

Immaculate Heart of Mary's  
Increasing Adoptive Measures  
...the "I AM" Program...

# "I AM"

began as a vision and desire in the heart of Father Thomas James to help find homes for children in need. A vision that began many years ago when Father James was working in South Central, Los Angeles, where he witnessed the devastation that drugs and violence had on the lives of the children in that community. So many children entering the foster care system, so many children left without parents. With the assistance of Mrs. Betty Delafosse in writing a grant proposal, Father James' vision became a reality February 2013 through funding of a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to implement the **"I AM" Program**.

**The "I AM" Program,  
works to provide children  
who are legally free  
for adoption....  
with a forever family.**



## HOW CAN YOU HELP

We need your help to make the  
**"I AM" Program**  
successful.

Please open your mind and heart to a child.  
Adoptive and foster parents are needed  
everyday; and we know that many of you  
want to help by answering the call.

Remember the old African proverb  
"It takes a village to raise a child?"

The village isn't in some remote place -  
**WE ARE THE VILLAGE !**

To get more information about the  
**"I AM" program**, about becoming  
a foster/adoptive parent

Call the Church Rectory at (337) 235-4618  
or visit the website  
[www.IHMChurchLafayette.com](http://www.IHMChurchLafayette.com).



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## I AM –

I AM stands for Increasing Adoptive Measures.

In the Book of Exodus, Moses asks God what should he say when the Israelites ask him who sent him. God's reply was, "This is what you should tell the Israelites, I AM sent me to you." We are trying to bring this program to the community at large because God has sent us. We want to help children who are available for adoption and those in foster care to find a home with a family wanting to share their love with a son or daughter.



## WHAT –

The Goals of the "I AM" Program are:

- To inform the church and local community about the need for adoptive and foster families, particularly for African-American children.
- To provide information about what is required to become a foster/adoptive parent, and identify families interested in becoming certified foster /adoptive parents.
- To provide information about children who are available for adoption; and create opportunities for potential adoptive families and children to meet.



## WHY –

The "I AM" Program is important because:

- Children in foster care have done nothing wrong. They have been removed from their homes, because they weren't safe there. Many of them are from our community, and they deserve a family that will love, nurture, and protect them.
- There are more than 4,038 children in foster care in Louisiana.
- As of January 2014 there were more than 538 children in foster care in the Lafayette Region.
- 49% or 264 of these children are African-American.
- 167 of these children are from Lafayette Parish

Please consider fostering or adopting a child.

Don't hesitate to inquire about the  
**"I AM" program**

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at (337) 235-4618  
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visit the website

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**We would be happy to speak with you about fostering, adopting, arranging a personal meeting or just to provide information.**

**This contact with us in no way commits you to anything;**

**it simply allows us to provide you some information to help you make a decision in your and a child's best interest.**

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Church Rectory 337-235-4618