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## Unheard Voices Against the Invisible Empire: Black and Catholic Responses to the Second Ku Klux Klan

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*Providence College*

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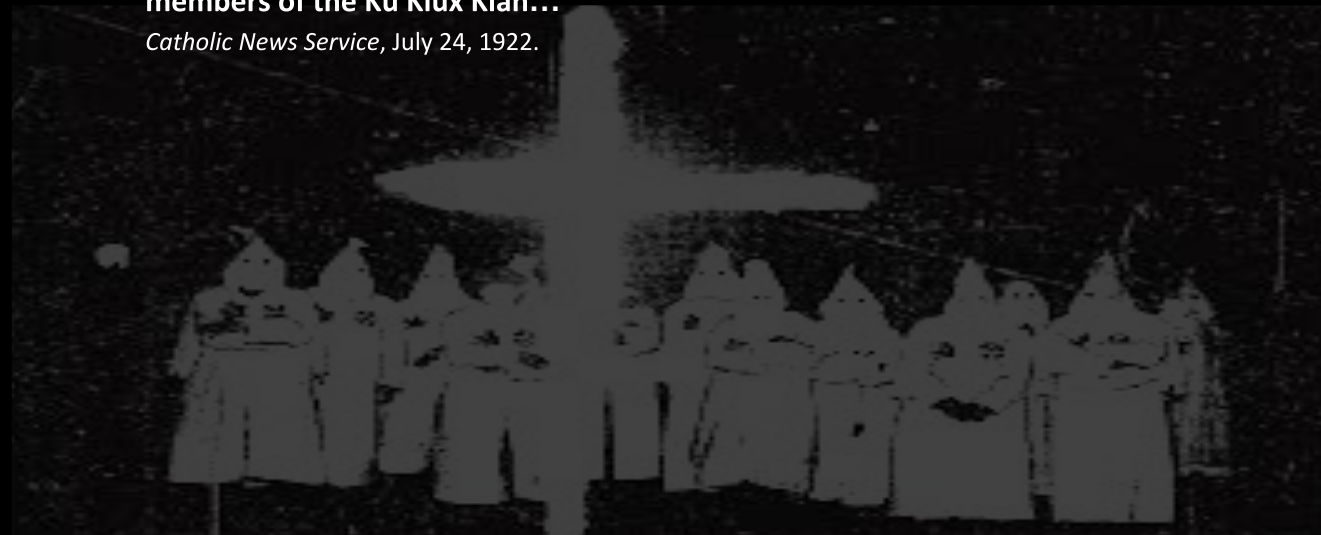
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**The district attorney, his chief deputy, the sheriff and his deputy, the county clerk, a county supervisor, some of our grand jury, irrigation district officials, and members of our school boards and the principle candidates for most of these offices, including the sheriff and the district attorney have been listed as members of the Ku Klux Klan...**

*Catholic News Service, July 24, 1922.*



**Lynching, and mob violence have supplemented orderly government. The standard has been lowered to such an extent that white women, girls and boys will revel in the orgy of burning a human being and then fight for souvenirs of its charred bones...**

*Cleveland Gazette, February 19, 1921.*

## **Findings:**

**I found that Catholic and Black Americans' understanding of Klan ideology, activity, and influence supports contemporary historians' accounts of the Klan. Klan victims recognized that the Klan was often violent, politically salient, and was well received amongst a large number of white Protestants around the country. My findings show the effectiveness of appeals to white supremacy and nativism in the United States, and the importance of victim perspective in coming to understand systems of oppression.**