

# NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE

WITNESSING THE GOSPEL OF LOVE AND THE GOSPEL OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY

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## Kwanzaa For Life

2006-2007

National Black Catholic Apostolate for  
Life  
Jesus, Giver of Life, make us people for  
life!



### Kwanzaa for Life

Once again we have the opportunity to rededicate our Christian commitment to respect life.

Kwanzaa for Life offers us a prayerful meditation to recall the seven principles of *Umoja* (Unity), *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination), *Umoja* (Collective Work and Responsibility), *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics), *Nia* (Purpose), *Kuumba* (Creativity), and *Imani* (Faith). In prayer we answer the call to commitment to these principles in our daily lives. We remember old ways and discover new ways to make our communities and our lives more loving and more beautiful.

We celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus into our lives so that we may share that life with others. We recall His words to us in John's gospel: *'I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.'* (John 10:10)

As we celebrate, we pray that the Lord may grant us sight until His revealing light dawns upon our human view. May His Incarnation bid us to answer the call to faithful service so that we may share His life!

Kwanzaa for Life 2006 composed by

James P. Newson, Jr.,

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New York, NY

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*These values are called the Nguzo Saba which  
in Swahili means the Seven Principles.  
Developed by Dr. Karenga, the Nguzo Saba  
stand at the heart of the origin and meaning of  
Kwanzaa, for it is these values, according to  
Dr. Karenga, which are not only the building  
blocks for our African American community but  
also serve to reinforce and enhance them."*

[www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org](http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org)



Jesus, may  
we... be in the  
Light...walk in  
the Light... talk  
in the  
Light...pray in  
the Light... act in  
the Light!

### The Kinara of the Soul

The Kinara is a seven-  
place candle holder that  
represents the original  
stalk from which all  
African people sprung.

It also represents  
reason and social  
structure. In Kwanzaa for  
Life it represents the  
soul of each individual,  
the vessel which  
contains the  
spirit of life.



The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life was inaugurated in the fall of 1997, with the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the Franciscan Solid Ground Ministry as sponsors and with the support of John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York and the Archdiocese's Office of Black Ministry.

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Director

### UMOJA UNITY

The world works to divide us. Often we would rather be only concerned for self. Teach us to reject division and choose unity. In Christ there is no East nor West, no South nor North, no superior nor inferior. All that God created is good.

RESPONSE: JESUS, GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US PEOPLE FOR LIFE!

### KUJICHAGULIA SELF-DETERMINATION

The world defines who we are. Often we would rather seek to image ourselves as those we are not. Teach us to recognize who we are and whose we are. Help us to learn how to allow others to know and love themselves. All that God created is good.

RESPONSE: JESUS, GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US PEOPLE FOR LIFE!

### UJIMA COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY

The world often instructs us to blame others for our misfortunes. We are encouraged to work and hoard our life-giving resources for our own benefit. Teach us to share responsibility for our communities. Help us to work together in your name for the common good. Maybe then we can see a new day filled with generosity of spirit to share with others.

RESPONSE: JESUS, GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US PEOPLE FOR LIFE!

### UJAMAA COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS

The world continues to entice us to squander our wealth and resources. Lord Jesus, in business grant us the wisdom to choose as you would have us choose. May we choose in favor of those who uphold our inherent dignity and support our growth.

RESPONSE: JESUS, GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US PEOPLE FOR LIFE!

### NIA PURPOSE

The world helps us to forget why we are here. Jesus said to love God with all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus said it. We believe it. We ask Him to help us answer the call to love and serve so that we may return to greatness.

RESPONSE: JESUS, GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US PEOPLE FOR LIFE!

### KUUMBA CREATIVITY

The world often shows us images of ways to self-destruct and destroy others. Guide us, Lord, to use our creative gifts to give or enhance life for ourselves and others. Bless us and continue to enrich our creativity. Holy Spirit make our hearts like unto yours!

RESPONSE: JESUS, GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US PEOPLE FOR LIFE!

## **IMANI FAITH**

The world abounds with cries of fear, doubt, and confusion. Bread of Life, feed us with the strength of our ancestors who knew how to keep hope alive each day by day. Give us the faith to shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, console the grieving and the broken hearted, comfort the sick and the dying, give solace to those in despair and danger, teach the ignorant, and bring joy to all.

**RESPONSE:** JESUS, GIVER OF LIFE, MAKE US PEOPLE FOR LIFE!

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**NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE**

### **KWANZAA FOR LIFE 2006**

(December 26, 2006  
through January 1, 2007)

#### **Let Us Also Offer The Following Prayer:**

♦During **Kwanzaa** for **Life**, let us also offer the following prayers:  
The Lord's Prayer,  
The Marian Prayer (Hail Mary),  
Psalm 27  
and

#### **Kwanzaa for Life Prayer**

Lord, our God, Giver of Life, make us people for life as we celebrate the festival of Kwanzaa and the African American heritage. Shine on our thanks and praise for life. Strengthen us with your grace and mercy, so that we may choose life. Guide us to respect life from its beginning to its natural end. Help us to always be true to our nature as you created us because all that you made is good. Finally, lead us on to eternal glory with you our Creator, our Inspiration, our Redeemer, our Sanctifier, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth Hymns....

The Lord Is My Light #132 Lead Me, Guide Me or This Little Light of Mine #190 LMGM or Lead Me, Guide Me #168 LMGM or Go Tell It on the Mountain #22 LMGM

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