

June is...

All Acts of Violence *and* Abortion 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!

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A Revolution Is Warranted...

It's a revolutionary thing to go against the grain of a "that's the way it is" attitude. When it comes to combating violence and raising awareness of the affects and effects of abortion on our people, a revolution is warranted. Things just can't stay the same. Too many lives have been turned upside down and inside out because of violence and abortion. Let's do something dramatic now to address this wave of evil running zig-zag in our communities and within our nation. This evil is tearing lives apart. Far too many youth have witnessed horrific scenes that our elders never thought would perpetrate their lives or the lives of these young ones. Something dramatic needs to happen... perhaps a revolution immersed in prayer is warranted to end these prolonged stays of suffering within our times.

We are people of faith, a great crowd of witnesses, who have seen first-hand what people of faith who follow Jesus can do when they fix their souls, minds, hearts and will on a purpose, a destiny that can transform lives. Faith has taught us as Dr. Cyprian Rowe once said... "the mightier the purpose, the mightier the power exerted by God on those who embrace goodwill." St. Paul reminds us as he writes about his faith journey in following Jesus that "Christ lives within me... and I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given up himself for me... and nothing can nullify the grace of God (Galatians 2:20,21)."

We've got what it takes to initiate a revolution Church! So, let's mobilize our resources and jumpstart the revolution. For God's grace keeps pace with whatever we face. It's a worthy purpose to pull together and use our spiritual resources to do something dramatic and put to rest that zig-zag evil call violence. It's a worthy purpose to speak heart to heart to our sisters and brothers who are contemplating abortion instead of just yelling at them. Remember, scripture says, "for those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God (Romans 8: 14). We can go against the grain of a "that's the way it is" attitude and provoke a revolution of peace and good will. Because we are God's children and we are covered by God's love.

"What then shall we say to this (revolution)? *If God is for us who can be against us?*... For I am convinced that neither death, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:31, 38,39)." With God's grace and with God's love, what then can separate us or distract us from giving love to our own brothers and sisters. The "Way-Maker" has given us what we need. Our ancestors and elders of faith have carved footprints for us to follow. With our eyes fixed on Jesus, let's start a **revolution**. Let's mobilize, move forward and ignite that **revolution** 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 Discussion Forums or Workshops** on this topic at every National Gathering of Blacks Catholics during 2013-2014. We have some tremendous organizations who have the heart of our people as the center of the AGENDA. Let's utilize the spiritual and relational strength we have among ourselves for... We've got a revolution to uphold.
- **Proposing and Utilizing 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 circles. We can do it!
- **Going down in prayer**, because prayer changes things and people too. Remember, Brothers and Sisters... *If God is for us who can be against us?*

By Therese Wilson Favors



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