

Together we pray

May every voice proclaim thy praise.
And every knee bow in thy presence
the tangible promise of our faith.
May thy Charity, like a mantle,
lift us to God on high."

Jessica Coupe: [Daystar Rising: A Story of the First Christmas](#)

December 2014



We pray with the Church and the World

From the words of Pope Francis:

I want the Church to go out onto the streets; I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves.

Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2013

As the Christmas season comes closer, we are called to be this church out on the streets – with and among those forced to live in poverty, those for whom the loneliness of the time is painful.

December 1st is World AIDS day. UN AIDS reports a 52% reduction in new HIV infections among children and a combined 33% reduction among adults and children since 2001. While giving thanks for this progress let us continue to pray that the retroviral drugs will be made available to all and *Getting to Zero* will become a reality.

December 10th is Human Rights Day. The principle of the universality of human rights is the cornerstone of international human rights law. We pray for members and co-workers who labour against trafficking, those who seek dignity for women and children, those who accompany refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

We pray with the Institute

From our GC14 Calls:

Bring those forced to live in poverty to the centre of our lives and ministry

Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.

G.K. Chesterton: Brave New Family

The invitation to bring the stranger and the lost to the centre of our Christmas this year is a good way to make this call real. May our community gatherings reflect the care the inn-keeper offered, the attention the angels gave and the reverence the shepherds presented.

We continue to remember with thanks the new leadership team who will make the move to Rome before the end of December. Pray for courageous departures and safe travel.

One Small Voice

Jesus, God-with-us,
what gift shall we bring to you?
The angels bring their song,
the heavens bring their star,
the shepherds bring their wonder,
the animals give their manger,
the wise men bring their gifts
and we human beings
bring the Virgin-Mother.
We bring our whole selves to you
who have so fully and generously
given yourself to us.