



It began with a conversation about the state of Black Catholics in Chicago on a January Zoom in 2022. For many of us, we saw that our parishes were closing or had already closed and the voice of Black Catholics in the city was waning. Publications like *The Drum*, which gave us information about Black Catholic Chicago had all but disappeared and information was sporadic. It was then that a group of current and former Tolton Scholars decided to pick up the baton that *The Drum* was passing to us. *The Pulse* was born.

For the past year, *The Pulse's* aim was to bring stories that were important to Black Catholics in Chicago. We tried to find a balance between personal, mental and spiritual articles with stories that affect us all collectively as Black Catholics in Chicago and in this nation. We also wanted to introduce you to and lift up Chicago Black Catholics who are examples of allowing the light of Christ to shine in their lives and ministries by featuring them in our Sankofa Spotlights.

As we enter the 2nd year of *The Pulse*, we encourage you to let us know what you think, if there are any subjects that you would like for us to cover or if there is an article that you would like to write. We thank you for your readership, support, and ask that you continue to pray for this ministry.

-Tina L Carter

## Who are we?

Created by current and former Tolton scholars, **The Pulse** is a monthly newsletter to provide information about the concerns and happenings in Black Catholic Chicago. It will be made up of articles, profiles and information about events and programs happening throughout the archdiocese of Chicago. If you are interested in contributing or have any questions or concerns please email us at [chicagoblackcatholics@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoblackcatholics@gmail.com)

### This month's contributors are:

- **Dr. Kimberly Lymore** DMin, is the director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union and Associate Minister of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina.
- **Shannon Ambroise** MAPS, is a Tolton Alum, facilitator of St. Mary Evanston Black Catholics and member of St. Mary Parish, Evanston, IL.
- **Tanya Bolen** is a Tolton Scholar and part-time student at Catholic Theological Union pursuing a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies. She serves and worships at St. Moses the Black Parish as a Eucharistic Minister, Hospitality, and the Women's Guild.
- **Tina L Carter**, M.Div.; MLIS, is a public librarian, graduate of Catholic Theological Union and Tolton Alum. She is a parishioner, catechist and serves on the technology ministry at Our Lady of Africa Parish in Bronzeville.
- **Jennifer Davis** is a Tolton Scholar, pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Catholic Theological Union, a theology teacher at Mount Carmel High School, a liturgist, and a parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle in Hyde Park.
- **Stephanie Garrison** MAPS, is a retired teacher, graduate of Catholic Theological Union and Tolton Alum. She attends St. Moses the Black Parish, serve in the ministries of Lector, Catechism and RCIA.
- **Gardis Watts** is a Tolton Scholar and part time seminary student at Catholic Theological Union pursuing a Master in Divinity. He attends Our Lady of Africa Parish in Bronzeville.
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This is a publication of the Chicago Black Catholic Alliance!





GRIT  
grace  
of marriage

By Andrew & Terri Lyke

the promise we made—those dangerous vows.

To keep those vows our dreams may need to change. They may need to die. That's when true love kicks in. Do we take the path toward our promising dreams? Or the path for the promises we made. Doing the latter demands courageous faith. It demands submitting ourselves to suffering the losses of the dreams deferred and being open to a new reality and a life shaped by those initial vows to honor, cherish, and love until the end of our days.

We shouldn't take this sacrifice lightly. Making the choice to stay married may be painful. We may need to mourn the path not taken. We may need guidance and encouragement. We will definitely need great faith. Marriage isn't for chumps. It takes courage to commit to an unknown future with another person—another imperfect person.

Choosing the path of courageous faith is when the promises we made at the altar begin to make us. We become the clay and God the potter who shapes us into who we need to be for the sake of the promise. It may not be as glorious, glamorous, or romantic as the dream. It may be difficult and demand changing ourselves. But it is a life shaped by the Potter who smiles on us and pours over us grace. We grow! We become!! In this union we find our true selves—Imago Dei—created again—born again in the image of God and a living sign—sacrament—a reflection of God and a personification of God's Covenant with us.


