

FIRST PARISHIONERS ♦ 1921

FAMILY ROLL CALL

NINA WARD

Was one year old when adopted with four additional non-biological sisters by immigrants from Barbados, Inez Foster and daughter, Imogene. The Fosters were among the pioneering group of Black Catholics under the leadership of Mr. Jules De Weever, C.C.C.
more to come.....



LOUISE EDDY

Born to an African slave on the Islands of St. Lucia 1895. As a teenager married her husband James Eddy who worked to build the **Panama Canal Zone**.
more to come.....

MSGR. BERNARD JOHN QUINN RECTOR

The **Panama Canal** took a huge toll on the health of the Caribbean workers. It was staggering. Men from Barbados, Jamaica, Bahamas, etc. were called the Silver Men, Gold Men were whites. Silvers got the worst living conditions, the worst food, the worst jobs and the least pay. Many died and didn't return home. Some immigrated to the United States, Florida, Brooklyn and S.P.C. Parish. One of them was my mother, like Louise Eddy's family. We still remained strong and determined. Did a member of your family help build the Canal?

Smithsonian Archives



St. Peter Claver 100th Anniversary

is about **ALL** of **us** no matter what church **WE** presently worship at. There was no Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Victory, Queen of All Saints, St. Matthew, Nativity, etc. for our ancestors when they wanted just to go to Mass and worship together. A Holy Rosary priest told my aunt when she entered the church for mass, "your nigger church is downtown. You are not welcomed here". St. Matthew had men with baseball bats outside to deter any person of color from entering. Then came **Father Quinn** and he changed their world of rejection to one of acceptance. Why do we acknowledge other groups "holocaust" and display compassion for them but not our own "holocaust" that has lasted for 400 years. We **"STILL CAN'T BREATHE"** whether it was from a rope or someone choking our necks. But we **must** tell our story, not for revenge or pity but for our next generations to build strong heritage knowledge, additional spiritual strength and love for our people and our enemies. One day these family stories will be found in the **Schomburg Library Research Center for Research in Black Culture**, for the World to read. **God's Blessings!**

D. Casey

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PLEASE Select **One** below to **Share Your Story:**

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