

A Dalit Creed [Dalit means 'broken' or 'ground down']

We believe in God the Creator, the sustainer and the redeemer of the whole of humankind and the cosmos. We believe that God has created all in God's own image.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who was born and lived as a Dalit during his earthly life; who was born of the so-considered lowly Mary; who suffered unjust discrimination in the context of the Roman Empire. He suffered humiliating crucifixion for his voice of resistance against the hegemonic Empire. He part-took in the death of the martyrs to identify himself with death and the death-like lives of the Dalits. He ascended into life to bring about the fullness of life in all.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who functions as an advocate and a counselor to those who are marginalized and empowers them towards liberation. We affirm our faith in the Holy Spirit, the Living Spirit of God, who empowers her children to break inhuman barriers, and the obstacles that negate life, justice, and peace. It is this Spirit that strengthens us to suffer for justice, inspires us to stand against life-negating forces and prejudices, shaping us into a community of forgiven and freely accepted brothers and sisters, set apart for God's service. Raised with Christ, we share in his work for God's world of everlasting love, justice, and peace.

We believe in the Church that rises above the caste-based structures and which overcomes prejudices by crossing boundaries and building bridges. We believe in One Holy Catholic Church that is called to risk its life to cross boundaries to incorporate everybody into the Body of Christ, irrespective of caste, creed, class, color, and gender; and to be in solidarity with the wounded communities.

We believe in the community of saints who share a common stance of acceptance of all in the sight of God and all humans; We believe in God's forgiveness of sins when we repent of our dominant nature and seek forgiveness wholeheartedly from the victims of our oppressive nature; We believe in the resurrection of the body as a witnessing voice to liberation from oppressions; We believe in the life-everlasting, which ensures the restoration of an egalitarian cosmic family

Amen

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