

# VADEMECUM



SVD

# Vademecum

A source book of prayers  
for the members of the  
Society of the Divine Word  
and for their Associates

Revised Edition 2009

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On February 13, 2008, Vademecum SVD 2009 was approved by the General Council for use within the Society of the Divine Word.

Antonio M. Pernia, SVD  
Superior General

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# Editorial Note

‘Vademecum’ is the Latin for ‘walk with me.’ The original name of the book is kept. The contents are revised and updated and follow a new order. The prayers are arranged in four Parts, according to content. The prayers specific to our spiritual heritage are given the first slot. Part Five offers some inspirational texts about our missionary spirituality.

Prayer leaders may select appropriate prayers for each occasion from the many collections given in the book.

The numbering of the prayers is similar to the system followed in the SVD Constitutions. There are 186 items of prayer in the book. As the prayers are gathered from various sources, different translations of the Bible texts may be noticed.

## *Abbreviations:*

A. = All; App. = Appendix; C. = Celebrant; C/L. = Celebrant or Leader; L. = Leader; N. = Name; pn.= Prayer number; R. = Reader; R/ = Response/Refrain; \*\* = Composed by St. Arnold Janssen; \* = Based on a prayer by St. Arnold Janssen.

- Editors

# Foreword

The XVI General Chapter of 2006 mandated:

That within the next three years the generalate, with the help of the AJSC (Arnold Janssen Spirituality Center) and in consultation with the provinces, publish an updated version of our Society prayers (Quarter Hour prayer), devotions (First Friday, Third Monday, Blessed Mother), liturgical celebrations (feasts and patrons) and the like which can be used not only in our religious communities, formation houses, recollections and retreats, but also in our parishes, schools and other apostolate communities. If possible, the *Vademecum* and Ceremonial should include forms of piety not only from the European but also from the cultural backgrounds of the other zones (*Resolution 2.7.*).

It is in response to this resolution that this revised edition of the *SVD Vademecum* is being presented to the Society on this feast of our Founder, 15 January 2009, the centennial anniversary of his death.

The work of revising the *Vademecum* went through several stages. First, two confreres were requested to undertake a preliminary revision, one in English (Fr. Ignatius Thottappilly of INC) and the other in Spanish (Fr. Luis Liberti of ARS). Eventually two other confreres were asked to assist each of these confreres, thereby forming a committee of six confreres, i.e., three for each of the language versions. Finally, this committee met at the generalate in Rome on 6-13

February 2008 to finalize the revision of the *Vademecum*.

In the light of the Chapter resolution mentioned above, the committee was asked to be guided by three general principles: (1) rootedness in the spirituality of our Founder and the Society, (2) openness to the diversity of cultural expressions, and (3) usefulness to both SVD communities and the apostolates and people we serve. As they went along with the work of revision, the committee decided, with the consent of the general council, not to attempt to bring about a complete harmony between the English and Spanish versions, but to produce two separate devotional books.

Thus, we now have an English and a Spanish *Vademecum*. While some sections are common, most other sections are different in the two versions. Provinces or Regions who wish to translate the *Vademecum* into other languages are free to choose the prayers from either of the two versions or from both of them. They are also free to add other prayers which may be of special significance to their specific context or area.

This revised edition of the *Vademecum* is not meant to be a standard prayer book normative for the whole Society. Rather, it is meant to be a “source book” which contains resources for the prayer and devotion of the community, individual confreres and pastoral groups. Thus, as mandated by the last general chapter, this new *Vademecum* contains a variety of prayers, e.g., updated prayers of the Founder; prayer services by themes (e.g., Blessed Trinity, Divine Word,

Sacred Heart); prayers for special occasions and contemporary mission concerns; even poems and chants of non-Christian origin in line with c. 407.3. In this sense, this new *Vademecum* combines both the older *Vademecum* and *Orate Fratres*.

We owe a word of sincere gratitude to the members of the committee which carried out the revision of the *Vademecum*, namely – for the English version: Frs. Ignatius Thottappilly (INC), Peter McHugh (AJSC), Xene Sanchez (CNG); for the Spanish version: Frs. Luis Liberti (ARS), Michael Somers (AJSC), Nicolás Espinosa (COL). Other confreres were also involved in the various stages of the preparation for the publication of this devotional book. May all of them be blessed for this important work done for the whole Society.

May this new *SVD Vademecum* be used by all so that the Divine Word, invoked in regular and unceasing prayer, may be our constant companion in our missionary life and journey.

Fraternally in the Divine Word,  
Antonio M. Pernia, SVD  
Superior General

15 January 2009  
Centennial of the Death of the Founder

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# **VADEMECUM**

**May the Holy Triune God  
live in our hearts and the hearts of all!\*\***

# Part One

## Prayers of Our Spiritual Heritage

### 101. Quarter Hour Prayer\*\*

L. God, eternal truth,  
A. We believe in you.

L. God, our strength and salvation,  
A. We hope in you.

L. God, infinite goodness,  
A. We love you with all our heart.

L. You have sent the Word as Savior of the world,  
A. Make us all one in him.

L. Fill us with the Spirit of your Son,  
A. That we may glorify your name. Amen.

### 102. Invocations to Our Special Patrons\*

L. Incarnate Word of God,  
A. Give us life by your Spirit.

L. Most pure Mother of the Lord,  
A. Bring all people to your Son.

L. Holy Michael, Gabriel and Raphael,  
A. Promote the kingdom of God on earth.

L. Sts. Joseph, Joachim and Anne,  
A. Pray God for more ministers of the Gospel.

L. Sts. Peter and Paul, John and Andrew,  
A. Help the heralds of the faith.

L. Sts. Gregory, Augustine and Vincent,  
A. Pray for all the members of the Church of every  
state and rank.

L. Sts. Arnold and Joseph,  
A. Open our hearts to all people.

L. Blessed Maria Helena, Josepha and our SVD  
martyrs,  
A. Help us in our missionary service.

*(At this point an invocation to the province/local  
patron may be added.)*

L. May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief  
vanish before the light of the Word and the Spirit  
of grace.

A. And may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of  
all people. Amen.

## **103. Prayers to the Blessed Trinity**

### **103.1 Prayer for the Triune God's Blessing\*\***

- L. God, heavenly Father, bless us with the love with which you adopted us as your children.
- A. God, eternal Son, bless us through the ineffable kindness of your Sacred Heart, the kindness that made you sacrifice your life that we might live.
- L. God, Holy Spirit, bless us through the love that you give to your creatures as the highest of gifts, making us children of God.
- A. May the blessing of the holy Trinity fill our hearts and enable us to carry out every good work.
- L. May the divine, life-giving love give consolation to those who mourn, comfort to the sick, and the support of grace to all who are in need.
- A. May the divine blessing come upon us and all who are dear to us.
- L. May the almighty and merciful God bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- A. Amen

### **103.2 Petitions for the Blessing of the Holy Trinity\*\***

- L. God heavenly Father!
- A. Bless us through the love with which from all eternity you brought forth your only Son and shared with him the fullness of your divinity.

Bless us through the love with which you adopted us as your children, sharing with us the treasures of your divinity.

Bless us through the love with which you sent your Son and the Holy Spirit to complete in us the marvels of your power and mercy.

Grant that we may never cease to honor you as our highest Lord and to love you with all our heart. Amen.

L. God eternal Son, mirror of the Father's splendor!

A. Bless us through the love you have for the Father from all eternity.

Bless us through the love with which you have also loved us, your creatures. You became human to be our brother in the flesh in order to make us your brothers and sisters in divinity and images of your divine glory.

Bless us through the compassion of your Sacred Heart which led you to choose death to bring us life.

Bless us through the love with which you give us yourself in Holy Communion to be our joy. Grant that all this love and noble suffering be not lost on us. Amen.

L. God Holy Spirit, mutual Love of Father and Son!

A. Bless us through the love in which you proceed from the Father and the Son and unite them as one.

Bless us through the love with which you give yourself to us creatures as our greatest Gift transforming us into children of God.

Bless us through the love by which you live in the Heart of Jesus, and through him make our dry earth fruitful with the dew of your grace making it a fit dwelling place for God.

Grant that we may live in your house as your faithful children, willingly guided by you in joy.  
Amen.

- L. May the blessing of the most holy Trinity fill our hearts and enable us to carry out every good work.
- A. May the divine, life-giving Love bring comfort to the grieving, relief to the sick, and loving support to all in need.
- L. May darkness vanish. May God's kingdom of love, truth and peace spread over the earth through the Power and Love of God.
- A. So may the divine blessing rest upon us and our loved ones. May the almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and protect us. Amen.

### **103.3 Offering to the Blessed Trinity\*\***

- L. Heavenly Father, we desire to offer ourselves today and every day of our lives in the same spirit of surrender with which your divine Son offered himself to you for your glorification and the salvation of all.
- A. May it be our food and drink, heavenly Father, to do your will with complete unselfishness.
- L. Jesus, we desire to serve you today and every day with the same love which prompts you to dwell in the Blessed Sacrament to be our food and sacrifice of love.

- A. Strengthen us, Jesus, and cleanse our hearts with this love that we may serve you in holiness and purity.
- L. Holy Spirit, we desire to serve you with a chaste love and sincere intention, and to love you in union with St. Joseph, and all your saints.
- A. We unite our offerings with the love with which they loved you and with which they will adore, praise, and revere you together with the Father and the Son for all eternity.
- L. Almighty Father, help us in weakness. All knowing Son, direct all our thoughts, words, and actions.
- A. Loving Holy Spirit, be the source of all our activities so that they may be entirely conformed to your will.
- L. Glory be...
- A. As it was...

#### **103.4 Prayer of Petitions\*\***

- L. Heavenly Father, our supreme Lord and God, you gave us Jesus Christ as the head of your Church. Grant that all the members of the Church, the body of Christ, may be united, through the gift of your grace, to Jesus their head as true branches to the true vine.
- A. We mistrust our own strength and so we ask you, merciful Father, through the continual mediation of your beloved Son who stands at your right hand to shower the infinite treasures of your goodness on the whole human race.

- L. Lord, Jesus Christ, as one among us, you sowed the good seed in the field of this world. Through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit the work of the apostles and of your faithful followers grew into a great tree.
- A. Increase your grace to your vicar on earth, to every bishop and priest, to every head of state. Through the growing zeal for prayer and apostolic effort may the spirit of darkness be overcome and the kingdom of light and truth spread everywhere.
- L. God, Holy Spirit, through your infinite wisdom, you prepare far in advance and at the proper moment bestow the workings of your grace. Through the power of this grace soften the stubborn, inflame the tepid, cleanse and sanctify those buried in sin.
- A. Fill us with a spirit of prayer so that we will cling to your will more and more with each passing day, and so remain faithful to the Father and the Son.
- L. Most Blessed Trinity, it is your firm will that all who believe in the name of Jesus Christ should have life.
- A. Make us true followers of Christ, who praise the Father, who bear fruit equal to the graces given, who work for the world's redemption with real dedication, so that when life is through we may enjoy our part of that glory which Jesus won for us by his passion and death on a cross. Amen.

## 103.5 Invocation to the Blessed Trinity

L. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

A. You are present within me, healing me, empowering me, making me fully alive as you form me into the likeness of Jesus. I am in awe before you and I thank you; I rest in you, desiring you above all else, my Lord and my God! I surrender all to you; take from me all that is not of you in me; immerse me in your Holy Spirit!

L. All glory be to you; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A. As it always was, and is, and forever shall be, for you alone are worthy. Amen.

L. May God the Father bless and protect us as his children. Our Father...

A. Give us today...

L. May God the Son enlighten us with his grace, and give us his peace.

May God the Holy Spirit visit, comfort, and sanctify our hearts, and let us behold the glories of God for all eternity. Our Father...

A. Give us today...

L. Glory be...

A. As it was...

L. May the power of the Father strengthen us, the wisdom of the Son enlighten us, and the love of the Holy Spirit animate us for all eternity. Our Father...

A. Give us today...

L. Glory be...

A. As it was...

## 104. Prayers to the Father

### 104.1 Our Father

- L. Our Father in heaven,
- A. God who is very close to us, whom we dare to call Father.
- L. Holy be your name.
- A. We adore you the Lord of the Universe.
- L. Your kingdom come.
- A. A community of free and liberated persons,
- L. May your will be done.
- A. May we always be attuned to your will with love and trust, even when it is hard to accept.
- L. On earth as it is in heaven.
- A. Let our hearts and our world be in complete harmony with your plan for us.
- L. Give us this day our daily bread.
- A. May we accept life one day at a time.
- L. Forgive us our sins.
- A. Lord, our sins are many, but your mercy is far beyond.
- L. As we forgive those who sin against us.
- A. How difficult it is for us to forgive others when they hurt us.
- L. Lead us not into temptation.
- A. We implore you to help us stand the test of life.
- L. Deliver us from evil.
- A. Evil - the evil within us - selfishness, pride and jealousy that enslave us and prevent us from attaining inner freedom. Amen.

## 104.2 Abba Father

- L. Abba Father, you who are in heaven, we are your children, the work of your hands.
- A. We praise your greatness, we celebrate your goodness, we remember the story of your love.
- L. We pray that your kingdom may come, to free us from fear and darkness.
- A. We pray that your kingdom may heal our brokenness, and bring peace to your creation.
- L. Give us wisdom to understand your will and your presence, especially when we are hurt by the unexpected,
- A. When we are confused by what's happening to us, when we search for meaning in the midst of our losses, when we are trapped by our emotions.
- L. Give us confidence to thank you for your daily gifts we so often take for granted:
- A. The gift of food that provides nourishment for our bodies, the gift of beauty that provides nourishment for our minds, the gift of love that provides nourishment for our spirits, the gift of faith that sustains us, the gift of friends that comforts us, the gift of every color in your creation that brightens our day.
- L. Help us to forgive each other as you forgive us:
- A. You cleanse away our resistance and bring your light into our darkness. Help us to reach out to others, to become healing instruments in your world, to build bridges rather than walls in your creation. Amen.

### **104.3 Prayer to the Eternal Father for the Gift of the Spirit**

- L. O God, almighty and merciful Father, you have created all things and every good comes from your hand. Whatever has been created is sustained and guided by your providence. We come to you as weak people to the source of all strength. The fact that we are your children, gives us the courage to ask you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for the most precious of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.
- A. Incline, O most gracious Lord, your ears of mercy to our prayers, and enlighten our hearts by the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that we may worthily celebrate your mysteries and love you with an everlasting love.
- L. O God, before whom every heart lies open and to whom every desire speaks and from whom no secret lies hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the pouring forth of your Holy Spirit, so that we may be worthy to love you perfectly and to praise you worthily.
- A. In flame, O Lord, our minds and our hearts with the fire of your Holy Spirit, so that we may serve you with chaste minds and please you with clean hearts.
- L. We beseech you, O Lord, that the Comforter, who proceeds from you, may enlighten our minds and lead us, as your Son has promised, unto all truth.
- A. May the power of your Holy Spirit, we beseech you, O Lord, be present with us mercifully to cleanse our hearts and to defend them from all harm.

- L. O God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of your Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in the consolation of the Spirit.
- A. Cleanse, we beseech you, O Lord, our conscience by your visitation, so that when Jesus, your Son, shall come, he may find in us a dwelling prepared for him; who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

#### **104.4 Prayer of Thanksgiving\*\***

- L. Heavenly Father, you so loved the world that you did not hesitate to deliver your only-begotten Son to death that all who believe in him may not be lost but may receive life in his name.
- A. In thanksgiving for this mercy and in atonement for our sins, we offer you his virtues, his innocence, his love, his most bitter sorrows and his death. Pardon our sins and grant that all may come to know your fatherly kindness and love you in return with all their heart.
- L. Father of mercy and consolation, in order to reveal your goodness and love more and more, you sent us, with your divine Son, your most powerful and loving Spirit.
- A. We give you thanks for this infinite kindness, for through him you purified, sanctified, and enriched the world.
- L. Through him you led your children to be partakers of the divine nature and to rest eternally with you in heaven.
- A. Let this precious gift be enjoyed by all and through your Spirit spread your kingdom over the whole world. Amen.

## **105. Prayers to Jesus, the Incarnate Word/ Sacred Heart**

### **105.1 Prayer to the Sacred Heart\*\***

- L. Divine Heart of Jesus,
- A. Destroy in us all pride and give us true humility. Take from us all lack of charity and give us a true love for each other. Pluck out of our hearts all wrath and anger and give us true meekness. Crush in us all spiritual laziness and give us prudent zeal. Stifle in us all avarice and give us generous hearts. Help us to have control of our desires and give us a love of temperance. Remove from us all that is evil and give us a life united with you. Amen.

### **105.2 Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

- L. Divine Heart of Jesus, first Missionary, sent by the Father to be our Brother and Savior, we come before you today to consecrate ourselves wholly and irrevocably to you.
- A. We call to mind the occasion when you looked at the young man with love and told him: "There is one thing more you must do. Go and sell what you have and give to the poor; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow Me" (*Mk 10:21*). We have left all; we are here to follow you.
- L. We are also mindful of your words: "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross, and begin to follow in my footsteps. If you save your life, you will lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it" (*Mt 16:24f*).

- A. Teach us to be true disciples of the cross so that by word and example we may, like the apostle Paul, boast in nothing but in the cross of our Lord and Savior (*Ga 6:14*).
- L. You told your disciples: “The harvest is good but the laborers are few. Beg the harvest master to send out laborers to gather his harvest” (*Mt 9:37f*). Kneeling before you in the Blessed Sacrament, we beg you: “Lord, send us!”
- A. We see your Heart surrounded by flames of fire and glowing more radiantly than the sun. May this divine love inflame our hearts to carry out the apostolic work which you desire of us.
- L. We see your Heart wreathed with thorns and surmounted by a cross. May trials and sufferings never stop us but help us to become more like you.
- A. We see the wound in your Heart from which flowed blood and water, the grace of the Holy Spirit. May your Spirit fill our hearts with love for you and your people.
- L. Incarnate Divine Word, may the wisdom and holiness of your Heart fill our own hearts and transform them into worthy apostles to bring your Good News to all the people on earth.
- A. Kindly give us, from out of the abundance of your Heart, your Spirit of love and sacrifice so that we may be truly other Christs for those to whom you will send us.
- L. Divine Heart of Jesus, we live in you.
- A. Divine Heart of Jesus we hope to die in you; divine Heart of Jesus, we are yours in life and in death. Amen.

### **105.3 Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Image of Divine Love\*\***

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, through the image of your heart, you have revealed your      overwhelming love for us.
- A. We honor your divine love. You were driven by it. You the eternal Word of the Trinity, took the form of a slave, to be recognized in your manner and bearing as really human.
- L. We respect that holy love which inflamed and spurred you to proclaim your Father to the world, to do his will always, to offer yourself as a pleasing sacrifice to God the Father for our salvation, and to consider us worthy of your service.
- A. We honor your human love, which you experienced while living as a man among us: when you were thrilled with joy because you were filled with the Holy Spirit; when you were plunged into sorrow, great enough to break your heart.
- L. And so we know that, although you are God and eternal Love, you love your Father with a human heart as well, and you love people as your own brothers and sisters.
- A. Grateful and full of confidence we surrender ourselves to you, since we are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any creature can separate us from God's love for us, which is in you, O Lord.
- L. You promised streams of living water to those who come thirsting and drink. See our joy as we drink

saving waters from your font. This is the source from which we are filled with grace and every blessing from heaven.

- A. Grant us the great gift of your love which is poured forth in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Inspired by the Spirit, may we better understand how deeply you want to be loved by us, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength.
- L. With your help may we follow your new commandment, the law to love all, so that everyone will know from this that we really are your disciples.
- A. Your love impels us not to live for ourselves but for you because you died for us and rose again. We are as tools in your hands, serving your sacred ministry of proclaiming to every nation in the world the good news from God. With a word the Almighty can accomplish immeasurably more than we could ask for or even dream of. Glory to him in his Church, in you Lord Jesus, and in all peoples, through endless ages. Amen.

#### **105.4 Praises to the Sacred Heart of Jesus\*\***

- L. Sacred Heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, with deepest reverence we adore you. You are worthy of the love and adoration of all the heavenly spirits. We unite our adoration with theirs.
- A. Honor, love and thanksgiving be to you, Sacred Heart of Jesus!

- L. Praised be the Sacred Heart of Jesus, inexhaustible fountain of all goodness.
- A. May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere!
- L. Praised be the benevolent Heart of Jesus, for the boundless graces that have flowed and shall continue to flow into the lives of those who trust you.
- A. All for you, Sacred Heart of Jesus!
- L. Praised be the gentle Heart of Jesus, for the love which so often refreshes devout hearts with consolation.
- A. May the Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved and thanked at every moment, even to the end of time.
- L. Praised be the adorable Heart of Jesus, loved, formed, and enriched with heavenly graces by the Holy Spirit.
- A. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be known, loved and imitated.
- L. Praised be the loving Heart of Jesus, so generous, pure and full of grace.
- A. May the Heart of Jesus burning with love for us inflame our hearts with love of you.
- L. Praised be the royal Heart of Jesus, victorious over death and sin, triumphant over the living and the dead.
- A. Praised and blessed be the Sacred Heart and the Precious Blood of Jesus in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.

- L. Praised be the Heart so poor and yet so rich, for having despised all earthly riches, for having renounced all earthly honors.
- A. Jesus meek and humble of Heart, make our hearts like yours.
- L. Praised be the obedient Heart of Jesus which hungered for the fulfilment of the divine will; which thirsted for the greater glory of God and the salvation of all peoples.
- A. Heart of Jesus, increase in us faith, hope and love!
- L. Praised be the generous Heart of Jesus, which did not seek its own glory; patient Heart, which willingly bore the greatest insults; unselfish Heart which longed for and lovingly embraced the cross.
- A. Heart of Jesus, help us to be generous, patient and selfless.
- L. Sacred Heart of Jesus, teach us to love you with our whole heart, and grant that according to the little strength we have we may imitate your sublime virtues.
- A. With Mary, let us adore, thank, implore and console the Heart of Jesus.
- L. Glory...
- A. As it was...

### **105.5 A Favorite Prayer of St. Arnold\*\***

- L. Lord, Jesus Christ,
- A. I adore you as the Son of God, and through the mediation of your most sweet Mother, I beseech you, send me from the abundance of your loving

heart the grace of the Holy Spirit to enlighten my ignorance, purify and sanctify my sinful heart, and confirm me in holy love. This I ask of you through the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit, through the abundance of your infinite mercy, and through the merits of all your saints. Amen.

### **105.6 Prayer to the Suffering Savior\*\***

- L. Most meek Jesus, I praise and bless your infinite power in hiding your omnipotence and becoming helpless for our sake.
- A. Most patient Jesus, I praise and bless your great wisdom in allowing yourself to be mocked and derided.
- L. Most afflicted Jesus, I praise and bless your deep love in allowing that you be unjustly hated.
- A. Most sorrowful Jesus, I praise and bless your infinite mercy in accepting the cruel and unjust sentence of death.
- L. Most abandoned Jesus, I praise and bless your loving goodness which, for our sake endured a shameful death.
- A. I beg you, O Jesus, offer to your heavenly Father all the injuries you suffered during your sacred Passion, for his greater glory and our salvation. May your infinite love and forbearance be praised for all eternity.
- L. Lord Jesus,
- A. You humbled yourself until death on a cross. You promised your kingdom to the gentle and humble of heart. Make us gladly accept your gentle yoke,

and obtain from your heavenly Father mercy and favor for all and salvation for those who seek you with a sincere heart. You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

### **105.7 Before the Crucified Lord**

L. Lord Jesus,

A. As I gaze at you, dear crucified Lord and Savior, I proclaim you and your cross to be my salvation and hope. I pray to grant me the grace to recognize your unconditional love and divinity which was hidden in your flesh. Teach me as you did on the cross to believe in the presence of your Father when his absence is deeply felt. Lord, you allowed your body to be nailed and pierced, your person to be ridiculed and scoffed at, your life to be taken away as that of a criminal. Your life seemed an utter failure and many people rejoiced that at last you were done away with. Yet it was in the agony of your death on the cross that you willed to reveal yourself as truly the Son of God. When I meet with failure and disappointment, pain and meaninglessness, fear and a desire to escape from hardships and duty, may you be my guide and support, the meaning and salvation of my life. Amen.

### **105.8 A Prayer to the Sacred Heart\*\***

L. Most Sacred Heart,

A. You have given yourself to us as a brother's heart. You are rich to share with us your riches; happy, to make us happy; blessed, to make us blessed.

Be gracious and compassionate to us because of your sufferings. Grant all people true love for you so that they too may help to fulfill your desire for the salvation and sanctification of all, to spread your kingdom of truth and love, and to sanctify ourselves for your sake. Amen.

### **105.9 Praises to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**

- L. Let us praise the creative love which impelled the Heart of Jesus to institute the most Holy Eucharist.
- A. Be praised, Lord our God, for the enduring love by which you instituted this most holy Sacrament to unite us with you here on earth and in eternity.
- L. Be praised for taking bread into your holy and venerable hands, lifting your eyes to your eternal Father, and giving thanks to Him.
- A. Be praised for the gift of the Holy Spirit who transforms the bread and wine into your Body and Blood and unites us with you.
- L. Be praised, eternal High Priest, for providing in the most Blessed Sacrament a perpetual sacrifice for our salvation and an everlasting covenant with people.
- A. Be praised, divine Savior, for the exceeding great mercy by which you invite us to your table to nourish us with your Body and Blood.
- L. Be praised, Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament, for you are food on our pilgrim way, the strength of the dying, and the resurrection of the faithful departed.
- A. Be praised, Priest and Victim, for remaining with us in the tabernacle.

- L. We offer these praises in union with those of Mary, your Mother and ours, with those of the angels and saints, who surround your throne, and with the generous actions and prayers of Holy Church.
- A. Be praised and blessed and thanked now and forever, most Holy Sacrament. Amen.

### **105.10 Thirty-three Petitions to Jesus**

- L. Jesus, Word of the eternal Father, convert us.
- A. Jesus, Son of Mary, make us her worthy children.
- L. Jesus, our Master, teach us.
- A. Jesus, Prince of Peace, give us inner peace.
- L. Jesus, our Refuge, receive us.
- A. Jesus, our Shepherd, feed us.
- L. Jesus, Model of Patience, inspire us.
- A. Jesus, meek and humble of Heart, help us to become like you.
- L. Jesus, our Redeemer, save us.
- A. Jesus, our God and our All, possess us.
- L. Jesus, the true Way, direct us.
- A. Jesus, eternal Truth, instruct us.
- L. Jesus, Life of the Blessed, make us live in you.
- A. Jesus, our Support, strengthen us.
- L. Jesus, our Justice, justify us.
- A. Jesus, our Mediator with the Father, reconcile us.
- L. Jesus, our Physician, heal us.
- A. Jesus, our Judge, pardon us.
- L. Jesus, our King, govern us.
- A. Jesus, our Holiness, make us holy.

- L. Jesus, infinite Goodness, let us experience your goodness.
- A. Jesus, living Bread from heaven, satisfy us.
- L. Jesus, your Father received the lost son, ask him to take us back.
- A. Jesus, our Joy and Consolation, refresh us.
- L. Jesus, our Helper, assist us.
- A. Jesus, Magnet of Love, attract us.
- L. Jesus, our Protector, defend us.
- A. Jesus, our Hope, give us courage.
- L. Jesus, our Love, give us your Spirit.
- A. Jesus, Fountain of Life, cleanse and refresh us.
- L. Jesus, Victim for our sins, give us the spirit of sacrifice.
- A. Jesus, our Goal, let us possess you forever.
- L. Jesus, our Glory and our Reward, glorify us and be our only reward.
- A. Glory be... As it was...

### **105.11 Prayer to Jesus on the Values of the Kingdom**

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, once more we gather before you, our Master and King, to listen to the words you spoke in the beatitudes. We have been listening to the clamor of the world but we now resolve to listen again to your voice in the beatitudes.

The world says: Happy are the rich; money and power rule the world.

- A. But you say: Happy are the poor in spirit; the rule of God is theirs.

- L. The world says: Happy are those who have a good time; they are the happy ones.
- A. But you say: Happy are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.
- L. The world says: Happy are those, greedy for power and fame; they shall rule the world.
- A. But you say: Happy are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall be satisfied.
- L. The world says: Happy are the cold-hearted and the proud; they will dominate the earth.
- A. But you say: Happy are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs;
- L. The world says: Happy are those who crush opposition with force.
- A. But you say: Happy are the peacemakers; they shall be called sons and daughters of God.
- L. The world says: Happy are those who know how to deceive and get ahead by lies and cheating.
- A. But you say: Happy are the single-hearted honest persons, for they shall see God.
- L. The world says: Happy are you when the world flatters and applauds you; for people will esteem you highly.
- A. But you say: Happy are you when they insult and persecute you, and speak every kind of slander against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. They persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.

- L. On judgment day, Lord, we shall know the true worth of every person. Then we shall not care what people think of us, but only how we stand in your eyes and in the eyes of your Father.
- A. Then we shall realize, as never before, the values you expressed in the beatitudes. Then we shall be happy if we have carried out your commandment of love.
- L. Glory be...
- A. As it was...

## **105.12 Consecration to Christ the King**

*(for the Feast of Christ the King)*

- L. Jesus, Redeemer of the human race,
- A. Look down on us humbly kneeling before your altar. We are yours and yours we wish to be. But to be more surely united to you, today we freely dedicate ourselves to your most Sacred Heart to work for your Kingdom on earth.

Many have never known you; others ignore your precepts and reject you. Have mercy on them, merciful Jesus, and draw us all to your loving heart. O Lord, be a king not only to the faithful who have never forsaken you but also to the prodigals who have turned away from you. Turn them back quickly to their father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be a king to those who are caught in the byways of error, or who stand alone because of differences in opinion. Call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one fold and one shepherd. Lord, grant your Church assurance

of freedom and immunity from harm. Grant peace and order to all nations. From north to south and east to west, let one cry resound throughout the world: "Praise to the Divine Heart that won our salvation! To it be honor and glory through endless ages. Amen."

### **105.13 Prayer to Jesus for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

- L. Lord, Jesus Christ, we beg you through the immeasurable love of your heart to send us the Holy Spirit from the Father so that our hearts may be conformed to yours.
- A. We ask you for the Spirit of the fear of the Lord to avoid all sin and to have a healthy fear of God's judgments and so arrive at true humility.
- L. Jesus, you bound yourself to the eternal Father with the most intimate filial devotion and showed gentleness towards people.
- A. We ask you for the Spirit of true piety to check every urge to be harsh and sharp tongued and to freely subject ourselves to God as dutiful children.
- L. Jesus most dependable, in bitter sadness you mourned over the misery that sin brought on the human race.
- A. We ask you for the Spirit of knowledge. Teach us to see the emptiness of the things of this world without you and so to seek only what leads to heaven.
- L. Jesus, God of Strength, with true greatness you bore the most bitter anguish and the enmity of evil people.

- A. We ask you for the Spirit of strength that with your help, we may overcome our timidity in living as true religious and so be your faithful servants from now on.
- L. Most generous Jesus, the love in your heart drove you to go about among people and do good.
- A. We ask you for the Spirit of counsel. Under the inspiration of the Spirit, may we imitate your own mercy and so receive mercy when our time comes.
- L. Jesus Splendor of eternal light, your heart beams with flawless purity.
- A. We ask you for the Spirit of understanding, so that with the guidance of the light of the Spirit, the truths of an unblemished faith may penetrate our minds and bring us to an ever greater appreciation of the Blessed Trinity.
- L. Jesus, Eternal Wisdom, in the love of the Father, your heart enjoys supreme peace.
- A. We ask you for the Spirit of wisdom that through the Spirit, our hearts may be freed from every created attachment and become rooted and grounded in divine love.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Lord, we beg you to pour out the abundance of the graces of the Holy Spirit on our parents and immediate family, on our relatives and friends, on our benefactors for their spiritual and material gifts, on our whole Society and its lay missionary helpers, on our enemies, and on all for whom love or duty obliges us to pray. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit be always with us. Amen

## **106. Prayers to the Holy Spirit**

### **106.1 Consecration of the Society to the Holy Spirit on Pentecost**

L. God Holy Spirit!

A. We rejoice today as our thoughts turn to that first Pentecost when you descended on the apostles and their Queen. You brought the Church, into the world and happily began her apostolic mission. As a hidden guide, you saw to it that the Society of the Divine Word came into being. You have been at its side, filling it with grace so that it grew and prospered and brought forth fruit in the vineyard of the Lord.

L. Your provident love prepared the way for our entrance into the Society to become followers of Christ and like the apostles themselves to devote our whole life to the work of spreading the Gospel.

A. Thank you for this great gift which we cannot adequately describe. We are here to consecrate ourselves anew. Everything we have and are, we owe to your gracious love. We freely give it all back to you. Make us your own forever.

L. God, Holy Spirit, we ask for your protection for our Society. Preserve and strengthen it in the spirit of devotion and apostolic desire with which you wish to inflame us. Enlighten and strengthen our superiors to perform their duties with kindness and prudence, following your wishes. Bless the missionary efforts of our priests, and brothers, teachers and students. Through your grace inspire many benefactors and lay missionaries to help in spreading the Gospel throughout the world. Keep

them constant in their efforts and unswerving in their faith in you.

- A. In everything we do, make us eager servants of the Divine Word, ever growing in our faith, hope, and love, ever strengthened by the power of your sevenfold gifts, ever more closely bound together by true brotherly friendship, so that our united efforts may be wisely spent in building and spreading the kingdom of God throughout the world. God Holy Spirit, you came into the world as the promised Consoler of hearts to extend and confirm the work of Christ, our Savior. Grant us this grace: always to be faithful to you, always to be effective instruments by which your grace is increased and bears fruit for the glory of the magnificent kingdom of our God. To you be praise and honor forever. Amen.

## **106.2 Praises to the Holy Spirit\*\***

- L. God, Holy Spirit, we have been taught by Jesus, the Son of the eternal Father himself, to believe in your infinite majesty and to reverently adore you as the third person of the Blessed Trinity, whose very being defies comprehension.
- A. Full of joy, we sing the praises of your love which cooperated in the creation, redemption and sanctification of the human race. With all the angels we praise and bless you.
- L. O Holy Spirit, we praise you as the one, true God with the Father and the Son.
- A. God Holy Spirit, we praise you because you proceed from the Father and the Son from all eternity.

- L. Creator Spirit, we praise your power by which you created everything from absolute nothingness.
- A. Most lovable Holy Spirit, we praise your immense goodness in giving life to choirs of angels.
- L. Divine Artisan, we praise your admirable wisdom by which you created heaven and earth and adorned them so beautifully.
- A. Font of Eternal Grace, we praise your infinite mercy through which you prepared the redemption of the human race from the very beginning.
- L. Spirit of Beauty, we praise your lavish generosity by which you chose and beautified the Virgin Mary to be your Immaculate Spouse.
- A. Divine Spirit of Anointing, we praise that love by which you created, guided and glorified the human nature of Jesus.
- L. Eternal Fire of Love, we praise that gentle force with which you took hold of the apostles when they were gathered together in Jerusalem.
- A. Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, we praise you because of the marvelous love by which you begin to live in our hearts through holy baptism.
- L. Divine Paraclete, we praise you for the sevenfold strength which you grant us through the sacrament of confirmation.
- A. Immeasurable Goodness, we praise you because of the bread that you give us in the Sacrament of the Altar.
- L. Merciful Spirit, we praise your treasures of grace through which you cleanse and sanctify us in the sacrament of penance.

