

4. You are the Father of all the children of the earth!

Lord, God of the universe, you are the Father of all the children of the earth. You know everyone. You do not look on us as nameless people but as persons with a face and a story. Everyone is a beloved child to you! Teach us to look at one another like you look at us. Teach us to look at one another with openness. Open our eyes to meet you in our brothers and sisters. You love the little ones of the world. Like Jesus, you turn to children and young people. Every child is a blessing from you. We thank you for the vitality they bring to life and their witness to hope. They remind us that the future is before us: a future to be built together with kindness and compassion.

Everyone brings their own little pebble so that life, peace and hope can blossom. You do not look away when life is endangered. No suffering, no vulnerability is alien to you. You hear the cries of your children: Their voices, their gestures and their bodies. You see the outstretched hand and the lifeless body; you see the welcoming look and the raised barriers; you see the tears of a shipwrecked mother and the laughter of the child who has found a new country. Here are our eyes, our hands, our intellect and our deepest desires. Give us a heart full of awareness and compassion. Let us grow in humanity, in words and acts and teach us the way towards life. Amen

*(Prayer for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees,
Catholic Church, France 2017)*

Advent Recollection 2017 MSOLA and MAFR

**We too,
we are migrants**



Prayers

**Missionaries Sisters of our Lady of Africa
Missionnaires of Africa
Rome 2017**



1. Father of love and justice

Father of love and justice,

Many years have passed since your servant Cardinal Lavigerie launched his humanitarian campaign against slavery in Africa.

The Lavigerie family thanks you for the fruits of this evangelical mission.

However, it is not yet finished! Today you call on us to confront the new forms of slavery which, like a giant wound, disfigure humanity and perpetuate the passion of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Father, give us your Holy Spirit. May he obtain for us strength and courage for this anti slavery campaign that we continue in the steps of our Founder, Cardinal Lavigerie.

And you, Our Lady of Africa, Mother of the afflicted, we ask you to be close to our sisters and brothers who are suffering and dying under these new forms of slavery.

(Lavigerie family, 125th Anniversary Prayer 1888 – 2013)



2. Prayer to end human trafficking

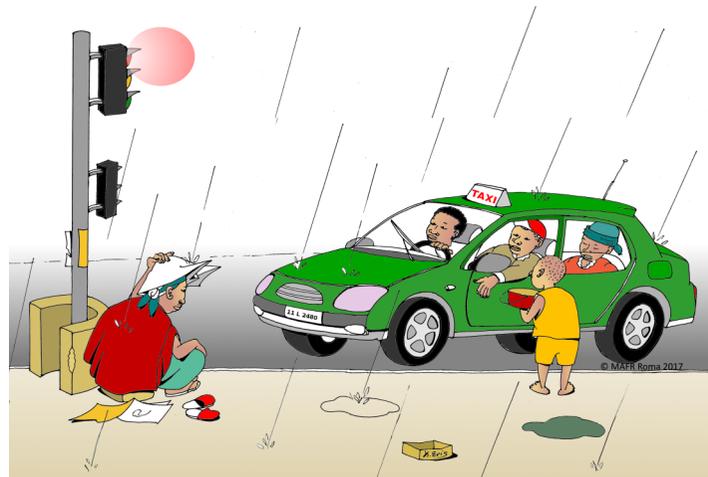
O God, our words cannot express what our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts feel when we hear of men, women and children deceived, transported to unknown places, forced into prostitution or other forms of labour for the financial gain of traffickers – their slavemasters.

Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are transgressed through threats, deception and force. We cry out against this degrading practice of trafficking and pray for it to end. Protect all victims, especially the young and vulnerable.

Let your tender love and care surround all present victims of trafficking. Deliver them, O God, from their perpetrators' hands.

Give us the courage and wisdom to stand in solidarity with them, that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. Amen

*(From "Modern Prayers for Africa and the World",
Missionaries of Africa, South Africa)*



3. On our Advent route

On our Advent path,

There is the path of Prayer, which holds out its arms, face to face in confidence with You, our God.

On our Advent path,

There is the way of Friendship, of the helping hand and of mutual aid, because only together do we fully realize our vocation to create a world of brothers and sisters.

On our Advent path,

There is the way of Solidarity, because a Christmas without sharing is as if we forget your gesture of love and free gift. You became one of us in this child.

On our Advent path,

There is the road to Justice because injustice leads to exploitation and discrimination. The world needs voices for "the voiceless"

On our Advent path,

There is the road to Peace because exclusion and marginalization leads to violence. The world needs people who work together and work for integration.

You see: without You, we will not see these paths of Prayer, Friendship, Solidarity, Justice and Peace.

Help us to take them more often!

Help us to prepare them so that You may be more present in this world!