

in a

# Word™

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



**GOD'S  
MERCY  
PULLS US  
THROUGH  
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**FEBRUARY 7, 2016**

FIRST SUNDAY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# 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.

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# God's Mercy Pulls Us Through

"give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good and His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 136)

by

THERESE WILSON FAVORS



Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be. Surely there are at least a million zillion testimonies that can attest to that.

God's mercy is ever present and always on time. O give thanks unto the Lord; for *God is good and His mercy endures forever.*

Somebody understands the potency of God's enduring mercy and God's ability to administer that mercy, right on time...

Remember that time when tragedy hit the family at the midnight hour. It was God who held our hands and our hearts. God's mercy and faithfulness pulled us through the night and brought us into the light. Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be! *God's mercy endures forever and it is always on time.*

**Remember that time** when the child was "changing lanes in life" and almost slipped into that street called "Sinking Sand"? It was God who pulled that child through; caught that child and placed that child safely on solid ground.

**Remember that time** when the burning heat of a disappointing relationship burden our family. God's mercy pulled us out of the oven and God still shows up over and over again if the heat gets too hot. Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be! *God's mercy endures forever and is always on time.*

**Remember that time** when we were sick with sorrow, missing a loved one gone to glory or the time we found ourselves in the hospital bed. Then God's mercy pulled us through. God bent low and whispered in our ear..."hold on, just a little bit longer."

**Remember that time** when we experienced sinking funds in both wallet and pocketbook! God's mercy pulled us through like a loan officer and enlarged our territory. Had it not been for the Lord, where would we be! *His mercy endures forever.*

**Remember that time** when fear pulsed through our lives and whirled through our journey. In an instant, God pulled us through and \_ipped that fear into faith. Now we rest in the blessed assurance that God's mercy will travel with us wherever we set our foot.

**For all the times, God brought us through... For all the times God pulled us through... For all the times God caught us, carried us and kept us gives reason for our families to celebrate. God's mercy has visited our families and pulled us through.**

Let's participate in God's ministry of mercy to each other by pulling each other through with some love and prayers in good times and through challenging times. If there are some broken places within the family, let's pull each other through, reconciling all that separates us from each other.

And while we are pulling each other through... Let's participate in God's ministry of mercy, caring for the earth we live on as our common House.

This House is another manifestation of God's mercy, remembering that God made the birds, the bees, the trees, mountains, the fish in the sea, animals of all kind and the stars, sun and moon before Adam and Eve.

Mercy! God's creation warrants some of our mercy and respect. Because You and Me and all of God's creation is the spoken word of God's imagination.

Family, here is the lesson learned and it is so important in our faith walk; "Faith rises every time when we recognize the many times when God steps in with MERCY and pulls us through."

Indeed, God's mercy has pulled us through. God's mercy gives joy. For in the words of Pope Francis, "Wherever there is JOY, there is Jesus."

O give thanks, for "Jesus Joy" for God is good and His mercy endures forever. Amen

For more information go to:

<http://www.solidgroundministry.com/NDPAAAF2016p.pdf>

# in a word or two

## Marriage On A Lampstand

National Black Catholic Marriage & Family Symposium

March 4-5, 2016

Hyatt Regency

Schaumburg, Illinois

[www.marriageonalampstand.org](http://www.marriageonalampstand.org)



**Andrew and Terri Lyke sent us the following information concerning the National Black Catholic Marriage and Family Symposium. Plan to attend!**

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We are reaching out to you and those who have taken a large or small stake in our ministry since it began in 1981. We need your assistance in spreading the word and encouraging people to attend an important national event in March here in the Chicago area.

We have served the broader Catholic community locally and nationally in a variety of areas of outreach, as well as the constituents of the Healthy Marriage Initiative a decade ago. Still our hearts are in serving black families through our ministry of encouragement and empowerment.

As the heading above states, we are hosting the first National Black Catholic Marriage and Family Symposium at the [Hyatt Regency Schaumburg](#). The dates are March 4-5 with a pre-conference that begins on March 3. This gathering will be much more than a conference but a symposium where participants will do much thought-sharing, both facilitated and informal.

We have lined up an impressive crew of speakers and facilitators. Go to [www.marriageonalampstand.org](http://www.marriageonalampstand.org) to see the line up. This initiative is an unprecedented collaboration among Black Catholic leaders and Catholic Family Life Ministry leaders. This Symposium is a pioneer initiative that will help fill some systemic gaps in providing effective outreach to African Americans by Catholic family life ministries. Fueled by the National Black Catholic Congress' [Pastoral Plan of Action](#), Article IX, "Getting Married and Staying Married," and the National Association of Catholic Family Ministers' establishing a board position that focuses on African-American outreach, this initiative has broad support nationally.

Noted theologian [Fr. Bryan Massingale](#) will articulate a theology of marriage and family through a lens of social justice and in the context of the African-American Narrative (cultural, historical, and spiritual). [Dr. Linda Malone-Colón](#) of Hampton University and the National Center on African-American Marriage & Parenting ([NCAAMP](#)) will present the sociological imperative for a specialized outreach to African Americans. We ([Andrew & Terri Lyke](#)) will present a pragmatic strategy for effective outreach, which will be based on our 35 years of ministry and 40 years of marriage.

We intend to publish the outcomes of the facilitated conversations. It will be a document for the Church to use to better engage its Family Life initiatives with African Americans.

Partnering with us are the National Association of Black Catholic Ministers ([NABCA](#)), the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers ([NACFLM](#)), the National Black Catholic Congress ([NBCC](#)), and [ArusiNetwork](#).

We need this important gathering to be well attended. Father Jim, as one of our stakeholders, we ask you to help us promote the event by encouraging the people you know, couples (married or unmarried), pastoral ministers, catechists, and anyone who is a stakeholder of marriage, to participate. You may download a promotional flyer by clicking [here](#)

Download a bulletin ad by clicking [here](#). Register online by going to the [website: www.marriageonalampstand.org](#).

Visit [www.marriageonalampstand.org](http://www.marriageonalampstand.org) for bios and descriptions of presentations. The fruits of this initiative will be parishes and families more engaged. Such engagement strengthens families and thereby strengthens communities.

Thank you for supporting this effort. Contact us if you have any questions: [info@arusi.org](mailto:info@arusi.org); (312) 912-9951.

Your brother and sister in Christ,

Andrew and Terri Lyke



"The most powerful, transforming, miracle-making love is given when the beloved is least deserving. For it is then that our love reflects God's."

*Andrew & Terri Lyke*

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.

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