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# Word™

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Photo by: Father James Pawlicki, SVD



June is... **Abortion** *and*  
**All Acts of Violence**  
**Awareness Month**

JESUS  
JESUS

the  
Giver of Life,  
make us a  
People for Life.

PEACEMAKING

*Let us remember all those whose lives  
have been afflicted by acts of violence  
and abortion in our prayers...*

### **Prayer for Life**

**G**od, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, gaze upon our African American community as we pray for an end to violence and a halt to abortion among us. Touch our minds and hearts, and fix them on life and love. Turn us to seek the wisdom of our ancestors.

Bless us, so that we may pass on a legacy of your life and grace. Strengthen us to sacrifice ourselves for each other. Shower us with your grace and mercy so that we may be sources of light and hope to those less fortunate among us.

### **Jesus the Giver of Life, make us a People for Life.**

Bless those who are sick, broken, lonely and forgotten. Bring us all to your everlasting arms at the end of our journey with a clean heart, so that we may rest in praise and thanksgiving, joined to all who have gone before us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen! Amen! Hallelujah! Amen!

Composed by James Paul Newson,  
Therese Wilson Favors and Fr. Glenn D. Parker, CSsR  
Imprimatur: J. Terry Steib, SVD, Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee, May 14, 2007



**National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life**  
St. Clare Friary, 440 West 36th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018-6326

# Stop the Violence, Right Now!

By Therese Wilson Favors

Here it goes again. I hear sadness encircling me with the piercing sobbing of mothers and fathers, crying over the loss of a child. Or maybe the cries of loss come from the shock of another elder struck down in the street or from an incomprehensible robbery inflicted with violence in their own home. Maybe I hear a baby crying from a womb, yearning for life before an abortion. I can't quite see their faces and I don't want to get up too close. It might be someone I know. I have already visited this place of pain and it is unbearable. This pain is far too familiar in this hour of ours.

What time is it? Am I asleep? Is this nightmare real? Somebody ought to wake me up or at least pray me out of this bad dream. I need to wake up, You need to wake up and while you are waking up, wake up somebody else. Then the nightmare of violence perpetrated on our people can come to an end. Wake me up, Lord, help us out Lord, for this violence must stop and it must stop NOW!

Someone once told me that nightmares tend to repeat themselves because our unconscious mind refuses to wake up and do something different than experiencing one horrific action after another. Brothers and Sisters, its time to WAKE UP. Let's Wake Up from this roller coaster nightmare ride, a ride we don't have to take.

Let's WAKE UP before the nightmarish alarm rings again and we won't be able to stretch ourselves and turn off the alarm. So, it just keeps ringing. Let's WAKE UP! Let's become conscious to what is happening right in front of our eyes. Let's wake up and tell our righteous mind that it's going to be different from here on. Let's wake up and delete the nightmare with life-saving actions to protect our children, secure safety for our elders and families and respect life by helping mother and father so that the child can be born and walk into his/her future. The one struck down just might be the one who will change history because YOU WOKE UP and HELPED OUT!

When angels woke up the shepherds on that day of Nativity, they did something. They looked for that Child and praised Him (Luke 2: 9-20). When angels awakened Joseph the carpenter, from his sleep, Joseph did something. Joseph took Mary and Jesus out of harm's way into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15). But, they had to wake up and then rise up to do something.

This is our hour dear, Brothers and Sisters, to wake up and rise up to do something. We have nothing to fear and so much spiritual strength available to us. The Psalms give witness to a people who try and gain strength from the Lord.... "When I was hard pressed and was falling, the Lord helped me.... My strength and my courage is the Lord"(Psalm 118:13-14).

