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Word™

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**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND AFRICAN FAMILY**

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

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FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND AFRICAN FAMILY**

**THANK
GOD**



FEBRUARY 5, 2012

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.

Make a FAMILY RESOLUTION no matter how big or small, on the National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family. Strive to fulfill that resolution throughout the year.

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

SUPPORTERS

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION OFFICE
BLESSED SACRAMENT SISTERS
FRANCISCAN HANDMAIDS OF MARY
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SOLID GROUND FRANCISCAN MINISTRY
THE JOSEPHITES
USCCB SECRETARIAT FOR CULTURAL
DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH



God of Mercy and Love, we place our African American 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.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.solidgroundministry.com

in a word or two

On January 14, 2012 the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Black Catholics will celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a Liturgy and Concert. At the celebration the Archdiocesan Mass Choir with Nova Tate, Director, will be featured.

The event will be held at St. Jerome Church, 5205 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, MD, 20781. Pastor is Father James Stack.

For more information contact: Deacon Al Douglas Turner, Director of the Office of Black Catholics at (301) 853-5371.

The 33rd Annual National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday January 22, 2012.

The Prayer Vigil is sponsored by the United States Conference of Bishops Pro-Life Secretariat, and the Catholic University of America Office Campus Ministry. Opening Mass starts at 6:30 pm. Celebrant is Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

For more information contact: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, (202) 526-8300 or USCCB Pro-Life Office at (202) 541-3000.

Pope Benedict XVI has announced the **canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha**, a Mohawk Indian, who was the first Native American to be beatified. Also to be canonized is Blessed Mother Marianne Cope who began a religious life that focused on providing medical care in central New York and the Hawaiian islands.

On Dec. 20, Pope Benedict XVI certified miracles attributed to the two women, the final step toward sainthood. The women's canonization is expected to happen this year.

When they are elevated to sainthood, they'll be among just 12 of the Catholic Church's thousands of saints who either were born in America or ministered in what is now the United States.

At least 26 Catholic workers in 2011 were killed in mission lands or among society's most disadvantaged communities. A list of the names who died violently during 2011 was published December 30 by the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Drought induced by the *La Niña* phenomenon in the Horn of Africa has left millions of people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

While droughts are not new to the horn of Africa, this is said to be the worst in 60 years. The complete failure of the last two rainy seasons (October – December 2010 and April – June 2011) has resulted in the worst annual crop production in 17 years, reduction of labor demand, below average livestock prices and excessive livestock

mortality. The impact of the drought has further been exacerbated by high food and fuel prices, and the continuing absence of a functional government in Somalia.



Mother and child at refugee processing center in Ifo 1 refugee camp. Somali refugees are flooding into several refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya. Following a severe drought, many families faced starvation and left Somalia on foot. Thousands of refugees are flooding into Dadaab every week.

Photo by Laura Sheahen/Catholic Relief Services

FACTS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT

- The United Nations says there are 13.3 million in need of humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa, with some 15 million internally displaced persons in Somalia.
- The Horn of Africa broadly encompasses Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Kenya. Somalia is the worst-hit country in the region, with 4 million of the country's estimated 7.5 million people facing crisis.
- The current drought is reportedly the worst in more than 60 years. Concern about the impact of drought in the Horn of Africa escalated in June, when the Famine Early Warning Systems Network reported this year was the driest in the region since 1950.
- A lack of rain during two key rainy seasons, October to December 2010 and April to June 2011, has resulted in the worst annual crop production in 17 years. Other fall-outs: reduction of labor demand, below average livestock prices and excessive livestock mortality.
- The impact of the drought has further been exacerbated by high food and fuel prices, and the continuing absence of a functional government in Somalia.

—Source: Columbia University School of Public and International Affairs

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.

Correspondence to Media Production Center, 199 Seminary Drive, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520, 228-467-1097, Cell phone 504-908-6343. Electronic messages to our Internet address, editor@inaword.com.

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Web page can be found at <http://www.inaword.com>