

Meet Your Match

February is Black History Month. See if you can match each Black Catholic below with some notable facts from his or her life.

St. Augustine of Hippo

A. People called him "il moro santo" (the black saint), but "moro" was mistranslated as "Moor." He joined a group of hermits who followed the Rule of Saint Francis but later joined the Order of Friars Minor at Palermo. Several years after his death, his body was still intact and emitted a pleasant smell.

St. Charles Lwanga

B. He started the only Catholic newspaper owned and operated by black men. He was also a founder of the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC), which first met in 1889. Today, his newspaper continues as the *African American Catholic Tribune* newsletter of the NBCC.

Dr. Lena Edwards Madison

C. He didn't walk until age 10 because of rickets, a disease causing soft bones. A client of his mother's massage business converted him to Catholicism and paid for his education. In 1935, he started a homeless shelter in Washington, D.C. It is estimated that more than 10,000 people had stayed at the shelter by the time he retired in 1967.

Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner

D. At age 15, he became a brother in a Dominican Friary in Peru. His wish to become a missionary and die as a martyr never came true. He did constant penance and dedicated himself to the cause of human dignity for the poor, slaves, and orphans. He also kept an animal hospital. He is now the patron saint of social justice.

Daniel Rudd

E. She could have had a royal marriage if she had denied her Christianity. The emperor sent her to prison for refusing the deal, and there she converted the emperor's wife and some 200 of his soldiers. For this activity, she was sentenced to death. The torture wheel miraculously broke when she touched it, and so she was beheaded.

Pierre Toussaint

F. "No soldier is obliged to obey an order that is contrary to the will of God," said this modern-day martyr. The next day, he was assassinated while celebrating Mass in El Salvador, a small country in Central America. He became an archbishop in 1977 and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize the following year. He died in 1980.

Sr. Thea Bowman

G. Sometimes Milwaukee is called Brew City. This person is the patron saint of brewers because he once lived a partying lifestyle, even though he was born in Africa in the 4th century. Eventually, he changed his ways and became a bishop. Now, he is a saint.

St. Benedict the Moor

H. He was the son of two former slaves but became a teacher in a Black high school and, later, a professor and consultant to the U.S. government. He was the first African-American to receive a doctorate from Cornell University and a founding member of the NAACP and Federated Colored Catholics. He lived to be 101.

Llewellyn Scott

I. He was a slave on the island now known as Haiti. The danger of revolution there led his household to relocate to America, where he learned the trade of hairdresser and was later freed. He and his wife supported the first Catholic school for black children in New York. Pope John Paul II has declared him "venerable," the first step toward sainthood.

St. Martin de Porres

J. During his lifetime, this saint was a member of the Society of Missionaries of Africa. In Uganda in the 1800's, King Mwanga ordered all Christians in the royal court to be executed. This Black Catholic was the leader and teacher of those Christians and became a martyr.

St. Catherine of Alexandria

K. Wearing the colorful robes and turbans of her African heritage and using song, dance, poetry, and story-telling, she taught that different cultures can enrich each other's lives. Whether teaching in a classroom, singing in a concert or giving a talk, she radiated joy. She was a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration who traveled in the U.S. and worldwide.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

L. This doctor spent her early career treated poor and immigrant families in Jersey City. She also did missionary work among Mexican migrant workers in Texas. She received the Medal of Freedom and other awards. She and her husband had six children. Later in life, she joined the Third Order of Franciscans. She founded a maternity hospital and later became involved in Project Head Start.