

**Cecilia Braveboy receives the Father Augustus Tolton & Mother Mary Lange Award, Black Catholic Ministries-Multicultural Office, Diocese of Arlington, November 2017.**



Presenter, Bishop Burbridge. Photo by Peter Smith



Presenters, Dec. Al Anderson & Corrine Montigue  
Photo by Anthony Johnson

**Cecilia Braveboy of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Arlington, Virginia was the recipient of the Father Augustus Tolton & Mother Lange Catholic Award on November 18, 2017.** The plaque will be displayed in her parish for a year. Receiving the Award, Cecilia thanked those in the Black Catholic Ministries-Multicultural Office of the Diocese of Arlington. Later she thought that the surprise experience reminded her of the song, “This Little Light of Mine, I’m gonna let it shine...”

The Augustus Tolton & Mother Lange Catholic Award was presented by Bishop Michael Burbidge (Diocese of Arlington), Deacon Al Anderson (Chairperson of the Black Ministries), and Corrine Monogue (Director of the Multicultural Office). A brief history of the award includes:

*“In a meeting of the Black Catholic community of New Orleans in 1987, while on his Apostolic Journey to the US/Canada, Pope St. John Paul II said: “You are to give priority to the great task of Evangelization, to be missionaries of Christ’s love and truth within your own Black Community.” To honor those among us who are fulfilling the pope’s missionary exhortation, and help foster the growth and development of the Diocese of Arlington’s Black Catholic Community, our diocesan Office of Multicultural Ministries has instituted an annual Father Augustus Tolton & Mother Mary Lange Black Catholic Service Award. This leadership award seeks to recognize those who have demonstrated endeavors of evangelization, discipleship and service for the Catholic Church. It further seeks to assist to unite all diocesan Catholics by celebrating unity in*

*diversity and our shared Catholic faith. A cash award and plaque will be presented each November (U.S. National Black Catholic History Month). Past recipients include Mrs. Phyllis Johnson, of St. Joseph Catholic Church (Alexandria), and Mrs. Emelda August, of Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City, VA.*

*Any Catholic, regardless of race or ethnicity, in good standing, is eligible for the award. The paid staff of the Office of Multicultural Ministries are not eligible.”*

About Cecilia Braveboy, as listed in the April 2018 newsletter of Sisters in the Spirit, Archdiocese of Washington.

*“...A fervent and dedicated parishioner at Our Lady Queen of Peace (Arlington), Cecilia is a founding member of the Minkisi Ministry and its only coordinator since 1997. Minkisi’s focus is on contemplative prayer, scripture reflection, retreat days, interracial dialogues and learning more about African heritage as it relates to our Catholic faith. Along with Minkisi ministry in her parish, she is also the coordinator of the Lector Ministry, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, member of the Worship Committee and the Ujamaa Committee.*

*Now retired, Cecilia is a spiritual director and a freelance retreat director. Some of you may know her when she was the Director of DC/VA Evening Program of Education for Parish Service (EPS) from 1998-2008. She was also on the program staff of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation for a number of years in the 70s and 80s. Cecilia and her mom, the late Marguerite Thomas, became members of SIS-ADW at its inception. SIS Cecilia lives in Arlington, Va. with her husband Wilfred, who is an ardent supporter of her work.”*

- See the article “Black Catholics Called to Remember the Poor”, in the [Arlington Catholic Herald](#), about the November 18, 2017 Black Catholic Ministries’ Day of Reflection.

