

Archives & Records Management Office

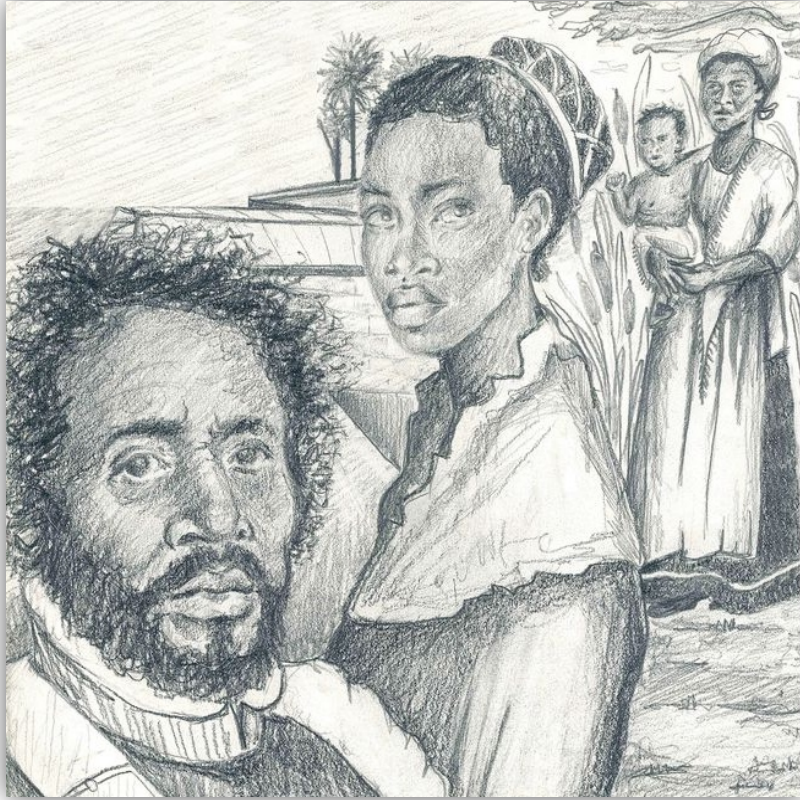
Black Catholic Oral History & Community Archive Project

GALILEO Annual Conference – June 16, 2021



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE *of* SAVANNAH

Project Background: Early Black Catholicism



Artistic rendering of Luisa de Abrego and others | Kate Godfrey, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

Black Catholicism in Georgia pre-dates the founding of the country

Evidence in earliest sacramental register

On Sunday the eighteenth Day of December one
and Seven hundred and ninety six was baptised
natural Son of Francis a negroe Slave belonging
James Magnan about eighteen Month old, by us
Missionary of Georgia hereafter subscribed: his
landier a negroe Slave belonging to Miss Sterlin
for Mr Magnan. his god Mother Josephina a negroe
belonging to Lewis andré Magnan.

✓ Le Mercier.
priest

From the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Combined Register, 1796-1816

Project Background: Early Ministry

Bishop William H. Gross
(1837-1898),
5th Bishop of Savannah
(1873-1885)



Benedictine Freedmen School,
Skidaway, Island, 1878-1889



St. Benedict the Moor, Savannah.
Established in 1874, still active today.



Project Background: Schools

St. Mother Katharine Drexel
(1858-1955)



Immaculate Conception School, Augusta, 1964

Project Background: Turmoil of the 1960s & 70s



Bishops from around the world gather at Second Vatican Council, 1962-1965

BANS DISCRIMINATION

Holy See Endorses U.N. Civil Rights Document

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (RNS)—The Holy See has endorsed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Magr. Alberto Giovannetti, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations, signed the first international civil rights treaty in the office of Secretary General U. Thant.

Adopted by the U. N. General Assembly on Dec. 21, 1965, this convention binds U. N. signatory states to "condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races."

Furthermore, the treaty requires "special and concrete measures to insure the adequate development and protection of certain racial groups or individuals belonging to them."

Civil rights legislation for the protection of members of racial minorities in every field including education and employment is to be enacted and enforced, according to the treaty.

