

# Office of the Mayor

CITY OF  ROANOKE

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** St. Gerard's Catholic Church, pastured by Father Rene Castillo, will celebrate the year of the Eucharist and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of St. Gerard during a spiritual weekend, "Remember, Rejoice and Renew", on June 18 – 19, 2005; and

**WHEREAS,** The Holy Mass will be offered on Sunday, June 19, by guest presider and preacher, Father James E. Goode; and

**WHEREAS,** Father Goode, OFM, Ph.D. serves as President of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life and the immediate past President of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and is a leading Black Catholic evangelist in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Father Goode is a native of Roanoke having become the first Black Catholic priest from the City of Roanoke when he was ordained in May 1972 at the Shrine Church of St. Anthony in New York City; and

**WHEREAS,** Father Goode holds a B.A. Degree in Philosophy from the University of New York Immaculate Conception Seminary, a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology from the University of New York St. Anthony Theological Seminary, a Masters of Arts degree in Psychology from the College of St. Rose and a Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology from Union Graduate School; and

**WHEREAS,** Father Goode is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including the Brother Joseph A. Davis Life Time Achievement Award presented by the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus in 1995 and 2004; he is known as the "Dean of Black Catholic preachers, having preached the first Black Catholic Revival in America in 1974; he has preached and conducted over 300 Black Catholic Revival-Convocations throughout the world and in 1989, he founded the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family, which is celebrated on the first Sunday of Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Father Goode continues to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and St. Francis by ministering to the needs of the young and old, sick and dying, victims of violence and abuse, mending those who are broken and standing up for the sacredness of all human life; and

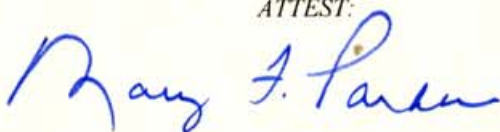
**WHEREAS,** St. Gerard's Catholic Church is honored to have Father James E. Goode in his home parish for this joyous occasion.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Sherman P. Lea, Council Member, on behalf of C. Nelson Harris, Mayor of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, in recognition of outstanding service and leadership to the Black Catholic ministry and to worldwide evangelism, do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 19, 2005, throughout this great All-America City, as

## THE REVEREND FR. JAMES E. GOODE DAY.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the City of Roanoke this fifteenth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and five.

ATTEST:



Mary F. Parker  
City Clerk





Sherman P. Lea  
Council Member