- A. Father of the poor and the sick, we praise you for that sacramental blessing and anointing through which you refresh the sick.
- L. O Royal Spirit, we praise that marvelous love through which you grant divine powers to your chosen ones in the sacrament of ordination.
- A. Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, we praise you for those gifts of grace by which you open a way of heavenly knowledge to those whom you call to a life of sacramental matrimony.
- L. O Leader of all people, we praise you for that love through which all the just on earth follow you.
- A. O Holy Spirit, fullness of true holiness, we praise you for the eternal love by which all saints in heaven embrace you.
- L. O Holy Spirit, delight of the heavenly Jerusalem, we praise you for the everlasting love by which the holy seraphim and all the choirs of angels love you.
- A. O Font of all that is beautiful in love, we praise you for that undivided love which you shower on your immaculate bride without ceasing.
- L. Generous Bestower of Grace, we praise the immeasurable love with which the Heart of Jesus has never ceased to love you.
- A. Spirit of the Father, we praise that infinite delight with which God the Father, who is without source, breathes you forth from all eternity.
- L. Spirit of the Son, we praise that infinite delight with which the Word of God breathes you forth from all eternity.

- A. We praise and bless you forever, Holy Spirit, love of the Father and the Son, indestructible bond and infinite joy of the most Blessed Trinity. Amen.

### **106.3 Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit\*\***

- L. O Holy Spirit, God of all kindness, you are our very life and our highest good. Through you we become children of the Father, members of Jesus Christ and temples of the Holy Trinity.
- A. You enrich us with heavenly gifts and through your grace you give us a share in the divine life.
- L. You give light to our eyes, you help us as we work and struggle, you console us in our sorrows and give us that peace which the world is not able to give.
- A. You give us the most precious gift of all, yourself, the very heart of eternal happiness. How can we possibly thank you for such tremendous gifts?
- L. "My soul extols the Lord; and my spirit leaps for joy in God my Savior."
- A. "How sublime is what he has done for me! Forever will I thank him. Forever will I sing of his mercies to me." Amen.

### **106.4 Consecration to the Spirit**

- L. O Holy Spirit, Divine Spirit of light and love, we consecrate to you our understanding, our heart and our will, our whole being for time and for eternity. May our understanding be always submissive to your heavenly inspirations and to the teachings of the holy Catholic Church. You are her infallible guide!

- A. May our hearts always be inflamed with love of God and of our neighbor. May our wills be always conformed to the divine will, and may our whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him and the Father with you be honor and glory forever. Amen.

### **106.5 Prayer for a Love of the Sacraments, Sacrifice and Chastity**

- L. O Holy Spirit, our kind Consoler, source of all holiness, please grant to us a thirst for those virtues which you wish most to see in us.
- A. Since your usual channels of grace to us are prayer and the sacraments, help us to value them at their true worth and to frequent them reverently.
- L. Grant us a true love of sacrifice so as to be ready to undergo every hardship through which you will lead us, for the glory of the Father, the Son, and you, and for the salvation of all.
- A. Pour into our hearts a true love of chastity so that we will use the greatest care in guarding our body and mind to remain united with you.
- L. Thus may your promises be fulfilled in us: “Be faithful even till death, and I will give you the crown that belongs to life.”
- A. O Holy Spirit, have mercy on all unbelievers and sinners. Grant that they may find in you with the Father and the Son, the one true font of happiness and having found you, they may love you with their whole heart. Amen.

## 106.6. Petitions to the Holy Spirit

- L. O Holy Spirit, together with the psalmist we tell the world: "Happy the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen for his own inheritance." God the Father knew us from all eternity and he decreed that we be shaped to the image of his Son, and that you, O good and gentle Spirit, be at work in us. With what wonderful wisdom you arrange everything far in advance! We know that all the wonders you have worked, even before we were born, were for us.
- A. From the very beginning you have adorned all creation. As we meditate on its beauty we are drawn to praise and adore your majesty. Under your guidance, Jesus Christ offered himself to the Father as an immaculate victim on the cross, to free us from slavery of sin. When the nine days of prayer and waiting for Pentecost were over, at the word of our Savior you were sent from the Father and you gave new life to the fledgling Church. In time, she took us into her arms and gave us a new life in Christ.
- L. O creator Spirit, through your sevenfold gifts fashion us more clearly each day into the image of Christ.
- A. In your wisdom, grant that we always think wisely and so enjoy your consolation.
- L. Through your gift of understanding, grant that we grasp more and more the mysteries which the only Son, who is in the embrace of the Father has revealed to us.
- A. Light up our path to our home in heaven with your counsels so that we choose without hesitation

whatever you wish us to do for the glory of God and our salvation.

- L. Protect us with your divine vision and strength so that, immune to the spirit of the world, we may never quit under any hardship of this exile.
- A. Through your gift of knowledge help us to use the good things of the earth without losing the good things of heaven.
- L. Through your gift of piety, fill our hearts with filial love for the Father and sincere charity towards our neighbors.
- A. Give us the fear of God so that we may not fall into sin. As long as we remain travelers on earth, increase our faith, hope and love and give us happy hearts until we arrive home and enjoy the fullness of happiness in Christ forever. Amen.

### **106.7 Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

- L. Spirit of Wisdom,
  - A. Direct our thoughts, words and actions to follow Christ and his teachings.
- L. Spirit of Understanding,
  - A. Enlighten our minds to make us keenly aware of the mysteries of salvation with faith and love.
- L. Spirit of Counsel,
  - A. Guide us to live according to the will of the Father at all times.
- L. Spirit of Fortitude,

- A. Give us strength and courage to face the challenges of our day-to-day life.
- L. Spirit of Knowledge,
- A. Teach us your ways that we may walk in your truth and love.
- L. Spirit of Godliness,
- A. Move our hearts to prayer and make us ready to serve you in our neighbor.
- L. Spirit of the Fear of the Lord,
- A. Make our hearts docile to your promptings and inspirations.
- L. "I will give you the Spirit of wisdom so that you will be truly wise and follow the ways of truth and right."
- A. O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Wisdom make us truly wise. Help us to bear in mind that God alone is our first beginning and our last end and that all things must be used as means to bring us to him. May your Spirit of wisdom bring forth the fruits of faith, hope and love in each of us.
- L. "I shall give you the Spirit of understanding and I shall instruct you in the way in which you shall walk."
- A. Spirit of Understanding, enlighten our minds with a better appreciation of our faith. Enable us to see more clearly the truth and beauty of your Word. Be a light to our steps in life's journey and may truth and integrity be the fruits we bring forth.
- L. "I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk, I will counsel you, keeping my eye on you" (*Ps 32.8*).

- A. Spirit of Counsel, direct our lives in the way of righteousness. Make our every decision, every thought, word and action worthy of a disciple of Jesus Christ. Save us from having our judgment or will perverted by self-love. Enable us ever so to live as we would wish to be found, when called by our Divine Master to give an account of our stewardship.
- L. “The Spirit that God has given us is not a cowardly spirit, but rather one that fills us with power, love and self-control” (2 Tim 1:7).
- A. Spirit of Fortitude, strengthen us with the power of your love, that we may be able to do all things for the glory of God, from whom all gifts come.
- L. “The things that are of God no one knows, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of this world, but the Spirit that is of God, that we may know the things that are given us from God” (1 Co 2:11,12).
- A. O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Knowledge, increase in us the treasures of divine truth. Above all other knowledge, help us to advance in the knowledge of God and in the science of holiness.
- L. “The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. All gazing on the Lord’s glory with unveiled faces are being transformed from glory to glory into his very image by the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Co 3:17-18).
- A. O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Reverence, inflame our hearts with the fire of your love. Pour into our lives the fullness of love so that we are able to love you and all our brothers and sisters. Lord, you are our God, make us your people.

- L. “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all who dwell in the world revere him, for he spoke, and it was made; he commanded and it stood forth.”
- A. Spirit of Wonder and Awe, open our eyes to the marvels of your works. Give us the joy of proclaiming your greatness to the whole world. Holy Spirit, you distribute your gifts for the common good of the whole Church. Let the variety of gifts and ministries strengthen the unity of the whole body that everyone may be loved in the Church for the special work each one accomplishes. Amen.

### **106.8 Prayer to the Spirit for Blessing**

- L. O Divine Sanctifier,
- A. You are the Spirit primordial. We acknowledge that there is nothing beyond you, nothing without you, nothing more subtle than you, nothing more ancient than you. We find refuge in you, we bow to you, the life of the universe. Come into our land, rivers and mountains. Come in the cool breeze, come in the thunder and lightning and in the whisper of nature. Come in our laughter and silence, come into our hearts and be our eternal bliss. You who are the purifier, purify our land, our ancestors, our people and each one of us today, tomorrow and always. Amen.

## 106.9 St. Arnold's Poem Prayer to the Spirit\*\*

- L. O Holy Spirit,
- A. Animate us.
- L. Spirit of the Father,
- A. Enliven us.
- L. Spirit of the Son,
- A. Redeem us.
- L. Eternal love,
- A. Penetrate us.
- L. With your fire,
- A. In flame us.
- L. With your grace,
- A. Enlighten us.
- L. Living font,
- A. Refresh us.
- L. From our sins,
- A. Purify us.
- L. With your sweet anointing,
- A. Strengthen us.
- L. Divine consoler,
- A. Sanctify us.
- L. By your grace,
- A. Support us.
- L. Through your angels,
- A. Guard us.
- L. With your grace,
- A. Abide in us.
- L. God Holy Spirit,
- A. Hear us.
- L. By your light,
- A. Direct us.

- L. Your virtues,  
A. Infuse in us.  
L. With your gifts  
A. Strengthen us.  
L. With your fruits,  
A. Refresh us.  
L. From the evil enemy,  
A. Defend us.  
L. For our last struggle,  
A. Fortify us.  
L. In the hour of death,  
A. Sustain us.  
L. O call us then to come to you,  
A. That with your saints triumphantly, we praise the  
Father, Son and You, benign consoler, eternally.  
Amen.

### **106.10 Prayer for the Spirit\*\***

- L. Lord Jesus Christ,  
A. We adore you as the Son of God, and through the  
prayer of your dear Mother, we ask you to send  
us from the fullness of your loving Heart the grace  
of the Holy Spirit to enlighten our ignorance,  
purify and make holy our sinful hearts, and keep  
us firm in his holy love. This we ask of you  
through the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
through the abundance of your limitless  
compassion, and through the prayers of all your  
saints. Amen

## **106.11 A Morning Prayer to the Spirit**

*(from the Monastery of Optino in Russia)*

- L. Holy Spirit of God,
- A. Grant that I may meet the coming day with spiritual tranquility. Grant that in all things I may rely upon your holy will.
- L. In each hour of the day, reveal your will to me.
- A. Whatever news may reach me this day, teach me to accept it with a calm soul, knowing that all is subject to your holy will.
- L. Direct my thoughts and feelings in all my words and actions.
- A. In all unexpected occurrences, do not let me forget that all is your gift. Grant that I may deal firmly and wisely with every member of my community and all who are in my care, neither embarrassing nor saddening anyone.
- L. Give me the strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring.
- A. Direct my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive, and to love. Amen.

## **106.12 Prayer to the Holy Spirit of God**

- L. Holy Spirit of God,
- A. We open our hearts to receive you, that we may learn how deeply and invisibly, you are present everywhere.
- L. Give us stillness in your presence.
- A. Calm us within, through the gentleness of your peace.

- L. Strengthen our faith with the awareness of your presence.
- A. Confirm the hope within us with the knowledge of your strength.
- L. Give us fullness of love through the outpouring of your gifts.
- A. Holy Spirit, be to us a source of light and strength and courage, so that we may hear your call ever more clearly and follow it ever more generously. Amen.

### **106.13 Prayer to the Great Spirit**

- L. O Great Spirit,
- A. Whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
- L. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be greater than my brothers and sisters, but to understand myself.
- A. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you to be one with you eternally. Amen.

## **107 Prayers to Mary, Mother of the Divine Word**

### **107.1 Remember (*the Memorare*)**

- L. Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
- A. That never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.
- L. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
- A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
- L. Let us pray. All powerful, eternal God, by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit you made ready the body and soul of the glorious virgin mother Mary to be a fit dwelling place for your Son. As we celebrate her memory with joy, grant that through her motherly intercession we may be preserved from evil in this world and from eternal death. Through the same Christ our Lord.
- A. Amen.

### **107.2 Mother of the Word**

- L. Mother of the Word and of hope.
- A. In your heart as Mother you nurtured a hope.  
In our hearts as people  
you kept alive a promise.

In your fertile womb  
you cradled the Son of Love.  
And God's dream for justice and peace for all  
found in your 'Yes' the mighty response  
that would become light  
and salvation for all people.

- L. Mother of the Word, companion of the poor,
- A. Look upon our life,  
our struggles and our hope.  
May the Spirit regenerate our communities.  
Help us to be faithful to your Son  
in our time of history,  
praising as you did our Merciful God. Amen.

### **107.3 Mary, Mother of Mission**

- L. Virgin Mary of the Good News:
  - A. You received the Word and practiced it  
and history was changed.  
Virgin of the Mission and of the Way,  
who brought salvation to Elizabeth's house,  
the light of the world to the hills of Bethlehem,  
praise to you for being missionary,  
for your obedience to the Word  
for accompanying Jesus in silence.  
Worthy of praise, because your mission brought  
you to the cross  
and to the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost,  
where the Missionary Church was born.
- L. Virgin Mary of Missions:  
We also are missionaries.  
May the whole Church  
be renewed in the Spirit.

May we love our Father  
and our brothers and sisters.  
May we be poor and simple,  
living presence of Jesus  
and witnesses of Easter.  
In every house we enter  
may we communicate peace,  
announce the Reign of God  
and console the suffering.  
May we form praying communities  
that are fraternal and missionary.

- A. May we proclaim our faith  
with the joy of Easter  
and shouts of hope to the world.  
We join you in your silence,  
your communion and service.  
Journey with us on our way. Amen.

#### **107.4 Consecration of the Society to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

- L. Virgin Mary, Mother of God!
- A. We honor you, the mother and lowly handmaid  
of the Lord. In the gracious providence of God,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit the Eternal Word  
assumed his manhood from your womb. You were  
at his side throughout his work of redemption of  
the whole human race, faithful even to his  
crowning effort on the cross. You treasured his  
every word and deed in your heart. From the very  
beginning, you were a witness to the Incarnate  
Word. To every preacher of the Gospel, the Son of  
God gave you as a mother.

L. Our Mother and Queen,

A. In union with the whole Society, we consecrate ourselves and our work to your Immaculate Heart. Loving Mother, please take us under your care. Ask Jesus to grant us the grace to tend to our work with all zeal, his mission of dispelling darkness and error from this world through the light of the Word and the grace of the Holy Spirit. True to your example, may we keep the word of God in our hearts to insure that, busy with our apostolic work, we may never be separated from God. May we serve him faithfully with a happy heart until we die, as people with strong faith and hearts full of love. Find many new vocations for our Society and inspire many benefactors and lay missionaries, devoted to the service of God, to join ranks with us in spreading his kingdom throughout the world. O Mother and Queen, we want to follow your Son in a life dedicated to the commands and counsels of the Gospel. United together by true love for each other, may we increase the glory of your Son through our dedication to his mission. Lead us to the glory of your Son, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit through endless ages. Amen.

### **107.5 Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother**

L. *1st Sorrow: The prophecy of Simeon. (Lk 2:34-35)*

A. Dear Mother, by your heart so afflicted, obtain for us the virtue of humility and the gift of the fear of the Lord. Hail Mary...

L. *2nd Sorrow: The flight into Egypt. (Mt 2:13-14)*

A. Dear Mother, by your heart made so anxious, obtain for us the virtue of generosity especially towards the poor and the needy. Hail Mary...

- L. *3rd Sorrow: The loss of Jesus in the Temple. (Lk 2:43-45)*
- A. Dear Mother, obtain for us the virtue of chastity and the gift of knowledge. Hail Mary...
- L. *4th Sorrow: Mary meets Jesus on the way to Calvary. (Lk 23:27)*
- A. Dear Mother, by your loving heart which is filled with grief, obtain for us the virtue of temperance and the gift of counsel. Hail Mary...
- L. *5th Sorrow: Jesus dies on the Cross. (Jn 19:18, 25-30)*
- A. Dear Mother, obtain for us the virtue of patience and the gift of fortitude. Hail Mary...
- L. *6th Sorrow: Mary receives the dead body of Jesus in her arms.*
- A. Dear Mother, obtain for us the virtue of charity and the gift of understanding. Hail Mary...
- L. *7th Sorrow: Jesus is placed in the tomb. (Jn 19:41-42)*
- A. Mary our Mother, obtain for us the virtue of diligence and the gift of wisdom. Hail Mary...
- L. Pray for us, O most Sorrowful Mother,
- A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Lord Jesus, we ask you to grant us your grace and mercy that now and at the hour of our death we may be guided by the intercession of your glorious Mother, whose heart was pierced with a sword of grief at the sight of your bitter passion and death. Amen.

## 108. Daily Prayers

### 108.1 Morning Prayers

*(When liturgical morning prayers are said in common or when other morning prayers are said privately, the Invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Angelus and Invocation of the Blessed Mother, Prayers for certain days/months, and the 'Come, O Creator' - Veni Creator - and its orations may be said in common.)*

#### *Invocation of the Holy Spirit*

L. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit!

A. Enlighten our minds and move our wills to pray as we ought.

#### *The Angelus*

L. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

A. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

L. Hail Mary...

L. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

A. Be it done unto me according to your word.

L. Hail Mary...

L. And the Word was made flesh.

A. And dwelt among us.

L. Hail Mary...

L. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L. Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we, who have known the Incarnation of Christ your Son by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

### *During Easter Season*

L. O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!

A. For he whom you merited to bear, alleluia!

L. Has risen as he said, alleluia!

A. Pray for us to God, alleluia!

L. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

A. For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!

L. Let us pray. O God, through the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you filled the world with joy. Grant, we beseech you, that through his virgin mother Mary, we may enjoy eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

### *Invocation of the Blessed Mother*

L. Our Queen,

A. Our Mother, remember, we are your very own. Defend and protect us as your personal possession.

## *Adoration*

- L. Most Blessed Trinity, we believe you are really present here.
- A. One in spirit with our holy mother Mary and all the angels and saints, in all humility we adore you through Jesus Christ, our eternal High Priest.
- L. We adore you, God all-knowing.
- A. Everything is clear to you, even the secret thoughts of our minds and the yearnings of our hearts.
- L. We adore you, God most loving,
- A. Who continue to shower your love on all your sons and daughters.
- L. We adore you, God most holy,
- A. Who command us to live free from sin, and to strive for the perfection which you expect of us.

## *Thanksgiving*

- L. Most Holy Trinity, we praise and thank you,
- A. Because in your overwhelming kindness, you have not only redeemed us but you have even adopted us as your sons and daughters.
- L. In particular, we thank you because to this very day you have guided us as a wise and kind Father, and chosen us for the missionary vocation.
- A. We thank you for watching over us through the past night, and for giving us the gift of this new day.

## *Morning Offering*

- L. Lord God, today we offer you,
- A. Whatever we think or do or say. Direct it all, so that it may be for your glory, and that your kingdom of love may spread on earth.
- L. Fill our hearts with grace, so that everything we do or omit will be according to your will.
- A. Help us to love you with our whole heart, with our whole soul, with our whole mind, and with all our strength.
- L. We want to unite the work that lies before us today with the sacrifice of Christ as he offers himself on every altar so that your name may be praised, loved and adored, and that all people may know you and love you.
- A. Help us to find inspiration for our work in the example of the Virgin Mary, your lowly servant, and of all the saints who have served you so faithfully even until now.

## *Petitions*

- L. Lord God, fill us with your blessings.
- A. Bless our families, relatives and friends, the Arnoldus Family and all those who support it by their prayers, sacrifices and offerings. Bless our superiors and counselors.
- L. Almighty and eternal God,
- A. Pour down upon us and upon all who have been reborn in Christ your Spirit, our advocate, with the sevenfold gifts.

L. Fill us with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding.

A. Amen.

L. Fill us with the Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

A. Amen.

L. Fill us with the Spirit of knowledge and piety.

A. Amen.

L. And through Christ our Lord, fill us all with the Spirit of the fear of God.

A. Amen.

L. O Lord, we pray that disunity among Christians may disappear, and that the faith may flourish and grow, especially wherever we work.

A. Hear us, O God, as we pray, that you call back all who have strayed from you and that you guide all unbelievers to the light of the Gospel.

L. Let us recommend to God the wants and yearnings of all people of good will with the prayer that our Lord himself taught us:

A. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### *Prayer to Mary, the Angels and Saints*

L. Most holy Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ,

A. You are mother of us all. Ward off every sin from us. Protect us against all dangers. Help us to do our duty today as people who are truly devoted

to God's service. Through your intercession, pray God to grant us the grace of perseverance in our vocation, and of an ever increasing zeal for his glory.

L. Angels of God,

A. Whom he has appointed to be our guardians, enlighten and protect, direct and govern us this day.

L. St. Joseph, provider and protector of Jesus, and all you holy patrons of our Society,

A. Watch over us today, every day, and most of all at the hour of our death.

L. Let us praise God in his saints, especially those whom the Church honors today.

A. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

*The special prayers in pn. 109-111 are recited here.*

*Now the hymn Come, O Creator (Veni Creator) with its oration(s) is sung or recited.*

### ***Come, O Creator***

Come, O Creator Spirit blest!  
And in our souls take up your rest;  
Come, with your grace and heav'nly aid,  
To fill the hearts which you have made.

Great Paraclete, to you we cry:  
O highest gift of God most high!  
O font of life! O fire of love!  
And sweet anointing from above!

You in your sev'n fold gifts are known;  
The Finger of God's Hand we own;  
And Father's promise sent to teach  
The tongue a rich and heav'nly speech.

Kindle our senses from above,  
And make our hearts o'erflow with love;  
With patience firm and virtue high  
The weakness of our flesh supply.

Drive far from us the foe we dread,  
And grant us your true peace instead;  
So we led by your guidance still,  
May safely pass through every ill.

O may your grace on us bestow  
The Father and the Son to know,  
And you, through endless times confessed,  
Of both, th'eternal Spirit blest.

All glory while the ages run  
Both to the Father and the Son  
Who rose from death; the same to you  
forever, Holy Spirit be due. Amen.

*(Latin Version)*

Veni, Creator Spiritus,  
mentes tuorum visita,  
Imple superna gratia,  
quae tu creasti pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus  
altissimi donum Dei,  
Fons vivus, ignis, caritas,  
et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere,  
digitus paternae dexteræ,  
Tu rite promissum Patris,  
sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen sensibus:  
infunde amorem cordibus:  
Infirma nostri corporis  
virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius,  
pacemque dones protinus:  
Ductore sic te praeviso  
vitemus omne noxium.

Per te sciamus da Patrem,  
noscamus atque Filium,  
Teque utriusque Spiritum  
credamus omni tempore.

Deo Patri sit gloria,  
et Filio, qui a mortuis  
Surrexit, ac Paraclito,  
in saeculorum saecula. Amen.

L. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth  
your Spirit and they shall be created,

A. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L. Let us pray. O God, who taught the hearts of the  
faithful by the light of your Holy Spirit, grant that  
in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever  
rejoice in the consolation of the Spirit, through  
Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

## *Optional Orations*

- L. Let us pray. Incline, O most gracious Lord, your ears of mercy to our prayers, and enlighten our hearts by the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that we may worthily celebrate your mysteries and love you with an everlasting love.
- A. O God, before whom every heart lies open and to whom every desire speaks and from whom no secret lies hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the pouring forth of your Holy Spirit, so that we may be worthy to love you perfectly and to praise you worthily.
- L. Inflame, O Lord, our minds and our hearts with the fire of your Holy Spirit, so that we may serve you and love you more and more.
- A. We beseech you, O Lord, that the Comforter, who proceeds from you, may enlighten our minds, and lead us as your Son has promised, unto all truth.
- L. May the power of your Holy Spirit, we beseech you, O Lord, be present to us, mercifully to cleanse our hearts and to defend them from all harm.
- A. O God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of your Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in the consolation of the Spirit.
- L. Cleanse, we beseech you, O Lord, our consciences, so that when Jesus Christ, your Son, shall come he may find in us a dwelling prepared for him;

who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end.

A. Amen.

*Invocations to Our Special Patrons (see pn. 102)*

## **108.2 Preparation for Meditation**

*Take a posture, suitable for meditation. Motivate yourself. Clarify your objective. Concentrate on God's presence in the present moment. Pray for God's help to dispel distractions, saying the following prayer or the Quarter Hour Prayer or by chanting a suitable hymn. (see App. IV)*

O God, I believe, you are present now, here. I am aware of your presence in the environment and in all the elements of the whole universe. I thank you and adore you, as you are present in my five senses, my body and my mind. Inspire me with your Spirit and your Word, to be detached from distracting thoughts of the past and the future and concentrate on the present moment. Help me during the meditation, to deepen my union with you, as I recall the experience of Holy Communion in the Eucharist.

Mary, Mother of the Incarnate Word, pray for me to ponder on the word of God as you did, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*After Meditation recite a short chant, or say the following prayer of St. Ignatius*

L. Soul of Christ,

A. Sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, strengthen me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, give me strength.

O good Jesus, listen to me.

In your wounds, hide me.

Never let me be separated from you.

From the evil enemy, defend me.

In the hour of my death, call me.

And tell me to come to you.

That with your saints, I may praise you,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **108.3 Short Morning Prayer**

*(Consecration of Today's Tasks)*

L. O God, come to our assistance,

A. O Lord, hasten to help us.

L. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

A. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

L. Lord, have mercy on us.

A. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

L. Our Father... *(together)*

L. Let your work be seen by your servants and your glory by their children;

A. And may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours; strengthen the work of our hands, may the work of our hands flourish.

L. Glory be...

A. As it was...

L. Let us pray. Lord, God, direct and sanctify, rule and govern our hearts and bodies, our thoughts, words and deeds, according to your law, that now and forever we may, by your help, attain salvation and freedom, O Savior of the world, who live and rule forever.

A. Amen.

L. Lord Almighty, direct our day and activity in your peace.

A. Amen.

L. Lord, direct our hearts and bodies in the love of God and the patience of Christ. Now on us, O Lord, have mercy.

A. Thanks be to God.

L. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

A. Who made heaven and earth.

L. May the Lord bless us, preserve us from every evil and bring us to eternal life. And may our brothers and sisters who have departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

A. Amen.

*Now may be said the Angelus and Invocation of the Blessed Mother (pn. 108.1); Special Prayers for the Month/Day (pn. 109-111), Veni Creator (pn. 108.1), Invocations to Our Special Patrons (pn. 102).*

## 108.4 Noon Prayers

### *Examination of Conscience for two minutes in silence*

1. *Particular: In your mind go over the past hours and render an account to God whether you have carried out your resolutions.*
2. *General: Briefly check over the morning and reflect on how well you have done your various duties, and on your general behavior in the different situations.*
3. *Thank God for what you were able to do well with God's help. Promise to correct the faults made by you by not following God's inspiration.*

### *Community Prayers after the Examination of Conscience*

*Hymn 'Holy Spirit, Come'/'Veni Sancte Spiritus'  
(daily except Friday)*

#### *Holy Spirit, Come*

Holy Spirit, come and shine  
on our souls with beams divine  
issuing from your radiance bright.

Come, O Father of the poor  
ever bounteous of your store  
come, our heart's unfailing light.

Come, Consoler, kindest, best  
come, our bosom's dearest guest  
sweet refreshment, sweet repose.

Rest in labor, coolness sweet  
tempering the burning heat  
truest comfort of our woes.

O divinest light, impart  
unto every faithful heart  
plenteous streams from love's bright flood.

But for your blest divinity,  
nothing pure in us could be  
nothing harmless, nothing good.

Wash away each sinful stain  
gently shed your gracious rain  
on the dry and fruitless soul.

Heal each wound and bend each will  
warm our hearts benumbed and chill  
all our wayward steps control.

Unto all your faithful just  
who in you confide and trust  
deign the sevenfold gift to send.

Grant us virtue's blest increase  
grant a death of hope and peace  
grant the joys that never end. Amen.

*(Latin version)*

Veni, Sancte Spiritus,  
et emitte caelitus  
lucis tuae radium.

Veni, pater pauperum,  
veni dator munerum,  
veni lumen cordium.

Consolator optime,  
dulcis hospes animae,  
dulce refrigerium.

In labore requies,  
in aestu temperies,  
in fletu solatium.

O lux beatissima,  
reple cordis intima  
tuorum fidelium.

Sine tuo numine  
nihil est in homine,  
nihil est innoxium.

Lava quod est sordidum,  
riga quod est aridum,  
sana quod est saucium.

Flecte quod est rigidum,  
fove quod est frigidum,  
rege quod est devium.

Da tuis fidelibus,  
in te confidentibus,  
sacrum septenarium.

Da virtutis meritum,  
da salutis exitum,  
da perenne gaudium. Amen.

*The Angelus, said daily;  
during Easter Season: O Queen of Heaven (pn. 108.1)*

## **Invocation of the Blessed Mother**

L. Our Queen,

A. Our Mother, remember we are your very own.  
Defend and protect us as your personal  
possession.

L. Pray for us, O blessed Joseph,

A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of  
Christ.

L. Let us pray. O Lord, may the spouse of your most  
holy mother assist us, to obtain through his  
intercession the grace we need, you who live and  
rule through endless ages.

A. Amen.

### **108.5 Short Noon Prayers**

*Spend two minutes in silence, examining your conscience.  
Thank Jesus for all the blessings received during the morning.  
Also tell him you are sorry for the faults committed. In your  
imagination see Jesus walking with you to inspect all your  
thoughts, words and deeds of the day. Hear him  
congratulating you for the good you did and giving you  
suggestions for improvement.*

*Pray the Angelus and Invocation of the Blessed Mother  
as above.*

## 108.6 Friday Noon Prayers

*On Fridays, after the examination of conscience, instead of the Hymn to the Holy Spirit, the following prayers are said, unless it is a special feast day.*

### ***Loving Remembrance of the Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ***

L. Darkness covered the earth, while Jesus was crucified: it lasted till about three in the afternoon, the sun having ceased to shine. (*Matins for Good Friday*)

*(Brief pause for reflection)*

About three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (*Mt 27:46*). (*Pause*)

As soon as Jesus had taken the wine, he said: "It is finished." And Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head and surrendered his spirit (*Jn 19:30; Lk 23:46*). (*Pause*)

L. For us, Christ became obedient to death; even to death on a cross.

A. Therefore God has exalted him and has bestowed upon him the name that is above every name (*Ph 2:8-9*).

L. O Christ, we adore and praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. Let us pray. O Lord, look down, we pray, on your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ did not

hesitate to be delivered into the hands of the wicked and undergo the torments of the cross, who lives and rules with you through endless ages.

A. Amen.

*The Angelus (pn. 108.1) and the Invocation of the Blessed Mother (pn. 108.4) may be said as usual.*

## **108.7 Evening Prayers/Night Prayers**

### ***Invocation of the Holy Spirit***

L. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit!

A. Enlighten our minds and move our wills to pray as we ought.

*The Angelus and the Invocation of the Blessed Mother are said unless already said in common or privately. (See pn. 108.1)*

### ***Adoration***

L. Most Blessed Trinity, we believe you are really present here.

A. One in spirit with our holy mother Mary and all the angels and saints we adore you in all humility, through Jesus Christ, our eternal high priest.

### ***Thanksgiving***

L. We thank you for having protected us today in your fatherly kindness and for having blessed our work.

- A. Whatever we received today, was a perfect gift coming down from you, O Father of light. Whatever we did in the line of the duty of our vocation, we accomplished through your grace, by which you activate every talent in everyone (*1 Co 12: 6*). Whatever labor and pain we bore, in all things that were for our good, you worked together with those who loved you (*Ro 8:28*). We give you thanks for all these blessings.

### ***Examination of Conscience***

- L. O Holy Spirit, light of hearts,  
A. Enlighten us to thank you for your blessings and correct our faults with sincere penance.

*One minute pause*

### ***Contrition***

- L. Have mercy on us, O God, in your goodness;  
A. In the greatness of your compassion, wipe out our offenses.  
L. For we acknowledge our offenses and our sins are before us always.  
A. Against you only have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.  
L. Cast us not out from your presence. And your holy spirit take not from us.  
A. Give us back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in us. (*Ps 51*)  
L. Let us pray.

- A. O Lord, please listen to the prayers of all those who call on you and forgive the sins of those who trust in you. And lovingly grant us mercy and peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Requests and Remembrances*

- L. O Lord, grant us a peaceful night so that we will be able to serve you with renewed strength.
- A. Purify us by the fire of the Holy Spirit so that we will always do what pleases you.
- L. Your blessing, O God, on our family, relatives, benefactors, on our friends and enemies.
- A. Send your help, O Lord, from heaven and your protection from out of the new Jerusalem.
- L. Let us pray for our Society, especially for Fr. Superior General *N.* and for all our superiors.
- A. Almighty and eternal God, infuse the Holy Spirit with his saving grace into your servants and into the communities assigned to their care so that they may truly please you.
- L. Let us pray for our absent members.
- A. As a sign of your loving care, O Lord, make their work prosper and keep them safe wherever they are, and in every danger to body or soul.
- L. Let us pray for those who are sick:
- A. Father in heaven, look upon the illness of your children with loving mercy and stretch out your divine hand to them in help. Mary, health of the sick, pray for them.

- L. Let us pray for the canonization of Blessed Maria and Josepha.
- A. Extol yourself, O Lord, through your servants and bless the work you have started through them.
- L. Let us pray for our bishop *N.* and all the bishops of the Church, for all priests and religious, and for all who are preparing for the priesthood and religious life.
- A. Holy Spirit, protect them in every danger. Flood their minds with light to see that you are the very source of love and light. Increase their purity and strength of spirit, their patience and humility.
- L. Let us pray for church unity and for the spread of faith in Christ throughout the world:
- A. Lord Jesus, savior of the world, we earnestly ask you to gather all who believe in your name into the one church you have founded. Draw all unbelievers to yourself, who are our true shepherd.
- L. Let us recommend the desires and hopes of all men and women of good will through the prayer our Lord himself taught us:
- A. Our Father...
- L. Let us pray for the dying and ask God for the grace of a happy death for ourselves:
- A. Almighty and merciful God, look graciously upon your servants. Comfort those whom you have created, free them from the stain of sin at the hour of death, so that they may be brought by your angels before you, their maker.

L. Let us pray for the faithful departed:

A. Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

L. May they rest in peace.

A. Amen.

*Next: Prayers to Our Special Patrons (pn.102); Blessing of a priest (unless Benediction follows), and the Marian Antiphon or another hymn to Mary.*

## **108.8 Marian Antiphons**

*To be sung or recited  
at the end of the evening prayer/night prayer*

### **O Loving Mother**

O loving Mother of our savior, the open gate leading us to heaven, and Star of the Sea, hasten to aid us - we who fall but seek to rise again. You brought forth your Maker, who is your Holy Lord, while all nature gazed in awe and wonder, Virgin ever, after, as before. Through the mouth of Gabriel heaven spoke its 'Ave'. Have compassion on us sinners.

#### *(Latin version)*

Alma Redemptoris Mater; quae per via caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succure cadenti, surgere qui curat, populo. Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem. Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

## **Hail, Queen of Heaven**

Hail, Queen of heaven: hail, mistress of the angels; hail, root of Jesse; hail, the gate through which the Light rose over the earth. Rejoice, virgin most renowned and of unsurpassed beauty, pray to Christ for us.

### *(Latin version)*

Ave Regina caelorum, ave Domina Angelorum: salve, radix, salve, porta, ex qua mundo lux est orta: gaude, Virgo gloriosa, super omnes speciosa, vale, O valde decora, et pro nobis, Christum exora.

