



African  
American  
Affairs  
Ministry  
Diocese of  
Charlotte

Spring  
2024  
Vol. I

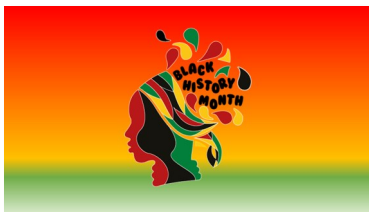
# African American Affairs Ministry Diocese of Charlotte

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Celebrate and honor the contributions of African Americans and all Black people; from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today. Black History Month is a time to consider how we can create more justice in our daily lives, how we can help education institutions become places in which all the students they serve, especially African American students, thrive and how can we make sure that all families, particularly those from African American backgrounds, feel welcome in all aspects of life.*



*During Black History Month, let us pause and reflect on our own biases, stereotypes, gaps in knowledge, and relationships across racial differences so that we can be leaders in creating a system in which equity, inclusion, and social justice are at the forefront.*





## ***Black History Month events around Charlotte and surrounding areas***

- ◇ **Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** - *Family First: Black History on Canvas* – Harvey B Gantt Center for African-American Arts Culture - <https://www.ganttcenter.org/calendar/family-first-black-history-on-canvas/>
- ◇ **Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** - A Sign Of The Times 2024 Annual Black History Concert - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-sign-of-the-times-2024-annual-black-history-concert-tickets-812419938907#:~:text=A%20Sign%20Of%20The%20Times,at%204%3A00%20PM%20%7C%20Eventbrite>
- ◇ **Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** – Town of Huntersville Black History Month Celebration - <https://www.visitlakenorman.org/event/black-history-month-celebration/18424/>
- ◇ **Feb 18<sup>th</sup>** - KAA-MaCC Black History Month Celebration featuring the WNT Exhibition & Talk with Jerry Taliaferro - <https://allevents.in/kannapolis/kaa-macc-black-history-month-celebration-featuring-the-wnt-exhibition-and-talk-with-jerry-taliaferro/200025997735850>
- ◇ **Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>** - African American Heritage Festival 2024 – Charlotte Museum of History <https://charlottemuseum.org/programs-events/events/african-american-heritage-festival/>
- ◇ **Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** - *Purple Dreams* – The Independent Picture House <https://independentpicturehouse.org/upcoming-films/>
- ◇ **Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** - Cain Center For the Arts; Black History Month 2024 Celebration - <https://cainarts.org/black-history-month/>
- ◇ **Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** - *By Way of the Back Door: Arts & Cultural Contributions* – Historic Brattonsville - <https://chmuseums.org/event/bwbd-4/>



# **The National Black Catholic Congress XIII Pastoral Plan of Action is Here!**

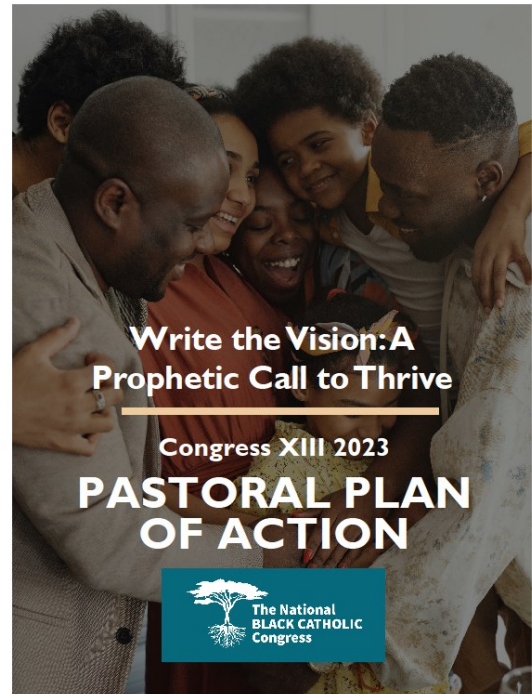
The last gathering of Black Catholics was held July 20-23, 2023 (Congress XIII), and using the survey results from the attendees, the Pastoral Planning Committee created a draft plan. The draft went to several Black Catholic theologians, academics, pastors, etc. for review. The final document reflects their considered feedback, and we believe this PPA will prove to be the best yet.

