Venerable Pierre Toussaint
(1766-1853)

Pierre Toussaint was born in Haiti and brought to New York City as a slave. He died a free man, a renowned hairdresser, and one of New York City's most well-known Catholics, credited by many with being the father of Catholic Charities in New York.

After the death of his master, Pierre supported his master's widow and other house slaves. He was freed shortly before the widow's death. He generously assisted blacks and whites in need. He and his wife opened their home to orphans and educated them. When urged to retire and enjoy the wealth he had accumulated, Pierre responded, *"I have enough for myself, but if I stop working I have not enough for others."*

Venerable Pierre Toussaint lived a spirit-filled life! Let us pray:

Prayer for the Canonization of Pierre Toussaint

Lord God,

Source of love and compassion, we praise and honor You for the virtuous and
charitable life of our brother in Christ,
Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

Inspired by the example of Our Lord Jesus, Pierre worshipped You with love and
served Your people with generosity. He attended daily Mass and responded to
the practical and spiritual needs of friends and strangers, of the rich and the poor,
the sick and the homeless 19th-century New York.

If it is Your will, let the name of Venerable Pierre Toussaint be officially raised
to the rank of Saint, so that the world may know this Haitian New Yorker who
refused to hate or be selfish, but instead lived to the full the commandments of
heaven and the divine law of love – love for God and for neighbor.

By following his example and asking for his prayers, may we, too, be counted
among the blessed in heaven.
We ask for this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Please report in writing any favors received through Venerable Pierre Toussaint's intercession to:

Venerable Pierre Toussaint Guild
Archdiocese of New York

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