## **O Queen of Heaven** *(during Easter season)*

O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For he whom you merited to bear, alleluia. Has risen as he said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

### *(Latin version)*

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia. Quia quem meruisti, portare, alleluia. Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

## **Hail, Queen**

Hail, queen and mother of mercy. Hail, our life, comfort and hope. Exiled children of Eve, with loud voice we call upon you. As we journey in sorrow and lament through this "Valley of Tears," we sigh and long for your help. Come then, our advocate, and turn those eyes of pity towards us now. When this time of exile is past, show us Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb. O gentle, loving and kind Virgin Mary.

*(Latin version)*

Salve Regina, mater misericordiae; vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevae. Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte. Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exilium ostende. O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

**Hail, Star of the Sea**

Hail, star of the sea, God's loving Mother and ever a virgin, heaven's fair gate.

You who received that "Ave" from Gabriel's lips, establish us in peace, reversing the name "Eva."

Break the sinner's fetters, bring light to the blind, drive away our ills and ask for us every blessing.

Show yourself a mother. May he who, born for us, deigned to be your Son, receive our prayers through you.

Virgin without equal, gentle beyond all others, win us pardon for our sins and make us gentle and pure.

*(Latin Version)*

Ave, Maris stella, Dei Mater alma,  
atque semper Virgo, felix caeli porta.  
Sumens illud Ave Gabrielis ore,  
funda nos in pace, mutans Hevae nomen.  
Solve vincla reis, profer lumen caecis,

mala nostra pelle, bona cuncta posce.  
Monstra te esse matrem, sumat per te preces,  
qui pro nobis natus tulit esse tuus.  
Virgo singularis, inter omnes mitis,  
nos culpis solutos, mites fac et castos.

*At the close*

L. Mary, with your loving Son,  
A. Bless us each and everyone.

*(Latin Version)*

L. Nos cum prole pia,  
A. Benedicat Virgo Maria.

**108.9 Prayers before Meals**

1. In the name of the Father...

Our Father...

Bless us O Lord and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. In the name of the Father...

“Jesus said: ‘I am the bread of life; any one who comes to me shall not hunger and any one who believes in me shall not thirst’ (Jn 6:35). (pause)

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge our utter dependence on Jesus, the Bread of life. We also ask your blessing upon the food, we are about to

receive, so that it may sustain our body and be the bread of life for our earthly existence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. In the name of the Father...

“He sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come” (*Mt 2:3*). (*pause*)

Lord, let this meal be an image of your eternal banquet and an expression of our eagerness to celebrate with you the happiness of heaven. Bless us and all those who have prepared this meal for us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. In the name of the Father...

“When they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost’” (*Jn 6:12*). (*pause*)

Lord, we thank you for the abundance of nourishment you provide for us. We ask you for the grace to be thrifty while working with your gifts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 108.10 Prayers after Meals

### 1. In the name of the Father...

Hail Mary...

We thank you almighty God for all the benefits we have received from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### 2. In the name of the Father...

“Then Jesus said, ‘Were not ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? Could none be found to come back and give praise to God, except this foreigner?’” (*Lk 17:17-18*). (*pause*)

God, our generous Father, we thank you sincerely for the innumerable blessings that we enjoy in our day-to-day life. Thank you very much for the meal you provided for us. Grant us the grace, that we may always be grateful to our brothers and sisters who lend us a helping hand in our life. We make our prayer through Jesus our Brother. Amen.

### 3. In the name of the Father...

“What marvels indeed the Lord did for us and how overjoyed we were! Those who went sowing in tears now sing as they reap” (*Ps 126:3, 5*). (*pause*)

Abba, Father, you have done wonderful things for us. How abounding your mercy and love! In all our joys and sorrows you have been at our side and in due season you have rewarded us for our toils. We thank you for all your blessings with grateful hearts, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. In the name of the Father...

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Co 1:3- 4).  
(pause)

Lord, through the meal of fellowship at this table, you have showed us your mercy and comfort. We thank you for all your benefits. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Spontaneous prayers/songs may be composed  
for each occasion.)*

## 109. Prayers for Certain Months

### 109.1 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18 - 25

*The following intentions may be taken or the intentions given by the Bishops' Conference.*

- L. Let us pray for Christian unity, especially.
- Jan. 18 - For the unity of all Christians in the Church.
- Jan. 19 - For our separated Eastern Brethren.
- Jan. 20 - For Christians of our country.
- Jan. 21 - For European Christians.
- Jan. 22 - For the Christians in America, Australia and Oceania.
- Jan. 23 - For the Christians in Asia and Africa.
- Jan. 24 - For the spiritual renewal of Catholics.
- Jan. 25 - For the spread of the Gospel in all lands.
- L. All are to be one; even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they, also, may be one in us that the world may believe that you have sent me.
- And I say to you: You are Peter.
- A. And upon this rock I will build my Church.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. O Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church and grant her peace and unity according to your will. Who live and rule, God, forever and ever. Amen.

## 109.2 May: Devotion to Mary\*\*

- L. O holy and glorious Virgin Mary, beautiful daughter of the Father, loving mother of the Word, heavenly bride of the Holy Spirit, gentle queen of the faithful, safe refuge of sinners, perfect model for all.
- A. God the Father and the Son love you with eternal affection in the Holy Spirit. One with St. Joseph and all the angels and saints of God, we cherish you with a special love.
- L. Willingly we surrender our entire freedom to you, our queen and our mother. We place under your care, our body and its senses, our soul and its faculties, our thoughts and desires, our words and deeds, our joys and sorrows, our life and our death.
- A. Your children delight your heart. We join them as they offer their work and prayers to you in all parts of the world. May we too please you with our zeal in prayer and patient perseverance in work.
- L. We thank the Holy Spirit for choosing you as the immaculate bride, for making you the Mother of God. Turn your eyes full of mercy toward the whole world and its urgent needs.
- A. May the entire Church feel your aid. Help our Holy Father, all bishops, priests, religious and all the laity. Give your aid to this religious home of ours, to our parents and immediate family, to our relatives and to all who do us good. Keep under your special protection our whole Society and all the members of the Arnoldus Family, our missionaries in the field and their lay associates,

those who are in our pastoral care, those taking instructions and all believers and non-believers.

- L. Under your guidance may we always follow the Holy Spirit and never extinguish the light of the Spirit in us through sin.
- A. Help us to tread our way successfully through the dangers of this life and so win passage to our home in heaven. As saints there with you, may we sing the praises of each Person of the Blessed Trinity for all eternity. Amen.

### **109.3 June: Devotion to the Holy Spirit\*\***

*The hymn 'Holy Spirit, Come' ('Veni Sancte Spiritus') is recited or sung. (pn. 108.4)*

- L. Loving Jesus, send the Holy Spirit to us from the Father, with his sevenfold gifts. In your mercy and love, help us to remove from our hearts everything that would block the effectiveness of those gifts.
- A. Grant that we may make good use of the spiritual strength which the Holy Spirit has prepared and prescribed for us in our daily living.
- L. Jesus, destroy all pride that lurks in our hearts and fill them with true humility.
- A. May all our harshness disappear and be replaced by a sincere love for everyone around us.
- L. Jesus, drive out all anger and impatience and fill our hearts with your own meekness.
- A. Foster a gentleness of mind in us and temper our zeal with prudence.
- L. Cleanse our hearts of greed and make us eager to undergo hardships for the glory of God.

- A. Keep us from indulging either our minds or our bodies and fill us with a desire for moderation and self-control.
- L. Fortify us against the allurements of the flesh with the desire to lead a chaste life.
- A. Holy Spirit, you are love itself. You formed the Heart of Jesus and anointed it with every gift of grace. Draw from that Heart and pour into our hearts your sevenfold gifts, so that strengthened by them we may love and honor our Father as good children should, while we are here on earth and receive our eternal inheritance which has been stored up for us in heaven.
- L. O Holy Spirit, we thank you for making the heart of our Lord, a furnace flaming with love for us. Kindle our hearts with the self-same fire which he sent upon the earth and through which he wished the world to be inflamed. May our hearts burn like his with missionary zeal.
- A. God, Holy Spirit, grant us the grace that, rooted and grounded in love, we may live, work and die in such a way that in heaven we will praise you for all eternity as the source of love and holiness. Amen.
- L. Let us pray. God, almighty Father, you sent and continue to send your Holy Spirit upon the Church through your only Son Jesus Christ to unfold your mysteries of grace in her. Enlighten and strengthen our Holy Father and all bishops, priests and religious. Bless all Catholics with ever greater sanctity so that the Church, may be a true sign of your Kingdom.
- A. Amen.

## **110. Prayers to the Saints and Blessed of the Arnoldus Family**

### **110.1 Prayer to St. Arnold Janssen** *(January 15)*

- L. God, our Father, St. Arnold knew well by experience the pain of suffering and the cross which he called “the salt with which the eternal joys are seasoned.” He found his true happiness and bliss in abandoning himself totally to your will and in service to the Church. Therefore, with confidence we pray to him that we too may be trusting in our efforts to make known your love to all people.
- A. St. Arnold, model of intimate union with God and of dedication to the missionary needs of the Church, implore God to endow men and women in our day with your spirit of dedicated love and service. Obtain for us strength and perseverance so that we may, with grateful hearts and generous zeal, accept our responsibility to carry forward the missionary work of the Church and in the power of the Holy Spirit fulfill that responsibility through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **110.2 St. Joseph Freinademetz - I** *(January 29)*

- L. Heavenly Father, you have given us your graces and blessings through the saints. We thank you for choosing St. Joseph Freinademetz, a zealous missionary to China, to be our model. He was a man of prayer who prayed without growing weary. Prayer was the air he breathed and the joy of his life. Prayer nourished his missionary

vocation, his love of neighbor, his enthusiasm and readiness for sacrifice as well as his profound religiosity.

- A. Through the intercession of St. Joseph we implore you to shower your graces on all missionaries so that we become persons of prayer and adopt the culture of the people we are sent to. Enlighten us to discover the road you want us to travel and the plan you have mapped out for us. May we have the courage like St. Joseph to keep going, in spite of many odds and hardships in our mission work and to live out our vocation faithfully. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **110.3 Prayer to St. Joseph Freinademetz - II**

*(January 29)*

L. St. Joseph,

- A. The Church has set you before us as our model and intercessor before God. As we reflect during these days on the example of your life and missionary activity in China, teach us to be devoted to God in prayer as you were. May we work for God's kingdom on earth, serve our brothers and sisters in love and with you attain our everlasting goal. In your missionary work you came to know the poverty, the need and the efforts of many people and you came to their assistance. Come to our aid now that through your intercession God may grant us the favors for which we pray. Implore for us to be prompt and strong, to live always according to God's will and to accept God's providence. Amen.

#### **110.4 St. Joseph Freinademetz - III** *(January 29)*

- L. Lord God, for St. Joseph Freinademetz our holy faith was a joyous conviction that became the foundation of a life prepared for sacrifice in your service.
- A. Through his intercession may we too develop a strong faith that will prepare us for a life of sacrifice in your service.
- L. Lord, you chose St Joseph to bring the good news of salvation to his brothers and sisters in China.
- A. Help us to discern our vocation carefully and follow it faithfully as St. Joseph did.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your disciples, including St. Joseph, how to pray and you gave them an example of intimate union with God, your heavenly Father.
- A. Teach us also how to pray and thus with the help of the Holy Spirit to keep united with you and your heavenly Father.
- L. Lord Jesus, Missionary sent by the Father, your missionary, St. Joseph, by imitating your example has become for us a model of zeal in bringing people to salvation.
- A. Give us too a burning zeal to win people for you.
- L. Jesus, St. Joseph served the people of South Shantung with loving kindness, for he knew that to love our neighbor is part of the great commandment.

- A. We humbly ask you to help us acquire such great love of neighbor that we too, may willingly go to distant lands and serve our needy brothers and sisters there.
- L. Jesus, your missionary St. Joseph wonderfully combined zeal with prudence in his missionary work.
- A. Help us also to be very zealous and yet prudent in our service of you and your people.
- L. Jesus, following your example, St. Joseph did not hesitate to accept poverty and deprivation in his missionary work.
- A. Train us likewise to accept conditions, which are not always ideal and demand sacrifice.
- L. Jesus, you put St. Joseph through the school of suffering for your name and thus helped him to practice heroic virtue.
- A. Help us not to refuse to go through this same school that we too may become heroic in your service.
- L. Jesus, you have given an eternal reward and heavenly glory to St. Joseph for his missionary service.
- A. Give us the grace to be with you and him in heaven when we have finished our assigned task on earth.  
Amen.

### **110.5 Prayer to Sts. Arnold and Joseph**

- L. Loving God, you called Arnold and Joseph to follow your Son, the Divine Word, in proclaiming the Gospel to all peoples.
- A. Burning with love for him and filled with his Spirit they dedicated themselves totally to the work of spreading your Kingdom of peace and love. Their example has inspired many generations of missionaries in many parts of the world. May it continue to inspire us today.
- L. Inflame our hearts like theirs with a burning love for Christ who calls us to the same mission.
- A. Guide us to build communities where dialogue is learned and life-giving relationships are created.
- L. Shape our communities by your Son's self-giving in the Eucharist, so that we may become signs of your never ending love for our world.
- A. Teach us to rejoice in the abundant diversity of peoples and give us a loving heart ready to embrace all peoples of our one world. Transform our one world into one heart fully alive with Christ's Spirit. Amen.

### **110.6 Prayer to Our SVD Martyrs (12 June)**

- L. God, our Father, we thank and praise you for your servants Gregory, Aloysius, Louis and Stanislaus. You inspired them when they were young to work in your vineyard. They accepted your divine call and entered the Society of the Divine Word in order to become true religious missionaries. Their ministry was centered in and around Poland and they showed an exemplary religious spirit in their

missionary life. We lovingly recall their love for the Holy Eucharist and complete trust in you. Their simple qualities of humility, kindness, sensitivity, diligence, faithfulness and patient suffering prompted them to submit themselves entirely into your hands. These servants of yours became victims of the cruelty of war. Each one of them had to shed his blood for upholding your values.

- A. Holy Martyrs, Gregory, Aloysius, Louis and Stanislaus, intercede for us that we may continue to answer our religious missionary vocation with zeal and dedication. May we constantly draw inspiration from you to face our difficulties and trials without any complaint. May we work hard and be ready to suffer for others. Help us to remain faithful in our missionary service especially for the poor and the needy. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **110.7 Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk - I**

*(November 28)*

- L. God, Holy Spirit, you inflamed the heart of your servant, Maria Helena, with apostolic zeal and love. She surrendered herself to you for the honor of the Blessed Trinity and the spread of your reign.
- A. We ask that through your help, we too may be ever faithful in seeking your will in all that we do. Give us, as you gave Blessed Maria Helena, that inner integrity to hold everything in its rightful place. Divine Spirit, may you be forever glorified with the Father and the Son through your servant, Maria Helena. Amen.

## **110.8 Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk - II**

*(November 28)*

L. God, Holy Spirit,

A. The fire of your love burned in the heart of Blessed Maria Helena. You inspired her to pass on this fire especially to the people of far-away China. Give also to us a generous and burning heart so that we can approach others without fear and help them to experience that you love them as they are, with all they have, with their pains and sorrows, with their deep desire for life, its meaning, and the longing for its fullness. For this we pray through the intercession of Blessed Maria Helena. Amen.

## **110.9 Blessed Josepha Stenmanns (May 20)**

L. Lord Jesus Christ,

A. You have manifested your goodness and love to us through Blessed Josepha. As a true missionary, she spent her entire life in spreading the message of your love through her humble and dedicated service. As we pray through her intercession, we ask you to grant us the grace to follow her example of prayer, perseverance, and hard work. Like her, may we be also persons who believe the unbelievable, reach out for the unattainable, trusting in the things beyond seeing, the things beyond hearing, and the things beyond imagining, that you have prepared for those who love you. Amen.

### **110.10 Prayer to Imitate Bl. Josepha** *(May 20)*

Indwelling Spirit,  
Open my heart today to your presence,  
Let your Breath in me connect me to all beings.

Open my heart to hear you calling my name.  
Let your beauty and grace within me come alive  
So I can let your beauty and goodness shine out to  
the world.

Open my heart to your love-energy.  
Gift me with a ready Heart,  
Open to hear the cries of the world,  
The world close at home, and the world afar,  
Ready to reach out in kindness, caring, and  
compassion.

May I be able to open all hearts to love  
Fulfilling the dream of Mother Josepha.  
Amen.

### **110.11 Mother Mary Michael, Co-Foundress,** **SSpSAP** *(February 25)*

L. God, our Father,

A. We thank you for the graces you generously bestowed on Mother Mary Michael. As the Co-Foundress of the Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration, she showed herself to be a valiant religious, who faithfully handed on to our Congregations the spiritual heritage of St. Arnold Janssen.

Mother Mary Michael, intercede before God for the missionary endeavors of all the three Congregations founded by St. Arnold. Pray to God for us to live according to the maxims you have given us:

Live quietly with God,  
Work gladly for God,  
View things from God's view point,  
Talk things over with God,  
Glow with zeal for God's glory,  
Find your joy in God,  
Rest deep in the heart of God.

May we follow you with childlike trust in the Father, total dedication to Christ and docility to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **110.12 Prayer for the Missionary Congregations of St. Arnold**

*(Recited in SVD parishes and families of the members of the three Congregations: SVD, SSpS, SSpSAP)*

L. Loving God,

A. In your infinite love, you have given us the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, your Son. We thank you for St. Arnold Janssen whom you called to bring the faith in the areas where the Gospel has not been preached. We praise you for the Missionary Congregations of St. Arnold – the Divine Word Missionaries, the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, and Perpetual Adoration Sisters. Your Word and your Spirit inspired the pioneer Divine Word Missionaries and Holy Spirit Sisters of many

nations to share the struggle for freedom from the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief through the light of Christ. We glorify you for the wonders you have worked through them in many nations.

We pray for all the priests, brothers and sisters of the three Missionary Congregations. Bless and empower them with your Spirit. May they continue to give powerful witness to Christ and promote the values of justice, peace and integrity of creation and develop life-giving relationships everywhere. Grant them zealous and committed vocations to continue the mission of Christ in the context of today's world. Through the intercession of St. Arnold, bless our family members, so that we may come to realize and live our Christian vocation profoundly and give witness to Christ. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **110.13 Prayer for the Arnoldus Family**

L. Holy Triune God,

A. We thank and praise you for the gifts of Sts. Arnold and Joseph. You chose St. Arnold to establish three missionary congregations and inspired St. Joseph to transform the people of China through the proclamation of the Good News. We thank you for the inspiring life and example set before us by Blessed Maria Helena, Josepha Stenmanns and our SVD Martyrs. They responded to the needs of the time with great courage and fidelity and offered their precious life for the mission.

Through their intercession, may we, the members of the Arnoldus Family, continue to discern God's will. May their prayers help us to read the signs of the times and to respond to the needs of our people with courage and dedication – through prophetic dialogue and life-giving relationships.

Help us Lord, to seek the values that will bring us lasting peace in this changing world. Make us one in mind and heart and may the Heart of Jesus live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people.

We make this prayer through the intercession of Sts. Arnold and Joseph, Blessed Maria, Josepha, our SVD Martyrs and Mother Mary Michael Amen.

## **111. Prayers to our Patrons**

*(to be inserted in morning prayers.)*

### **111.1 St. Joseph, husband of Mary (March 19)**

L. Pray for us, St. Joseph,

A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L. O God, in your loving care, which goes beyond our understanding, you chose St. Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy mother. We honor him on earth as our protector. Grant that he may also intercede for us before you in heaven.

A. With St. Joseph as our intercessor, be even more merciful towards us, O Lord. Rule and guide us that we may use the goods of this life in such a way, as not to lose the blessings of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **111.2 Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles** (*June 29*)

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, founder and supreme pastor of the Church, we thank you for the kindness and mercy by which you called Sts. Peter and Paul to yourself and chose them as apostles.
- A. St. Peter, rock foundation and key-bearer of the Church of Christ, the sacred power of the papacy has been handed down from you, the first pope, to all your successors. Pray for the whole flock of Christ, for the priests and bishops of the Church and for his vicar on earth, Pope *N.*, the bishop of Rome.
- L. St. Paul, you are a chosen vessel of Jesus Christ. He changed you from a persecutor to a disciple of Christ. The love of Christ drove you to become the tireless preacher of the truth and the teacher of the gentile nations.
- A. Pray God to give all believers a true love of Christ our Lord and of their true mother, the Church and to all missionaries your zeal in the service of the Gospel and strength of soul to desire to spend themselves wholly for the mission of Christ. Amen.

### **111.3 Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary** (*July 26*)

- L. God Holy Spirit, we thank you. In your gracious providence, you filled the marriage of Mary's parents with abundant gifts of grace and Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, flowered from their union.
- A. Sts. Joachim and Anne, holy husband and wife, the less people knew of you, the more outstanding

you became in the sight of God. The grace of the Almighty was upon you. Your home was indeed, 'a house of prayer,' a haven of hard work, peace and love. From it a stream of blessings flooded the whole world. Pray for Christian couples that they may imitate your spirit of faith and self-control and so abound in the fruits of grace and salvation. May their families produce many priests, brothers, sisters and lay missionaries dedicated to the work of the apostolate. Amen.

#### **111.4 St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church** (*August 28*)

- L. O Holy Spirit, source of life and grace, we thank you for freeing St. Augustine from the mire of vice. By your light and strength, you led him from the darkness of error to become the great doctor of the truth and an outstanding model for bishops.
- A. St. Augustine, you displayed a supreme wisdom and practiced a heroic, humble charity. Pray God that all leaders and faithful in the Church may in true wisdom, give less thought to themselves and grow in the love and knowledge of God, through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **111.5 St. Gregory the Great** (*September 3*)

- L. God Holy Spirit, we thank you for calling your servant Gregory from the affairs of the world, to rule your Church in its highest capacity.
- A. St. Gregory, God filled you with divine light and strength. You accomplished great things for the kingdom of God during very trying and difficult

times. Ask God to grant his Church in our times, bishops grounded in your virtue and wisdom, who will diligently provide for the pastoral care of all, who are entrusted to them through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **111.6 St. Vincent de Paul** *(September 27)*

- L. God Holy Spirit, we praise you for flooding the heart of your servant Vincent, with marvelous humility and fraternal love. He took pity on the needs of everyone and became a weak man to win over the weak. He became all things to all, that all might be saved.
- A. St. Vincent, outstanding model for, and trainer of priests, pray God to grant in our times and especially to our Society, truly holy priests, burning with love for Christ and zeal for souls, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **111.7 Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael,** *Archangels (September 29)*

- L. O Blessed Trinity, we thank you for creating many angelic spirits and for adorning their leaders with great beauty of grace. We adore you because your glory shines forth through them. In union with them we praise you.
- A. Heavenly princes, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, we glorify you for the love with which the Most High loved you and placed you so near to his throne. Have regard for our problems. Lead the armies of angels against the enemies who fight against the Church, so that the reign of Satan may

be crushed and the kingdom of light and grace, of justice and love may flourish in splendor, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**111.8 St. Therese of the Child Jesus, *Patroness of the Missions (October 1)***

- L. God, Holy Spirit, we praise you for granting St. Therese outstanding humility and simplicity of heart and a boundless zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of all.
- A. St. Therese, patroness of the missions, obtain for us the grace to cooperate in spreading the kingdom of God throughout the world, each according to his strength. Pray God to grant missionaries an unshakable strength in and fidelity to their vocation. Obtain the grace of perseverance for the newly baptized, an eagerness and alacrity in learning for those taking instructions, and the grace of faith in Christ for unbelievers, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**111.9 St. Andrew, *Apostle (November 30)***

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you because, you chose St. Andrew to be an Apostle. You blessed him with a flaming desire to follow you, his teacher and leader, and to complete his sacrifice on the altar of a cross.
- A. St. Andrew, chosen apostle of Christ and faithful servant of the Most High, we are grateful to God for the special graces which the Holy Spirit lavished on you.

Pray to God to grant an enduring love of the cross to all the faithful, especially to the bishops, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**111.10 St. Francis Xavier, Patron of the Missions**  
(December 3)

- L. God, Holy Spirit, we praise you for the burning love you gave to St. Francis Xavier, to follow Christ alone. You made him the renowned apostle of the nations in Asia.
- A. St. Francis, powerful patron of missionary work, as our leader, please obtain the grace for us to love Christ ardently and to work zealously for the salvation of all, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**111.11 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**  
(December 27)

- L. Spirit of Eternal Love, we thank you for the very special love of Christ with which you inflamed St. John, the Apostle. You made him the eloquent prophet of the Divine Word. Help us to follow his example in serving Eternal Wisdom with a virginal love and in spreading the Gospel of the Divine Word to every corner of the earth.
- A. St. John, pray God to grant the Church many priests, brothers and sisters, filled with undivided love and strength of soul, so that through them the Son of God may find his way into the hearts of many people and that they may receive him with a wholehearted welcome, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



St. Arnold Janssen

# Part Two

## Prayers of the Church and Liturgical Seasons

### 201. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

*Exposition with a hymn and prayers; then the following  
hymn may be sung.*

Let us bow in adoration  
To this Sacrament so great.  
Here is new and perfect worship,  
All the old must terminate.  
Senses cannot grasp this marvel,  
Faith must serve to compensate.

Glory, honor, adoration,  
Let us sing with one accord.  
Praised be God, almighty Father,  
Praised be Christ, his Son, our Lord.  
Praised be God, the Holy Spirit,  
Triune Godhead be adored. Amen.

#### *(Latin Version)*

Tantum ergo, Sacramentum,  
Veneremur cernui.  
Et antiquum documentum  
Novo cedat ritui.  
Praestet fides supplementum  
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque,  
Laus et jubilatio.  
Salus honor, virtus quoque  
Sit et benedictio.  
Procedenti ab utroque  
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

L. You have given them bread from heaven.  
(Alleluia).

A. Containing in itself all sweetness. (Alleluia).

L. Let us pray. O God in this wonderful sacrament  
you have left us a memorial of your passion. Grant  
us, we pray, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of  
your body and blood, that we may ever feel within  
us the fruit of your redemption. You live and rule,  
world without end. Amen.

### **The Divine Praises** *(optional, after the blessing)*

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most precious blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the  
altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the comforter.

Blessed be the great mother of God, Mary most  
holy.

Blessed be her holy and immaculate conception.

Blessed be her glorious assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

## **202. Sacrament of Reconciliation**

### **202.1 Preparation for the Sacrament**

*Here are some helps for Confession. Regular reception of this sacrament is a special means for growth in the spiritual life.*

#### ***Preparatory Prayer***

Come, Holy Spirit. Enlighten my mind that I may know the sins I ought to confess and grant me the grace to confess them fully, humbly, and with a contrite heart. Help me to resolve firmly not to commit them again.

Jesus, you suffered much to redeem me. Help me to be sorry for my sins.

Blessed Mother of my Redeemer, refuge of sinners, intercede for me that I may obtain the grace to make a good confession.

All you Angels and Saints of God, pray for me, that I may repent of my evil ways and that my heart may from now on be united with yours in eternal love. Amen.

#### ***Examination of Conscience based on the Commandments***

1. Have I murmured against God at the personal misfortune or at the prosperity of others? Despaired of his mercy? Practiced any form of superstition?
2. Have I sworn falsely, rashly, even in trivial matters? Cursed myself or others, or any creature?

3. Have I kept holy the Lord's Day and Holy Days of obligation? Done or ordered some servile work not of necessity? Missed Mass?
4. Have I respected my parents and superiors as I should? Deceived them? Disobeyed them?
5. Have I caused or desired the death of anyone? Approved or advised abortion? Borne hatred; oppressed anyone; desired revenge; did not forgive; refused to speak to someone; used provoking language? Have I been guilty of drug or alcohol abuse?
6. Have I been guilty of unchaste actions with myself or others? Of going with bad companions, of objectionable conversation? Have I read obscene books or seen such films? Visited such sites on internet ?
7. Have I stolen, cheated, copied homework or tests? Willfully damaged another's property or that of the community? Willfully run into debt beyond my power of payment?
8. Have I lied? Borne false witness? Told another's sins; judged rashly; suspected falsely?
9. Have I willfully consented to unchaste desires?
10. Have I desired unjustly something that belongs to another? Was I guilty of envy or jealousy?

### *Other common sins*

1. Did I do my daily duty well as regards prayer, study and work, or was I lazy?
2. Have I omitted doing good when I could have done it? E.g. helping those in need?

3. Did I fail to trust in God?
4. Was I impatient, proud, envious, greedy?
5. Did I cooperate with my formators in their efforts to promote my development?
6. Did I take proper care of my health?

*(See also Evaluation of Life, pn. 202.2 and 202.3)*

*The most important part of the preparation for Confession is **Sorrow** for sin and the firm purpose of amendment. The following are some motives for sorrow for sin: Jesus suffered and died on the Cross out of love for me. Sin is an act of ingratitude to the Good God and turns me away from him. By sin I offend the Holy Spirit, who dwells in me as my guest. Sin disturbs my relation with God and others. My sins have harmed the community. My sins deserve penance.*

### ***Act of Contrition and Purpose of Amendment***

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to save me by suffering and dying on the Cross. I am sorry for the pain which my sins have caused him. Forgive me. Please send me your Holy Spirit to help me live a life more pleasing to you. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

*Now confess your sins to the priest, listen to the advice given, and accept the penance imposed. We must confess all mortal sins; as regards venial sins and omission, it is sufficient to confess two or three of those which occur more frequently or indicate the chief failing.*

## 202.2 Evaluation of Life - I

### *As a Religious Missionary*

*As disciples of the Divine Word, our mission today is a call to respond as religious to the needs of the world through prophetic witness and dialogue. More than just identifying what we do, this also expresses how we should grow to be ever more Christ-like. Reflection on how I am living out my life as a religious and missionary is therefore further material for my examination of conscience.*

### **Religious Vows:**

- How have I failed to cultivate **celibate love** (*Const. 205*). Have I preferred my own plans and comfort at the expense of others? Have I participated well in community life? Have I neglected time for prayer, for reading the Word of God?
- How has my **evangelical poverty** helped me to become “inwardly free and detached from all earthly goods and honors and so be available and open to God and others” (*Const. 208*). The chief failings against poverty are listed in *Const. 212.8*. Have I knowingly been neglectful in any of these points?
- Have I failed in living **apostolic obedience** (*Const. 214*), by being lazy or neglectful of my duty (e.g. homily preparation, study of the language/culture, etc.)? been over-critical or uncooperative in accepting decisions of the superior or the community, particularly with regard to transfers and appointments? openly or secretly reluctant to collaborate with others? pleased at the failure of others? Have I neglected to encourage others?

## **Our Mission:**

*Our mission is a four-fold commitment to “solidarity with people who have no faith or are faith-seekers, who are poor and marginalized, who are of different cultures, and who are of different religions and ideologies” (XVI Gen. Ch. #5). Such dialogue requires “an attitude of solidarity, respect and love that is to permeate all of our activities.” How have I failed in these missionary virtues towards those in my community and those I serve in my mission?*

## **The Lord challenges us to move:**

- from *egoism and indifference*, to solidarity with those who are poor and marginalized. Do I put too much value on having things? Do I have more things than I need? Does my lifestyle reflect my concern for those in need? How does this solidarity show in my concern for issues of justice and peace, of respect for creation?
- from *ethnocentrism, racism, regionalism*, to loving appreciation and respect for the other’s cultural identity. Have I made sarcastic remarks about another based on cultural background? Have I borne resentment to one who made such remarks about me? Have I knowingly made decisions based more on national/regional affiliation?
- from *suspicion and mistrust*, to attitudes of trust, tolerance and openness to what is different. Have I tried sincerely to reach out to those of other beliefs and religious traditions? Or have I failed to do so out of fear or suspicion or lack of concern? Have I made quick judgments or belittling remarks about members of other religions?

## **202.3 Evaluation of Life - II**

### ***Personal and Social Responsibilities***

*(for recollections/retreats)*

## **How has the Lord's call come to me and how have I responded?**

### **I. Personal**

1. Did I feel drawn by the Lord any time through
  - a companion, a good book, art, music?
  - an event, nature, a letter?
  - to what was I drawn?
2. How did I meet the Lord - in my fears, misunderstandings?
  - in temptations, joy? - in suffering, work?
3. What have I learned about God and his ways?
4. How did the word of God come alive to me
  - in my prayer time, liturgy? - in scripture, other readings?
5. How has the Lord moved me
  - from excessive self-confidence to trust in him?
  - from feelings of remorse and guilt to real repentance and turning towards him?
  - from self-centeredness and mixed motives to self-forgetfulness and single-mindedness?
  - from my plans and ways to his ways and his will?
6. Am I more and more aware of the Spirit's leading
  - in inspirations, movements, insights?

- in feelings, impulses?
  - do I feel a new peace, patience, love, joy, kindness, fidelity, gentleness, self-control?
7. In what ways have I been a sign of God's presence and love to others?
  8. What has happened that I should be grateful for? Do I take God's gifts for granted?
  9. Have I been faithful to my prayer?
  10. In what ways have I encountered Christ through the members of my community? How have I brought Christ to them?
  11. Have I experienced a growing awareness of
    - being loved and my desire to reciprocate love?
    - my sinfulness and poverty?
    - my ability to forgive?
    - my openness and availability?
    - my accepting and loving people as they are?
  12. Is the Mass where I gather with my brothers and sisters around the Lord's table the source and center of my life? Does it open me more fully to them and to the world? How is my daily life and work affected by it?

## **II. Social**

1. Did anything happen that heightened in me my sense of mission:
  - my prayer - people I met - the mass media,
  - letters I received - my work?

2. Did I feel moved to go out of myself in concern and interest towards the lonely, the needy, the stranger, the sick?
3. How much of social concern filled my thoughts and activities? Did I try to share this concern with others?
  - at home, in the classroom, at place of work, entertainment,
  - at gatherings, in common prayer, in talks or conferences?
4. Did any person or anything that happened make me aware of my involvement in the sinful structures of society?
  - what person? - what event? - a book or article or a film?
5. Did I reflect on the sinfulness in our economic structures?
  - in the inequality of income, housing, unemployment,
  - in educational and medical facilities,
  - castes, creeds and prejudices,
  - bribery and corruption?

Did I pray and try to do something about these things?
6. Do I tend to want to build a material Church rather than the kingdom values of justice, tolerance, peace, love?
7. How did I meet with poverty? - crime? - discrimination? - exploitation?  
How did I react?

8. Have I been sincere in accounting for the money and other goods entrusted to my care?
9. Where did my free choice take me?
  - towards the poor, the needy?
  - towards inconveniences and hardships for the sake of the underprivileged?

Or towards the comfort and satisfaction afforded by the pleasant company of the rich?
10. In the apostolate among the rich did I make use of opportunities to enlighten them to realize the need to share their wealth with the less privileged?
11. What impact did my work have on any of the problems of our society? - on rural society, urban life? - workers? - on youth, education?
12. Has my prayer life reminded me that justice concerns the whole righteousness of life?

Has it reflected in my approach to the liturgy, catechetics, retreats?

Have I paid just wages to my employees?
13. How am I being more and more conscious of God's work in the larger church, in other churches?

*(See also Four Fundamental Conversions, pn. 504.)*

## 203. Litanies

### 203.1 Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

God the Father of heaven,

*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the  
womb of the Virgin Mother,

Heart of Jesus, substantially united with the Word  
of God,

Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,

Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God,

Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,

Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,

Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity,

Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love,

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,

Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,

Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,

Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of  
wisdom and knowledge,

Heart of Jesus, in whom dwells the fullness of  
divinity,

Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is well pleased,

Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all  
received,

Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful,

Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke you,  
Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,  
Heart of Jesus, loaded down with reproaches,  
Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses,  
Heart of Jesus, obedient unto death,  
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,  
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,  
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,  
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,  
Heart of Jesus, victim for sin,  
Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in you,  
Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in you,  
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Spare us, O Lord*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Graciously hear us, O Lord*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy on us.*

L. Jesus meek and humble of heart,

A. Make our hearts like your heart.

L. Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, look upon the Heart of your dearly beloved Son and upon the praise and satisfaction he offers you on behalf of sinners and for those who seek your mercy. Be appeased and grant us pardon in the name of the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, world without end.

