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# Word™

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## Abortion and All Acts of Violence Awareness Month

Photo by Rev. James A. Pawlicki, SVD



June  
is...

# Abortion and All Acts of Violence Awareness Month

## Prayer for Life

God, 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.

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

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

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## So Scared... But We Can't Stand Still

I'm so scared! I'm so scared when I look at the news and see the faces of those broken down in grief caused by the hand of violence. That was someone's child, someone's spouse, someone's loved one; gunned down- senseless suffering. I'm so scared when the news reports more deaths today than there were yesterday. Someone abducted that pretty young girl, someone drove herself and her children into the river, someone killed that nursing student over a computer game, someone didn't get paid their drug money so murder, stabbing, shooting and bullying takes the place of concern, compassion and guidance. I'm so scared of the cruel and vicious fighting that exists among the young and not so young. I'm so scared because of this violence and the violence that comes from poverty which is running zig-zag in our families and communities. Oftentimes the violence of poverty presses down on our people and here comes an abortion, here comes the robbing of elders and the upset of safety within our community. Those gunned down or aborted could possibly be the ones who could of changed history, built a blueprint for peace, invented life-changing inventions, cure illnesses and improve the quality of life by leading families and ultimately nations. I'm so scared but I can't stand still and I can't stand still alone!

**We** can't remain so scared. **We** can't stand by idle, numb and still! We must look up to God for guidance, then get up and help those who need help the most and keep moving towards peace. We must invest ourselves for transformation and a better way of life. We must delete the excuses sometimes fashion when we are weary... **We** didn't know that child was in danger. **We** didn't see that he/she was that depressed. **We** didn't know his life was in such turmoil. **We** didn't know that she had no one to trust about the news of the pregnancy and therefore had an abortion. **We** did not know he/she was that angry! **We** did not hear them crying in the night, or saw them searching for a safe place coming home from school.

We've got to tighten up as a family and get involved with the lives of our own people. Mind someone else's business with a Jesus' love and a Jesus' level of compassion. We've got to reach out **now**, like never before. We must work unceasingly to remedy the unhealthy symptoms that surround our people. An African proverb says... "if we stop reaching out then we will surely die and scripture says in the book of Amos- "poor are they who shun their own kin". Once you shun your own people, act as if there is no interest of them, then a "shut down, death and demise" will surely follow.

For the past fourteen 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**, let's heat up our efforts by...

- Calling forth a Council of Elders within the community to evaluate and /or 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 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 circle. We can do it!
- Going down in prayer, because prayer changes things and people too.

"Black cultural tradition has always valued life and the mystery of its transmission and growth. Children have always been a sign of hope, the loss of this perspective is a cultural and spiritual impoverishment for us as a people... (What We Have Seen and Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Catholic Bishops of the United States- September 9, 1984)."

Let's shift from being so scared to being so active. Let's get up and keep moving for peace and the protection of life now, because so much depends on it as we walk into our future!

Written by Therese Wilson Favors (May 1, 2011)

*Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live- Deuteronomy 30:19*

**God bless you. Please visit us at:**  
[www.blackcatholicsforlife.org](http://www.blackcatholicsforlife.org)

## in a word or two

The Honorable F. DeKarlos Blackmon, Obl.S.B., the Supreme Knight and Chief Executive Officer of the Knights of Peter Claver, attended the Annual Easter Prayer Breakfast held at The White House on, April 19, 2011. The occasion was a time of prayer, reflection, and celebration of Easter. After the breakfast, there were a series of briefings for faith leaders on issues of concern to the religious community.



The President highlighted the important role that Christian organizations play in serving our country.

“Nothing beats Scripture and the reminder of the eternal” for keeping things in perspective, President Barack Obama said April 19 at his second Easter Prayer Breakfast at the White House.

In brief remarks to a crowd of about 130 guests from various Christian churches in the East Room, Obama said he wanted to have such an event “because as busy as we are, as many tasks as pile up, during this season we are reminded that there’s something about the Resurrection -- something about the resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ, that puts everything else in perspective.”

“Everybody in this room has weighty responsibilities, from leading churches and denominations, to helping to administer important government programs, to shaping our culture in various ways,” he said, adding, with a touch of irony to his voice, “my plate has been full as well. The inbox keeps on accumulating.”

“But then comes Holy Week,” he continued. “The triumph of Palm Sunday. The humility of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. His slow march up that hill, and the pain and the scorn and the shame of the cross. And we’re reminded that in that moment, he took on the sins of the world -- past, present and future -- and he extended to us that unfathomable gift of grace and salvation through his death and resurrection.”



### **Unity Explosion 2011**

**will be held June 15-19, 2011 in Houston, Texas. The conference is sponsored by the Regions X Conference of the Archdiocese of Galveston. Theme for the Conference is “Evangelization... Am I A Witness”**

The Unity Explosion Conference will provide an experience that addresses the expressed ministerial, pastoral, evangelization, and liturgical needs of the participants. The conference will be held at the Marriott Westchase Hotel.

**For more information contact:** Unity Explosion - Region X Conference, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Contact person Ms. Deborah Ladet at (713) 652-4406 or email [dladet@archgh.org](mailto:dladet@archgh.org)

Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School in Birmingham Alabama is looking for a full-time campus minister. If interested contact:

**Fr. Alex Steinmiller, C.P. , President**  
Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School  
2001 19th St. Ensley  
Birmingham, AL 35218  
205-781-3860 or 205-223-9330 cell

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is seeking qualified candidates for the position of executive director for the Office of Human resources. For more information contact:

Linda Hunt  
Office of Human Resources  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
202.541.3120

**Divine Word Missionaries** is an international missionary community of over 6,000 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; Paul Kahan, SVD.  
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