

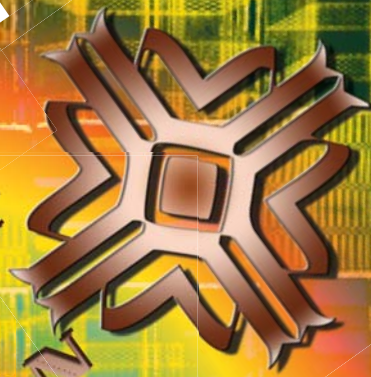
CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

AND LOVE OF MERCY GOD

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.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

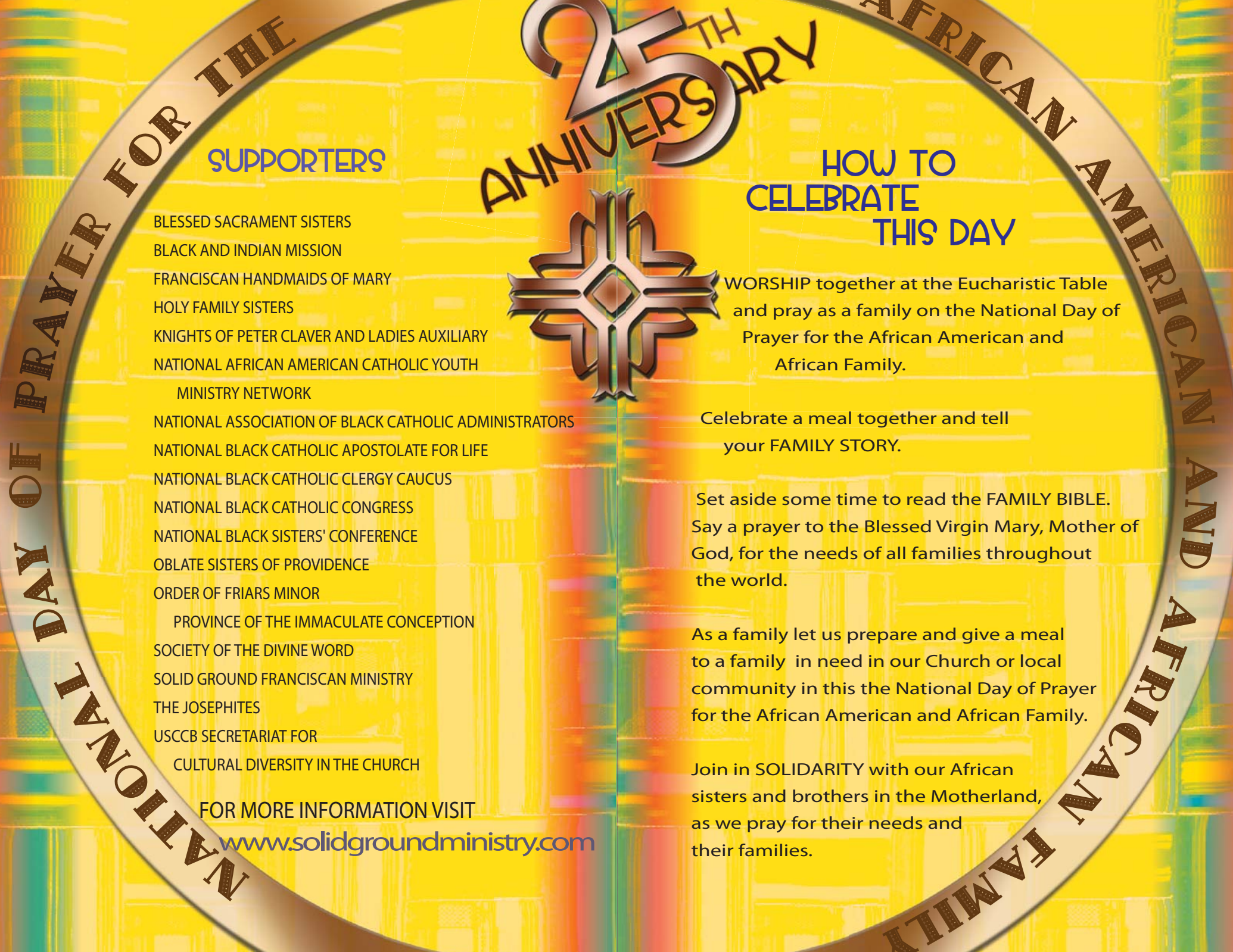


NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

PRAY AS THOUGH EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON GOD. WORK AS THOUGH EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON YOU.

