

TWELVE DECLARATIONS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC CONGREGATION

As a people committed to the movements and struggles of our days, in the hope of preserving our tomorrow, we join hands with the “Black Leadership Family Plan for the Unity, Survival and Progress of Black People.”

1. **Network with other Churches:** We will offer our “right hand of fellowship” to other religious institutions who are actively involved in the liberation struggle of our people and all other oppressed people.
2. **Protect the Elderly and Support the Youth:** We will provide protection, opportunity, comfort and fellowship for our young people and seniors.
3. **Excel for Education:** We will strive for excellence in our academic and vocational preparation; we will promote Africentric cultural awareness and set positive role models.
4. **Oppose Crime:** We will actively encourage the stopping of Black on Black crime and support fair law enforcement. We condemn the illegal use and sale of drugs.
5. **Contribute to the Black Development Fund:** We will financially support Africentric institutions.
6. **Buy and Bank Black:** We will buy and bank where Blacks benefit as owners or employees; we will support selective patronage efforts that contribute to the wealth and development of our people.
7. **Register and Vote:** We are committed to have all our members register to vote and we are committed to vote in the best interest of our people. This requires our members to read so as to be informed of issues.
8. **Hold our Elected Officials Accountable:** We will know the names and records of political representatives at local, state and federal levels. We will vote for those whose records indicate a pattern for support for the poor and disenfranchised for the response to the liberation of all persons.
9. **Support Black Family and Community Life:** We encourage and support a sense of community and mutual support for each other.
10. **Challenge and Boycott Negative Media and Support Positive Media:** We will neither finance nor patronize those forms of media or their sponsors that fail to show positive aspects of Black life. We will support those that do. We will support the Black Press.
11. **Secure and Defend the Black Community:** We will demand, seek and work for adequate protection from physical intimidation and force by the duly constituted law enforcement agencies of our government.
12. **Support Mother Africa and Caribbean Nations:** We oppose colonization, exploitation, apartheid, and repressive government. We will keep current with and actively support through technological, financial, and other means, the struggles for liberation and equality being waged by the people of Africa and Caribbean Nations.