

Let us pray

Lord, we come before you as we are.
We ask you to take away from us
all that makes us less than human.
Strengthen us with the power of your Spirit
that our attitude and outlook may develop,
and our 'way of looking' may become more like yours.
Help us to remain positive - encouraging and appreciating one another,
looking upon people in the same way that you do.
Amen.

February 2014



The "light of revelation" has come into the world.

We pray with the Church and the World

From the words of Pope Francis: One of the more serious temptations which stifles boldness and zeal is a defeatism which turns us into querulous and disillusioned pessimists, “sourpusses”. ... While painfully aware of our own frailties, we have to march on without giving in, keeping in mind what the Lord said to Saint Paul: *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness* (2 Cor 12:9). # 85 EVANGELII GAUDIUM

On 20th February the UN calls our attention to **World Day of Social Justice**. Social Justice is as an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. When we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants we uphold the principles of social justice. And when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability we advance social justice. We are invited to take some time for personal reflection on our attitudes and behaviours.

We pray with the Institute

This month we pray for members gathering for **Province Congregations in Eastern Africa** from 21st - 25th February and **Ireland** over two weekends, 1st - 2nd February and 22nd - 23rd February.

In this month we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of IBVM participation at the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). There we advocate for systemic change while our larger JPIC framework focuses on issues and creating awareness. We thank Evanne Hunter, Doryne Kirby, Marilla D'Souza, Anne Kelly and now Cecilia O'Dwyer for their great work.

From February 25th until March 5th 27 IBVM and colleagues will meet in Toronto to consider the role and function of **Mary Ward International (MWI)** into the future. Pray that as the context of our world today and the many resources within our Institute are considered, responses for sustaining and developing just ministries will be found.

As we seek to build the world we want, we seek to intensify our efforts to achieve a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable development path built on dialogue, transparency and social justice.

One Small Voice

If your heart be right, then every created thing will become
for you a mirror of life and a book of holy teaching.
For there is nothing created so small and mean
that it does not reflect the goodness of God.

Thomas à Kempis