A. Amen.

## 203.2 Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

God the Father of heaven,

*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity one God,

Jesus, Son of the living God,

Jesus, splendor of the Father,

Jesus, brightness of eternal light,

Jesus, king of glory,

Jesus, the son of Justice,

Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,

Jesus, most amiable,

Jesus, most admirable,

Jesus, mighty God,

Jesus, father of the world to come,

Jesus, angel of the great council,

Jesus, most powerful,

Jesus, most patient,

Jesus, most obedient,

Jesus, meek and humble of heart,

Jesus, lover of chastity,

Jesus, lover of us all,

Jesus, God of peace,

Jesus, Author of life,

Jesus, model of virtues,

Jesus, zealous for souls,

Jesus, our God,

Jesus, our refuge,

Jesus, father of the poor,

Jesus, treasure of the faithful,

Jesus, Good Shepherd,

Jesus, true light,

Jesus, eternal wisdom,

Jesus, infinite goodness,

Jesus, our way and our life,  
Jesus, joy of angels,  
Jesus, king of patriarchs,  
Jesus, master of apostles,  
Jesus, teacher of evangelists,  
Jesus, strength of martyrs,  
Jesus, light of confessors,  
Jesus, purity of virgins,  
Jesus, crown of all saints,  
Be merciful,  
    *Spare us, O Jesus,*  
Be merciful,  
    *Graciously hear us, O Jesus,*  
From all evil,  
    *Deliver us, O Jesus,*  
From all sin,  
From your wrath,  
From the snares of the devil,  
From the spirit of fornication,  
From everlasting death,  
From a neglect of your inspiration,  
By the mystery of your holy incarnation,  
By your nativity,  
By your infancy,  
By your most divine life,  
By your labors,  
By your agony and passion,  
By your cross and dereliction,  
By your sufferings,  
By your death and burial,  
By your resurrection,  
By your ascension,  
By your institution of the most holy Eucharist,  
By your joys,  
By your glory,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Spare us, O Jesus.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Graciously hear us, O Jesus.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy on us, O Jesus.*

Jesus, hear us,  
*Jesus, graciously hear us.*

L. Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you," mercifully hear our prayers and grant us the gift of your most divine love that we may ever love you with all our heart, and in all our words and actions, never cease from your praise. Give us, O Lord, reverence and love for your holy name; for you never cease to govern those whom you instruct in the depth of your love, who live and reign world without end. Amen.

### **203.3 Litany of the Holy Spirit - I**

God, our Father in heaven,  
*Have mercy on us*

God the Son, our Redeemer,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the  
Son,

Holy Spirit, co-equal with the Father and the Son,

Holy Spirit, Promise of the Father,

Holy Spirit, Gift of God Most High,

Holy Spirit, Ray of heavenly light,

Holy Spirit, Author of all good,

Holy Spirit, Source of living water,

Holy Spirit, consuming fire,  
Holy Spirit, burning love,  
Holy Spirit, spiritual anointing,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of truth and power,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of counsel and fortitude,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of knowledge and piety,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of the fear of the Lord,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of sorrow for sins,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of grace and prayer,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of charity and joy,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of peace and patience,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of kindness and goodness,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of faith and modesty,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of continence and chastity,  
Holy Spirit, Bestower of the twelve fruits,  
Holy Spirit, in the beginning you moved over the  
waters,  
Holy Spirit, by your inspiration the holy men and  
women of God spoke,  
Holy Spirit, you were active in the miraculous  
conception of the Son of God,  
Holy Spirit, you descended on Jesus at his baptism,  
Holy Spirit, on the day of Pentecost you descended  
in fiery tongues,  
Holy Spirit, by you we are also born again,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of the adoption of the children of  
God,  
Holy Spirit, you dwell in us,  
Holy Spirit, you enlighten and strengthen us,  
Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,  
Holy Spirit, Teacher and Guide of the Church of  
God,  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of God,

Renew the face of the earth,

*Hear our prayer.*

Send forth your light into our hearts,

Write your law in our hearts,

Inflame them with the fire of your love,

Open to us the treasures of your grace,

Teach us to ask for them according to your will,

Enlighten us with your heavenly inspiration,

Bind us to yourself by your powerful attraction,

Help us to bear with one another,

Help us to love one another,

Lead us in the way of your commandments,

Make us obedient to your inspirations,

Teach us to pray,

Pray with us,

Pray within us,

Inspire us with a horror of evil,

Guide us along the path of God,

Help us to persevere in justice,

Be yourself our everlasting reward,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

*Have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

*Have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

*Have mercy on us.*

L. Let us pray. Father, fill us with the gifts of your Spirit to make our hearts pleasing to you, and ready to do your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

## 203.4 Litany of the Holy Spirit - II

L. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all.

A. And set them on fire with your love.

L. Holy Spirit,

A. We praise you, and come before you to offer our  
thanksgiving and humble petition.

L. You are the Light of understanding and wisdom.

A. *R/ We praise you, God Holy Spirit.*

L. Wonder of strength and good counsel, R/

L. Gift of knowledge and piety, R/

Teacher of fear and love, R/

Wellspring of faith and hope, R/

Messenger of joy and peace, R/

Spirit of kindness and patience, R/

Revealer of goodness and faithfulness, R/

Power of chaste love, R/

Fountain of life and salvation, R/

L. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all believers,

A. And set them on fire with your love.

L. You give yourself to the poor and humble of heart.

A. *R/ We thank you, God Holy Spirit.*

L. You console those who are sorrowful. R/

You assure those of a gentle spirit of their heavenly  
inheritance. R/

You satisfy those who hunger and thirst to see  
right prevail, R/

You show mercy to those who are merciful, R/

You reveal yourself to those whose hearts are pure, R/

You elevate the peacemakers to be children of God, R/

You grant consolation and joy to those who suffer persecution for the cause of right, R/

You reward abundantly those who suffer insults and every kind of calumny, R/

You crown martyrs with the wreath of victory. R/

L. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all believers,

A. And set them on fire with your love.

L. Graciously grant us your mercy,

A. *R/ Hear our prayer, God Holy Spirit.*

L. Give new life to your Church, R/

Unite us with our separated brothers and sisters, R/

Lead those who err to the fullness of truth, R/

Encourage your messengers in giving witness to the truth, R/

Grant peace and justice to all nations, R/

Cleanse us continuously from sin and guilt, R/

Guide our thoughts, words and actions, R/

Grant us the grace of perseverance to the end, R/

Lead all people to the kingdom of peace and love, R/

- L. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all believers.  
A. And set them on fire with your love.  
L. Let us pray.  
A. Father of love and peace, your Son promised us the help of the Holy Spirit for all times to come. Help us to proceed courageously under the guidance of the same Spirit to our eternal perfection in your presence. This we ask you, Father in heaven, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **203.5 Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,

*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary,

*Pray for us.*

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Mother of Christ,

Mother of divine grace,

Mother most pure,

Mother most chaste,

Mother inviolate,

Mother undefiled,

Mother most amiable,

Mother most admirable,

Mother of good counsel,

Mother of our Creator,

Mother of our Savior,

Virgin most prudent,

Virgin most venerable,  
Virgin most renowned,  
Virgin most powerful,  
Virgin most merciful,  
Virgin most faithful,  
Mirror of justice,  
Seat of wisdom,  
Cause of our joy,  
Spiritual vessel,  
Vessel of honor,  
Singular vessel of devotion,  
Mystical rose,  
Tower of David,  
Tower of ivory,  
House of gold,  
Ark of the covenant,  
Gate of heaven,  
Morning star,  
Health of the sick,  
Refuge of sinners,  
Comforter of the afflicted,  
Help of Christians,  
Queen of angels,  
Queen of patriarchs,  
Queen of prophets,  
Queen of apostles,  
Queen of martyrs,  
Queen of confessors,  
Queen of virgins,  
Queen of all saints,  
Queen conceived without original sin,  
Queen assumed into heaven,  
Queen of the most holy Rosary,  
Queen of peace,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Graciously hear us O Lord.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us,  
*Christ, graciously hear us.*

L. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L. Let us pray. Grant, O Lord God, we beseech you, that we your servants may rejoice in continual health of mind and body, and through the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever virgin, be freed from present sorrow and enjoy eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

### **203.6 Litany in Praise of Divine Mercy**

God the Father of Heaven,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the World,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit,  
*Have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

Mercy of God, supreme attribute of the Creator,  
*We trust in you.*

Mercy of God, greatest perfection of the Redeemer,  
Mercy of God, unfathomable love of the sanctifier,

Mercy of God, inconceivable mystery of the Holy  
Trinity,  
Mercy of God, expression of the greatest power of  
the Most High,  
Mercy of God, revealed in the creation of the  
heavenly spirits,  
Mercy of God, summoning us to existence out of  
our nothingness,  
Mercy of God, embracing the whole universe,  
Mercy of God, bestowing upon us immortal life,  
Mercy of God, shielding us from merited  
punishments,  
Mercy of God, raising us from the misery of sin,  
Mercy of God, justifying us in the Word Incarnate,  
Mercy of God, flowing from the wounds of Christ,  
Mercy of God, gushing from the Sacred Heart of  
Jesus,  
Mercy of God, giving to us the Blessed Virgin  
Mary as Mother of Mercy,  
Mercy of God, shown in the revelation of the divine  
mysteries,  
Mercy of God, manifested in the institution of the  
universal Church,  
Mercy of God, contained in the institution of the  
holy sacraments,  
Mercy of God, bestowed upon humankind in the  
sacraments of baptism and penance,  
Mercy of God, granted in the sacraments of the  
altar and the priesthood,  
Mercy of God, shown in calling us to the holy faith,  
Mercy of God, revealed in the conversion of sinners,  
Mercy of God, manifested in the sanctification of  
the just,  
Mercy of God, fulfilled in the perfection of the  
saints,

Mercy of God, font of health for the sick and the  
suffering,  
Mercy of God, solace of anguished hearts,  
Mercy of God, hope of souls afflicted with despair,  
Mercy of God, always and everywhere  
accompanying all people,  
Mercy of God, anticipating us with graces,  
Mercy of God, peace of the dying,  
Mercy of God, refreshment and relief of the souls in  
purgatory,  
Mercy of God, heavenly delight of the blessed,  
Mercy of God, crown of all the saints,  
Mercy of God, inexhaustible source of miracles,  
Lamb of God, you showed us your greatest mercy  
in redeeming the world on the cross,  
*Spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, you mercifully offer yourself for us  
in every holy Mass,  
*Graciously hear us O Lord.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world  
through your inexhaustible mercy,  
*Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Lord, have mercy on us,  
*Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, have mercy on us,  
*Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us,  
*Lord have mercy on us.*

L. The tender mercies of the Lord are over all his  
works.

A. The mercies of the Lord, I will sing forever.

L. Let us pray.

A. O God, whose Mercy is infinite and whose treasures of pity are inexhaustible, graciously look down upon us and increase in us your Mercy so that we may never, even in the greatest trials, give way to despair but may always trustfully conform ourselves to the Holy Will, which is Mercy itself; Through Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the King of Mercy, who with you and the Holy Spirit does show us Mercy, forever and ever. Amen.

### **203.7 Litany of Sts. Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz**

God our Father in heaven,

*Have mercy on us*

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Redeemer of the world,  
Holy Spirit, Source of Life and Love,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary, Mother of our Lord and our Mother,

*Pray for us*

St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and patron of the  
Church,

All you holy apostles and missionaries,

All you patron saints of our Society,

Blessed Maria Helena, Josepha and our SVD  
Martyrs,

All you angels and saints of God,

Sts. Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz,

You who were great in faith,

Faithful disciples of Jesus,

Men of prayer,

Men of humility,

Faithful proclaimers of the gospel,  
Tireless workers for the salvation of others,  
Great venerators of the Sacred Heart,  
Fiery venerators of the Holy Spirit  
Deeply devoted to the Virgin Mary,  
Seeking God's honor in all things,  
Constantly endeavoring to recognize God's will,  
Always saying Yes to God's will,  
Willingly accepting struggles and suffering,  
Suffering mockery for the sake of Christ,  
Accepting your cross as disciples of the crucified  
Lord,

That we may always have a living faith,

*Intercede for us*

That we may understand God's love for us ever  
more deeply,

That we may not lose hope in the midst of trials,

That we may always have the strength to do God's  
will,

That we may love God's word, and witness to it in  
our life,

That we may always treat one another with respect,

That we may bear with one another in patience,

That we may forgive one another time and again,

That we may always respect people of other  
cultures and religions,

That we may recognize our responsibility for the  
salvation of all,

That we may profess our faith, even if we are  
mocked for it,

That we may love the Church and remain faithful  
to her.

L. Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

A. Lord, hear us.

L. Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

A. Lord, hear us.

L. Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

A. Lord, have mercy on us.

L. Pray for us, Sts. Arnold and Joseph,

A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L. Sts. Arnold and Joseph, throughout your life you constantly prayed for the salvation of all humankind. We thank you for your continuing intercession for us; your intentions are also our intentions and we pray with you: May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace, and may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people. Amen.

A. Loving God, Sts. Arnold and Joseph proclaimed the good news of your love in the strength of your Holy Spirit. Through the intercession of these saints may we also be instrumental in leading many others to believe in your never failing love for all people, the love you gave us in Jesus Christ. We ask this through Jesus your Son, our Friend and Lord. Amen.

# Part Three

## Prayers for Various Needs

### 301. Prayers for Countries

#### 301.1 A Patriotic Prayer

- L. O Lord, you desire that, not only individual men and women, but all nations should worship you, and find in you their final destiny, listen to the voice of our ancient country, which has never ceased to seek you. Grant her that true freedom and greatness, which consists in union with you in your everlasting kingdom.
- A. O God, grant that we may work for the spread of your peace, justice and unity. Jesus our Master, may we see your face in every face and may renunciation and austerity be the weapon with which we fight corruption, pride, falsehood and selfishness which separate people from one another. May our life be a reflection of your life - a life of self-sacrifice, simplicity, godliness and humility. May your Spirit make us compassionate to all, specially to the poor, the weak and the marginalized in our country. Give us the grace of openness to experience you in all the people of our land. Amen.

#### 301.2 Prayer to Mother Mary for the Country

- L. Mother of the human family and of the nations, on this day we dedicate to you our country and all its citizens. Mary, our Mother, you stand as a

sign and a sure hope in our struggles towards true liberation. Your freedom from enslaving forces reminds us that true freedom is attainable only by the power of the Spirit.

- A. May the Lord who infuses hope into our dejected hearts expel the darkness of the evil forces of violence, hatred, communalism and terrorism. Let the springs of eternal peace, harmony and integrity flow through every corner of our country. May you be our co-liberator and patroness to obtain for us and for our land tolerance, respect, peaceful co-existence and true freedom which is the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **301.3 A Prayer for Africa**

- L. O God, who created heaven and earth,
- A. God, without whom we can do nothing, we thank you for having created Africa as your land and its children as your holy people. Protect your land from sin, wars, sicknesses, hunger and poverty. May your good news spread everywhere; may your peace, love, and your unity bring growth and prosperity to Africa, so that it may become a witness to all the nations. Let Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz, your saints, intercede for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

### **301.4 A Prayer to Mother Mary for Asia**

- L. Mother of the Lord,
- A. You bore the Word into the world and sat with the Lord's disciples when his Spirit came upon

them in the upper room to send them rejoicing to the farthest ends of the earth. You have accompanied his heralds in Asia wherever they have preached the Gospel of your Son. We pray to you at this moment after the manner of his disciples. We gather to ask the Spirit to descend upon us and send us forth with a new commitment “to preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:13). Mother of the Lord, he has committed you to our peoples. Teach us and assist us to bring to our brothers and sisters in Asia, the saving Word of your Son, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **301.5 Prayer to St. Joseph Freinademetz for China**

- L. God, you called St. Joseph to serve you as a missionary in China. Determined to make himself all things to every person in order to save as many as possible, he preached the Gospel without sparing himself. Thus he brought thousands to the faith and the Church.
- A. At his intercession, grant the Catholics of China, faithful to our Holy Father, the freedom to profess their faith and to form their lives according to the Catholic teachings. Grant that priests and other people may again be able to proclaim the Good News to every person of that great country and may bring to them the graces of salvation. St. Joseph, be our intercessor with God for the mission country where you labored and for the people whom you served in loving sacrifice. Amen.

## **302. Prayers for States of Life**

### **302.1 Prayer to St. Anne for an Increase in Vocations**

- L. St. Anne, worthy mother of the immaculate spouse of the Holy Spirit, this same Holy Spirit blessed you with outstanding gifts of grace and holiness.
- A. Ask the Holy Spirit to send many qualified workers into the vineyard of the Lord. Grant to all Catholic families the spirit of piety and self-denial and to give to all who answer the divine call true humility and a living faith. May the Spirit work in them with grace and make them useful ministers of the eternal high priest. Amen.

### **302.2 Prayer for Priests and Religious**

- L. Jesus, you came into this world as the good shepherd seeking out the lost. You started the Church so that your disciples might continue your work. Now we beg you: send more workers into your harvest fields!
- A. Bless your Church with worthy priests and religious. Support with your grace all those whom you have chosen from all eternity for your service and who now are answering your call. Reassure and strengthen your faithful servants in their vocation. Assist them in everything they begin in your name. Make them the salt of the earth which resists all corruption. Make them the light of the world so that Christians and non-Christians alike may be inspired by their words and example. Fill them with wisdom of mind and strength of will

to increase your glory by extending your kingdom to every nation and by leading all people under their care to eternal life. Amen.

### **302.3 Prayer to the Trinity for Religious**

*(Pope John Paul II, Vita Con, #111)*

- L. Most Holy Trinity, blessed and the source of all blessedness, bless your sons and daughters whom you have called to praise the greatness of your love, your merciful goodness and your beauty.
- A. Father Most Holy, sanctify your sons and daughters who have consecrated themselves to you, for the glory of your name. Enfold them with your power, enabling them to bear witness that you are the Origin of all things, the one Source of love and freedom. We thank you for the gift of the consecrated life, which in faith seeks you and in its universal mission invites all people to draw near to you.
- L. Jesus our Savior, Incarnate Word, as you have entrusted your own way of life to those whom you have called, continue to draw to yourself men and women who will be, for the people of our time, dispensers of mercy, heralds of your return, living signs of the Resurrection and of its treasures of virginity, poverty and obedience. May no tribulation separate them from you and from your love!
- A. Holy Spirit, Love poured into our hearts, who grant grace and inspiration to our minds, the perennial Source of life, who bring to fulfillment the mission of Christ by means of many charisms, we pray to you for all consecrated persons. Fill

their hearts with the deep certainty of having been chosen to love, to praise and to serve. Enable them to savor your friendship, fill them with your joy and consolation, help them to overcome moments of difficulty and to rise up again with trust after they have fallen; make them mirrors of the divine beauty. Give them the courage to face the challenges of our time and the grace to bring to all the goodness and loving kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (cf. Tit 3:4)

### **302.4 Prayer to Mary for Religious**

*(Pope John Paul II, Vita Con, #112)*

- L. Mary, Virgin of the Visitation, image of the Church, which by imitating you preserves an integral faith, a firm hope and a sincere charity, sustain consecrated persons on their journey.
- A. We entrust them to you that they may go forth to meet human needs, to bring help, and above all to bring Jesus. Teach them to proclaim the mighty things which the Lord accomplishes in the world, that all peoples may extol his name. Support them in their work for the poor, the hungry, those without hope, the little ones and all who seek your Son with a sincere heart.
- L. To you, our Mother, who desire the spiritual and apostolic renewal of your sons and daughters in a response of love and complete dedication to Christ, we address our confident prayer.
- A. You who did the will of the Father, ever ready in obedience, courageous in poverty and receptive in fruitful virginity, obtain the grace from your Son that all who have received the gift of following

him in the consecrated life may be enabled to bear witness to that gift by their transfigured lives, as they joyfully make their way with all their brothers and sisters towards our heavenly homeland and the light which will never grow dim. We pray that in everyone and in everything glory, adoration and love may be given to the Most High Lord of all things, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **302.5 Prayer for Seminarians**

- L. Jesus, eternal high Priest, we pray for all seminarians, your future priests throughout the world.
- A. Give them humility, meekness, prudence, and a burning zeal to serve the people of God. Fill their hearts with the grace of the Holy Spirit to love the Church and have the mind of the Church. Bless them with generosity and detachment from worldly goods. Help them to know and love you, the eternal Priest. Amen.

### **302.6 Prayer for Missionaries**

- L. Heavenly Father,
- A. You sent your Son, the Divine Word, into the world as a missionary to save every person. He became one of us by being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He was born, lived among us, taught us by word and example. He suffered and died on the cross to save us, and was raised again to life. Before he ascended into heaven, he commissioned his Church in the persons of the Apostles to go out and share the

Good News with every person. Bless those men and women, who have received and answered the call to be missionaries. Grant them the light, strength, and courage of the Holy Spirit in a special way to win as many people as possible for Christ. We ask you this, Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **302.7 Prayer to the Virgin Mary to Lead a Chaste Life**

- L. Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus,
- A. Your prayers never go unheard! Pray God that every son of our Society and every priest and religious throughout the world, may serve your divine Son with the chaste and undivided love, which they have pledged. May your own spotless life, O Mother, be their strongest inspiration and protection. And because you are the mother of all that is beautiful in love, pray for them that, with the Holy Spirit always living in their hearts, they may be called and may in reality be children of God forever. Amen.

### **302.8 Prayer of the Missionary**

- L. Help me, Lord,
- A. To hope without discouragement, to listen without tiredness, to receive with graciousness, to give with love, to be always there when somebody really needs me.
- L. Help me to be a guiding presence, to which one can always draw near, to offer peaceful friendship that is enriched through you and in you.

- A. Help me to transmit a joyful peace, your peace in my soul, totally centred in you, available and hospitable towards others.
- L. Help me so that your thoughts may never abandon me, so that I may remain always in your truth and not falter in your commandment to give myself to others.
- A. My hope is that you and I may be together, so that, with nothing extraordinary and without vanity, I can perhaps help others too to feel your closeness, dancing and eating at the same table, where justice, peace and love embrace each other. Amen.

### **302.9 A Missionary Prayer**

- L. Father of all, you sent your Son to carry out your mission of redeeming the world.

Many still have not heard his message of truth and love. Our world is torn by war and conflict, by poverty and injustice. Let the light of your Gospel of love so shine in the world that it may be transformed into a worthy home for all your children of every race and country.

- A. Bless all missionaries throughout the world that their work may bear fruit. Together with them, may we too share in the missionary work of the whole Church that your Kingdom of justice, love and peace may come in all hearts and in all nations. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

## **302.10 Personal Prayer for Missionary Vocation**

Jesus, you said to your first disciples, “Come, follow me,” and they became your apostles to the world. Guide me as I try these days to discern more clearly your call in my life. Enlighten my inner being that I may know myself better and have the courage to respond to you wholeheartedly. Support my steps along this path toward a possible future as a religious missionary. Help me to pray and to listen attentively to your response. Amen.

## **303. Prayers for Special Needs**

### **303. 1 Prayer before Assemblies and Meetings**

*A hymn to the Holy Spirit, a short passage from Scripture, then the following:*

- L. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
- A. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. Let us pray. O Holy Spirit, Spirit of freedom, do not allow us to be caught in insignificant details; but grant us sensitivity toward what is essential. Liberate us from our need for security, and give us the courage to venture into the unknown and to walk on unfamiliar ground. Penetrate and transform our prejudices, false considerations and beliefs and all that blocks life and growth. May our selfishness give way to considerations of the common good. Help us to grow in openness towards you and towards each other so that we

may become more and more the instruments of your liberating action in the world of today.

A. Amen.

L. Jesus, Eternal Wisdom,

A. Have mercy on us

L. Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit,

A. Pray for us.

L. Sts. Arnold and Joseph, Blessed Maria Helena and Josepha and our SVD martyrs,

A. Help us in our missionary service.

*After the gathering Quarter Hour prayer or Hail Mary...,  
Glory be...*

### **303.2 Prayer for Discernment during Meetings**

L. Spirit of God,

A. You are the source of all movement and renewal. You transform us into a new creation when we let ourselves be guided by you. Spirit, come into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, and by the flame of your wisdom open the horizons of our minds and hearts. During this time of discernment, keep us awake and alert to the present and alive to the possibilities of the future. Free us from narrow enthusiasm for our own views and give us a listening heart. Gift us with a taste for what is right and true to enable us to make the right choice in the light of Gospel values. Loosen our tongues to let you speak through us. May we allow ourselves to sense continually your joy-bringing presence and power in our lives especially in this time of discernment. Amen.

### **303.3 Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

L. Angel of God,

A. My guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, be always at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen

### **303.4 Birthday Prayer - I**

L. Thank you, God, for the gift of life, for love made flesh to refresh the earth, for life and strength and length of days, we give you thanks and praise.

A. Lord, I put my hope in you; I have trusted in you since I was young. I have relied on you all my life; you have protected me since the day I was born. I will always praise you. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. While I have my being, I will praise my God, who fills my life with good things and blesses me with love and mercy.

#### *Prayer by the one who celebrates the birthday*

Lord, you indeed possessed me  
From the beginning of my days.  
Before you formed me in the womb,  
You knew me, cherished me,  
chose me to be your very own.

Thank you for my parents, relatives, friends,  
teachers, and elders, who have shaped me to be  
what I am today with your help.  
For the goodness and love that surrounds me  
As long as I shall live,  
I give you thanks and praise you,  
Loving Father, tender Mother,  
Through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

### **303.5 Birthday Prayer - II**

- L. In the beginning was the Word,
- A. And the Word was with God. When God established the heavens, when God drew a circle on the face of the deep, when God marked out the foundation of the earth, the Word was with God and the Word was God.
- L. And God spoke again: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; I loved you with an everlasting love.
- A. God called us by our names. God spoke. When all was in gentle silence the Word leaped from heaven into the midst of the land:
  - A lamp, a light,
  - A good news,
  - Healing the broken-hearted,
  - Breathing new life, not dry bones,
  - The Word became flesh. Amen.

### **303.6 A Feast Day Prayer**

- L. Holy Triune God, loving Father, Abba; Jesus, my Master, Brother and Friend; Holy Spirit, my Companion,
- A. Thank you for the gift of life, the gift of faith and the gift of my religious missionary vocation. You have loved me; you continue to love me and nothing can ever separate me from your love, revealed through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son.

*The one who celebrates the feast day continues:*

O God, I consecrate myself to you again today, the feast of my patron/patroness, St. *N.*, with the gift and the power of the Holy Spirit, to truly become a beloved son in your Son, Jesus Christ, a true and faithful disciple and an authentic witness of Jesus, as my patron Saint did in his/her life. Holy Triune God, dwelling in me, may I always dwell in you and share in your divine thirst, expressed through the mystery of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Enable me to be always faithful and generous in my religious missionary vocation. Grant me the gift of perseverance and the grace to cooperate fully with you. May I always abide by your will. Fulfill your dreams and plans in me, for me and through me for the good of others. Bless me, that I may live through love in your presence, all the days of my life. Immaculate Mother of Jesus, be my help. Amen.

### **303.7 Prayer for Success in Study**

*(by St. Thomas Aquinas)*

L. O Mary,

A. Mother of fair love, of fear of God, of knowledge, and of holy hope, by whose loving care and intercession many, otherwise poor in intellect, have wonderfully advanced in knowledge and holiness, I choose you as the guide and patroness of my studies. I humbly implore, through the deep tenderness of your motherly love, and especially through the eternal Wisdom who deigned to take from you our flesh and who gifted you beyond all the saints with heavenly light, obtain for me the grace of the Holy Spirit that I may be able to grasp with strong intellect, retain in memory, proclaim

by word and deed, and teach others all things which bring honor to your Son, which for me and for them are salutary for eternal life. Amen.

### **303.8 Prayer for Peace - I** *(by St. Francis)*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal Life.  
Amen.

### **303.9 Prayer for Peace - II**

- L. Holy Spirit, Spirit of love and peace,
- A. You have shepherded so many different races and countries into the unity of the faith. Grant, we pray, the abundance of your grace to the leaders of nations and their advisors. Shape their hearts by the law of love which Christ, the Lord, taught his disciples. Grant that in all their plans, they may clearly see how to promote your glory, what will

be helpful to their subjects and what will further harmony among nations. O Lord, prevent wars and unrest – unite all people with the ties of true love so that they may serve you in peace. Amen.

### **303.10 Prayer for Justice and Peace**

L. To you, Creator of nature and humanity, of truth and beauty, I pray:

A. Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and who will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

L. Hear my voice when I beg you to instill into the hearts of all the vision of peace, the strength of justice and the joy of fellowship.

A. Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice, and grant to the world your everlasting peace. Amen

*(Pope John Paul II at Hiroshima, Japan, 1981)*

### **303.11 Prayer for Christian Unity**

L. Lord Jesus Christ,

- A. Before your Passion you prayed to your heavenly Father that all who believe in you might be one as you are one with the Father. Look with favor on the prayer that, following your divine example, we offer for the restoration of unity among all who confess your holy name. Grant, O Lord, that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and praise your glorious name, as well as the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

*(This prayer from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom was recommended by St. Arnold Janssen to Catholics and Protestants as a common prayer for unity.)*

### **303.12 Prayer for Generosity**

*(by St. Ignatius of Loyola)*

L. Dearest Lord,

- A. Teach me to be generous, teach me to serve You as You deserve to be served, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward save that of knowing I am doing your will. Amen.

### **303.13 Prayer of Surrender**

*(by St. Ignatius of Loyola)*

L. Take, O Lord,

- A. And receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. Take all that I

have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me. Amen.

### **303.14 Prayer for Serenity** *(by Reinhold Niebuhr)*

L. God grant me the serenity,

A. To accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as he did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that he will make all things right  
if I surrender to his will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with him  
forever in the next. Amen.

### **303.15 Prayer for the Poor**

*(by Mother Theresa of Calcutta)*

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our people throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding, love. Give them peace and joy. Amen.

### **303.16 Prayer to St. Arnold in Time of Sickness**

*Once, on a cold winter morning, Arnold Janssen was called to a very sick, elderly woman. After giving her the Body of Christ, he prayed for her with such heartfelt love that the woman was filled with a deep peace, and even her face reflected that peace.*

St. Arnold, you are looking at me with such kind eyes. So I trust that you will help me in this suffering of mine: St. Arnold, I am just scared; so please, stay near me! Pray for me to the Father! May my sickness not get worse! May the pain not become greater than I can take. May the healing power of Jesus Christ touch me! May his Spirit strengthen me! May his peace enter into my heart!

St Arnold, pray for me!

“May the Sacred Heart of Jesus live in my heart and in the hearts of all people! Amen.”

### **303.17 Prayer for Healing**

L. Lord, you invite all who are burdened to come to you.

A. Allow your healing hand to heal me.

Touch my soul with your compassion for others.

Touch my heart with your courage and infinite love for all.

Touch my mind with your wisdom,

That my mouth may proclaim your praise.

Teach me to reach out to you in my need, and help me to lead others to you by my example.

Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in body and spirit,

That I may serve you with all my strength.  
Touch gently this life of mine which you have  
created, now and forever. Amen.

### **303.18 Prayer for Forgiveness**

*(Adapted from a prayer by Linda Schubert)*

Loving Father, I choose to forgive everyone in my life, including myself, because you have forgiven me. Thank you, Lord, for this grace.

I forgive myself for all my sins, faults and failings. I forgive myself for not being perfect, I accept myself as I am at this moment and make a decision to stop picking on myself and being my own worst enemy.

I release the things held against myself, free myself from bondage and make peace with myself today, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I forgive my mother for any negativity and lack of love she may have extended to me throughout my life, knowingly or unknowingly. For any abuse of any sort I do forgive her today. For any way that she did not provide a deep, full, satisfying mother's love I do forgive her today.

I forgive my father for any negativity and lack of love he may have extended to me throughout my life, knowingly or unknowingly. For any and all abuses, unkind acts, hurts, and deprivations I do forgive him today. For any way that I did not receive a full, satisfying father's blessing I forgive him today and make peace with him today.

I forgive my sisters and brothers for any negativity and lack of love.

I forgive my blood relatives and neighbors for any abuse.

I forgive my ancestors for any negative actions that affect my life today and make it harder for me today to live in freedom of a child of God. I make peace with them today.

I forgive my friends for any actions of negativity and lack of love. For any time they abused our relationship or led me astray, I do forgive them. I forgive all my school teachers for any negative, unjust and abusive actions.

I forgive all my formators for any negativity with lack of care and concern and pray a blessing on them today.

I forgive all my superiors of the present and the past for all their lack of love and understanding.

I forgive all the communities and members of my religious family who have hurt me by their words and actions.

I forgive all the people whom I served in my ministry in different places, but who did not appreciate what I did for them and turned against me.

I forgive my colleagues who did not understand me and failed to support me in critical moments of my life.

I forgive my doctors, nurses, lawyers and other professionals.

I forgive clergy and all representatives of the Church.

I forgive every member of society who has hurt me in any way; those who have hurt me by criminal action or who have harmed my family or community.

I forgive all in public life, who have passed laws opposing Christian values.

I forgive all the unfair, anonymous sources of pain and annoyance in my life.

Heavenly Father, I now ask for the grace to forgive *the one person in life, who has hurt me the most.*

The one who is hardest to forgive, I now choose to forgive, though I still feel angry and hurt. Here and now, I decide to drop my anger for my own good. I also make peace with the one family member, the one friend, the one religious society member and the one authority figure, who has hurt me the most.

Jesus, you forgave all, even those who crucified you. You said, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." Who am I to withhold forgiveness, Lord, when you have given me such a marvelous example to follow? I make your words mine and say: "Father, forgive me, I did not know, what I was doing in some dangerous moments of my life."

Lord, is there anyone else I need to forgive? I do not remember any one else now.

Thank you, loving Father, for setting me free.

I now pray a blessing on those who have hurt me.

Lord, do something special for each of them today, as I send vibrations of peace and reconciliation to them.

Thank you, Lord. Thank you.

### **303.19 Prayer of Solidarity with the Poor**

L. Jesus of Nazareth,

A. You lived out a model of prophetic dialogue with the poor. Pour down on our communities your Spirit of solidarity and liberation, so that we might see and transform all that keeps us distant from the poor, caused by the way we think and act, in the ways that we connect with them, and through our style of life. Grant us a heart that is free and generous, so that we might be, in both society and the Church, prophetic communities open to the embracing love of God for all. Through the intercession of Sts. Arnold and Joseph may we continue building bridges of solidarity with the poor which make possible a different world where we can share together with the whole human race the Bread and the Word at the common table of life. Amen.

### **303.20 Prayer of Respect and Openness**

L. Ever-living, ever-loving God,

A. Source of Light, Womb of Wisdom,  
touch our eyes and whisper in our hearts,  
that we may see more clearly  
and listen more deeply to your truth  
even in the most unexpected of places  
and in the most surprising of people.  
Take away our short-sightedness  
and lead us to greater insight.  
Give us the courage  
to witness to the truth in love  
and the humility to learn from others.

May ever more people across religious and cultural divides embrace each other with respect, dignity and understanding.  
May the darkness of prejudice vanish before the Light of your Grace.  
This we ask in the name of the Word made flesh, your Son and our Brother, in whose creative Spirit we live and move and have our being. Amen.

