

PTS NEWSLETTER

PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND — ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

S U M M E R - F A L L 2 0 2 1 E D I T I O N

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



Scholars - (Top Row) Misa Love, Phillip, Danielle,
(Bottom Row) Christopher, Director - Leah, Gaby,
& Yamilex at Holy Rosary Church (Bronx)
Filming PTSF Dinner Scholar Video

As the program continues to grow in the number of scholars who we support, so does the number of pages of our newsletter... as we have so much to share about all of the wonderful activities that our scholars are involved in throughout the year! As we welcome 17 new scholars into the family, we bid farewell and congrats to our graduates, with the hopes that they will continue to remain involved as alumni.

Although it was an unprecedented year, we continued to remain active as a community, with the help of our supporters and alumni; and our scholars continued to be of service to those in need. I always enjoy the opportunity to meet up with scholars for lunch/dinner throughout the year or to work alongside them as we volunteer with an agency through our service partner, Catholic Charities. With all that you do, in giving so freely of your time and talents, we can't highlight all of your good deeds here, but know that your work does not go unnoticed! So continue to do your good work at home, in your church or at school. Continue to be good shepherds and know that you are appreciated and being prayed for daily!

And as always...work hard & pray often! - *Leah*



(Left) Director, Leah with Fr. Kareem Smith, PTSF Chaplain at the Kennedy Center for the Black History Month Service Project.
(Right) Scholars, Selena, Director - Leah, Jason and Mary Lou volunteering with Catholic Charities for the Thanksgiving season.

WELCOME OUR NEW CLASS OF SCHOLARS



BRIANNA A. - COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
HS for Math, Science & Engineering; St. Luke's Church, Bronx

MARTIN A. - AMHERST COLLEGE

Church Farm School; St. Luke's Church, Bronx

BROOKE B. - SPELMAN COLLEGE

School of the Holy Child; Sts. Philip & James Church, Bronx

ANTHONY B. - SUNY OSWEGO

Democracy Prep Charter HS; St. Luke's Church, Bronx

EDEN B. - MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

Preston High School; St. Raymond's Church, Bronx

XAVIER C. - DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

Mount St. Michael Academy; St. Charles Borromeo Church

THAILAND D. - SUNY ALBANY

Repertory Company HS for Theatre Arts; St. Charles Borromeo

JOSEPH G. - FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Cardinal Spellman High School; St. Clare of Assisi, Bronx

CHRISTY N. - ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Academy of Mount St. Ursula; St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx

AMBER P. - SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Leman Manhattan Preparatory; St. Charles Borromeo, Harlem

KATHERINE Q. - JOHN JAY COLLEGE

Peekskill High School; Assumption Church, Peekskill

DANIEL R. - BARUCH COLLEGE

All Hallows High School; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, NYC

CURTIS S. - COLLEGE OF MOUNT ST. VINCENT

St. Raymond HS for Boys; St. Raymond's Church, Bronx

MISA LOVE S. - SUNY PURCHASE

Repertory Company HS for Theatre Arts; St. Charles Borromeo

SOPHIA S. - HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

St. Joseph Hill Academy; Church of Holy Family, Staten Island

JANAY S. - UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Columbia Grammar & Prep; St. Charles Borromeo, Harlem

ALEXANDER W. - FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

The Loyola School; St. Barnabas Church, Bronx



Annual PTSF Awards Dinner - 2020 Virtual Gala



2020 Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Virtual Gala LIVE

On Monday, November 2, 2020, the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner was held virtually for the first time ever. Due to the pandemic, we were able to pivot and hold a virtual gala, which allowed for a short scholar-hosted pre-show. We're always happy to have our scholar-alumni direct, edit and film the scholar video and "pre-show." We even had scholars participate in a virtual applause wall and send in pics of them watching the gala online at home/school.

