

RESPONSE *Hear us, O God, as we plead on their behalf.*

For governments, churches, temples, and mosques, as well as development partners, that they will help change the oppressive treatment given to all our brothers and sisters worldwide whose human rights are ignored and violated...

RESPONSE *Hear us, O God, as we plead on their behalf.*

For all medical personnel, as well as friends and relatives, who seek to bring relief to HIV/AIDS victims...

RESPONSE *Hear us, O God, as we plead on their behalf.*

For those who have been ignored and shunned, and the millions of homeless who are neglected and unloved because of their illness...

RESPONSE *Hear us, O God, as we plead on their behalf.*

ALL

Pope John Paul II often reminded us that if God's people have AIDS, we cannot hold back or neglect to do our part, however small it may be. He stated that "the poor cannot wait, so too God's people with HIV/AIDS cannot wait." We ask You, our God, who cares about the life of each tiny sparrow, to embrace the life of each suffering person.

Inspire us with ways to be of help in this great need and give us stamina that keeps us alert, active, and involved. Hear us in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Practical suggestions for response/action:

- I will pray daily for my sisters and brothers who suffer with AIDS.
- I will use my influence to educate others, family, friends, colleagues, etc.
- I will become an AIDS activist in whatever ways I can.
- I will respond to AIDS-related action alerts and encourage others to do the same.
- I will read and pray over the materials on the HIV/AIDS pages of our congregation's web site, especially the essay by Margaret Farley, RSM
http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/Justice_Peace_and_Sustainability/worldaidsday2010.asp
- Add your own ideas

IHM Prayer Service For and with all who suffer with **HIV/AIDS**



December 1, 2010

WORLD AIDS DAY 2010 PRAYER SERVICE



INTRODUCTION

The World AIDS day theme for 2010 is '*Universal Access and Human Rights.*' World AIDS Day is important in reminding us that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

According to UNAIDS estimates, there are now 35.4 million people living with HIV, including 2.1 million children. During 2008 some 2.7 million people became newly infected with the virus and an estimated 2 million persons died from AIDS. Around half of all people who became infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35.

Valuable progress has been made in increasing access to HIV and AIDS services, yet greater commitment is needed around the world if the goal of universal access is to be achieved. In low and middle-income countries, less than half of those in need of antiretroviral therapy are receiving it, and too many do not have access to adequate care services.

The protection of human rights is fundamental to combating the global HIV and AIDS pandemic. Violations against human rights fuel the spread of HIV, putting marginalized groups, such as injecting drug users and sex workers, at a higher risk of HIV infection. By promoting individual human rights, new infections can be prevented and people who have HIV and AIDS can live free from discrimination.

***“Towards Universal Access: Scaling Up Priority HIV/AIDS Interventions in the Health Sector.”
WHO, UNAIDS & UNICEF, September 2009.***

CALL TO PRAYER

God of justice and compassion, be with us as we acknowledge our oneness with our brothers and sisters everywhere, especially those living with HIV/AIDS. Sharpen our awareness and disturb our hearts when we hear or read about their struggle for human rights and access to universal healthcare. Touch our compassion so that, by your Spirit, we may be impelled to act with justice and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen

SONG *I Will Never Forget You, My People* (Carey Landry)

Refrain: I will never forget you, My people
I have carved you on the palm of My hand
I will never forget you
I will not leave you orphaned
I will never forget My own.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

“Principle and outrage...Yes! Many, many times I have looked into the haunting eyes of children, like the dying little boy in the hospice in-patient unit next to my house, emaciated, who never said a word but every time I came to him he just stretched out his arms – just wanting to be hugged and held...which we did with great love until he died, our hearts broken because we could not save this precious little life; or a 17 year-old girl telling me of the terrible ordeal of being raped by her HIV-positive father, becoming infected and pregnant, her baby being born HIV-positive, and then as she slipped deeper into her illness, being thrown out of the house to end up in a shack where we minister; or a 13 year-old girl with empty and so sad eyes watching her mother die of AIDS-defining diseases, knowing that all her relatives had died of the same disease and there was no one left to care for her three siblings except herself.”

***Bishop Kevin Dowling, C.S.s.R.,
Commencement Address at the
University of San Francisco, 5/22/09***

SILENT REFLECTION

- How do those words touch my heart?
- How disturbed am I by the messages they convey?

SONG *(continued)*

Does a mother forget her baby?
Or a woman the child within her womb?
Yet, even if these forget,
Yes, even if these forget,
I will never forget My own.

LITANY

For children: Over 15 million worldwide who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and 33 million who are living with HIV...