

## A PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF OUR COUNTRY

### OPENING PRAYER

God of justice, in your wisdom you have created all people in your image--without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being.

Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of any and all attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others.

Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history by the choices we make today.

Fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Reading from Scripture Isaiah 32: 15-18

In those days, the spirit from on high will be poured out on us.

Then will the desert become an orchard and the orchard regarded as a forest.

Right will dwell in the desert and justice abide in the orchard.

Justice will bring about peace; right will produce calm and security.

My people will live in a peaceful country, in secure dwellings and quiet resting places.

### Petitions

O God, we open our hearts to you for the healing of our nation as we pray:

*Bind us together, O God of love.*

--For the Church in all its members, that its prophetic voice may proclaim to all the challenge to break the hopeless cycles of poverty, ignorance, prejudice, and despair which degrade the sacred dignity of humankind, we pray: *(Bind us together, O God of love.)*

--For our country, that we might celebrate our wonderful diversity and the distinctive and rich contributions of every fiber of our cultural fabric, we pray:

--For wise and decisive action on the part of local and national leaders, that the scandal of racism may be eradicated from our society, we pray:

--For our faith communities, that they may not succumb to indifference or accept the status quo, but press on for fundamental change, we pray:

--For the victims of discrimination and violence, that they may be filled with hope for a more just future, healing from wounds received, courage to advocate for change and for peace, and the grace to overcome hatred with love, we pray:

--For those who work for justice, that they may be sustained in hope, empowered with courage, and filled with the grace to persevere in love, we pray:

### Our Father...

**Closing Prayer** Jesus our brother, you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds, and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins.

Guide us, through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you. Amen.

## **PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FOR OUR COUNTRY**

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,  
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.

Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.