

FINAL PRAYER

Loving God, we desire to embrace the dignity of each human person as revealed by the mystery of the Incarnation. Help us to live our commitment to undo racism. Empower us to participate in the process of right relationships, healing and reconciliation. Strengthen us in our resolve to eradicate racism within ourselves, our local communities, our church and our global community. We offer this prayer in a spirit of trust and hope in your providence for ourselves and all those affected by HIV/AIDS. Amen.

Adapted from the Oblate.IHM *A Prayer for Racial Healing*

Practical suggestions for response/action:

- I will pray daily for my sisters and brothers who suffer with AIDS.
- I will seek out, pray over, and discuss materials on HIV/AIDS and racism with others.
- I will notice what or how medical or other care gets provided and to whom.
- I will use my influence to educate others on the connections of HIV/AIDS and racism.
- I will respond to advocacy opportunities on issues of race and HIV/AIDS.

**The Abuja Declaration was adopted at the Summit of African Leaders held in Abuja, Nigeria in April, 2001. The leaders declared that "AIDS is a state of emergency in the continent" and pledged to place the fight against AIDS as the highest priority issue in their national development plans.*

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the members of the IHM Undoing Racism and HIV/AIDS Committees who prepared this prayer service: Margaret Alandt, Joyce Campbell, Ann Nett and Janice Soleau.



Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
www.ihmsisters.org

*In today's climate in our
country, which is sickened
with the pollution of pollution,
threatened with the
prominence of AIDS, riddled
with burgeoning racism, rife
with growing huddles of the homeless,
we need art and we need art in all forms.
We need all methods of art to be present,
everywhere present,
and all the time present.*



maya angelou



*AIDS will disappear one day. In the meantime we have an opportunity
to learn and grow. Do it, we must.*

(Translation of above)

December 1, 2011

WORLD AIDS DAY – DECEMBER 1, 2011

IHM PRAYER SERVICE

*For and with all who suffer from
HIV/AIDS*



INTRODUCTION

The World AIDS Campaign 2011 focus on “Zero AIDS Related Deaths” signifies a push towards greater access to treatment for all and a call for governments to act *now*. [The Campaign] demands that leaders honor promises like the Abuja Declaration* and that African governments, at the very least, hit agreed-upon targets for domestic spending on health and HIV in support of the human right to the best attainable level of health care for all.

Royston Martin, May 9, 2011

African Americans are 13 percent of the U.S. population but are 50 percent of those diagnosed with HIV each year and 50 percent of those who die of AIDS annually, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Adrienne Appel, Boston, November 29, 2007

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 recognize how racism and HIV/AIDS are so integrally linked. Touch our compassion so that we may be impelled to act with justice and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen.

SONG For All the World (by Jan Novotka, *Roots and Wings Rising as One*)

Refrain: For all the world we gather here,
For all the world, we come,
we gather now as one, one in love.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Persons with expertise about HIV/AIDS have documented the ways in which national and global efforts to understand, prevent, treat and find a cure for HIV/AIDS are persistently affected by racism. We know, for

example, that information about HIV/AIDS is more readily accessible in the white communities than in communities of color, that treatment is less available to persons of color with HIV than white males; that within the AIDS activism movement, voice, access and power is in the hands of white activists while the voices and concerns of persons of color with HIV and AIDS have gone virtually unheard and unheeded. It requires serious denial to avoid the conclusion that racism and AIDS are intimately related.

Joseph R. Barndt

SILENT REFLECTION

How can we increase efforts to confront and eliminate discriminatory practices at every opportunity?

Can we begin to realize that this time of crisis and opportunity is fertile for the shaping of anti-racist HIV/AIDS work?

SONG For All the World (by Jan Novotka – *Roots and Wings Rising as One*)

Verse 2

We come together to honor and reverence
the gift that each of us is.
Taking the time to be present, to listen,
with openness healing begins.

LITANY

RESPONSE: Hear us, O God, and help us to know that we are one.

For the millions of children worldwide who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and millions more living with HIV/AIDS, we pray...

For governments, churches, temples, and mosques who legislate and/or influence policy on who has access to treatment, that they act on the side of the oppressed, we pray...

For all who seek medical treatment for HIV/AIDS, that the color of their skin has no bearing on their access to and quality of treatment, we pray...

For those who deny or ignore the interrelationship of racism and HIV/AIDS, including ourselves at times, we pray...

Add your own intentions...