

# Celebrating 30 Years of SSJ Justice Ministry FEBRUARY PRAYER - EXPERIENCES of 1990s

## CALL TO PRAYER

**Song Refrain:** Choose life that you may be a leaven for the human family;  
Then shall you live in peace, as justice bears the gift of freedom  
throughout all the world.

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**Leader:** God invites us to listen to the cries of our contemporary world.  
**All:** Let us recommit ourselves to acting with justice.

**Leader:** God beckons us to reaffirm the worth and dignity of all persons,  
especially the poor.  
**All:** Let us recommit ourselves to loving tenderly.

**Leader:** God challenges us to break the cycle of violence in our world.  
**All:** Let us recommit ourselves to serving one another  
and walking humbly with God.

## PSALMODY - Miriam Therese Winter (ad.)

**Ant.:** Help us to widen our tents, O God,  
so that all are welcome among us.

**A:** Our world is too small.  
Our lives are too small,  
Our vision is too restricted.

**B:** May the people of various countries,  
various cultures, tribes, and families  
find room in our world and our lives.  
*Repeat antiphon*

**A:** Our attitudes are too parochial,  
our assumptions too simplistic,  
our behavior too predictable.

**B:** May special people,  
may the differently abled,  
may minorities of any kind-- of race, class, or gender--  
find room in our world and our hearts.  
*Repeat antiphon*

**A:** Our boundaries are too limited,  
our preferences too conditioned,  
our habits too ingrained.

**B:** May the aging and the very young,  
may subcultural groups of every kind,  
may special interest caucuses  
find room in our world and our prayer.  
*Repeat antiphon*

*For to be free  
is not merely  
to cast off  
one's chains,  
but to live  
in a way  
that respects  
and enhances  
the freedom  
of others.*  
  
*Nelson Mandela*

nsible Investment Policy. . . Visioning Chapter of 1994. . . Three-year Education on Anti-Racism. . . Lenten talks by our Sisters from their Developing World Experiences . . . Visiting during Executions . . . Feminism Education. . . AIDS Quilt . . . Justice Coordinator: Kathleen Coll. . . Corporate S

Leonissa O'Brien, SSJ, shares the story of her brother's murder  
*I never believed in the death penalty but I wondered how would I be if it was about me. Well, I soon found out and still don't believe in it for him (my brother's murderer). . . . I got a grace on retreat to say "I forgive him." It was four years later. But when I was finally able to forgive him, that gave me a freedom. . . . It was a very hard Holy Week for me because we (our Congregation) was discussing the death penalty. But on Good Friday for the first time I could pray for him out loud and say his name out loud. That Good Friday was so significant for me because I could finally pray for him by name.*

- A:** Our God is too small.  
 Our rites are too rigid.  
 Our ways are too exclusive.
- B:** May people of various religions and rites  
 whose names for God and claim to God  
 are different from our own  
 find room in our world and our love.  
*Repeat antiphon*

**REFLECTIVE READING / SHARING** *Distribute readings*

*As we reflect on the issues i.e. Apartheid, Racism, Capital Punishment of the decade of the '90's and the work of the Commission for Justice, what would you identify as an underlying cause to these injustices?*

*What growth in your understanding of the causes of violence have you experienced?*

*Are there examples of action that you have experienced that have assisted you in becoming more non-violent?*

**CLOSING PRAYER** - Archbishop Desmond Tutu *Written for the September 17, 2006 Global Day for Darfur*

- Leader:** **We pray** that the world's leaders will be guided by You  
 in their quest for justice and safety for Darfur's (and all) people--
- All:** May they be inspired by Your humanity;
- Leader:** **Remind us** that we are all your children, and teach us to listen;  
**We pray** that those who are causing death and misery (anywhere)  
 will turn away from racism and violence--
- All:** May they be forgiven when they turn to You for guidance instead;
- Leader:** **Teach us** to rejoice in all the things we have in common  
 and respect each other's differences;  
**We pray** that people everywhere will strive to live in peace, tolerance,  
 and respect, no matter their faith or race--
- All:** May we gain the wisdom, grace, and generosity of spirit  
 to overcome our differences and live as one.

**CONCLUDING LINES** *Repeat each after leader*

- May my voice speak no violence.  
 May my mind think no violence.  
 May my hands never touch another with violence.

*I deeply appreciate the years I was part of the Commission for Justice and Justice Coordinator. . . . Working with our sisters on many justice issues especially the Corporate Stand Against the Death Penalty, thrust me into the heart of our Congregation's great desire for justice...for right relations.*

*--Kathleen Coll, SSJ, Justice Coordinator 1997-2006*

and against the Death Penalty . . . Participation in ROW (Religious on Water) . . . Fund for Those Who Are Materially Poor

International Women's Days: Edwina Gateley, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, Sonia Sanchez, Jose Hobday, Mary Luke Tobin, Kim and Reggie Harris. . . PACRI: Socially Respo