

GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE

we place our African American and African 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 and African Family



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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY



*Rooted in Faith:
Reclaiming, Restoring, & Healing
the Village*

FEBRUARY 1, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RECLAIMING & HEALING THE VILLAGE: A PRAYERFUL REFLECTION ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY TODAY

By Dr. Ansel Augustine

Today, in a very intentional way, we take some time to give God glory for the African American and African family—a sacred institution forged through faith, resilience, and an unyielding hope that has endured across generations. Amid today's realities—economic uncertainty, social division, violence, and the lingering wounds of injustice—we lift our families before God and pray for healing, strength, and restoration.



The African American family has always been more than a household; it is a living testimony of God's sustaining grace. From the days of enslavement, when families were threatened with separation, to the Civil Rights Movement, where faith-filled households nurtured courage and resistance, God has moved through our human affairs called family. Generation after generation, we have felt God's embrace—sometimes through a praying grandmother, a steadfast parent, a church community, or a village that refused to let us fall.

Yet today, many of our families are weary. Invisible wounds—trauma, grief, broken relationships, family betrayal, abandonment, and systemic inequities—are often the hardest to heal. These wounds fester when justice is delayed, when voices go unheard, and when

love is replaced by indifference. Still, God reminds us of the South African philosophy of “Ubuntu (I am because we are)” which calls us to pay attention to our interconnectedness. It is in this place of interconnectedness where healing can be found. Healing begins when love, patience, understanding, and true justice are practiced within our homes and extended into our communities. May we continue to forgive ourselves, as we forgive those who trespass against us, while pressing forward to create a more just society for all.

The African American and African family remains a wellspring of hope. Our deepest dreams have never been singular; they are communal, rooted in the belief that none of us rise alone. This shared journey reminds us that reconciliation is holy work. Jesus modeled a faith that restores rather than cancels, that heals rather than abandons. In times when family bonds feel fragile, we are called to step back and ask what love looks like in action.

On this National Day of Prayer for the African American and African family, we, once again, ask God to place Himself at the center of our families. May God shelter us in times of trouble, guide us in difficult decisions, and renew our commitment to one another. As we pray for our families, we also pray for our village—trusting that God is still working, still healing, and still calling us forward in faith.



Ubuntu (I am because we are)