

Christmas Prayer: Help Us To See You

In this Christmas season,

We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the One who embodies
Hope and compassion for a world in crisis.

Mother Mary, birth in us a renewed commitment
To respond to the signs of our times.

Joseph, dedicated foster father to our Lord,
Never let us forget our oppressed sisters and brothers,
Who, like the child Jesus, needed loving care
And the warmth of human compassion.

Child Jesus, help us to see you
In those infected with HIV/AIDs,
In those with physical and mental illness,
In those who lack clean water and sanitation,
In those who go to bed hungry,
And in those who work so hard for so little.

Child Jesus, help us to comfort you
In those who are targets of bullying and cyberbullying,
In those who are discriminated against
Because of their physical or mental disabilities, and advanced age,
Those who are discriminated against
Because of their religious beliefs or the color of their skin,
And in the mothers of our world who are deprived
Of their rights to maternal health care.

Child Jesus, help us to hold you in our migrant sisters and brothers,
Those seeking protection from persecution and the effects of climate change,
Those wounded and killed by U.S. drone attacks,
Those tortured and held in indefinite detention,
And those assassinated for their commitment to protect Mother Earth.

Child Jesus, rejoice with us as we celebrate you in the peacemakers,
Those who have the courage to speak truth to those in power,
Those who refuse to stand on the sidelines but rather act for change,
And those who protect Earth from desecration.

Help us to know our sisters and brothers breathing,
Living, and struggling in a world in crisis,
And help us to be beacons of hope as You are. Amen.

- Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.

