

*A. Tolton to Mother Catherine, June 5, 1891, Archives of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
[grammar and spelling mistakes corrected and paragraphs added to make reading easier]:*

3554 Dearborn Str. Chicago, Ill.
June 5th 1891

Rev. Mother Catherine

I deem it necessary to write you this letter to ask you to please forgive me for vexing you so. For one person, a priest of course, wrote me stating that all of us fathers in the Colored Missions were almost setting you crazy. That you had too many to tend to.

I am sorry that I vexed you. Of course, I expected that letter from some one so I will apologize at once. Of course, I for one cannot tell how to conduct myself when I see one person at last showing their love for the colored race. One thing I do know and that is it took the Catholic Church 100 years here in America to show up such a person as yourself. That is the reason why you have so much bother now and so many extending their hands to get a lift. In the whole history of the Church in America we can't find one person that has sworn to lay out their treasury for the sole benefit of the Colored and Indians. As I stand alone as the first Negro priest of America.

So you, Mother Catherine, stand alone as the first one to make such a sacrifice for the cause of a downtrodden race, hence, the South is looking on with an angry eye; the North in many places is criticizing every act, just as it is watching every move I make. I suppose that is the reason why we had no Negro priests before this day. They watch us just the same as the Pharisees did Our Lord, they watched Him. I really feel there will be a stir all over the United States when I begin my church. I shall work and pull at it as long as God gives me life for I see that I have principalities to resist anywhere and everywhere I go. The world is indeed a great book and I have read all of its pages.

So this letter is to ask you to excuse me if I have bothered you too much. I know that you have a lot to do for I am sure you have letters from all sides of America and even outside of it. Indian missionaries have always been writing to me for aid but I could not render them any since I was in extreme need myself. But if I had anything to send them I would do so right off but God has destined it this way and I must be contented.

Now sister, just when you get rested and get ready to send all well and good. I will stop vexing your mind by my letters.

Respectfully,
A. Tolton.
3554 Dearborn Str.
Chicago.

[A notation on this letter indicates that a donation of \$100 was sent to Fr. Tolton]
