



International Women's Day - 2018

Theme: "The time has come: rural and urban activities are transforming women's lives."

Sub-theme of the National level: "Investing in the productive power of rural women, a priority for D.R. of Congo."

Setting: Globe, photos of rural and urban women

Entrance procession: Bring seeds, earth, tools to work the land for rural women and tools for urban women's work.

Song: to Mary

Introduction: Around the world, people are mobilizing for a fairer future. This mobilization takes on the form of a March or Global Campaigns. To invest in the productive power of rural women is a priority in our country. Restoring women's place in agriculture, in rural life and in the practice of educating and forming citizens is essential.

Meditation: For many years in Africa, young girls and women were victims of repeated wrongful effects of traditions and wars. Moreover, there is still the African illusion that women are only good for sexual exploitation, procreation, working in the fields and other work necessary for the survival of the household. But today, women are beyond this perception; women are committed to sustainable development of the country and of the world.

Silence and Reflection

Time of Sharing

Word of God: Jn 4, 3-30; Luke 8, 1-3; Gn 1, 26-30

Time of Sharing

On journey with our Founders: Montfort, "If you do not risk anything for God, you will never do anything great for Him." L. 27

Silence and Reflection

Petitions: Let us pray especially for women who suffer discrimination and abuse, for women who exercise religious, political or social responsibilities, for women who are alone, abandoned or poor, and for all women in our lives who took care of us and supported us.

- Lord, bless all women who work every day to bring peace to their community, to their household, and to their heart. Give them strength to continue to change swords into ploughshares.

- We pray to you for all women who face prejudice, disparity, and sexual discrimination. Help us to see and confront discrimination against women whatever form it takes.
- Comfort all women who suffer war, violence, and abuse. Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and healing.
- Forgive all women and men who let differences fuel hate and discrimination. May the example of your respect for all creation help us understand that we are equal partners in the stewardship of our world.
- We pray for all women who live in despair because of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery, and abuse of all kinds. May the light of your love bring them hope.

Our Father

Final Prayer: The wise woman builds her house and the foolish woman pulls it down with her own hands. (Pro 14, 1) Many women lack self-esteem, suffer and are still being accused in today's society. Let us ask God to help women understand their situation, to become witnesses of His love and to empower them. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chant final: to Mary or Marie-Louise (Women of yesterday....)