Violations are required to be brought before appropriate courts within signatory states. Nations are asked to promote interracial understanding through educational programs using all media of communication.

To date, 43 U.N. member states, including the United States, have signed the treaty.

The office of the Holy See at the U. N. announced that an official statement on the significance of this first international agreement to combat racial prejudice and promote interracial understanding would be forthcoming from the Vatican through L'Osservatore Romano, a Vatican City newspaper.

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FOR THE FRIEND WHO HAS EVERYTHING

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

SHOPPING USED TO BE A PROBLEM!

What to give at Christmas to the friend who has everything is a problem no longer. Now, in his name (or hers), you can wipe out hardship. . . . Young men need your help to become good priests. Millions of babies are hungry all the time. Christmas will be happy if you help people like these, in your friend's name. We'll send him (or her) a new artistic personalized Gift Card in time for Christmas, saying what you have done. . . . To train a native priest costs only \$600 all told (\$100 a year, \$8.50 a month). To train a Sister costs merely \$300 (\$150 a year, \$12.50 a month). Give an altar to a mission church (\$75), a chalice (\$40), a ciborium (\$40), a

From *Southern Cross*, Savannah, GA, 12/1/1966

Worshiper at St. Benedict the Moor Church, Columbus, c. 1970



Black Catholic History Advisory Board



Rev. Robert Chaney, Pastor
Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Savannah

Parishioners and Alumni:
St. Peter Claver Church and School, Macon
Immaculate Conception School, Augusta

Mission Statement:


The mission of the Black Catholic History Advisory Board is to aid the Archives & Records Management Department in telling the Black Catholic experience in the Diocese of Savannah using their own voices.



Sr. Donna Banfield, SBS
Youth Health Program Coordinator, St.
Joseph's/Candler Hospital

The Black Catholic History Community Archive

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omeka.net




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Collecting and preserving the history and experiences of Black Catholics in the Savannah Diocese. Digital contributions are accepted and processed for collection. These may be scanned photographs, genealogical records, or pictures of meaningful artifacts. If you wish to schedule, reschedule, or have another oral history interview, please email the Diocese Office of Archives and Records on the Contact page.


RECENTLY ADDED ITEMS

From Those Who Lived It




Project video

St. Peter Claver Macon with Fr. J. Galvin



1966

St. Peter Claver Parish and School in Macon




SPCPSM, ca. 1940-50s

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FEATURED ITEM


Interview with Alice Marcella Bailey, July 24, 2019, St. Peter Claver Church, Macon, GA



Alice Marcella Bailey, 77, was born in Macon, Georgia to Hattie Lorene Costella Oliver Bailey (d. 1962) and Horace Bailey (d. 1965), the middle of...

FEATURED COLLECTION

St. Peter Claver Church & School, Macon



Established in 1902 by Jesuits, this Parish was staffed by priests from the Society of African Missions as early as 1913. St. Katherine Drexel also...

