

January 23, 2021

Special Prayers, Day 7

We Pray for Immigrants, Those Who are Homeless, Hungry, Vulnerable

Prayer for Hurting, Hungry, Vulnerable

We pray for the nearly 30 million people in our country – including 14 million children – that don't have enough food to eat.

We pray for the millions that are currently unemployed, living in fear and anxiety about their future, and unsure about how to keep food on their tables, a roof over their heads, and the lights turned on.

We lament and pray for the millions around the world who struggle with hunger and malnutrition including the additional 10,000 children at risk of dying each month.

Lord, remind us that these are not merely numbers and statistics. Rather, remind us again that each person is created in Your image – deserving of worth and dignity.

Yes, Lord, give us deep empathy, moral clarity, and persistent courage. Help us to stay present, be prayerful, and compelled to action.

Lord, we also pray for our lawmakers. Oh, Holy Spirit, stir their hearts. Awaken them with Your righteousness and mercy so that rather than partisan politics, they would foremost prioritize the humanity and reality of the hungry, poor, and vulnerable in our nation and around the world. (Excerpt from Bread for the World)

Come to Our Land

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Help us by your grace,

To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister;

To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;

To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;

To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us;

To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring. We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer.

Author Unknown

Prayer for Those Who Are Homeless

Hear our prayer today for all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless.
For those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations,
For those who can only find shelter in the night, but must wander in the daytime,
For families broken because they cannot afford to pay the rent,
For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in,
For those who have no place to keep possessions that remind them of who they are,
For those who are afraid and hopeless,
For those who have been betrayed by our social safety net,
For all these people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security, and hope.

We pray for those of us with warm houses and comfortable beds that we not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness.

Jesus, help us to see your face in the eyes of every homeless person we meet.
Empower us to work for justice and peace through words and deeds and through the political means we have.

Give us open hearts to greet and meet the homeless people in our neighborhoods.

Judy Ponio

Prayer to End Trafficking

Loving Father, We seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved. For those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery, and denied freedom. We beseech you to release them from their chains. Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment. Restore their dignity and provide them a new beginning. Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes. Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking. Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation. For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen (From USCCB handout for [World Day of Peace 2015](#))

