

*G*OD 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

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

FOR THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND AFRICAN
FAMILY

*Bless our
Families
Heal our
Land*

*35th
Year*

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

BLESS OUR FAMILIES. HEAL OUR LAND... THIS WE PRAY

Therese Wilson Favors

Today we take pause to give God the glory for Family. We pause to take note of the divine beauty of God's creation called Family and we seek God's blessings on our Families. Some say that Family is God's way of giving us a love hug. Generation after generation we have seen God's hug of love manifest itself. It shows that God moves through and within our human affairs called Family. Family is not only a collection of people... it is a continued journey of a people's connection with God and an expression of the values of that family. In this, we realize that our deepest hopes and dreams are never singular... not just for one person. Rather, they are always connected to others. It is a journey of Us! That is why we pause to pray for our Families and to seek God's blessing and governance over our Family. God is "Our Father".

Here's some spiritual wisdom as we pray for our Family. Always be on the ready to place God in the middle of the Family, especially when serious decisions need to be made. God is our shelter and our strength, always ready to help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). Always step back and look at what Jesus would do when relationships among the Family are fragile and weary. Remember that Jesus instituted Christianity as a culture of reconciliation rather than a cancellation of a person or a people. Wounds can fester when disagreements, challenges and broken relationships show up. In these situations ... go get some supernatural help from God. He moves through human affairs. We all know that

invisible wounds are the hardest to heal. Their closure depends on God's grace and the love of others with patience, understanding and justice. Jesus says that the golden rule of life is Do to others whatever you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12).

This same strategy of healing is warranted in these times within our land. Wounds are festering and there is a lot of pain out there. Let's look to God's Word and God's Ways to find a healing ointment. In places that are in need of healing...Work towards reconciliation with love, patience and true justice. Do all your work in love (1 Corinthians 16:14) and remember that God never stops working (John 5:17). Let us therefore lean on the Lord, for great is God's faithfulness and His mercies endure forever.

