

11 DE OCTUBRE



DÍA INTERNACIONAL DE LA NIÑA

(International Day of the Girl, October 11)

Prepare a Sacred Space with : a candle, pictures of girls' faces, and a symbol that represents the girls that you accompany on your mission.

Scripture Reading

And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

(Mark 5:39,43).



Your daughter is dead! but the Giver of Life said: Talita kumi!

When the news finally arrives that the girl has died ... I imagine how heartbreaking that moment was for Jairo, all his hopes, his desires and his faith, perhaps vanished in that instant. So why wait for her to die? As they arrived, as Mark tells us , “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.”(v.39-40a). Mockery is never lacking in moments like these; everyone who was there made fun of Jesus without knowing what the learning would be and why Jesus waited for the girl to die. Why? For the whole world to see the power of God in the life of Jesus and in this girl! Jesus raised the girl from the dead so that we might come to understand that God is the author of life and that Jesus came that ‘we might have life and have it more abundantly’. Jesus tells us : **Get up , you are alive!**

It is the most beautiful image we see God's power of life in the midst of death and sickness. Death walks over the earth and in every country in so many forms from COVID 19, to deaths due to hunger, malnutrition and violence.

What is the value that Jesus gives to the girl?



Congregational Position Paper on the Girl Child

In our time, across the world, children suffer severe violations of their human rights in unconscionable numbers. Throughout human history, the girl child has been subject to disproportionate discrimination and abuse. OLCGS has always been attentive to the social disadvantage of women and girls, while sharing concern for her family and boy siblings.

For many girls, fundamental rights are denied and violated from before her birth and continue across her life cycle as an adolescent, adult, and female elder. The exclusion of girl children and girl adolescents is rooted in systemic injustice, structural gender inequality, targeted gender violence, and dominant systems of patriarchal power.

Our first response to the girl child is to accept and cherish her, affirming her immeasurable worth as a human person. OLCGS develops, with participation of girls and their families, social service programs to empower the girl child, to support her resiliency, to educate her about her rights, to promote safety and protection both within her home and within social institutions such as schools. We support universal education for all children, knowing it to be the most effective avenue to realize individual capacity while being the surest path out of cyclical poverty.

We develop enrichment programs for self-esteem, pride in culture, play, and expression of each girl's highest potential; we support social benefits for parents and support all forms of extended families that care for children.

Girls and COVID-19

The United Nations Secretary-General has referred to a “shocking” global increase in domestic violence linked to COVID-19

The global economic recession sparked by the COVID-19 crisis, including the massive loss of jobs around the world, is likely to increase child labor and marriage rates . Worldwide, an estimated 152 million children were already engaged in child labor before the COVID-19 pandemic, and 73 million were in hazardous work. According to some research, there is a close relation between child labor and economic crises suffering families, such as illness, disability or loss of work of one parent.

The COVID-19 crisis also increases the risk of child sexual exploitation on the Internet . According to Europol, various law enforcement partners have reported “increased online activity by those searching for materials related to child abuse” as a result of COVID-19. Boys and girls spend more time online because of the closure of schools and is likely to isolation and confinement make them feel anxious or lonely and in that situation, more vulnerable to those of predators on the Internet.

Sharing

- 1 What feelings emerge for you, thinking about the experiences of girls in your community and country?**
- 2 . What protection policies for the Child does your apostolic program have, in order to protect her from abuse of any kind?**
- 3. Share the practices you facilitate for girls in your mission to encourage them to be leaders.**

Prayer for the Girl

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls who roam the streets.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls kidnapped from their home.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For trafficked girls.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls sold by their parents.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For girls who are sexually exploited.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls abused by their parents.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls who are murdered.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls who are missing love from their family.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls adopted into environments of violence and rejection.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls used in child pornography.

MERCY AND COMPASSION For the girls who suffer from “bullying” in schools

PRAYER FINAL FOR ALL GIRLS

Jesus Good Shepherd, we ask that each girl have an adult person by their side who mentors them and helps them grow surrounded by true love.

We pray that every girl child who lacks food, shelter, education and medical care may have their basic needs fulfilled.

Shepherd God, let us never cease from advocating for girls rights so that , they never have to perform tasks that do not correspond to their age.

We ask you to enlighten and guide us to find the paths that will lead girls to know you and live from your values. .

In these times of individualism, aggression and violence, help us to be a testimony to the life that You gave us.

Shepherd God fill the heart of every girl with the courage necessary to build a world where justice, peace and love become realities. . . So be it for ever and ever. Amen

Sr. Monica Echeverría A

Ecuador Province

Prepared in Spanish