

# Abortion & All Acts of Violence Awareness Month



#### **Prayer for Life**

od, 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.

#### Vesus 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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Imprimatur: J. Terry Steib, SVD, Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee, May 14, 2007
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<a href="https://www.blackcatholicsforlife.org">www.blackcatholicsforlife.org</a>

### June is ...

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**B**aby girl was just skipping across the street. Her right hand was clasped inside the left hand of her older girl cousin. Then, the unexpected happen. Shots rung out and another innocent young daughter of Eve fell to the ground. Baby girl was struck down and now laid in her own blood. How did that bullet find her? *Kyrie eleison* 

One minute, Baby girl was full of life and laughter, the next minute she was fighting for her life. Why has such strife and destruction arisen among some in such a way that the innocent become victims for just being in their own neighborhood? *Christe eleison* 

Every life has value! How dare any of us fall asleep in apathy when any life can be struck down in seconds, wiped out for just walking across the street or snuffed out of the womb without a chance of revealing God's image to the world? *Kyrei eleison* 

Death and violence is too often running zig-zag in the community. This is unacceptable! The Mission of the National Black Catholic Apostolate is to pray, proclaim and stand boldly for an end of abortion, all acts of violence, evil and injustice that destroy the sacredness of life. This is a constant and ongoing mission. However in *June*, let's heat up our efforts 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.
- Going down in prayer, because prayer changes things and people too.

"Black cultural tradition has always valued life and the mystery of its transmission and growth. Children have always been a sign of hope, the loss of this perspective is a cultural and spiritual impoverishment for us as a people... (What We Have Seen and Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Catholic Bishops of the United States- September 9, 1984)."

Choose life, that you and your descendants may live- Deuteronomy 30:19