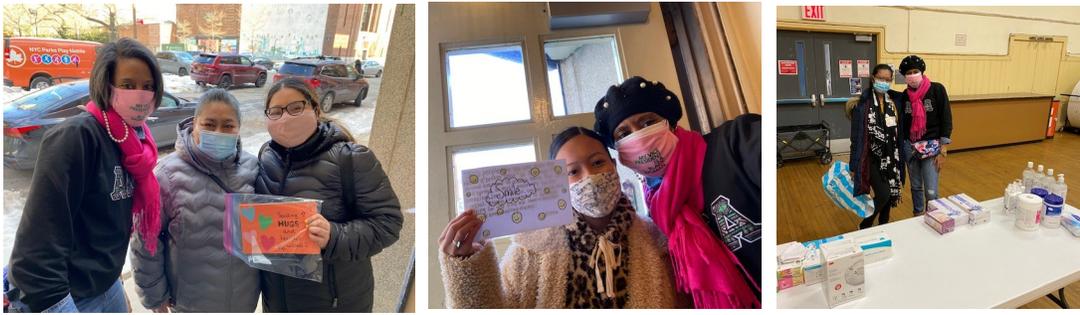


Thanksgiving Service Project with Catholic Charities



Every year Pierre Toussaint Scholars participate in a Thanksgiving service project and last year we were happy to partner with Catholic Charities in their distribution of Thanksgiving Dinners at the Kennedy Center in Harlem. They were even able to catch a photo with Cardinal Dolan when he stopped by to assist for the day!

Black History Month Service Project



The Office of Black Ministry's Divine 9 Committee coordinated the activities around the annual Black History Month Mass Celebration and PT Scholars happily donated hand-made cards to the elderly and homebound; and canned goods and PPE supplies to families in need.



Busy Persons' Retreat & Scholars Lenten Share



During the Easter Season, the Office of Black Ministry and the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund hosted a 5-day Busy Persons' Retreat and the Scholars Lenten Share that took place every Sunday evening during Lent. The Lenten Share was organized by the Program Chaplain, Fr. Kareem Smith, and the open dialogue was led by a different scholar each week. The discussions was an opportunity for the scholars to share amongst themselves virtually.

Scholars Serve on a Panel Discussion @ Concordia College

On Thursday, April 22nd two scholars - Elise B. & Junelle A. participated in a panel discussion at Concordia College, with Dr. Anthony Bradley as he discussed his new book *Why Black Lives Matter: African American Thriving for the Twenty-First Century*. The evening included a panel discussion with Concordia College's President, students, and representatives from the president's and Dr. Bradley's joint ecumenical venture *Christians for Racial Justice*, along with the PTSF Chaplain, Fr. Kareem Smith.



SUMMER TRAVELS by Gabriel Matos

About a week ago I was able to catch up with Leah and she asked me what I did this summer. I began to speak about all the places I visited and learned that Leah had a real passion for traveling. She asked me to write an article for the newsletter about my trips and so here I am writing my first article in the newsletter. To preface this, I am not majoring in English or journalism, but I hope it comes out well.

This summer I was able to go on two road trips and vacations across the United States. During these trips I was able to drive through and see 26 states in total. My first trip was a road trip to Los Angeles. While driving, I was able to realize the vast majority of this country is made up of farmland, forest, and deserts. Driving on the interstate doesn't allow one to appreciate the true beauty of the cities. But we made stops along the way and tried our best to see different places on the journey.

One stop that I found interesting was West Virginia, where the people were very nice. However, I learned in many states, people are suspicious of you when you wear a mask, particularly if you do not look like the locals there. Another interesting place I was able to visit was St. Louis, which was small and nice. I was able to see the Gateway Arch National Park. Going further west, we stopped in Joe Exotic's Animal Park, where tigers were caged that were close to us, and did not seem sturdy at all. Continuing westward were the deserts, where one feels heat radiating into the vehicle even with the air condition. When we finally got to LA, we stayed in the Hollywood Hills several nights. On the trip I was able to see famous landmarks such as the Hollywood Walk of Fame and several beaches including Topanga Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Malibu. I went hiking and saw breathtaking views of the city.

After leaving LA we drove through Vegas, which was underwhelming to say the least. Driving through states like Utah were scenic, with red rocks and sands resembling Mars. After this we stayed a couple days in Vail, Colorado, a charming ski town. After CO, we drove 36 hours straight to The Bronx, only stopping for food, gas and the restroom.

The second road trip I took was to Orlando, Florida for a family emergency, but my family member was alright by the time we got there. We were able to turn what would've been a bad situation into memories that would last a lifetime. We stood at a timeshare ten minutes from Disney and were able to visit many sights in the Orlando area. I was able to visit Disney for the first time in my life during this trip.

