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members pledged personal piety, to care for one another, and to care for their people. In 1842, she again challenged the racism that defined her as inferior and thus deemed her unfit to join any of the many religious sisterhoods in the city when she founded the Sisters of the Holy Family. The twelve free women of African descent who joined her vowed to provide care for the “poorest of the poor,” whether enslaved or free, black or white. The Sisters under her direction cared for the poor, the abandoned, and the elderly. They evangelized and they educated. Following Delille’s death in 1862, the Sisters grew in numbers. In all, hundreds of Holy Family Sisters pledged themselves to caring for others as they spread their ministry throughout the United States and into Central America and Africa.

3. **Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange** (ca. 1794-1882), another former slave, founded and served as the first superior general of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore. She founded the order so that black women would have a means by which to enter religious life. Its other purpose was to educate African-American children.
4. **Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton** (1854-1897) was America’s first black priest. He had to travel to Rome to conduct his priestly training because no U.S. seminary would take him. Back home,



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