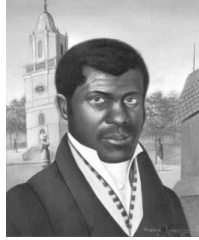


Venerable Pierre Toussaint Awards Banquet



Venerable Pierre Toussaint
1766-1853

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
OFFICE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

Honoring the Lifetime Achievements of

Mr. Myles N. Hubbard

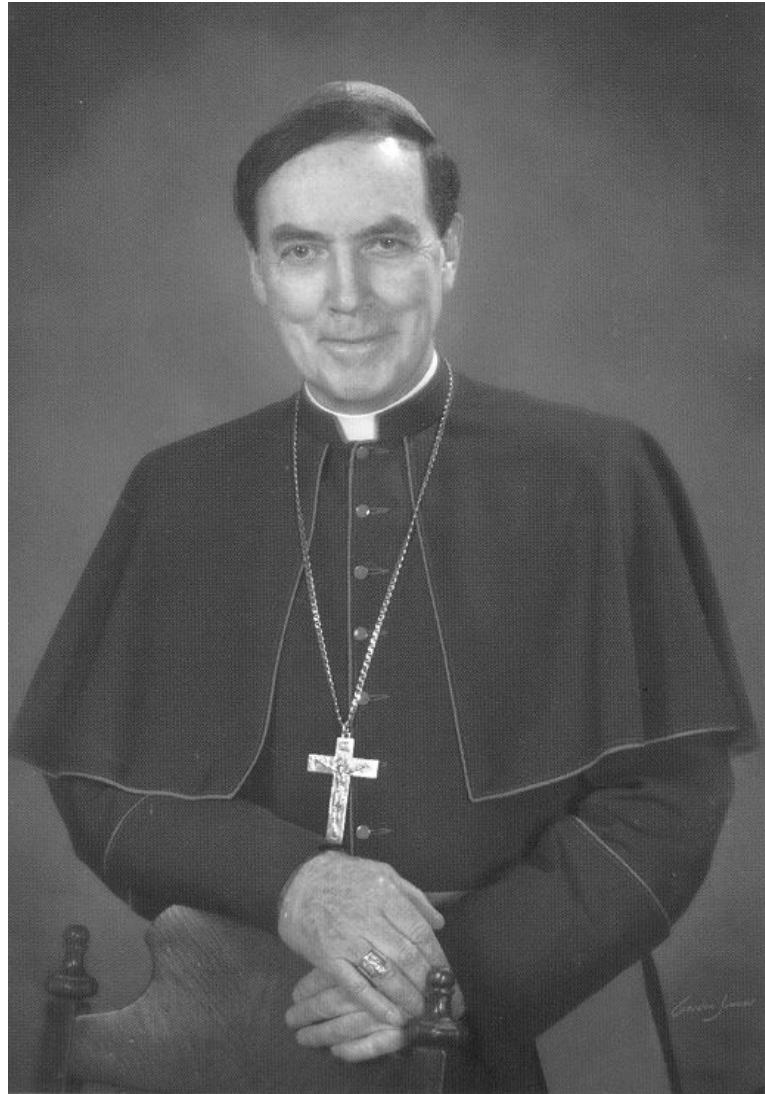
&

Mrs. Elizabeth Ukonoki-Ward

October 18, 2008

Hartford Marriott Farmington

**15 Farm Springs Road
Farmington, CT 06032**



His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Henry J. Mansell, D.D.
Archbishop of Hartford



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06105-3784

OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

October 18, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ:

It is with great joy and excitement that I offer my prayerful best wishes to everyone gathered here this evening for the fifth Venerable Pierre Toussaint Awards Dinner. This bi-annual awards banquet is a special occasion to give thanks to Almighty God for the wonderful contributions made by Black Catholics to the Church here in the Archdiocese of Hartford and to society at large.

This year, the Selection Committee has chosen two extraordinary individuals to be honored for their strong, and effective leadership and service to the Black Catholic Community. I congratulate both Mr. Myles N. Hubbard and Mrs. Elizabeth Nkonoki-Ward! Through their countless hours of service, their dedicated leadership, their outreach to others, and in the spirit of the Venerable Pierre Toussaint, our honorees have helped to build up in extraordinary ways the Kingdom of God here in the Archdiocese and well beyond. For this we are especially grateful.