Overall, I was able to see the regional differences in America and the diversity of both the people and the land. Living in this country, I had never driven through an Indian reservation or interacted with Native Americans. The only exception to this is a casino, but then again this is commercialized and not the reality of most indigenous people across our nation. I was also able to see and taste the Tex-Mex culture of the West Coast. I was able to travel through the Deep South and eat soul food. This summer allowed me to see the contributions everybody has made to America, and how we are fortunate to have a place in which everybody can add their culture and call their own.

Winter Workshop

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program



PTSF WINTER WORKSHOP
COPING DURING COVID

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
6:00pm - 7:30pm
via Zoom

Register Now

The Annual Winter Workshop was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19th. This year's topic focused on "Coping During COVID" with special guest presenter, Dr. Carolyn M. Yeager, a Clinical Psychologist in private practice and an Associate Professor at St. Joseph's Seminary. Dr. Yeager has been working with the Archdiocese and neighboring Dioceses for over 30 years. The workshop proved to be very informative as Dr. Yeager shared advice and practical tools to help college students cope during these challenging times. They were afforded opportunities to ask questions in advance and work in groups to share amongst themselves.

Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser

This year the scholars embarked on a fundraiser whereby they competitively raised funds for THEIR scholarship program by soliciting the support of their family and friends in selling popcorn. Double Good Popcorn has over a dozen popcorn flavors and the program received 50% of the proceeds sold over the four day campaign. The scholars enjoyed the friendly competition, setting up their personal pop-up shops and advertising via their social media network(s). In doing such, they sold over \$34,000 in popcorn and received close to \$2,000 in direct donations raising close to \$19,000 for the program. Financial incentives for the top three sellers made them work even harder for the top spot on the leader board!



POP INTO SPRING

APRIL 14 - APRIL 18

HELP US REACH OUR VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING GOAL!

VENERABLE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK CULTURAL DIVERSITY APOSTOLATE

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP SELLERS:

- 1. Omar. R. - sold \$3,233;**
- 2. Danielle B. - sold \$2,793;**
- 3. Lauren B. - sold \$1,811**

Annual Summer Retreat



The annual summer retreat was held as a “Day of Reflection” at Cathedral High School on Saturday, July 10th. This year’s theme focused on the scripture, Isaiah 43:19, “Behold, I will do a new thing...” The day afforded the scholars an opportunity to come together to reflect, pray and refresh! This year’s retreat leader, Peter Damour, is a Youth & Young Adult Minister from the Brooklyn and Rockville Centre Dioceses. His colleague, Jeremy Laguerre, led our Music Ministry with the help of scholar, Leticia F.. And Fr. Wesbee Victor, scholar and newly ordained priest, celebrated the Mass that concluded our day.



PT Scholars Day of Service



June 30th is the Feast Day of Venerable Pierre Toussaint and the designated “Day of Service” for our scholars. This year we worked with Encore Community Center, a Catholic Charities agency, to deliver meals to the elderly and homebound, on what turned out to be the hottest day in the summer.

ON MISSION IN APPLACHIA by Emma Newgarden



When I first said yes to FOCUS' Appalachia mission trip back in December, I had no idea what to expect. I had never been on a mission trip before, but this one seemed relatively short- just nine days total in mid-July- and relatively close- taking place in Louisa, Kentucky, as opposed to a whole summer overseas. Jess Brinker, my Seton Hall athlete bible study leader and a FOCUS missionary, was leading the trip, and she said we would be helping to build houses for the poor and needy. I tossed around the idea for a day or two, figured, *I can spare a week*, and signed up. Now, remembering my haphazard thought process, **I can only laugh and thank God for whatever arbitrary inclination it was that guided my decision. It certainly wasn't an inkling of the experience He had in store: humbling, authentic, and full of wonder.**

There were about thirty trip-members altogether, made up of missionaries and students from four different universities around the country. Having first met up at a Louisville retreat center, we drove three hours to our home base for the mission, a guest house off the highway in mountainous Louisa, called "Padre's Place." We quickly settled into the work week routine. Every day started with Mass at the nearby church. From there, each work group (we were split into four teams) would bundle into a car and drive to our respective work-site. My group was repairing the decrepit house of an older couple, Bonnie and Harold, who had moved in when their old home was flooded. After work, we would drive back to Padre's Place for adoration, followed by dinner (each group took turns cooking) and some fun activity, like a campfire and s'mores or a giant game of "Mafia". Lastly, before closing in Night Prayer, **we always performed a FOCUS ritual called "high, low, God moments."** I was already familiar with this exercise from Bible study; it meant **going around in a circle sharing some instance of the day that made each of us happy, sad, or especially aware of God's presence.**