### **303.21 Prayer for Water**

- L. O God, pour out on us the water of life that we may quench our thirst and draw our strength from you.
- A. We lift to you those who walk hours to distant streams, who kneel beside rivers and ponds to collect all that they will use to drink, cook and wash.
- L. We lift to you those for whom clean water is not a basic right but a luxury, not a common good but an expensive commodity, out of reach for those who cannot pay.
- A. We cry out, O God, against conflict and violence that leaves crops to wither and drives families from their homes to lands where fresh, clean water is only a dream. Today, may we, for whom water flows at the touch of a tap, ponder what it means to thirst. In this season of rebirth, may we heed your call to hunger and thirst for righteousness - and may your justice and righteousness roll down as an ever flowing stream. Amen

### 303.22 The Canticle of Creation (*St. Francis*)

- L. Praise and glory, honor and blessing  
be yours, O Lord,  
Most High, most Powerful God.  
Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation and  
especially for our Brother Sun, who brings us  
the day and the light; he is strong and shines  
magnificently. When we look at him,  
O Lord, we think of you.
- A. Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars which you have set shining and  
lovely in the heavens.  
Be praised, my Lord,  
for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather by which you uphold  
life in all your creatures.
- L. Be praised, my Lord, for precious Sister Water,  
So useful to us, humble and pure.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire, through  
whom you give us light in darkness: he is bright  
and lively and strong.
- A. Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth fruits  
and vegetables of many kinds  
and flowers of many colors.
- L. Be praised, my Lord,  
for those who forgive for love of you;  
and for those who bear sickness and weakness  
in peace and patience - you will grant them a  
crown.

- A. Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death, whom we must all face.  
I praise and bless you, Lord,  
I give thanks to you,  
and I will serve you in all humility. Amen.

### **303.23 A Prayer to Share Vision and Mission**

- L. We come before you Lord  
accompanied by Sts. Arnold and Joseph  
sharing the vision entrusted to us.
- A. We know what we are about, planting seeds that  
one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted  
in the hearts of the people of our communities  
We know we cannot do everything  
and we feel liberated in accepting that fact.  
We hear your call, Lord, to do something and to  
do it as well as we can.  
We are workers, not master builders,  
ministers and not messiahs.  
We are prophets for a future not our own,  
not seeing the end results.  
We ask, with Sts. Arnold and Joseph,  
that we too might have hearts  
that know no bounds.  
We lift our hearts to you in prayer with Jesus  
in solidarity with all those in need at this time.  
Amen.

*(inspired by Archbishop Oscar Romero)*

### **303.24 Prayers for the Dying**

*The Sacrament of Anointing of the sick and Communion are administered at the appropriate time. When the end approaches, the following prayers are said. The dying confrere should be encouraged, if possible, to recite the holy name of Jesus over and over, so that when death comes, his name will be on his lips.*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. *(repeat)*

Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit.

Holy Mary, pray for me.

O Mary, mother of grace, mother of mercy, protect me from the enemy, and receive me at the hour of my death.

St. Joseph, pray for me. With your spouse, the Virgin Mary, open to me the heart of divine mercy!

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give you the whole of myself.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last moments.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, in your blessed company may I sleep and rest in peace.

*(Jn 17:1-26 may be read)*

*At the final moment of death, those present immediately say the following:*

L. Come to his aid, O saints of God;

A. Come forth to meet him, angels of the Lord, receiving him, presenting him to the Most High.

L. May Christ, who has called him, now receive him, and may the angels bring him to Abraham's embrace.

A. May the angels receive him and present him to the Most High.

L. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on him.

A. May the angels present him to the Most High.

L. Lord, have mercy.

A. Christ, have mercy.

L. Lord, have mercy. Our Father...

Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord.

A. And let perpetual light shine on him.

L. From the gates of hell,

A. Save him, O Lord.

L. May he rest in peace.

A. Amen.

L. Lord, hear our prayer,

A. And let our cry come to you.

L. The Lord be with you,

A. And also with you.

L. Let us pray. O Lord, we commend to you your missionary servant, *N.*, that when he is dead to this world he may live with you in the resurrection. By the grace of your merciful love wash away the sins, that in human frailty, he has committed in the conduct of his life. Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

*(holy water may be sprinkled)*

### 303.25 Prayers for the Dead

*When the death of a confrere is announced, the members of the community gather in the chapel immediately after the announcement of his death to recite the following prayers. If death occurs in the late night, the announcement is made and the prayers are said at Morning Prayers.*

L. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

A. Who made heaven and earth.

L. Our Father...

A. Give us today...

L. Merciful Lord, you know that we are struck by grief and sorrow, at the departure of our dear *N.*, for his eternal reward. Your Son has said: "Come to me all you who are heavy laden. I will give you rest." Relying on this promise we ask you to hear our cry for help. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Antiphon:* May the holy name of the one who raises the dead receive praise and adoration.

*Psalm 130:* Out of the depths I cry to you O, Lord...

Glory be...

*Antiphon:* May the holy name of the one...

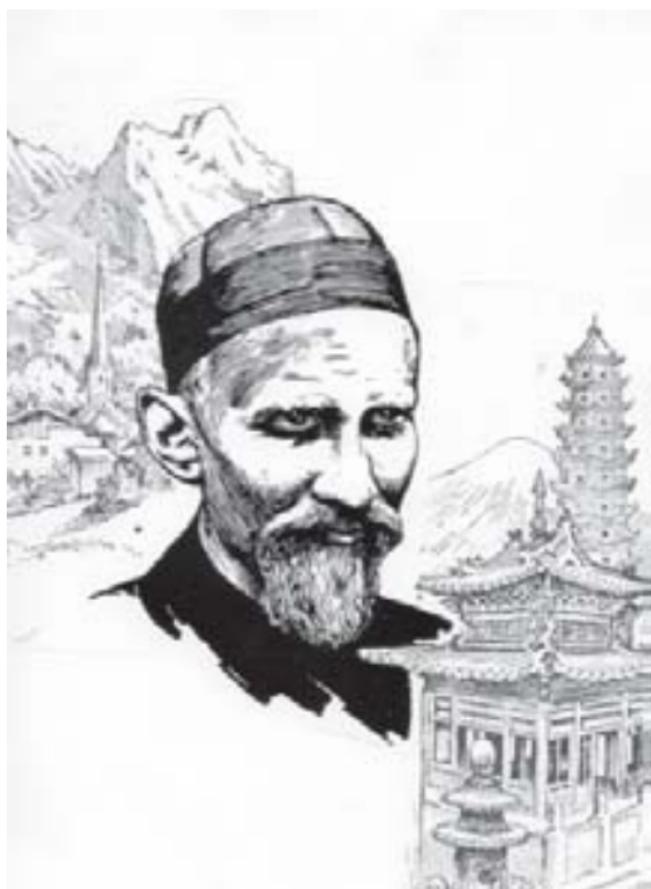
L. Lord, we pray that we may constantly receive your loving mercy and forgiveness of all our sins and failings. May the grace and blessing of the holy Triune God come to the aid of our dear *N.* We ask this in the name of the One who is our resurrection and life. Amen.

- L. Accept him, O Lord, accept him into your loving embrace.
- A. Let those days of sin, strife and misery be forgotten.
- L. Accept him, my Lord.
- A. We have gone after many worldly pursuits; we are not worthy to be counted among your children.
- L. Accept him, O Lord.
- A. Lord, as you have accepted the offerings of Noah, Abraham and Isaac,
- L. Accept him, O Lord.
- A. Lord, as your Son's apostles offered their lives as living sacrifice.
- L. Accept him, O Lord, into your fold.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Lord, you gave new life to Lazarus. On the Day of Judgment may your servant and our brother be able to hear the voice of your calling and may he be given a place on your right hand side. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- L. Lord, bless all those who have taken part in this service. May your grace always rest on your chosen ones. May the blessing of Almighty God be with you all forever and ever.
- A. Amen.
- L. Come to his aid, O saints of God.

*(Psalm 51: Have mercy on me... may be recited in two groups)*

- L. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.  
A. And let perpetual light shine on him.  
L. May he rest in peace.  
A. Amen.  
L. Let us pray for our departed confrere. Our Father...  
Hail Mary... Glory be...  
L. May the faithful departed through the mercy of  
God rest in peace.  
A. Amen.

*(See pn. 401.16 for Bible service for a deceased member)*



St. Joseph Freinademetz

# Part Four

## Celebrations of the Word and Popular Devotions

### 401. Bible Services

#### 401.1 Enthronement of Sacred Scripture

*A hymn on the Word of God is sung. The C/L carries the Scripture to the front of the room and after showing it to the people, places the open book on the lectern and shows reverence to the Bible with incense/flowers. The reader reads a pertinent passage such as Hb 4:12-13; Jn 1:1-3; 2 Tim 3:15-17.*

- L. Almighty eternal God and Father, in the past you spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. But last of all you have spoken to us through your Son.
- A. Grant us to listen to your voice, for it is you who are speaking to us today, through these divine words of the Book of Life.
- L. Do not allow us to harden our hearts as Israel did, who put you to the test.
- A. Open our hearts, that the seeds of your Word may fall on well-prepared ground.
- L. You have called us together to live in your presence and listen to your Spirit these blessed days.
- A. Enlighten us by your Spirit; show us when and where we have gone wrong; teach us by the example of your Divine Son.

- L. Move our hearts by the powerful help of your Spirit.
- A. Lead us to authentic prayer, sincere penance, and a more sincere commitment to the ideals set before us.
- L. Enkindle in us anew the love that filled the Heart of Jesus,
- A. That we may live by him, with him and in him for your glory and for the good of your family on earth.
- L. Through the intercession of Mary, the Virgin Mother of Jesus and our mother,
- A. We place our needs before you. May your Spirit form in us anew the image of your Son. This we ask through the same Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

## **401.2 Bible Service in Honor of the Divine Word**

*Opening Hymn (on the Word of God)*

*Greeting*

- L. Blessings be yours from the Divine Word who was with the Father in the beginning, and who took flesh from the Virgin Mother to be our Brother and our Savior.
- A. Divine incarnate Word, give us life by your Spirit.

*Introduction*

- L. Our Founder, St. Arnold, in giving the name 'Divine Word' to his Society, wanted it understood

in a threefold manner. First, as the personal Word of the Father, that is the divine Son in person. Then the Word of the Son, that is, the Good News of his Gospel. Thirdly, the Word of the Holy Spirit, that is, the holy Scripture in its entirety in as much as the sacred writers, under the special impulse of the Holy Spirit wrote the Word of God. Let us celebrate the Divine Word under this threefold aspect.

- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father, we are filled with new light by the coming of your Word among us; may we take to heart his Gospel message, and be nourished daily by the twofold table of the Eucharist and of the Scriptures. This we ask in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

*The Word as Wisdom in Israel. Reading of the  
Word of God: Prov 8:22-36 (pause)*

*Scriptural Responses*

- L. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; by the breath of his mouth is all their host (*Ps 33:6*).
- A. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all who dwell in the world revere him. For he spoke and it was made; he commanded and it stood forth (*Ps 33:8-9*).
- L. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth,
- A. So shall my Word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do

my will, achieving the end for which I sent it (*Is 55:10-11*).

- L. When peaceful silence lay over all, and night had run half of her swift course,
- A. Your all-powerful Word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven from the royal throne (*Wis 18:14 ff*).
- L. So now, O children, listen to me; instruction and wisdom do not reject! Happy those who obey me, and happy those who keep my ways.
- A. Those who find me find life, and win favor from the Lord (*Prov 8:32-35*).

*(Hymn)*

- L. Let us stand to listen to the favorite Gospel passage of St. Arnold.

*Gospel: Jn 1:1-14 (homily or pause)*

### ***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

#### ***Scriptural Responses***

- L. This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and touched: we speak of the Word of Life.
- A. That Life became visible; we have seen and bear witness to it. We proclaim to you the eternal Life that was present to the Father, and became visible to us (*1Jn 1:1f*).
- L. Jesus appeared in Galilee announcing the good news of God: This is the time of fulfillment. The

reign of God is at hand. Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel (*Mk 1:14f*).

- A. This is the good news of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all (*Acts 10:36*).
- L. He told them: Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation (*Mk 16:15*).
- A. They went forth and preached everywhere. The Lord continued to work with them throughout, and confirmed the message through the signs which accompanied them (*Mk 16:20*).
- L. Then the Twelve assembled the community of the disciples and said: It is not right for us to neglect the Word of God in order to wait on tables. We shall appoint spiritual and prudent men for this task. This will permit us to concentrate on prayer and the ministry of the word (*Acts 6:2-4*).
- A. We thank God constantly that in receiving his message from us, you took it, not as human word, but as it truly is, the Word of God at work within you who believe (*1 Thes 2:13*).
- L. In the sacred scriptures, the Father who is in heaven meets his children with great love and speaks with them.
- A. The force and power in the Word of God is so great, that it remains the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons and daughters, the food of the soul, the pure and perennial source of spiritual life (*Vat. II, Div. Rev. 21*).
- L. Your Word is a lamp for my steps,
- A. And a light for my path (*Pss 119:105*).

- L. Let us thank the Father for making us his children in the Divine Word, and for giving us the rich heritage of St. Arnold Janssen, our Father, Leader and Founder.

Our Father...

*(Hymn)*

- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father of peace and love, we rejoice in your Divine Word, Jesus Christ your Son, who reconciles us to you. Through the intercession of St. Arnold, free all nations from the darkness of sin. Lead them on the road of salvation through the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Benediction*

## **401.3 Bible Service for Advent**

### *Advent Hymn*

### *Greeting*

C/L. Blessings from the Father of mercies who sent his Son to be our Savior. May the hopes and longings cherished by the prophets and culminating in the heart of Mary be with you all.

A. And also with you.

### *Introduction*

L. Advent is the time to open wide our hearts to welcome the divine Incarnate Word in the humility and simplicity of his first Coming, so that we be

better prepared for his coming in glory to judge the living and the dead.

L. Let us pray.

A. Lord, open our hearts to your grace. Through the angel's message to Mary we have learned to believe in the incarnation of Christ your Son. Lead us by his passion and cross to the glory of his resurrection. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

***First Reading: Is 52:7-10 or Baruch 4:36 to 5:5***

***“The Twofold Coming of Christ”***

*(St. Cyril of Jerusalem: Catechesis)*

L. “We preach not one coming only of Christ, but a second also, far more glorious than the first. The first revealed the meaning of his patient endurance; the second brings with it the crown of the divine kingdom... In his first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. In his second coming he is clothed with light as a garment. In his first coming he bore the cross, despising its shame; he will come a second time in glory accompanied by the hosts of angels. He first came in the order of divine providence to teach everyone by gentle persuasion; but when he comes again they will be subjected to his kingship, whether they wish it or not. Our Lord Jesus Christ will, then, come from heaven. He will come in glory at the end of this world on the last day. Then there will be an end to this world, and this created world will be made anew.”

***Palm 25: Turning in confidence to the Savior***

- L. To you I lift up my soul, O Lord, my God. In you I trust; let me not be put to shame, let not my enemies exult over me.
- A. No one who waits for you shall be put to shame; those shall be put to shame who heedlessly break faith.
- L. Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior.
- A. Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and your kindness are from of old. The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not; in your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Grant, almighty Father, that when Christ comes again, we may go out to meet him, bearing the harvest of good works achieved by your grace. We pray that he will receive us into the company of the saints, and call us into the kingdom of heaven. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Reading of the Holy Gospel: Mt 1:18-24a or Jn  
1:1-14 (pause or homily)***

***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

## *Intercessions*

L. Father, you have given us the grace of looking forward to the Coming of your Son.

Send us your loving kindness.

A. Bring us to life, Lord. May we be the servants found watching when the Master returns.

L. Father, we praise you for the presence of the Spirit in our lives, making men and women bearers of your message and your purpose.

A. Bless us as we work, give us faith until the end, when your Son will come in glory.

L. Father, as today we hear the scriptures, heralding the coming of your Son, may our minds and hearts be touched by your Word.

A. United in one body, may we pursue the things that make for peace, and build up our life together until Christ comes.

L. May we never despise anyone, since we are all your children. Help us rather to fight against their being oppressed or degraded.

A. Heal the broken bonds of human life; reconcile us in the sharing of our hope in Christ.

L. May our world be flooded with the grace of Christ's Coming; let us experience the fullness of his joy and peace.

A. Throw down the walls of hatred between nations; clear the way for those who work for peace, and bring all people under the gentle sway of your Son.

L. Our Father...

L. Let us pray.

A. Almighty and merciful God, let neither our daily work nor the cares of this life prevent us from hastening to meet your Son. Enlighten us with your wisdom, and lead us into his company. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Benediction, Concluding hymn*

#### **401.4 Bible Service in Honor of the Infant**

##### **Jesus\***

*A Christmas hymn; Enthronement of the Bible; Reading  
from John 1:1-14*

*(Homily/pause)*

L. Father, we worship and adore you for sending your only begotten Son to be our brother.

A. Father, we worship and adore you.

L. Jesus, you emptied yourself in utter humility and came to live among us as a man.

A. Jesus, we worship and adore you.

L. Holy Spirit, you formed the humanity of Jesus in Mother Mary to make us heirs of the Kingdom of God.

A. Holy Spirit, we worship and adore you.

L. Jesus, you were born in poverty to enrich us and you desire to be born anew in the hearts of all.

A. Jesus, we thank and praise you.

- L. Jesus, in your boundless love, you promised to live with all those who work for the spread of the Gospel till the end of the ages.
- A. Jesus, we thank and praise you.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*from Evening Prayer for Christmas*).

## **401.5 Bible Service for the Christmas Season**

### *Opening Hymn*

### *Prayer*

C/L. Almighty God, your incarnate Word fills us with the new light he brought to us. Let the light of faith in our hearts shine through all that we do and say. This we ask through the same divine Incarnate Word, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (*Mass on Christmas*)

***Word of God from the prophet Zephaniah 3:14-18  
or Is 66:7-13 (pause)***

### *From a Homily of St. Leo the Great:*

L. "The Christmas season renews for us the holy infancy of Jesus born of the Virgin Mary. And as

we adore the birth of our Savior we find that we are celebrating our own beginnings. For the birth of Christ is the origin of the people of Christ, and the birthday of the head is the birthday of the body... Peace it is that gives birth to the sons of God. Peace is the nurse of love, the mother of unity, the repose of the blessed, and our eternal home. The real work and special blessing of peace is to join to God those whom it sets apart from the world. Let those then who are born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God, offer to the Father the oneness of heart of peace-loving children. The birthday of the Lord is the birthday of peace. As the Apostle says, 'He is our peace, who made us both, one.'"

### *Intercessory Prayers*

- L. God our Father, we eagerly greet the birth of Jesus, our Brother and Savior. He is the Daystar from on high, the Light bearer who brings the dawn to us, who wait patiently for his coming.
- A. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
- L. Father, bless during this holy season, the Church all over the world. May she light afresh in the hearts of all, the lamps of hope and peace.
- A. The birth of your Son bound heaven to earth in harmony and peace. Establish that same peace among nations and people of today.
- L. With Mary and Joseph we rejoice in the birth of Jesus. May we welcome him as they did.

- A. And may our prayers and our daily oblations win for all those who do not as yet know him, the grace of faith and rebirth as children of God.

Our Father...

### *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

#### *Canticle on the Incarnation, Death and Glorification of Jesus (Phil 2:5-11)*

- L. Your attitude must be that of Christ: Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.
- A. He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
- L. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
- A. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.
- L. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, on earth and under the earth.
- A. And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### *Psalms 2: The Universal Reign of Christ*

- L. Why do the nations rage and the peoples utter folly? The kings of the earth rise up, and the princes conspire together against the Lord and against his anointed: "Let us break their fetters and cast their bonds from us!"

- A. He who is enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord derides them. Then in his anger he speaks to them; he terrifies them with his wrath: "I myself have set up my king on Zion, my holy mountain."
- L. I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: The Lord said to me, "You are my son; this day I have begotten you. Ask of me and I will give you the nations for an inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession. You shall rule them with an iron rod; you shall scatter them like an earthen dish."
- A. And now, O Kings, give heed; take warning, rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice before him; with trembling pay homage to him, lest he be angry and you perish from the way, when his anger blazes suddenly. Happy are all who take refuge in him!
- L. Let us pray.
- A. All powerful, ever living God, we thank you for the human birth of your Son, which is the source and perfection of our Christian life and worship. Number us among his people, for the salvation of all is found in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (*Seventh day of Christmas Octave*)

### ***Benediction***

(*For additional optional readings: Lk 2:15-20; 2:25-32; Mt 2:1-4, 9-11*)

## 401.6 Bible Service at the Close of the Year

### *Hymn*

### *Greeting*

C/L. Blessings from the God of love who has filled us with countless benefits during the entire year and brought us through his Spirit to closer union with himself in his divine Son. May his peace be always with you.

A. And also with you.

L. Let us pray.

A. God and Father of all gifts, we praise you, the source of all we have and are. Teach us to acknowledge always the many good things your infinite love has given us. Help us to love you with all our heart and all our strength. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen. (*Votive Mass of thanksgiving*)

***First Reading: 1 Co 1:3-9 or 1 Chro 16:8-27 (pause)***

***Responsorial psalm: (118:1-9,13-18,28-29)***

R/ *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.*

L. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let those who fear the Lord say, his mercy endures forever. R/

L. In my straits I called upon the Lord, the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is with me, I fear not; what can anyone do against me? R/

- L. The Lord is with me to help me, and I shall look down upon my foes. It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in people. R/
- L. I was hard pressed and was falling, but the Lord helped me. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior. R/
- L. I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has indeed chastised me, yet he has not delivered me to death. My God, I give thanks to you: O my God, I extol you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever. R/

***Second Reading: Lk 17:11-19.***

*(Homily/Pause )*

*(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)*

***Prayers of thanksgiving***

- L. Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus Christ rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said: I offer you praise, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because what you have hidden from the learned and clever you have revealed to your children. Yes, Father, you have graciously willed it so. As little ones, we join your Son and say:
  - A. We thank you, Lord.
  - L. Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Father. By your own will, O Father, you brought us into being and guided us in your love and mercy all the days of our life but especially in this past year.
  - A. We thank you, O Lord.

- L. You sent your only Son to become our brother and redeemed us through his wonderful life, sufferings and death and his glorious resurrection. How great is your love manifested in him!
- A. We thank you, O Lord.
- L. You brought us to your holy Catholic Church, and through the sacraments filled us with the love and gifts of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.
- A. We thank you, O Lord.
- L. You gave to each one of us special charisms for the good of the community. You protected us from harm of body and soul, and when you sent us sufferings and trials, it was always for our growth.
- A. We thank you, O Lord.
- L. You called us to the religious life, and entrusted your message of salvation to us so that we be witnesses to your Son by our words and deeds.
- A. We thank you, O Lord.
- L. You brought us to live together in this community to be of one heart and one mind, and thus reflect the community of love in the bosom of the Blessed Trinity.
- A. We thank you, O Lord.
- L. You have showered upon us so many favors this past year, many of which we did not appreciate fully. For our negligence and failing we ask your loving compassion and offer our reparation through the hearts of Jesus your Son, and Mary our Mother. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- A. As it was...

L. Let us pray the words our Savior taught us to pray.

A. Our Father...

L. Let us pray. Your mercy, O God, is boundless, and inexhaustible are the riches of your love. We thank you therefore for all the gifts with which that love has enriched us, and we unceasingly beg of you to hear our petitions, overlook our failings and shortcomings, and lead us along the path that Jesus has laid out for us, till we come to you in the joy and bliss of the eternal mansions. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

*(Benediction)*

## **401.7 Bible Service for the Season of Lent**

### *Entrance Hymn*

### *Greeting*

C/L. Grace and peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ, who loves us and washed us from our sins in his blood (*Rev 1:5*). May his love remain always with you.

A. And also with you.

### *Introduction*

C/L. Lent is to prepare us for celebrating the paschal mystery of Christ, with a period of closer attention to the word of God and more ardent prayer. The main obstacle to this fuller participation in the

paschal mystery is sin. When a Christian sins, he fails not only as an individual but also as a member of God's People. He fails to do his part in the common task of that people. Sin is not merely a personal failure, but implies also an offence against the community. Called to renewed conversion, we want to be aware of our responsibility toward each other.

L. Let us pray.

A. O God, through deep sorrow and sincere penance for our sins, may we become united with Christ crucified and finally share, together with all God's people, also in Christ's resurrection and glory, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

L. Let us pray silently. (*pause*)

L. Let us pray together.

A. "All powerful and merciful Father, may your Spirit inflame us anew, and give us the strength to carry in our mortal bodies, the death of Jesus so that his life may also be seen in us (*2 Co 4:10*). We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Reading: Is 53:1-7,10-12***

*(Alternate readings: Zech 12:8-10; 1 Pet 2:20-25)*

*(pause)*

***Short Response***

L. Christ died for our sins, in order to lead us to God.

A. Christ died for our sins, in order to lead us to God.

- L. He was put to death physically, but made alive spiritually,  
A. In order to lead us to God. (*1 Pet 3:18*).  
L. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
A. Christ died for our sins in order to lead us to God.  
*(homily/pause)*

### *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,*

#### *Hymn*

#### *Prayer of Reproaches*

- L. My people, what wrong have I done to you? When have I grieved you? Answer me! I led you out of the land of Egypt and oppression,  
A. And we have prepared a cross for you, our Savior.  
L. For your sake I scourged your enemies and their first born,  
A. And we have handed you over to your enemies to be scourged.  
L. I opened up the sea as a path before you,  
A. And we have opened your side with a spear.  
L. I went before you in a pillar of bright cloud,  
A. And we have led you to the judgment hall of Pilate.  
L. I nourished you with manna in the desert.  
A. And we have rained blows and lashes upon you.

- L. I gave you life-restoring water from the rock to drink,
- A. And we have quenched your thirst with gall and vinegar,
- L. I gave you a royal scepter,
- A. And we placed a crown of thorns on your head.
- L. I raised you up above all others by my mighty power,
- A. And we have hung you high on the cross.
- L. My people, what wrong have I done to you? When have I ever grieved you? Answer me!
- A. How shall we make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for us? The cup of salvation we will take up and we will call upon the name of the Lord. Our vows to the Lord we will pay in the presence of all his people (*Ps 116:12-14*).
- C/L. Lord, by shedding his blood for us, your Son Jesus Christ established the paschal mystery. In your goodness, make us holy and watch over us always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- A. Amen.
- L. As children of our heavenly Father, who desires to forgive the sins of his children when they come to him with a contrite heart, let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father...
- L. Let us pray.
- A. God of love, bring us back to you. Send your Spirit to make us strong in faith and active in good works. Help us to be ready to celebrate the great

paschal mystery of your Son. Make our love grow each day as we approach the feast of our salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Benediction with prayers and hymn*

**401.8 Bible Service in Honor of the Sorrowful  
Mother** (*Good Friday evening*)

*Opening Hymn to the Sorrowful Mother*

*Introduction*

- L. It is our beautiful and long-standing custom on Good Friday evening to spend some time in loving compassion with the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, after the dramatic commemoration of the Passion and Death of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Mary is the model and embodiment of the entire believing community. Let us enter into her sentiments of deepest sorrow, and with hearts full of sorrow, beg her to obtain from her Son, the grace we need to imitate him.
- L. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as your Son was raised on the Cross, his Mother Mary stood by him to the last, sharing his sufferings. Before he breathed his last, he publicly proclaimed her as our Mother, the Mother of all who are reborn in the Spirit, and lead the Christ-life.
- A. By honoring the compassionate love of the Virgin Mother, may we take up in our lives the sufferings of Christ, for the good of the whole Church; and may your Church, whose model Mary is, united

with Christ in his sufferings and death, come to share in his rising to new life. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L. *The first reading is taken from the Lamentations ascribed to the Prophet Jeremiah (Lam 1:2,6,12).*

*Commentary:* These poetical verses were written to commemorate the fall and destruction of Jerusalem, the sacred city of the People of God, when it was destroyed by the Babylonians in the year 587 B.C. The liturgy sees in them also a picture of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, at the moment of her greatest distress when her beloved Son died on the Cross. Mary is the image of the Church, so we who are the Church enter into her spirit of sorrow.

*Reader: The Word of God from the Book of Lamentation:*

“All night long she cries; tears run down her cheeks. Of all her former friends, not one is left to comfort her. Her allies have betrayed her, and all are now against her.” *(Pause)*

“The splendor of Jerusalem is a thing of the past. Her leaders are like deer that are weak from hunger, whose strength is almost gone, as they flee from the hunters.” *(Pause)*

“Look at me,’ she cries to everyone, who passes by. ‘No one has ever had pain like mine, pain that the Lord brought on me, in the time of his anger.”

*(pause, hymn)*

***Gospel Reading:*** *(Jn 12:37-50 or 12:23-37)*

*(homily/pause)*

## *Intercessory Prayers*

- L. Heavenly Father, the sufferings and death of your Son won for us the greatest of all gifts, the Holy Spirit, who is the first-fruit of his Passion. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, grant us always to benefit by the sufferings of Christ and his Mother, and grant us also a new outpouring of your Spirit. Your response: R/ *Lord, hear our prayer.*
  
- L. Lord Jesus, the faith of your Virgin Mother never wavered. Grant us unwavering faith in the midst of all misfortune and tribulation, we pray to you. R/
  
- L. Lord Jesus, Mary said once and for all: Behold I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me just as he wishes. This attitude remained with her in every trial, especially at the crucial hour of the death of her Son. Grant us always to submit lovingly to your will as Mary did, we pray to you. R/
  
- L. Lord Jesus, bless all those who guide your Church. Let their staunch faith shine forth amid the many trials and persecutions which are the lot of your Church and her leaders today, we pray to you. R/
  
- L. Lord Jesus, you sealed the new Covenant with your own Blood, which in a mysterious way is really present in every Eucharist celebrated on our altars. Give us, like you gave Mary and the early Christians, strong and fervent faith while sharing frequently your Body and Blood, the real Food and Drink, we pray to you. R/

L. Lord Jesus, there are many languishing in prisons today, or alone in hospitals, suffering from various ailments. Let them share the strong faith and ardent love of Mary, that having participated in your sufferings and redemptive death, they may also share your glory for ever. We pray to you. R/

L. Jesus, Son of the living God, you took flesh of the Virgin Mary, to be our sacrifice and gift to the Father, our food in the Eucharistic banquet, and our refuge in the daily trials and temptations that beset us. Never let us yield to discouragement or despair, but standing with Mary beneath your cross, may we obtain anew, your spirit of courage and love, that when this life's brief passage is over, we may come to enjoy with all our dear ones and all the faithful, the joys that await all those who are loyal to you to the end, we pray to you. R/

C/L. Let us pray.

A. O God, may the sufferings of the Virgin Mother coupled with her maternal intercession before the throne of her divine Son, win for us new strength to bear our cross courageously and willingly, as true followers of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Final Hymn)*

## **401.9 Bible Service in Honor of the Risen Savior**

### *Hymn*

### *Greeting:*

C/L Peace be with you!

A And also with you!

### *Introduction:*

C/L. The message of peace is the first word of Jesus to his disciples after his resurrection. It is a message of reconciliation and of joy. It has all the blessings flowing from the Risen Lord, who has become the source of the Spirit with his manifold gifts for all his faithful ones. Let us enter into the triumph of the Savior and with one voice pray to the risen Lord.

L. Let us pray.

A. Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death, raise us with him, and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts, the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people to the fullness of eternal life with you. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Second Sunday of Easter*)

***First Reading: 1 Pet 1:3-12 or 3:18-22 or Col 3:1-11 or Rev 1:12-20***

*(Pause /Hymn)*

- L. Christ has risen; he is the light of his people, whom he has redeemed with his blood. Alleluia!
- A. He was put to death for our sins and raised to life to justify us, alleluia!
- L. Since you have been raised to life with Christ, you must look for the things of heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father.
- A. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love endures forever.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father, eternal shepherd, watch over the flock, redeemed by the blood of Christ and lead us to the promised land. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Second Reading: Lk 24:36-49 or Mk 16:9-20 or Mt 28:16-20***

*(Homily /pause)*

### ***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

#### ***Psalm 30: Thanksgiving for deliverance from death***

- L. I will praise you, Lord. You have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
- A. Lord, I cried to you for help and you, my God, have healed me. O Lord you have raised my soul from the dead, restored life to your servant.
- L. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, Give thanks to his holy name.

- A. His anger lasts a moment; his favor through life.  
At night there are tears, but joy comes with the dawn.
- L. The Lord listened and had pity, the Lord came to my help.
- A. For you have changed my mourning into dancing,  
You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
- L. So my soul sings psalms to you unceasingly,
- A. O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.
- L. Lord, you fill the earth with the fruit of your works,  
alleluia.
- A. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever, alleluia.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father, by this Easter mystery you touch our lives  
with the healing power of your love. You have  
given us the freedom of the children of God. May  
we who now celebrate your gift, find joy in it for  
ever in heaven. Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen. (*Easter Tuesday*)

## ***Benediction***

### **401.10 Bible Service in Honor of the Holy Spirit**

#### ***Hymn to the Holy Spirit***

- C/L. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father  
of glory, grant you the Spirit of wisdom and insight  
to know him clearly.
- A. And may he enlighten our innermost vision that  
we may know the great hope to which he has  
called us.

L. Let us pray.

A. Come, Holy Spirit, like a mighty wind and fall upon us with tongues of fire, to renew us in the fullness of the Christ-life. Blow down the walls that keep us imprisoned in our own selfish concerns. Let us come to know ourselves as you know us, so that we follow your mighty impulse, and be wide open to the love that filled the Heart of Jesus, and drove him incessantly to give himself to others, and sacrifice himself for them; for you alone can accomplish this in us, O Spirit of God, who live and reign with the Father and the Son forever and ever. Amen.

*Reading of the Word of God: Acts 2:1-11 or 4:23-31 (pause)*

### *Petitions*

- L. Let us pray to the Lord, on whom the Spirit came down in his baptism, and who offered himself in the eternal Spirit for us and for our salvation.
- A. Lord Jesus, when you were exalted at the right hand of the Father, you received the Holy Spirit, whom you sent down on the believing community. Send forth your Spirit to renew the world.
- L. When you were glorified by your triumph on the cross, rivers of Living Water flowed from your side.
- A. Cleanse and refresh us in the Living Water which is your Spirit.
- L. You promised that the Spirit would teach us all things and call to mind all that you had said.

- A. Make us heralds of the Good News to the whole world.
- L. You promised that you would send the Spirit of truth, who would remain with us always and lead us into all truth.
- A. Teach us to ponder over your words and deeds, as Mary did, so as to appreciate the full content of revelation.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Almighty God, let the splendour of your glory shine upon us. May Christ, who is light from your light, strengthen, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, the hearts of those who have been reborn in him. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Reading of the Good News of Jesus Christ:***  
*Jn 4: 4-14 or Lk 4:14-19 (Homily/Pause)*

***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

***Petitions***

- L. Let us pray to the Father who sent his Son into the world to redeem us and to make us children of God through the outpouring of the Spirit.
- A. Send forth your Spirit and new life will begin, as you renew the face of the earth.
- L. In Christ you restored the universe you made;
- A. Through your Spirit renew all who believe in him.

- L. You desire to unite all Christians through one baptism in the Spirit.
- A. Grant that all who believe may be one in heart and mind.
- L. Father, it is your will that the Spirit of Jesus should fill the whole world.
- A. May all work together to build a world of justice and peace with integrity of creation.
- L. You renew all things by your Spirit,
- A. Grant health to the sick, comfort to the afflicted and peace to the dying.
- L. By your Spirit you raised your Son from the dead.
- A. Give new life to mortal bodies and raise them in glory.
- L. With the Spirit crying “Abba, Father” in our hearts, let us pray the words which Christ our brother taught us: Our Father...
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Almighty, eternal Father, when the Spirit was manifested upon Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan, he entered upon his sacred mission to bring peace and salvation to all and render glory to you. Keep us, your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to our calling, that we may share with others, the blessings which we have received. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Benediction*

## 401.11 Bible Service in Honor of the Blessed Trinity

### *Hymn*

C/L. May the holy Triune God live in our hearts!

