

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Monday 8 March is an important day of celebration for the potential and strength of all women throughout the world.

International Women's Day is an occasion when communities everywhere, often divided by cultural, economic and political differences come together to celebrate the vital role and contribution of women in our world.

We remember all mothers, sisters, daughters and especially all Franciscan women and Poor Clare Sisters. We witness the essential role of every woman across the globe. We also remember any woman who may not feel loved and nurtured, all women in danger, and all those risking their lives or suffering abuse of any kind.

We remember that exploitation of the vulnerable in our world continues. Men and women are targeted for human trafficking in every part of the world, with suffering experienced at individual, family and community levels, regardless of gender or geography. We turn our hearts to all our brothers and sisters who suffer deprivation and indignity caused by their fellow human beings through this form of exploitation.

Prayer of Blessing

God bless the people who never had a voice, the ones in silence who endured such pain and violation.

God bless the people who never had a chance, the ones in innocence who suffer in their vulnerability.

God bless the people who never had a hope, the ones who died within themselves. A death before old age.

God bless the people who caused this pain, the ones who in their selfishness, took life from someone else.

God bless the people who are left to cope, the ones who face a lifelong toil of memories and pain.

God bless the people who are needing love, the ones who yearn for love, yet live in disappointment.

God bless the people who are created in your image, all your children, love them, hold them and make them whole.

Sources: <http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/>