I confess that the first night of "high, low, God moments", I had to suppress a groan: *we're going to do this ALL week?* I had no patience to listen to a bunch of strangers talk about their days, and I was pretty sure none of them wanted to hear about mine, either. It took me by surprise when, only a couple of days in, I caught myself starting to look forward to the group sharing. In praying, working, and playing together, we were developing genuine friendships that made "high, low, God moments" come naturally. Knowing that we all were joined in one mission not only for this week but in the long run- **learning to love and serve the Lord- eased any insecurities** I had about sharing my own ups and downs. Likewise, I truly wanted to know my fellow mission-goers' updates, so that I could be with them in their hardships and take joy in their good.



Friendships within the group were not the only relationships strengthened throughout the week. Bonnie and Harold opened up to us more and more every day, and soon they were joining us in prayer and offering intercessions. I was amazed at the wisdom and gratitude of these people who by the world's standards had nothing. Through all the hardships of physical poverty, their spiritual wealth shone through in child-like trust. By Friday we had completed construction on a deck, siding, and underpinning for their house. It felt good to build Bonnie and Harold something concrete that would make their lives just a little bit easier. But they had also built something with us- a relationship, and that changed what could have been simply an assigned project into a true work of charity, a labor of love. It enabled me to leave work that last day with a deep sense of fulfillment and peace.

If I want to hold onto this peace, I know something needs to change permanently in my life- namely, keeping Jesus- the way, the truth and the life- front and center as He was for this trip's nine-day span. Going into the week I had been consumed in outside anxieties and pressures that were holding me back from a wholehearted desire to serve. But being able to rest in His presence through daily adoration gave me the grace to carry out the mission; **it is only by growing in love for Jesus that we shake off selfishness and grow in love for the rest of humanity. It's easy for college students to become so overwhelmed and busy that we forget life is a gift neither earned nor deserved, and any glory achieved in ours goes not to ourselves but to our Creator. Recognizing this truth takes the pressure off us and invites us instead to lay our burdens at His feet.** At Seton Hall, Mass and adoration are held almost as regularly as we participated in them while on the trip; all we have to do is make time to spend with Jesus our greatest lover, allowing Him to transform our hearts.

Making Christ the center of your life is easier to do when surrounded by a strong faith community- people who encourage each other to grow in faith, build each other up and run alongside you in this race for God's kingdom. While I will dearly miss all the friends I made in Appalachia, it's comforting to know coming home that I can find such support and fellowship right here at Seton Hall. This trip made me realize what a blessing it is to attend a Catholic university with a vibrant campus ministry, a robust missionary presence through FOCUS and SPO (St. Paul's Outreach), and numerous faith-based student organizations. We are not alone in our striving and seeking, and we don't have to do it on our own.

Of course, the solidarity of the Catholic faith stretches far beyond campus connections. Wherever we are on earth, the Universal Church is there also, doing God's work- the salt and light of the world. This should give us confidence to share our joy and show that light within us to everyone we encounter. One final highlight of this mission trip was listening throughout the week to what the missionaries called "testimonies"- short speeches by each participant outlining our path to following Jesus. Some met with tears and others with laughter, but every story was beautiful, showing God's activity in a single human life, and together they filled me with overwhelming hope. It's okay not to have all the answers concerning our faith- we never will, at least in this life. Yet, when called upon to give reason for our hope, we can do so just by telling others the truth about our personal encounters with the Lord. We should not be afraid to tell the stories that give witness to Christ or underestimate the impact our own testimonies can have. *(Published for the Seton Hall University Magazine "The Heart of the Hall")*





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES

JUNELLE A.
SILBERMAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK,
HUNTER COLLEGE (NEW YORK, NY)
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)
PARISH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, BRONX (150TH ST.)
HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been a big support to me. This program has enhanced my professional development. It has given me the tools to open doors of opportunity that I didn’t even know existed. It has helped me in my spiritual journey, particularly the obstacles I faced while in graduate school. I especially enjoyed meeting on Sundays during the season of Lent. It gave me a safe space to truthfully and honestly reflect on my faith and provided a needed reminder that there are people in my PTS circle that are willing to walk with me and guide me with a firm, yet compassionate hand.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “Obtained a position at the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation in New York City.”)



