

## St. Louis Black History Tour

Tour Guide and Author, Gerry Kleba 10/10/2023

**NOTE WELL:** Good Ideas or Projects eg. Housing, Community Gardens or Bad Ideas and practices eg. Red Lining are not the result of one person who is either divine or diabolical. Rather these endeavors are carried out in community. Each person has to decide what type of community s/he promotes and encourages.

Archbishop's House on Lindell and Taylor was the place Cardinal Joseph Ritter lived when he desegregated the Catholic schools in 1947, seven years before Brown vs the Board of Education. He also started the Catholic Youth Conference to have inter-racial sports. He started Cardinal Glennon Hospital for Children as the first Catholic Children's Hospital and he began the St. Louis Mission in Bolivia, to become the first US diocese to sponsor a foreign mission endeavor. I told Archbishop Rozanski to move out of that mansion, which is just a money pit, and live with the poor like Pope Francis who never moved into the Vatican Papal Apartment.

Second Presbyterian Church, Taylor and Westminster. – Magnificent Tiffany Windows. The church provides office space to Metropolitan Congregations United started 30 years ago by Fr. Rich Creason with CHD funds. Collaborative church organizing effort supported by 70 churches, synagogues and mosques. It is a part of the National effort of Gamalial Foundation.

Bowood Nursery Cafe and Community Garden – 4700 Olive St. Endeavor of farmers and ranchers from rural MO. Vacant for many years, but was a truck repair shop.

**DELMAR DIVIDE** – Apartments on Delmar and Euclid. Apartment on the north side of Delmar are Section 8 and the ones of the south side of the street are market rate. Commercial Space on north west corner was the office of the Visitation Community Credit Union which was liquidated in about 1992 by the National Credit Union Administration because it was not profitable enough. Had assets of \$2,500,000. and extended credit to black people in red lined neighborhoods whom ordinary institutions didn't consider credit worthy. As the NCUA was closing down the credit union, an elderly woman stood glaring at the sign on the door and having trouble reading it. I went out to explain the sad situation to her and she put on a stern face and gritted her teeth at me saying, "you see these teeth." I backed away fearing she might bite me, but she continued, "This credit union lent this old lady \$800. for dental work and nobody was about to lend me \$800."

On another occasion, I was teaching a class at Washington U. Architecture School and as I was leaving the building, a woman rushed to catch up with me and talk. She was dressed in a professional suit and high heels. "Are you the priest that ran the Visitation Credit Union?"

I explained that I was involved, but I didn't actually run it, and then she proceeded. "When I got out of college, I didn't have any credit, but that credit union lent me \$1,000. to buy a used car to get to my first job and now I'm the secretary to the provost of Washington U's Architecture School." Who knows how many hundreds of stories like that are out there to explain the successful lives of people?

To the east on Delmar is the St. Louis office of the NAACP.

Heading north on Euclid, the boarded up homes and vacant lots are immediately apparent. No mortgage and home improvement loans are available. After WW II Veterans loans were only available for new home construction. Similarly, social security didn't cover domestic or agricultural workers, many of whom were black.

Delmar & Aubert is where Homer Phillips, a Howard U. law school graduate, was murdered on June 18, 1931 while reading his newspaper and waiting for a street car to his downtown law office. He was an attorney who successfully sued the city when the 1922 bond issue money to build a wing for black patients on City Hospital #1 was misspent. He helped the city to pass another bond issue, this time, to build a new \$1 million city hospital for black people. His killing is one of St. Louis' unsolved murders, but while the new hospital for black people was still under construction the Board of Alderman named it for him. The hospital is second only to Howard U. in the training of black doctors, nurses and health care workers.

Fountain Park with a Statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Note contrast to Forest Park, the best Urban Park in the US according to USA Today. Both run by St. L. Park Dept.

