to be entering this field.”)



KIARA R.
MANHATTAN COLLEGE (BRONX, NY)
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
PARISH: ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST, HARLEM
HIGH SCHOOL: AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has allowed me to earn both my Bachelors and Masters. During my undergraduate years, I became a member of Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society, as well as, become a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. I was also able to intern for SAMSHA as well as lead a research team that expected how colorism is displayed in the media. Lastly, and most importantly, I have gained a family and an additional support system in the PTSP that has helped me physically, emotionally, and spiritually these last few years. I would like to wish all my fellow scholars and graduates the best in their future endeavors as well as extend a helping hand to all.

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “In the upcoming months, I will be applying for my state licensure as well as applying for jobs in the mental health counseling field.”)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES



JUNELLE A.

HUNTER COLLEGE (NEW YORK, NY)

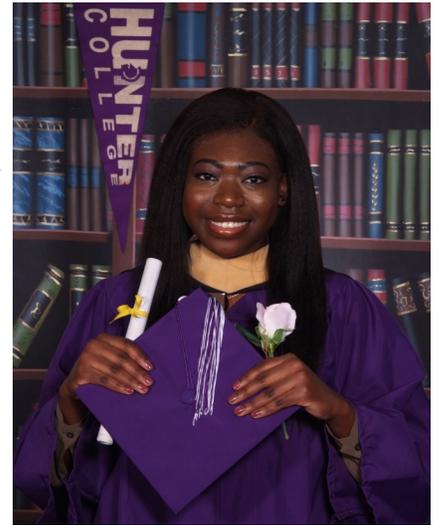
BA IN SOCIAL WORK

PARISH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 150TH ST. BRONX

HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Program is more than just a great support system, they are family to me. It has shown me how to deepen my faith in God as I journeyed through my four years of college. By participating in retreats, service projects, and travel experiences, this program of young Catholics has strengthened my identity. It has taught me that serving others is a blessing, and to do so with joy so that others in the community feel called to join you.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I will be starting my Master’s in Social Work program this fall at the Silberman School of Social Work as an Advanced Standing student. My chosen method is Clinical Practice with individuals, groups and organizations. I hope to apply this practice to school or educational based social work.”)



DANIEL A.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (PRINCETON, NJ)

BA IN PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

PARISH: ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM CHURCH, BRONX

HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Program has been instrumental in my success throughout these four years. From being able to ground myself at our yearly retreats, to listening to a 7:30AM sermon delivered by Brother Sherlog, this program has been a tremendous support system for me. My faith has deepened throughout these four years, and I can resolutely attribute that all to this program. Moreover, my faith-based relationships have also flourished. Being able to connect with fellow spiritual young people has been an unparalleled blessing. From the lessons I have learned from older scholars, to the stories I have shared with younger peers, the relationships I have formed here have been invaluable. I wish everyone the very best, and especially wish my fellow graduates much success in their future plans.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “In August, I will begin working as a Wealth Management Analyst for PNC.”)





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

JESSICA A.N.

SUNY PLATTSBURGH (PLATTSBURGH, NY)

BS IN BIOLOGY

MINOR IN CHEMISTRY

PARISH: ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, BRONX

HIGH SCHOOL: BRONX LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

"The PTS Program is wonderful because it gave me an additional reason to do the best I can. I had some of my fun moments at retreats and had an opportunity to go on a spiritual/cultural trip. Words of encouragement and support from the program especially in my difficult times. My highlight would be going on the spiritual tour. I learned about different cultures, values and ways of living. The financial support was also used effectively and for that, I am grateful."



(POST GRADUATE PLANS: "Hopefully, I would be able to work with a Principal Investigator (PI) at Albert Einstein College of Medicine after this crisis. However, my long term goal is to be a physician in an accredited hospital somewhere around the globe.")



KERRY E.

BOSTON COLLEGE (CHESTNUT HILL, MA)

BS IN NURSING

PARISH: ST. CLARE'S CHURCH, STATEN ISLAND

HIGH SCHOOL: ST. JOSEPH HILL ACADEMY

"The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has provided me with support and guidance throughout my undergraduate studies at Boston College. I am extremely grateful for the program's financial assistance and for the friendships I have made with fellow scholars. The program's retreats and winter workshops helped me grow both spiritually and professionally. The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program offered me a support system, a lifelong network of scholars, and it aided my personal development throughout college. I am truly thankful for my experiences as a Pierre Toussaint Scholar and I

would like to wish my fellow graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors."

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: "I am currently studying for my nursing boards and I hope to work as Registered Nurse in the upcoming months.")

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES



WALLY F.

MITCHELL COLLEGE (NEW LONDON, CT)

BA IN COMMUNICATIONS

PARISH: ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH, HARLEM

HIGH SCHOOL: LEGACY HIGH SCHOOL

“In my opinion, Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program means carrying yourself in a way that demonstrates the qualities of good character throughout your college career and beyond. Throughout my time with the scholarship program, I got a new perspective that gave me a change to become a better person. Plus, I got some opportunities that let me do some good work. Despite the fact that I’ll be graduating, I’m planning to look for volunteer opportunities that will allow me to do good in the city. As a final message to my fellow scholar and graduates, I ask only that you keep fighting the good fight, and just be yourself out there.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “After graduation I’m planning to look for work in either early childhood education or communication, while taking classes in information technology.”)



BAILEY L.

BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC (BOSTON, MA)

BA IN PROFESSIONAL MUSIC

CONCENTRATION IN BUSINESS, AND PRODUCTION & ENGINEERING

PARISH: ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO, HARLEM

HIGH SCHOOL: CHURCHILL SCHOOL & CENTER

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program over these past four years have been a safe haven for me. With the programs guidance, I have been able to find the confidence, strength and faith within myself and God. It hasn’t been an easy four years but with my PTS family I have been able to overcome various obstacles. One highlight I will carry with me forever was our pilgrimage to Poland. Looking back on this trip now I am constantly reminded of how the power of music mixed with Gods love connected thousands of people. I am especially reminded of this during this time of uncertainty and distance. We must remain faithful and diligent. Congrats to the rest of the 2020 Grads! WE DID IT DURING A PANDEMIC

Y’ALL! The sky is the limit and anything is possible with God, so keep reaching for greatness! As for the rest of my PTS family thank you for all of your love and support!”





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

GUADALUPE P.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NEW YORK, NY)

BS IN CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & SPECIAL EDUCATION 1-6

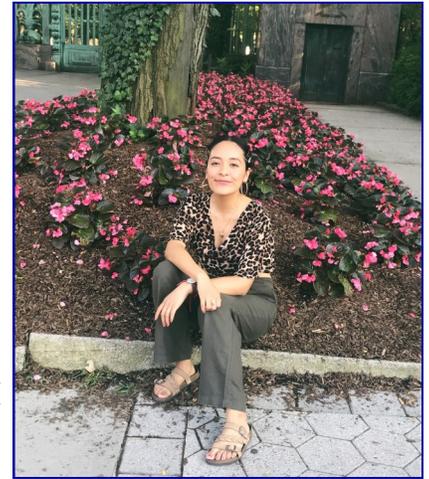
CONCENTRATION IN CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL
HEALTH STUDIES AND SPANISH

PARISH: OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, BRONX

HIGH SCHOOL: AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has provided me with a family who has supported me throughout my college years. PTS has reminded me that anything is possible if we ask for help and most importantly pray! I will forever be grateful for my many travel opportunities I was part of because that’s how I was able to spend time with my soul sister, Junelle. One of my favorite memories has to be World Youth Day in Panama; from singing “I am the Servant of the Lord,” to napping in a hot auditorium, to seeing Pope Francis, and being in awe of how much young people want a close relationship with God. Special thank you to Leah who constantly listened to me in my times of stress and offered me words of wisdom. I wish my fellow graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors! It’s time for us to go and make a difference.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “In the fall I will be attending Hunter College, School of Education to pursue a Masters in Teaching English to Students of Other Languages K-12. Because of COVID-19 my initial teaching certificate has been delayed, so I hope to complete the missing exams while seeking employment amidst the DOE hiring freeze.”)



PETER T.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY @ LINCOLN CENTER (NEW YORK, NY)

BA IN ENGLISH

PARISH: BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH, STATEN ISLAND

HIGH SCHOOL: XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been such a wonderful resource during my years at Fordham University. I am intensely grateful to Leah, Brother Tyrone, the scholarship donors and everyone involved for always being supportive and encouraging. The Winter Workshops have always been such a great way to start a New Year, whether it was learning about financial skills or hearing from alumni. I wish all graduates and scholars the best!”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I am going to be a Teacher in Residence at Achievement First East New York Elementary School. I will be teaching English in lower grades while also earning my Master’s degree in Teaching from the Relay Graduate School of Education, an organization that partners with charter school networks to license and prepare the educators of tomorrow.”)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES



Additional Graduate:

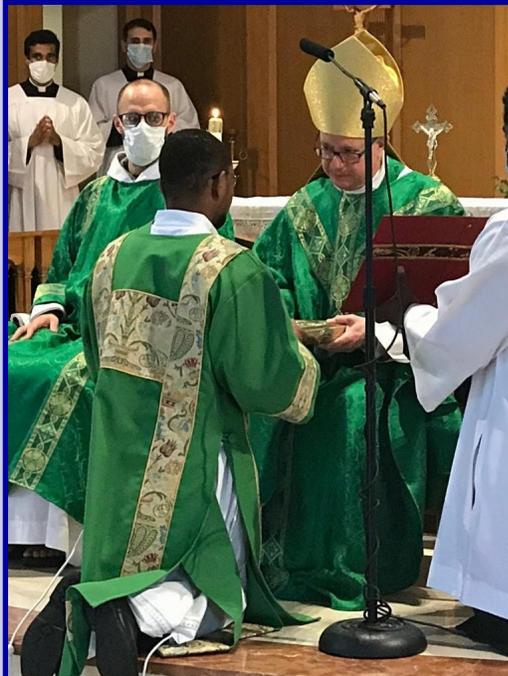
NAOMI E.

SIENA COLLEGE (ALBANY, NY)

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

PARISH: CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, PEEKSKILL

HIGH SCHOOL: LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL



Deacon
Wesbee
Victor



**Congratulations to Scholar - Wesbee Victor
on being ordained a Deacon this Spring!**

PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND
VIRTUAL GALA

Have a Meal,
Share a Meal,
as Together We Support our
Scholars in Service of Others

Help support our scholars by making a gift to the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Virtual Gala.

A portion of every gift will support a special food pantry fund for selected Archdiocesan parishes. Donate via check by mail or by credit card at Eventbrite or www.obmny.org

The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund (PTSF) and Program was established in 1983 and is administered by the Archdiocese of New York, Office of Black Ministry. PTSF has provided 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 selected into the PTSF 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 and service 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.

THE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS A MINISTRY GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
THE BLACK & INDIAN MISSION FUND, THE ALFRED E. SMITH FOUNDATION AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES...
AND PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE SUPPORTERS OF THESE VERY SPECIAL CHARITIES, COLLECTIONS AND APPEALS!

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