

## A BLESSING FOR VOLUNTEERS

*To be prayed after Mass, or before a fair trade sale or event.*

Lord, every generous gift and act of giving comes from above. Throughout history, you have anointed your servants and sent them on a mission: to speak your Word to the poor, to heal the sick, to free the captive.

Bless now these volunteers committed to our brothers and sisters around the world who make the products we buy.

Thank you for their commitment to the most vulnerable, for the life that they bring to the parish community and for the fellowship that happens because of the work of their hands.

Bless the gifts that we will purchase today and the hands that so skillfully made them. Gather us together as one human family.

Amen.

[ethicaltrade.crs.org](http://ethicaltrade.crs.org)



## HONORING THE dignity of work

A collection of prayers to remember all those around the world who work to create the products we buy.

*For use at fair trade sales or events.*

*“There is no worse material poverty ... than the poverty which prevents people from earning their bread and deprives them of the dignity of work.”*

—Pope Francis





## PRAYER FOR THE DIGNITY OF WORKERS

*To be prayed before a fair trade sale or event.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ...

Come Lord Jesus, be our light! Help us remember that we belong to you and to each other—that the joys, hopes and fears of our brothers and sisters around the world are also our joys, hopes and fears. As we gather in fellowship, and to purchase beautiful works of art and delicious food, we pray especially for our brothers and sisters who made these unique gifts. Fill us with hope as we purchase their beautiful handmade products. Be our light as we share their story with others.

**READER:** Let us pray for the Church, that all people will live their call to bring the light of Christ to the world through their own personal journeys. We pray to the Lord ...

**ALL:** **Lord, be with us as we journey together.**

**READER:** Let us pray for artisans and farmers around the world, especially those whose hands created the beautiful products we are buying today. Help us to remember them in our thoughts and prayers. May their hope be our hope, their fears be our fears and their joy be our joy. We pray to the Lord ...

**ALL:** **Lord, be with us as we journey together.**

**READER:** Let us pray for the poor and suffering in our own communities, that people everywhere will recognize in them the face of Christ, and reach out to them with greater generosity. We pray to the Lord ...

**ALL:** **Lord, be with us as we journey together.**

**READER:** Prepare our hearts to recognize your face in every person with whom we share the journey of life. We pray to the Lord ...

**ALL:** **Lord, be with us as we journey together.**

Amen.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS FOR WORKERS

*To be prayed at Mass, before a fair trade sale or event.*

For our parish community, that we will grow in compassion and service to people in need around the corner and across the globe. May our fair trade sale be an opportunity for fellowship and service, and a chance to understand more fully the struggles of artisans and farmers who make the products we enjoy. We pray to the Lord ...

**RESPONSE:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our legislators, that they may consider the struggles of the working poor, and work hard to create more opportunities for living wages. We pray to the Lord ...

**RESPONSE:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For more protections and better support systems for farmers and artisans around the world who make the goods we consume. We pray to the Lord ...

**RESPONSE:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Photo by Jennifer Hardy/CRS