A. O holy Triune God, may every beat of our hearts and every breath of our mouths, be an act of love and veneration to you! (*St. Arnold*)

### *Introduction*

L. Love for the Blessed Trinity formed the foundation of St. Arnold's whole life, the heart of his innermost being, the goal and driving force of his apostolic life. All else was to be seen in relation to this central point. He summed up his entire attitude in the Society's motto: "May the holy Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all!" Here lies our real driving force: help all to achieve the fullness of our human dignity, which is participation in the life of the Blessed Trinity, lovingly united with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and with all people in the unity of the Trinity.

L. Let us pray.

A. Blessed Trinity, we praise you: Father all-powerful, Christ Lord and Savior, Spirit of love, You reveal yourself in the depth of our being, drawing us to share in your life and your love. One God, in three Persons, be near to the people formed in your image and close to the world your love brings to life. We ask you this, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, true and living, for ever and ever. Amen.  
(*Trinity Sunday*)

***First Reading: Eph 1:3-14 or Num 6:22-27 (pause)***

***Response (Ps 104)***

- L. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.
- A. You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth; you have constructed your palace upon the waters. You made the clouds your chariot; you travel on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, and flaming fire your ministers.
- L. How manifold are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have created them all. The earth is full of your creatures; the sea also, great and wide.
- A. They all look to you to give them food in due time. When you give it to them they gather it, when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- L. If you hide your face, they are dismayed; if you take away their breath, they perish, and return to the dust.
- A. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- L. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in his works!
- A. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live. Pleasing to him be my theme: I will be glad in the Lord.

***Second Reading: Jn 14:15-21 or 1:29-34***

*(homily or pause)*

## *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

### *Intercessions*

- L. Father, through your Holy Spirit you gave Christ your Son to us in the flesh, so that we might have life through him. Filled now with that life, we raise our hearts in praise of the Holy Trinity, saying:
- A. Glory to the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit!
- L. Father almighty, eternal God, in the name of your Son, send your Holy Spirit to renew the entire believing community. May the Spirit who is the bond of Love between Father and Son perfect us in unity, harmony and fullness of the truth.
- A. Lord, send laborers into your harvest, that they may make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and strengthening them in the faith.
- L. Lord, come to the aid of all who suffer persecutions as Christians, for Christ your Son promised that you would send the Holy Spirit to speak through them.
- A. Lord Jesus Christ, you sent the Comforter from the Father's side to be your witness: make all the sons and daughters of St. Arnold your staunch witnesses before people, that the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief may vanish before the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace and the Heart of Jesus may live in the hearts of all.
- L. Let us pray.

A. Father of mercies and God of all consolation, in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord, we ask you to send forth anew your Spirit upon us, as you did on the believing community at the beginning, and to bring to perfection that which you began in our baptism. United in that same Spirit of divine Love, let us praise you worthily, as children of so loving a Father, for all the wonderful works you have done in our days. Grant us an inner renewal of our whole being, so that, impelled by your Spirit of love, we may manifest to others the countenance of Jesus, shining through our words and actions. Be pleased to make of our lives a sacrificial oblation, united to that of your Son, so that sharing in his total gift of himself, we may share one day in the possession of our God, Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

### *Benediction*

## **401.12 Bible Service in Honor of the Blessed Sacrament**

### *Hymn*

C/L. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

A. And also with you.

### *Introduction*

L. The night before he died, Jesus took his place at table with his apostles. Then he revealed to them the depth of his love: "I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer," he said to them. Now at last he would fulfill the longings

of his heart to give himself to all, wholly and entirely. There and then he instituted the most Blessed Sacrament.

L. Let us pray.

A. Lord Jesus Christ, you gave your Church an admirable sacrament as the abiding memorial of your passion. Teach us so to worship the sacred mystery of your Body and Blood, that its redeeming power may sanctify us always. Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

*Reading of the Word of God: Jn 6:44-51 or 6:53-58  
or Ex 16:9-15 (homily/pause)*

### *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

#### *Psalm 111*

L. I will thank the Lord with all my heart, in the meeting of the just and their assembly: Great are the works of the Lord; to be pondered by all who love them.

A. Majestic and glorious his work, his justice stands firm forever. He makes us remember his wonders. The Lord is compassion and love.

L. He gives food to those who fear him; keeps his covenant ever in mind. He has shown his might to his people, by giving them the lands of the nations.

A. His works are justice and truth; his precepts are all of them sure, standing firm for ever and ever: they are made in uprightness and truth.

- L. He has sent deliverance to his people, and established his covenant forever. Holy his name, to be feared.
- A. To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom; all who do so prove themselves wise. His praise shall last forever!

### *Petitions*

- L. At the last supper to which all are invited, Christ gives his Body and Blood for the life of the world. Earnestly we implore him:
  - A. Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, you have commanded us to celebrate the Eucharistic meal in remembrance of you.
  - A. Enrich your Church with the worthy celebration of these mysteries.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Giver of the Holy Spirit, in this sacrament your Spirit makes into one all who share the one bread.
  - A. Grant peace and harmony to all who believe in you.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, friend of the poor and outcasts, you invite all to your table.
  - A. Fill our hearts with active compassion for all who suffer or are in need.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly physician, you give an eternal remedy and a pledge of resurrection to those who eat your bread.
  - A. Grant health to the ailing and a real hope to sinners.

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, king who is to come, we believe that whenever we celebrate the Eucharist we proclaim your death until you come.
- A. Bring all those who have died in you to share your resurrection.
- L. With confidence in our heavenly Father, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.  
Our Father...
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Lord our God, in this great sacrament, we come into the presence of Jesus Christ your Son, born of the Virgin Mary, and crucified for our salvation. May we who declare our faith in this fountain of love and mercy, drink from it the water of everlasting life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Benediction*

## **401.13 Bible Service in Honor of Christ the King**

### *Hymn*

- L. Jesus Christ is the King of kings: come, let us adore him.
- A. R/ Jesus Christ is the King of kings: come, let us adore him.
- L. The Lord said to me: "You are my Son, It is I who have begotten you this day. Ask of me and I shall give you the nations, Put the ends of the earth in your possession." R/

L. Now, O Kings, understand, take warning, rulers of the earth; Serve the Lord with awe and trembling, pay him your homage. *R/*

L. Let us pray.

A. Almighty ever-living God, it is your will to unite the entire universe under your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the King of heaven and earth. Grant freedom to the whole of creation, and let it praise and serve your majesty for ever. We make our prayer through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

***First Reading: The Book of Revelation 22:1-5 or  
Dan 7:9-14***

*(pause)*

### ***Scriptural Responses***

L. He will be called the 'Peacemaker' and his throne will stand firm forever.

A. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; all kings will serve him and obey him.

L. Yours are majesty and power; yours, Lord, is the sovereignty.

A. You are ruler of all.

L. All kings will worship him, all peoples will serve him.

A. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations will bless his name.

L. He will receive glory throughout the earth, he himself will be peace.

- A. He made us a kingdom for his God and Father; he is the first born from the dead, the leader of the kings of the earth.
- L. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, says the Lord.
- A. Go, therefore, and preach the Good News to the whole of creation.

***Reading of the Good News: Mt 28:16-20 or  
Jn 18:33-37***

*(homily or pause)*

***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

***Responses***

- L. "Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens.
- A. God chose us in him before the world began, to be holy and blameless in his sight, to be full of love.
- L. He likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be his adopted children; such was his will and pleasure,
- A. That all might praise the glorious favor he has bestowed on us in his beloved.
- L. It is in Christ and through him that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favor to us.
- A. God has given us the wisdom to understand fully the mystery, the plan he was pleased to decree in

Christ, to be carried out in the fullness of time, namely, to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one, with Christ as Head” (*Eph 1:3-10*).

### *Intercessions*

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, our king and our shepherd, gather your flock from every corner of the earth; protect it in your fresh and fertile pastures.
- A. Jesus, our leader and Savior, make all people your own: heal the sick, seek out the lost, preserve the strong, bring back the strayed, reunite those who are scattered, and give new hope to the downhearted.
- L. Jesus, prince of peace, remove from our hearts the greed that leads to war; speak words of peace to your people.
- A. Jesus, heir of all nations, bring the people of the whole world to the kingdom of your Father; move all to acknowledge you as the Head, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
- L. Lord Jesus, good Shepherd, you laid down your life for your sheep; guide us to make the most of our opportunities for spreading your reign.
- A. Jesus, our Redeemer, you are the king of the entire universe; restore all things to yourself by the power of your Spirit.
- L. Jesus, king of all nations, you came into the world to bear witness to the truth; make us aware of your primacy in all things.
- A. Jesus, our master and model, you have brought us into your kingdom; help us to give an example which is worthy of you.

- L. Jesus, first-born of all creation and first to be born from the dead,
- A. Bring all the departed to the glory of your resurrection.
- L. Our Father...
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father, all-powerful, God of love, you have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death to life, resplendent in glory as King of creation. Open our hearts, free the entire world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love. Bring all together in Jesus Christ your Son, whose kingdom is with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### *Benediction*

#### **401.14 Bible Service for the Birthday of Our Blessed Mother (Sept. 8)**

##### *Hymn to Mary*

- L. Let us celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary: let us adore her Son, Christ the Lord.
- A. The light of her life shines out upon the world.

##### *Introduction*

- L. The birthday of Mary is also the birthday of our Society. St. Arnold considered this not only an honor and a happy coincidence, but above all an invitation to make ourselves more and more worthy of the protection of her who is the Mother

of Christ, and thus mother of all God's children. He frequently employed the threefold title of daughter, mother, and spouse in his sermons on Mary. Let us thank God today for her loving care in the past, and ask her continued help and protection for our Society.

- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father of mercy, give your people help and strength from heaven. The birth of the Virgin Mary's Son was the dawn of our salvation. May this celebration of her birthday bring us closer to lasting peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

***First Reading: Gal 4:4-7 or Sir 21:13-21 (pause)***

- L. Today is the birthday of the glorious Virgin Mary, of the seed of Abraham, who rose from the tribe of Judah and the stock of David.
- A. When the sacred Virgin was born, the world was filled with light; blessed and holy the stock which bore such blessed fruit.
- L. With joy let us celebrate the birthday of blessed Mary, that she may intercede for us with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- A. Your birth, O Virgin Mother of God, announced joy to the whole world, for from you has risen the Sun of justice, Christ our God.
- L. Who is this arising like the dawn, fair as the moon, resplendent as the sun, terrible as an army with banners? (*Song 6:10*).
- A. Now God's home is in the midst of people! He will live with them, and they shall be his people.

God himself will be with them and he will be their God (*Rev 21:3*).

- L. You are the most blessed of all women.
- A. And blessed is the fruit of your womb.

*Second Reading: Lk 1:46-55 (homily/pause)*

### *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

#### *Intercessions*

- L. Let us proclaim the greatness of our Savior who chose to be born of the Virgin Mary. Confident that he will hear us we ask:
  - A. Lord, may your mother pray for us, the members of the Arnoldus Family.
- L. Sun of justice, you showed your day was dawning in the Immaculate Virgin Mary; help us to walk in the daylight of your presence.
  - A. Eternal Word, in the living flesh of Mary you found a dwelling place on earth; remain with us for ever in hearts free from sin.
- L. Son of David, you chose your royal blood from one who was lowly in human eyes, but exalted in the mind of God.
  - A. Teach us to value true inner greatness of mind and heart.
- L. Eternal incarnate Word, from a very humble beginning, you made the Society of the Divine Word, whose birthday we likewise commemorate today, to spread to many countries. Our hearts are

filled with gratitude for your powerful assistance granted to its many undertakings.

- A. We thank you also most deeply for the loving care which Mary, your Mother and ours, has continuously showered upon us. We wish to follow in the footsteps of our Founder, and honor her in the threefold title, which he loved to give her: daughter of the Eternal Father, Mother of the Incarnate Word and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.
- L. Stir up in us new zeal to be fully committed to the task you have allotted us, and to emulate her total dedication to you, O Word Incarnate.
- A. Impelled by your Spirit of love, may we be Christ-bearers to a modern world in need of you, so that the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief, vanish before the Light of the Word and the Spirit of grace, so that you, O Heart of Jesus, may live in the hearts of all. Amen.

### *Benediction*

#### **401.15 Bible Service in Honor of St. Joseph the Worker** (*May 1*)

### *Hymn*

- C/L. May Christ, the architect of the universe, who was pleased to be called during his life-time the son of Joseph, enlighten us on the dignity of work.
- A. And may St. Joseph be our model of a life of work and prayer in the presence of the Lord.

## ***Introduction***

- L. It is in the plan of God that every man and woman, by honest and arduous labor, should help to build a world, worthy of our God-given dignity. The Lord himself chose to be born into a workingman's family and to be considered the son of a carpenter. Imitating him, in his manual and intellectual pursuits, let us be willing to grow in human wisdom as he did daily, under the careful guidance of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mother. And may he direct all our efforts and undertakings for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Lord God and Creator of the universe, you gave humankind the law of work. Give us grace, by St. Joseph's example and at his intercession, to complete the works you give us to do, and to come to the rewards you promise. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***First Reading: Gen 45:1-9 (pause)***

### ***Responses***

- L. Father in heaven, just as Joseph of Egypt was made lord of the entire household of Pharaoh, so you have made St. Joseph the head of the Holy Family and placed him over your family on earth.
- A. May he take care of us as he cared for Jesus and Mary.
- L. Father, in your Son you revealed to Joseph the mystery kept secret for endless ages.

- A. Help us to acknowledge your Son as God and man.
- L. Father, you enabled Joseph to spend his life in your service.
- A. Set our minds on your kingdom and your justice before all other things.
- L. Father, your will is that everyone should accept and answer your call,
- A. By the prayers of Joseph, give us the grace to live in accord with your will.
- L. Creator of all things, you have entrusted your work to our hands,
- A. Grant that our missionary labors may prove worthy of you.
- L. You have given men and women authority over the work of your hands and invited them to share in your creation.
- A. Help us to accept our responsibility, by working for your glory and the good of all. Our Father...

### *Hymn*

***Gospel Reading: Mt 1:18-25 or 2:13-15 or 2:19-23  
or Lk 2:1-7***

*(homily/pause)*

### ***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

*Responses, to be recited in two groups*

Joseph, patron saint of workers,  
Blending skill with charity,  
Silent carpenter, we praise you!

Joining work with honesty,  
You taught Christ with joy to labor,  
Sharing his nobility.

Joseph, close to Christ and Mary,  
Lived with them in poverty,  
Shared with them their home and labor;

Worked with noble dignity;  
May we seek God's will as you did,  
Leader of his family.

Joseph, workers' inspiration,  
Man of faith and charity,  
Make us honest, humble, faithful.

Strong with Christ's true liberty,  
Make our labor and our leisure  
Fruitful to eternity!

L. Let us pray.

A. Almighty God, at the beginning of our salvation, when Mary conceived your Son and brought him forth into the world, you placed them under Joseph's watchful care. May his prayer still help your Church to be equally faithful guardian of your mysteries, and a sign of Christ to the world. This we ask through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

*Benediction*

## 401.16 Bible Service for a Deceased Member

C/L. In the name of the Father....

C/L. Our brother in Christ *N.* has fallen asleep in the Lord. Let us intercede for him.

Our response is:

R/ *Grant him peace and eternal rest, O Lord.*

L. You gave him the promise of eternal life in baptism; grant him now communion with your saints forever. R/

L. He lived a Christian commitment in faith, hope and love, devoted to you until the end. R/

L. You fed him with the Bread of life and declared that you would raise up on the last day, all those who partook of this divine Food. R/

L. You let him share your salvific sufferings on earth; let him now share your glory. R/

*Psalm 23 is fittingly sung or recited now, depicting the Lord as loving Shepherd.*

***Reader: A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:***

***Ez 37:12-14.***

*Other selections: 1 Co 15:19-28 Rev 7:13-17*

L. Our Response:

R/ *We adore your cross, O Lord, we praise and glorify your holy resurrection.*

L. For behold, by reason of the wood of the cross, joy has come into the world. R/

L. By a tree we were made slaves, and by the holy cross we were set free. R/

- L. May God have pity on us and bless us, may he let his face shine on us, and lead us to life everlasting.  
R/
- L. Let us praise the Lord with all the faithful departed.
- A. Blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs.
- L. Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.
- A. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
- L. Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God.
- A. Blest are those, who are persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.
- L. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- A. The Lord is King, our God the Almighty. He reigns forever. Alleluia.

***Reading of the Good News of Salvation in Christ  
the Lord: Jn 3:13-21***

*Other selections: Jn 5:24-29; Jn 6:35-40; Jn 16:20-28*

*(A brief homily/pause)*

***Responses***

- L. Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. We know that if the earthly house in which we dwell be destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made by human hands, eternal in the heavens.

- A. Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life.
- L. Anyone who is in Christ, is a new creature; the former things have passed away; behold they are made new.
- A. Lord, you are the resurrection and the life.
- L. Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the hearts of people what things God has prepared for those who love him.
- A. Lord, you are the resurrection and the life.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, You have said, 'In my Father's house there are many mansions; were it not so, I should have told you, because I go to prepare a place for you.'
- A. Lord, you are the resurrection and the life.
- L. You said, 'This is the will of my Father who sent me, that all those who behold the Son and believe in him, shall have everlasting life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'
- A. Lord, you are the resurrection and the life.
- L. Christ our Passover is the true Lamb who by his Paschal Mystery has taken away the sins of the world, overcome death for us by dying himself, and restored us to life by his own resurrection.
- A. Lord, you are the resurrection and the life.
- L. Let us pray. Merciful God, you overcame death through your Son Jesus Christ, and opened to us the gates of everlasting life. Hear us, as we petition you in favor of your servant *N.* whom you have called to yourself, so that your promises of peace and glory may be fulfilled in his behalf. Through

the Holy Spirit, the source of all our consolation, lighten the burden of grief weighing upon those who survive him, and give to all of us a blessed end, through our Lord Jesus, living and reigning with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

A. Amen.

L. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord,

A. And let perpetual light shine upon him.

L. May he rest in peace.

A. Amen.

*(Prayers from this Bible service may be said as anniversary prayers in the cemetery)*

## **401.17 Bible Service on Our Missionary Vocation**

### *Hymn*

### *Introduction*

C/L. Christ came into the world as the Light of the world. Through the face of the Son we come to know the splendor of the Father, and through the working of the Spirit, we are transformed more and more into his image, and his redemptive light shines for all to see. He is the message of the Father's love for all nations and peoples. One with Christ and through his Spirit, we are caught up in his mission of love, to live out his commandment of love in our lives wherever we are sent to do the Father's will.

- L. Coming together as God's children let us pray the words our Savior taught us, that all may come to know and love the Father. Our Father...

### ***First Reading***

- L. The reading from Isaiah 42:1-4 shows us the Servant of the Lord, sent to all nations as a merciful and understanding Savior and his mission to the afflicted is cited in Is 61:1-2.

*Reader:* "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my Spirit: he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, nor shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord, to comfort all who mourn."

*(pause for reflection, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)*

### ***Intercessions***

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, you have come to us as the divine Light expelling the darkness of sin from the world.
- A. R/ Stay with us Lord, the Light of the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us as the love of God to warm our cold hearts, so that we will love one another. R/

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us as the hope of all nations, freeing them from their miseries and fulfilling their constant longing for happiness. R/
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us as the Way and the Truth, leading us out of error and stubborn unbelief to the light of your kingdom. R/
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself and took the nature of a slave that we might be freed from the slavery of sin. R/
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you guide us through the exile of this life to the promised land of heaven. R/
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you accompany us through the sufferings and trials of our earthly life, that following in your footsteps, we may come to the Father. R/
- L. Praise the Lord all you nations, let all the people praise you.
- A. Let all the people praise you.

### *Hymn*

***Second Reading: From the Decree of Vatican II on the Missions No. 10:*** “Sent by Christ to reveal and to communicate the love of God to all people and nations, the Church is aware that there still remains a gigantic missionary task for her to accomplish. For the Gospel message has not yet been heard, or scarcely so, by two billion human beings. And their number is increasing daily. These are formed into large and distinct groups by permanent cultural ties, by ancient religious traditions, and by firm bonds of social necessity.” *No. 11:* “The Church must be present in these groups of people, through those of her

children, who dwell among them or are sent to them. For wherever they live, all Christians are bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of their speech, that new self, which they put on in baptism, and that power of the Holy Spirit by whom they were strengthened in confirmation. Thus, others, observing their good works, can glorify the Father (*Mt 5:16*), and can better perceive the real meaning of human life and the bond which ties the whole community of humankind together.” (pause)

*(other suitable texts: Vat.II Missions, Nos. 5, 7, 15)*

- L. Let us pray that through our union with Christ and in the strength of the Holy Spirit we may continue his mission of being light to the world.
- A. That the Spirit of Christ make us shine with the light that is Christ, we implore you, O Lord.
- L. That the Spirit of Christ make us like a city on the mountain top.
- A. For the sake of those who do not know Christ, we implore you, O Lord.
- L. That our real love for one another be a sign to all, that the Spirit of Christ is in our midst.
- A. We implore you, O Lord, and beg you to make us one in love.
- L. That we might have the maturity to undertake in the Spirit of Christ whatever tasks are put on our shoulders.
- A. We implore you, O Lord, and beg you to bring our work to completion.
- L. Let us pray.

A. O Lord our God, heavenly Father, you have consecrated our world by sending your Son into the midst of it, and by accepting the sacrifice which he offers you. Grant us, we pray you, the courage and power we need, to share fully in this redemptive work. In the strength of the Spirit of Jesus, we offer you the sacrifice and joy of our daily labors and undertakings, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*(Benediction)*

## **401.18 Bible Service for Social Justice**

### *Hymn*

C/L. “Brothers and sisters in Christ, you are well acquainted with the favor shown you by our Lord Jesus Christ: how for your sake he made himself poor though he was rich, so that you might become rich by his poverty” (2 Co 8:9). “We on our part ought also be willing to share what we have with those who are less fortunate. God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Co 9:7).

L. Let us pray.

A. Lord our God, you have put the care for our fellow brothers and sisters into our hands. Grant that no trouble be too much for us if their welfare and happiness are at stake. Open our eyes so that we be not blinded by our own resources and profits, but help us to put our talents and our means sincerely at the service of others. This is what Jesus your Son our Lord has done, he who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Word of God: The prophet Amos exhorts those who oppress others to change their ways so that they may truly live as God wills.*

***A reading from the prophet Amos 5:7-15 (or 8:4-10).***

*(homily/pause for reflection)*

**Psalm 10** *(to be recited in two groups)*

Why, O Lord, do you stand aloof?  
Why hide in times of distress?  
Proudly the wicked harass the afflicted,  
who are caught in the devices  
the wicked have contrived.

For the wicked glory in their greed,  
and the covetous blaspheme,  
set the Lord at naught.  
They say in their hearts: God has forgotten:  
He hides his face, he never sees.

Rise, O Lord, O God, lift up your hand!  
Forget not the afflicted!  
Why should the wicked despise God?

On you the unfortunate ones depend;  
Of the fatherless you are the helper.  
Break the strength of the wicked  
and of the evildoer,  
Punish their wickedness; let them not survive.

The Lord is king forever and ever,  
The desire of the afflicted you hear, O Lord,  
Strengthening their hearts, you pay heed  
To the defence of the fatherless -

and the oppressed,  
So that those who are of the earth,  
may terrify no more.

*(hymn)*

***A Reading from Vatican II Pastoral Constitution  
on the Church in the Modern World, No. 29 or  
32 or 38. (Pause for reflection)***

*(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)*

### ***Prayers***

- L. Lord, make us aware of the needs of others so that our love for them is not merely expressed in words, but in deeds of sincere compassion.
- A. Make us willing to listen to the cares and the problems of others, in order to acquire understanding of heart, and genuine concern for their needs.
- L. "I ask you, how can God's love survive in someone, who has enough of this world's goods, yet closes the heart to one's brother or sister, who is in need?"
- A. Children of God, let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it " (1Jn 3:17-18).
- L. "My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them: 'Goodbye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed,' but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that?"
- A. So it is with faith that does nothing in practice. It is thoroughly lifeless. It is as dead as a body without breath" (James 2:14-17,26).

- L. “Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate. Pardon and you shall be pardoned. Give, and it shall be given to you.
- A. Good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into the fold of your garment. For the measure you measure with, will be measured back to you” (*Lk 6:36-38*).
- L. Let us pray the words our Lord taught us, for all who are suffering injustice and oppression at the hands of others. Our Father . . .

*(Benediction)*

## **402. Penitential Services**

### **402.1 Penitential Service for all Seasons**

*(by Bernard LeFrois, SVD)*

#### ***Opening hymn***

*C/L.* In the name of the Father...

The peace of Christ and the mercy of the Father  
be with you all.

*A.* And also with you.

*C/L.* Assembled here as God's redeemed people, let  
us enter into the mystery of his unlimited love for  
us. *(Pause)*

*L.* Lord, we are sinful people, weak human beings.  
We ask your forgiveness. We come together to  
receive your word.

*A.* Give us a pure spirit that we may see you.  
Give us a humble spirit that we may hear you.  
Give us a loving spirit that we may serve you. Give  
us a trusting spirit that we may love you. This we  
ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Word of God: 1 Jn 1:6-2:2 or Is 55:6-9 or Rev 3:1-6  
or 3:14-22)***

#### ***Petitions***

*L.* The Lord speaks to the tepid: "Because you are  
lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth." From  
all mediocrity and lukewarmness,

*A.* Free us, Lord.

- L. From all self-centeredness and hard-heartedness,  
A. Free us, Lord.
- L. The Lord says to those spiritually blind: “You keep saying you are rich and secure, and you lack nothing. Little do you realize how wretched you are, how pitiable and poor, how blind and naked.”
- A. Show us your mercy, Lord, as you showed it to the humble tax-collector who beat his breast in humble recognition of his sins.
- L. Show us your mercy, Lord, as the father welcomed back his lost son.
- A. Show us your mercy, Lord, as you showed it lovingly to the thief on the cross.
- L. The Lord speaks to us today: “Behold, I am standing at your door and knocking.” (*Rev 3:20*).
- A. May we be renewed in your love and be victorious by your Spirit.
- L. The victor will go clothed in white. Never will I erase his name from the book of the living.
- A. Make us victorious in the battle against evil so as to be able to share your throne, as you also share your Father’s throne.

***Reading of the Good News: Mt 16:24-27 or Jn  
15:1-7 or Lk 7:36-50***

*(A penitential hymn)*

## *Acts of Contrition*

- L. Lord, help us to be mindful of our failings and sinful ways, and grant us the insight to find ways of overcoming them. Lord, we now ask your forgiveness and mercy.
- L. For closing our hearts to the promptings of your Spirit,  
A. R/ *Lord, forgive us.*
- L. For praying mechanically and without conviction, R/
- L. For the times we were unjust in our judgments and in our deeds to our neighbor, R/
- L. For having revealed the secret faults of others, R/
- L. For making rash judgments about others, R/
- L. For the times we gave bad example by words or actions, R/
- L. For ridiculing those who act according to their convictions, R/
- L. For being inconsiderate of the feelings and opinions of others, R/
- L. For our selfishness and sins of omission, R/
- L. For our lack of warmth in participating in the Eucharist, R/
- L. For our carelessness in avoiding the occasions of serious sins, R/
- L. For being negligent and sluggish in fulfilling the duties of our state of life, R/
- L. For not appreciating our calling with its many gifts and graces, R/

- L. For our lack of response to your goodness and love, R/  
L. Let us now confess our sins to one another in the Lord's presence. R/  
A. I confess to almighty God...  
C/L. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
A. Amen.  
C/L. My friends, the death Christ died was death to sin, once for all; the life he now lives is life to God. In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead to sin but alive to God in union with Christ.  
A. Merciful Father, grant us pardon and forgiveness of our sins. This we ask through the sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## *Hymn*

*(individual confession and absolution)*

## **402.2 Penitential Service during Advent**

### *Penitential hymn*

- L. *Introduction:* Advent is a time of preparation, when we make ready to celebrate the mystery of our Lord's coming as man, the beginning of our redemption. Advent also moves us to look forward with renewed hope to the glorious coming of Christ in the consummation of all things. We want to keep in mind that our Lord will come some day

to judge each one of us individually, to take us to himself. Let us be sure he finds us prepared for his coming as he tells us in the Gospel: "It will go well with those servants whom the Master finds wide-awake when he returns" (*Lk 12:37*). This service of penance is meant to make us ready in mind and heart for the coming of Christ in its various dimensions.

L. Let us pray.

A. Eternal Son of God, creator of the human family and our Redeemer, You came among us as the child of the Immaculate Virgin, and redeemed the world. Reveal your loving presence by which you set us free from sin, in becoming one like us in all things but sin, for you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

***Reading of the Word of God: Rev 21:1-8 or Mal  
3:13-18***

***Psalm: 85***

L. *Response: R/ Lord, wipe away all the tears from our eyes.*

L. You have favored, O Lord, your land; You have restored the well-being of Jacob. You have forgiven the guilt of your people; you have covered all their sins. You have withdrawn all your wrath, you have revoked your burning anger. R/

L. Will you be ever angry with us, O God? Will you not instead give us life? And shall not your people rejoice in you? Show us, O Lord, your kindness, and grant us your salvation. R/

- L. Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice look down from heaven. R/

***Reading from the Gospel: Mt 3:1-12 or Lk 3:3-17.***

*(Homily)*

*Examination of conscience, if desired here, can be taken from pn. 202*

- L. Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you sent your only-begotten Son to reconcile the world to yourself. Lift from our hearts the oppressive gloom of sin, so that we may celebrate the approaching dawn of Christ's birth with fitting joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Individual confession and absolution)*

**402.3 Penitential Service for Lent:  
Death and Resurrection with Christ**

***Penitential hymn***

**Psalm 131: Humble trust in God.**

***Response:*** R/ *My soul is longing for your peace, my God.*

- L. Lord, you know that my heart is not proud and my eyes are not lifted from the earth, R/  
L. Lofty thoughts have never filled my mind; far beyond my sight, all ambitious deeds, R/

- L. In your peace I have maintained my soul; I have kept my heart in your quiet peace, R/
- L. As a child rests on the mother's knee; so I place my soul in your loving care, R/
- L. Israel, put all your hope in God; place your trust in him, now and forever. R/

### *Invitation to Prayer*

- L. Come, let us worship the Lord!
- A. Christ Jesus, we worship you and we praise you, for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. "And now, brothers, I beg you, through the mercy of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may judge what is God's will, what is good, pleasing and perfect" (*Ro 12:1-2*).
- A. "Our attitude must be that of Christ, who emptied himself and took the form of a slave" (*Phil 2:5, 7*).
- L. "Be imitators of God as his dear children. Follow the way of love, even as Christ loved you. He gave himself for us as an offering to God, a gift of pleasing fragrance" (*Eph 5:1-2*).
- A. "You must lay aside your former way of life and old self which deteriorates through illusion and desire, and acquire a fresh, spiritual way of thinking" (*Eph 4:22f*).
- L. "Christ suffered in the flesh: therefore, arm yourselves with the same mentality. Those who

have suffered in the flesh have broken with sin”  
(1 Pet 4:1).

- A. “We have been crucified with Christ, and the life we live now is not our own; Christ is living in us”  
(Gal 2:20).
- L. Let us pray. Lord, may the suffering and death of Jesus, your only Son, make us pleasing to you. Alone we can do nothing, but may the perfect sacrifice of himself win us your mercy and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

A. Amen. (*Passion Sunday*)

### ***First Reading Joel 2:11-18***

*Introduction:* The prophet Joel calls for collective repentance, since there are sins that are collective and personal, which bring evil on the community and the whole people of God. Lent is a communal observance which invites us to pray together, and do penance as a body. This is the content of Joel’s message, though he calls for personal repentance also. To those who undergo this change of heart, the Lord promises good things in abundance.

The reading follows. (*pause*)

### ***Intercessions***

- L. Before his passion, Jesus looked out over Jerusalem and wept for it, because it had not recognized the hour of God’s visitation. Let us repent for our sins, lest we all likewise perish.
- A. Spare, O Lord, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach.

- L. Do not forsake those who have forsaken you; turn our hearts to you, and we will return to you, our God.
- A. Through your passion you redeemed everyone; help us to recognize your love and live always by your Spirit.
- L. Savior of all, you came to save sinners; bring into your kingdom all who have faith, hope and love.
- A. Look with love on those who suffer because of our indifference; come to their aid, and turn our hearts to works of justice and charity.
- L. Redeemer of the world, give us a greater share of your passion through a deeper spirit of repentance, so that we may share the glory of your resurrection.
- A. May your Mother, comfort of the afflicted, intercede for us and make our penitential offerings pleasing to you.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your Son to be born of a woman and to die on a cross, so that through the obedience of one man, all may be reconciled to you. Guide our minds by his truth, and strengthen our lives by the example of his death, that we may live in union with you in the kingdom of your promise. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Passion Sunday)*

## *Hymn*

## ***Introduction to the Second Reading***

Jesus knew full well that the sacrifices of the Old Covenant did not remit the sins of the people of God, and so, perceiving it was the will of the Father, he offered his own body for this purpose.

*The reading follows: Heb 10:5-17 (pause)*

## ***Selection from a Homily by St. Melito of Sardis***

L. “For the sake of suffering humanity, Christ came down from heaven to earth, clothed himself in that humanity in the Virgin’s womb, and was born a man. Having then a body capable of suffering, he took the pain of the fallen human race upon himself; he triumphed over the diseases of soul and body that were its cause, and by his Spirit, which was incapable of dying, he dealt our destroyer, death, a fatal blow. He was led forth like a lamb; he was slaughtered like a sheep. He ransomed us from our servitude to the world; he freed us from our slavery to the devil. He sealed our souls with his own Spirit, and the members of our body with his own blood. He is the One who rose from the dead, and who raised us from the depths of the tomb.”

## ***Scriptural Responses***

- L. “May we never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- A. Through it, the world has been crucified to us and we to the world” (*Gal 6:14*).

- L. "Since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our profession of faith;
- A. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned.
- L. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favor, and to find help in time of need" (*Heb 4:14-16*).
- A. "Strive for peace with all, and for that holiness without which no one can see the Lord" (*Heb 12:14*).
- L. "Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
- A. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you" (*Col 3:12f*).
- L. Let us pray the prayer which Jesus taught us: Our Father...
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father of mercy, hear the prayers of your repentant children, who call on you in love. Help us to pass from our old life of sin to the new life of grace. Enlighten our minds and sanctify our heart, that we may be prepared for the glory of your kingdom. This we ask through Jesus the Lord. Amen.

*Examination of conscience/evaluation and individual confessions follow (pn. 202.1/202.2).*

## **402.4 Penitential Service for Recollections and Retreats**

### *Penitential hymn*

#### *Greeting*

C/L. The Lord Jesus is among us to nourish us with his word and example. May we learn from him to give ourselves for others and may his strength be always with you.

A. And also with you.

#### *Introduction*

C/L. Our true destiny for which we were created is life and happiness in the Triune God. Yet we know from sad experience that the present life can be hard and full of trials. Pain and anguish are often present in the most authentic human situations. Love often takes the shape of suffering. The Christian, like Jesus, is called out of himself, to become one with those who suffer. Their crosses become our crosses, in so far as we are capable of love. In this way, the dying grain gives birth to new life, suffering becomes the price paid for happiness, the cross leads to resurrection in us and others. Are we ready to follow Christ on his paradoxical way of the cross?

