

2026 Fr. Augustus Tolton Endowment Application Grant

INTENT OF FUND

In April 2025, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Office of African American Pastoral Ministries established the **Fr. Augustus Tolton Endowment Grant** to promote African American and African leaders.

The **Tolton Endowment Grant** is a restricted fund that is committed to assist graduating high school seniors in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to attend a college or university of their choice. Through the Endowment, we seek to build a stronger connection with students that benefit from the generosity of those who share the blessings which they have received.

A scholarship candidate must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to renew the scholarship.

Application - Candidates are required to complete and provide the following documents:

- **Application Form**
- **High School Transcript**
- **Letter of Recommendation from your parish priest, pastoral administrator or high school counselor**
- **Letter of recommendation from your high school principal or guidance counselor that speaks of your high school performance and your potential in a college setting**
- **List of copies of any other awards you will be receiving. This should also be submitted by the counselor or principal**
- **A copy of your parents or guardians most recent W-2 Form(s)**
- **An autobiographical statement (maximum of 150 words) expressing your background and career goal(s)**
- **A recent photograph**

DEADLINE: APRIL 20, 2026
Application received after the deadline will not be accepted

Office of African American Pastoral Ministries
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Attention: Deacon Royce Winters, Director
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2193

**2026 Fr. Augustus Tolton
Endowment Application Grant**

Submission: All documentation must be submitted to:

Fr. Augustus Tolton Endowment Grant
Office of African American Pastoral Ministries
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Attention: Deacon Royce Winters, Director
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2193

Criteria: (Weighted)

- Economic Need
- Academic Potential
- Leadership Potential
- Parish Involvement
- Community Involvement
- Career Goals
- Motivation

The amount of funds available under this grant is not enough to fully finance a student's annual educational expense. The intent of the grant is to help the student defray the cost of higher education.

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Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: _____ Cellular #: _____

Email: _____

High School Attended: _____

Full Address of High School & zip code: _____

Did you graduate? Yes No

Date of Graduation: _____ Grade point average: _____ Class rank: _____

High School Activities: _____

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What college do you plan to attend? Name: _____

Full Address w/zip code: _____

Intended major(s): _____

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Name of Parish: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Pastor: _____

Parish

Activities: _____

Mother or Guardian:

Full Name: _____

Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone #: _____ Cellular #: _____

Place of employment: _____

Employer's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Total Annual Income: \$ _____ **Please send a copy of your w-2 form(s)**

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Father or Guardian:

Full Name: _____

Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Place of employment: _____

Employer's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Total Annual Income: \$ _____ **Please send a copy of your w-2 form(s)**

Telephone #: _____ Cellular #: _____

Are there any special circumstances that would increase your child's eligibility for the grant? I.e. economic hardship, family issues.....please explain. _____

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Number of Siblings attending Parochial or Private School:

Name _____ School Attending _____

Name _____ School Attending _____

Name _____ School Attending _____

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Autobiography statement of (applicant):

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Venerable, Father Augustus Tolton

Fr. Augustus Tolton, an African American Catholic, who was not only the first priest of acknowledged African descent to serve anywhere in the United States, but one who navigated the choppy waters of racial acceptance endemic to 19th century America and modeled for us how to be Christians amidst the social inconsistencies of that former time with his faith, hope, and love found in the end to be intact. He showed himself a priest-servant to both black and white at a time when it was not socially appropriate or lawful to do so.

Although the **Venerable Augustus Tolton** lived over a hundred years ago, his spirituality still speaks to us with incredible clarity and inspirational vitality for our times. In the 1880s, a black man becoming a priest was thought to be impossible and, in fact, might never have been set in motion were there not a few priests and religious of courageous, visionary, and unselfish choices made by them.

Following the required six years of study, **Augustus** was ordained a priest with his class Easter Vigil 24 April 1886 at St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome. **Tolton** once wrote, "It was said that I would be the only priest of my race in America and would not likely succeed." But a Cardinal, Giovanni Simeoni in Rome said, "America has been called the most enlightened nation; we'll see if it deserves that honor. If America has never seen a black priest, it will see one now!" With these prophetic words the assignment orders for **Father Tolton** changed from some place in Africa back to Quincy, Illinois in the Diocese of Alton.

Tolton's legacy says to us that transformation is possible through suffering. His journey of deliverance from slavery and discrimination offers potent imagery for anyone who finds inspiration from his life when suffering persecution because of one's faith or one's race.

Endowment Opportunities:

Please make any endowment gift to:
African American Pastoral Ministries
Fr. Augustus Tolton Endowment Grant
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
..... Thank you

Testimonials:

*"I thank you for providing this scholarship to assist me to pursue my career Nursing. I pledge to honor the memory of the late Bishop, Karl J. Alter.
Aidam – 2024 – 2025 Recipient*

*"I am a full-time student at Miami University. I had the opportunity to be the Head Coach of Saint Gabriel Consolidated School 3rd grade boys' basketball team this winter. I am also a licensed referee in basketball and football. College is going very well. My GPA is 3.37 and I have made some great friends."
Edwards – 2022 – 2023 Recipient*

*"I am currently finishing up my 2nd year (4th semester) as a nursing student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This scholarship award has been a crucial and beneficial aspect to funding my nursing education. Without this award, I would not be able to fund my education in the manner that I currently am."
Stricklin – 2022 – 2023 Recipient*

*"Thanks again for blessing me with this scholarship."
Kyles – 2021 - 2022 Recipient*

*"I have attached a copy of my grades from the Spring 2023 Semester to uphold my eligibility for the scholarship. Once again, thank you for the support of my academic career at Xavier University.
Hopkins – 2021 – 2022 Recipient*

*"I want to thank you for helping me attain the goal of being a college graduate. I thank you and the Archbishop Alter Scholarship Fund for all your support."
Mbah 2018 – 2019 Recipient*

2005 – 2025 Previous Scholarship Recipients – 30 Different High Schools

Archbishop Alter High
Archbishop Elder High
Colerain High
Fairfield High
LsSalle High
Loveland High
Moeller High
Ohio Virtual Academy
Princeton High

Archbishop Carrol High
Chaminade Julianne High
DePaul Cristo Rey High
Huber Heights Wayne High
Lehman Catholic High
Mason High
Miamisburg High
North College Hill High Northwest
Purcell Marian High

Receipents and Schools cont'd

Randall Cooper High
Saint Rita School for the Deaf
Saint Xavier High
Springboro High
Ursuline Academy
Winton Woods High

Roger Bacon High
Saint Ursula High
School of Performing Arts
Summit County Day High
Walnut Hills High