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# Word™

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

Volume 35 No. 1 January 2017



BISHOP TERRY STEIB, SVD REMEMBERS  
50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

# 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.

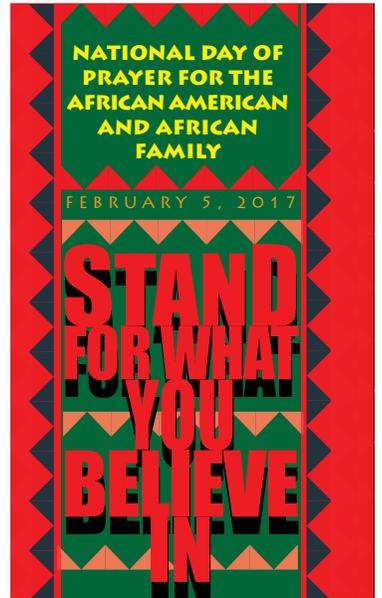
Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that 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.



# BISHOP TERRY STEIB, SVD REMEMBERS

## 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

As I transition from serving as the Ordinary of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee and as I move forward into the next chapter of my religious and spiritual life, I am reminded that January 6, 2017 is approaching. Apart from being the Solemnity of the Epiphany within the liturgical cycle of Christmas, this date is significant to me because fifty years ago – January 6, 1967 – I, along with six of my classmates, was ordained a priest within the charism of the Divine Word Missionaries in Bay St. Louis, MS.

To know that one has been in priestly ministry for fifty years is in itself overwhelming. “Has it been that long?” I think. Yes, it has! “Have I served God and community, ministered to Church and people of God all this time?” Yes, I have!

I can only look back in wonder and awe at how God has led me this far by faith. I have come to believe that it HAD to be by God’s grace because I personally would not have chosen the paths and avenues that I have had to walk. Upon ordination, I wanted to be in the mission. I wanted to go to work in Africa or Mexico, or the Southern Province – in that order! I was granted my last desire – believing that I would be working in one of our SVD parishes in the South.

When my provincial (Father John Bowman, SVD) told me that I was appointed by the Superior General to the Southern Province, I was happy. But when he said that I was appointed Assistant Prefect of St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis, MS and teacher at St. Stanislaus High School, it was not what I expected. Nonetheless, I learned “to bloom where I was planted.”

All of my appointments and callings – be it through my superiors within the community or through the Holy Father to the episcopacy – were not appointments I would have chosen. To be in the mission and to serve in parishes were my goals, but I accepted my appointments as God’s calling. They were strange avenues to me, but through it all, I found out one thing: God’s grace was sufficient for me. And my God did not let me down!

Looking back over the past fifty years, I am grateful to Almighty God for leading me and guiding me in ministry to God’s people. I am grateful to my SVD community, particularly the members of the Southern Province, for their support and friendship over the years. I am grateful to my family for keeping me strong in the faith through their love for the Church. I am grateful to the people of God in all the places I served as pastor and shepherd. Worshipping and praising God together, educating and being educated together, serving each other and the poor together allowed us to be the face of Jesus to each other, to our parishes and neighborhood, to our nation and world.

I ask kindly that you continue to pray for me as I move into the next chapter of my priestly ministry.

-Bishop Terry Steib, SVD



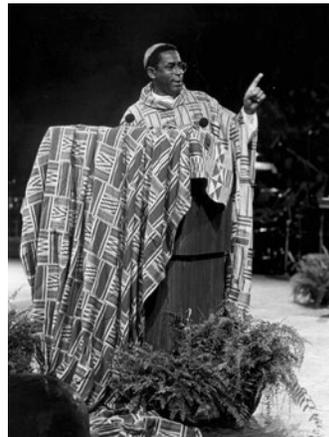
Seminarian Terry Steib professes perpetual vows before Harold Perry



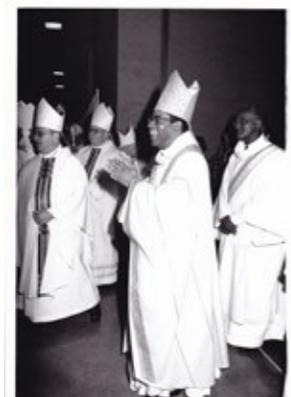
Parents of Bishop Steib



At home with parents in Vacherie, Louisiana



Bishop Steib’s preaching is well known. He is shown here delivering a most inspiring homily at the 1992 National Black Catholic Congress gathering.



At Mass of installation for Diocese of Memphis



Bishop Steib with Pope John Paul II

# in a word or two

Father James Goode, OFM reminds us that the February 5, 2017 is the National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family. For more information go to: <http://www.solidgroundministry.com/NDPAAAF2016p.pdf>

**STAND  
FOR WHAT  
YOU  
BELIEVE  
IN**

**THE ULTIMATE  
MEASURE OF A MAN  
IS NOT WHERE HE  
STANDS IN MOMENTS  
OF COMFORT AND  
CONVENIENCE, BUT  
WHERE HE STANDS AT  
TIMES OF CHALLENGE  
AND CONTROVERSY.**

MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR

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

### **FAMILY LIFE SUPPORTERS**

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION  
THE JOSEPHITES  
SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD  
ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR  
SOLID GROUND FRANCISCAN MINISTRY  
VENERABLE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
OFFICE OF BLACK MINISTRY, ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE FOR LIFE  
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CLERGY CAUCUS  
NATIONAL BLACK SISTERS' CONFERENCE  
KNIGHT OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY  
USSCB SECRETARIAT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH



## **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 together to discuss **what you are willing to stand for:**

**Stand for what you believe in**  
(feel free to add to the list)

### **I WILL STAND FOR**

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and forever  
The Eucharist  
Respect Life  
Justice and Peace

The end of racism and hate  
The end of abortion all acts of violence

### **I WILL STAND FOR**

Respect for the family especially our elders  
Respect for our women and children

### **I WILL STAND FOR**

the protection of our environment and all creation

### **I WILL STAND**

With the poor and oppressed  
With the forgotten, unwanted and unwelcome.

### **A WORK OF MERCY**

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



**Thank you President Obama for your service and dedication.  
God bless you and your family.**

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>