In the spirit of profound gratitude I ask God's blessings upon you all for the good works you do in service to the Church and the people of God. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and for all in the Black Catholic Community in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Henry J. Mansell*

Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford
Office for Black Catholic Ministries

467 Bloomfield Avenue + Bloomfield, CT 06002

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Executive Assistant: Mrs. Kay Taylor-Brooks

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Mrs. Gertrude Duarte

Mrs. Gena Evans

Mr. Myles Hubbard

Mrs. Cheryl Lawrence

Dr. Alex Mikulich

Deacon Andrew Moemcka

Ms. Claire Potier

Celebrating the Goodness of God:

We in the Office for Black Catholic Ministries, welcome you to the fifth Pierre Toussaint Awards Banquet. This year's banquet is a celebration of not only those who have served our community in the past but the legacy of what their contributions mean to our future. The courage and dedication of our awardees Mr. Myles N. Hubbard and Mrs. Elizabeth Nkonoki-Ward have wonderfully impacted the lives of thousands and thousands of our children. Mr. Hubbard and Mrs. Nkonoki-Ward have been an extraordinary example of Catholic Social Teaching(s) in action.

We are honored to have as our keynote speaker Sr. Antona Ebo whose prophetic words of dignity and courage during the difficult and turbulent times of the 1960's civil rights era, emboldened Catholics all across our country to always stand on the side of justice and righteousness, baring witness to the truth that all of God's children are to be loved.

We must also thank Archbishop Henry Mansell for his constant and much appreciated support of our work, without which so many of God's people would have known that there is a safe place to turn.

God lives in each of us. Through our thoughts, prayers and actions, let us all go out and continue to be and to spread His Good News.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Arthur L. Miller, Director

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Office for Black Catholic Ministries:

Shall be dedicated to the relentless demands of fostering ongoing dialogue that is rooted in Charity and Truth, and directed toward a mutual esteem and appreciation of Black Culture in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Shall promote the heritage of Black Catholic culture by offering affirmation and assistance to preserve and build up strong family life, education and spirituality and shall uphold the principles of racial justice.

Shall be available as a resource to clergy, religious and laity to foster greater sensitivity, understanding and harmony in the parish communities.

Shall respond to the call to spread the Gospel to those in the Church and to the unchurched, that all might grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.

Shall be available to assist, in any way possible, all people in need.

Shall not be a “Bystander” to injustice in any form, any time, any where.

Invited by **JESUS**
CHRIST to the **Table**
of **GOD's PLENTY**
we are Sent Forth
to work with
ALL who Hunger
for **JUSTICE**
in our world

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Partial List

- Conduct lectures on Racism & Tolerance at Public & Catholic Schools, Colleges, Churches and Synagogues.
- Sponsor Programs & Workshops to combat addictions and addictive behavior.
- Sponsor Bible Studies, Retreats & Days of Reflection.
- Member of the Archdiocesan Peace Committee.
- Work with “Better Way Foundation” to provide mentors and job opportunities for the underserved community.
- Partner with Family Life Office on Adoption Support.
- Partner with Catholic Charities/Black Family Enrichment Program.
- Member of the “CT Coalition to Save Darfur” against genocide.
- Partner with The Ugandan American Mission Project, Inc. to fight against HIV/AIDS.
- Support for victims of local & national catastrophes.
- Partner with Archdiocesan Agencies to plan Catholic Youth Spectacular.
- Assist with Immigration and Migration issues.
- Celebrate Annual Black History Month Mass.
- Host Venerable Pierre Toussaint Award Banquet.
- Facilitate the Archdiocesan Gospel Choir.
- Air weekly program “Good News” on WJMJ Radio.
- Publish Quarterly Newsletter

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sr. Mary Antona Ebo
Nationally known woman religious
and activist for civil rights

On July 26, 1946, Sister Antona Ebo became one of her orders first black postulants. Over the years her contributions as a woman religious and an activist for human rights have been numerous:

On March 10, 1965, after Alabama state troopers attacked voting rights marchers on what became known as "Bloody Sunday," Sister Ebo and other nuns from the Franciscan Sisters of Mary traveled to Selma and joined the march to Montgomery when it resumed two weeks later. She became a key speaker at the march when a broadcaster recorded a confrontation between Sr. Ebo and local government agents. Her words-"I am here because I am a Negro, a nun, a Catholic, and because I want to bear witness" - were broadcast around the world.

- In 1968, she helped found and later served as president of the National Black Sisters' Conference.
- In 1976, Sr. Ebo became the first black woman religious to head a hospital, when she was named administrator of St. Clare Hospital, in Baraboo, Wisconsin.
- In 2000, the 35th Anniversary of what came to be known as the "Right to Vote Bridge Crossing," Sr. Ebo was honored by the Voting Rights Institute in Selma, Alabama, with the Living Legend Award.
- In 2002, Sr. Ebo received the Distinguished Humanitarian Award from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission of Missouri.
- The Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis honored Sr. Ebo by naming a conference room after her at the Cardinal Rigali Pastoral Center in Shrewsbury, MO.
- Sr. Ebo's experiences with the March from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, is included in the Library of Congress Exhibition, "Voices of Civil Rights."