#### *Opening Prayer*

L. Lord our God, Savior sent to heal us,

A. Your words are at times difficult to accept. Help us understand that dying to self is living for you and for others. Renew us today in your Spirit. Give us courage to empty ourselves, in the service of

your Father and of our neighbor. Unite us with your self-sacrificing sentiments, and let the power of your resurrection work in us, that we may by our renewal, assist others to a new life in the Spirit. This we ask in your name, you who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

### *Penitential Act*

- L. In the presence of our Lord, who has gathered us here, and before one another, let us confess that we are often afraid of loving God and our neighbor, at the risk of pain and discomfort.
- A. Lord, you gave yourself that others might live and be happy, but we often seek ourselves at the expense of others. Lord, have mercy!
- L. Jesus, for our sake you accepted pain and death, but we run away from trouble, and the inconvenience of taking up the burdens of others.
- A. Teach us to bear one another's burdens. Christ, have mercy.
- L. Lord, you made love consist in committing yourself to others, but often we are satisfied with mere words, and empty emotions.
- A. Teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Lord, have mercy.
- L. Have mercy on us, Lord, keep us serene and trusting even in the hour of suffering, with hope, deep in our hearts, of life everlasting.
- A. The Lord is our shepherd, there is nothing we shall fear. The mercies of the Lord we will sing forever.

### ***First Reading: Jer 31:31-34***

*Introduction:* At a time of great suffering, God promises a new covenant, a new union of life and love of God with his people. When they will be purified through suffering, they will be guided by the interior law of love in their hearts. (*Reading, pause*)

### ***Second reading: Heb 5:7-9***

*Introduction:* Jesus was afraid of the imminent excruciating suffering and death, yet he accepted it out of loyalty to the Father, and out of love for us. By his death he brought us life and became the source of all holiness for us. (*Reading, pause*)

### ***Reading from the Gospel: Jn 12:20-23***

*Introduction:* Like a grain of wheat dying in the ground to give a rich harvest, Jesus died on the cross and was buried, but rose again to give us eternal life. The disciple of Christ must be willing to risk one's own life for the sake of others. (*Reading, homily*).

### ***General Intercessions***

- C/L. In his love and goodness, God sent us Christ, his only Son, who gave himself freely and willingly for others. Let us pray to God our Father and say to him: R/ *Lord, hear your people.*
- L. For all those in responsible positions in the Church, that in all simplicity and humility, they may continue the mission of Jesus, of loving service, let us pray to the Lord. R/
- L. That all civil authorities may work for a more equitable distribution of wealth and welfare benefits, so that true peace and justice may prevail among all people, let us pray to the Lord. R/

- L. For those who commit their lives to the service of others, that their zeal and dedication may be a sign of Christ's presence in our world, and God's love for each individual, let us pray to the Lord. R/
- L. For all the members of the Arnoldus Family, that they be fired anew with the Spirit of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. R/
- L. For all of us gathered here, that we may open our eyes and hearts to anyone who suffers or is in need, let us pray to the Lord. R/
- L. Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us. Our Father...
- L. Lord our God,
- A. You sent the Savior to heal us. We fall short of our ideals. Enable us to get back on our feet. Raise us up from our sinful condition and heal us. Give us a new heart and a renewed spirit. We ask you this through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Blessing by C:* Christ did not make demands on others but on himself. Where the Master goes, the disciple must follow. May we learn from him to give ourselves to one another, even at the cost of pain. And may the blessing of Almighty God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever.

A. Amen.

*Examination of conscience and individual confession follow. (See pn. 202.1)*

## 403. Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions)

*(Each community should compose its own petitions.  
A few samples are given here.)*

### 403.1 Prayers of the Faithful for Christian Unity

C. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, unity is God's gift to all of us. Jesus wants us to be united and contribute our share towards the unity of all Christians. It is a call and a response. Perfect unity descends from the Father through the Son and is effected by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Let us earnestly pray for this gift to be realized, just as Christ prayed to his Father for the unity of all Christians.

*Response:* R/ *Lord of Unity, unite us in Christ.*

- We pray for Pope N., for our bishops and all the leaders of the churches and faith communities, that they may fervently work together to be effective ministers to persevere in seeking Christian unity. Let us pray to the Lord. R/
- We pray that all the members of our families, brothers and sisters of all the churches may become schools of unity and fellowship that we may ever pray that 'all may be on... So that the world may believe.' Let us pray to the Lord. R/
- We pray that all of us gathered here for this Eucharistic celebration may be committed to the cause of Christian Unity in our day-to-day lives, that we may not risk further division and schism in the Church. Let us pray to the Lord. R/
- We pray that all of us may have the heart of Jesus, to move out to others in humble service

irrespective of their church affiliations, caste or creed. Let us pray to the Lord R/

- We pray that we may ever remain open to the promptings of the Spirit to grow in love, unity and truth as willed by Jesus. We pray for the national, regional and diocesan commissions for Ecumenism that the work which they accomplish together might be a witness to the Gospel in the world. Let us pray to the Lord. R/
- We pray for the ecumenical dialogue among our churches, communions and faith communities, so that whatever divides us might be overcome through wisdom, love, faith and truth. Let us pray to the Lord. R/
- We pray that all Christians might witness to the Gospel, turning away from all that is destructive, to embrace justice, peace and solidarity. For the poor, the oppressed, the victims of war and of violence; for the broken hearted and for all those who are hated and maltreated. Let us pray to the Lord. R/

C/L. Let us pray. Lord, we glorify you for the grace you have given us in the ecumenical movement. Take away all that divides us and fill us with your love and unity. In the joy of being called to serve you in the one search for unity, we acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit and the admirable diversity of gifts and talents of the Spirit destined to be shared. Help us to commit ourselves to persevere in constant prayer for Christian unity and through concrete gestures of reconciliation to seek to bring forth perfect unity in your Son Jesus Christ. We ask this in his name, who has called us to be united as one Christian family. Amen.

## 403.2 Prayers of the Faithful for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

C. Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus today invites us to be in continuous spiritual union with the Father that we may 'not lose heart'. Let us therefore, ask the Father to give us the serenity and wisdom to discern his will, in the midst of the injustice around us.

*Response: R/ Lord, teach us to pray.*

- For Pope, N., for bishops, priests and religious that they may always seek God's wisdom in the spreading of God's Word throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord. R/
  - For our political leaders that they may be guided and inspired by the teachings of Jesus and work for the betterment of society, especially, for the upliftment of the unfortunate and the marginalized and for preserving the integrity of creation, let us pray to the Lord. R/
  - For the people who undergo various social threats, sickness and poverty that they may be enlightened and find joy and serenity of mind with the help of Christian missionaries, let us pray to the Lord. R/
  - For the youth of our country that they may be able to visualize their role in society and may dedicate their life for the enhancement of human values, let us pray to the Lord R/
- C. Almighty and ever loving Father, we bring before you the humble prayers and petitions of your children. Grant us the help to establish your justice and peace given through your unending love for

the growth of society. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **403.3 Prayers of the Faithful for Social Justice**

C. Dear brothers and sisters, only when the Holy Spirit guides and helps us can we face the challenge of a genuine following of Christ. Let us thank God our Father for the gift of the Spirit and say:

*Response: R/ Lord, send us your Holy Spirit.*

- For our Pope *N.*, for bishops, priests and all the religious leaders of the Church that they may do their duty, even when they face division and opposition, let us pray to the Lord. R/
  - For all those who are fighting against the unjust and sinful structures of our society that they may get the help of the living God to fulfill their prophetic mission, let us pray to the Lord. R/
  - For the leaders of the world that by willingness to sacrifice their personal interests, they may learn to stand for the values of peace, truth and justice rather than power, pleasure and material comforts, let us pray to the Lord. R/
  - For the young people who are influenced and manipulated by false propaganda, that they may grow in the spirit of sacrifice and work for the good of family, neighborhood and society, let us pray to the Lord. R/
- C. Almighty God, the prophets and your Son braved suffering and death for the principles and values you inculcated in them. Give us the grace and

courage to emulate their example. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **403.4 Prayers of the Faithful for the Theme Communication**

C. Dear brothers and sisters, God our Father has sent his Son to save sinners. As we thank him for coming into our lives let us pray for our needs with full confidence.

*Response: R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*

- For the Holy Father, Pope *N.*, that he may be strengthened in his work of communicating the love of God manifested in Christ, especially in the service of the poor and the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord. *R/*
- For bishops, priests and deacons, that their pastoral ministry may reflect the living message of Christ whom they represent in their word and deed, let us pray to the Lord. *R/*
- For all baptized, that we may strive to serve others and find in the communication media an effective tool for evangelization, witness and spiritual growth, let us pray to the Lord. *R/*
- For civil and government leaders, that they may work to ensure a responsible use of the communication media which show respect for children and youth, let us pray to the Lord. *R/*
- For parents and teachers, whether at home or in school, that they may know how to transmit and instill in children a profound respect for life, let us pray to the Lord. *R/*

- For children, especially those suffering from abuse or neglect, that they may meet people who show them warmth, respect and solidarity, let us pray to the Lord. R/
  - For leaders in the communication media, that the Holy Spirit may enlighten them with wisdom and the desire to respect human dignity, let us pray to the Lord. R/
- C. Father of all goodness, receive the prayers which we offer to you, so that through the intercession of Mary, Mother of God, we may be able to witness to the Lord, using all the instruments you have given us through creation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

### **403.5 Prayers of the Faithful for People with HIV/AIDS**

- C. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, HIV and AIDS have become deadly diseases of this century. Millions of people, affected by the disease, are in need of understanding and acceptance by all. We need to take all precautions not to become victims of the dreaded disease. The social stigma attached to it is more life-threatening than the disease itself. Let us pray that the Lord may change our minds to accept such patients as part of the society we live in and that they may come to terms with the reality of their sickness.

***Response:*** R/ *Lord, hear our prayer.*

- Lord, help us to accept everyone and view each person as the image of your presence on the earth.

We pray that we may show understanding to those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS and help them to lead a meaningful life. Help us to treat them with respect and help them to accept life as a gift from you. R/

- Lord, by the birth of every new-born child, we see that you still love the world. We bring before you today all those children, who are suffering from HIV/AIDS from their very birth. Help them to realize your love in their life by the love and concern shown to them by others. Guard them and guide them in every moment of their life. R/
  - Lord we thank you for all the youth in our society. We bring to you today all those youth, who in their craze to enjoy freedom, have become the victims of HIV/AIDS. Help them to forgive themselves and help them to accept life as a gift from you, facing the challenges of HIV/AIDS. R/
  - Lord, we bring before you today all those people and organizations working for the welfare of people suffering from HIV/AIDS. We ask you to bless them and inspire many more people to collaborate with them. R/
- C. Let us pray. Lord we pray that you may bless the HIV/AIDS patients and their children and be compassionate to them. We bring to you all those who assist them with awareness, prevention and healing. Change our hearts that we may be compassionate and kind to them. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **404. Novenas and Triduum**

### **404.1 Novena to the Holy Spirit before Pentecost**

C/L. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. Amen.

C/L. May the grace, love, and joy of the Holy Spirit be with you.

A. And also with you.

L. Come, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, alleluia.

A. Enlighten our minds and move our wills to pray as we ought, alleluia, alleluia.

L. Come, Holy Spirit!

A. Replace the darkness within us with your light.

L. Come, Spirit of Strength!

A. Replace the tension within us with inner calmness.

L. Come, Spirit of Peace!

A. Replace the anxiety within us with quiet confidence.

L. Come, Spirit of Fortitude!

A. Replace the fear within us with unbending faith.

L. Come, Spirit of Reconciliation!

A. Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of grace.

L. Come, Spirit of Power!

A. Replace the coldness within us with your loving warmth.

- L. Come, Spirit of Love!
- A. Replace the night within us with your bright day.
- L. Come, Spirit of Fire!
- A. Replace the cold winter within us with your blossoming spring.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Fill our emptiness, smoothen our pride, sharpen our humility, light the fire of love and quench the flames of lust in us. Help us to see ourselves and others as God sees us so that your word will be fulfilled in us: 'Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God' (*Mt 5:8*). This we ask you in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Sing or recite Veni Creator (pn. 108.1) or another hymn.*

### ***Word of God (Lk 4:18-19)***

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy. (*pause*)

*(Jn 7:37-38)*

Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "Whoever is thirsty should come to me and drink. As the scripture says, streams of living water will pour out from the heart of any one who believes in me." Jesus was referring to the Spirit which those who believe in him were to receive. (*pause*)

*(Jn 14:15-18)*

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments; and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees nor knows the Spirit. But you know the Spirit who is with you and will be with you. I will not leave you orphans, I am coming to you.”

This is the word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

*(Pause for meditation in silence. Then have either the following reflection or a shared reflection on the word of God.)*

### ***Reflection***

C/L. The Holy Spirit, who is co-equal with the Father and the Son as God and Person, is given as a free gift. As St. Paul says, since the Spirit dwells in you, we call God our Father. “When we cry ‘Abba Father’, it is the Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (*Ro 8:9,15-16, Ga 4:6*).

The Holy Spirit, who helps us in our weakness. The Spirit teaches us to pray and intercedes for us (*Ro 8:26-27*). When we accept Jesus as our Savior, he fills us with His Spirit. He will make us a living spring, an instrument, an apostle, to lead many to Jesus who is the source of this “life giving water.”

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we become ‘the temple’ and dwelling place of that same Spirit (*1 Co 3:16-19*). We will experience God’s love and will receive the gift of prayer along

with the power to understand the inner meaning of God's word.

Peace of mind, self-control and the grace of endurance will shine in our lives, leading us to love and to forgive unconditionally. Thus we receive the most precious gift of becoming a new creation in the Risen Lord. Above all, we shall enjoy an active and meaningful Christian life - a life of commitment to Jesus and to the people - a joyful service to the community at large.

*(Hymn to the Holy Spirit).*

### ***Adoration***

- L. O infinite Love! You filled Mary with immense graces and inflamed the hearts of the apostles with holy zeal; we adore and worship you, the desire of our hearts.
- A. You are the divine Light and Life! May healing streams penetrate the depths of our hearts that we may glorify your name by honoring your presence in our hearts, in our brothers and sisters and in the entire creation.
- L. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you" (*Jn 14.18*). "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, since the Spirit has made you God's children" (*Ro 8:15*).
- A. We adore you who dwell within us and pray in us with unspeakable groaning. May our worship be pleasing in your sight.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, we adore you as the Son of God, and through the prayers of your most loving Mother we implore you, send us from the

abundance of your Sacred Heart the grace of your Holy Spirit to enlighten our ignorance, purify and sanctify our sinful hearts, and confirm us in your holy love.

- A. This we ask of you through the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit, through the abundance of your infinite mercy, and through the merits of all your saints. Amen.

### *Praise*

- L. When we cry “Abba! Father!” it is the Spirit who bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (*Ro 8:15*).
- A. Come, O Creator Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
- L. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, and anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
- A. “The Spirit has sent me to proclaim release to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (*Lk 4:18-19*).
- L. The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world,
- A. The Spirit takes notice of every word we utter.
- L. They were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- A. On him the spirit of Yahweh rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh, (*Is 11:2*).
- L. “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses in

Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (*Acts 1:8*).

- A. Fruit of the Spirit is joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (*Ga 5:22-23*).
- L. Come, Holy Spirit, illumine us, make us messengers of the light of Christ.
- A. The Spirit of God has revealed “what no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, nor the heart of any one ever conceived; what God has prepared for those who love him” (*1 Co 2:9*).

### *Thanksgiving*

- L. O Holy Spirit, God of all kindness, you are our very life. Through you we become children of the Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and temples of the Holy Trinity.
- A. You enrich us with heavenly gifts and through your presence you give us a share in the divine nature.
- L. You give light to our eyes, you help us as we work and struggle, you console us in our sorrows and give us that peace which the world is not able to give.
- A. You give us the most precious gift of all, yourself. How can we possibly thank you for such a tremendous gift?
- L. My soul extols the Lord; and my spirit leaps for joy in God my savior.
- A. How sublime is what he has done for me! Forever will I thank him. Forever will I sing of his mercies to me. Amen.

## *Petitions*

- L. Give us your Spirit and awaken us O Lord.
- A. Give us your Spirit and save us O Lord.
- L. Give us your Spirit and heal us O Lord!
- A. Give us your Spirit and make us your apostles.
- L. Give us your Spirit and make us your ministers.
- A. Give us your Spirit and teach us to listen to your voice.
- L. Give us your Spirit and teach us to love you and our neighbors unconditionally.
- A. Give us your Spirit to transform us and help us to die to self.
- L. Give us your Spirit and mould us in the likeness of Jesus.
- A. Give us your Spirit and prepare us to lead others to your divine experience.
- L. Give us your Spirit and strengthen us to spread your word.
- A. O Holy Spirit, animate us.
- L. Spirit of the Father, enliven us. Spirit of the Son, redeem us.
- A. Eternal Love, penetrate us. With your fire inflame us, with your grace enlighten us.
- L. Living Font, inebriate us, from our sins, purify us.
- A. By your soothing anointing strengthen us, Divine Consoler, sanctify us.
- L. By your grace abide in us, God Holy Spirit, hear us.

- A. With your gifts invigorate us, with your fruits refresh us.
- L. From the evil enemy defend us, for our last struggle fortify us. In the hour of death, sustain us.
- A. Oh, call us then when life is done, that with your saints triumphantly we may praise the Father and the Son and You, O Spirit, eternally. Amen.
- L. We praise you, Father, we praise you, Jesus, we praise you, Holy Spirit.
- A. (*Repeat*) We praise... Amen.

***Litany of the Holy Spirit*** (pn. 203.3)

*To be concluded with a hymn to the Holy Spirit.*

**404.2 Novena in Honor of St. Arnold Janssen - I**

- L. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- A. Amen.

*(Hymn on the Word of God)*

- L. God our Father, you inspired Arnold Janssen to live exclusively for your Word and for your Love. We, the sons and daughters of St. Arnold, come to you imploring your grace.
- A. Lord you called us to follow the Divine Word lovingly. Send us your Holy Spirit that guided by your Spirit we may make your name known to the whole world and may lead the world to the Father of life. Thus we shall co-operate with your divine plan of salvation.

L. Almighty Father, you invited St. Arnold to found the Society of the Divine Word. You invited us too, to be members of the same Society. Lord now we beseech your grace so that we may submit ourselves fully to you and serve your Son, the incarnate Word worthily.

A. Lord, you called us to be missionaries. Let all our activities be intended to help the Church realize her missionary mandate. You gave us the gift of celibacy that we may dedicate ourselves exclusively to you. You called us to live a missionary life that we may be attached to your will.

L. St. Arnold Janssen,

A. Pray for us.

L. Lord, Holy Spirit we beseech your graces to live a true religious missionary life, that we may be the living testimonies of your Word to the world.

A. Amen.

### *Hymn to the Holy Spirit*

*Reading: (Prologue of John's Gospel or Prologue of SVD Constitutions pn. 501)*

### *Pause for reflection*

### *Petitions for the Society*

L. That we may always be a sign of God's love for all, we pray to the Lord.

A. R/ *Lord hear us.*

- L. That we may always be instruments of Christ's peace, we pray to the Lord. R/
- L. That we may always be ready to listen to the Word of God in whatever form it may come to us, we pray to the Lord. R/
- L. That our Society may grow in strength and knowledge in the Word, we pray to the Lord. R/
- L. That all people may one day know the power of the Word, we pray to the Lord. R/
- L. That like our Founder, we may have the courage to change ourselves when necessary, we pray to the Lord. R/
- L. That like our Founder, we may give ourselves totally to the mission work, we pray to the Lord. R/
- L. Let us pray for the deceased members of the Arnoldus Family and for our personal intentions.  
*(Pause) (Hymn)*

### ***Thanksgiving Prayer***

- L. Lord, we are grateful to you for inspiring St. Arnold to found the Society of the Divine Word, the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit and Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration.
- A. R/ *Lord we thank and praise you.*
- L. For calling each one of us to the Society of the Divine Word and giving us the gift of a religious missionary vocation, R/
- L. For all the missionaries who work in different parts of the world inspired by your Holy Spirit, R/

- L. For our loving parents who brought us up to this stage and offered us to you in co-operation with your will, R/
- L. For all our friends who love us, who support us, and who are concerned about our very life, R/
- L. For our benefactors who support us financially and spiritually, R/
- L. For all our superiors who guide us on the right path, inspired by the Holy Spirit, R/
- L. Let us thank and praise the Lord for all the blessings we have received.

*(Magnificat or any other hymn of thanksgiving/Pause)*

- L. Sts. Arnold and Joseph, Blessed Maria and Josepha and our SVD martyrs,
- A. Help us in our apostolic endeavors.
- L. May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace.
- A. And may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.
- L. Let us pray. Lord by your love, you gave our Founder St. Arnold Janssen the grace to spread your Word by founding the Society of the Divine Word.

Help us to be ever faithful to the spirit of our Founder and most specially to you, Lord, the Word made flesh. We ask all this through your grace.

A. Amen.

*A hymn in honor of St. Arnold may be sung.*

## **404.3 Novena in Honor of St. Arnold Janssen - II** *(L. Liberti SVD)*

### **Day 1. Arnold Janssen's Loving Trust in God**

#### *Hymn*

#### *Inspiration*

L. On the first day of the novena we remember St. Arnold's total trust in God. A simple and humble man, he had deep faith in God's providence. He firmly believed that in fulfilling God's will everything else would fall into place. We ask God for the grace to trust in his providential care and to renew our faith, hope and charity.

#### **R. Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 43:1-7**

L. The reason for Arnold Janssen's profound trust in God is reflected in the reading. So much was trust in God a part of his life that he could say: *(to be read by three individuals)*

- "In so far as our strength allows us, we must do everything possible, and then God himself will make up for whatever is lacking." *(pause)*
- "If we trust in God then let's put our shoulder to the wheel." *(pause)*
- "When we have done our best, we can leave the rest to the Lord our God with confidence." *(pause)*

#### *Intercessions*

L. After reflecting on the word of God, we pray to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through the intercession of St. Arnold. To each petition we respond: R/ *Increase our faith.*

- L. God, Heavenly Father, renew our hearts in your love, we pray. R/
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, increase our faith, we pray. R/
- L. Holy Spirit, come and lead us to the Father, through the words of Jesus, we pray. R/
- L. One God, Three Divine Persons, grant that through the example of St. Arnold we may always know, and live according to your holy will, we pray. R/

*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*

- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

### ***Concluding Prayer***

- L. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we thank you:
- A. For having called Arnold to follow your Son, the Divine Word, in the task of proclaiming the Good News to all peoples;
  - For the gift of your Spirit that filled him with great love for your Son, and drove him to consecrate himself totally to your kingdom of love, peace and justice;
  - For the missionary witness of Arnold, a man of burning faith, hope and charity.
- L. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we ask for ourselves:
- A. The missionary concern of Arnold, so that we may go to those who do not know the Good News of Jesus Christ;

- the burning zeal of Arnold for God's Word to unite the hearts of all people;
- the hope of Arnold to form in one Spirit a bond of unity with all of creation;
- the enthusiasm of Arnold to imitate Jesus who gave himself to us in the Eucharist, as a sign of his infinite love for the world;
- the desire of Arnold when he prayed: "May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the Light of the Word and the Spirit of Grace, and may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people." Amen.

### *Hymn*

## **Day 2. Arnold Janssen and the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

L. St. Arnold understood that it was through the Heart of Jesus that the eternal love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was poured out on all of creation. For this reason he prayed with complete confidence. He desired greatly that God's love for all people would reach the furthest ends of the earth, so that many men and women would come to know and love him. Let us ask God in this celebration for the grace to draw closer to the Heart of Jesus, and for the same concern he had for all people.

R. **Reading from the Gospel according to John 19:31-37**

- L. Meditating on the text, St. Arnold drew closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and declared: *(read by two individuals)*
- “Seek refuge in this great tabernacle of love and grace that you may drink from there the fountain of grace of the Holy Spirit.” *(pause)*
  - “I desire to show to the whole world how much longing is to be found in your adorable and loving Heart, and, in so far as I am able, that I may do everything for your greater glory.” *(pause)*
- L. ***Intercessions*** After reflecting on the word of God, let us pray to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through the intercession of St. Arnold. To each petition let our response be: R/ *Grant us a heart capable of loving.*
- L. That we may open our hearts to the needs of our neighbor, we pray. R/
- L. That we may be gentle and humble of heart, we pray. R/
- L. That we may renew our hearts through following the example of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray. R/
- L. That following the example of St. Arnold we may recognize the Triune God in the hearts of all people, we pray. R/

*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*

- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

***Concluding Prayer*** *(as on the first day)*

***Hymn***

### Day 3. Arnold Janssen's Submission to the Holy Spirit

#### *Hymn*

#### *Inspiration*

L. St. Arnold placed himself under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to fulfil the tasks God had entrusted to him. "I have consecrated myself completely, body and soul, to the Holy Spirit. I ask of him the grace to recognize the greatness of his love, and to live and die for him alone. I hope he sees fit to help me to journey through this life free from sin, and to conform perfectly in all I do to the holy will of God." Let us ask God to fill us with the fruits of the Holy Spirit so that following the example of St. Arnold we too may be open to the promptings of that same Spirit in our lives.

#### R. **Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13**

L. Reflecting on the text, we present some thoughts of St. Arnold on the Holy Spirit: *(to be read by four individuals)*

- "The Holy Spirit completes the work of Christ by animating the Church, enabling her to be mistress of the truth and giver of life, especially through the sacraments which are the source of salvation." *(pause)*
- "The Holy Spirit will intervene powerfully in the course of the history of humanity if regularly called upon with great earnestness in a public way." *(pause)*
- "The more we venerate the Holy Spirit the more we become worthy of God's grace." *(pause)*

- “The Holy Spirit is the great source of love, in whom God loves himself and the world. It is through that same Spirit that the love of God is poured into our hearts.” *(pause)*

### ***Intercessions***

- L. After reflecting on the word of God, let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After each prayer let our response be: *R/Blessed be the Holy Spirit.*
- L. Love of Father and Son that enabled the prophets to speak, we pray. *R/*
- L. Love of Father and Son through whose intervention Mary became Mother, we pray. *R/*
- L. Love of Father and Son, by whose anointing Jesus was consecrated Messiah and prophet, we pray. *R/*
- L. Love of Father and Son, granted to us by God through our prayers, we pray. *R/*
- L. Love of Father and Son, whom Jesus promised as “Our Defender”, we pray. *R/*  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

### ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

### ***Hymn***

## Day 4. Arnold Janssen and Discernment of God's Will

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

- L. St. Arnold learnt at home what trust in God means. Sustaining him during his early years of priesthood, it enabled him to take on, besides his teaching, the Apostleship of Prayer. After much reflection and prayer he was able to state with certainty: "It is the will of God that I set up a mission seminary."

Let us ask God that, following the example of St. Arnold, we too may recognize God's will and put it into practice.

### R. **Reading from the Gospel according to Mark 10:46-51**

- L. After reflecting on the text, we present some thoughts of St. Arnold on seeking God's will: (*read by three*)
- "Blessed be God's holy will always. We ought to adore this will and embrace it with love if we wish to please God." (*pause*)
  - "Let us go forward with confidence! Let us be strengthened by our Lord. Trusting constantly in him, let us always do his holy will." (*pause*)
  - "Let us ask the good Lord that he allow us to recognize his holy will, and that he grant us a joyful serenity in fulfilling it." (*pause*)

## ***Intercessions***

- L. Let us pray to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
After each prayer we respond: R/ *Lord that I may see.*
- L. That we may be enabled to bring light to our blindness, we pray. R/
- L. That we may listen with an open heart to the needs of our neighbor, we pray. R/
- L. That we may respond with faith, hope and love to God's will, we pray. R/
- L. That following the example of St. Arnold we accept God's will for us – for it is his will that all be saved and come to know his beloved Son, we pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

## ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

### ***Hymn***

## **Day 5. Arnold Janssen's Strength in Times of Suffering**

### ***Hymn***

### ***Inspiration***

- L. Throughout his life Arnold experienced suffering which he endured in silence. However, in his letters and talks he frequently referred to his commitment to God, and to the blessings that are

achieved through sacrifice, pain and the cross. Thanks to the strength of his faith, St. Arnold was able to overcome difficulties, to endure humiliations and obstacles, and to face setbacks in his work. Following the example of St. Arnold, we ask that the Holy Spirit grant us the strength to overcome the obstacles that are placed in our path as we proceed along his way.

**R. Reading from the Gospel according to Mark 10: 32-34**

L. Reflecting on that text, we present some thoughts of St. Arnold on his trust in God's strength: *(to be read by three)*

- While trying to encourage a missionary in Papua New Guinea he wrote: "I too have sufferings, and these are often greater than you could possibly imagine. But I try to offer myself in daily sacrifice to our Heavenly Father, in union with our loving Saviour, during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Then when sacrifices come my way I kiss and embrace them, and give thanks to God." *(pause)*
- He also encouraged one superior on the missions, stating: "Never give up when faced with sufferings and trials, but rather give thanks to God. He wishes to test his servants to see if they really place their trust in him." *(pause)*
- Speaking with some religious sisters he said: "The sufferings that God sends us are not beyond our power to sustain. If God sends sufferings, he also gives us the strength to endure them." *(pause)*

## ***Intercessions***

- L. After reflecting on the word of God, let us pray with renewed confidence to the Holy Spirit, that he may give us the gift of strength for our daily journey. To each of the verses of Psalm 21 - the psalm which Jesus prayed on the cross - let our prayer be: R/ *My God, do not abandon me; free me from my enemies.*
- L. My God, my God, why have you deserted me? I call all day, my God, but you never answer, all night long I call and cannot rest. Let us pray. R/
- L. All who see me jeer at me. They toss their heads and sneer; 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' Let us pray. R/
- L. Like water I am poured out, disjointed are all my bones. My heart has become like wax, it is melted within my breast. Parched as burnt clay is my throat. My tongue cleaves to my jaws. Let us pray. R/
- L. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! For he has never despised nor scorned the poverty of the poor. From him he has not hidden his face, but he heard the poor man when he cried. Let us pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

***Hymn***

## Day 6. Arnold Janssen: a Man of Humility

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

L. The Gospel practice of humility and openness to others is not a sign of weakness or passivity, neither is it something that comes from one's own personality. Rather, it arises from strength of character totally dependent on God, the source of all hope and trust (*Mt 6:25-34*). St. Arnold shared in this gift, recognizing and trusting in God as the source of all that is good. From him flowed the power that enabled each one to fulfil the demands of the missionary task. We ask in this celebration that following the example of St. Arnold we too may be able to have a change of heart, becoming humble and gentle like Jesus.

### R. **Reading from the Gospel according to John 13:4-17**

L. Reflecting on the text, we present some thoughts of St. Arnold on trust in God's action in his life. (*read by four*)

- "If we trust in God and do our part, he will never abandon us." (*pause*)
- "God will certainly provide all that is needed at the right moment." (*pause*)
- "We cannot welcome God unless we allow ourselves to become small in his sight. This is the great lesson of that first Christmas night." (*pause*)

- “Where humility is to be found there too is trust. If there is no humility, then there cannot be trust.”  
(*pause*)

### ***Intercessions***

- L. After reading and reflecting on the Word of God, let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through the intercession of St. Arnold Janssen. After each prayer let our response be: *R/ Transform us into joyful servants to our neighbor.*
- L. That we may assist in bringing about that long-awaited just society. Let us pray. *R/*
- L. That our words and actions may favor especially the poor and marginalized. Let us pray. *R/*
- L. That through prophetic dialogue we may construct a more caring society respectful of differences. Let us pray. *R/*
- L. That by following the example of St. Arnold giving generous service to others may become second nature to us. Let us pray. *R/*  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

### ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

### ***Hymn***

## Day 7. Arnold Janssen: Sowing God's Word

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

L. St. Arnold was deeply in love with the word of God. He tried by all means possible to sow that word among different peoples and cultures. Following the example of Jesus, Arnold opened himself up to the workings of the Holy Spirit in his life. He allowed that word to bear fruit in him. Through intense missionary activity he sowed that word, thus enabling many people from very different backgrounds to know and be nourished by the Good News of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for the gift of St. Arnold Janssen, who filled with a burning zeal for the word of God, communicated that word through his own missionary life.

### R. **Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 8:4-16**

L. Reflecting on the text, we present some thoughts of St. Arnold on his living out the word of God. *(read by two)*

- In his own spiritual writings St. Arnold pointed out: "How full of profound thoughts are the words of Holy Scripture. It is here that members of the Society will come to know and venerate them deeply. Then they too will become teachers sharing with others what they have come to know." *(pause)*
- In the first rule for the mission house St. Arnold wrote: "To know the word (that is to say God's

word) is to know him who is the Word of God, namely, the Son; the Word of the Son made flesh, namely, the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Word of the Holy Spirit, who inspires all of Sacred Scripture and the words of the prophets, apostles and priests in so far as what they speak was inspired by the Holy Spirit.” *(pause)*

### ***Intercessions***

- L. After reading and reflecting on the word of God, let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through the intercession of St. Arnold, so that the word of God may become alive in our hearts. To each intercession we respond: R/ *We give you thanks for your word of life.*
- L. God, our Father, it was with your word that you created everything that exists. Let us pray. R/
- L. God the Son, You announced the Good News of the kingdom. Let us pray. R/
- L. God, Holy Spirit, You continue to reveal the words of Jesus. Let us pray. R/
- L. One God, Trinity of persons, You chose St. Arnold that he might sow the word of Jesus throughout the whole world. Let us pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

***Hymn***

## Day 8. Arnold Janssen's Mission in the World

### *Inspiration*

L. The missionary command of Jesus to his disciples to go out to the whole world and announce the Good News slowly developed in the life of St. Arnold. And in the end it brought about great fruit. We give thanks to God for the gift of St. Arnold who, filled with a burning desire for the mission that Jesus had given to his Church, became in the end one of its greatest supporters.

### **R. Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:1-14**

L. Reflecting on that text, we present some thoughts of St. Arnold on the missionary mandate that is the concern of the whole Church: *(read by five)*

- “May God, the Holy and Immortal One, be adored more and more each day throughout the whole world. May all peoples and nations come to the love and knowledge of his most holy name.” *(pause)*
- “Missionaries are ambassadors of divine love. They are called to show forth the great work of God, and establish the kingdom of divine love wherever it does not yet exist.” *(pause)*
- “The task of spreading the faith is the essential and final aim of God’s Church here on earth.” *(pause)*
- “The proclamation of the Good News is the first and supreme expression of love for one’s neighbor.” *(pause)*
- “The missionary is not the light, but the one who reveals the light: Christ.” *(pause)*

## ***Intercessions***

- L. After meditating on the word of God, let us recall that since our baptism, and especially since our consecration as religious missionaries, we have been invited to assist in the mission of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. To each intercession let our response be: R/ *Renew our missionary commitment.*
- L. Because we have all been baptized into the one Spirit, to form one body, in unity among the diversity of peoples, let us pray. R/
- L. Because, as followers of Jesus in the Society of the Divine Word, we live out the gift of faith forming one multicultural and international community under the same Spirit, let us pray. R/
- L. Because in baptism we receive the Holy Spirit in order to participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the Church, let us pray. R/
- L. Because the witness and commitment of St. Arnold urges us to share the faith with other cultures and communities, let us pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. With one voice let us pray to honor God, the Father of all: *Our Father...*

***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

***Hymn***

## Day 9. Arnold Janssen's Life of Prayer

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

L. Arnold Janssen's point of permanent contact with God was prayer. Evidence for this is to be found in a note that he made in his travel diary: "Reflect on God's eyes which gaze on you and do not condemn you." One witness to his life and work said: "What was wonderful about Fr. Arnold was that he lived his life in God, and thought in divine categories... There is one thing which I am certain of and that is, that Arnold always lived his life aware of the divine presence. And his only desire was to live in conformity with the divine will. So the memory that I hold of him is of a man greatly to be admired, and worthy of respect." We give thanks to God for the gift of St. Arnold who, filled with a deep love for God, communicated this to the Church through a life of prayer and mission.

