

## Lent: A time of Solidarity

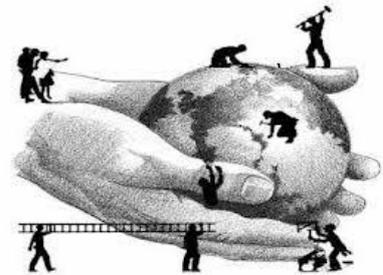


*"Solidarity does not assume that our struggles are the same struggles, or that our pain is the same pain, or that our hope is for the same future. Solidarity involves commitment, and work, as well as the recognition that even if we do not have the same feelings, or the same lives, or the same bodies, we do live on common ground." (Sara Ahmed)*

As we enter into this time of lent we hear the words "be converted, believe in the gospel".

In recent years we have all become more aware that sin is at once both personal and social. No one is an island, we are all parts of the Body of Christ, what we do affects one another and we are all implicated in the actions of the body as a whole. Our Lenten journey can no longer simply be a private affair, something we do for the benefit of our individual souls.

A journey into the desert of Lent in solidarity with our brothers and sisters is a different journey from one of individual piety. It is an opportunity to look with the eyes of contemplation on the suffering of our world and the social sin that is more often at its heart. It is an opportunity to envision the Reign of God on this Earth and to commit ourselves anew to work towards bringing it to reality.



*"During Lent let us allow the Spirit of God to lead us to repent not only of our personal sins but also for the ways in which our collective history may have been complicit in the suffering of others. In repentance, let us seek to believe in the Gospel that is good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed and actively seek justice, hope and joy in the Spirit which is what the Kingdom of God is all about".*

### How could we as a community live this lent with a Spirituality of Solidarity?



A spirituality of solidarity knows that the depths of human suffering in the world can only be redeemed by God's loving solidarity with the human community in its struggle to create a more just and peace-filled world for all. The passion and death of Jesus is not only an historical event; it is lived daily in the bodies, spirits, and lives of people all over the world, from the impoverished and violent cities of rich nations to the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Calcutta, and Johannesburg.

Likewise, the resurrection is realized daily as people take steps to affirm their own dignity and rights or to open their spirits beyond the walls of racism, sexism and all other forms of domination and control. The resurrection is the ground of our hope for each other and the future.

A spirituality of solidarity grounds us in the sense of relationship, mutuality and wholeness - with God, with each other and with the earth - It offers energy for the massive task of envisioning and developing alternative structures and relationships that liberate both the

oppressed and the oppressive. It can answer the pitfalls and oppressions of the globalization of the world that characterizes our era. (Maria Riley OP as quoted in GS JP manual vol. 2 )

**Let us Pray:**

Our Father/Mother God  
Who is in us here on earth.  
Holy is your name  
In the hungry  
Who share their bread and their song.

May your reign come,  
Which is a generous land  
Which flows with milk and honey.

Let us do your will,  
Standing up when all are sitting down,  
And raising our voice  
When all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread  
In the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn.

Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice,  
And for burying our dreams,  
For not sharing bread and wine,  
Love and the land,  
Among us, now.

Do not let us fall into the temptation of shutting the door through fear;  
Of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice;  
Of taking up the same arms as the enemy.  
But deliver us from evil.

Give us the perseverance and the solidarity  
To look for love,  
Even if the path has not yet been trodden,  
Even if we fall;  
So we shall have known your reign  
Which is coming to be for ever and ever.  
Amen

Central American Lord's prayer adapted



*Submitted by Sr. Margaret Lynch, NGO Representative, Geneva*