Venerable Pierre Toussaint

1766-1853

PRAYER

Lord God, source of love and compassion, we praise and honor You for the virtuous and charitable life of our brother in Christ, Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

Inspired by the example of our Lord Jesus, Pierre worshipped You with love and served Your people with generosity. He attended Mass daily and responded to the practical and spiritual needs of friends and strangers, of the rich and the poor, the sick and the homeless of 19th-century New York.

If it is Your will, let the name of Venerable Pierre Toussaint be officially raised to the rank of *Saint*, so that the world may know this Haitian New Yorker who refused to hate or be selfish, but instead lived to the full the commandments of heaven and the divine law of love – love for God and for neighbor.

By following his example and asking for his prayers, may we, too, be counted among the blessed in heaven.

We ask for this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Patrick J. Sheridan, D.D., V.G.

PIERRE TOUSSAINT GUILD
1011 First Avenue, Room 1315 · New York, NY 10022

THE HONOREES

Lifetime Achievement Award



Myles N. Hubbard was born in New York City. His family moved to Old Saybrook, CT, where he attended a Catholic grammar school. There he endured the status of social outcast because of his race. This experience solidified Myles' already guarded nature and created in him an attachment to his family that he has maintained throughout his life. For the next four years he attended Fairfield Preparatory School where he thrived, excelling academically and experiencing a self-confidence and love for learning that

led to his decision to become a teacher. He is a graduate of Fairfield University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in American Studies. He has also earned an M.A. degree in American Literature from the University of Connecticut and a CAGS in Counseling from the University of Hartford. On January 4, 1999, Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin appointed Myles Director of Black Catholic Ministries. He retired from that appointment in August 2005. He is a former Adjunct Teacher with the Center for Academic Programs at the University of Connecticut. Myles' community and parish experiences include former member, Hartford Board of Education; appointed and served as a member of the Knox Parks Foundation Board, Elizabeth Park, Hartford; one of three writers, selected by Archbishop Cronin to edit the Synod Documents for the Archdiocese of Hartford; wrote the document on Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Former District Deputy, Connecticut State Council, Knights Of Columbus; served as a Board member, Northwest Catholic High School; former teacher of English at Bacon Academy, Colchester; selected "Teacher of the Year," 1990-91, Bloomfield Public Schools; former member of the National Advisory Board, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; former Board member at St. Agnes Home, West Hartford. He is a former Trustee with the Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation, Sisters of Mercy and a current member of their Governance Committee; former member of the Julie Education Board of Directors, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. He is also a current Board member of the Office for Black Catholic Ministries; Mount St. John School, Deep River; Malta House of Care; St. Francis Hospital and Watkinson Prisoner's Aid Society. Myles held supportive roles in organizing the Ghanaian Catholic Apostolate at St. Mary Church in East Hartford and the Nigerian Catholic apostolate at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Meriden. During his tenure as District Deputy for the Knights of Columbus, he organized councils at the Cathedral of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Church in Hartford and at St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford. He is a Eucharistic Minister, vice president of the Parish Council, member of the Youth Advisory Council at St. Justin Church, Hartford, and co-chairman of the RCIA program at St. Justin and St. Michael Churches in Hartford. Myles is married to Sherry Thomas; they have two adult daughters, Lesley and Hilary, and four grandchildren: Taylor and Joshua Kennedy and Myles and Ethan Meister.

THE HONOREES

Lifetime Achievement Award



Elizabeth (Timmons) Nkonoki-Ward was born in Tallahassee, Florida, moved to Kensington, CT where she was baptized at St. Paul' Roman Catholic Church. She moved to New Britain, CT and attended St. Joseph School, graduating in 1950 to continue a very exciting life's journey through New Britain High School with opportunities abounding. She became the first African-American accepted into the Music Department at Danbury State Teachers College, graduating with a B.S. Degree in Music Education in 1958 and