DEANNA G.
YALE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (NEW HAVEN, CT)
MASTER IN PUBLIC HEALTH
PARISH: ST. CLARE OF ASSISI, BRONX
HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been a source of love, prayer, and support for me over the past six years (throughout both my undergraduate and graduate studies). Some of my favorite memories include our weekend retreats at the College of New Rochelle during which friendships were formed (and challenged – thanks UNO) as I was pushed to strengthen and renew my faith. On top of this, the financial support provided by PTSF has supported me in pursuing my graduate education as well as conducting health care research abroad in Cuba. I am so grateful to Leah, Brother Tyrone, and Fr. Kareem for their love and support throughout my journey thus far.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “After 20 consecutive years of school, I will be

leaving my role as a student to enter the workforce! I am working with Everytown for Gun Safety as a Gun Safety Policy Fellow, specifically looking at the intersections of gun violence in low income communities of color and trauma outcomes. This will help to create policies that allocate funding for prevention and response programs, as well as mental health services for survivors, their families, and their communities.”)



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES

KEITH G.
TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
(NEW YORK, NY)

MA IN HIGHER & POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (HPSE)
PARISH: ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO, RESURRECTION &
ALL SAINTS PARISH, HARLEM

HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

“Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program means “Family” to me. I have been blessed to be surrounded and supported by my fellow scholars during undergraduate and graduate schooling. I have been able to complete my academic endeavors through this program while also being able to grow stronger in my faith. I am thankful for the winter and summer workshops we attend as scholars, as well as the community service projects we work on because it gives us scholars a chance to fellowship with one another. I know that I can lean on God, my fellow scholars, and the leadership of the program during my highs and lows.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: Obtained the position as the Student Affairs Coordinator at Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy.)



ELISE B.
ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY (STATEN ISLAND, NY)
BA IN PSYCHOLOGY

PARISH: ST. RAYMOND’S CHURCH, BRONX
HIGH SCHOOL: PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has been such an important part of my life these last four years. Being able to have this additional support and the ability to be surrounded by like minded people helped me stay focused while in school, especially during challenging semesters. Additionally, the experiences that I have been able to participate in, such as sitting on a student panel at an event at Concordia College regarding Black Lives Matter have been so inspiring. It’s experiences like these that inspired me to want to pursue Community Psychology. I’m so proud to be able to call myself a Pierre Toussaint Scholar; and am equally proud of my fellow PTS graduates because I’ve been able to see first hand what a smart, thoughtful and dedicated group of people they all are, and I’m excited to see us all continue to grow!”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I plan on taking a gap year before applying to graduate school next Fall. I would like to pursue a Ph.D. in Community Psychology.”)





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES

MALAIKA D.

SUNY ALBANY (ALBANY NY)

BS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

MINOR IN NEUROSCIENCE / PRE MEDICINE

PARISH: ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SPRING VALLEY

HIGH SCHOOL: RAMAPO HIGH SCHOOL

“The PTS program really pushed me to be the best person I could be. With each retreat, I began to have a more worldly view and started to open up more. If someone told me in high school that I would be traveling to West Africa, I would’ve simply ignored them. Thanks to PTS, I was able to travel with some of my fellow scholars to five countries! I love the PTS program with all of my heart and I wouldn’t change this experience for anything! Shoutout to Leah for always thinking of me and supporting me! Much love to Brother Tyrone for the laughs! Last but not least, thank you to Fr. Kareem for prayers and love! Congrats to my fellow PTS grads!”



(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I’ve been accepted into the Early Medical Education program at the SUNY Downstate School of Medicine where I will continue my journey to becoming a doctor.”)



