



**PRAYER TO MAKE HUMAN  
RIGHTS A REALITY IN THE WORLD,  
IN OUR COUNTRY, IN OUR  
COMMUNITY**

**SYMBOL:** Photocopy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a Bible

**READING: Luke 6: 6-11**

On another Sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him closely to see if he would cure on the Sabbath so that they might discover a reason to accuse him.

But Jesus realized their intentions and said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up and stand before us." And he rose and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"

Looking around at them all, Jesus then said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so and his hand was restored. But they became enraged and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

**ARTICLE 2**

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

**ARTICLE 3**

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

## **REFLECTION:**

Speaking of Human Rights requires that we initially ask ourselves: how much we know about human rights? Do we know what they are? In our communities and ministries do we speak about them? Do we teach them?

In our countries are we a presence as Good Shepherd, are we the shepherd who seeks the rights of others, who cares and acts when human rights are being violated in any way?

This biblical text and articles 2 and 3 of the Human Rights Declaration, call us to question ourselves in relation to our commitment to the defense of life and to go beyond the structures that might impede us, and to challenge that which pushes to the margins those who are "different" because their personal, social or economic reality.

### **Question to deepen the reflection:**

Human Rights are not an isolated reality, pertaining only to Governments or the authorities of our countries. They are a close reality that I have to live daily and which I cannot ignore or think of as someone else's problem. We as Good Shepherd Sisters have much to say and much to do in relation to this issue. In my local community and in relation to my sisters I ask myself:

- 1. What has been my position been when my point of view is different or I disagree with an issue in my daily life or in the ministry? What attitude do I take?*
- 2. What attitude does Jesus take in the biblical text above and what is the link between this text and the articles 2 and 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? How can I live this attitude in my daily life?*

## **FINAL PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, in this month when we are celebrating your birth, may we also be reborn with new attitudes that reflect your humility and simplicity. May we continue promoting the recognition of Human Rights and the dignity of every human being, so that we may live and promote them as you announced and defended them. Amen.

*Submitted by Fabiola Tapasco, JP contact Colombia/Venezuela*