



SAINTS ICONS COLLECTION

BY KELLY LATIMORE

CONTENTS

The Saints Icons Collection at FELC

James Baldwin

Nicholas Black Elk

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dorothy Day

Frederick Douglas

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Francis of Assisi

Fanny Lou Hamer

Marsha P. Johnson

Joseph

Julian of Norwich

Martin Luther King, Jr.

John Lewis

Mary

Moses the Black

John Muir

Pauli Murray

Fred Rogers

Ruth and Naomi

Saints of Selma

Seraphim and Bear

Desmond Tutu

Teresa of Avila

THE SAINTS ICONS COLLECTION AT FELC

The Saints Icons by Kelly Latimore were first purchased in 2022 with Memorial Funds to complete the vision for the Chapel of the Saints: a place for the saints of the church today to gather for prayer with saints from the past. Along with the saints remembered in the columbarium, the saints icons connect us to the great cloud of witnesses, people of faith throughout the ages. Additional icons have been donated by individuals. The collection is placed in the chapel, the parlor, and the vestibule hallway and is rotated throughout the year.

From the artist, Kelly Latimore:

I started painting icons in 2011 while I was a member of the Common Friars from 2009-2013. Our collective work was about being more connected: to ourselves, each other, our surrounding community and the land. This manifested itself as a place called “The Good Earth Farm” where we held weekly services and meals, and grew produce for our community and local food pantries. My friend, and fellow farmer, Paul often posed the question, “how do we become people who, in Jesus’s words, ‘consider the lilies of the field’? This became the focus of my first attempt at an icon entitled: “Christ: Consider the Lilies.”

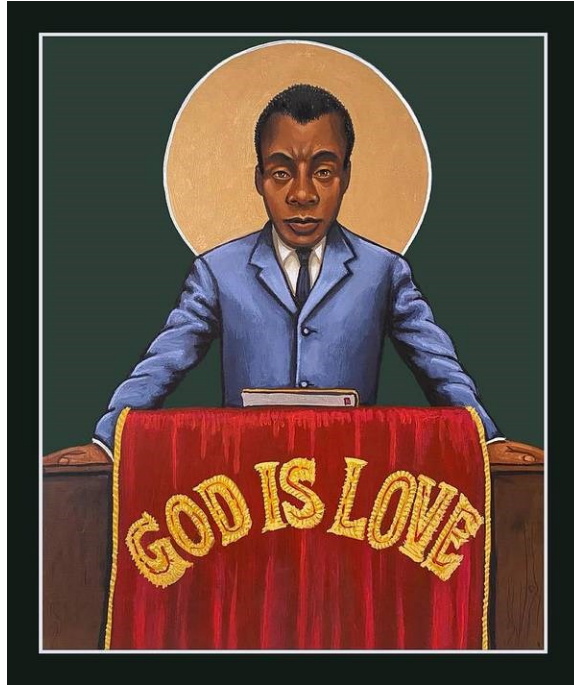
Iconography has since become a practice of more considerations: of color and light, of brush stroke and form, symbol and meaning. I am trying to become a better painter. However, I do not wish to approach Iconography as an art form that simply follows an inherited tradition, knowledge and practice. I want it to be a creative process, meditation, and practice that brings about new self knowledge for the viewer and myself. Who are the saints that are among us here and now?

I feel the need for new images. In some icons I wish to embrace the traditional forms and image but for many icons the image needs re-shaping, re-imagining, and re-wondering. There are icons here that people may find theologically unsound and wrong, or for others, helpful and inspiring. I think both reactions are important. My hope is that these icons do what all art can potentially do, which is, to create more dialogue. By transcending our biases, listening and having inner silence about our convictions, our inherited traditions, or our favorite ideas we can become open to the patterns of work, knowledge and experience we may not have seen in the other or buried in ourselves. The other may have something to teach us about what we know, about who God is, the world we live in and who are our neighbors. This is the real work of being human and of art. Being more present.

It is an ongoing journey of spirituality, craft, and considering lilies.

