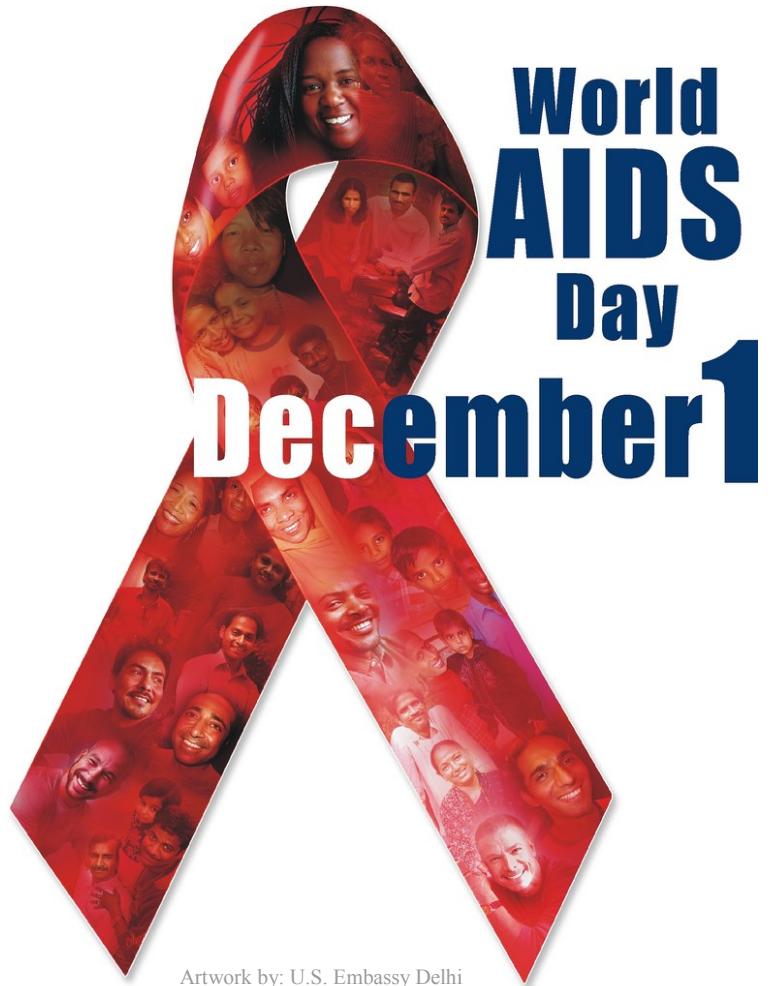




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Artwork by: U.S. Embassy Delhi

**IHM Prayer Service  
For and with all who suffer  
with **HIV/AIDS****

**Dec. 1, 2016**

WORLD AIDS DAY – DEC. 1, 2016  
IHM PRAYER SERVICE  
*For and with all who suffer from  
HIV/AIDS*



*Begin the prayer service by lighting a candle in a prominent place. As the candle is lit, everyone present prays the opening prayer.*

**Opening Prayer** (recite together): God of compassion and justice, be with us today on World AIDS Day as we acknowledge our oneness with our brothers and sisters everywhere, especially those living with HIV/AIDS. Sharpen our awareness and disturb our hearts when we recognize how racism, poverty, and HIV/AIDS are so deeply intertwined. Bless and strengthen all who suffer from HIV/AIDS, those who comfort and support them, and those who work tirelessly to fund and find a cure for this disease. Empower us as individuals, communities and nations to respond to those in need with justice and compassion. As we light this candle, we re-dedicate ourselves to listen and learn, to pray for and support all who whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS in our own communities and in our world. Amen.

**Opening Song: Christ, Be Our Light** by Bernadette Farrell  
(or another appropriate song)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

**Refrain:** Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church, gathered today.



<http://ihmsisters.org/living-justly/peace-and-justice/current-issues/global-aids-crisis/online-resources/>

Give us the strength to weep with the grieving, to walk with the lonely, to stand with the depressed.

May our love mirror your love for those who live in fear, who live under stress, and who suffer rejection.

Mothering, Fathering God, grant rest to those who have died and hope to all those who live with HIV.

God of life, help us find the cure now and help us build a world in which no one dies alone and where everyone lives accepted, wanted, and loved.

by Father Dan Jensen, M.M. Los Altos, California for  
*Maryknoll Book of Prayer*

**Closing Song: Bambelela** *arrangement by Marty Haugen*  
(or another appropriate song)

Bambelela, bambelela, oh, bambelela, bambelela,  
bambe, bambe, bambe, bambe, bambe  
oh, bambe, bambelela

Never give up, never give up, oh, never give up,  
never give up,  
never, never, never, never, never  
oh, never, never give up.

The closing song is available for download (\$1.29) at:  
[https://www.giamusic.com/search\\_details.cfm?title\\_id=8496](https://www.giamusic.com/search_details.cfm?title_id=8496)  
(On the "Turn to Me" CD by Marty Haugen, Track #12)

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us;  
make us your living voice. *(Refrain)*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *(Refrain)*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *(Refrain)*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kindom come. *(Refrain)*

**Reading: 1 John 1:5, 7**

This is what we have heard from him,  
and the message that we are announcing to you:  
God is light; there is no darkness in him at all....  
If we live our lives in the light,  
as he is in the light,  
we are in union with one another...

**Silent Reflection**



## Response

**Side 1:** HIV and AIDS cut across all boundaries. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, children. Members of all countries, cities and communities are affected.

**Side 2:** Nearly thirty-seven million people worldwide are infected with HIV. Two million people became newly infected this year and every day, four thousand people die from AIDS-related diseases. Seventeen million people living with HIV do not have access to treatment. Half of all people living with HIV are unaware of their status.

**Side 1:** Young people, migrants, refugees, people uprooted by natural disasters and war, victims of human trafficking, people who suffer from violence and abuse, those who are poor, people of color, women and men, girls and boys: are all vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

**Side 2:** God of justice and love, we pray for a world where all people have the equal opportunity to grow, develop, flourish, work and enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, supported by laws, policies and programs that respect their human rights and protect their right to health and well-being.

**All:** We pray for a world where all people, especially those living with HIV/AIDS, are able to live their lives to the fullest, from birth to adulthood and into old age, free from discrimination and with dignity and equality.



**Reading:** *When God's People Have HIV/AIDS: An Approach to Ethics* by Maria Cimperman, OSU

We are only asked to do our part, to offer what we can. We cannot hold back, for as Pope John Paul II often stated that “the poor cannot wait,” so too God’s people with HIV/AIDS cannot wait.

Our tradition of faith offers us stories of Jesus, and the moral imagination reminds us that we are called to follow Jesus in this our *kairos* time and place. God is in our historical *now*. Our relationship with God and others calls us more deeply and more fully into a world of joy as well as suffering. The spiritual and moral life become one as we do what would otherwise seem impossible—interrupt and stop the AIDS pandemic.

## Silent Reflection

What, now, will you do? What action will you take?

What difference can you make? What difference can we make together?

## Closing Prayer (Recite together)

God of all compassion, comfort your sons and daughters who live with AIDS. Spread over us all your quilt of mercy, love and peace.

Open our eyes to your presence reflected in their faces; open our ears to your truth echoing in our hearts.