

Guantánamo Brothers, Forgive Us

by Sister Dianna Ortiz, Center of Concern

Jesus, Giver of Dignity, we look in the mirror of our souls,
mindful of your words, “What you have done to the least of my brothers, you have done to me.”

Once again we have failed you.

We have allowed seeds of fear to blind us to what is truly right and just.

We have been duped by the luring words of our leaders
to see our Guantánamo brothers as the worst of the worst.

We have watched as our leaders impugn the truth
that these men are a threat to national security and to the global community.

How long, O Lord, how long, will we allow these men who have had no charges brought against
them to be hidden away from our consciences and the requirements of our Christian faith?

How long, O Lord, how long, will we let them wither away in despair—a testament not to the
promises of justice but to the violation of the sacredness and dignity of the human person?

In your name, we acknowledge that we have disgraced ourselves in our treatment of our
Guantánamo brothers.

In your name, we admit that we have encouraged seeds of hatred to despoil the garden of the
common good.

In your name, we recognize that we have played a role in tearing families apart.

In your name, we confess that we have crucified You, once again, in our treatment of our
Guantánamo brothers,

Jesus, Life of the Living God, we have failed you.






And, we have failed one another.

We ask for a forgiveness that will reach into the very prison cells of our brothers at Guantánamo.

Only when we have done this, may we turn and ask for forgiveness from You. Amen

~ **Dianna Ortiz, OSU I Copyright © 2014, Center of Concern**

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