VICTORIA G.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY (QUEENS, NY)

BS IN CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

CONCENTRATION IN ENGLISH

PARISH: ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH, BRONX

HIGH SCHOOL: CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship has not only supported me throughout my four years of college, but has also created a community of comfort for me. During my time in the program I have taken part in meaningful service projects, retreats that allowed me to deepen my connection with God, and have made new friends. Apart from developing friendships with scholars, Leah, Father Kareem and Brother Tyrone have impacted my personal life and supported me by helping me find a job teaching Pre-K and stopping by my family’s pizzeria. The Pierre Toussaint community is more than just a scholarship, it is a family filled with love. I wish the best for all my fellow graduating scholars. You are all in my prayers always, and I know that you will achieve greatness because with God we can do wonderful things.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I am in the 5 year Masters program at St. John’s University and will continue my studies there for one more year to earn my Masters degree in Special Education. I am currently employed as a teacher at Zeta Charter Schools, where I teach underprivileged children with special needs.”)



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES

GABRIELA G.

HUNTER COLLEGE (NEW YORK, NY)

BS IN NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCES

CONCENTRATION IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**PARISH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH,
BRONX (GUN HILL RD)**

HIGH SCHOOL: PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Program is like a trip to the beach on a particularly windy day – it comes at you in waves, of assistance, of support, of opportunity, and of grace. Once you’re in it, you take a breath to soak it all in, the water from within the program, the sunshine from all the people that support us with their generosity, prayers, and advice. The best part of the trip is when you actually get your feet wet; the Pierre Toussaint Program offered me the opportunity to actively engage in my education, in my community, and my Catholic Faith. The Program welcomed me, engulfed in me, and believed in me, even when I didn’t have the courage to believe in myself. To my fellow scholars: don’t be intimidated by the waves, you’ll get so much more out of it if you just lean in.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I will be continuing my education at CUNY Hunter College, pursuing a Master’s in Nutrition and Dietetics at their integrated program (IPND). With this degree, I will be able to achieve a license as a Registered Dietician.”)



GABRIEL M.

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY (FAIRFIELD, CT)

BA IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

CONCENTRATION IN HUMAN RESOURCES

PARISH: ST. RAYMOND’S CHURCH, BRONX

HIGH SCHOOL: ST. RAYMOND’S HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program has helped me to afford many things during college. These things whether they were books or food during times of studying eased the burden for my parents. It has also allowed me to find people who were also motivated in advancing academically and share similar values such as myself. I think the retreats that were held in the summers before COVID were the best parts of the program. It allowed scholars to connect with one another and being able to meet every summer and catch up was truly the best part. My favorites were the first retreats that I attended in New Rochelle.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I am an incoming Area Manager at Amazon Operations. I will be working in Penns Grove, NJ.”)



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES

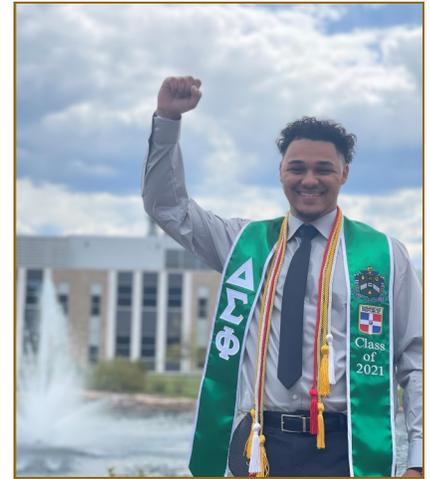
DARLING M.
SUNY PLATTSBURGH (PLATTSBURGH, NY)
BS IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

CONCENTRATION IN CHEMISTRY

PARISH: OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, NYC
HIGH SCHOOL: ALL HALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program was more than just a program to me. It was a family united under one faith. I have learned many valuable lessons from this program in which I am extremely grateful for. This family has provided me with maintaining a strong connection to God and my faith, and has helped me grow into the man I am today. I was able to find my passion and what I hope to accomplish as a career one day because of this program. I would like to thank Leah, Brother Tyrone and the rest of the PTS community for helping me get into the dental field by assisting me in applying to become a dental assistant, and for all the donors who have contributed in financially assisting me in receiving an education. For my fellow scholars and graduates, I wish everyone the best of luck in their future and hope to see us reunite at some point.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I work at the North Country Pediatric Dentistry as a Dental Assistant. I have received training to assist in pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and I am currently receiving training on how to assist in Sedation Dentistry. I will also be starting a pre-dental gateway program at both the University of Buffalo and Touro College, and will be taking my Dental Admissions Test in August.”)