We reference here Chapter 1 of our book, *Marriage On A Lampstand: Exploring a New Paradigm for Modern Christian Marriage*. The chapter is titled “*Grit and Grace*.” We share with you the opening paragraphs:

*“There is a secret kept by every married couple. Shhhh! Don't tell anyone. The secret is that we're not perfect for each other. Within the privacy of our home there is some dysfunction, some discord, some perennial blemish by which we are scandalized. When we are in public, we mask it with a perfect face. Only those closest to us may know if anyone does.*

*“We have learned through the years the power of forgiveness . . . for being imperfect . . . for not being that soul mate, sent by God, who will make life's journey easy with no arguments, no disappointments, never any need to forgive. Individually we knew that to be true about ourselves from the beginning. One may privately think, “If my spouse knew how wretched I am she won't love me” or “He will think less of me.” It is standard operation to hide our true selves from the world and from each other. Then we collude with each other to keep our flaws hidden from the eyes of the world.*

*“We want to blow the lid on that thinking. Each of us is flawed in some way. Each of us needs God's grace to get through life. Therefore, each of us needs forgiveness for stepping on the other's toes. It's how we learn to dance; it's how we learn to live well together. The errors we make—sin—make us poor and in need of mercy and forgiveness from God and from each other. Jesus taught us that the poor are blessed. Our blessedness as a married couple comes from the blessings from God, the undeserved love that pours over us despite our failings. Our blessedness is that love from God that pours through one spouse over the other.”*

Continued on page 3



Dutch priest, professor, author, and theologian Henri Nouwen, speaking of the mystery of marriage says this:

*“Marriage is not a lifelong attraction of two individuals to each other but a call for two people to witness together to God's love. The basis of marriage is not mutual affection, or feelings, or emotions and passions that we associate with love, but a calling, a vocation. It is to understand that we are elected to build together a house for God in this world.*

*“It is to be like the two cherubs whose outstretched wings sheltered the Ark of the Covenant and created a space where Yahweh could be present. Marriage is a relationship where man and woman protect and nurture the inner sanctum within and between them, and they witness to that by the way they love each other...*

*“It is rather that the intimacy of marriage itself is an intimacy that is based on the common participation in a love greater than the love that two people can offer each other.*

*“The real mystery of marriage is not that husband and wife love each other so much that they can recognize God in each other's lives, but more because God loves them so much that they can discover each other more and more as living reminders of God's presence.”*

### The Language of God



The language of God is often counterintuitive to human nature. In the language of the world, Jesus was a fool who died for undeserving people. His prescriptions for life have wonderful ideals, but c'mon, you can't truly love your enemies, and though we make a promise for forever, it's reasonable that we won't keep it forever. In the common mindset of today, failed marriages, separation, and divorce are reasonable expectations. So, why not let the good times role? And when the good times stop, move on to the next relationship to continue your good times. In the language of the world, what we are attempting in marriage is unreasonable if not impossible.

When Jesus says, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit,”* what does he mean? What blessedness is there in being poor, whether economically, emotionally, or spiritually? To be impoverished is to be in need and dependent on forces or resources beyond ourselves. So to suggest that our wellbeing or happiness or pathway to a good life is through being poor or needy is counterintuitive to our survival instincts. It goes against the grain of our national cultural ethos that tells us that we can have it all—a culture that values self-reliance over dependence, a culture that hates poverty and, evidenced by the inequities of our society, a culture that hates the poor.

To understand what Jesus is saying to us, we need to go beyond our human understanding and step into the language of God. Created in the Image of God, we are equipped for the language of God. But we must step into it through faith. God, in his divine order created us in his image. But God gave us the free will to love the way he loves. . . .or not. Our poverty is in embracing the reality that we can't love the way God loves without relying on God. The promise we made to love each other for the full of life—until death do we part, isn't doable without our stepping into the language of God. It is in that reliance—that neediness—that we open ourselves to God's grace. And it is through God's grace that we find our wellbeing, our true happiness, and our pathway to a good life.

### The Grit and Grace of Marriage

That pivotal step we take to enter the language of God—to be *“God-lingual”*—is the sacrifice we offer up to God who expands us, makes us more loving, more courageous, more empathic with each other, and more a reflection of God. We call this dynamic the *“Grit and Grace”* of marriage.

