

Prayer for Indigenous People

We celebrate the gifts of indigenous peoples,
Their close connection with the earth,
Modeling for us what Pope Francis teaches:
That all is connected and in communion,
And that we must recognize Creation as sacred.

We celebrate the sense of community
Of indigenous groups, of their sense as a people,
And their understanding of the common good,
Which is more important than individual gain
And which has sustained them for thousands of years.

We celebrate the value of traditional cultures
Of indigenous groups, which has so often been
Scorned and dismissed by those who would rule them;
The renewal of these cultures is a witness
To their richness, worth, and vitality.

May we learn from their wisdom
And may we support them in solidarity
As our brothers and sisters, all children
Of a Creator God who delights in diversity.

We pray that the human dignity of all indigenous peoples
In Australia, Africa, South and North America
May finally and fully be recognized.
We pray that the human rights of all indigenous peoples
May be finally and fully respected
So their connection to the earth, their sense of community,
And their rich cultures may be passed on
To the generations to come. Amen.

—Jane Deren, Ph.D.

