

10TH OF DECEMBER 2016  
WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

DAY OF PRAYER -



# AGAINST THE SIN OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

sponsored by  
**The Carmelite NCO**  
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## Dedication

We dedicate our Day of Prayer for Human Rights this year to all those who suffer from the evil of Human Trafficking and pray for conversion of heart for all those who perpetrate this evil.

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*(Brief time of silence to remember the presence of God)*

**Leader:** For Freedom Christ has set us free...

**All:** So let us stand firm and serve one another through love.

*(adapted from Galatians 5:1,13)*

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### Reader 1:

These articles from ***The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*** provide a context for our prayer:

*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*

*Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.*

*No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.*

*No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment.*

*-Articles 1,3,4,5*

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*(Brief time of silence to ponder the promise of these words.)*

**Reader 2:** A Reading from the poetry of Mira, a Sufi Mystic, c. 1450 A.D.

### *The Way They Held Each Other*

A woman and her young daughter were destitute  
and traveling to another country where they hoped to find  
a new life.

Three men stole them while they were camping.  
They were brought to a city and sold as slaves  
each to a different owner.

They were given one minute more together,  
before their fates became unknown.

My soul clings to God like that,  
the way they held each other.

*Linger for some time in silence, pondering any word or phrase  
that seems carry meaning for you. In compassion be “with” the  
trafficked.*

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### **Song: “O God, Why Are You Silent?” Marty Haugen**

(Album: Turn My Heart, available on YouTube)

O God, why are you silent? I cannot hear your voice.  
The proud and strong and violent all claim you and rejoice.  
You promised you would hold me with tenderness and care.  
Draw near, O Love enfold me, and ease the pain I bear.

Now lost within my grieving, I fall and lose my way,  
My fragile, faint believing so swiftly swept away.  
O God of pain and sorrow, my compass and my guide,  
I cannot face the morrow without you by my side.

My hope lies bruised and battered, my wounded heart is torn;  
My spirit spent and shattered by life’s relentless storm.  
Will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep within?  
Have you no word to cheer me when night is closing in?

Through endless nights of weeping, through weary days of grief,  
My heart is in your keeping, my comfort, my relief.  
Come, share my tears and sadness, come suffer in my pain;  
O bring me home to gladness, restore my hope again.

May pain draw forth compassion, let wisdom rise from loss.  
O take my heart and fashion the image of your cross.  
Then may I know your healing through healing that I share,  
Your grace and love revealing your tenderness and care.

*Following the song, read the poem again and simply spend  
some time allowing your soul to cling to God.*

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### **Reader 3      A Reading from the Gospel of John**

Jesus answered, "An hour is coming---has indeed  
already come---  
When you will be scattered and each will go his way,  
Leaving me quite alone.  
(Yet I can never be alone;  
The Father is with me.)  
I tell you all this  
That in me you may find peace.  
You will suffer in the world  
But take courage!  
I have overcome the world."

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### **Song: "God Remembers" Marty Haugen** (Album: Turn My Heart, available on YouTube)

God remembers pain: nail by nail, thorn by thorn,  
Hunger, thirst, and muscles torn. Time may dull our griefs  
and heal our lesser wounds, but in eternal Love,  
Yesterday is now and pain is in the heart of God.

God remembers joy: Touch of love, taste of food,  
All our senses know is good. Love and life flow by  
And precious days are gone, But in eternal Love  
Every day is now, and joy is in the heart of God.

God remembers us: All we were, all we are,  
Lives within our Lover's care. Time may dull our minds  
And death will take us all, but in eternal Love  
Every life is now: Our life is hid with Christ in God.

## *Closing Prayer: We Lay Our Broken World*

**All** (may alternate verses if appropriate)

We lay our broken world  
In sorrow at your feet;  
Haunted by hunger, war and fear,  
Oppressed by power and hate.

Where human life seems less  
Than profit, might and pride,  
Though to unite us all in you,  
You lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken towns  
Our neighbors hurt and bruised;  
You show us how old pain and wounds  
For new life can be used.

We bring our broken loves,  
Friends parted, families torn;  
Then in your life and death we see  
That love must be reborn

We bring our broken selves,  
Confused and closed and tired;  
Then through your gift of healing grace  
New purpose is inspired.

O Spirit, on us breathe,  
With life and strength anew;  
Find in us love, and hope, and trust,  
And lift us up to you.

- Anna Briggs



**Leader:** God is faithful, who calls us to compassion.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** God is Love and calls us live in Love.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** May our gracious God bless us,  
Our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

**All:** Amen.

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### **Reader 3      A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

Toward midafternoon Jesus cried out in a loud tone, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

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Resources: [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4h9d6nAFIs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4h9d6nAFIs)



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## **The Carmelite NGO**

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The **Carmelite NGO**, a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and affiliated to the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations, is comprised of the men and women from around the world who are members of the Carmelite Order or its affiliated Congregations, Institutes and ministries within the Catholic Church.

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