The Pastoral Planning Committee was tasked with creating a guideline that Offices of Black Catholic Ministry or Multicultural Ministry could use to construct a Pastoral Plan that was targeted to the issues of concern to the Black Catholic communities within each (arch) diocese. We believe they surpassed our expectations and have written a document that is easy to follow and provides parameters that are infused with spirituality.

We would like to thank the Pastoral Planning Committee, Therese Wilson Favors (chair), Howard Roberts, Fr. Stephen Thorne (consultant), Patricia A. Waddell, and Sharon H. Winchester, for their time, talent, and dedication to this project.

Download your copy here: <https://link.edgепilot.com/s/do6e91d7/ixYt56xL-oKfjESGRwf4UA?u=https://bit.ly/NBCC2024PPA>

Watch Congress XIII videos here: <https://www.youtube.com/@nationalblackcatholiccongr4116>



# **'What We Have Seen and Heard'**

## **A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization From the Black Bishops of the United States 40th Anniversary**



Subcommittee on African American Affairs  
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January 10, 2024

Dear Colleague in Christ,

September 9, 2024 (feast of St. Peter Claver) will mark the 40th anniversary of the pastoral letter of the Black Catholic bishops, *What We Have Seen and Heard*. Following upon three workshops that the Subcommittee on African American Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sponsored at last summer's Black Catholic Congress XIII, we think it opportune to punctuate this anniversary by inviting Catholic communities to revisit this landmark statement.

There are a number of ways in which we can do this, including: special focus with homilies or speakers, small groups or days of reflection with the text of the pastoral; highlighting select quotes from the pastoral monthly on your local web pages and social media outlets; special para-liturgies, like prayer services; or focusing on select themes addressed in the pastoral, for example, the imperative topics of evangelization or Black Catholic history.

We enclose with this note a copy of the text of the pastoral along with the original study-guide to help with planning at your end. Feel free to contact Deacon Royce Winters of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at [rwinters@catholicaoc.org](mailto:rwinters@catholicaoc.org) or myself at: [jperry@archchicago.org](mailto:jperry@archchicago.org) with any questions, inquiries for guidance, planning tips, etc.

Also included with this note is a link to a video of Bishop Terry Steib's presentation on the pastoral at Congress XIII.

May we take this opportunity during the year that barely begins to hear again the voice of our bishops leading us to fruitful pastures of ministry, education and ownership of our Catholic faith and traditions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Chicago Chairman, Subcommittee on African American Affairs

### **Attachments:**

- *What We Have Seen and Heard*, A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Bishops of the United States (1984)
- *A Study Guide for What We Have Seen and Heard*

### **Download your attachments here:**

- ⇒ 'What We Have Seen and Heard' – A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization From the Black Bishops of the United States - [what-we-have-seen-and-heard.pdf \(usccb.org\)](#)
- ⇒ A study Guide for What WE Have Seen and Heard - [Study Guide - What We Have Seen and Heard.pdf \(usccb.org\)](#)
- ⇒ Bishop Terry Steib video - [\(39\) What We Have Seen & Heard - YouTube](#)



Download the National Day of Prayer, written by Fr. Jim Goode, OFM, with a new reflection written by Therese Wilson Favors here: <https://nbccongress.org/national-day-of-prayer-for-the-african-american-and-african-family/>

## 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

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

*Bless our  
Families  
Heal our  
Land*

35<sup>th</sup>  
Year

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF  
BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

## BLESS OUR FAMILIES. HEAL OUR LAND... THIS WE PRAY

Therese Wilson Favors

Today we take pause to give God the glory for Family. We pause to take note of the divine beauty of God's creation called Family and we seek God's blessings on our Families. Some say that Family is God's way of giving us a love hug. Generation after generation we have seen God's hug of love manifest itself. It shows that God moves through and within our human affairs called Family. Family is not only a collection of people... it is a continued journey of a people's connection with God and an expression of the values of that family. In this, we realize that our deepest hopes and dreams are never singular... not just for one person. Rather, they are always connected to others. It is a journey of Us! That is why we pause to pray for our Families and to seek God's blessing and governance over our Family. God is "Our Father".

