



November is Black Catholic History Month

In Total Praise! Rejoice in the Lord Always!
(Phil. 4:4)

On Sunday, November 24, we continue highlighting November as Black Catholic History Month with the OLQP parish theme: *In Total Praise! Rejoice in the Lord Always!* (Phil. 4:4). We celebrate this month with a series of articles in the parish bulletins written by Black Catholic leaders, as well as with the 22nd Annual Minkisi Mini-Retreat that was held Nov. 10th. In the article featured today, Fr. Maurice Nutt writes about healing and returning thankfulness.

ONE OF THEM, REALIZING HE HAD BEEN HEALED, RETURNED

By Fr. Maurice Nutt.

Why do humans everywhere give gifts to each other? Probably for two reasons. First, we give gifts to one another as a sign of our love and affection. We are grateful for their role in our lives, and we want to show them how much they mean to us. Second, gifts are also a way to cement or deepen our relationships with our loved ones. A woman wears the necklace her husband bought her because it reminds her of his love, and it endears him to her even more.

In today's [November 13] Gospel (Luke 17:15), Jesus gives a valuable gift to ten people who have a devastating disease—the gift of healing. He healed them because he loved them, and he wanted to do something good for them—the first reason for any gift; he's the only one who came back to thank Jesus and offer him worship. Out of all these people, only this fellow understood that Jesus was inviting him to a closer relationship with him.

The same holds true today. God has given us many, many gifts: friends, family, a unique set of talents and abilities, his Church and various signs of his love and presence in our lives. God has given all of them to us freely, out of love and a desire to draw us closer to his heart. Each and every one of these gifts contains within it a special invitation for us to learn more about him and to deepen our relationship with him.

His gift of family reveals his commitment to us; friends show us the joy we can have by just being with him; our talents move us to want to serve him; the Church provides a home for us to live with him. And the list goes on.

Today, think of the gifts that God has given to you. It can be something as small as a little answered prayer or as big as a miraculous healing. Take a moment to thank him for loving you in this way. Now, how can you love him in return?

"Lord, I thank you for all you have done in my life." (Taken from an article by Fr. Maurice Nutt, in *Word Among Us*, November 13, 2019)

"Praise Him, Praise Him. Praise Him in the Morning. Praise Him in the Noontime.

Praise Him, Praise Him. Praise Him when the sun goes down."

"We come from a history of praying and praising people... We believe that prayer is the rising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God [as quoted in Catechism of the Catholic Church, article 2559, p. 613]. Because we believe in a good God, we praise and thank our God in the morning, in the noontime and when the sun goes down!"

—C. Vanessa White, D. Min., in *Songs of Our Hearts*,

Meditations of Our Souls: Prayers for Black Catholics

