

## 2026 MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION RESOLUTION #8

### Resolution in Support of the Canonization of Father Augustus Tolton

**WHEREAS**, Father Augustus Tolton (1854–1897) was the first publicly recognized Black Catholic priest in the United States, overcoming great racial and societal barriers to answer his call to the priesthood; and

**WHEREAS**, born into slavery in Brush Creek, Ralls County, Missouri, he and his family escaped to freedom, ultimately finding refuge in Quincy, Illinois, where he later pursued his religious vocation; and

**WHEREAS**, despite being denied entry into American seminaries due to racial discrimination, he persevered in his faith and was sent to Rome for priestly formation, where he was ordained in 1886; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Tolton dedicated his ministry to serving marginalized communities, particularly Black Catholics, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to faith, inclusion, and service; and

**WHEREAS**, he founded St. Monica's Parish in Chicago, providing a spiritual home for Black Catholics and fostering unity in the Church; and

**WHEREAS**, his legacy of faith, perseverance, and commitment to social justice continues to inspire Catholics and people of all backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Catholic Church has recognized Father Augustus Tolton as a Servant of God and later as Venerable, an important step toward sainthood; and

**WHEREAS**, the cause for his canonization advances as his virtuous life and potential miracles attributed to his intercession are under review; and

**WHEREAS**, the canonization of Father Augustus Tolton would serve as a powerful testament to the universality of the Catholic Church and its commitment to recognizing the holiness of individuals from diverse backgrounds;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we strongly support the canonization of Father Augustus Tolton, recognizing his extraordinary faith, perseverance, and contributions to the Church and society; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage the faithful to pray for his intercession and for the successful advancement of his cause toward sainthood.

(Submitted by Council #7231 Columbia, Missouri)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM BY STATE ADVOCATE**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **RECOMMENDED** \_\_\_\_\_ **NOT RECOMMENDED**

**DISPOSITION AT CONVENTION:**