



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
National Board
Established 1894

Office of the National President
Marilyn Madigan

March 8, 2024

Dear Sisters,

I would like to wish all of our members a Happy International Woman's Day. On this International Women's Day and during Women's Month, I think this Prayer from Spiritual in Lent by Ronan Scully is worth sharing.

Happy International Women's Day to every Woman especially those most in need in our Country and Our World today and always.

"A Prayer and Candles Lit for Women Everywhere".
Today we honor the women of all times and all places:
Women of courage.
Women of hope.
Women suffering.
Women mourning.
Women living fully.
Women experiencing joy.
Women delighting in life.
Women knowing the interconnectedness of the human family.
Women honoring the sacredness of the relational, the affective.
Women quietly tending the garden of human flourishing.
Women boldly leading the transformation of unjust global structures.
Women seeking Wisdom.
Women sharing Wisdom.
Women receiving Love.
Women making Prayers.
Women giving Love.
Women: life-giving.
Women: the image of God.
Loving God, we celebrate your faithfulness and love.

On this day we commit ourselves to the promotion of the full humanity of all women everywhere.
We know that whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts the full humanity of women is not of God.
Help us to be faithful to your call to love.

Lord, make me an instrument of peace:

Bless all women who daily strive to bring peace to our communities, our homes, our country, our world and to our hearts. Give them strength to continue to turn swords into plowshares.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love:

We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality, hurt, disappointment, and gender disparities. Help us see and to face the discrimination against women in all the many forms it may take.

Where there is injury, pardon:

Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, having to seek refuge or asylum and abuse.
Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and peace.

Where there is division, unity:

Forgive all women and men who let differences breed hate and discrimination. Let your example of valuing all of creation help us to see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your world.

Where there is darkness, light; where there is untruth, truth:

Comfort all women who struggle in the darkness of abuse, poverty, homelessness, inequality, bullying and loneliness. May we stand with them in light to acknowledge their suffering and strive to remove the burdens of shame or embarrassment.

Where there is doubt, true faith:

We pray for all women who live in fear of their husbands, partners, fathers, and forces that control their lives.
Help them to be empowered to be their true selves through your everlasting love and faith.

Where there is despair, hope:

We pray for all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery, homelessness, direct provision, inequality, abandonment, and abuse. May the light of your love bring them hope.

Where there is sadness, new joy:

Help us to see the strength and goodness in all women and men. Transform our hearts to celebrate the love and grace of all people. And may we be blessed with the courage to follow our own path of love for you and all sisters and brothers. And may we always look after and show real love and care for all children in our world.

On this day let us commit ourselves to the promotion of the full humanity of all women everywhere now and not just on this day but always. Help us to be faithful to our call to love one another as we ourselves would like to be loved. Amen.