Human Rights Day
December 10, 2017

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of human rights. Human Rights Day falls on the second Sunday of Advent this year. Consider using these prayers of the people in your services that day to raise awareness about human rights around the world. This prayer was written by Robin Denney, a former Cristosal Global School participant who is the Associate Priest at St. Cross in Hermosa Beach, California.

Prayers of the People

We pray for Christ’s Church throughout the world, for its clergy and leaders, and for every member, for Michael our Presiding Bishop, and ____ our bishop/s. That we may follow your call to love one another, respecting the dignity of every human being, so that the world may know we are Christians by our love.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

We pray for this nation and for every nation. We pray for the leaders of the world, especially Donald our president, and ____ our governor. Raise up, O Lord, civic leaders, who do not accept the status quo of injustice, violence, and oppression, but who work tirelessly for justice, and to promote the human rights of all people.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

We pray for your creation, that war, exploitation, and injustice would cease. We pray especially for men, women and children, who find themselves, today, bound in slavery or exploitation, in this country and around the world. Strengthen us to continue to fight for the freedom of all.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

We pray for the 65 million people in the world who don’t have a safe place to sleep tonight. We pray for those fleeing their homes and their countries, trying to find safety. We ask that you help them find protection and freedom from fear. Lord we lift up organizations, like Cristosal, who are working to create a human rights climate where peacemaking is possible.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

We pray for this community. Make us a people of hope, justice, and love. Open our eyes to see how we may promote the rights and freedom of all people.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

We pray for those who suffer, (especially ________). We pray for those in grief, those who are searching for you, those who have lost the ability to pray, and especially for all those who have no one to pray for them. We pray for our enemies, and we pray for all those who do not respect the rights of others. Teach us O Lord, to reach out in love and accompany them in witness to you.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

We pray for all the departed, (especially ____ ) that with all your saints, they may be made perfect in your glory, and that we who mourn would feel your loving arms around us.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer