

Litany of the Saints Around the World

Leader: *On All Saint's Day, we remember those who have been inspired by great faith to devote their lives to social justice. Today we recall their inspiring witnesses and we ask them to pray for us all.*

Reader 1: Saint Teresa Chikaba, of **Gunia**, kidnapped and enslaved at the age of 10, sold, and later denied entry to the convent because of her race,

For all those who are victims of racial and ethnic discrimination and who are treated as non-humans; that we who are granted full rights would work alongside the victims of discrimination for a more just world,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 2: Blessed Alberto Hurtado, of **Chile**, Jesuit patron of Chilean trade unionists, admired for his focus on the more profound causes of poverty,

For all workers and seekers of justice; that we might strive to universally address issues of workers' rights, especially a living wage and health care for all workers, and that we, too, may see the deeper causes,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 3: Saint Katharine Drexel, of the **U.S.**, who spent millions of her family fortune to build schools and missions for the Native Americans, and who also founded the first U.S. university for African Americans,

For those from whom educational opportunities have been withheld; that we may take initiative in challenging the inequalities that face minorities in education, the workplace, the legal system, and elsewhere,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 4: Blesseds Daudi Okelo and Jildo Irwa, of **Uganda**, catechists who experienced intense tribal fighting, but who continued to teach a Gospel of dignity and peace,

For all of us in this world of power struggles and division, that we may use the Gospel and our faith to work towards solutions that are for the good of all people,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 5: Saint Maximilian Kolbe, of **Poland**, a priest who resisted the Nazis, was taken prisoner at Auschwitz, and who offered to die in the place of another man there who was the father of young children,

For all who resist structural injustice even when it may be dangerous; that they may continue to faith, courage, and strength in the face of oppression and that they may have hearts of love even in the midst of evil,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 6: Saint Nimatullah Youssef Kassab Al-Hardini, of **Lebanon**, who lived through two civil wars in his country and suffered greatly with his people,

For all those in the midst of relentless civil war, for children who grew up knowing gunfire and death, for orphaned youth recruited as soldiers, for victims of rape in war; that we may work to end this misery,

All: **Pray for us all.**



Reader 7: Saint Rocco Gonzalez, of **Paraguay**, who, realizing the dangers of slave trade, gathered the indigenous, moved inland, and taught trades and skills while maintaining indigenous culture,

For indigenous peoples who have been raped and pillaged by slave trade and intolerance, that memory would heal and that all would now work together to work to protect culture, autonomy, and rights,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 8: Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, of **the Philippines**, accused of murder for unknown reasons, who then tried to escape by ship, but was killed upon landing,

For all who are unjustly accused and held unfairly, without access to legal representation; that we would hold governments accountable to the rights to a lawyer, trial and protection that are guaranteed by law,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 9: Saint Pierre Toussaint, of **Haiti**, who, after accompanying his “owner” to New York City to flee the violence in Haiti, helped Haitian refugees and orphans who had been victims of devastation,

For refugees across the world who flee violence, slavery, hunger, and devastation in their own countries; that we may welcome them warmly and assist in seeking solutions to the problems that caused their flight,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 10: Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo, of **Madagascar**, a lay woman who became a pillar of the Church in Madagascar in the absence of priests on the island,

For the church in the entire world and its development; that the plentiful skills of women will be better utilized and that women will be respected and encouraged to fill appropriate roles,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 11: Saint Cristobal Magallanes Jara, of **Mexico**, a former shepherd who worked with the indigenous people to form agrarian cooperatives and was later killed for preaching against armed rebellion,

For indigenous and small farmers who struggle to compete in an increasingly globalized world; that we may act as global citizens, supporting small farmers and businesses and working to protect their livelihoods,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 12: Saint Juan Grande, of **Spain**, who worked in prisons and hospitals, started his own hospital, and then completely reformed the Church’s health care system in his diocese,

For those who suffer from a lack of adequate health care and who are plagued by preventable illness as a result; that we can work for a better system in which quality health care is accessible and affordable to all,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 13: Saint Josephine Bakhita, of **Sudan**, who was kidnapped into the slave-trade at the age of 9, then sold and resold until her final purchaser freed her,

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

For those children and women in Sudan who are victims of famine, war, violence, and fear; that we may play our part in calling the international community to stand against the terrible genocide in Sudan,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 14: Saint Anthony Peter Dich, of **Vietnam**, a simple farmer who was beheaded for sheltering a priest in his home during a period of religious persecution,

For those of us who desire to help end the oppression of others, but who worry about the consequences for ourselves, our families, and our lives; that we, too, may have the strength to act with conviction,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 15: Blessed Pope John XXIII, of **Italy**, whose papacy lasted only five years, but who renewed the church through his social documents and the summoning of the Second Vatican Council,

For the people of your church, so inspired by your keen awareness of the Church's duty to stand up for the dignity of the poor; that your legacy of social justice will continue to inspire us to work for change,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 16: Saint Pedro de San Jose Betancur, of **Guatemala**, born a poor shepherd who was known to walk through the streets, ringing a bell and inviting the wealthy to repent,

For the perpetrators of injustice, for corrupt government leaders, and for all those who pursue wealth at the expense of others; that we may lovingly invite even the perpetrators of injustice to be changed,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 17: Blessed Michael Ghebre, of **Ethiopia**, a holy priest who, unpopular with the government, was dragged in public from place to place before dying in a prison,

For the humiliated, and for those on death row, both guilty and not guilty, whose shameful, often inhumane deaths will be witnessed by others; help us to work for an end to capital punishment,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Reader 18: Saint Peter Ou, of **China**, was known from his youth for his sense of justice and his outspoken defense of the poor and oppressed,

For all of the poor and oppressed and for us; that we may have a compassionate awareness of the suffering around us and learn to be sowers of justice,

All: **Pray for us all.**

Leader: *Lord God, like the saints who have gone before us and those who bravely fight injustice today, empower us with your Spirit so that we may also become your saints for peace and justice.*