Our relationship reflects God in ways that are as mysterious as the Trinity itself. We reflect the Paschal Mystery in that we suffer each other. Our love includes embracing suffering and perennial reconciliation. We embrace all three rings of marriage—the engagement ring—the wedding ring—and the suffer-ring.

1. The engagement ring that signified our mutual desire to share a life of love, intimacy, and fidelity.
2. The wedding ring that symbolizes the courageous public promise we made to sustain that love, even in an uncertain future.
3. and the *“suffer-ring”* that we endure to learn how to live well together and channel God's love to each other.



With the blessings of such a life of commitment also comes burdens: In every compromise we make for the sake of the other, one suffers. In every sobering realization that we are not yet soul mates, we suffer. In every situation when the promise we made at our wedding begins to make us, it is through suffering each other. It's how God shapes us to be who we need to be. It's the sacrifices we make that give glory to God. Our embracing the suffering, or at least not running away from it, seasons us, makes us better, makes us more loving, and makes us a reflection of God.

When we stop trying to change each other, it is grit and grace. When we make room for each other's issues, it is grit and grace. Each time we opt to use skillful behavior toward each other, especially when it is difficult, it is grit and grace. Every time either of us mindfully keeps our marital promise not out of feelings of affection but solely out of conviction, it is grit and grace.

We don't earn each other's love. While there is a "*quid pro quo*" character to marriage, our sacramental love transcends such contractual expectations. We are indeed a witness to and a reflection of God's magnanimous love, not because we are so wonderful, but rather because we know we need God's mercy and are thankful for the gift of God's magnanimous love poured over us. We are a reflection of God because we strive to love each other the way God loves us.

The Epilogue of our book, Chapter 10, is titled, "*Let the Church Say Amen!*" We preface the chapter with a poem that we borrowed from Kathleen Hughes' book, *Saying Amen: A Mystagogy of Sacrament*, where she prefaced with a poem by Barbara Schmich Searle entitled, "*Amen.*" As we prepared for this writing, the plan was to use that poem to prayerfully end the article. But, as the Holy Spirit often does, we were inspired to adapt the poem by changing the word "*Amen*" to the words "*I Do.*" And it works so well.

So, let us pray. . .

### ***I DO***

***Be careful of simple words said often.***

***"I Do" makes demands***

***like an unrelenting schoolmaster:***

***fierce attention to all that is said;***

***no apathy, no preoccupation, no prejudice permitted.***

***"I Do:" I am present. I am open.***

***I am of single-mind. I understand.***

***Here I am; I am listening to your word.***

***"I Do" makes demands***

***like a signature on a dotted line:***

***sober bond to all that goes before;***

***no hesitation, no half-heartedness,***

***no mental reservations allowed.***

***"I Do:" I support. I approve.***

***I am of single-mind. I promise.***

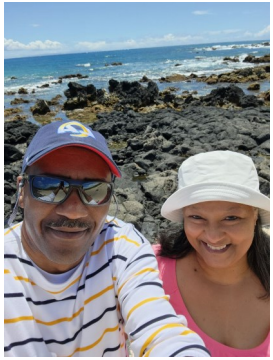
***May this come to pass. So be it.***

***Be careful when you say "I Do."***

Now let the Church say, "*Amen!*"



Andrew and Terri Lyke are retired retreat leaders and marriage coaches. They are in the 53rd year of their love relationship and their 48th year of marriage.



*“A cord of three strands is not easily broken”* from Ecclesiastes 4:12 is a scripture that is often used in marriage ceremonies. When two married people have a common bond with God, it makes a very powerful three cord strand. That is what makes the 37-year marriage of Deacon Kurt and Jennifer Davis strong. Actually, they courted for 11 years before marrying. However, Jennifer felt it was worth the wait for him to come to his senses. They have three adult children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great

-grandchildren.

Jennifer is a cradle Catholic. Kurt was 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist before converting to Catholicism. It was the hand of God and Jennifer’s prayers and witness that helped him convert. Jennifer’s consistent witness, love for God and the Catholic Church that eventually persuaded Kurt. He saw something in Jennifer’s spiritual demeanor that was appealing. Jennifer says “that you must be an example for your spouse. If you want to see change, you must change first and pray that your change will have the desired effect on the other person.”