ALEXIS R.H.
BOSTON UNIVERSITY (BOSTON, MA)
BA IN FRENCH

CONCENTRATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PARISH: ST. JOSEPH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, HARLEM
HIGH SCHOOL: XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

“The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program helped me become the first college graduate in my family. I was able to enter and finish college. It has given me a space that I can call my own outside of college and be together with other people who might have had the same experiences as me. The Program has also provided workshops that helped me with my professional experience (helping me with my resume, interview skills). The Program has also given me life-long friends that I will always cherish and be in touch with! Without the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship, my college experience would have not been the same.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “After an already stressful year with the ongoing pandemic, I decided that going to graduate school would be the best option. I decided to apply for the Master of Public Policy Program at Northeastern University (Boston, MA) and was accepted. I will be starting my studies in the Fall 2021 and hope to finish in 2023.”)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES



Congratulations to Scholar - Wesbee Victor on being Ordained a Priest for the Archdiocese of New York

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA (WASHINGTON D.C.)

S.T.B. SACRED THEOLOGY

PARISH: ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA CHURCH, NYC

“Words cannot express my gratitude! The program helps me to stay true to who I am and to my faith. Not only has the program assisted me in my way of having, but most importantly it does so in my way of being. With that being said, in the realm of my formation it helps me to cultivate the spirit of Venerable Pierre Toussaint. The program gives me a network that I could have never imagined. Moreover, the retreats and the privilege to serve on the committee to assist parishes with their food pantries inspired my discernment to be a man of service. I pray that the Lord continues to assist us and lead our paths as we discern His will in our life.”

(POST GRADUATE PLANS: “I finished college seminary and graduated from St John’s University in May 2017. Then, after my graduation, I was asked to pursue my theological studies at Theological College and Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C, which I began in September of 2017. I was ordained a Deacon for the Archdiocese of New York on June 2020 at St. Mary’s Church in Wappingers Fall, NY, and a Priest of Jesus Christ on May 29th, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. After my ordination, I served as an Associate throughout this past summer at Holy Name of Jesus and St. Gregory Parish on the Upper Westside. I am currently back to Washington DC to finish my licentiate in Moral Theology/ Bioethics at the Catholic University of America.”)



This year's Annual Awards Dinner will be held, in-person, on Monday, November 1st. Similar to last year, a portion of all proceeds raised will go to the PTSF Food Pantry Fund. Last year five parishes benefitted from the fund, just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Scholar Committee is hoping to raise more money to support more parish pantries in need this year!



Many parishes have been negatively impacted and may have lost substantial support due to the effects of COVID-19.

The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Food Pantry Committee is proud to be able to offer support to some of our local parishes during this time of need.

Thank you to those churches that applied for a one-time award for your parish food pantry.

The Pierre Toussaint Scholars Food Pantry Fund Recipients:

St. Charles Borromeo & Resurrection Church (Harlem)

St. Frances of Rome Church (Bronx)

St. Joseph & St. Boniface Church (Spring Valley)

St. Luke's Church (Bronx)

St. Rita of Cascia Church (Bronx)

"...share your bread with the hungry, bring the afflicted and the homeless into your house; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own flesh... If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday." (Isaiah 58: 7,10)

For more information on the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund / Program visit www.obmny.org

"It's All in the Service!"
*"THE GREATEST AMONG YOU MUST SERVE THE REST..." (Mt. 23)

His Eminence
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
 Archbishop of New York
 cordially invites you to the
Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner

Honoring *Remembering*



Reverend Gregory C. Chisholm, S.J.
Pastor and Educator



Helen T. Lowe
Nonprofit Development Strategist



Reverend Dr. Thomas G. Schaefer (1931-2021)
Pastor, Missionary and Educator

Monday, November 1, 2021
 Cocktails • 6:00 PM | Dinner, Award Presentations and Performance • 7:00 PM

Guastavino's
 409 East 59th Street, New York City

Master of Ceremony: **Maurice DuBois**
Emmy Award-winning reporter, Co-Anchor, WCBS-TV New York

Special Guest Artist: **Valerie Simpson**
Grammy Award-winning Artist

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, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NEW YORK, DANIEL RUDD FUND NBCC... 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
 1011 FIRST AVENUE, 7TH FLOOR — NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022