JAMES BALDWIN

1924 – 1987

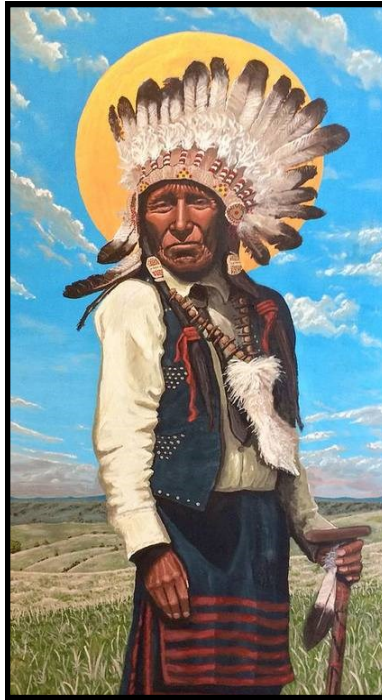


If the concept of God has any validity or any use, it can only be to make us larger, freer, and more loving. If God cannot do this, then it is time we got rid of Him.

James Baldwin, American essayist, novelist, and playwright whose eloquence and passion on the subject of race in America made him an important voice, particularly in the late 1950s and early 1960s, in the United States and, later, through much of western Europe. The eldest of nine children, he grew up in poverty in the Black ghetto of Harlem in New York City. From age 14 to 16 he was active during out-of-school hours as a preacher in a small revivalist church, a period he wrote about in his semiautobiographical first and finest novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953), and in his play about a woman evangelist, *The Amen Corner* (performed in New York City, 1965).

NICHOLAS BLACK ELK

1863 – 1950

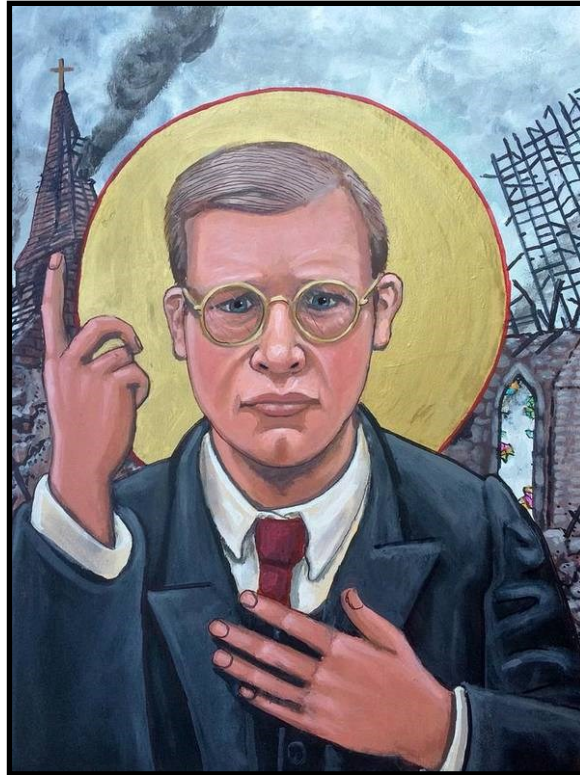


The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that its center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

Heáka Sápa, commonly known as Black Elk, was a wičháša wakánj ("medicine man, holy man") and heyoka of the Oglala Lakota people. He was a second cousin of the war leader Crazy Horse and fought with him in the Battle of Little Bighorn. He survived the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890. Black Elk converted to Catholicism, becoming a catechist, but he also continued to practice Lakota ceremonies. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rapid City opened an official cause for his beatification within the Roman Catholic Church in 2016. His grandson, George Looks Twice said, "He was comfortable praying with this pipe and his rosary, and participated in Mass and Lakota ceremonies on a regular basis".

