

### Family Resource: Black Catholic History Month Novena

This sentence taken from the opening prayer of the Novena for Black Catholic History Month, clarifies the purpose of the Novena and why every family is encouraged to pray the Novena:

*Let us lift our hearts in prayer to honor the great cultural diversity within the Church, to reclaim the sacredness of each human person created in the image and likeness of God, and to support the cause of canonization of the first African American saints.*

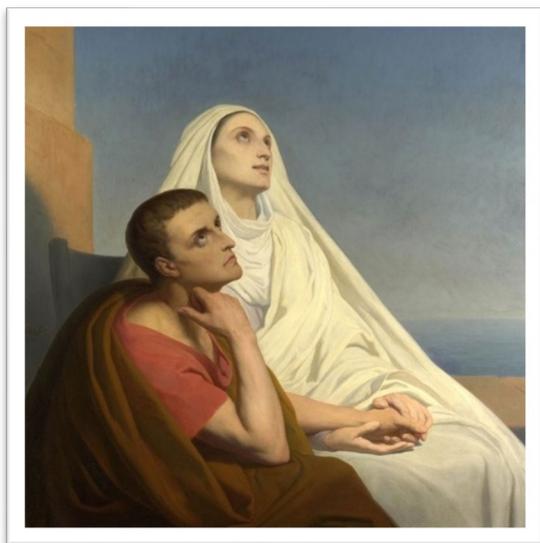
Special thanks goes to Sefanit Stefanos – St. Joseph Richardson, Julie Aldridge Our Lady of the Lake Rockwall, and Julie Billmeier St. Rita, for their important contributions to bring this family resource to life.

#### Tips for praying the Novena for Black Catholic History Month with your children

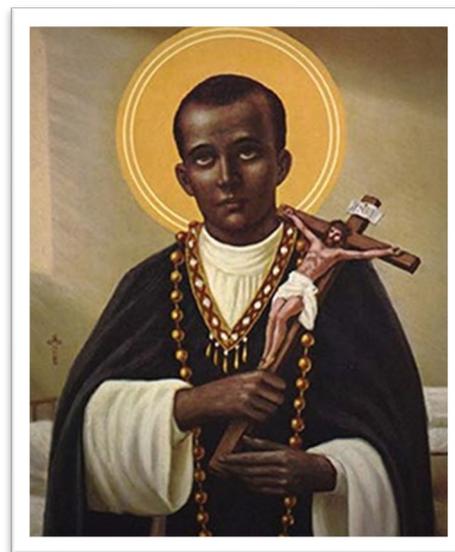
Note: If you aren't really familiar with how to pray the Rosary as a family...click on the link: [How to Pray the Rosary with Kids- 10 Tips to Get Started](#)

Set up a **Novena counter** somewhere the kids can see it each day. [Click here to see an example](#) If you have older children, let them make the counter. The change I would suggest for this novena is to have a copy of the picture of the saint added to a popsicle stick (see example) for the particular day their story is being told (saint pics can be found at the end of this resource).

**Example: Day 1 St. Augustine and St. Monica**



**Example: Day 2: Saint Martin de Porres**



Another idea is to print out 8" X 10" pictures of the saints so that you can display them (one for each day of the Novena) in your home on the fridge or on a prayer table so they are reminded about the saints they are praying to and learning about.

## Pray the Novena at Home with your children

We encourage families to pray the Novena at home and reflect on the particular Saint talked about each day. Look for similarities between your life and their life and share that with each other.

### Tips:

1. The descriptions of the Saints will need to be summarized in a way that your children can understand. We suggest that you read about the Saint before you sit with your children, so you can summarize and share the important facts that your child will understand.
2. You could show your children on a map (virtual or an old school globe) the countries/states that the different Saints are from in order to give them another visual.
3. Include a one sentence take away of sorts with each Saint: “When I do all my chores without complaining I am like St. Martin de Porres” or “When I share my toys with other kids who don’t have as much as I do, I am like Venerable Pierre Toussaint”. Something to help make the virtues of these holy men and women come to life for your kids in practical ways.
4. If you are into cooking or baking, consider cooking or baking something that is eaten in the birthplace of the Saint. Invite your children (if appropriate) into the preparation for the dish.
5. If you are into craft-making consider a project that highlights something about the saint(s) or where they are from.
6. Play a game with your children that is played in the birthplace of the saints.