Oral Histories



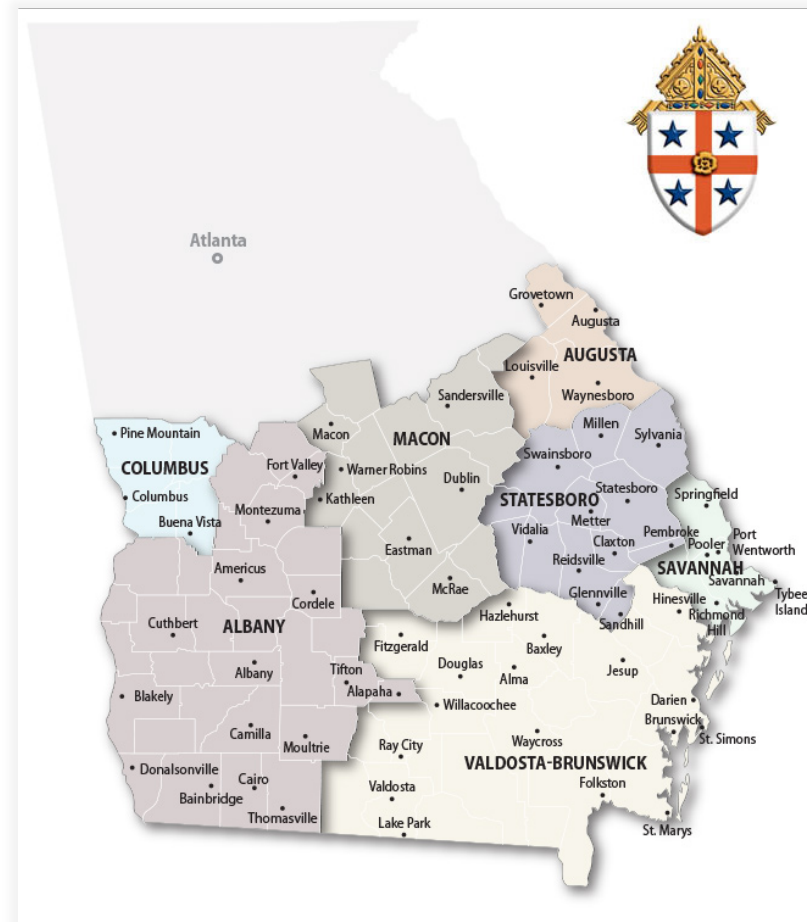
Interviewees of St. Peter Claver Church, Macon – Left to right: Alice Marcella Bailey, Gwendolyn Stroud Booker, Monroe Abram, and Carol Cummings, July 24, 2019

Virtual Interview with Msgr. William O'Neill, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, October 1, 2020



Interview with Carol Cummings (right), and Bettye Middlebrooks, St. Peter Claver Church, Macon, July 24, 2019

Mission Diocese = Limited Funding



Oral History Resources



Oral History Metadata Synchronizer
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Interviews

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Interview with Carol Redding Cummings, St. Peter Claver, Macon 20190724.04 [Preview]	OHDioSav	BCOHP	Metadata	Index	Re-Upload	Sync	Notes	Completed	XML CSV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interview with Barbara Clowers, St. Peter Claver, Macon 20190919.01 [Preview]	OHDioSav	BCOHP	Metadata	Index	Re-Upload	Sync	Notes	Completed	XML CSV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interview with Gwendolyn Stroud Booker, St. Peter Claver, Macon 20190724.03 [Preview]	OHDioSav	BCOHP	Metadata	Index	Re-Upload	Sync	Notes	Completed	XML CSV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interview with Monroe Abram, St. Peter Claver, Macon 20190724.01 [Preview]	OHDioSav	BCOHP	Metadata	Index	Re-Upload	Sync	Notes	Completed	XML CSV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interview with Alice Marcella Bailey, St. Peter Claver, Macon, July 24, 2019 20190724.02 [Preview]	OHDioSav	BCOHP	Metadata	Index	Re-Upload	Sync	Notes	Completed	XML CSV

100

Page 1 of 1

Displaying 1 to 5 of 5 items

UK

Interview with Gwendolyn Stroud Booker, St. Peter Claver, Macon

Diocese of Savannah Oral History Repository
Bettye Middlebrook/Kathryn Lockard, Interviewer | 20190724.03
Oral Histories from the Diocese of Savannah | [Back to the Oral History Project](#)

0:00 / 13:43

1x

Transcript

Index

Search this Index

Go

says "Whites Only" or "Colored Only." It was just that that group—or the group of us could not go to the bathroom. So one of the nuns called over to Blessed Sacrament and asked them if there was any way that they could bring the children over there to use the bathroom. So they had a bus. They came and got us on the bus, we went to the bathroom, and then we went on to where we were supposed to be going. Everybody thought that was kind of [00:10:00] ba— well, you know, back in the day, young folks didn't know what was going on. But the old folks knew what was going on. So we really didn't know we couldn't use the bathroom, as such, because she said, the nun said "Okay, y'all we got to wait on the bus, y'all just have to hold it a minute." So we waiting on the bus to come get us. But they never told us that we couldn't use the bathroom. I assumed that's what happened. At least, I knew that's what happened.

Segment Synopsis: Mrs. Booker explores school supplies and religious classes. In discussing her theater class, she recounts a tense moment of segregation at a train station.

