

## *A Reflection based on the Our Father*

Our Father, you are in heaven, here on earth and within each human being; holy is your name in the hungry, the oppressed and the excluded. Holy is your name in the weak, the voiceless, the exploited, the vulnerable and the rejected.

**(Pause. Response: May your kingdom, which is all you desire for humankind, come.)**

May your kingdom come and your will be done, in our choices to struggle with the complexities of this world, and to confront greed and the desire for power in ourselves, in our country, in our communities and in the global community.

**(Pause. Response: May your kingdom, which is all you desire for humankind, come.)**

Give us this day our daily bread, bread that we are called to share, bread that you have given us abundantly and that we must distribute fairly, ensuring enough food for all.

**(Pause. Response: May your kingdom, which is all you desire for humankind, come.)**

Forgive us our trespasses; the times we have turned away from the struggles of others and of peoples and countries, the times we have thought only of our own needs and security.

**(Pause. Response: May your kingdom, which is all you desire for humankind, come.)**

Lead us not into temptation; the temptation to close our minds, ears and eyes to the unjust global systems that create larger gaps between the rich and the poor; the temptation to think it is too difficult to bring about environmentally sustainable, non-violent and just alternatives.

**(Pause. Response: May your kingdom, which is all you desire for humankind, come.)**

Deliver us from evil, the evil of a world where wealth for a few is more important than economic rights for all, the evil of a world where gates and barriers between people grow higher every year. Deliver us from our own weakness and our lack of faith and hope.

**(Pause. Response: May your kingdom, which is all you desire for humankind, come.)**

(Adapted from a prayer for U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious)

### **Reading from the Good News of Mark (3:30-32)**

And Jesus said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, we come in humble prayer to ask for your help. We have entered into covenant with you, O Lord and your love, unlike our love, has never grown tired. We wish to be your people as you are our God. Encourage us in the task of bringing your Good News to the young and to all you love, inviting them to your kingdom of peace, joy, justice, reconciliation and compassion. Help us to reach out especially to those who receive less in this life. Amen

(Adapted from Dorothy McRae-MacMahon)