Taylor and the Hodiamont Tracks (3 1/2 mile through way from Spring to the City Limits. It was built to transport black workers to the homes of the wealthy in University City. It is being developed in a bike path under the direction of SLACO, an organization founded in 1977 by Father Gerry Kleba. SLACO got \$20,000. in start-up funding from the CCHD and then successive grants for two years.

The Byzantine entrance gate to Lewis Place was designed by George Barnett, the architect of the St. Louis Cathedral. North of gate is a community garden.

Ranken Technical School 4431 Finney 63113 In 1978 Father Gerry Kleba and SLACO questioned the president of Rankin about the school's practice of building single family homes on the campus and then knocking them down over the weekend and building the next new home on the sight. The president, David Garrett, who was very racist and hated that David Rankin stated in his will that if the school were ever moved from the place where he founded it, the endowment money would go to St. Louis U and Washington U. He defended this home building practice, "We do this because the students show up for work on time, the work site isn't vandalized, and no one's tools are stolen." We challenged him

about the educational value of building homes under laboratory conditions rather than real life. We also noted the lack of women students and students of color. We were thrown off the campus. SLACO built homes immediately across the street from Ranken's main gate called Fairfax Court. Ten years later a new school president, Ben Ernst, a former board treasurer at the meeting where I was ejected, invited me back to help initiate building homes on the streets and begin a scholarship program for women and students of color. Rankin hired a SLACO home building professional to head up their program. As the new homes were being constructed, I attended a graduation. When the awards were given, Ben Ernst said, "I would like to call your attention to Father Gerry Kleba who is sitting up in the bleachers. For years, he has been the prophet for this school telling us to build homes out on the streets and welcome women students and students of color. We are doing that now and giving scholarships to those students who have needs."

Becket Park on Page and Taylor – in 1946, Fr. John Hamilton Smith, the Visitation pastor integrated Visitation School eight years before *Brown vs the Board of Education*. He purchased WW II Quonset buildings and moved them to Becket Park to accommodate the new students. Maryknoll Sisters came to teach at this school viewing it like a foreign mission. They worked along with the Loretto Sisters who taught at Visitation School for years. Visitation Assoc. Pastor Joe Malloy organized the first integrated baseball team at Visitation. The team lost all their games by forfeit because inter-racial athletic teams were illegal in MO. Malloy prodded Cardinal Ritter to start the Catholic Youth Council and promote interracial athletics which were illegal in the State of MO.

Visitation Parish and School – Taylor and Evans Ave. - First integrated school was opened by Fr. John Hamilton Smith in 1946 which was six years before the Supreme Ct. decision, *Brown VS the Board of Education*. When Cardinal Glennon confirmed the first integrated class he had ever seen, he made no comment. The mostly black choir at Visitation was outstanding so Cardinal Ritter invited them to accompany him to Confirmations where a parish didn't have a choir. Fr. Smith was later named pastor at St. Ambrose and he encouraged that parish to support Visitation Parish and School (closed in 1968). Parish closed in 2017 which was bought and now used by a protestant church. The Visitation Community Credit Union served the area from 1975 – 1992 when it was closed down by the National Credit Union Administration because NCUA found it unprofitable as it was compared to labor union and industrial credit unions. even though it had assets of \$2,500,000. It treated people with respect and gave them access to credit. I was pastor here from 1973 – 1983.

Holy Ghost Parish – Taylor and Garfield – was closed in 1960 and consolidated with Visitation. A protestant church wanted to buy the vacant building, but Cardinal Carberry

refused to sell having heard that when St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish was closed and sold the church that bought it was a front for a truck body repair shop and when trucks were pulled in the front door of the former church, the Irish Catholics were livid. When Holy Ghost church was demolished, the community built Garfield Park on the site and then rehabbed the school and rectory into affordable housing. The former school is family apartments and the former rectory is senior apartments operated by the Cardinal Ritter Institute since 1985.