## Family Movie Night options during the Novena



Video: [Story of St. Augustine](#) 21:22

Video: [Story of Saint Monica of Hippo](#) 9:35

Video: [St. Martin de Porres](#) 10:09

Video: [St. Josephine Bakhita](#) 23:46

Video: [Venerable Pierre Toussaint](#) 4:22

Video: [Venerable Mother Mary Lange](#) 2:04

Video: [Venerable Mother Henriette Delille](#) 3:05

Video: [Venerable Augustus Tolton](#) 2:43

Video: [Servant of God Julia Greeley](#) 4:18

Video: [Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman](#) 2:47

### Show on a virtual map or “old school” globe where each saint was born



Saint Monica and Saint Augustine – [Thagaste](#) (present-day Souk Ahras, Algeria)

Saint Martin de [Porres](#) – Lima, Peru

Saint Josephine Bakhita – Sudan

Venerable Pierre Toussaint – Haiti

Venerable Mother Mary Lange – Cuba

Venerable Mother Henriette Delille – New Orleans, Louisiana

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton – Brush Creek, Missouri

Servant of God Julia Greeley – Hannibal, Missouri

Servant of God Thea Bowman – Canton, Mississippi

### Games Commonly Played Where Saints Were Born

Algeria - Playing cards, checkers and chess

Peru - Circle games involve jumping and dancing in a circle and in and out of the circle. These games include titles such as [“Esta era una Niñita”](#) and [“Ronda de Verano”](#). Clapping and hand games involve complex clapping between children who move their hands back and forth in rhythm. [“Tortitas de Manteca”](#) is a Peruvian song used with clapping games.

Sudan – Dala (abstract strategy board game), Soccer

Haiti - Everything from card games to jacks, marbles, dominoes, checkers, hide-and-seek and hopscotch are played by Haitian boys and girls.

Cuba - Everything begins when the circle of children begins to chant: Little blind hen; what have you lost? The blindfolded child answers: A needle and a thimble. To which the others reply: well go out and find it because I have it and I won't give it to you. Faced with this challenge, the “little blind hen” chases everyone and when they tag someone, there will be a new little blind hen.

Some other well-known games played by Cuban children are “la vuelta al tronco” (round the tree trunk), “el gato y el ratón” (cat and mouse), “los prisioneros” (prisoners, and “el lobo y los corderos” (wolf and lambs).

USA games (Louisiana, Missouri and Mississippi) – Hopscotch, Jacks, Four Square, Treasure hunt, Red Light, Green Light, Cornhole, Charades/Lemonade, The Farmer in the Dell, Follow the Leader, Hide and Seek, I Spy...

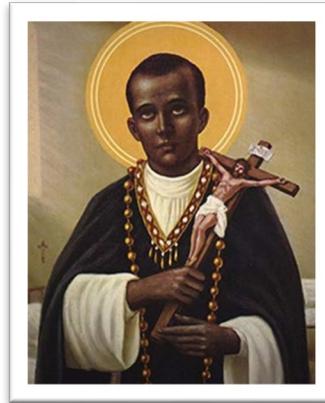
[List of Children’s Games and how to play them](#)

### Pictures of Black Catholic History Month Saints

Saint Monica and St.  
Augustine



Saint Martin de Porres



Saint Josephine Bakhita



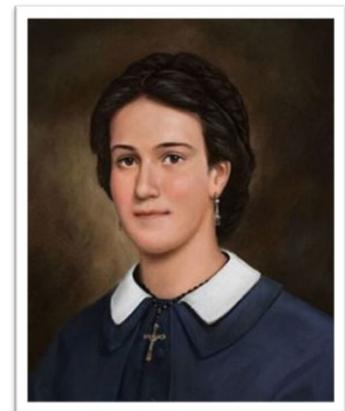
Venerable Pierre Toussaint



Venerable Mother Mary  
Elizabeth Lange



Venerable Mother  
Henriette Delille



Venerable Fr. Augustus  
Toltan



Servant of God Julia  
Greeley



Servant of God Thea  
Bowman

