



All contributions are welcome,
just as all people have been and will continue to
be welcomed at Saint Augustine Catholic Church.

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SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH RESTORATION CAMPAIGN



All Are Welcome

For nearly 200 years, Saint Augustine Catholic Church has welcomed people from every walk of life, creed, and color to worship side by side.

Perhaps that is why Saint Augustine has not only served as the heart of the Tremé community but has also played an integral role in shaping the culture of the city of New Orleans.



"All churches should be like St. Augustine ,
Pope John Paul II said on his 1987 visit to New Orleans.

What is so unique about this church?

St. Augustine Church was built in 1841, making it 178 years old this year. The structure is so compromised that it leaves her vulnerable to storms, decay, and other conditions that may result in the closing of her doors forever and is in dire need of major renovations. Phase I focuses on the restoration of the Church and rectory at a cost of \$2.5 million dollars.

An inscription in French above the altar translates
"If you know the gift of God"

- St. Augustine Church in Tremé is a historic treasure and a religious haven. A testament to the love of God and community, and a monument to the history and culture of New Orleans; the African American culture of the United States, and the African American and Creole culture of Tremé.
- St. Augustine Church has been a spiritual center since 1841, a place of history, religion and brotherhood; known for its' congregation of all races, Free People of Color, slaves, whites, Haitians, Cubans, Italians, Germans, etc. from its inception in 1841, till today. Kneeling at the altar, praying side by side.
- Henriette Delille took her vows at the altar and served the community at St. Augustine Church, and was one of the three women who started the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1842. Henriette Delille is Venerable, awaiting Sainthood and could be the first African American Saint. She started the first school to educate slave children, women and men; established a home for aged and was a loving mother to the community through her service at St. Augustine Church.
- Considered the oldest black neighborhood in America, and the oldest African American Church in the country, it was home to the first civil rights movement, the first black daily newspaper, black businesses and was deeply rooted in the development of the music culture and parading history of New Orleans which came out of Tremé.
- St. Augustine Church, as the nation's oldest black Catholic parish, is part of the permanent exhibits in the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Whether it is the tenderness and deep sense of caring of the church community, the exquisite, moving music sung by choir, the striking mix of the congregation, folks of all colors, means and ages; the vibrant brass bands that celebrate on special occasions, and the words of wisdom from our priest; intertwined, the mass at St. Augustine is known to move new visitors to tears.

Once renovated St. Augustine Church will once again become the center of the community; it will invite the community old and new to experience its ministries, to establish everyone's living relationship with God. It will sponsor community programs, support groups, classes, counseling services, after school activities, CYO, music lessons and other neighborhood services. It will provide educational opportunities for the church, the residents, its religious staff and the archdiocese.

We believe that losing Saint Augustine Church would prove more damaging than just losing a historic or sacred place. It would be losing a testament to unity, love, inclusion and brotherhood.

"If you know the gift of God"



Parishioners of Note

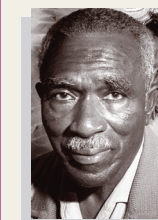


Henriette Delille
is Venerable, and awaiting Sainthood and could be the first African American Saint (Among 4 Venerable).

Homer Plessy,
of Supreme
Court case Plessy
v Fergusson



Mardi Gras
Indian and
"Chief of Chiefs"
**Allison "Tootie"
Montana"**



**Sidney
Bechet**
one of the first
important
soloists in
jazz, beating
trumpeter
Louis
Armstrong to
the recording studio by months



**Danny
Barker**
American
jazz musician,
vocalist,
and author

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