William Gillespie Senior Apartments on Marcus and Labadie were built by the church. Many black churches invested in these types of buildings before the Catholic Church founded the Cardinal Ritter Senior Housing Program. East on Labadie is a community garden.

Shelly House at 6400 Labadie Ave. - Shelly vs Kramer was the Supreme Court case that said racially restrictive residential covenants were unconstitutional. The house in question is 6400 Labadie Ave where a white family bought the house as a front for their black friends and when the blacks moved in the whites on the block complained based on the restrictive covenant. St. Louis realtors got by this decision by agreeing not to break the color line in selling homes and when that failed they had a financial windfall anyway through white flight. They talked whites into selling and then jacked up the prices selling homes to blacks at premium prices to have the privilege of living in a white neighborhood.

St. Louis Realtor's apologize for role in racist housing practices in the St. Louis American newspaper.

## Announces 'Reimagining St. Louis' plan Sept 21, 2022

### **THE VILLE**

Sumner High School 2248 Cottage, 63113 – named after Charles Sumner, an abolitionist Massachusetts senator. Celebrity grads: Redd Fox, Dick Gregory, Grace Bumbry, Chuck Berry, Tina Turner, Arthur Ashe and many outstanding academics who are lesser known than these world famous celebrities.

Homer Phillips Hospital & Nursing School, 1939 – 1979 2425 Whittier 63113 – Second only to Howard U. in DC for the training of black doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals. The first summer the hospital was open bugs swarmed through the open windows in a humid summer and then screens were ordered for the 2,000 windows. The

fifty patents who remained there at the time of its closing were removed by police escort and sent to City Hospital #1, the very place where they were kept in the basement previous to building Homer Phillips. In closing the hospital the city never considered consolidating health care at the newer of their two buildings. There were weeks of fruitless protests, because the patients were gone.

Research below by Jerry King, St. Louis Realtor for over fifty years:

I have done a little more careful analysis of the Venable property taking versus present value in case you want to contact Tony Messenger and let him know that the City owed the Venables a whole lot more than changing the name of the park and feeding them brats and cold beer.

They paid him \$31,000. In 1959, the City of Creve Coeur took Phillip Venable's property by eminent domain problem in converting that number to present-day dollars is that we don't know how much of that money was paid for the construction that Mr. Venable already had begun, and we don't know how much he paid in legal fees in order to contest the case.

But, let's say that he received a net of \$30,000, which is an overly generous estimate of what he received. The change in the Consumer Price Index between 1959 and 2022 is 10.1 times, so that \$30,000 in 1959 converts to the equivalent of \$303,000 currently.

If we look at the value of the 7 acres today, we need to consider the recent sales of the older homes in the subdivision where Mr. Venable's land is located. Those sales are in the neighborhood of \$500,000 for houses that the buyers are demolishing to create a build-able lot for houses that have sold for as much as \$1,900,000. So, essentially, the land value for those parcels is \$500,000. The most recent sale of such a "tear down" house was situated on a lot of approximately 1.5 acres.

So, if we use a value of \$500,000 for 1.5 acres, Phillip Venable's property today would be worth at least \$2,000,000, as it would produce 4 lots of 1.5 to 2.0 acres which would sell for \$500,000 each.

The direct comparison of \$303,000 that the Venable family was paid in current dollars versus a current value of \$2,000,000 is stark evidence of the compensation due to the Venable family from the City of Creve Coeur.

Dr. H. Phillip Venable was one of the most notable physicians on the staff who also taught ophthalmology at Washington U Medical School. In the middle 1950's he purchased a seven acre lot in Creve Couer, MO to build a new home. While the home was under construction, the city of Creve Couer took their property by eminent domain for the purpose of building a city park. The Venables lost their case after fighting it in court for years. In 1961, the first city park on the property was named for the racist mayor who maneuvered the land deal by eminent domain for \$35,000.00. In 2021, the City of Creve Couer renamed the park H. Phillip Venable Memorial Park and honored the family, but never made restitution by paying the descendants what the seven acres would be worth in 2019 dollars.

