



Order of Service for World AIDS Day 2015

Before the service begins, place an outline of a world map made from paper and tape at the front where people can see it. Light large white candles and put them in countries of the world with higher HIV prevalence and AIDS-related deaths.

Words of Welcome

Welcome to our World AIDS Day Service. World AIDS Day is held on December first each year. This is a time when we remember people who have died from AIDS-related illnesses and people who are living with HIV; a time to give thanks for the progress that has been made and to reflect on what still needs to be done. It is an opportunity for people around the world to unite to eradicate AIDS and show support for people living with HIV. It is a time to commit anew to ensuring that no one is left behind.

Call to Worship

Open the service by having participants light small red candles and place them in places in the map where they know someone who is living with HIV or has died of AIDS-related illness.

Loving and compassionate God, we come before you this World AIDS Day to remember people impacted by HIV and AIDS and reflect on the progress which has been made and what more needs to be done. We are committed to the global goals of Zero New Infections, Zero AIDS-Related Deaths, and Zero Stigma and Discrimination. We are making every effort to end AIDS as a public health crisis by the year 2030. We thank you for the progress which has been made to slow, reverse and prevent the spread of HIV, to mitigate its impact on families and communities, and to build welcoming and caring communities for all. This progress is the fruit of the divine gifts of reason, intelligence, good judgment, and spiritual inspiration that you have bestowed upon the millions of scientists, health care providers, mental health and social workers, pastoral caregivers, activists and members of civil society, and people directly impacted and affected by this disease, who are all doing their part to end this pandemic.

As believers who have been created in your own image and likeness, O God, we also are keenly aware that no matter how accurate is our knowledge, how proficient our skills, how passionate our commitment, we never will “get to zero” until we empty ourselves more completely and more deeply trust in your almighty power. We know that only you, Father and Mother of us all, are capable of eliminating all illnesses, ending all poverty, eradicating all stigma and discrimination, and overcoming sin and death forever. Thus we entrust ourselves to your amazing grace, and we put ourselves at your caring and tender disposition to reach zero in the global response to HIV and other pandemic diseases and to fully cooperate with you in shaping and forming this world into a



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reign of justice, peace and charity. We make this prayer to you who rule all the forces of good forever and ever. AMEN.

Composed by Monsignor Robert J. Vitillo, Special Advisor for Health and HIV, Caritas Internationalis

Gathering song

Zero, zero, zero (Let us do away with stigma, friend)

Paul Maposa, Andrew Donaldson

Paul Maposa, Zimbabwe

1. Let us do a - way with stig - ma, friend! Let us do a - way with stig - ma, friend!
2. Ze - ro new in - fec - tions, ze - ro deaths, Ze - ro new in - fec - tions, ze - ro deaths,

Pre - ju - dice and fear won't heal or mend. Pre - ju - dice and fear won't heal or mend.
Let us get them down to ze - ro, friend! Let us get them down to ze - ro, friend!

Let us join to - ge - ther, all a - round the globe. Let's work to - ge - ther, with hope. Let's
Pre - ju - dic - es: ze - ro, all a - round the globe. Let's work to - ge - ther, with hope. Lets

work to - ge - ther with hope. Ze - ro deaths, and
work to - ge - ther with hope.

ze - ro new in - fec - tions. Let us work to - ge - ther, with hope.

Story from Swaziland

Reader 1: This World AIDS Day we listen to two stories from Swaziland, a small country in Southern Africa. In Swaziland nearly one third of adults are HIV positive -the highest prevalence rate of any nation- and more people contract tuberculosis in a year than anywhere else in the world. Nearly two thirds of the country lives on less than \$2/day and unemployment currently stands at over 60%.

These stories come from *Cabrini Ministries*, a Catholic community care organization serving the rural Lubombo Lowveld of Swaziland.

Reader 2: Young Menzi¹ has been HIV positive since birth. His mother died and his father works to provide for the family. Menzi is often cared for by extended

¹ All names and identifying details have been changed to protect the clients.



members of his family who have their own struggles to deal with. Access to ART medication through Cabrini has kept him alive – a reality that would not have been possible even a decade ago. Unfortunately, Menzi almost always misses his refill appointments and even when he has his medication, his adherence is not as good as it should be. His father is unable to bring him to appointments and his extended family does not think it is their responsibility to provide for this care. Poor adherence threatens to complicate his already difficult health situation.

Reader 3: Mrs. Dlamini had stage four HIV, and was co-infected with tuberculosis. At her first visit to the clinic she was too weak to walk and had to be carried in; she was clinically malnourished and severely underweight. Within months of her initial visit it was revealed that she was also pregnant. Her severely compromised immune system placed her and her unborn child at a significantly greater risk of complications and for her child to become infected with HIV. In Swaziland, HIV positive women are often prevented from receiving life-saving ART treatment due to stigma associated with having the disease. Diagnosis and treatment for children may be withheld so as to not share the family secret that HIV is present in the home.

Stories based on those written by Ben Kickert, Cabrini Ministries Swaziland in the C.I. HAART for Children Newsletter.

Readings:

(Please, remain standing for the readings)

Proverbs 31:8-9 NRSV

*Speak out for those who cannot speak,
for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

John 9:1-11 NRSV

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3** Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. **4** We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” **6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread it on the man’s eyes, **7** saying to him, “Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. **8** The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” **9** Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” **10** But they kept asking him, “Then how were



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your eyes opened?"