Kurt not only converted to Catholicism he also became a Deacon 5 years ago. He says he never believed he would be at this point in his life, but “God has a plan for everyone.” Both agreed that marriage is hard work but worth it when equally yoked with the right person. As a couple they worship together and pray together. But they are not so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good.

Even though both are very busy, Kurt with deacon responsibilities and Jennifer teaching at Mt. Carmel High School and attending Catholic Theological Union in pursuit of her Doctorate in Ministry, they love to be spontaneous and go on weekend outings and vacation in Hawaii. They can be serious and silly with each other. They enjoy each other’s company but also give each other space when needed.

Family is important to both Jennifer and Kurt. They raised their 3 children in the church. They planted the seeds and nurtured them. Jennifer & Kurt’s marriage has had a positive effect on their children. All three children have said they want spouses like their parents as well as thriving marriages. Even though their children may not be as active in church life as Jennifer & Kurt, each of them has a relationship with God as well as they value family. Their family gatherings are full of love, compassion, and encouragement of each other.

Jennifer & Kurt’s advice to young couples is they need to be realistic in their understanding of marriage. Marriage is a roller coaster with its ups and downs and a struggle. The vows made on the wedding day are important and should not be easily discarded. You must work at marriage, respect each other, be honest with one another, keep the lines of communication open, and most of all really listen to each other. Accept each other as they are. Keep God in your life, worship and pray together.

Kurt’s relationship with Jennifer, keeps him falling in love over and over again. Jennifer and Kurt are best friends and each other’s confidant. Jennifer and Kurt, a match made in heaven.

-Dr. Kimberly Lymore

*“With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* -Ephesians 4:2-3



For the Okafors, family, community, and faith are what helps them keep their marriage strong. Emmanuel was raised Catholic in his native Nigeria, and his parents have been married for over 50 years. Nneka was also raised Catholic in Nigeria and her parents have been married for almost as long. Married for 13 years, Emmanuel and Nneka Okafor credit the model that their parents in Nigeria gave them to follow for a long and successful marriage.

Emmanuel works in IT and Nneka is a pharmacist. Emmanuel came to America in 2004 to build a new life. He then went back to Nigeria and met Nneka through a mutual friend, fell in love, and wanted to build a life together. In 2010 they got married. He then brought his new bride to settle here in Chicago. They now have three children ages 9, 10, and 12.

They are both members of the Igbo Catholic Community Archdiocese of Chicago. This church family provides great support for them through ministry, fellowship, and prayer. Emmanuel and Nneka can strengthen the traditions and examples that they were given about marriage and child-rearing from Nigeria and pass them on to their children.

Traditional teachings from the Catholic Church as well as going through marriage preparation classes (pre-cana) reinforces the belief that marriage is more than about love. Any successful marriage must include work and God. A couple that prays together stays together is at the forefront of the Okafor’s relationship. Adopting each other’s prayer and meditation routines also helps them to grow in faith together.

Communication is key. Discussions about what sports the children may want to play for example are held to make sure that all concerns and questions are fleshed out with the understanding that once a decision is made, it is to be respected. It is important that all worries are taken seriously and talked about. For them, it is not a matter of who is right or wrong, it is a matter of what is best for their family.

Recognizing that each person has a role to play in their marriage is also another reason that Emmanuel and Nneka can maintain solid footing in a society that is ever-changing and redefining those roles. For them, the roles in their marriage have nothing to do with a dominant or subservient place in the marriage but it is about sharing the responsibility of maintaining a strong marriage together.

The best advice that Nneka and Emmanuel give to a new couple who is getting married is this, love is important, but it is not enough to maintain a successful marriage. You must be willing to do the work and recognize that it is not about the individual but about the family that you are trying to build.

May Emmanuel and Nneka’s marriage continue to be blessed and serve as a model to follow.

-Tina L Carter



## The War on History

In the recent headlines, we find a battle going on in the Florida legislation on defining what is taught in history.



Last year, Florida passed a bill called the “*Stop WOKE Act*.” It restricts the ability for schools and workplaces to facilitate teaching about race and gender. This law is a result of a white conservative movement to ban teaching CRT (Critical Race Theory) in schools. By the way, CRT is a topic that deals with the racism of the legal system and is taught in law school and post-graduate level studies. It is not taught on any educational level lower than that. But the supporters of this movement would tell the public that this is being taught in the elementary and high school level. That it is being forced on students and is making white children feel uncomfortable.

