

Liturgical Resources For World AIDS Day 2003



Sample Intercessions

For the scientific community, that it may be supported and encouraged in discovering a cure for the terrible pandemic of HIV/AIDS, we pray to the Lord.

For all of us in this Advent season of expectation, that we might be aware of the yearning for compassion, welcome, and service of those living with HIV/AIDS, we pray to the Lord.

For those with HIV/AIDS who feel rejected, persecuted, shamed, and abandoned by their brothers and sister in the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

For families and circles of friends who care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, we pray to the Lord.

Homily Notes for December 30th: The First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16/ 1 Thes 3:12;4:2/ Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 (LFM 3)

The homilist might begin today with the Gospel account of the end of the world. It is a time of unimaginable terror: the sea roars, the heavens tremble, and people die of fright. The same kind of terror often grips those who have discovered they are HIV positive. All they can imagine is the darkness, the pain, the sorrow, and the end of the world.

But when it is darkest, Saint Luke tells us, those sick to death with fear “will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” And they will stand erect and raise their heads, because their redemption is close at hand.

We speak of the last days at the beginning of the season which leads to the birthday of life because, for those who see the Lord, yesterday is gone. Those who long to see his face repent of the days “of carousing and drunkenness” and let go of the anxieties and tribulations of life. Those who give their lives to Christ, who with the Psalmist lift up their soul, have nothing to fear: “Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.”

We recall the constant refrain of Pope John Paul II: “Be not afraid!” You who are HIV+ or who have AIDS itself, be **not afraid**, for “the friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him.” You, who care for those dying of this awful disease, **be not afraid**, for God will teach you his paths. You, whose research seeks to heal the suffering, **be not afraid**, for the God whom you “wait for all the day” will “guide you in truth and teach you.”

God, through whom we were made, never abandons us. Even in the face of unimaginable suffering and fear, his mercy pierces the dark clouds which surround us, and proclaims his undefeated love once again!

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