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

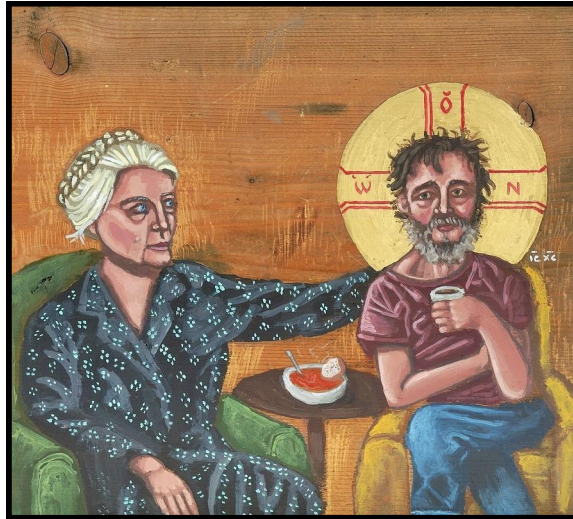
1906 – 1945



We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran theologian important for his support of ecumenism and his view of Christianity's role in a secular world. Bonhoeffer was strongly influenced by time spent visiting the Black churches in Harlem, especially Abyssinian Baptist, when he spent a year studying at Union Seminary. His involvement in a plot to overthrow Adolf Hitler led to his imprisonment and execution. His books *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Letters and Papers from Prison* (published posthumously in 1951) are perhaps the most profound documents of his convictions.

DOROTHY DAY WITH HOMELESS SAINT 1897 – 1908



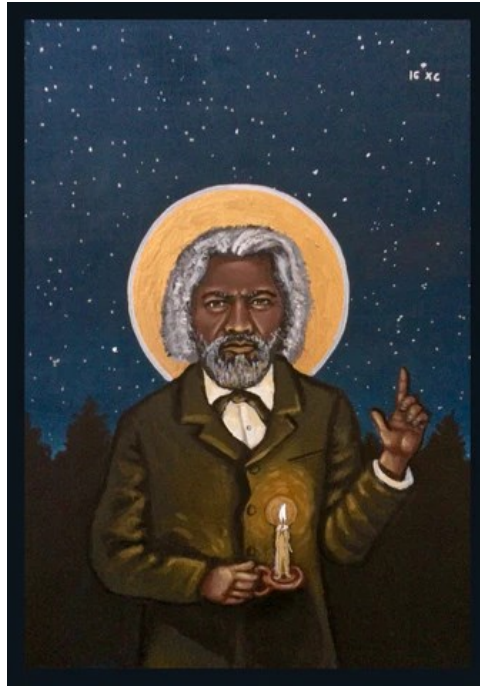
The Gospel takes away our right forever to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor.

Dorothy Day, was an American journalist and Roman Catholic reformer, cofounder of the Catholic Worker newspaper, and an important lay leader in its associated activist movement. While a student at the University of Illinois on a scholarship (1914–16), Day read widely among socialist authors and soon joined the Socialist Party. In 1916 she returned to New York City and joined the staff of the Call, a socialist newspaper; she also became a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

In 1932 Day met Peter Maurin, a French-born Catholic who had developed a program of social reconstruction, which he initially called “the green revolution,” based on communal farming and the establishment of houses of hospitality for the urban poor. The program, now called the Catholic Worker Movement, aimed to unite workers and intellectuals in joint activities ranging from farming to educational discussions. In 1933 Day and Maurin founded the Catholic Worker, a monthly newspaper, to carry the idea to a wider audience. Within three years the paper’s circulation had grown to 150,000, and the original St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality in New York City had served as the pattern for similar houses in a number of other cities.

FREDERICK DOUGLAS

1817 – 1895

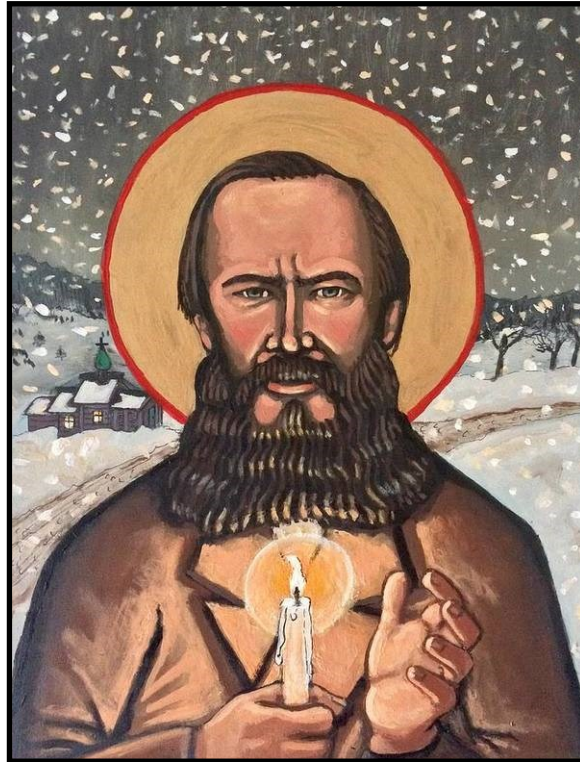


prayed for freedom for twenty years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs.

