

# GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE

we place our African American and African Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground.

Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do.

Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends.

May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity.

This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

Prayer composed by  
FR. JIM GOODE, OFM,  
who in 1989 founded this National Day of Prayer  
for the African American and African Family.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

# STAND FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN

**STAND  
FOR WHAT  
YOU  
BELIEVE  
IN**

**THE ULTIMATE**  
MEASURE OF A MAN  
IS NOT WHERE HE  
STANDS IN MOMENTS  
OF COMFORT AND  
CONVENIENCE, BUT  
WHERE HE STANDS AT  
TIMES OF CHALLENGE  
AND CONTROVERSY.

MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY**

### **FAMILY LIFE SUPPORTERS**

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION  
THE JOSEPHITES  
SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD  
ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR  
SOLID GROUND FRANCISCAN MINISTRY  
VENERABLE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
OFFICE OF BLACK MINISTRY, ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE  
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CLERGY CAUCUS  
NATIONAL BLACK SISTERS' CONFERENCE  
KNIGHT OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY  
USCCB SECRETARIAT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH



## **HOW TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY**

WORSHIP together at the Eucharistic Table  
and pray as a family on the National Day of Prayer  
for the African American and African Family

Celebrate a meal together and tell  
your FAMILY STORY

Set aside some time together to discuss  
**what you are willing to stand for:**

**Stand for what you believe in**

(feel free to add to the list)

### **I WILL STAND FOR**

Jesus Christ, the same  
yesterday and forever

The Eucharist

Respect Life

Justice and Peace

The end of racism and hate

The end of abortion all acts

of violence

### **I WILL STAND FOR**

Respect for the family

especially our elders

Respect for our women

and children

### **I WILL STAND FOR**

the protection of

our environment and

all creation

### **I WILL STAND**

With the poor and  
oppressed

With the forgotten,  
unwanted and unwelcome.

### **A WORK OF MERCY**

As a family prepare and give a meal  
to a family in need in your Church or local  
community on this the National Day of Prayer for the  
African American and African Family