

8 MARCH – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Instructions: In the chapel or a comfortable place to pray, bring beforehand women's names, photographs of those who have been done away with for their struggle in the pursuit of justice and defense of human rights and women's rights. In the middle: two candles and a loaf of bread.

Prayer (Light the first candle)

All:

God open my lips so that my mouth may praise you and bless you for the women whose experience of injustice led them to fight for a life with greater dignity, equality and justice.

Time to meditate on reality

...Bring forward the names of the women that led the way

Anita, a Tzeltal Maya indigenous woman: Anita lived on Rosario Pacayal, one of the tall mountains in the jungle of Ocosingo, Chiapas. It took three days to get into town. At 43 years of age, Anita began to study to become a catechist. Her husband accompanied her and he cared for the children while she took the courses that took as long as three months. Then she went around the small towns teaching the prayers and talking about the gospel, preparing the sacraments, teaching us to sing praises. She was a companion to Samuel Ruiz, our bishop. She was a woman with a big, brave heart, she planted the Word of God in the whole region. She supported the organization of the indigenous and the participation of women in the struggle for their village. She did not know how to read or write, but she knew how to learn and preach, and she kept everything in her memory. The 14th of January, 2017 she left us... She died already a very old woman, but she left her children as catechists and choristers. (Chiapas, Mexico)

Psalm:

Woman that makes the way

Woman rise from history

There where you create it,

*In the beauty of days, in the darkness of nights, in
the murmur of noise, in the sweat of home.*

Woman rise from history

*There where you build it, where you break schemes,
where you open paths of rock
Impregnated by exclusionary ideologies.*

*Where you sow dreams, where you cry out justice
and weave solidarity*

*Woman rise from history
There where you cry
In the pursuit of life for yours, in broken dignity,
In life sold, in your crucified body.*

*Woman rise from history
There where you injure and celebrate life, where you
recreate it in what you sow, in the embrace
In friendship, in love, there where you create
tenderness and you are hope.*

Time for us to let ourselves be enlightened by the Gospel

Text: Gospel of St. Mark 5:21-43

The desire of the life of these women – How does it illuminate the reality of women today?

Time to share and learn together

Let us take a moment of silence (light the second candle)

- *For all women who have been murdered for pursuing a more just and dignified life.*

Time to celebrate (share the bread)

- *For all the women who continue to contribute their thoughts, their strength, their time, their tenderness, their courage, being hope in the search for a more just, dignified and inclusive life for every woman.*

Magnificat – Cantic of Mary

Prayer

*Our Father, who are Father and Mother,
Who are present in our dreams of freedom and justice,
Who sanctifies our struggles, our deaths,
May the life for which you created her and named her come to every woman,
May each woman be a worthy daughter of yours in the home, in the street, in the fields,
In the offices, in the convents, in the mountains, on the roads
When she proclaims justice, she dreams of it and fights for it from the small, from where she lives.
Teach us to find our daily bread, the bread of justice, of equality,
Of friendship, of tenderness, the bread of the dialogue that brings together and builds paths of life.
Forgive the inconsistencies of those of us who walk and our hasty steps,
We destroy and hurt feelings, feeling ourselves superior to others.
Teach of the path of inclusion, the art of embracing and being one heart among women,
To unite ways of dialogue and reconciliation that are the strength in the struggle for the rights of all.
You know the crucified life of many women, for money, bad passions, selfishness, poverty and exclusion,
May their pain, their blood, their weeping be fruitful soil where justice can be cultivated.
Give us the wisdom not to fall into the indifference of looking without seeing, of hearing without listening,
of living without feeling the agony of our sisters and being able to commit ourselves to the path of hope in their
liberation. AMEN*

Prayer Contributed by María Juana Urbina Guerrero – Province of West Mexico