Frederick Douglass was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, becoming famous for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings. Douglass believed in dialogue and in making alliances across racial and ideological divides, as well as in the liberal values of the U.S. Constitution. When radical abolitionists, under the motto "No Union with Slaveholders", criticized Douglass's willingness to engage in dialogue with slave owners, he replied: "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong." Early in his activism, he often included biblical allusions and religious metaphors in his speeches. Although a believer, he strongly criticized religious hypocrisy, and accused slaveholders of "wickedness", lack of morality, and failure to follow the Golden Rule. In this sense, Douglass distinguished between the "Christianity of Christ" and the "Christianity of America" and considered religious slaveholders and clergymen who defended slavery as the most brutal, sinful, and cynical of all who represented "wolves in sheep's clothing".

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

1821 - 1881



***H**ow dreadfully has it tormented me (and torments me even now) this longing for faith, which is all the stronger for the proofs I have against it. And yet God gives me sometimes moments of perfect peace; in such moments I love and believe that I am loved; in such moments I have formulated my creed, wherein all is clear and holy to me.*

Fyodor Dostoevsky was a Russian novelist, short story writer, essayist and journalist. Dostoevsky's literary works explore the human condition in the troubled political, social, and spiritual atmospheres of 19th-century Russia, and engage with a variety of philosophical and religious themes. His most acclaimed novels include *Crime and Punishment* (1866), *The Idiot* (1869), *Demons* (1872), and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1880).

FRANCIS OF ASSISI 1181 – 1226



*P*raised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Francis of Assisi was the founder of the Franciscan orders of the Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare (the Poor Clares), and the lay Third Order. He was also a leader of the movement of evangelical poverty in the early 13th century. His evangelical zeal, consecration to poverty, charity, and personal charisma drew thousands of followers. Francis's devotion to the human Jesus and his desire to follow Jesus' example reflected and reinforced important developments in medieval spirituality. In 1979 Pope John Paul II recognized him as the patron saint of ecology.

FANNY LOU HAMER

1917 – 1977



***Y**ou can pray until you faint, but unless you get up and try to do something, God is not going to put it in your lap.*

Fannie Lou Hamer was an American voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and a leader in the civil rights movement. She was the co-founder and vice-chair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Hamer also organized Mississippi's Freedom Summer along with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was also a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization created to recruit, train, and support women of all races who wish to seek election to government office.

Hamer began civil rights activism in 1962, continuing until her health declined nine years later. She was known for her use of spiritual hymns and quotes and her resilience in leading the civil rights movement for black women in Mississippi. She was extorted, threatened, harassed, shot at, and assaulted by racists, including members of the police, while trying to register for and exercise her right to vote. She later helped and encouraged thousands of African-Americans in Mississippi to become registered voters and helped hundreds of disenfranchised people in her area through her work in programs like the Freedom Farm Cooperative. She unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 1964 and the Mississippi State Senate in 1971. In 1970, she led legal action against the government of Sunflower County, Mississippi for continued illegal segregation.

