

FIRST SUNDAY OF  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**FEBRUARY 6,  
2011**

*Celebrating*  
**GOD'S  
GOODNESS  
AND MERCY**



God of Mercy and Love we place our African American 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.

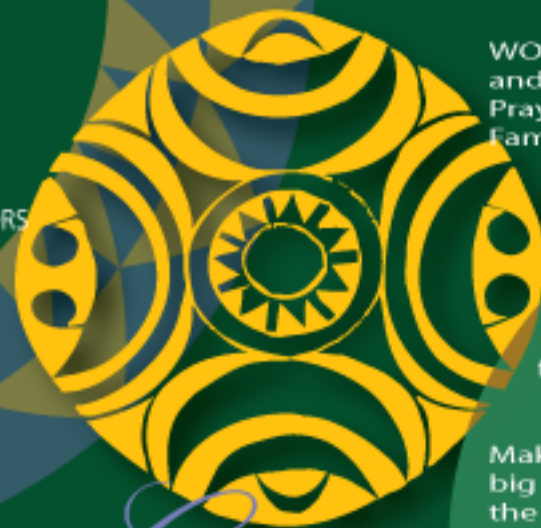
**NATIONAL  
DAY OF PRAYER  
FOR THE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
AND AFRICAN FAMILY**

# Celebrating

## GOD'S GOODNESS AND MERCY

### SUPPORTERS

BLESSED SACRAMENT SISTERS  
FRANCISCAN HANDMAIDS OF MARY  
HOLY FAMILY SISTERS  
KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC  
YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CATHOLIC ADMINISTRATORS  
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE  
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CLERGY CAUCUS  
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS  
NATIONAL BLACK SISTERS' CONFERENCE  
OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE  
ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR PROVINCE OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD  
SOLID GROUND FRANCISCAN MINISTRY  
THE JOSEPHITES  
USCCB SECRETARIAT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH  
BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION OFFICE



*God's  
Goodness and  
Mercy follow us  
all the days of  
our lives*

### 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 to read the FAMILY BIBLE. Say a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, for the needs of all families throughout the world.

Make a FAMILY RESOLUTION no matter how big or small, on the National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family. Strive to fulfill that resolution throughout the year.

Join in SOLIDARITY with our African sisters and brothers in the Motherland, as we pray for their needs and their families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
[www.solidgroundministry.com](http://www.solidgroundministry.com)

Celebrating


## GOD'S GOODNESS AND MERCY



Embrace this true truth... if you dwell in the house of the Lord, then "goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life." Somebody ought to say "victory" and all of us ought to get to somebody's Church on Sunday!

Sunday, that's the day of thanking God for carrying you over and covering you with his grace and mercy. It was once said that when we walk into the house of the Lord and place our hands into the holy water to make the sign of the cross, it is to remember that God can still part the "Red Sea" of our lives' bringing us safely through one week to another. Somebody ought to say "victory" for God's goodness and mercy endures and will follow us all the days of our lives (*Psalm 23:6*). In fact, we ought to be running to Church to worship our God as often as we can because our God is able and omnipotent!

Pope Benedict XVI speaks of the power of worship ... "Liturgy testifies to the fact that something greater is taking place here than can be brought about by any individual, community or group of people. Liturgy/Worship expresses the gift of joy, the gift of participation in the cosmic drama of Christ's Resurrection" (*The Feast of Faith* by Pope Benedict XVI). Somebody ought to say... "God's goodness and mercy endures and will follow us all the days of our lives" (*Psalm 23:6*). Victory is ours for Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ will surely come again!



At least on Sunday, you ought to be in somebody's Church giving some face time to the God who can "make a way out of no way." Ezekiel, the prophet was called by God to remind the Israelite community about the sacredness of the Sabbath. God spoke through the prophet... "I gave them my Sabbaths to be a sign between me and them, to show that it was I, the Lord, who made them holy " (*Ezekiel 20:12*). This takes the importance of worship to yet another level- it's to sanctify us. "Jesus Christ through the Eucharist opens the way to the impossible, to communion between God and man, since he, the incarnate Word, is this communion " (*Pope Benedict XVI- Behold the Pierced One*) In other words, you've got to be in it (Church) to win it (salvation through Jesus Christ). Somebody ought to say ... "God's goodness and mercy endures and will follow us all the days of our lives " (*Psalms 23:6*).

Sunday, is the traditional time when Our Families get together, pray together and share together. On this first Sunday of Black History Month, let's worship together at the Eucharistic Table and pray as a Family on the National Day of Prayer for African American and African Families. Let's celebrate a meal together and tell family stories remembering our ancestors and elders. Let's pray together and ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God to sojourn with us in prayer for the needs of all our families throughout the world. Let's make a Family Resolution no matter how big or small to strengthen our Families. Why... because "God's goodness and mercy endures and will follow us all the days of our lives " (*Psalms 23:6*).

