

Give us strength to love each other  
Every sister, every brother.  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

You who know each thought and feeling,  
Teach us all your way of healing.  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

Used with permission: Onelicense.net #A-703033

# World AIDS Day

## Remember. Hope. Act.

**The IHM HIV/AIDS Committee has written a letter for you to send/e-mail to your representative and senators requesting their continued support and funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund. [Click here](#) to download the letter – please join us in taking this action!**



Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

610 West Elm Ave. • Monroe, MI 48162 • 7909  
ihmsisters.org



## IHM Prayer Service

*Let our hands be hands of healing,  
let our words be clear and true.  
In our work, God's love revealing  
just and gentle in all we do.*

Dec.1, 2018





**WORLD AIDS DAY – DEC. 1, 2018**  
**IHM PRAYER SERVICE**

***Remember. Hope. Act.***

**Opening Song:** “Hands of Healing” *(by Marty Haugen)*

Refrain: Let our hands be hands of healing,  
let our words be clear and true,  
In our work, God’s love revealing  
just and gentle in all we do.

Free the one in bondage: hands of healing,  
Bring the reign of new hope: clear and true;  
sing the God of freedom: love revealing,  
love revealing, just and gentle in all we do.

Touch the ones who sorrow: hands of healing,  
Hope beyond all grieving: clear and true;  
sing the God of mercy: love revealing,  
love revealing, just and gentle in all we do.

Comfort for the dying: hands of healing,  
Vision of new life: clear and true;  
sing the resurrection: love revealing,  
love revealing, just and gentle in all we do.

May we always be your hands of healing,  
make us in your image: clear and true;  
give us voice to praise you: love revealing  
love revealing, just and gentle in all we do.

**Closing Prayer (recite together)**

Loving God, we lift up all those suffering from HIV and AIDS;  
bring your healing and restoration to their bodies, minds and  
spirits. Help us to do our part in ministering in loving care and  
support for your people who suffer with HIV and AIDS. Lead  
us to do whatever it will take to eradicate this illness from the  
lives of those who are touched by it, both directly and  
indirectly. We offer this prayer, trusting in you and the  
strength of your Spirit. Amen.

*(Adapted from a prayer by the National African  
American Catholic HIV/AIDS Task Force)*

**Closing Song** “Healer of our Every Ill” *(by Marty Haugen)*

Refrain:  
Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,  
Give us peace beyond our fear and hope beyond our sorrow.

You know our fears and sadness,  
Grace us with your peace and gladness.  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

In the pain and joy, beholding  
How your grace is still unfolding  
Give us all your vision, God of love.



**Leader:** Heal those who fear to be tested for HIV, and all who need to know their status to be able to receive treatment and live healthy and productive lives.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**

**Leader:** Heal unhealthy relations that expose partners and spouses to HIV and AIDS infection, and render some powerless to protect themselves.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**

**Leader:** Heal the poverty that exposes millions to HIV and AIDS. Heal the exploitative social structures that condemn many to poverty and expose them to infection.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**

**Leader:** Heal the violence that spreads HIV and AIDS. Heal the ethnic and civil wars. Heal domestic violence, human trafficking for sex and the rape of women and children.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**

**Leader:** For all the intentions we hold in our hearts, we pray ...

**All:** **Heal us, O God. Make us the instruments of your healing. Amen.**

*(Adapted from a Prayer for People Living with AIDS published by Church World Service)*

## Opening Prayer

God of all compassion, comfort your family members who live with HIV. Spread over us all your quilt of mercy, love and peace. Open our eyes to your presence reflected in their faces. Open our ears to your truth echoing in their hearts.

May our love mirror your love for those who live in fear, who live under stress and who suffer rejection. Comforting, healing God, grant rest to those who have died and hope to all who live with HIV. God of Life, help us to find the cure now and to build a world in which no one dies alone and where everyone is accepted, wanted and loved.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Gospel Reading:** Gospel according to St. Mark (7:31-37)

Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "*Ephphatha*," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

### Silent Reflection

### Question for Reflection/Sharing

When we first became aware of the AIDS pandemic, it was an issue that was often in the news and that weighed heavily on our hearts. We committed ourselves to developing "an appropriate response to the global pandemic," and we have been faithful to continuing to respond through prayer and action through the past three decades.

However, now that HIV and AIDS are treatable for many, this pandemic and those who suffer because of it have faded from the news and from our thoughts. An awareness of those suffering with HIV and AIDS most often reappears for many of us around the time of World AIDS Day.

***What can we do, as individuals and communities, to keep those who suffer in any way from HIV and AIDS, in the forefront of our hearts, minds and prayers?***

After a moment of reflection on this question, please turn and share your thoughts with one or two people seated near you.

**"To be on course to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, UNAIDS estimates that US\$26.2 billion will be required for the global HIV response in 2020 alone."**

[AVERT.org-Funding for HIV and AIDS](https://www.avert.org/funding-for-hiv-and-aids)

### Prayers of Petition

**Leader:** God of mercy and justice: heal us from the ravages of HIV and AIDS that deplete immunity and make your children vulnerable to opportunistic infections.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**

**Leader:** Heal broken hearts and relieve the grief that pains spirits and minds and leaves many to wonder about the meaning of life.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**

**Leader:** Heal the psychological pain of HIV and AIDS and the fear and hopelessness that can engulf and lead some to die before the virus kills.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**

**Leader:** Heal the social stigma and discrimination that result in uncompassionate acts of isolation, and failure to provide quality care and prevention.

**All:** **Heal us, O God.**