

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.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY



**GOD'S
MERCY
PULLS US
THROUGH
GOD'S
MERCY
PULLS US
THROUGH
GOD'S
MERCY
PULLS US
THROUGH**

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

FIRST SUNDAY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

GOD'S MERCY PULLS US THROUGH

O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good and His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 136:1)

Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be. Surely there are at least a million zillion testimonies that can attest to that. God's mercy is ever present and always on time. O give thanks unto the Lord; for God is good and His mercy endures forever. Somebody understands the potency of God's enduring mercy and God's ability to administer that mercy, right on time...

Remember that time when tragedy hit the family at the midnight hour. It was God who held our hands and our hearts. God's mercy and faithfulness pulled us through the night and brought us into the light. Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be! God's mercy endures forever and it is always on time.

Remember that time when the child was "changing lanes in life" and almost slipped into that street called "Sinking Sand"? It was God who pulled that child through; caught that child and placed that child safely on solid ground.

Remember that time when the burning heat of a disappointing relationship burden our family. God's mercy pulled us out of the oven and God still shows up over and over again if the heat gets too hot. Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be! God's mercy endures forever and is always on time.

Remember that time when we were sick with sorrow, missing a loved one gone to glory or the time we found ourselves in the hospital bed. Then God's mercy pulled us through. God bent low and whispered in our ear..."hold on, just a little bit longer."

Remember that time when we experienced sinking funds in both wallet and pocketbook! God's mercy pulled us through like a loan officer and enlarged our territory. Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be! His mercy endures forever.

Remember that time when fear pulsated through our lives and whirled through our journey. In an instant, God pulled us through and flipped that fear into faith. Now we rest in the blessed assurance that God's mercy will travel with us wherever we set our foot.

For all the times, God brought us through... For all the times God pulled us through... For all the times God caught us, carried us and kept us gives reason for our families to celebrate. God's mercy has visited our families and pulled us through. Let's participate in God's ministry of mercy to each other by pulling each other through with some love and prayers in good times and through challenging times. If there are some broken places within the family, let's pull each other through, reconciling all that separates us from each other. And while we are pulling each other through... Let's participate in God's ministry of mercy, caring for the earth we live on as our common House. This House is another manifestation of God's mercy, remembering that God made the birds, the bees, the trees, mountains, the fish in the sea, animals of all kind and the stars, sun and moon before Adam and Eve. Mercy! God's creation warrants some of our mercy and respect. Because You and Me and all of God's creation is the spoken word of God's imagination.

Family, here is the lesson learned and it is so important in our faith walk; "Faith rises every time when we recognize the many times when God steps in with MERCY and pulls us through." Indeed, God's mercy has pulled us through. God's mercy gives joy. For in the words of Pope Francis, "Wherever there is JOY, there is Jesus." O give thanks, for "Jesus Joy" for God is good and His mercy endures forever. Amen

THERESE WILSON FAVORI