There is a house down the street from the park that sold recently for \$2,400,000.00. What should the city pay for meaningful reparations?

Annie Malone Children's Home 2612 Annie Malone 63113

– founded and endowed from the fortune of Annie Malone, the first black woman to become a millionaire in her own right. As a chemist, she invented a line of hair care, personal items and cosmetics especially geared to care for the hair and skin of black women. She sold these over a broad geographic area and one of her sales women, Madame CK Walker became fabulously wealthy and being quite flamboyant became better known than her mentor. Malone had a factory for her products and ran a beauty school and a secretarial school known as Puro College on the present site of the James House Senior Apartments. Puro was the trademark name of her products. She sold her company to a large Chicago cosmetic company. Annie Malone founded the child care agency that bears her name. Like many similar institutions which began as an orphan home, it now cares for children with an array of emotional needs which are always exacerbated by race and poverty. The Memorial Day Weekend Annie Malone May Day Parade and Festival held downtown is a major black social event and fundraising event.

St. Matthews Church is a Jesuit Parish where the Jesuit Provincial Superior now lives since he moved from his former housing in the Central-Westend across the alley from the Archbishop's mansion. When the parish school was closed it was remodeled into low-income family apartments. For many years an associate pastor, Fr. Bill Hutchinson, the head of the SLU Social Works School, lived in the parish and devised many creative social programs for a broad age range of people. He had access to many students who did practicums under his direction and was keenly aware of available government funds. He organized the building of the many blocks of homes in honor of Msgr. John Shocklee, the legendary priest of the poor and pastor of St. Bridget's in the Pruitt-Igoe Housing Complex. Shocklee headed the Archdiocesan Office of Human Rights and Peace and Justice.

Spring and Vandeventer are new homes built by the St. Theresa and Bridget Housing Corporation. Rev. Gary Meyer was the pastor of St. T & B and spearheaded the corporation. He was gay and left the priesthood when Archbishop May forbade him from come out as gay. On Spring and N. Market are three tiny homes built by the West County Social Justice Collaborative.

Missionaries of Charity – Spring and Cottage serves lunch to people each day and has a residence for homeless women. Cardinal Carberry met Mother Teresa of Calcutta in his

travels and told him that St. Louis needed her sisters. He knew nothing about ministry to the poor and never even paid a visit to Visitation Parish which was only fourteen blocks north of his mansion. When she arrived unannounced in St. Louis one day, she called Carberry and said she was here and he didn't know what to do. He called Shocklee and Shocklee called Fr. Bob Gettinger to drive and they gave her a tour around N. St. Louis. She couldn't believe all the vacant brick houses and in the midst of the tour, she was inspired by the Holy Spirit to announce that she would send sisters and they were to live in some house on Bacon Street near St. Louis Ave. She knew nothing about real estate and titles, she just assumed that you squatted in a vacant house and no one cared. The archdiocese now had to deal with a vacant house with a muddled title and not where to find the heirs and the names listed on the title. It took a title search that went to find heirs in Europe and cost a fortune, but no one could tell Mother Teresa and the Holy Spirit that was a waste of time and money. It cost a fortune to serve the poor without even helping them the least bit.

Housing Programs at each of these – St. Matthews, Visitation, St. Theresa and Bridget, and St Alphonse Rock Church. These are measurable examples of organizing for justice and human development rather than merely gifting people with money. Justice vs Charity. These projects give people a hand up rather than a hand out and in the process to dignify their personal and communal surroundings.

St. Theresa & Bridget Rectory– Grand and North Market will become the sixth Assisi House for 12 chronically homeless women.

Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club – Grand and St. Louis Ave north to Sullivan Site of the old Sportman's Park (Cardinal and Brown's Baseball and Carter Carburetor which is an enormous super-fund/brown field clean up project.