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

FEBRUARY 2, 2014



25TH ANNIVERSARY

SUPPORTERS

- BLESSED SACRAMENT SISTERS
- BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION
- FRANCISCAN HANDMAIDS OF MARY
- HOLY FAMILY SISTERS
- KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY
- NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CATHOLIC ADMINISTRATORS
- NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE
- NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CLERGY CAUCUS
- NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS
- NATIONAL BLACK SISTERS' CONFERENCE
- OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE
- ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR
- PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
- SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD
- SOLID GROUND FRANCISCAN MINISTRY
- THE JOSEPHITES
- USCCB SECRETARIAT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.solidgroundministry.com

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.

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

HAND OVER YOUR LIFE TO GOD



It comes a time and perhaps not just one time in your life when each of us reaches the conclusion that... it is time to hand over our lives to God. There's no choice in the matter when a mother delivers a child; praying, hoping and praying some more that all will go well with the delivery and baby child will grow up healthy, safe, strong and wise. There's no choice in the matter, so why not knock on God's door and hand your life over to God. God stands at the door, waiting for you to recognize His great faithfulness, presence and power. God welcomes you into the high altar of grace, deliverance and the "blessed assurance" that God can make a way out of no way. St. Teresa of Avila once said, "You pay God a compliment by asking great things from God". At the moment of Sojourner Truth's conversion, being touched by God's omnipotent presence while going through a struggle, her words were, "God, I did not know you were so BIG!" Trust and believe that our "Big GOD" hears your voice when you stand on the other side of the door with fear in your heart and adversity chancing you down. No disease, no evil, no financial breakdown can bring you down when God stands in the gap for You! Don't be afraid to trust an unknown future to our known BIG GOD. Jesus said... "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me (John 14:1). This gives great confidence to those who are scared for their lives and enables them to turn the page of adversity and commence a new chapter of life-changing experiences with our BIG GOD. Therefore, hand over your life to God, for God is able.

Perhaps, this sentiment is the root of the story of St. Augustine of Hippo. For years, St. Monica, mother to Augustine had prayed for the conversion of her son. His life was full of activities foreign and opposite of God's way. Eventually after years of twisting and turning (in these foreign ways) Augustine handed himself over to God. In his conversion he said, "we are restless until we rest in God." There is no rest in our lives until we rest in God. GOD is BIG and can do BIG things. God is always ready to cover us with His love, mercy and compassion. So let's hand ourselves over to GOD and get some rest!

As St. Augustine grew in faith, he was known to say, "pray as though everything depended on God (that means he handed his life over to God) and work as though everything depended on you (that means that Augustine became available and felt accountable in participating in God's project of transformation-the salvation of humankind).

When you hand over your life to God, big things will gird your stride for the journey. God guarantees, "Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow (Lyrics to "Great Is Thou Faithfulness")." David writes in Psalm 34:3, "I sought the Lord, who answered me and God delivered me from all my fears". For, "the Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed (Psalm 34:19)." Stay encouraged for "All I have needed God's hand has provided. Great is thou faithfulness God unto me (Lyrics to "Great Is Thou Faithfulness")." This is the faith of our ancestors so, why not hand over your life to God who delivers without delay.

So Brothers and Sisters, as we celebrate this twenty fifth anniversary of African American and African Catholic Familyhood, let's hand over our lives and our families to God. Let's stand together in our families, stirring the "pot of prayer" in our kitchens, sharing and living the Word of God in our living rooms and resting in the arms of our God in our bedrooms . For God's arms are not too short to reach us and God's ears are not deaf to our every call and plea. Let us seek rest in those places from the same God that St. Augustine called on, whispering the name of Jesus on our knees before we sleep and as we rise for "we are restless until we rest in God." This is how we "hand over our lives to God". It is the story of the saints of old and is the essence of life for the saints in waiting. Let us this day "hand over our lives to God, before some new entanglement tries to hold us bondage. Let's hand ourselves over to God now, without delay for our God is watching and waiting to do those BIG things that only GOD can do. To God be the Glory!

THERESE WILSON FAVORS

