

BLACK CATHOLIC NOVEMBER 2022 HISTORY MONTH

BLACK CATHOLIC ARTISTS & ATHLETES

St. Pius V
ANTI-RACISM
& EQUITY

*rooted and grounded in
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

St. Pius V Catholic Church

November 20, 2022



SIMONE BILES by Chris Lloyd

Simone Biles is a 25 year old gymnast who holds 7 Olympic medals and is one of the most decorated gymnasts in history. She competed in the 2016 and 2020 summer Olympics and currently holds the record for most world medals. Simone was in and out of the foster care system in her early years until she was adopted by her maternal grandfather at age 6. She was raised Catholic and speaks of

her faith in her autobiography, “Courage To Soar,” that was released in 2016. As an athlete in the spotlight, she has encountered racism in the sport of gymnastics yet speaks of not letting it get in the way of doing what she loves. Similarly, she speaks of her faith as something that has always been there for her. She shares her faith to show other young people that having faith is ok and can help you through the trials of life.

REFLECTION by Sandy Anderson

Simone Biles is such an example of courage. I admire and am inspired by her recognition of God in her life as she has struggled to balance successes and the challenges she faced. With bravery and with confidence, she competes in a sport where few others are Black and determined she could overcome the racism she encountered. Although in the public spotlight, she displayed fearlessness by acknowledging and addressing her own mental health concerns and assuming the role of a mental health advocate. Her resolute conviction to personal and human dignity strengthened her to come forward and confront the experience of sexual abuse by the team doctor. Known for carrying a rosary in her gym bag and lighting candles to St. Sebastian, the patron of athletes, Simone comfortably expresses the role her Catholic faith plays in her life. She humbly attributes her restored health and her return to gymnastics as a response to a call from God.