For the past fifteen years the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life has designated June as a time for Black Catholics to actively raise consciousness regarding abortion and acts of violence within our community. This **June**, and throughout the summer, let's heat up our efforts by adding to all of our Youth Gatherings and Parish and Family activities these suggestions:

- Calling forth a Council of Elders within the community to evaluate and shape efforts of outreach and mentoring of our young folks.
- Gathering our Young to discuss strategies and avenues of peace-building, self-esteem building and anti-gang involvement.
- Sharing our faith and rebuilding moral expectations and traditions that respect life.
- Organizing a Discussion, Forum or Workshop on this topic at every National Gathering of Blacks Catholics during 2012-2013. We have some tremendous organizations who have the heart of our people as the center of the AGENDA. Let's utilize the spiritual and relational strength we have among ourselves and... Wake up, Rise up and Do something.
- Proposing and Utilizing Family Strategies of "A Helping Hand Up" during Family Reunions and Summer Outings. This may result in establishing a family emergency fund treasury, scholarships, special prayer and counseling circles. We can do it!
- Going down in prayer, because prayer changes things and people too.

Let's make up our minds and seek wisdom and strength from our God to do what only we can do for the future of our people. Too many of us have cried tears and felt the pain. Let's lean on the Lord, for scripture says... "The Lord is my rock and my salvation, whom shall I fear? In the times of trouble, He will hide me, whom shall I fear? Trust in the Lord, and He shall strengthen me" (paraphrase of Psalm 27).

Let's Wake Up, and while you are waking up, wake somebody else up! Let's Rise Up, and while you are rising up, help somebody else to rise up and TOGETHER, let's Do Something! To God be the glory!



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# in a word or two

INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC  
STUDIES  
Courses for Clergy

**IBTH 8000 PASTORAL LEADERSHIP IN  
BLACK & MULTICULTURAL PARISHES**  
One Week Seminar: Degree Program  
(1 sem. hr credits)

***Instructor: Fr. Freddy Washington,  
C.S.Sp., D.Min.***

**Mon – Fri, July 1-7, 2012 \* 1:45 – 4:45pm.**

This one week degree seminar for **priests and pastors** explores theological and practical pastoral issues that arise in the dynamics of pastoring in Black or multicultural Catholic parishes. Clergy from diverse cultural backgrounds engaged in Catholic ministry in the Black Community are the envisioned participants for this seminar. It is an ideal place for missionaries and cross-cultural ministers to begin to study the historical and cultural realities of Black Catholics in the local Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

#### **This course will include:**

Comprehensive analysis of pastoral skills and development from a black cultural perspective of the U.S. black religious experience, history and theology. In addition, the development of church programs, working with groups and councils and effective means of administering church activities are discussed.

A learning experience with Black pastors and others, who pastor in congregations where Black Catholics are present in any number to share, discuss and respond to challenges and obstacles in pastoring in the Black and multicultural Catholic communities.

Emphasis is placed upon an assessment of your ministry past, present and future as well as developing a body of knowledge and analytic skills that will enable pastors to deepen their understanding of traditional and contemporary models of pastoring in the Black and multicultural Catholic communities.

**\*\*\*See Web Page at [www.xula.edu/ibcs](http://www.xula.edu/ibcs) for University registration application information, checklist, housing reservation, health care forms, etc. See Web Page at [www.xula.edu/ibcs](http://www.xula.edu/ibcs) for complete application and registration materials (e.g. Registration application, what to bring checklist, housing reservation, and health care form etc.).**

**PREACHING FOR  
PRIESTS AND DEACONS**  
***Instructor: Fr. Maurice Nutt,  
C.Ss.R., D.Min.***

**July 2-5, 2012  
Monday – Thursday  
6-9 p.m.**

This course is designed for the experienced or “seasoned” preacher who has an operative understanding of the theology and process of preaching. The singular purpose of the course is, through class sessions, to assist preachers in integrating their understanding of how the Word speaks to them as they strive to convey the Word of God in their unique pastoral settings. The course helps each preacher explore his unique persona and personal spirituality; the presumption is that no two preachers are alike. Participants will be invited to find their “own voice” in preaching while appreciating the prayer life and spirituality of the local parish. By the end of this one-week course, priests and deacons should be secure in being themselves in the pulpit as well as developing a plan for continuing to build their communication skills in the future.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE:**

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