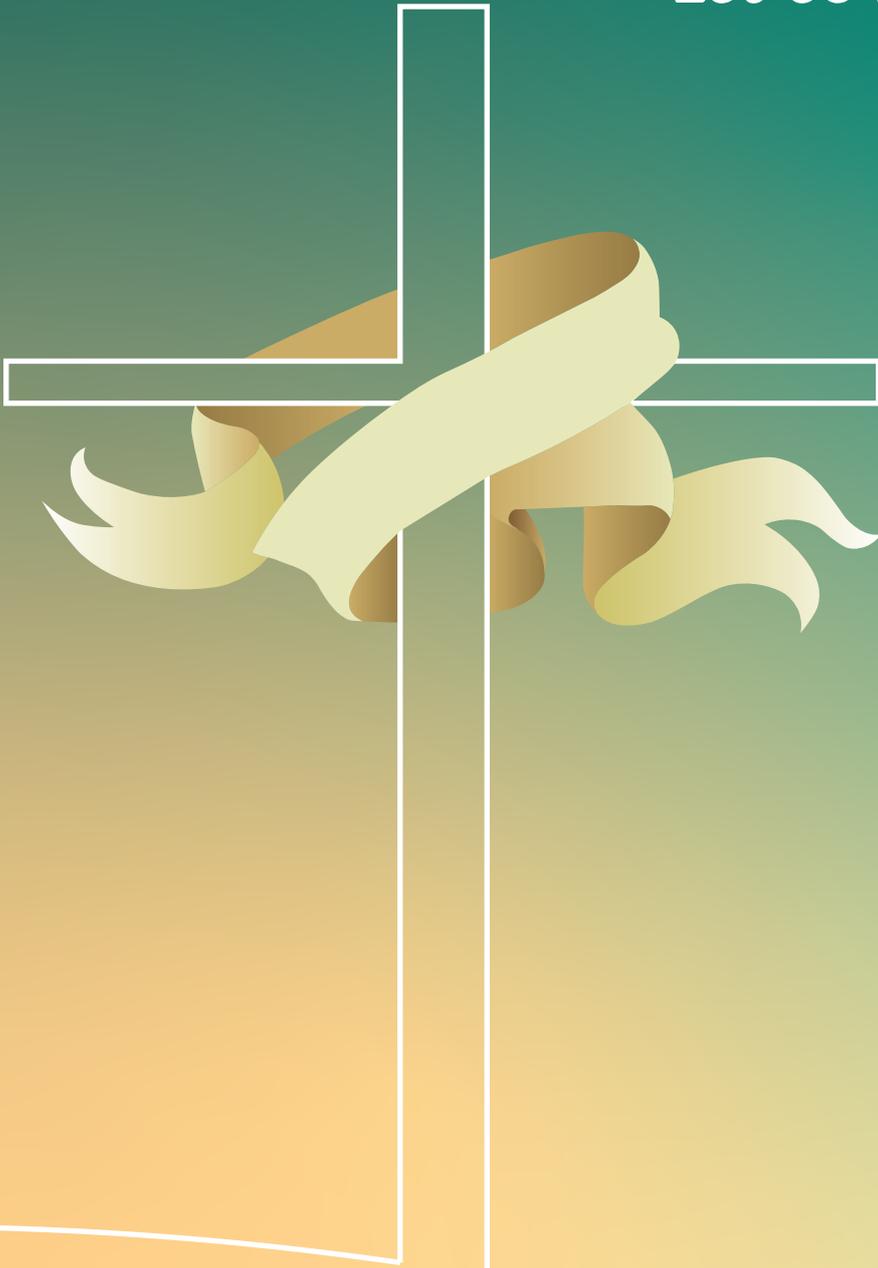


WUCWO DAY

13 May 2022

*Let us Respond to the Call
to Holiness*



World Union of
Catholic Women's
Organisations

WUCWO DAY PRAYER 2022

(Please begin your prayers with the Sign of the Cross and be feel free to use or to modify the hymns in your own language or tradition. The language below is from the Indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand)

| OPENING HYMN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cn08oUzopgs&ab_channel=DivineHymns

MOTHER DEAREST, MOTHER FAIREST

Mother dearest, Mother fairest,
Help of all, who call on thee.
Virgin purest, brightest, rarest,
Help us, help, we cry to thee

Soothe those rack'd on beds of pain,
May the golden light of morrow,
Bring them health and joy again.