MARSHA P. JOHNSON

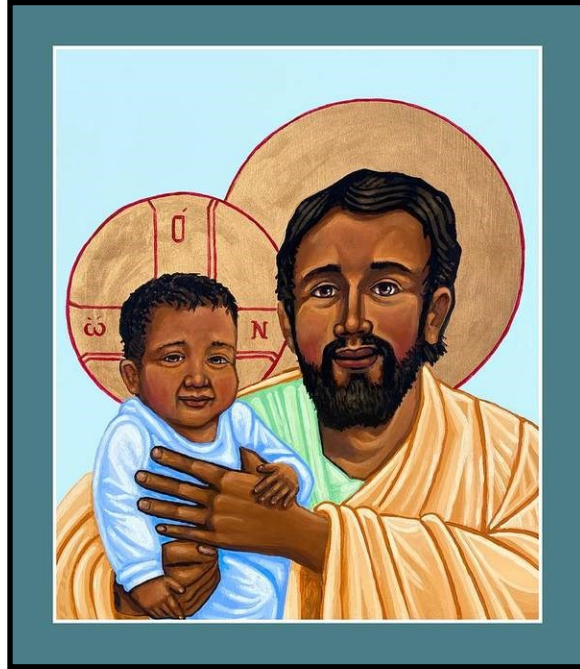
1945 – 1992



*You never completely have your rights,
one person, until you all have your rights.*

Marsha P. Johnson was an American gay liberation activist and self-identified drag queen. Known as an outspoken advocate for gay rights, Johnson was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising of 1969. Johnson was a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front and co-founded the radical activist group Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.), alongside close friend Sylvia Rivera. Johnson was also a popular figure in New York City's gay and art scene, modeling for Andy Warhol, and performing onstage with the drag performance troupe Hot Peaches. Johnson was known as the "mayor of Christopher Street" due to being a welcoming presence in the streets of Greenwich Village. From 1987 through 1992, Johnson was an AIDS activist with ACT UP.

JOSEPH FIRST CENTURY



Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." (Matthew 2:13—15)

JULIAN OF NORWICH 1343 – 1416

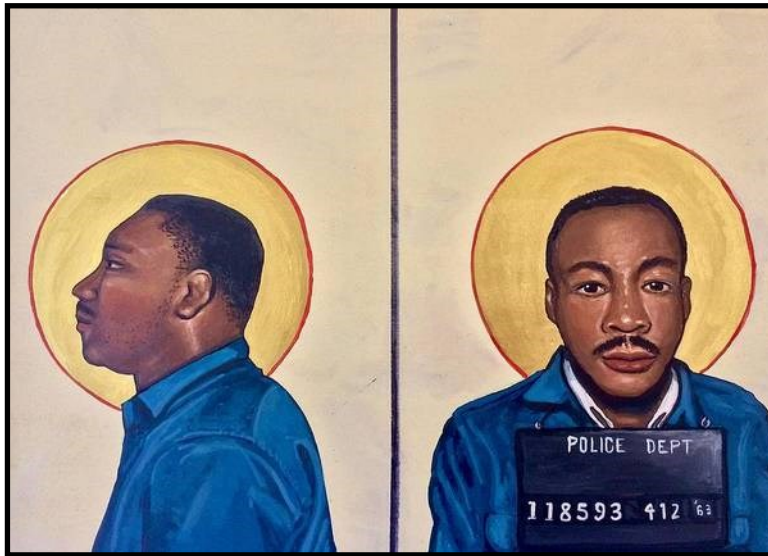


The greatest honor we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love.

Julian of Norwich is a celebrated mystic whose Revelations of Divine Love (or Showings) is generally considered one of the most remarkable documents of medieval religious experience. She spent the latter part of her life as a recluse at St. Julian's Church, Norwich. On May 13, 1373, Julian was healed of a serious illness after experiencing a series of visions of Christ's suffering and of the Blessed Virgin, about which she wrote two accounts; the second, longer version was composed 20 or 30 years after the first. Unparalleled in English religious literature, Revelations spans the most profound mysteries of the Christian faith—such as the problems of predestination, the foreknowledge of God, and the existence of evil. The clarity and depth of her perception, the precision and accuracy of her theological presentation, and the sincerity and beauty of her expression reveal a mind and personality of exceptional strength and charm.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1929 – 1968



Jesus eloquently affirmed from the cross a higher law. He knew that the old eye-for-eye philosophy would leave everyone blind. He did not seek to overcome evil with evil. He overcame evil with good. Although crucified by hate, he responded with aggressive love.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to that movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African Americans in the South and other parts of the United States. King rose to national prominence as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted nonviolent tactics, such as the massive March on Washington (1963), to achieve civil rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