What we are witnessing is the cultural subjugation of black people. The first step to subjugating people is to take away their culture as defined by them. And in order to remove their culture, you must either remove their history or redefine their history. This is what the white slave masters did to our African ancestors when they enslaved them and brought them to the shores of this continent. They took everything away from them including their identity. They outlawed them from talking in their native languages. After a couple of slave revolts, they were prohibited from practicing rituals from their homeland and prevented from reading and writing. They were forced to integrate into a society that saw them as a permanent underclass. Removing their history ensures this outcome.

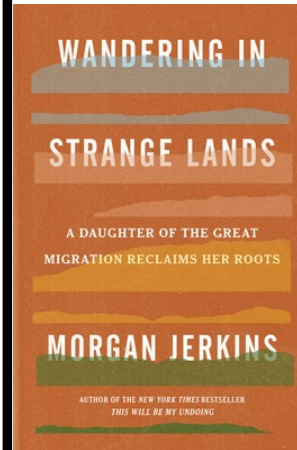
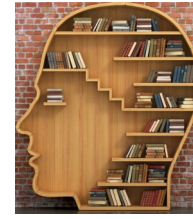
History serves two purposes. The first purpose of history is to forge an identity. That it lets people know where they come from and where they are going. The second purpose is to have a sharper understanding of what is happening now. The people who have a hard time of solving the issues of today are the ones who lack the historical understanding of the issues they are facing. These issues do not just suddenly appear out of nowhere. That these issues have historical context. If we cannot understand our historical existence and figure out the historical nature of our problems, then we will be doomed to keep repeating it at more severe levels as time goes on.

History is important to the progress of human development. If it wasn’t, we won’t have monuments, memorials and several other tangible structures that remind us of a past something or someone. If it wasn’t important, we wouldn’t have certain governments trying to restrict it through legislation. Without history, we wouldn’t have religion. Many religious rituals and practices are informed out of the history of that tradition.

Let us also understand that history is not just about memorizing people, dates, places and times. History is about understanding these past events so we can know who we are, why we are here, and where we are going.

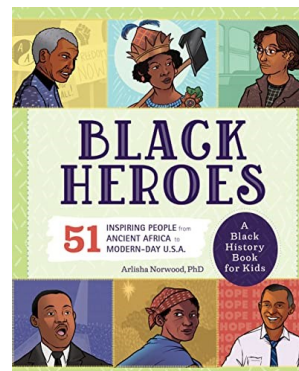
-Gardis Watts

## Literary Corner



As a 3rd generation South New Jersey woman, Morgan Jerkins had several questions about her family’s heritage and legacy. These questions led her to go on a journey of discovery that took her to the Gullah/Gitchee people of Georgia and South Carolina to the Creoles of Louisiana, learning about the Seminole and Cherokee nations of Florida and Oklahoma, and finally arriving in the “promised land” of California.

This pilgrimage into her family’s past caused Morgan to reevaluate the role that race, opportunity, bias and power affected her family history as well as the family histories of African Americans as they migrated from the South to the North and back again. Morgan receives a deeper insight into the importance of the folktales, legends, and wisdom that African Americans grow up with without fully understanding why they are a part of the collective histories of families. *Wandering in Strange Lands: A Daughter of the Great Migration Reclaims Her Roots*, is a reminder through one woman’s journey that race is rarely binary and that the relationship between family and the society they live in is nuanced, rich, troubled and varied. -Tina L Carter



*Black Heroes: 51 Inspiring People from Ancient Africa to Modern-Day U.S.A.* by Dr. Arlisha Norwood, PhD provides short biographies about Blacks from Africa and the diaspora. Children are introduced to favorite historical figures such as Tutankhamun, Harriet Tubman, and Barack Obama, but also less-known figures such as William Cuffay, Ignatius Sancho and Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti. Each biography includes an

“Explore More” section through a book, video, or website as an invitation to learn more about these heroes and heroes in history as well as quotes from the person or about the person. This is a great introductory book for those students who need to look for that person to write about or to be inspired by.

