



Father Gerry Kleba

Father Gerry Kleba was born in St. Louis, MO where he has spent all of his 84 years of life. For 59 of those years, he has been a Catholic priest mostly pastoring in Black Parishes by living and teaching the Gospel of Social Justice. He was instrumental in the founding of the Visitation Community Credit Union

and The St. Louis Association of Community Organizations, and participated in the public outcry after the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. In 2014.

From 1983 – 1985, Kleba taught two theology courses entitled The Spirituality of Social Justice and Prayer at the University of Notre Dame where he also was a leader at the University of Notre Dame CENTER FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS. In 1999 – 2000 Kleba participated in LEADERSHIP SAINT LOUIS and assisted with Pope Saint John Paul II's visit to St. Louis. Kleba is the innovator of the Black History Bus Tour having given twenty tours to 400 people before the May 16, 2025 tornado devastated much of the area and stopped the tours. With the expert videography of director Tony West, they made a multi-award-winning movie, A Black History Tour of St. Louis.

Most recently, Kleba was the spiritual advisor to Johnny Johnson, a Catholic he accompanied to his execution on Missouri death row on August 1, 2023. Kleba is an active member of Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Kleba is the author of four books, among them, ARE YOU STILL A PRIEST, True Stories of Tension and Trust. This book about his sacramental relationships with young people is his corrective response to the priest-child abuse scandal.

