

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 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 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.

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JESUS
 Giver of Life
 Make us a
FAMILY
 FOR LIFE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

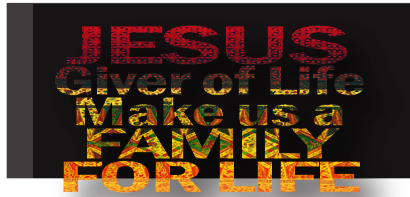
www.solidgroundministry.com



PRAYER

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 Family.



The three Magi had just left. All was quiet around them and then "the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him. Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt." (Matthew 2:13-14)

In a dream, Joseph got the message. It was time to rise up and re-build his family. Their family's life was in peril. There was no time to waste. There was no time for ambiguity. When God dispatches angel's to you for your aide, the only time one has is for obedience.

However how swiftly Joseph took haste to the messenger's warning, somewhere in his mind, somewhere in his heart, Joseph had to of come to the revelation that as long as he was with Jesus, the giver of life, He would make them a family for life.

This is the lesson we glean from today's theme for African American families. As long as we place Jesus in the center of our families, he will give us the life and strength to climb every mountain and walk on water even if there are raging seas. Our Lord Jesus will never leave us or abandon us. Jesus who gives life will help us in becoming a family for life.

Our families are far too precious to us. Let's not wait for an emergency or a disaster to engulf our families before we call on the name of the Lord for a blessing of deliverance and a breath of new life. Blessed are the families who constantly invite Jesus into the

very fabric of their existence. Blessed are the families who stand on the promise of Jesus when He said, "I have come to give life and give it to the full". Blessed are the families who take seriously Jesus' teaching... "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him (them) and we will come to him (them), and make our dwelling with him (them)." Here, Jesus gives a promise that he knows that He can keep. Ain't no stopping our Lord, when it comes to delivering a love potion for eternity. It's all about life and Jesus is always on the side for life. Jesus, giver of life, make us a family for life.

The question is have you and your family decided to follow Jesus, the giver of life? YES, Lord, YES! So, in the various dreams we have for our families, let us stay vigilant in always being people of life. This means, supporting each other in a life giving way, holding family as a sacred ministry and supporting those who are with child for the African proverb says... no one knows in whose womb the king lies! It also means helping out to sustain life for those especially burdened with sickness and disease. Since Jesus is the giver of life, we ask Him to help us be a family for life in all of our situations and in all of our issues even when faced with the morality of capital punishment. Jesus, giver of life, make us a family for life.

On this day of family reunion in prayer for the African American family let's hitch our caboose to the right train. That's the train where Jesus, the giver of life is the Conductor, taking us on the midnight train to glory, travelling to a higher ground of understanding and a deeper level of love and togetherness so that we may become a family for life. There's no turning back, no turning back. Jesus, the giver of life, make us a family FOR LIFE.

THERESE WILSON FAVORS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY