

in a  
**Word**<sup>TM</sup>

A Publication of The Society of the Divine Word, Southern Province

Volume 32, No. 1 January 2014



**Celebrating 25th Year  
of National Day of  
Prayer for the African  
American Family**

Photos by Rev. James Pawicki, SVD



COD  
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.

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY



25<sup>TH</sup>  
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

## in a word or two

### Announcing the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "National Day of Prayer for African American and African Family" February 2, 2014

Rev. James Goode, OFM is pleased to announce the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer for African American and African Family. This year the Day of Prayer will be held on February 2, 2014.

The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity to come together with one purpose and unity in support of African American and African Family.

Under the theme "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." ( St. Augustine of Hippo) Father Goode says "We will focus on working together to build a protective environment for our families. We are grateful to the many religious communities, national organizations, parishes and schools who continue to support the National Day of Prayer."

Please click on the following link, [www.solidgroundministry.com/NDPAAAF\\_2014.pdf](http://www.solidgroundministry.com/NDPAAAF_2014.pdf) to find a brochure, a prayer, and further information to share with your network.

*(the following is an excerpt from an article written by Therese Wilson Favors)*

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!

T H E R E S E W I L S O N F A V O R S

**Divine Word Missionaries** is an international missionary community of over 7,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

**IN A WORD** is a publication of The Society of the Divine Word's Media Production Center. Rev. James Pawlicki, S.V.D., Director and Editor; Cathy Green-Miner, office manager; Father Brendan Murphy, SVD consultant.

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**IN A WORD** is not published during July and August.  
Web page can be found at <http://www.inaword.com>