



# GOOD FRIDAY

*Being artisans of hope in the midst of  
the Covid-19 global pandemic*

***In all the circumstances of our life, wherever our mission leads us,  
our sole purpose in living is to glorify the Heart of Jesus,  
to discover and make known His Love.***

RSCJ Constitutions, #179

Good Friday invites us “to look upon him who they have pierced” (John 19:37). The pierced heart of Jesus reveals the depth of God’s Love, a love large enough hold all the brokenness and blessedness of our world. Let us enter into Jesus’ open, welcoming heart, aware of our vulnerability, complicity and hope as we listen to a recital of Genevieve Behan rscj (ANZ). In it, she plays, *Erbarmedich, mein Gott (Have mercy on me God for the sake of my tears)*, a composition inspired by St. Matthew’s version of the Passion: <https://youtu.be/0VkpQUrK7eY>

Moment 1: *Recognizing the circumstances of our life...*

Whatever circumstance we are living, we share the same mission and the same *courage et confiance* as Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat and all those who have gone before us.

*“We are rooted in and draw strength from the well of a very long tradition of working for justice and peace. Our spirituality impels us toward transformation through our contemplation of the pierced Heart of Jesus. This tradition binds us to one another and to others in our common efforts to act out of compassion in order to relieve suffering and effect change in our wounded world.”*

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 5.

As Miren Lumbreras rscj (ESP) writes: “We are confronted with questions about this reality, about our life and our world. At the same time solidarity flows, and we see gestures of great humanity among neighbors and towards vulnerable people. There is so much gratitude and support for all the groups that work hard against this pandemic, especially the health workers. Creativity is awakened in response to difficulties. It is living death and resurrection continually.”

For reflection:

Whatever your circumstances, how are we living as One Body during the Covid-19 global pandemic? In your experience, how does the strength we draw from the *contemplation of the pierced Heart of Jesus impel us toward transformation?*

Moment 2: *Our sole purpose, the essential of our lives, is to live our mission.*

*“Contemplation of the pierced Heart of Jesus in the heart of wounded humanity impels us to be in solidarity with the displaced and excluded; to defend the victims of abuse of power; and to commit ourselves to search for systemic changes.”*

Statement of JPIC Commitment, Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 2.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a very long Good Friday moment for the entire global community. When we see our people living such experiences as described below, we are called again to live our mission to glorify the Heart of Jesus, to discover and make known His Love.

As many as 300 million of India’s 1.37 billion people are homeless daily wage earners. Was there ever a thought of the plight of these people and their children when a nationwide curfew was ordered overnight? Our leaders repeatedly ask people to stay at home. Where will the homeless go to lockdown? Who will provide them food for all these days without working?

(Rita Pinto rscj, IND)

The coming of the coronavirus adds to the misery of majority of the people. All institutions in Chad and RDC are closed. The population is very well informed about contamination and its prevention, but the support measures are very deficient. Majority live by subsistence, so they have to go out everyday to get food. Over 80% of the population do not have places where they can get what they need, and they do not have access to water making washing hands difficult.

(Elysee Masala rscj, RDC-TCH)

For reflection:

In your context, what is the global pandemic revealing about the reality of “Good Friday” with or without Holy Week or a global pandemic? What are we hearing from those whose dignity is violated and who are stripped of their basic human rights and are poor, hungry, homeless, unemployed, etc.?

Moment 3: *Caring for our common home...*

The reality of the global Covid-19 pandemic calls us ever more urgently to also care for Earth and to see ourselves as One Body with her. When we care for Mother Earth, she can care for us. Our damaging behaviour toward her strips away her ability to care for us. The ecological impact of the Covid-19 lockdowns reveals Earth healing herself. This is a direct impact of the diminishment of ecologically destructive human activity. How is Earth calling us to hope?

*“Caring for our common home is also a call to hope. As members of the Sacred Heart family, we recognize the broken body of Christ in the broken and suffering earth. The water that flows from the pierced Heart of Jesus transforms our perception of one another, our world, ourselves and our common home.”*

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 16.

We invite you to send to us the stories, quotes, photos that express the hidden hope within the Good Friday moment created by the global Covid-19 pandemic.