11 He answered "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes and said to me, "Goto Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed, and received my sight.

Reflection

- Voice 1:** HIV and AIDS cut across all boundaries.
Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, children.
Members of communities and congregations.
- Voice 2:** 37 million people are living globally with HIV;
2 million people became newly infected this year;
1.2 million died from AIDS related diseases.
- Voice 1:** 22 million people living with HIV are still not accessing treatment.
Among children the coverage is much lower;
Half of all people living with HIV are unaware of their status;
- Voice 2:** Adolescents, migrants, refugees, people uprooted by disasters,
those working away from home, people with disabilities, sex
workers, victims of violence and abuse, orphaned children,
children on the move, men who have sex with men, injecting drug
users, transgender people, women and young girls, and aboriginal
people are all particularly vulnerable.
- Voice 1:** Lord, let us pray for a world where all people have the equal
opportunity to grow, develop, flourish, work and enjoy prosperous
and fulfilling lives, supported by laws, policies and programs that
respect their human rights and address the social determinants of
health and well-being.
- Voice 2:** Lord, let's us pray for a world where all people, living with or
without HIV, are able to live their lives to the fullest, from birth to
adulthood and into old age, free from discrimination and with
dignity and equality.

Reflection: Who sinned?

The disciples thought it was a simple enough question: who sinned to bring about this blindness, the man blind from birth or his parents? They didn't seem to care how the blind man might have felt about the question – a question that probably already plagued him and his parents – how it might have stigmatized and discriminated against them both. They were looking for an easy answer, to explain a complicated situation.

Jesus, as he so often does, does something unexpected. He tells them that the blindness isn't about sin, neither of the blind man or his parents. He tells them that they are asking the wrong question, that instead of looking for someone to blame, they should be looking for the works of God. And then he shows them God by healing the man.

Like the disciples, the church has often stigmatized and marginalized and rejected people living with HIV. Can't you hear Jesus telling us to stop passing judgment on the people and instead to look for how God's works might be revealed? Can't you hear him challenging us, as the hands and feet of God in the world today, to do what we can to bring about healing instead?

When we defy stigma and discrimination and accept people for whom



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1.

Ky - rie e - le - i - son, ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

9 2.

(son.) Sau-vez - moi la vie, O Jé - sus, je vous prie, ky - ri - e. Sau-vez.

17

nous la vie O Jé - sus, je vous prie. Ky - rie e - le - i - son,

22

Chris - te e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

(Lord, have mercy. Save my life, O Jesus, I pray; save our lives, O Jesus, I pray. Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.)

Story from Swaziland

[...] *Cabrini Ministries* was able to be the hands of Christ to Young Menzi and Mrs. Dlamini – sharing love, acceptance and healing.

Young Menzi was referred to the Family Services department where they worked with the young boy on a long-term adherence plan that empowered him to be responsible for his own medication. Cabrini also worked with the family members to help overcome other challenges such as scheduling and transportation.

Mrs. Dlamini was cured of her TB, she is in a healthy weight range and is now leading a healthy lifestyle with her partner thanks to proper adherence on ART medication. Most importantly, her son Simo is now two years old and remains HIV negative.

Cabrini, like the many other faith-based organizations around the world, through their concrete action are living out the ministry of Christ – accepting people, caring for them and healing them. Can you not see the words of Christ: “As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me.”

It is time to put aside stigma and discrimination and see people for who they are. It is time to respond with love and compassion and action, as we work for a world with Zero infections, Zero AIDS-related deaths and Zero stigma and discrimination. And then people will see God.

Action of Commitment and Song

Ask each participant to sign a letter of her/his commitment to Zero HIV Infection, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS related Deaths. The letter will be placed near the altar and read during the service. While the participants sign the letter a music/song is played.

Letter



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Song

Hatidi It's not enough

Paul Maposa, Zimbabwe

Ha-ti-di ku - ngo - ta-u-ra che te Tsi-gi - ra sho - ko ra - ko na - ma - ba - sa Ha
It's not e - nough chant - ing slo - gans and songs: now we must act with ev - ery means that we have. It's

ti - di ma - slo - gan che - te Tsi - gi - ra slo - gan ya - ko na - a - ba - sa Ha
not e - nough to pro - mise and vow: now we must act with ev - ery means that we have. Half

port.
ti - di - ma - pro - mise che - te Tsi - gi - ra pro - mise ya - ki
truths and myths won't heal a dis - ease: now we must act with ev - ery

na - ma - ba - sa Ha - ti - ku - ndi no - ku - ro - nga che te Tsi
means that we have. It's not e - nough if we talk of big plans: now

port.
gi - ra plan ya - ko na - ma - ba - sa
we must act with ev - ery means that we have.

Mga - ti - to - re zvo - mbo zve - du to se Ta - ka - ndo ba - ta - na
Now we must fight, or our fu - ture is lost; we and our child - ren will

ma - mwe che - te Tin - ndo - rui - sa H. I. V. ne - AIDS Wa - rwa nde - wa - ta - nga
shoul - der the cost. H. I. V. AIDS* is at ev - ery - one's door. Let us work now to es -

ku - ba ya Wa - rwa nde - wa - ta - nga ku - ba - ya!
tab - lish a cure. Let us work now to es - tab - lish a cure!

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English, Paul Maposa and Andrew Donaldson

Benediction and Sending Out

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 15:13* NRSV)

And through our words and actions may we all continue to move towards a world where there are zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero stigma and discrimination against people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. Amen



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