an M. S. in Elementary Education in 1973. She taught throughout Connecticut spending over 30 years in the Hartford Public Schools, being named Hartford's "Teacher of the Year" in 1986. She became involved with Catholic Family Services of New Britain in the 1970's, initiating and producing television programs on Cable Access to help the community become better aware of services available within the agency to address the needs of all groups, including African Americans, Spanish-Speaking and Polish-Speaking and other ethnic groups. She coordinated and produced two concerts as fundraisers for Western Region Catholic Family Services, utilizing outstanding Black, talented, operatically-trained soloists, the New Britain Symphony, Nigerian and Ghanaian choirs of the Archdiocese of Hartford, along with a youth Gospel choir from the Hartford area. She became a member of the Black Secretariat (forerunner to the Office for Black Catholic Ministries) and was part of a committee which helped to develop the list of Black Catholics in the Archdiocese identifying over 10,000 during the 1980's. She was selected to be part of the delegation of Black Catholics who traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana for a special gathering with Pope John Paul II; promoted vocations for the priesthood and novitiate; supported and encouraged the Black priests and nuns in the Archdiocese; collected and delivered clothing to new arrivals from various parts of Africa, becoming known as "Mama Liz" to many; collaborated with Myles Hubbard, when he became Executive Director of the Office for Black Catholic Ministries, to revive and host the radio show entitled Good News on WJMJ, a program which had been originally initiated by Eckley Macklin (now Father Macklin). She continues to be an active member of the Advisory Board for the Office for Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Hartford; she was the recipient of the Greater New Britain Arts Alliance, Lifetime Contribution to the Arts Award in 2008; is organist at St. Joseph Church in New Britain, CT (16 years), and, along with Mr. Joseph Ward, Sr. is parent to six children, 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The Award

The Office for Black Catholic Ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford is charged with the responsibility of preserving, incorporating and extending the role and place of Black culture in the life of the Archdiocese. To that end, the Awards Dinner is designed to promote the Office for Black Catholic Ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford and to recognize the life of the Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

The Venerable Pierre Toussaint Awards are given to individuals who have provided strong, effective leadership and service to the Black Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Hartford. These individuals have fostered educational opportunities and demonstrated strong personal faith and compassion. They have an intense interest in encouraging a healthy Black Catholic identity and have demonstrated a lifestyle that reflects the meaning of church universal.

The award recipients are concerned with and sensitive to the social teachings of the church. This year's honorees are: Mr. Myles N. Hubbard, parishioner of St. Justin Church, Hartford and Mrs. Elizabeth Nkonoki-Ward, Parishioner of St. Joseph Church, New Britain.

The Trophy



The Pierre Toussaint Award, titled "The Freedom Ring" was inspired by the extraordinary life and works of Pierre Toussaint. It is a reminder of the moral imperative to be ever vigilant in freeing ourselves and others from the injustice of poverty and racism.

The Artist

John Noelke received his BFA from the University of Texas, Austin and his MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. He recently won a national sculpture competition honoring Angela Merici.

PROGRAM

- 6:00 – 7:00 pm **RECEPTION**
Silent Auction Items on Display – Bidding to 9:30
- 7:00 pm **Call to Assembly –**
Mr. Ellsworth Grant
Mr. Stewart Battle
- Welcome & Introduction of MC –**
Deacon Arthur L. Miller
Director, OBCM
- Mistress of Ceremonies –**
Dr. Pamela Trotman-Reid
President, St. Joseph College
- Blessing –** Most Rev. Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford
- DINNER** Background Entertainment
Mr. Ellsworth Grant
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker –**
Victoria Virgo-Christie
Vice President, OBCM Advisory Board
- Keynote Speaker –** Sr. Mary Antona Ebo
Nationally known woman
religious and activist for civil
rights
- Presentation of Awards –**
Most Rev. Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford
- 9:30 pm **Silent Auction Closes/Results –**
Deacon Art Miller &
Brenda DelGado
OBCM Board Member
- 10:00 pm **BENEDICTION**



SILVER MEDALISTS

(Donations of \$250 - \$499)

St. Martin de Porres Church, New Haven

Rev. Joseph M. Elko, Pastor

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Woodbridge

Rev. Gene E. Gianelli, Pastor

St. John of the Cross, Middlebury

Rev. Thomas Barry, Pastor

Catholic Mission Aid Society

Rev. Brian Monnerat, Director



BRONZE MEDALISTS

(Donations of \$100 - \$249)

**St. Mary Church,
Unionville.**
Rev. John Golas, Pastor

Denise L. Nappier
State Treasurer

Rev. James F. Leary

Rev. Daniel Connaghan

**Office of Cultural
Diversity, Brighton, MA**
Lorna DesRoses, Director

**St. Mary Church
Simsbury**
Rev. William Metzler, Pastor

**Church of the Good
Shepherd, Seymour**
Rev. Edward S. Jaksina, Pastor

Claire M. S. Potier

Robert (Bob) Brown

**Deacon Andrew A.
Moemeka**

Anh-Doan Nguyen

Deacon Arthur L. Miller



FRIENDS OF OBCM

(Donations of \$1 - \$99)

