

# *Prayer for Human Dignity*

*Lord Jesus, ground of our being,  
Guide us to recognize our vocation as responsible builders of our human community,  
which your church teaches is marked by continuity and renewal.  
We are grateful for all your teachings  
and strive to respond to them with our hearts, heads and hands.*

*We acknowledge that earlier hopes for the development of all people,  
especially for those in poor countries, have not yet been fulfilled;  
so many still suffer the intolerable burden of poverty, hunger and disease.  
We see the growing gaps between the wealth of some and the poverty of the majority of people  
on this earth.*

*Forgive us for turning away from the abuses inflicted worldwide on the human person.  
Forgive the separation of ethics and morals from economic policies.  
Forgive us for making security more important than cooperation.*

*We give thanks for the growing awareness of human dignity and human rights.  
We give thanks for understanding that peace requires justice for all.  
We give thanks for all those working to end hunger, to end poverty, and to build peace  
in the world.*

*Let us realize that true development, centered on the dignity of the human person  
is not simply about economic growth and the wealth of corporations.  
Let us realize that 'having' does not contribute to human development unless it contributes  
to the maturing and enriching of the human person.*

*In your name we pray for a more human life for everyone.  
In your name we pray for the hope and energy to be your presence to the poor,  
witnesses of your radical love and its message of justice and peace for all.*

*Amen.*