Keywords: Most Blessed Sacrament Parish (South Fulton, Ga.); Nancy Hanks II Passenger Train; religious education; school supplies; segregation; train stations

Subjects: African Americans--Segregation; Blacks--Segregation; Catholic Church--Education; Most Blessed Sacrament Parish (South Fulton, Ga.)

Hyperlink: [Statesboro Herald news article on the Nancy Hanks II train](#)

00:10:31 - Mass Schedule, Church Traveling, Confirmation


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Two trains they called Nancy Hanks

Historical Society bears about Savannah-Atlanta railroad service route

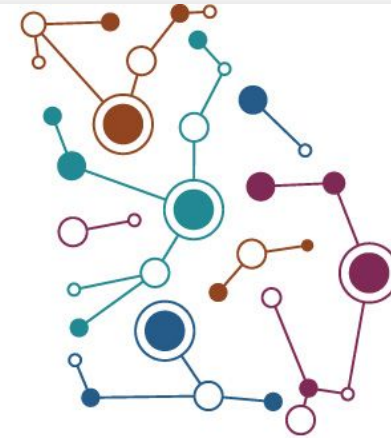


This image of a Central of Georgia passenger train represents the Nancy Hanks II, the service that linked Savannah, Macon and Atlanta from 1947 to 1971. Earlier namesakes include an 1892-93 steam train, a racehorse and President Lincoln's mother - photo by Courtesy of Bulloch County Historical Society

Software Challenges and the DLG



VS.



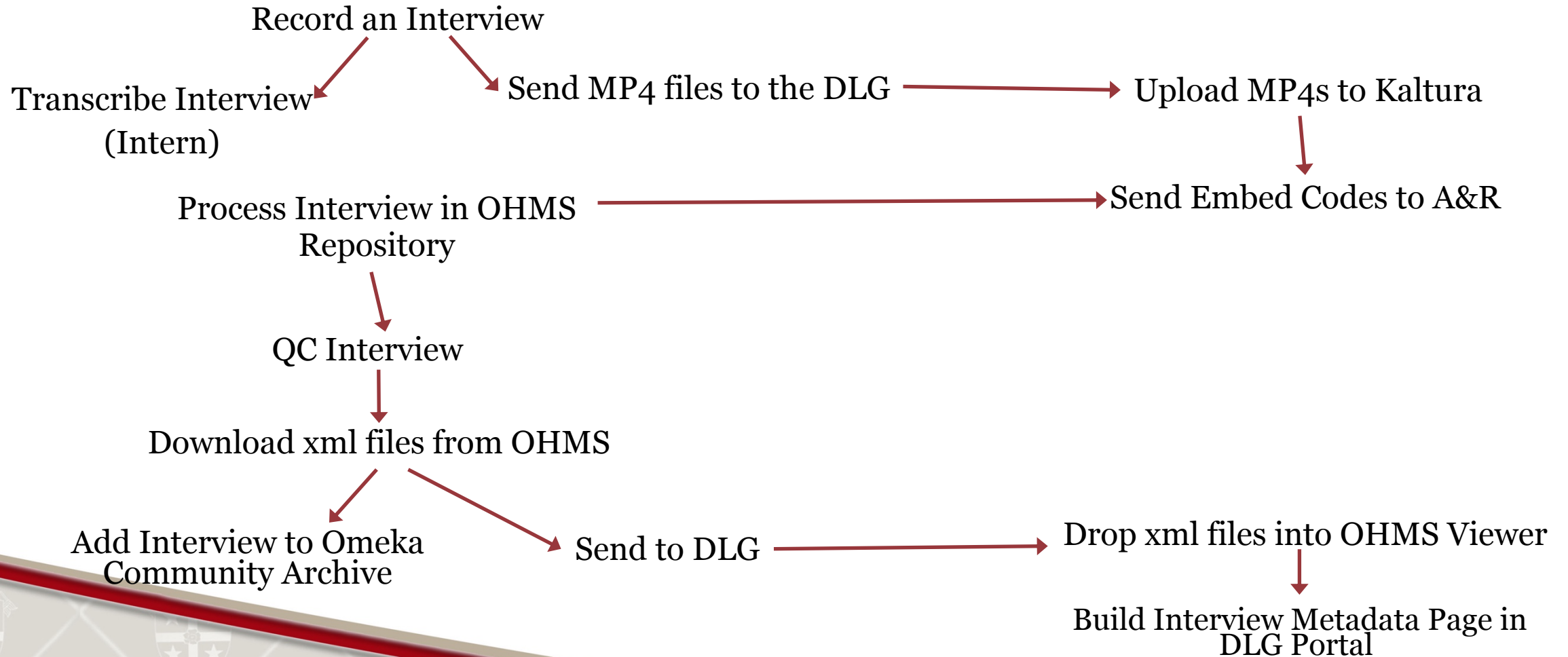
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Oral History Workflow

