



Reverence For Life

A publication of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life

Pray, Proclaim and Promote the Gospel of Life

Over 56 NBCAL
Affiliates

In the
United States

National Head-
Quarters

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**This edition of
Reverence For Life
is dedicated to the
Life and Memory
of Rosa Parks**

Articles for this
edition were submitted
by
various persons in the
community.

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Remember Kwanzaa

By James Newson

Once again the end of the year holidays are quickly approaching. Once again, we have the opportunity to rededicate our Christian commitment to respect life. Kwanzaa offers us a perfect chance to set goals for the New Year. The framework of Kwanzaa allows us to redirect our life journey according to seven principles: UMOJA (Unity), KUJICHAGULIA (Self-Determination), UJIMA (Collective

Work and Responsibility), UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics), NIA (Purpose), KUUMBA (Creativity), and IMANI (Faith).

A worthwhile look at how we measured up in the past year can help us focus and refine our path for the coming year. This year of 2005 has come with its set of challenges both collective (for example- hurricanes, earthquakes, war,



Rosa Parks—Mother of Civil Rights

February 4, 1913—October 24, 2005

The spark that ignited a nation's conscience.

terrorism) and personal (for example- sickness, aging, death, poverty, rejection).

Only God knows what 2006 has in store for us. However, one thing we do know is that if we are blessed to see another year, it is **(over)**

Black Catholic Rosary Across America For Life

Each year in January a special day is designated when African American Catholics and others pray the rosary for our most critical community needs. The history of

Catholicism reveals that specific promises were given by the Blessed Mother to Saint Dominic and Blessed Alan in the twelfth century for Christians who recite

the Rosary. It is believed that praying the rosary is so appealing to the Blessed Mother that she is inclined to aid spontaneously those who suffer.

(over)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrate the Family—Celebrate Life

We invite African Americans and all the family of God to gather in prayer as we celebrate the 17th Annual National Day of Prayer for the African American Family 2006 on Sunday, February 3, 2006, the first Sunday of Black History Month.

Pope Benedict XVI in speaking about the family said: "Christians today should recognize the urgent call to pro-

claim and bear witness to the Gospel of life and the family, in all its fullness." So let us as African American Catholics, kick off Black History Month 2006, as a praying and praising family unconditionally defending the sacredness of life.

The NDPAAF 2006 theme is "God's Ever Present Help – Keeps Us Keeping On". We hear these words echoed in Psalm 121:2 "My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth".

World Aids Day

will soon be made real.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that there may be an estimated 40,000 Americans newly infected with HIV each year, and at least one-fourth of the 950,000 Americans who are HIV positive, do not know it. New CDC data indicates that in 2003 between 1,039,000 and 1,185,000 people were living with HIV. To help raise awareness the Secretariat for African American Catholics in collaboration with the National Catholic AIDS Network, the Na-

The National Day of Prayer which was founded by Father James E. Goode, OFM, Ph.D in 1989, will be available in a CD format as well as the printed version. For order forms and additional information please contact the USCCB:Secretariat for African American Catholics:
www.usccb.org/saac
Or call 202 541-3177.

tional Black Catholic Congress, and the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs have developed liturgical resources, information sheets and handouts to inform the public of this crisis. Please visit
www.usccb.org/saac.

Kwanzaa (continued)

incumbent upon us to model our path after the choice of the wise bridesmaids of Matthew's gospel,
Kwanzaa for Life offers us a prayerful meditation to recall each principle and a

A Christmas Meditation

Why does a surge of warm-heartedness stand out during the Christmas season? Is it because, despite our best intentions, goodwill towards men can easily become a seasonal event rather than a standing policy?

When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives. It can be hard work to practice good will towards one another. This Christmas season, let us recognize that just as faith is a decision, good will towards people is a series of decisions that work themselves out not in temporary holiday cheer but in the details of everyday life.

Rosary (continued)

On **January 23, 2006** we will remember the Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision, the magnitude of poverty and homelessness from the Gulf Port disaster, injustice and racism as Black Catholics and others engage in pious meditation on the mysteries of the rosary.

call to commitment in our daily lives. We must continually find new ways and rekindle old ways to make our communities and our lives more loving and more beautiful.

With that spirit, renew your acceptance to uphold the sacredness of life as you celebrate with us Kwanzaa for Life 2005!

This past Thursday, **December 1, 2005** **World Aids Day** was commemorated around the world. It is a special international observance which calls the attention of people to the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS both domestically and internationally. Bishop Joseph Perry, chairman of the Bishops Committee on African American Catholics and the Committee on Hispanic Affairs, invites you to join the prayers of others during this season of Advent in hope that an end to this epidemic