

## CHRIST, THE SOURCE AND FUTURE OF OUR DIGNITY

Be thou Blessed, Lord, the source and future of our dignity  
Your show tenderness to the youngest ones  
We have so much trouble discerning your presence  
In those that we deem unworthy of our humanity  
Help us, you who have lived our life as humans  
To never dehumanize one who seems distanced from you  
Lord, you who have known tears and anguish, blessed art thou  
You dare to show your emotion before death and abandonment  
You speak your compassion to those that “could faint on their way”  
We are so burdened by the suffering which makes us absent or talkative  
Teach us, you who also understand suffering, to be fully present  
By the sides of those whom pain overwhelms  
Lord, revolted by injustice and hypocrisy, blessed are you  
You give us a law of love and sharing  
You ask us to make adjustment to our lives in keeping with it  
Tell us, you who died for staying true to your message  
How to constantly invent rules for a more just world  
Lord, you know how to withdraw and pray, blessed are you  
You reveal to us the quality of brotherliness by pointing us to the Father  
We are troubled by a choice between activism and resignation  
We fear both the silence of your absence and the demand of your call  
Come pray through us when we feel discouraged  
When the prayer seems scandalous in the face of violence  
Lord, you spoke with the wicked and the executioners, blessed are you  
You denounce without compromise those who do not know how to love,  
And then, in the same word, invite them to change  
We have so much trouble praying for those who torture,  
To celebrate the forgiveness of which certain victims are capable  
Inspire in us the tongue of real dialogue  
And the courage to take the first step towards reconciliation  
Lord, you are living, blessed are you  
Your words and gestures put us back on the path of life.

**Guy Aurenche, former president of ACAT**