



MARIST SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN 2006 LITURGY & PRAYER

(cut, paste and delete to suit your requirements)

Choose a focus or title which is appropriate to illustrate the elements of the campaign:

**ROOM FOR ALL – GET INTO IT!
SOLIDARITY AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)
THE MAKE POVERTY HISTORY CAMPAIGN**

CREATING A SPACE - SYMBOLS

Students could be involved in making multiple simple symbols of the MDGs. There are excellent examples on the web site: www.oxfam.org.uk

Actual symbols of the MDGs can also be used (for example books for education in #2 goal) or posters/photos can be downloaded from the Oxfam UK site or other sites listed in this kit.

ENTERING INTO PRAYER WITH LIGHTS

Quiet is established in the space and an invitation given to focus on being silent together before a central candle with several tea lights arranged around it.

As one student lights a tea light another prays one of the prayers below....

Lord,
I light a candle.
Perhaps I don't know what prayer is about.
This candle is a part
of what I have
and what I am.
Amen.

Spirit of God,
This flame gives us light and warmth.
Lord, help us bring light to the world
and change it to be just.

Lord,
Before me is a candle.
Its flame moves without a pattern.
Sometimes the flame is small, sometimes the flame is larger.
Me too, Lord, I change often.
Make me calm before you today and believe in hope for change in our world.

Lord,
This candle aids me to light other candles.
Lord, help me to aid those closest to me
to become light and hope for those who suffer.

Lord,
I come to rest in this moment before a candle.
May my daily study be an extension of my prayer
that calmly happens now in this silence before you.

Based on translations from Vienna International Centre leaflet, May 2005



Make Poverty History

*Introduction: The "Make Poverty History" campaign is an international one led by personalities such as Bono and Sting. It seeks to make the year ahead one when we put our resources and knowledge to work to end poverty and injustice in the world especially through the **Millennium Development Goals**.*

Prayer

Loving God, look with mercy
upon the human race you have created.
Plant in our hearts a vision
in which the destructive poverty of our world
is destroyed and consigned to history.
May we all live together in peace and justice
sharing the resources of the earth.
And grant, Father, each of us
the will and the courage to act to make a difference,
in order to make real justice among us and in our world.
This we ask through Jesus, our brother and Lord.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25.

Then the King will say to the righteous, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom that has been prepared for you ever since"

A REFLECTIVE MOMENT WITH THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL SYMBOLS

Take some of the goals and have students represent them in the liturgy through mime, power point presentation or symbol. Shortened versions of the MDGs are available on websites listed in this kit.

PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

L. We just don't pray to You, O God, to end war;

ALL: For we know that You have made the world in a way
That we must find our own paths to peace
Within ourselves and with our neighbours.

L: We just don't pray to You, O God, to end starvation;

ALL: For You have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world,
If we would only use them wisely.



L: We just don't pray to You, O God, to end disease;

ALL: For You have already given us the gifts
With which to search out cures and healings,
If we would only use them constructively.

L: We just don't pray to You, O God, to end our prejudice;

ALL: For You have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in others,
If we would only use them rightly.

L: We just don't pray to You, O God, to end despair among peoples;

ALL: For You have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to give hope,
If we would only use our power justly.

*PAUSE TO REFLECT ON WHICH PRAYER IS APPEALING TO YOU...
RE-PRAY IT SILENTLY.*

CONCLUDING PRAYER TOGETHER:

Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God,
for strength, determination, and will power,
to act instead of just praying.

To become instead of merely to wish,
for Your sake and for ours sooner rather than later,
that our land and world may be safe,
and that our lives may be blessed.

(Based on a Sabbath Prayer by Jack Riemer from Likrat Shabbat)

*NOMINATE A STUDENT TO EXTINGUISH THE LIGHTS AND THE CENTRAL CANDLE IN AN
ATMOSPHERE OF SILENCE OR SONG.*