

Fourth Conversation

'Dear Lord, you were scourged, mocked, misused, forced to wear a crown of thorns. This fills me with shock and horror: how, I ask, could anyone do this to another person, especially to someone innocent? But I find people forced to wear crowns of thorns today. I see children whose eyes are without tears, without dreams, as they starve to death in the arms of their helpless parents.

Pope Francis says: **"We fail to see that some people are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out—while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions... These consider themselves more human than others, as if they had been born with greater rights."** (90).

Lord, do I think that I have greater rights than those who are crowned with thorns today? Forgive me, and stir me to join with others who struggle for justice and equality. May I cradle our Earth and feel sympathy for her wounds. Amen.'

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