St. Louis Griott Black History Museum 2505 St. Louis 63106

The National Geo-spatial Agency Headquarters, a billion dollar plus project is being built here. (Jefferson and Cass Ave north to St. Louis Avenue) It is the US spy agency. Thousands of people will work here and somehow the hundreds of acres of vacant land will be developed for businesses and people will live here.

St. Bridget Church and School (Jefferson and Carr) were closed in 2012. Msgr. John Shocklee was the legendary Pastor whom I wrote about in my book *Three Wise Men, All*

Monsignors. Pruitt-Igoe Housing Project (hour long documentary) was one of the first architecturally lauded high rise projects in the country. It became a disaster and was imploded in 1972 and the lot left vacant as undeveloped because the federal government dumped all the bricks and re-bar concrete into the basement foundation holes of the buildings. St Bridget's Parish built a community garden on an acre north of the parish school and then worked with the community organization to build the Gateway Magnet Environmental School built north of the parish in 1995. This school is a rectangle built around a large courtyard with a garden. I was pastor here from 1985 – 1995.

Scott Joplin House State Historic Site at 2658 Delmar – Joplin had made a name for himself by inventing ragtime music and wrote the *Maple Leaf Rag* in 1898 which became the first million seller piece of sheet music. Joplin demanded that the John Stark Music Co. treat him like a white composer so he received royalties amounting to 1 cent of each 10 copy. He moved from Sedalia, MO in 1901 to write music for the St. Louis World's Fair. His music publisher, John Stark, moved his company to St. Louis and lived in a lavish home while Joplin lived in this humble apartment. Stark moved to NY when Joplin went there in 1904. Joplin said his music was ahead of the times and it would be appreciated in 75 years. In that exact time frame his music won the Academy Award for a movie, THE STING, and then his opera Tremonsia, won the Pulitzer Prize after being performed by the Houston Opera Co.

Jefferson Bank built a new building on the corner of Jefferson and Washington, a few blocks from the newly completed Pruitt-Igoe, but refused to hire any black tellers, only black janitors. When the bank opened Percy Green, Norman Seay and Bill Clay et al chained themselves to the front doors and were arrested to protest these hiring practices. Msgr. Shocklee, the pastor of nearby St. Bridget Parish, housed the battery of lawyers in the rectory office who arranged bail for the offenders. This was the courageous step that moved Bill Clay to US Congress for many years where his son, Lacy Clay, followed him.

The St. Louis FC Soccer Park was built in 2020 on the last piece of vacant property from the Mill Creek Valley Urban Renewal Program which displaced a huge black community of 20,000 people and 40 black churches moving many of them to the now defunk Pruitt-Igoe Housing Project. James Baldwin said, "Urban renewal means negro removal." The People's Finance Building, a neighborhood landmark, was the first commercial five story skyscraper building in the country totally built with all black financing. 5,000 attended the ribbon cutting of the building in 1926. Mill Creek Valley is now memorialized in art by the Pillars of the Valley adjacent to the soccer stadium.



East along Market and Chestnut Streets where the park is was the renowned black entertainment district called Chestnut Valley. It was run by Tom Turpin, an entrepreneur and fine ragtime pianist, who encouraged and then paid a down and out musician, W. C. Handy, who wrote the St. Louis Blues. Handy used his earnings to move to Memphis and never returned to St. Louis. It was also in area that a tiny street dancer named Josephine Baker earned nickels and pennies for her sidewalk performances. She left St. Louis to become internationally famous in New York and Paris and died in having worked tirelessly in the French underground to save children. She was awarded the French Legion of Honor.

The Civil Courts Building on 12<sup>th</sup> and Market was the place where over 300 blacks sued, with very little success, for their freedom. There is a monument to their brave efforts on the east side.

