

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

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The
Journey

Trusted and Tested **OUR GOD IS MERCIFUL**

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Not ashamed to shout it and tell the whole world about it!

Let us stir up an attitude of gratitude in praise for Our God's infinite mercy and love. No one or nothing can outdo God's mercy extended to us even when we don't recognize God's unchanging hand. As we journey towards holiness and slip and slide through life, God's mercy has been the safety net catching us, preventing us from downward spirals that could propel us into a grave of deathly situations and spiritual disasters. We all have testimonies when we have been tested and found that God's grace and mercy keeps pace with whatever we face. You can trust in God's mercy.

In "The Face of God" Pope Francis writes... "Mercy is the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us." Yes, we have met God's mercy and it has strengthen us along the journey. God's mercy has allowed us to spiritually ascend from some dark places and slippery corridors of our lives. We recognize that the hand of God has led us and guided us when we were broke, busted and disgusted. Great is God's Mercy, Trusted and Tested! We recognize that time and time again, that Jesus; the face of mercy, showed up in our lives as we travelled our road to Emmaus or when the heat in our kitchen got so hot and needed to be turned down. Great is God's Mercy... for the Lord is our Shepherd there is nothing we shall want. God gives cool breeze when we need to lay down in His verdant Pastures. We know that God's grace and mercy always rushes in right on time when there is floating chaos in our lives. We respect and recognize that God's grace is bigger than the challenge we face. We understand the language of "holding on" and we've been fueled by the power that comes from the realization that we only got through, only got over by the Grace and Mercy of God. Our spiritual path must be drenched in showing mercy to each other in our Families, in our Communities, and in our World.

Trusted and Tested Our God is merciful. Our God comes to meet us in His acts of mercy so... Have no anxiety at all... Instead, shout your testimony and tell the whole world about it! Share the Journey... That is how we Praise God.

Therese Willson Favors

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**HOW TO
CELEBRATE
THIS DAY**

WORSHIP together at the Eucharistic Table and pray as a family on the National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family.

Celebrate a meal together and tell your **FAMILY STORY**.

Set aside some time to read the **FAMILY BIBLE**.

Say a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, for the needs of all families throughout the world.

As a family let us prepare and give a meal to a family in need in our Church or local community in this the National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family.

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Join in **SOLIDARITY** with our African sisters and brothers in the Motherland, as we pray for their needs and their families.

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(partial listing)

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