



June
is...

Abortion and All Acts of Violence Awareness Month

Prayer for Life

God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, gaze upon our African American community as we pray for an end to violence and a halt to abortion among us. Touch our minds and hearts, and fix them on life and love. Turn us to seek the wisdom of our ancestors.

Jesus the Giver of Life, make us a People for Life.

Bless us, so that we may pass on a legacy of your life and grace. Strengthen us to sacrifice ourselves for each other. Shower us with your grace and mercy so that we may be sources of light and hope to those less fortunate among us.

Jesus the Giver of Life, make us a People for Life.

Bless those who are sick, broken, lonely and forgotten. Bring us all to your everlasting arms at the end of our journey with a clean heart, so that we may rest in praise and thanksgiving, joined to all who have gone before us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen! Amen! Hallelujah! Amen!

Composed by James Paul Newson,
Therese Wilson Favors and Fr. Glenn D. Parker, CSSR
Imprimatur: J. Terry Steib, SVD, Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee, May 14, 2007

National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life
St. Clare Friary, 440 West 36th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018-6326

So Scared... But We Can't Stand Still

I'm so scared! I'm so scared when I look at the news and see the faces of those broken down in grief caused by the hand of violence. That was someone's child, someone's spouse, someone's loved one; gunned down- senseless suffering. I'm so scared when the news reports more deaths today than there were yesterday. Someone abducted that pretty young girl, someone drove herself and her children into the river, someone killed that nursing student over a computer game, someone didn't get paid their drug money so murder, stabbing, shooting and bullying takes the place of concern, compassion and guidance. I'm so scared of the cruel and vicious fighting that exists among the young and not so young. I'm so scared because of this violence and the violence that comes from poverty which is running zig-zag in our families and communities. Oftentimes the violence of poverty presses down on our people and here comes an abortion, here comes the robbing of elders and the upset of safety within our community. Those gunned down or aborted could possibly be the ones who could of changed history, built a blueprint for peace, invented life-changing inventions, cure illnesses and improve the quality of life by leading families and ultimately nations. I'm so scared but I can't stand still and I can't stand still alone!

We can't remain so scared. **We** can't stand by idle, numb and still! **We** must look up to God for guidance, then get up and help those who need help the most and keep moving towards peace. **We** must invest ourselves for transformation and a better way of life. **We** must delete the excuses sometimes fashion when we are weary... **We** didn't know that child was in danger. **We** didn't see that he/she was that depressed. **We** didn't know his life was in such turmoil. **We** didn't know that she had no one to trust about the news of the pregnancy and therefore had an abortion. **We** did not know he/she was that angry! **We** did not hear them crying in the night, or saw them searching for a safe place coming home from school.

We've got to tighten up as a family and get involved with the lives of our own people. Mind someone else's business with a Jesus' love and a Jesus' level of compassion. We've got to reach out **now**, like never before. We must work unceasingly to remedy the unhealthy symptoms that surround our people. An African proverb says... "if we stop reaching out then we will surely die and scripture says in the book of Amos- "poor are they who shun their own kin". Once you shun your own people, act as if there is no interest of them, then a "shut down, death and demise" will surely follow.

For the past fourteen years the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life has designated June as a time for Black Catholics to actively raise consciousness regarding abortion and acts of violence within our community. This **June**, let's heat up our efforts by...

- Calling forth a Council of Elders within the community to evaluate and /or shape efforts of outreach and mentoring of our young folks.
- Gathering our Young to discuss strategies and avenues of peace-building, self-esteem building and anti-gang involvement.
- Sharing our faith and rebuilding moral expectations and traditions that respect life.
- Organizing Family Strategies of " A Helping Hand Up" during Family Reunions and Summer Outings. This may result in establishing a family emergency fund treasury , scholarships, special prayer and counseling circle. We can do it!
- Going down in prayer, because prayer changes things and people too.

"Black cultural tradition has always valued life and the mystery of its transmission and growth. Children have always been a sign of hope, the loss of this perspective is a cultural and spiritual impoverishment for us as a people... **(What We Have Seen and Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Catholic Bishops of the United States- September 9, 1984).**"

Let's shift from being so scared to being so active. Let's get up and keep moving for peace and the protection of life now, because so much depends on it as we walk into our future!

Written by Therese Wilson Favors (May 1, 2011)

Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live- Deuteronomy 30:19

God bless you. Please visit us at:
www.blackcatholicsforlife.org