

A. PRAYER

**“Prayer does not change God,
but changes the person”**

OUTLINE OF PRAYER TIME

1. Start with the song “Tell me why”
2. Resonances of the song
3. A fact of life
4. Delve into the facts of life
5. Facts
6. Questions regarding causes and responsibilities
7. Gospel reading
8. Our hands
9. Prayer
10. We walk away in silence

AMBIANCE

Find a suitable time and place for personal prayer that allows time for not only silence but also group sharing. Place on a table a cloth, a Bible, a lit candle and an empty plate. It might also be possible to create a suitable ambiance with pictures that help us share in the pain of so many of our brothers and sisters.

Preparation must be made with suitable music and songs, with a projector for the lyrics. **“Tell me why”**.

MOMENT OF PRAYER

1. START WITH THE SONG “TELL ME WHY”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKMoHLxDncU&feature=related>

(See the lyrics on separate sheet)

2. RESONANCE OF THE SONG

Allow a moment of silence and then invite spontaneous expressions regarding feelings which occurred while listening to the song.

3. A FACT OF LIFE

“I met Keith around noon and saw him looking very sad. He told me that he had left the room where he lived with his wife and four children that very morning to scrounge through the garbage bags in the area as he did every day, hoping to find some scraps of food. He told me he does this early in the morning, after lunchtime (when some are able to enjoy lunch in a restaurant) and at night (after the dinner scraps are thrown out.)

He said he had no job and no personal documents, just as there were no openings on future horizons which might allow a change in his life and that of his family...

It was early and he had to go before the dump truck passed. That was his life every day which didn't even allow for a break on Sundays.

When he arrived he found that someone else had beaten him to it searching in the area. Perhaps it was some new guy who had gone extra early for better pickings. He and the others had resolved to share the streets so as to avoid conflicts. This time the bags had been open and the contents strewn about and there was little to collect.

Keith found only some noodles left by someone who couldn't finish his plate, as well as a piece of bread, three empty plastic bottles, some bits of cardboard, an old pair of jeans, six empty beer cans and some leftover vegetables. He told me he took everything home and gave it to his wife and children. He could not eat that night because there simply wasn't enough for everyone. I found it so bad that..."

While reading this story it should be possible to play some appropriate music or project photos which might help penetrate into the theme of our prayer.

4. DELVE INTO THE FACT OF LIFE

During a moment of silence, we invite you to place faces and names of people close to us that are living in situations similar to that of Keith:

- What I know about them?
- How do I usually react when I hear / know of situations similar to Keith's?
- What demands does this seem to impinge upon my conscience?

(We should interrogate ourselves in silence, with appropriate background music)

5. DATA

After a moment of silence someone reads the facts:

Some facts (with their respective sources) systematized by CROP, the international program of "Critical Research for the Eradication of Poverty" set up by the University of Bergen, Norway (<http://www.crop.org/>) CROP is making a great effort – from a critical perspective – to refute the official discourse on combating poverty that has been churned out for over thirty years by the World Bank and endlessly reproduced by the mass media, government officials, academics and various "experts".



WORLD POPULATION: 6.800 BILLION, OF WHICH

- 1.02 billion are chronically undernourished (FAO, 2009)
- 2 billion have no access to prescription drugs (<http://www.fic.nih.gov/>)
- 884 million have no access to potable drinking water (WHO / UNICEF 2008)
- 924 million homeless or living in substandard housing (UN Habitat 2003)
- 1.6 billion have no electricity (UN Habitat, "Urban Energy")
- 2.5 billion without sewers or sewage systems (WHO / UNICEF 2008)

- 774 million adults are illiterate (www.uis.unesco.org)
- 18 million deaths a year due to poverty, mostly children under the age of five. (WHO)
- 218 million children between 5 and 17 years, often working in conditions of slavery or in dangerous or humiliating circumstances such as soldiers, prostitutes, servants, in agriculture, construction or in the textile industry (ILO: The end of work children: a Reach, 2006)
- In terms of global wealth, between 1988 and 2002 the poorest 25% of the world population saw its share of income reduced from 1.16% to 0.92%, while the income of the richest and wealthiest 10% grew from 64.7 to 71.1%.
- Only 6.4% increase in the wealth of the richest countries would be enough to double the income of 70% of the world population, saving countless lives and reducing the hardships and sufferings of the poorest. In other words, this would be achieved if only the further enrichment of the richest 10% of the world population between 1988 and 2002 were to have been redistributed, leaving intact their outrageous fortunes.

After hearing this information what questions do I ask myself? A moment of silence...

6. QUESTIONS ABOUT CAUSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



We share with us these questions:

- What are the causes of hunger in the world?
- What responsibility do I/we have with this causes?
- What are we doing, or what can we do to start helping, so we not only claim or grieve or express our aspirations?

7. GOSPEL READING

We read this text of the NT

Facing the situation of so many brothers and sisters who suffer hunger and poverty within our market economy, we are tempted to believe that no changes are really possible. We may want to affirm that the laws governing the world economy can never be changed... However, Jesus invites us to be "lords of the Sabbath"... lords of the market structures capable of generating a state of injustice. We must dare to "pluck the heads of grain on a Saturday," so there'll be no more hungry people in the world.

We read: **Mt 12, 1-8**

8. OUR HANDS

Personal meditation

Thinking locally, nationally, and globally...

- What's in my hands to face the problem of hunger?
- What can I initiate, reorient or confirm of what I'm doing... so that "hunger be no more a crime"?

9. PRAYER

Taking in consideration the shared questions, the Gospel narrative and the personal reflection we make our spontaneous prayers... while we pray we pass from hand to hand the empty plate that is on our table.

We walked away in silence... at the desired moment.

WORLD FOOD DAY in our Website:

<http://www.jpicapassionist.org/English/index.htm>