

MWIA PRAYER
to mark
U.N. WORLD SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY



2018 UN World Social Justice Day theme: Workers on the Move - the Quest for Social Justice

Most migration today is linked directly or indirectly to the search for decent work opportunities. Even if employment is not the primary driver, it usually features in the migration process at some point.

There are an estimated 258 million international migrants. The ILO estimates that there are roughly 150 million migrant workers.

Among migrant workers, 56 percent are men and 44 percent are women.

Migrant workers account for 4.4 percent of all workers and have higher labor force participation rates than non-migrants globally (73 percent and 64 percent respectively).

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We Gather ...

We gather in the name of our God who favours those made poor, the outcast and the broken-hearted.

We gather in the name of Jesus, friend of lepers, women, tax-collectors and people from diverse cultural groups.

We gather in the name of the fiery Spirit of God, who stirs in us a desire to make the world whole and holy.

We Listen ...

Social justice is one of the fundamental issues in the Bible. God created the world and humankind, and the life and happiness of all God's people are God's deepest desires. Dominik Markl SJ

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4:18-19

Jesus did not pressure anyone to his point of view, but he did keep offering his message: God is a loving God who welcomes sinners, offers hospitality to strangers, chooses the ones on the margins and put them at the heart of God's concern. It is clear in our day that we cannot separate spreading the gospel from action for justice, at every level of society. 'We must not only love our neighbour as ourself, but behave as if we did', links the action for justice with integrity.

Christine Burke ibvm

As Mary Ward's companions moved by the person of Jesus and the needs of our world today, we seek to:

*Reclaim the freshness of the Gospel, allowing Jesus to transform our lives

*Go where the need is greatest

*Bring those forced to live in poverty to the centre of our life and ministry (and study)

*Live sustainably, discerning what is enough

*Create the oneness that moves us across boundaries

Calls of the 2014 IBVM General Congregation

We Respond ...

We pray for the Church throughout the world, that we might be signs of God's peace and justice, hope and healing; let us pray to the Lord

R/- God of mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for the Church here in Australia during these difficult days of media attention, that we might be faithful to the Gospel message to bring Good News to all creation, especially those made poor; let us pray to the Lord

R/- God of mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for the world-wide Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that our presence at the United Nations might be a small step in the transformation of our Church and world; let us pray to the Lord

R/- God of mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for the mission and ministry of Mary Ward International Australia, that we might embrace the challenges of the year ahead in a spirit of freedom, justice and integrity; let us pray to the Lord

R/- God of mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for all members of the Loreto family, that the mission and vision of Jesus and Mary Ward might be shared in a spirit of unity; let us pray to the Lord

R/- God of mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for loved ones who have died since our last meeting, that they might be held in God's loving embrace and continue to pray for us in our need; let us pray to the Lord

R/- God of mercy, hear our prayer

We Go Out ...

May our eyes delight in the dignity of each person.

May our minds ask questions with generosity and grace.

May our ears listen closely to the needs of those on the edges.

May our mouths speak the truth in love.

May our hearts discern the needs of the MWIA community in a spirit of truth and integrity.

May our feet walk in the way of Mary Ward on paths of justice and joy.

We make this and all our prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.