JOHN LEWIS 1940 – 2020



***D**o not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.*

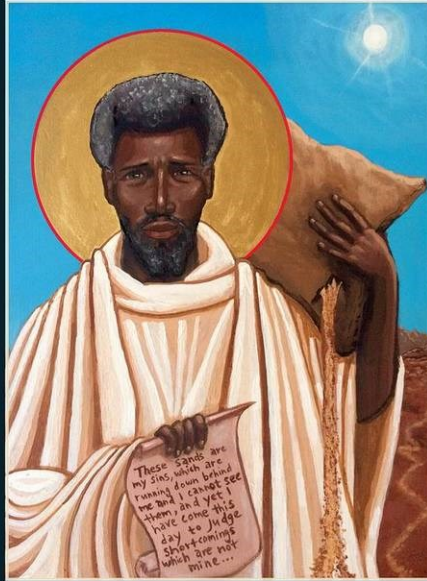
John Lewis was an American civil rights leader and politician best known for his chairmanship of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and for leading the march that was halted by police violence on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, a landmark event in the history of the civil rights movement that became known as “Bloody Sunday.” After leaving the SNCC, Lewis, who had made his home in Atlanta, remained active in the civil rights movement. Lewis entered elective office as an Atlanta city councilman in 1981 and in 1986 began representing a district that included Atlanta in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MARY FIRST CENTURY



Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Luke 1:46—55)

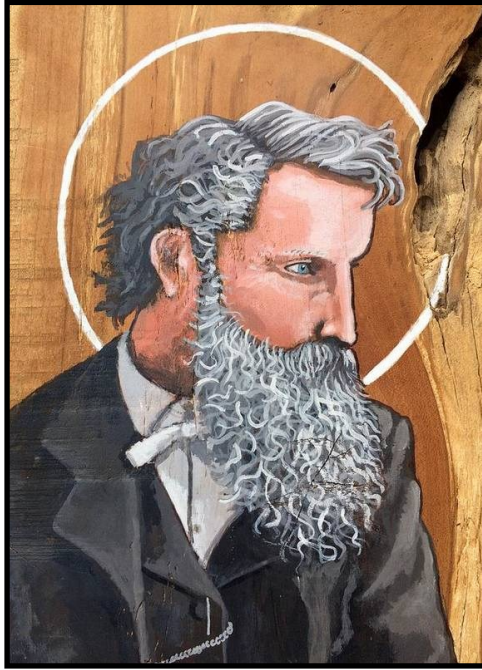
MOSES THE BLACK 4TH CENTURY AD



You fast, but Satan does not eat. You labor fervently, but Satan never sleeps. The only dimension with which you can outperform Satan is by acquiring humility, for Satan has no humility.

Moses the Black, sometimes called the Ethiopian, was a slave of a government official in Egypt who dismissed him for theft and suspected murder. He became the leader of a gang of bandits who roamed the Nile Valley spreading terror and violence. Attempting to hide from local authorities, he took shelter with some monks in a colony in the desert of Scete, near Alexandria. The dedication of their lives, as well as their peace and contentment, influenced Moses deeply. He soon gave up his old way of life and joined the monastic community at Scete. Attacked by a group of robbers in his desert cell, Moses fought back, overpowered the intruders, and dragged them to the chapel where the other monks were at prayer. He told the brothers that he didn't think it Christian to hurt the robbers and asked what he should do with them. The overwhelmed robbers repented, were converted, and themselves joined the community.

JOHN MUIR 1838 – 1914



All the wild world is beautiful, and it matters but little where we go, to highlands or lowlands, woods or plains, on the sea or land or down among the crystals of waves or high in a balloon in the sky; through all the climates, hot or cold, storms and calms, everywhere and always we are in God's eternal beauty and love. So universally true is this, the spot where we chance to be always seems the best.

John Muir was a Scottish-born American naturalist, writer, and advocate of U.S. forest conservation, who was largely responsible for the establishment of Sequoia National Park and Yosemite National Park, which are located in California. He and other conservationists founded the Sierra Club in 1892. In his book, *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* (1913), he writes that during his childhood, his father made him read the Bible every day. Muir eventually memorized three-quarters of the Old Testament and all of the New Testament. As Muir became attached to the American natural landscapes he explored, Williams notes that he began to see another "primary source for understanding God: the Book of Nature".