-Tina L Carter

Habari gani  
What's the News?



St. MOSES the BLACK  
PARISH

**2023 Lent by Tealight**

*A Year of Blessing*

**A Women's Day of Reflection**

*February 25, 2023*  
*11am*

**7120 S. Calumet Avenue Chicago, IL**

**Sign up in the Church or contact the  
Parish Office to reserve a table.**

**(773) 224-1022**



# Habari gani

## What's the News?

**St. Benedict the African Church**  
 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLEWOOD  
 340 W 66th St, Chicago, IL 60621  
 (773) 873-4464\*<https://benedicttheafrican.org/>



### **HUSH HARBOR**

Saturdays at 11 AM  
 Our Hush Harbor series features spirituals and speeches from the past that speak loudly today.

In Antebellum America, a hush

harbor was a place where the enslaved Africans would gather in secret to practice religious traditions.

MEETING ID: 89415895742

PASSCODE: 636489

 Our Lady Of Africa/Tolton Site  
 4058 S Michigan Ave  
 Chicago, IL 60653  
 (773) 268-1518

## **OUR LADY OF AFRICA FOOD PANTRY**

Fresh fruits, vegetables, meats and non-perishable groceries.

Info for Thursday food pantry...  
**Every Thursday**  
**@ 10:00AM - 12:00PM**

Meats and non-perishable food

\*You can only receive once a month, identification is required and no boundaries

4058 S Michigan Ave  
 Chicago, IL 60653

Info for Saturday food pantry...  
**Every fourth Saturday**  
**@ 10:00AM - 12:00PM**

Fresh fruits, vegetables, and non-perishable groceries.

44 E 41st  
 Chicago, IL 60653



## **ST. MARY EVANSTON BLACK CATHOLICS**

JOIN US, AS WE GATHER FOR A PEACEFUL AFTERNOON DISCUSSION, EXPLORING A VARIETY OF ARTICLES AND TOPICS RELATED TO BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, MINISTRY, & MORE.

**WEDNESDAY'S VIA ZOOM @ 2:00 PM!**  
**PLEASE CONTACT SHANNON AT**  
**STMARYEVANSTONBC@GMAIL.COM**  
**FOR THE ZOOM LINK AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**



### St. Katharine Drexel Virtual Stations of the Cross



All are invited to join St. Katharine Drexel Parish for  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS: *Overcoming Racism***

Friday, February 24, 2023

Friday, March 03, 2023

Friday, March 10, 2023

Friday, March 17, 2023

Friday, March 24, 2023

**Time**

**7:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81683474385?pwd=clArT28zS2hiNHQ5WnBiQy9LT0JPZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 8347 4385

Passcode: 067662

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 816 8347 4385

Passcode: 067662

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdnMc2gEVm>



# Habari gani

## What's the News?



Artist Credit: Edward L. Hayes, "Passing of Wisdom"

"HERE I AM, SEND ME"  
Isaiah 6:8

**save the date**  
JUNE 25 - JULY 14, 2023



Institute for Black Catholic Studies  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA



### The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union

The Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program provides an opportunity for Black Catholics to receive academic, personal, spiritual and professional education and training in preparation for professional ministry for the specific needs of Black Catholics.

- Applicants from the Archdiocese of Chicago are eligible for a full-tuition scholarship.
- Applicants outside of the Chicago dioceses are encouraged to apply for the Tolton program and will be considered for other scholarship funds.

For More information or to apply visit us online at [ctu.edu/Toltonprogram](http://ctu.edu/Toltonprogram)

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears..



Once again we have been witness to seeing another Child of God murdered on the streets in

an American city by the hands of those who were called to serve and protect. Until we are all seen as equal under the eyes of the law, no one is safe.

We at **The Pulse** will continue to pray for the family of Tyre Nichols and pray the his family receives true justice for those who murdered their son. May he rest in peace.



*Write the Vision*  
A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE

# CONGRESS XIII

July 20 - 23, 2023 | Gaylord National Harbor, MD

## Prayer for February

**God of Mercy and Love** we place our African and 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 Family. The National Day of Prayer for the African & African American family is on February 5th, 2023.*

