



(Left) Mrs. Pamela Rogers, President, St. Mary's Academy, (Center) Dr. Alvin Schexnider, (Right) Sister Sylvia Thibodeaux, former Congregational Leader, Sisters of the Holy Family.

## Virginia Catholics for Racial Justice began Black Catholic History Month with the culmination of the Henriette Delille Tiny Saints project.

The project began in April 2024, when VCRJ discovered that Tiny Saints only sold 5 of the Saintly Six: Venerable Augustus Tolton, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Mother Mary Lange, Servant of God Julia Greeley, and Servant of God Thea Bowman. Servant of God Henriette Delille, foundress of the Sisters of Holy Family, was a saint-in-waiting in production. In order to move Henriette Delille to the front of the line, a personalized order of 1,500 was required.

To complete the Saintly Six at Tiny Saints, VCRJ began working on a campaign to have the charm made. VCRJ worked with Tiny Saints' operations manager who had the creative director draft an image that best depicted Henriette Delille; Tiny Saints consulted Dr. Ansel Augustine who is an associate member of the Sisters of Holy Family and now serves as the USCCB's Assistant Director for African American affairs and Alethea Braggs who was educated by the Sisters of Holy Family



## TINY SAINTS CHARMS PRESENTED TO SAINT MARY'S ACADEMY ON ALL SAINTS DAY

and whose family had a special relationship with the order.

With pre-orders of the charm and a generous donation from one of our board members, VCRJ was able to purchase the 1,500 charms in July with production completed in August - just in time for Tiny Saints Buy-One-Get One Free Back to School Sale. VCRJ partnered with Tiny Saints to have the Saintly Six bundled as a set on their website, and we have worked with the creative team with ideas on using the Tiny Saints as a conversation starter for the Saintly Six.

With 1,500 charms, VCRJ's board voted to donate 100 charms to the Sisters of Holy Family and 800 charms to Saint Mary's Academy in New Orleans which was founded by the Sisters of Holy Family and where the two students, Ne'Kiya Jackson and Calcea Johnson, proved the Pythagorean Theorem. Dr. Alvin Schexnider, a member of the board was scheduled to be in Louisiana on business in early November, so on behalf of VCRJ, he presented the 900 charms in person at Saint Mary's on All Saints Day.

Dr. Schexnider, a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, also has a personal connection to the Sisters of Holy Family. **See below to join us for our monthly gathering on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, when he talks about the presentation in November and his new book, "Confessions of a Black Academic."**

[Purchase a copy of Dr. Schexnider's book](#)

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