PAULI MURRAY

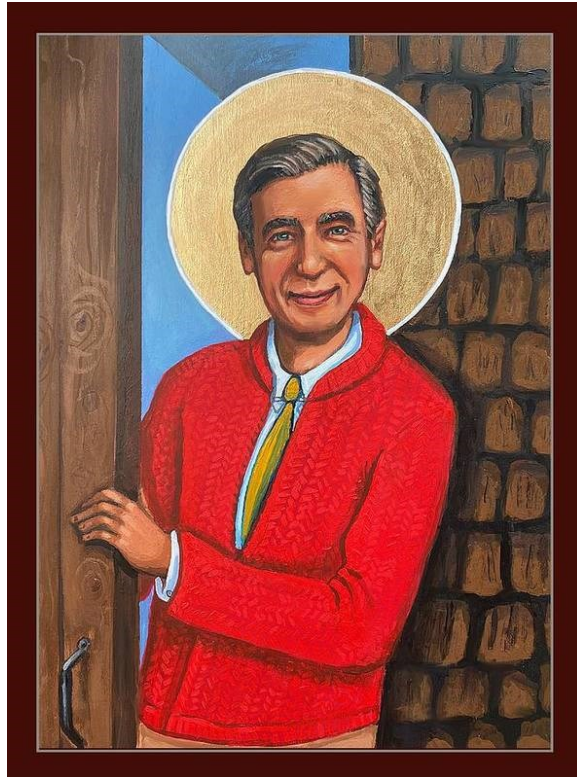
1910 – 1985



In his deep humanity, Jesus was transparent to God's love and compassion for us. I believe that compassion is a gift of God's grace, our response to God's love. It is the capacity for placing ourselves in another's predicament, feeling "from the inside" what it means to be another person, "feeling with," "suffering with," so that another's pain becomes our pain, another's struggle our struggle. Without compassion, all our good works are meaningless. With it, we become more like Christ.

Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray was an American civil rights activist who became a lawyer, gender equality advocate, Episcopal priest, and author. Drawn to the ministry, in 1977 she became one of the first women—and the first African-American woman—to be ordained as an Episcopal priest.

FRED ROGERS 2028 – 2003



I believe that appreciation is a holy thing—that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred.

Fred Rogers was an American television host, producer, minister, and writer best known for Mister Rogers' Neighborhood (1968–2001), an educational children's show that aired on public television. Mr. Rogers began each episode by changing into one of his trademark cardigan sweaters while singing the show's theme song, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" He then addressed the topic of the day and in the process taught children how to get along with others, feel good about themselves, and cope with their fears.

RUTH AND NAOMI ANCIENT ISRAEL



Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die-- there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" (Ruth 1:14—17)

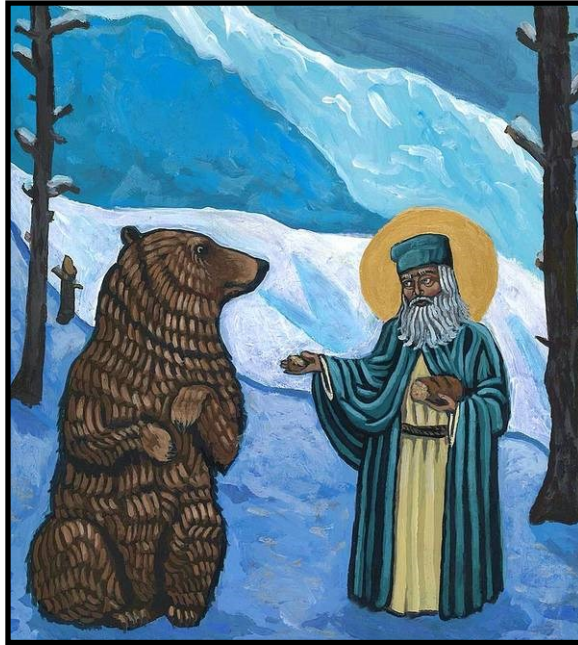
SAINTS OF SELMA 1965



When Good Friday comes, these are the moments in life when we feel there's no hope. But then, Easter comes. (Coretta Scott King)