Lady, help the absent loved ones.
How we miss their presence here.
May the hand of thy protection
Guide and guard them far and near.

Chorus

Mary, help us, help we pray.
Mary, help us, help we pray.
Help us in all care and sorrow.
Mary, help us, help we pray.

A Ki te ingoa, o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua. Amene.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We come before you Loving God, as women of WUCWO responding to your call to holiness. We gather together to celebrate the grace of sharing in your mission of Love in our world of today.

We ask you today to look with love on the many millions of invisible women, who, on a daily basis, live lives of extraordinary courage and holiness.

As women of WUCWO we ask you to help us to help these millions of invisible women, visible. We want to make their silence heard; we want their faces and names to be known so that the injustices they experience can be exposed and addressed and change can take place.

We have known the ravages of COVID 19 across our beautiful blue planet Earth. We have experienced disruption of the whole of Earth and society and so we ask You to look lovingly on us in our need. Heal us and make us whole.

Lead us as Catholic women of faith and hope to join together, to be strengthened by each other in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the spirit of Mary, and with her guidance, may we truly enable the voices of women to be heard so that justice may grow in our societies and in our church.

Let our prayer today be one of hope and faith and deep trust in You most loving God.

(You can add prayers in your own language).

| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We Pray to the Lord

R: Lord Graciously Hear Us

That all of our members will live a life based on reverence towards God, whose love surpasses all our hopes and desires, so that we will always act with faith, hope, love and gentleness towards others.

Holy Spirit, we beseech you to fill all members of the World Union of Catholic Women with the grace to become holy children of God, our Father.

Fill us with strength and courage to hold fast. We thank you for all the Blessings you have bestowed on us your truths and to speak boldly for the building of your kingdom.

Give us compassionate hearts to care for the poor and downtrodden by following the example of Jesus.

May we work to protect this precious earth that you have given us as our home in common with all.

Help us to work for peace in our homes, our countries and our world.

Make us humble by following the example of our Blessed Mother, Mary.

Blessed Trinity, hear us.

Lord, we ask that you inspire Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life and to Holy Matrimony. May many young men and women hear Your Call and have the Grace to respond generously to such life-changing and life-giving commitments.

Lord, we thank you for our precious Catholic Faith and for the people in our life who have shared and modelled the Gospels for us...Our Families and friends and our Church Communities, and the material goods that we often take for granted. May we be generous with others, as Our Lord instructs us.

Lord, You prayed that your people may be One. We pray for an end to segregation in our Churches and that all Christians, regardless of their medical/vaccination status, may be welcomed fully in our Churches.

Lord, we pray for Pope Francis, all Bishops and Priests. May they be faithful to Jesus Christ and the true Magisterium and may they be courageous in proclaiming the challenging truths of our Faith in this hostile world.

Dear Lord, we pray for the many invisible and vulnerable women so that each woman may know her true value as a Daughter of the Most High. We pray that the children, both born and unborn, in every nation, may receive the love and protection they need to reach their potential and that they may know the love that their heavenly Father has for them.

Lord, we pray for the protection of all vulnerable people – the elderly, isolated and those living in poverty and under totalitarian governments. We pray for persecuted Christians everywhere who are suffering for being faithful to Jesus Christ and His Teachings.

| READING: John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one who, Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went running toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she said this, she turned and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him. "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them 'I am ascending to my Father and your father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

| REFLECTION

(From the apostolic letter *Mulieris dignitatem* of Saint John Paul II on the dignity and vocation of women)

16. From the beginning of Christ's mission, women show to him and to his mystery a special sensitivity which is characteristic of their femininity. It must also be said that this is especially confirmed in the Paschal Mystery, not only at the Cross but also at the dawn of the Resurrection. The women are the first

at the tomb. They are the first to find it empty. They are the first to hear: "He is not here. He has risen, as he said" (Mt 28:6). They are the first to embrace his feet (cf. Mt 28:9). They are also the first to be called to announce this truth to the Apostles (cf. Mt 28:1-10; Lk 24:8-11). The Gospel of John (cf. also Mk 16: 9) emphasizes the special role of Mary Magdalene. She is the first to meet the Risen Christ. At first she thinks he is the gardener; she recognizes him only when he calls her by name: "Jesus said to her, 'Mary'. She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbuni' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father, but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God'. Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her" (Jn 20:16-18).

