



In celebrating your bounty at Thanksgiving . . .

Let us remember those in the HIV/AIDS struggle . . .



The National African American Catholic HIV/AIDS Task Force



If it infects one of us ... it affects all of us!

On December 1, 2002 we mark World AIDS Day. A day that the entire World Community recognizes the impact of AIDS and its affect on the global family. World AIDS Day is also a day that the world joins hands and hearts to address the pain, the stigma, and the great loss of so many lives. World AIDS Day, a time for us as Black Catholics t unite with the international community in addressing AIDS. It is also a time for us to witness by our words and action, the compassion of Jesus and to pray as a people of faith and hope for the healing of HIV/AIDS.

There is a real opportunity here for a great and worthwhile work (1 Cor. 16:9)...

Christ helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God (Ref: 2 Cor. 1:4)

We Can Help!

More than half of all new HIV infection occur among African Americans; infecting an estimated 1 in 50 African American men and 1 in 160 African American women.

During this season of giving thanks for our bounty as well as recognizing with the world the impact of AIDS during World AIDS Day, let us reach out to those living with HIV/AIDS.

We encourage families to do at least one of the following:

- Offer to help or comfort someone with HIV/AIDS. Prepare meals, run an errand, take them to a doctor's appointment or simply visit and pray with them. Involve our children in making cards or sharing tokens of encouragement with those struck by HIV/AIDS.
- As your family gathers together for the thanksgiving meal, "pass the plate" for a monetary donation and give your "pass the plate" donation to an agency helping those infected with HIV/AIDS.
- Pray always for all who suffer from HIV or AIDS. See prayer enclosed.

PRAYER:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, O good and gracious God, You are the God of health and Wholeness. In the plan of Your creation, You call us to struggle in our sickness and to cling always to the cross of your son. O God, we are Your servants. Many of us are now suffering with HIV or AIDS. We come before You, and ask You, if it is Your Holy will to take away this suffering from us, restore us to health and lead us to know you and Your powerful healing love of body and spirit. We ask you also, to be with those of us who nurse Your sick ones. We are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children and friends of Your suffering people. It is so hard for us to see those whom we love suffer. Help us to minister in loving care, support, and patience for your people who suffer with HIV and AIDS. Lead us to do whatever it will take to eradicate this illness from the lives of those who are touched by it, both directly and indirectly. Trusting in You and the strength of Your Spirit, we pray these things in the Name of Jesus.

Amen