The Selma-to-Montgomery March for voting rights ended three weeks--and three events--that represented the political and emotional peak of the modern civil rights movement. On "Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965, some 600 civil rights marchers headed east out of Selma on U.S. Route 80. They got only as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge six blocks away, where state and local lawmen attacked them with billy clubs and tear gas and drove them back into Selma. Two days later on March 9, Martin Luther King, Jr., led a "symbolic" march to the bridge. Then civil rights leaders sought court protection for a third, full-scale march from Selma to the state capitol in Montgomery. On Sunday, March 21, about 3,200 marchers set out for Montgomery, walking 12 miles a day and sleeping in fields. By the time they reached the capitol on Thursday, March 25, they were 25,000-strong. Less than five months after the last of the three marches, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

SERAPHIM AND BEAR 1754 – 1833

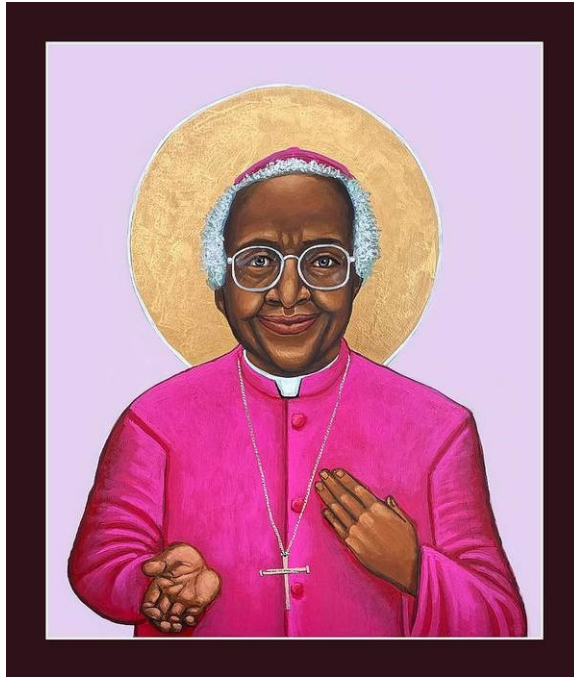


***Y**ou cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of one who gives and kindles joy in the heart of one who receives.*

Seraphim of Sarov is one of the most renowned Russian saints and is venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church. He is generally considered the greatest of the 18th-century startsy (elders). Seraphim extended the monastic teachings of contemplation, theoria and self-denial to the layperson. He taught that the purpose of the Christian life was to receive the Holy Spirit. Perhaps his most popular quotation amongst his devotees is "acquire a peaceful spirit, and thousands around you will be saved." He tended his own garden and there have been many accounts of his friendship with a bear, with whom he would share his food. So, in various paintings and icons of St. Seraphim, he is often depicted with a bear.

DESMOND TUTU

1931 – 2021



Goodness is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Light is stronger than darkness. Life is stronger than death. Victory is ours through Him who loved us.

Desmond Mpilo Tutu was a South African Anglican bishop and theologian, known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist. Theologically, he sought to fuse ideas from black theology with African theology. In 1985, Tutu became Bishop of Johannesburg and in 1986 the Archbishop of Cape Town, the most senior position in southern Africa's Anglican hierarchy. In this position, he emphasized a consensus-building model of leadership and oversaw the introduction of female priests. After President F. W. de Klerk released the anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990 the pair led negotiations to end apartheid and introduce multi-racial democracy. After the 1994 general election resulted in a coalition government headed by Mandela, he selected Tutu to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate past human rights abuses committed by both pro and anti-apartheid groups. He was popular among South Africa's black majority and was internationally praised for his work involving anti-apartheid activism, for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

TERESA OF AVILA 1515 – 1582



Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing make you afraid. All things are passing. God alone never changes. Patience gains all things. If you have God, you will want for nothing. God alone suffices.

Teresa of Ávila was a Spanish nun, one of the great mystics and religious women of the Roman Catholic Church, and author of spiritual classics. She was the originator of the Carmelite Reform, which restored and emphasized the austerity and contemplative character of primitive Carmelite life. St. Teresa was elevated to doctor of the church in 1970 by Pope Paul VI, the first woman to be so honoured.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William How (1823-1897)