Hence she came to be called "the apostle of the Apostles". Mary Magdalene was the first eyewitness of the Risen Christ, and for this reason she was also the first to bear witness to him before the Apostles. This event, in a sense, crowns all that has been said previously about Christ entrusting divine truths to women as well as men. One can say that this fulfilled the words of the Prophet: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Jl 3:1). On the fiftieth day after Christ's Resurrection, these words are confirmed once more in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, at the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete (cf. Act 2:17).

Everything that has been said so far about Christ's attitude to women confirms and clarifies, in the Holy Spirit, the truth about the equality of man and woman. One must speak of an essential "equality", since both of them - the woman as much as the man - are created in the image and likeness of God. Both of them are equally capable of receiving the outpouring of divine truth and love in the Holy Spirit. Both receive his salvific and sanctifying "visits".

The fact of being a man or a woman involves no limitation here, just as the salvific and sanctifying action of the Spirit in man is in no way limited by the fact that one is a Jew or a Greek, slave or free, according to the well-known words of Saint Paul: "For you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28). This unity does not cancel out diversity. The Holy Spirit, who brings about this unity in the supernatural order of sanctifying grace, contributes in equal measure to the fact that "your sons will prophesy" and that "your daughters will prophesy". "To prophesy" means to express by one's words and one's life "the mighty works of God" (Acts 2: 11), preserving the truth and originality of each person, whether woman or man. Gospel "equality", the "equality" of women and men in regard to the "mighty works of God" - manifested so clearly in the words and deeds of Jesus of Nazareth - constitutes the most obvious basis for the dignity and vocation of women in the Church and in the world. Every vocation has a profoundly personal and prophetic meaning. In "vocation" understood in this way, what is personally feminine reaches a new dimension: the dimension of the "mighty works of God", of which the woman becomes the living subject and an irreplaceable witness.

| PRAYER OF TRUST

Lord Jesus, You understand all about Pain, Suffering and Loneliness. Strengthen me Lord when I cannot feel your Presence in my Darkness. Do not leave me now, but give me Strength to bear whatever happens to me, However, bewildered I may be. Amen.

| CONCLUSION

Prayer to Mary, Queen of Peace, Patroness of WUCWO

O Mary, our dearest Blessed Mother, we know you dearly love each and every one of your children. We are truly blessed. Some of your daughters may feel safe, secure and fairly treated but there are many more who are less fortunate, insecure and unprotected. O dearest Mother, we pray that you would cast your loving eyes on all your vulnerable and suffering daughters. Grant them trust in your love that would dry their tears and give them comfort and strength. O Holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer us. Amen

We humbly ask the Lord for the grace to respond to His Call to Holiness, to grant us the grace to be the living temples of the Holy Spirit. We go forth to pray and work for a world, where all children of God, can live a life of dignity, love and equality, free from all forms of violence and prejudice.

Verse: *Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet and Light unto my Path (Psalm 119:105).*

Lord Help us to spread your light in the world around us. Use our hands to enlighten those living in darkness. Make us instruments to help people connect to you and get to know you better.

| CLOSING HYMN

(please feel free to choose one of your current hymns to our Holy Mother)

<https://youtu.be/NaKPaVaFrg0>

DAUGHTER OF THE MIGHTY FATHER

Daughter of the Mighty Father,
Stainless maiden Queen of May;
Angel forms around thee gather:
Macula non est in te (Refrain)

Refrain:
Macula non est in te. Macula non est in te.
Macula non est in te. Macula non est in te.
Macula non est in te.

Mother of the Son and Saviour.
Of the True, the Life, the Way.
Guide our footsteps, calm our passions:
Macula non est in te (Refrain)

Virgin Spouse of Holy Spirit,
Listen to our earnest lay;
Grant we may thy love inherit:
Macula non est in te (Refrain)

May is the month of Mary, in this Month
The Benefits of God's Mercy come down
To us from Mary's Throne in Greater
Abundance, Macula non est in te, You are Spotless.