Ballpark Village and Busch Stadium stands on property that was once the site of the Bernard Lynch Slave Pen. Lynch had a full service people business there. He sold slaves, he rented unsold ones out by the day, and was also a slave catcher. He was hired by Henry Shaw to catch some of his runaway slaves. When the ballpark was being built, some urban archaeologists begged the Cardinals to let them do excavations there. The Cardinals refused saying they were not there to study history, but to make history.

Drury Plaza Hotel is on the National Registry of Historic Buildings and was the International Fur Exchange owned by John Jacob Astor. It was the largest warehouse for furs brought in from the Pacific Northwest from Astoria, Oregon. The lobby is full of ornate Waterford crystal chandeliers and a waterfall with sculptures of Lewis, Clark, York, their enslaved black companion, and Sagagaweia, the Indian maiden they kidnapped, who made their trek the huge success that it was because of her knowledge of native ways and languages.

The Basilica of St. Louis, King of France is the third church built on this site and is the only piece of private property on the grounds of the Gateway Arch National Park. Three of the pastors at this Cathedral, Bishops DuBourg, Rosati, and Kenrick enslaved people. The first St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting in North America was held there in 1830. Consequently, the Society still maintains its national office in St. Louis.

A prominent civil rights activist, Percy Green, partially climbed up the outside of the Gateway Arch on a construction day to protest the lack of black construction workers on

this \$13 million federal worksite. He was arrested and fined, but the hiring practices didn't change.

The Old Court House 1839 - For many years this was the largest domed building in N. America. In 1866, the US Capital dome in Washington, DC was completed. There are several three inch cast iron loops cemented into the stone floor under the rotunda where the slaves were chained and held until they were marched out to be displayed for inspection and then auctioned off and sold on the east side front steps. – A statue of Dred and Harriett Scott stands there now. The Dred Scott Decision here led to the US Supreme Court Decision where Catholic Chief Justice Roger Taney wrote the decision saying that no white man had to obey or respect anything said by a black person whether slave or free. The decision also stated that no black person could ever become a citizen.

St. Joseph Shrine (1843) – 11<sup>th</sup> and Biddle - This was the original foundation of the Jesuits that would become St. Louis University. Six Jesuits and six slaves (three couples) from the Maryland Province walked here from Shawneetown, IL along the Ohio River. A Vatican accredited miracle took place here with the healing from an industrial accident and tuberculosis of Ignatius Strecker in 1864. He died of typhoid fever in 1880. The archdiocese was about to sell the church and the property, the only occupied property in the area, was slated to become a large truck dock. The pastor, Fr. Fillipiak, wanted to save his beloved church and would sit on the retaining wall and shoot pigeons off the roof in the evening. He was murdered by some neighborhood teens who stole a few dollars and a case of Pepsi and were arrested the next day. Fr. Fillipiak was a recluse, hermit and though unknown a huge crowd of priests and people came to his funeral in the decrepit, falling down church sprinkled everywhere with bird shit. Catholics was outraged to think this miraculous church was to be sold and they protested and boycotted the Annual Catholic Appeal. They founded the Friends of St. Joseph's Shrine and finally Cardinal Carberry sold them the church for \$100. The diocese said when the church was fixed up, a priest would be provided for the parish. It's spectacular now and people stand in line to schedule their weddings there.

Most Holy Trinity Parish 1848) – The magnificent Gothic Church has six Rose Windows. School was closed in spring 2020 when the pandemic started. The parish is overseen by a diocesan appointed Parish Life Coordinator, S. Janice, SSND with Sunday Mass offered by visiting priests. It is the most visible piece of Catholic Church real estate in the entire archdiocese since it is visible to anyone driving the interstate from the airport to the arch, the first building seen by those crossing the McKinley Bridge from Illinois, and the most

beautiful building seen by anyone traveling on the Mississippi River. It would be a great place for our archbishop to live and have a voice in the redevelopment of N. St. Louis as thousands of people come to work at National Geo-Spatial Agency. The church has six rose windows and over thirty stained glass artists from the Amel Frei Studio worked there in the height of its building. The neighborhood is broken and needs the positive energy of a vital Catholic presence. If the church is abandoned, it will be the major sign of the death of Catholicism in St. Louis.