St. Michael Church, Beacon Falls

Rev. Leonard J. Kvedas, Pastor

Norman & Elizabeth Elia

Corpus Christie Church, Wethersfield

Rev. Thomas B. Campion, Pastor

Mr. & Mrs. Lou Schiavone

Mr. Vincent Carter

Rev. Dominic J. Valla

Mrs. Moselle R. Sansone

Rev. George Couturier

Jane Fisher

Rev. John Blackall

Ms. Gerri Brown-Springer

Deacon John L. Crowley

Deacon John O'Donovan

Brother Roy Smith

Michael & Jeannie Alexandre

Linda Smith

Mae Clayton

James M. Gentile

P. Faith McMahon

Ms. Ann Ford

Msgr. Gerard Schmitz

Our prayers and thanks to everyone who helped to make this event possible...

Special Thanks to:

Archbishop Henry J. Mansell, D.D.

Sr. Mary Antona Ebo – Keynote Speaker

Dr. Pamela Trotman-Reid – Mistress of Ceremonies

Mr. Ellsworth Grant & Mr. Stewart Battle – Entertainers

Gold, Silver, Bronze Medalists, Friends of OBCM

Silent Auction Donors

Hartford Marriott Farmington

All members of the OBCM Program Planning Committee

Our Esteemed Past Honorees

2000

Mrs. Claire Chambers
Mr. Solomon Ushery
Mrs. Josephine Taveres
St. Martin de Porres Breakfast Program

2002

Fr. James Aherne, M.S.
Mr. Jose Cotto
Mrs. Gena Evans
Mrs. Kay Taylor Brooks

2004

Ms. Victoria Virgo-Christie
Ms. Pame Daniel
Mrs. Judith Garcia
Mr. Edward Adjei-Kensah

2006

Mrs. Doris Barber

Black Family Enrichment
Program of Catholic Charities

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Office for Black Catholic Ministries

2008

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Mr. Myles N. Hubbard
Dr. Alexander Mikulich
Ms. Claire Potier



Deacon Arthur L. Miller – Director
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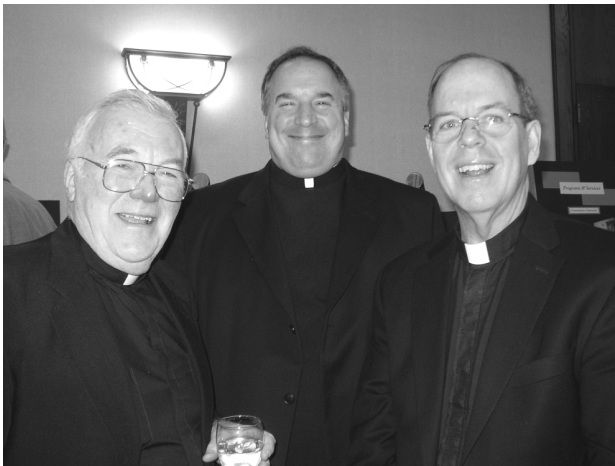
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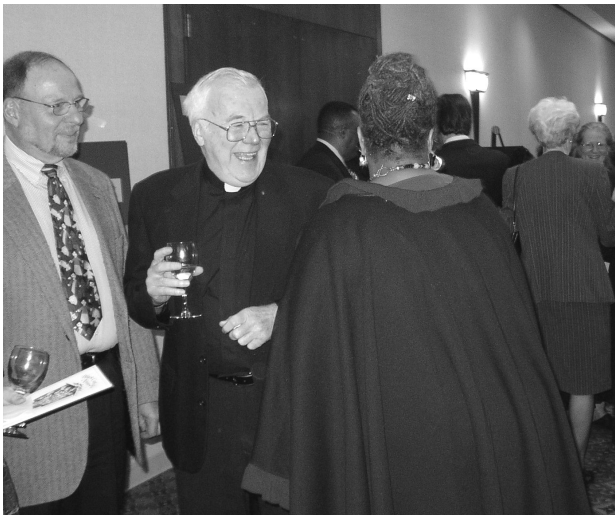
(860) 243-0649 (fax)

*The 5th Venerable Pierre Toussaint Awards Banquet is
Dedicated to the Memory of
Rev. David M. McDonald
Who was a wonderful supporter and a special friend of the
Office for Black Catholic Ministries*

Scenes from the 4th Venerable Pierre Toussaint Awards Banquet October 2006.



Father Dave McDonald poses for a "photo op" with friends, Fr. Francis Snell (center) and Fr. Tom Mitchell



You can almost hear Father Dave's infectious laugh in this photo as he jives with an attendee.

Photos by Kay Taylor-Brooks