

# Sister's Spin

February 7, 2022

February is a month of many titles--Heart Month, Super Bowl Month, Mardi Gras Month and Black History Month among others. The last one gets quite a bit of attention, but not so much in the area of saints, so it is good for us to inform ourselves in this area. Did you know that there are now eleven American saints, but not one of them is black? Did you know there are now six candidates up for sainthood who are black? Pope Francis is considering the possibility of raising them to full sainthood in the Catholic Church. So, who are these people? Here is a list and hopefully, you have heard of some of them and may want to investigate those whom you do not know: Pierre Toussaint, former slave, Henriette DeLille, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family, Augustus Tolton, former slave and first African American priest from Illinois, Mary Lange, founder of the first order of African American Sisters in the US, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, Julia Greely, former slave who worked in Denver to alleviate poverty, and Thea Bowman, Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration who worked in Mississippi and died of cancer at a very young age. All of these people suffered discrimination in this country, including at times, discrimination from the Catholic Church as well, yet they set for us an example of the importance of justice for all, because all are created equal in the eyes of God. While there has been much progress in justice for all, there is still much to do. Let us ask these hopefully soon to be saints to teach us what we need to do to bring about a more just world.

-Sister Marcianne