Pietowski's European Market and Sausage Shop 4100 N. Florissant 63107. Polish Sausage from there fed St. Pope John Paul II during his 1999 visit to St. Louis.

Grand Avenue Water Tower is the tallest Corinthian Column in the World and the Bissel Water Tower to the east are both on the National Registry of Historic Sites

Holy Name School building still stands on east side of Grand at N. Florissant. The first Negro St. Louis Catholic school teacher, Alice Edwards, was hired by the College Church on Grand and Lindell at the behest of Archbishop Joseph Ritter. Her first year of teaching there was marked by her car splashed with broken eggs at the conclusion of the school day. In 1974, Edwards was hired by Father Ed Fitzgibbon, pastor of Holy Name, to be principal of their school. During her tenure the enrollment tripled and tuition collection was like clockwork. In the 1980's the school was consolidated at a neighboring site where a white nun was principal and the energy waned.

Prairie Ave and Hebert – Tabernacle Church and Pastor Andre Alexander and neighborhood renewal has a First Bank and a Mercy Health Clinic in the area and the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club to enhance the community.

Convent of Our Lady of Grace & Pink Sisters Chapel – Adelaide and Hiway 70 Perpetual Adoration since 1928

Our Lady of the Holy Cross – Baden – Msgr. Hellriegel, pastor of 52 years, was a liturgist who greatly influenced Vatican II and inspired Cardinal Joseph Ritter who had some liturgical roots because he went to the seminary at St. Meinrad's Benedictine Monastery. Hellriegel introduced lay participation with the Dialogue Mass and wrote the hymn *To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King*. He portrayed Jesus and rode a donkey in the Palm Sunday procession. Vince Nyman, pastor, great professional artist, writes children's books about

the environment and started the community butterfly garden on the property and planted 25 fruit trees on acres of rugged church land. He turned a rubbish heap into a beauty spot.

Ferguson – Home of Emerson Electric Co. a fortune 500 company and home of U. of Mo St. Louis

Urban League's new office 9946 W. Florissant OR 9420 W. Florissant 63136 stands on the site where a QT was burned down on the night of protesting after Robert McCulloch, district attorney, failed to bring any charge against the police officer who shot Michael Brown on August 14, 2014. QT donated the land and Emerson Electric built the facility for the Urban League which is run by Michael McMillan, very socially conscious black lawyer who graduated from SLU High and SLU.

Place on Canfield Drive where August 9, 2014 Ofc. Darron Wilson shot and killed 18 year old Michael Brown who bleed out after laying in the street for 4 hours and 31 minutes. His mother looked on but was not allowed inside the yellow crime tape. There were months of nightly demonstrations on N. Florissant and into downtown Ferguson where the police station is located. There were drones and armed military vehicles, pepper spray and tear gas. While there was some violence and looting, no one was killed. There were many arrests included among them reporters with press credentials. When the federal government studied the situation, they cited an inordinate number of driving while black arrests and jail time requiring fines poor people couldn't pay. The Federal Directives ended cash bond which was like a money machine for small municipalities.

St. Theresa of Calcutta Church and school 120 N. Elizabeth 63135 (Ferguson) which is quite well integrated. With a pre-school about 225 students. The school has a wall of saints of color who were voted into this privileged place by the students.

Ferguson Police Station – nightly protests for months. Moral Monday in October I knelt on the front steps there praying for an end to racism and an officer with a billy club standing in front of me bent down and with his chin on my shoulder whispered venom into my ear saying, "Father, you're a total disgrace to the entire Catholic Church." I made no response, but knew that a sister who taught him in grade school was his conscience.

Our Lady of Guadelupe, Cool Valley – Biggest Hispanic Catholic Church in St. Louis County

St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist Parish and School – Shreve and Marguretta Fr. Steve Giljum, pastor, a very active black parish.

