

Prayer shared by Professor Melanie Ross at the ISM's anniversary dinner on Saturday, April 27

Adapted from Herbert Whittaker's "Prayer for the Artists" [1987]

Lord, you are an infinitely patient God. You know our self-deceptions that scar the surface of your globe. You see the long, deep hurts that follow our endless wars of greed, pride and hatred. Lord, who cannot despise us as we deserve, in your own summings-up, remember the artists.

Have mercy upon them and remember with compassion all those that reflect the good, the ill, the strengths and the weaknesses of the human spirit.

Remember those who raise their voices in unending song, those who pour their souls into music loud and soft.

Remember those who put pigment to surface, carve wood and stone and marble, who work base metals into beauty, those building upwards from the earth toward heaven.

Remember those who put thought to paper by computer and by pen; the poets who delve, the playwrights who analyze and proclaim, the dreamers-up of narrative, all those who work with the light and shadows of film.

Remember the actors moved by Spirit and dancers moving through space.

Remember all these artists whom you have placed among us, for are they not, O Lord, the fellows of your inspiration? Do they not, Lord God, bring to your people great proof of your divinity and our part in it?

Show them mercy and compassion that they may do the same and so uplift all your people. May they ever cry forth your praises, as we do here.
Amen! Amen! Amen!