Diocese of Savannah A&R

DLG



BCH Community Archive

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INTERVIEW WITH ALICE MARCELLA BAILEY, JULY 24, 2019.
ST. PETER CLAVER CHURCH, MACON, GA



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FEATURED ITEM

From Those Who Lived It



Project video

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Established in 1902 by Jesuits, this Parish was staffed by priests from the Society of African Missions as early as 1913. St. Katherine Drexel also...

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St. Peter Claver Parish and School in Macon



SPCPSM, ca. 1940-50s

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Oral Memoirs
of
Alice Marcella Bailey
St. Peter Claver, Macon

An Interview
Conducted by
Bettye Middlebrooks &
Kitty Lockard

Title
Interview with Alice Marcella Bailey, July 24, 2019, St. Peter Claver Church, Macon, GA

Description
Alice Marcella Bailey, 77, was born in Macon, Georgia to Hattie Loraine Cordelia Oliver Bailey (d. 1952) and Horace Bailey (d. 1965), the middle of three children. She attended St. Peter Claver Catholic School and [O]H Ballard High School (later named Ballard-Hudson Senior High School) in Macon, GA. She went on to Xavier University, where she earned a B.A. in economics and history in 1963. She also holds certificates from Boston College, University of Penn., NYU School of continuing education, Macon State College, and SAAP. She is retired from Independence Blue Cross (IBC) of Philadelphia, PA where she served as Communications Director. She also worked in the Philadelphia Family Court, Westinghouse Broadcasting, and as a career development counselor for the City of Macon. She continues to volunteer in the community. Bettye Middlebrooks is a longtime member of St. Peter Claver Parish in Macon, GA, and a member of the Black Catholic History Advisory Board to the Archives.

In her interview, Ms. Bailey discusses her experiences at St. Peter Claver Church and School in Macon and her relationships with religious women in the community.

Source

[Click here for Interview Audio and Transcript Index](#)

Date
July 24, 2019

From Those Who Lived It

Project video



St. Peter Claver Macon with Fr. J. Galvin

1966



St. Peter Claver Parish and School in Macon

SPCPSM, ca. 1940-50s



Oral History Confessional

Bettye Middlebrooks, left, and Carol Cummings, right



Mother Katherine Drexel

Mother Katherine Drexel, 1964



Digital Library of Georgia
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Interview with Alice Marcella Bailey, St. Peter Claver, Macon

Digital Library of Georgia
Middlebrooks, Bettye Lockard, Kitty; Interview | 20190724 02
Oral Histories from the Diocese of Savannah | Black Catholics Oral History Project



00:00:01 - Family Ties to St. Peter Claver Church
00:02:55 - Childhood memories and education at St. Peter Claver School
00:06:18 - Childhood experiences in Mass at St. Peter Claver Church
00:08:11 - School activities, including boys in a band
00:10:52 - Sister Louise Marie and Working to pay for college
00:12:22 - Moving to Philadelphia and reconnecting with her former teacher
00:14:16 - Xavier University and Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
00:15:03 - Desire to publish a book on St. Peter Claver, the person.
00:16:43 - Children in Mass

Transcript ☐ Index

Search this Index

Go

Future Goals

- More interviews
- Continue to Build Community Archive
- Promote Project
- Encourage Community to Contribute
- Continued Internship Opportunities



Thank you!!

Office of Archives & Records Management
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sbraddy@diosav.org