St. Augustine Parish St. Augustine Parish 1371 Hamilton, 63112 – Pastor is Msgr. Bob Gettinger has given needy poor people hundreds of thousand of dollars over his many years of being pastor and running a charity, Father Bob’s Outreach. There is no justice or job or housing development aspect of this endeavor, but mere charity. Consequently, the area remains one of most devastated, hopeless areas of the entire region. Crumbling houses are directly across the street from the rectory.

St. John’s the Beloved Community, UCC – Grand and Cossuth - Starsky Wilson, pastor was co-chairman of the Ferguson Commission which held 30 community hearings after the Michael Brown incident and wrote the *Forward Through Ferguson Report laying out 90 specific programs for change*.

St. Alphonse Rock Church – Grand and Cook – A Redemptorist Parish has been known for over 100 years as the place to pray on Tuesdays with Perpetual Help Novenas on the hour and extra street cars on Grand Ave to serve the pious faithful of St. Louis. – In 1993, Bishop Terry Steib ordained Redemptorist Fr. Maurice Nutt here. He grew up in the Blumeyer projects and soon was named pastor here. He is currently working on the cause for the canonization of S. Thea Bowman, FSPA.

Cardinal Ritter High School – Spring and Washington – a diocesan college prep school promoted by Msgr. John Shocklee.

Tower Grove Park was built by Henry Shaw. He asked his MD what he could do to enhance the health of St. Louis citizens and his MD said, “Build a hospital.” Shaw said he had done that is paying 25% of the cost of St. Luke’s Hospital. His MD said, “Build a Park.” Shaw built this park which is modeled on an English Walking Park. Slavery had ended by the time he did this.

MO Botanical Gardens was built earlier by Henry Shaw and he had enslaved eleven people to help with the job. He was a proud deacon at Christ Church Cathedral downtown, but he bought his slaves in the Bootheel and brought them north through the Ozarks. When some ran away, he hired Lynch, the slave catcher, but then at some moment, he is found to be without slaves and no one can tell if he had a religious awakening and gave them their

freedom, because he was such a meticulous bookkeeper, it seems unlikely that he would have sold them and not kept a record of the sale. The largest monument in the current garden is to George Washington Carver, the MO botanist, who was born a slave in Diamond, MO. Shaw started the School of Botany and Horticulture at Washington U and the director of the Garden is also the Dean of this school at the University. He is St. Louis greatest philanthropist which could be attributed to the fact that Shaw never married and so had no heirs to leave his property and money to so he left it to the community in a variety of ways.

The Shaw Neighborhood around the Park and Garden are choice pieces of property and residents' homes are still sought after and people still benefit from the area that enslaved people made beautiful. These are areas of white privilege and an example of environmental racism because few black neighborhoods experience the benefits of trees, parks, and gardens.

St. Cronan Parish (1878) Pastor is Msgr. Jack Schuler. The parish was designated by Archbishop Raymond Burke as the personal parish for people dedicated to the social justice of the Gospel. It is a very active parish where I was pastor from 2002 – 2017. Midtown Community Services, 1203 S. Boyle Ave. 63110 has been in the school building which closed in 1973 and was operated as a part of Catholic Charities for many years until 2017. Interested people, many former advisory board members of Catholic Charities and others from St. Cronan's, organized a new 501c3 corporation. It serves all ages from expectant mothers in a Family Pride Program to grandparents in the Midtown Mamas and the Men's Club and all ages in between.

## OTHER IMPORTANT BLACK HISTORY SIGHTS

Harris-Stowe State University – Historic Black College - Home of the St. Louis Stars, Negro League, Ballpark. James, Cool Papa, Bell played here. He is in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Kinloch – Historic Black Town decimated by airport expansion

Mary Meecham Crossing on the Riverfront where the Underground Railroad went to IL.

East St. Louis, IL and the 1919 Race Riot