Here's some spiritual wisdom as we pray for our Family. Always be on the ready to place God in the middle of the Family, especially when serious decisions need to be made. God is our shelter and our strength, always ready to help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). Always step back and look at what Jesus would do when relationships among the Family are fragile and weary. Remember that Jesus instituted Christianity as a culture of reconciliation rather than a cancellation of a person or a people. Wounds can fester when disagreements, challenges and broken relationships show up. In these situations ... go get some supernatural help from God. He moves through human affairs. We all know that

invisible wounds are the hardest to heal. Their closure depends on God's grace and the love of others with patience, understanding and justice. Jesus says that the golden rule of life is Do to others whatever you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12).

This same strategy of healing is warranted in these times within our land. Wounds are festering and there is a lot of pain out there. Let's look to God's Word and God's Ways to find a healing ointment. In places that are in need of healing... Work towards reconciliation with love, patience and true justice. Do all your work in love (1 Corinthians 16:14) and remember that God never stops working (John 5:17). Let us therefore lean on the Lord, for great is God's faithfulness and His mercies endure forever.



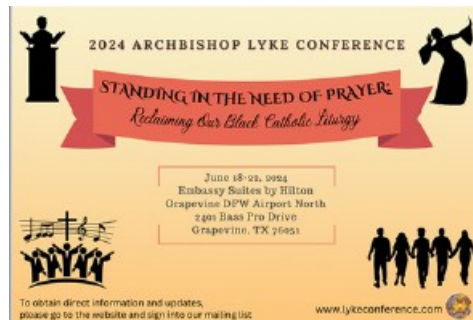
FAMILY RVCLAB ACS SR

## Upcoming Events

### 2024 Archbishop Lyke Conference

STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER  
*Reclaiming Our Black Catholic Liturgy*

- ◇ June 18-22, 2024
- ◇ Embassy Suites by Hilton Grapevine DFW Airport North
- ◇ 2401 Bass Pro Drive Grapevine, TX 76051
- ◇ Registration and updates: <https://www.lykeconference.com/>



### 10<sup>th</sup> National Eucharistic Congress

- ◇ July 17-21, 2024, Indianapolis, IN
- ◇ Registration and more information: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>
- ◇ Scholarship Application: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/solidarity->





## Useful Resources

- ◇ Catholic Apps - <https://www.nbccongress.org/catholic-apps.html>
- ◇ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(usccb.org\)](http://usccb.org)
- ◇ USCCB Committees Cultural Diversity in the Church - [Cultural Diversity in the Church | USCCB](#)
- ◇ [Open Wide Our Hearts: The Call to Address Racism in Our Hearts and Communities](#) | [en Español](#)
- ◇ [Bulletin Message for Open Wide Our Hearts](#)
- ◇ [Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism \(en Español\)](#)
- ◇ [Prophetic Witness Against Racism](#) | [en Español](#)
- ◇ [Scripture Reflection - We Are One Body](#) | [en Español](#)
- ◇ [Prayer Against Racism](#)
- ◇ [Practical Steps for Eradicating Racism: An Invitation](#)
- ◇ [Webinar: Empowering Church Leaders to Address Racism](#)
- ◇ [Responding to the Sin of Racism Resources](#)
- ◇ [Study Guide - Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love](#)
- ◇ [Examining Our Subconscious Perceptions](#) | [en Español](#)
- ◇ [Intercultural Competencies](#)
- ◇ [Letter from Birmingham Jail Study Guide](#)
- ◇ [Rebuilding the Bridge: African American Affairs' 50th Anniversary Initiative](#) | USCCB

***Spiritual Enlightenment  
Outreach***

***Awareness  
Evangelization***



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**<https://charlottediocese.org/offices/african-american-affairs/>**