### R. **Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 6:5-15**

- L. Reflecting on the text, we present some thoughts of St. Arnold on prayer: *(read by three)*
- He recommended the following prayer to his confreres when undertaking an important work: "God, Holy Spirit, come into our souls and into our hearts. Inspire and strengthen us with your divine grace so that we may recognize and follow faithfully your holy inspirations." *(pause)*

- “The essence of genuine prayer is entrusting oneself to God, since he is so great he will always guide and protect us.” *(pause)*
- During the final moments of his life he prayed: “I don’t know if my life is drawing to a close. However, I feel that it may be. May God do with me what he wills. At all times I am ready to do his holy will. Whatever he does is always for our good. Even if he inflicts hardships he is, and always will remain our good God. Even now, during this time of illness, when I can no longer work, because my feeble hands fail me, I give him thanks. May God be praised and exalted forever.” *(pause)*

### ***Intercessions***

- L. After meditating on the Word of God, as a prayer together, each participant is invited to pray aloud one each petition of the Our Father..

*(when this is finished)* Let us pray that prayer together, Our Father...

### ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

### ***Hymn***

## **404.4 Novena in Honor of St. Joseph** **Freinademetz - I (L. Liberti SVD)**

### **Day 1. “Master, where do you live?”** **Missionary vocation of Joseph** **Freinademetz**

#### *Hymn*

#### *Inspiration*

- L. From his youth Joseph felt the call to spread the Gospel in distant lands. In a letter in 1891 to his nephew who was a seminarian he wrote: “It would fill me with joy, and it would be an extraordinary grace if one day you were to come to China as a missionary. But we leave everything in the hands of Divine Providence who assigns to each one his place of work. You may pray to obtain this grace, just as I did when I was your age. I did not believe that it would be possible for me one day to reach China. But for God all things are possible.” Let us ask God for the gift to respond to the call to make his kingdom present in the world.
- R. **Reading from the Gospel according to John 1:35-42**
- L. Reflecting on the text, we recall some of St. Joseph’s thoughts: *(Read by two)*
- When he applied in 1878 to join the missionary enterprise of St. Arnold Janssen he wrote: “The fame of the institute which you have founded, and on which the blessing of God has so evidently been bestowed, has reached the farthest corners of Tyrol. And since I have for a number of years now

been thinking of dedicating myself to the missionary vocation, I dare to ask to be admitted to your mission house.” *(pause)*

- In his farewell homily to his family and friends, he said: “The Lord has called me and given me a grace of which I will never be worthy, not even in eternity. I hear within me the voice of the Good Shepherd who invites me to accompany him to the wastelands overseas, to help him find the sheep which have been lost.” *(pause)*

### *Intercessions*

- L. After reflecting on the Word of God we seek the intercession of St. Joseph. To each petition we respond: R/ *Open our hearts that we might hear your call.*
- L. God, Heavenly Father, you have called us to be your children. Renew our missionary commitment to prophetic dialogue, we pray. R/
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you who chose your disciples, increase our openness to the task of mission, we pray. R/
- L. God, Holy Spirit, who continue to bring together many peoples, open our Society and ourselves to the needs of our neighbor, we pray. R/
- L. One God, Three Persons, grant that following the example of St. Joseph, we may listen to, and follow Jesus Christ our Lord and Master, we pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. Let us now pray with one voice: *Our Father...*

## *Concluding Prayer*

L. Almighty God, Father, Son and Spirit,

A. We thank you:

- for calling Joseph to follow your Son, the Divine Word, in the missionary task of proclaiming the Good News to the people of China.

- for the gift of your Spirit which filled him with love for your Son and which compelled him to dedicate himself fully to spreading your kingdom among the people of China.

- for the missionary witness of Joseph, a man of humility, sincerity and complete detachment.

L. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

A. We ask for ourselves:

- the missionary love of Joseph to go out and meet those who have not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- the zeal of Joseph for the word of God to unite the hearts of all people.

- the hope of Joseph to fashion among diverse peoples, one community in the one Spirit.

- the openness of Joseph to follow Jesus' example of total commitment to the poorest, and those in greatest need.

- the desire of Joseph to learn well "the language of love, the only one understood by all humanity."  
Amen

*Hymn*

## Day 2. “Other people await me,” - from the Alps to China

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

L. On March 2, 1879 Joseph Freinademetz left the Steyl Mission House, founded by St. Arnold Janssen, for China. He expressed his feelings like this: “About seven months ago I left behind the mountains of my homeland. The farewell was really painful, but here in the mission house I found a second homeland that I really love. Now God calls me to seek a third homeland on the other side of the ocean. I wish to follow his call, and to say farewell to all that connects me with Europe in order to dedicate myself totally to God’s service. I hope to see many of you there on the missions. I say farewell: *Until we meet in China!*”

His words express the joy at embracing the missionary call of Jesus. But this call would not be without its challenges and difficulties. Let us ask God for the grace to overcome the temptation to remain tied to people and places familiar to us, and so neglect the universality of our missionary call.

### R. **Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 4:42-44**

L. Reflecting on the text, we recall some of St. Joseph’s thoughts: (*Read by two*)

- He recalls the moment of leaving the mission house for China: “I will never be able to express in words how I felt when the Reverend Fr. Superior

imparted to us his final blessing, and the Papal Nuncio gave us the mission cross. Neither can I express my feelings when, as we were on the point of leaving, we prostrated ourselves before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament offering ourselves to him in all our poverty. Nor can I say how we felt when we stretched out our hands for the last time to our brothers, or when we said farewell to our dear students who shouted after us: 'Farewell, till we meet again in China!'" *(pause)*

- About his farewell to his family and home he writes: "The missionary is a human being with a heart that beats with the same feelings and emotions as any other person." Seeing his elderly father, his dearest mother, his eight brothers and sister overwhelmed with grief, he too was deeply moved: "I asked for my parents' blessing and I gave my priestly blessing to all my dear ones. We sealed once more our closeness before the altar, and I left my dear family and country perhaps for the last time, never to see them again." *(pause)*

### ***Intercessions***

- L. After reflecting on the Word of God we seek the intercession of St. Joseph. To each verse of the prayer *(by St. Charles de Foucauld)* let our response be: R/ *Give us the joy and courage to be sent in your name.*
- L. Father, I abandon myself into your hands. Do with me what you will. Let us pray. R/
- L. Whatever you do, I thank you. I am open to everything. I accept everything. Let us pray. R/

- L. May your will be done in me and in all your creatures. Let us pray. R/
- L. All that I ask is that into your hands, Lord, I may commend my spirit. Let us pray. R/
- L. I thank you with all the love that is in my heart, because I love you, Lord. Let us pray. R/
- L. All I can do is to offer myself into your hands with complete confidence because you are my Father. Let us pray. R/

*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*

- L. Let us now pray with one voice: *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.*

### ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

#### ***Hymn***

### **Day 3. “My witness to the ends of the earth.” - A Wandering Missionary**

#### ***Hymn***

#### ***Inspiration***

- L. Joseph Freinademetz set foot on Chinese soil for the first time on the 20 April 1879. After a short stay in Hong Kong, he set out together with Fr. John B. Anzer for the Chinese province of Shantung. They took up their first missionary residence there in a small town called Puoli. Within a short time Joseph began to travel throughout that vast mission territory visiting the Christians who were scattered throughout

numerous villages. A witness close to him writes: “It was amazing to see what this tall ascetic figure of a man was able to support: a mountain of work, chaos, and weariness, and along with all of this, the scarcity of food.” Let us ask God that, following the example of St. Joseph, we would sow with generosity the Good News of Jesus among the great diversity of peoples and cultures that make up the human race.

**R. Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1: 7 - 8**

L. Reflecting on the text, we recall some of St. Joseph's thoughts: (*Read by two*)

- In a letter to the parish priest of his home village he wrote: “I have spent the last few months in a village where until now not a single Christian has been living. We rented a house here, and from this place, with the help of my catechist, I have tried to preach to the poor unbelievers. Many people came, not only from the village itself but also from the surrounding countryside. But to tell the truth, the majority come, driven by the curiosity of getting to know this stranger. They never stop marvelling at my watch, the dinner service, the books, and my pencil.” (*pause*)
- In a letter to Arnold Janssen he wrote: “I find myself completely alone in the midst of a completely non-Christian people. Finally I see fulfilled the ideal of which I had dreamed in my youth. Praised be to God! But what am I to do? How am I to organize things? Where am I to begin? ... O my God, you do the building because on my own I would build in vain. Keep watch,

Lord, otherwise I will keep watch in vain ... Yes, Lord, I love you! Let's get down to work." (*pause*)

### ***Intercession***

L. After reflecting on the Word of God we ask the intercession of St. Joseph. Let us pray together:

A. God, Father of Love, together with the Holy Spirit you sent St. Joseph to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples. We ask that his example continue to inspire us today, so that through his intercessions all nations might come to know and recognize the great love you have for each one of us. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, and our friend and Lord. Amen.

L. To conclude let us pray together: *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.*

### ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

### ***Hymn***

## **Day 4. The Father's Revelation to the Little and Simple Ones: Poverty of the Missions**

### ***Hymn***

### ***Inspiration***

L. Shortly after arriving at the Chinese mission Joseph Freinademetz wrote: "My dwelling place at present is a hut belonging to a Christian from the locality. It is made out of wood and clay, with a straw roof. As for the chapel in the village, it does not impress anyone. The altar is very low for

the European missionaries, and so bricks have had to be put under the legs. The result is that it wobbles a little. The cross lacks an image of Christ. The altar cloths are creased, and the candlesticks are made of lead. The women kneel inside, while the men, both on account of the lack of space and the Chinese custom of segregating the sexes, congregate around the door.” Let us ask God that, through the intercession of St. Joseph, we may have an attitude of care and concern for all those who are most in need.

**R. Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 1: 25-29**

L. Reflecting on the text, we recall some of St. Joseph’s thoughts: (*Read by one*)

- Those who received baptism belonged to the poorest social group. About them he wrote: “For these poor people it is not easy to become a Catholic. The catechumens tell me that at the beginning, after their conversion, they did not dare to appear in public in the market place. Before that they were considered respectable members of the community, or at the very least good neighbors. Now they are looked down on as the wretched of the earth, marginalized by the community. Their neighbors break off all relationships with them. In China this carries very serious consequences, as it is a society where mutual help and assistance is of great importance. They intimidate them by blocking the entrance to their houses, by burying them alive, and by erasing their names from the family register. This is a terrible punishment in China. ‘This is not my son,’ shouted a mother, whose son wished to become a Christian.” (*pause*)

## ***Intercessions***

- L. After reflecting on the word of God we seek the intercession of St. Joseph. To each petition we respond: R/ *Help us O Lord*
- L. That we may make ourselves available to assist our brothers and sisters who are most in need, let us pray. R/
- L. That we may serve with generosity and joy those who are poorest, let us pray. R/
- L. That we may be a community that allows itself to be evangelized by the poor, let us pray. R/
- L. That we may follow the example of St. Joseph in our care and respect for the poor, let us pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. Let us now pray with one voice: *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.*

## ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

### ***Hymn***

## **Day 5. Proclaiming the Good News: Preaching and Catechesis on the Missions**

### ***Hymn***

### ***Inspiration***

- L. Our great missionary to China did not hesitate to travel throughout vast areas of the countryside in order to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. In pursuit of this aim he spared no effort or sacrifice in building bridges so that he could communicate

with the people. His missionary spirit was expressed in a continuous desire to be with the people. He visited them, and organized the Christian community. He continued to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. In July 1882 he wrote to a friend: "In two or three days time I will go to live in a community some distance from here. My life from now on will be taken up travelling from one place to another so that I may win over as many people as possible for God." Let us ask God that through the intercession of St. Joseph Freinademetz our community will share with joy and enthusiasm the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**R. Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 12:4-8**

L. Reflecting on the text, we recall some of St. Joseph's thoughts: (*Read by three*)

- In 1890 he wrote: "I have been granted two graces by God for which I will never cease to give him thanks; that of my priesthood, and that of becoming a missionary." (*pause*)
- Concerning the best approach to missionary work he said: "The best role models for gaining new members to the Church are those who have recently joined themselves. Our Christian men and women must themselves become apostles. They must pass on to the catechumens and to those recently baptised a real fervour and enthusiasm in sharing the faith with others. The wellbeing of the mission and the growth of the Church will depend on the formation and efficient employment of these soldiers of Christ." (*pause*)

- In a letter written to Arnold Janssen he said: “The best means of obtaining fruits on the missions is to have a course for catechumens of at least one month’s duration. It is only through a systematic course of instructions, united with religious practice, that anything solid can be achieved.”  
*(pause)*

### *Intercessions*

- L. After reflecting on the Word of God we seek the intercession of St. Joseph. Let our response to each prayer be: R/ *We give thanks to you O Lord.*
- L. For those who proclaim and teach by their lives the Good News of Jesus Christ, let us pray. R/
- L. For those people who encourage and strengthen us in our own faith, let us pray. R/
- L. For those who proclaim with openness and enthusiasm the Good News of Jesus, let us pray. R/
- L. For that special care and concern shown by St. Joseph to the catechumens, let us pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. Let us now pray together: *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.*

### *Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)*

#### *Hymn*

## **Day 6. Curing the Sick: Compassion shown to the Chinese People**

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

- L. A fellow missionary of St. Joseph tells of a visit they made together to an old man who was very seriously ill: “On arriving at the house, Joseph sat at the patient’s bedside asking how he was. He was an old farmer, who had only recently asked to become a catechumen, and so did not clearly know the truths of the faith. With great simplicity, Fr Joseph spoke with him about the great love of the true God who had sent his priests from distant lands to be with him, and to show him before he died the way to heaven that would now open up for him with Holy Baptism. With great emotion and clear signs of assent, the sick man frequently interrupted the priest by showing his happiness before the wonderful benefits of the new religion, which until now were unknown to him. With great fervour he asked to be baptised. I was very impressed by what had taken place at the bedside of that sick man. On the one hand you could see the openness and desire of the sick man for salvation, and on the other the love and skill of that spiritual doctor, who spoke Chinese so perfectly that each word was chosen and used in the most appropriate way.”

Let us ask God that through the intercession of the holy missionary Joseph we too may have the same qualities of compassion for others that he had.

## R. Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10

- L. Reflecting on the text, let us now read a witness account of St. Joseph's missionary life. *(Read by two)*
- "In that heroic figure could be seen the marks of great suffering and hardships which he had to endure during his 19 years of continuous and difficult missionary work in the interior of China. His back was bent over, his face and cheeks pale and sunk, but his eyes alert and very kind. From the start of his missionary vocation he set out with an enthusiasm and energy that seemed to know no bounds." *(pause)*
  - He wanted to build a home for old people in one of the communities. "A gesture of this kind would be seen in a very positive light by these poor people, where even the wealthiest person is aware of hunger in their midst. I am certain that it will bring about good results. Even the non-believers would have respect for a religion founded on love like ours." *(pause)*

## *Intercessions*

- L. After reflecting on the Word of God we seek the intercession of St. Joseph to help us act and behave with compassion towards others. To each verse of Psalm 33 we respond: *R/ See how good is the Lord; blessed are those who seek refuge in him!*

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
His praise always on my lips;  
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. R/

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the lord and he answered me;  
From all my terrors he set me free. R/

This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
And rescued him from all his distress.  
Revere the Lord, you his saints.  
They lack nothing those who revere him. R/

*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*

L. Together we pray: *Our Father...*

***Concluding Prayer*** *(as on the first day)*

***Hymn***

## **Day 7. Persecution: Setbacks in the Life of a Missionary**

***Hymn***

***Inspiration***

L. In the spring of 1889 Joseph went to help a Christian who was also the magistrate in a town. He had been imprisoned, and severely punished for his commitment to Christianity. Finally he was able to have him released. But this did not put an end to the many setbacks Joseph continued to face on his missionary journeys. Let us ask God that through the intercession of St. Joseph we too may have courage, strength and joy in our spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**R. Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:23-31**

- L. Reflecting on the text, we recall some of St. Joseph's thoughts: *(Read by two)*
- When evaluating the situation described above he said: "The only weapons left to me and my poor Christian community are those of prayer and patience. Here also we see the truth of the saying: a time of persecution purifies the Church of Christ." *(pause)*
  - Before setting out for China in 1879 he stated: "To accept great suffering as it comes with patience is a sure sign of hope in eternal life." *(pause)*

### *Intercessions*

- L. After reflecting on the Word of God we ask the intercession of St. Joseph. Let our response to each of the prayers be: R/ *Lord, grant us strength and courage.*
- L. That we may proclaim the Gospel with hope and joy, let us pray. R/
- L. That we may face up to the troubles and setbacks that come with proclaiming the Gospel, let us pray. R/
- L. That we may be constant in the faith, let us pray. R/
- L. That the example of St. Joseph may support us in times of difficulties, let us pray. R/

*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*

- L. Let us now pray with one voice: *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.*

***Concluding Prayer*** *(as on the first day)*

***Hymn***

## **Day 8. That all may be one: the Missionary Community**

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

L. When Joseph was appointed superior of the Divine Word Missionaries in China, among his many duties was the task of caring for the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the missionaries. During a retreat he said to them: “Our life is too short and our time too precious to be squandered in a useless way.” The missionaries who listened to him knew that their superior was only expressing in words his own radical commitment. This was what everyone admired about him in his own life as a missionary. At the end of the retreat he returned to the same point: “A good religious is by nature a good missionary and vice versa. The relationship between these two vocations is the same as that between the grain and ear of wheat, or between heroism and victory.” Let us ask God that through the intercession of St. Joseph we be a hospitable community.

### **R. Reading from the Gospel according to John 17:20-23**

L. Reflecting on the text, we recall some of St. Joseph’s thoughts: *(Read by two)*

- He wrote to St. Arnold: “In general the mood of the missionaries is very good. We are delighted that all have been admitted to final vows. Given the way things are at present I think that this has been the best decision.” *(pause)*

- Regarding the missionaries' stay at the retreat house he commented: "After a year spent out in the world, it is the community life joyfully lived in the observance of the rule, spiritual reading, study and meditation that renews the missionary."  
*(pause)*

### ***Intercessions***

- L. After reflecting on the Word of God we seek the intercession of St. Joseph. Let our response to each petition be: R/ *That we all may be one.*
- L. Lord, that your gifts may come alive in our community, let us pray. R/
- L. Lord, that we may learn to listen and attend to our neighbor, let us pray. R/
- L. Lord, that we may build up a spirit of unity in our community, let us pray. R/
- L. Lord, that the example of St. Joseph may transform us into a missionary community, let us pray. R/  
*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*
- L. Let us now pray with one voice: *Our Father...*

### ***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

### ***Hymn***

## Day 9. No greater love: Commitment to the People of China

### *Hymn*

### *Inspiration*

- L. About the middle of 1907 a severe outbreak of typhus occurred. It affected especially the orphanage and the girls' school. The schools had to be closed, and a number of SSpS Sisters who were taking care of the sick, fell victim themselves to the disease and died. Joseph had to make a long tour, visiting the missionaries scattered throughout the region. It was a journey filled with much physical discomfort, and during it a number of accidents also occurred. On account of the general poor state of his health he too fell victim to typhus. He was forced to interrupt his tour and return to the central mission house. In spite of his high fever, he continued to be concerned about the others who were suffering. His health continued to deteriorate day by day. When no hope remained that he would recover, the missionaries living closest to him gathered around their dying companion and superior. The oldest priest in the group thanked Joseph for the good example that he had given them. He told Joseph that they would always remember it, and then asked for his blessing for themselves and for the Church in China. He added: "Fr. Joseph, we promise that we will continue to work with the same spirit as you." "According to my spirit...?" Joseph managed to repeat. Then he continued in a whisper: "I haven't done everything well."

On Tuesday, 28 January 1908, at 6.00 pm without any struggle he began his journey towards eternal life.

Let us ask God that through the intercession of St. Joseph we may commit ourselves completely to the cause of spreading the kingdom of God.

**R. Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 4:14-30**

L. Reflecting on the death of Joseph Freinademetz, let us recall some of the statements of his contemporaries: *(Read by three)*

- From Holland Arnold Janssen wrote: “The Lord has taken the second founder of the missions; this good and holy soul who has gained everlasting life in the service of the missions in China... He worked with generous zeal and total commitment. Now he rejoices in heaven from where he continues to be our intercessor before the throne of God.” *(pause)*
- The bishop of the mission territory stated: “He never received from the Chinese authorities any official recognition, no sign of distinction, or any kind of medal, though at that time the government was very generous in handing out such honors. This was rather surprising for those who knew the situation here in China. Yet at the same time, this helps us to appreciate how Fr. Joseph liked to avoid such external honors. He wanted to be no more than a simple foot-soldier who fulfilled his duty faithfully.” *(pause)*
- Sr. Blandina SSpS affirmed: “Already now we can invoke as a saint our venerable Fr. Superior Joseph.

And there is one consolation left to us poor orphans now: in him we have an intercessor who can intercede for us in the most effective way. The future will prove this.” *(pause)*

### ***Intercessions***

- L. These days we have celebrated some aspects of the life and work of this holy missionary, Joseph Freinademetz. Once more we call on him with trust and humility seeking consolation, support, strength and inspiration so that his example will encourage us in our own religious and missionary commitment.

To each petition we respond: R/ *We give thanks to you, O Lord.*

- L. For the poor and humble of heart who evangelize us with their lives, let us pray. R/  
L. For the gentle in spirit who inspire us by their example, let us pray. R/  
L. For the lowly, those most dear to Jesus, who teach us how to trust in God, let us pray. R/  
L. For St. Joseph Freinademetz and the witness of his life; who became poor, humble, gentle and lowly among the people of China, that he may strengthen our own Christian and missionary commitment, let us pray. R/

*(Other prayers of your own may be added.)*

- L. Let us now pray with one voice: *Our Father...*

***Concluding Prayer (as on the first day)***

***Hymn***

## **404.5 Novena in Honor of St. Joseph Freinademetz - II**

### *A missionary hymn*

- L. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- A. Amen.

### *Introductory Prayers*

- L. Lord Jesus, Divine redeemer, Eternal Word of the Father, we believe, you are really present here to bless us all. In perfect love and faith, we praise and adore your most holy presence.
- A. We praise and adore you, in union with St. Joseph Freinademetz, who spent his life for the completion of your mission on earth. Loving Jesus, care for us, that we may follow his example to live according to your holy will and make your honor and glory, the end and aim of our life.
- L. Lord Jesus, we ardently desire to show the same love and devotion to the missions, as St. Joseph showed in his life on earth, in perfect union with your commandments. So we pray.
- A. O God, who did confide the China mission and the people, to the loving care and protection of your faithful servant St. Joseph, grant to us, your servants, the same grace, to fulfil the duties of our life faithfully and imitating his virtues, to attain everlasting happiness and peace in our life. We make this prayer with St. Joseph through the grace and blessings of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

*Word of God: Mt 28:16-20 (Pause for reflection)*

### *Invocation to St. Joseph Freinademetz*

- L. Dear St. Joseph, the foster father of the Divine Word China Mission, we appear before you to offer our love and gratitude.
- A. We unite all our affection and devotion to you, with the love with which your people in China regarded you and with which they will cherish you through all eternity.
- L. Dear St. Joseph, be our patron and intercessor with God. Through your intercession, obtain for us pardon of all our sins. Implore for us a great purity of heart and all the necessary virtues, especially a lively faith, firm hope and perfect love.
- A. Be with us in all the necessities of soul and body, but most of all, in the time of our duties and responsibilities. Inspire us with the Holy Spirit to imitate the model and example of your life.
- L. O glorious St. Joseph, who was the powerful instrument of the Church, we implore your heavenly aid for the mission work of the Church, for Pope *N.*, all bishops, priests and religious. Guide and assist all the activities of the Church in spreading the Kingdom of God.
- A. Amen.

### *Intercessory Prayers*

- L. Jesus, you are the light of justice that enlightens every one who comes into the world. Let the light of the divine redeemer, expel the darkness and ignorance of many unfortunate people in the world. Send many followers and heralds of the truth and light to all people.

- A. Through the intercession of St. Joseph we pray to you, O Lord.
- L. Send forth your missionaries and shed your blessings and graces over their work, for, success and lasting fruit must come from you alone. Protect them in body and soul; in the end be their reward and their crown for all eternity.
- A. Through the intercession of St. Joseph we pray to you, O Lord.
- L. Jesus Christ, Son of God and savior of all, you are the example and source of missionary zeal. We beg of you, increase the missionary activities of the Church, in spreading your kingdom of love.
- A. Through the intercession of St. Joseph we pray to you, O Lord.
- L. Inspire many young people with a vocation for the service of the kingdom. Instill into the hearts of those chosen, the purest spirit of self sacrifice and faithfulness to duty.
- A. Through the intercession of St. Joseph we pray to you, O Lord.
- L. Grant that all of us in the Arnoldus Family may labor for your glory, for the victory and spread of your kingdom and salvation of all.
- A. Through the intercession of St. Joseph we pray to you, O Lord.
- L. In all our work, sacrifice and prayer for the missions, our aim shall be: May the loving heart of our Savior live and reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all.
- A. Amen.

L. *(We pray for our personal intentions in silence.)*

L. Let us pray.

A. O Lord, with all our heart, we thank you, for all the graces and joys that we received through the intercession of your Servant Joseph. May the blessings of his presence continue in us, during all the duties and labors of our vocation. Bless us and give light to our understanding, strength to our will, peace to our hearts, purity to our love. Guide our feet along your paths, strengthen our hands in your service, sanctify our tongues and protect our eyes from all evil. Together with St. Joseph, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## *Hymn*

### **404.6 Novena for Those who are to be Ordained**

L. Let us pray for all our missionary confreres throughout the Society, who will be ordained this year: God Holy Spirit, Father of love and God of all consolation,

A. Please watch over those who are about to receive an abundance of your gifts on the day of their priestly ordination. Anoint them with the oil of your love and grace, and so make them all the more worthy of your immense mercy.\*\*

L. Let us pray for our ordinandi: O Lord, pour out the special grace of priestly virtues on your servants.

A. Bind them with a bond of strength. Give them wise hearts and clear minds. Load them with the

sevenfold grace of your gifts, so that, as ministers of the altar and faithful followers in the service of Christ, they may truly be able to spread your Gospel to many people who are disposed to the Word of God and to the Church of Christ, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **404.7 Triduum in Honor of St. Arnold Janssen**

*(B. Otte SVD)*

##### *Hymn*

L. Loving God, you have revealed your love for us through the mission of your Son Jesus in the Spirit. You called St. Arnold to share in this ongoing mission of bringing light to our dark world by founding three missionary Congregations. Like him we dedicate ourselves to the service of your kingdom. In this Triduum of prayer we wish to express our gratitude for inspiring St. Arnold's missionary enthusiasm and for giving him as a model for us. We ask that your Holy Spirit may pray in us and help us to live out what we say.

##### **Part I**

- L. St. Arnold, you adored the Father in spirit and in truth.
- A. Implore for us zeal and fidelity in the service of God.
- L. You dedicated yourself completely to the service of the Divine Word.
- A. Implore for us generosity and steadfastness in our Christian vocation.

- L. You opened yourself unreservedly to the Holy Spirit's action.
- A. Implore for us an openness and obedience to the Spirit's impulses.
- L. You were inflamed with zeal for the Triune God's glory.
- A. Implore for us similar zeal and dedication of life that the Holy Triune God may live in every heart.
- L. You were deeply impressed by the riches of grace and truth in Christ.
- A. Implore for us the grace to penetrate more deeply by prayer and contemplation into the saving mystery of Christ's love, which surpasses all understanding.
- L. The sentiments of the Sacred Heart of Jesus shaped your life and service.
- A. Implore for us the grace that the same sentiments determine our thinking and acting.
- L. Listening to God's word and attentive to the signs of the times, you untiringly sought God's will and followed it courageously, even in difficult circumstances.
- A. Help us that, faithful to the Gospel and our vocation and open to God's call in the signs of the times, we may recognize and do God's will.

## **Part II**

- L. In every difficulty and contradiction, conscious of your own weakness, you placed your confidence in the wise and good providence of the Father.

- A. Implore for us constant and unshakable confidence in our heavenly Father's love and wisdom.
- L. You patiently bore injustice and generously forgave everyone.
- A. Implore for us patience and readiness to forgive when we are treated unjustly or misunderstood.
- L. In an exemplary manner, you followed the Lord's admonition to pray always.
- A. Implore for us perseverance and confidence in prayer.
- L. With Paul, you could say: With Christ I am crucified.
- A. Implore for us the grace to follow the Lord on the way of the cross and to bear the trials of life in a genuine spirit of penance.
- L. Unreservedly and with undivided heart, you followed the Lord in a way of life according to the evangelical counsels.
- A. Implore for us the grace to live in truth what we have promised in our baptismal vows.
- L. You venerated Mary as the Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit and entrusted yourself and your work to her motherly protection.
- A. Implore for us a childlike love for the Mother of Christ and unflinching confidence in her help.
- L. Setting aside your own desires and interests, you devoted yourself completely to the cause of proclaiming the Gospel among all peoples and worked for the salvation of the world.

- A. Implore for us the readiness to dedicate ourselves totally so that the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief may vanish before the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace.
- L. In your concern and zeal for the Church's missionary mandate, you founded three missionary congregations.
- A. Implore for all the members that their missionary zeal may increase and characterize their life and works.
- L. One of the great intentions and concerns of your world-embracing heart was the unity of all Christian denominations and churches.
- A. Implore for us a deep understanding for the cause of the unity of all in Christ, so that, like the Lord and with him, we may unceasingly pray for unity.

### **Part III**

- L. You were filled with zeal for the sanctification of priests.
- A. Implore for us a similar fervor and the fullness of the Holy Spirit's gifts for all priests, together with faithfulness to their vocation.
- L. You fostered the sanctification of the Christian family and the education of youth in a Christian spirit.
- A. Implore for us perseverance in praying for genuine Christian life in families and among young people, and obtain good vocations for your foundations and for all religious families.

- L. You recognized the importance of the apostolate of the press and promoted it with all your energy and available means.
- A. Implore for all those in responsible positions in the world and in the Church an interest in using the communications media for the benefit of all and the up-building of God's kingdom.
- L. By timely promotion of the retreat movement, you endeavored to deepen Christian life.
- A. Implore a fruitful success to the manifold efforts to renew faith and Christian life by means of traditional as well as new methods.
- L. Your love for the Church found expression in prayer, work and obedience.
- A. Implore for us the readiness to dedicate ourselves to the tasks and interests of the Church and to faithfully obey its directives.
- L. You have been received into the glory of the Triune God.
- A. Implore for us the grace of perseverance, so that we too, together with you and all the angels and saints, may one day praise the Triune God for all eternity.
- L. Let us pray. Father, through your Incarnate Word you continue to reconcile the world to yourself. May the prayers of St. Arnold help all peoples to walk in the way of salvation, freed from the darkness of sin by the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- A. Amen.

## 405. Rosaries

### 405.1 The Mysteries of the Rosary

#### I. The Joyful Mysteries (*Monday*)

1. The Annunciation. The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her that she is to be the mother of God.
2. The Visitation. Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth whose child, John the Baptist, is soon to be born. The Song of Mary is composed.
3. The Nativity. The birth of Jesus in a stable. He comes to save all people.
4. The Presentation. The Blessed Virgin presents the Child Jesus in the Temple. The Song of Simeon is composed.
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. The obedience of Jesus.

#### II. The Sorrowful Mysteries (*Tuesday and Friday*)

1. The Agony of Jesus in the garden. Jesus prays in Gethsemane, weighed down under the sins of all people for whom he is about to die.
2. The Scourging at the pillar. Jesus, spotless and guiltless, is beaten for the sins of all people.
3. The Crowning with thorns. The soldiers who force the thorns into the head of Jesus make felt the effects of our sins.
4. The Carrying of the Cross. The cross of Jesus is also our cross and we must help to carry it.
5. The Crucifixion. The climax of his redeeming love.

### **III. The Glorious Mysteries**

*(Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)*

1. The Resurrection. This is the proof of God's power.
2. The Ascension. Although Christ departs for heaven, he promises to be with his Church always.
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, begin to preach the Gospel to all people.
4. The Assumption. The Mother of God is taken bodily into heaven.
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin. Mary is the queen of heaven and earth.

### **IV. The Luminous Mysteries** *(Thursday)*

1. The Baptism of Jesus. As soon as Jesus came up from the water in the Jordan, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (*Mt 3:16-17*).
2. The miracle at Cana. At the request of his mother, Jesus turned water into wine during the wedding at Cana in Galilee. There he revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him (*Jn 2:11*).
3. Jesus preaches the good news of conversion, repentance and forgiveness. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is near. Turn away from your sins and believe in the good news" (*Mk 1:15*).
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus. As the cloud came over them on Mount Tabor, a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to him" (*Mk 9:35*).

5. The institution of the Eucharist. Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke it and gave it to them saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.” In the same way, he gave them the cup, after the supper, saying, “This cup is God’s new covenant, sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you” (*Lk 22:19-20*).

## **405.2 The Mysteries of Mission**

*(Recommended for mission celebrations)*

*(from the book, The Mysteries of Mission, Logos Publications, Manila)*

### **1. The Incarnation**

“In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning...The Word became flesh, he lived among us” (*Jn 1:1-2,14*).

*Reflection:* The Triune God is the source of mission, and the mystery of the incarnation forms the very foundation of missionary life.

### **2. The Epiphany**

“Some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east asking, ‘Where is the infant king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage” (*Mt 2:1b-2*).

*Reflection:* The first witnesses of God’s coming into the world in human flesh were ordinary people with humble hearts – Mary and Joseph, the poor shepherds, and the magi (“wise men”).

### **3. The Calling of the Twelve Disciples for the Mission**

“Jesus now went up to the mountain and summoned those he wanted. So they came to him and he appointed twelve; they were to be his companions and to be sent out to proclaim the message” (*Mk 3:13-14*).

*Reflection:* Before calling the twelve disciples and before other major events in his life, Jesus often went up a mountain in order to pray. A missionary is a person of prayer, always seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in every decision that he or she makes.

#### 4. The Washing of the Feet

“Jesus and his disciples were at supper...He got up from table, removed his outer garments and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing” (*Jn 13:2,4-5*).

*Reflection:* Jesus washing the feet of his disciples exemplifies missionary service.

A missionary is one who closely follows the life of the Master who “came not to be served but to serve” (*Mk 10: 45*).

#### 5. The Mission Sending of the Disciples to the World

“Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore; make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time’” (*Mt 28:16-20*).

*Reflection:* Sent by the Father in communion with the Holy Spirit, the Risen Christ now sends his disciples to continue the divine mission. As scripture says: “How beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news!” (Ro 10:15).

### **405.3 Rosary of Divine Mercy**

*(Recommended for 3:00 pm on Fridays)*

Creed... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

*Say on each large bead:*

Eternal Father, I offer the body and the blood, the soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

*Say on each small bead:*

For the sake of his most sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

*In conclusion after five decades say the following three times:*

- A. Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and the whole world. Jesus, You died, but the source of life gushed forth for all, and the ocean of Mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us. O blood and water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus, as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You. *(Taken from the 3 pm prayer; Diary, 319 & 187 respectively) (Litany in praise of Divine Mercy, pn. 203.6)*

## 406. Way of the Cross

### 406.1 Way of the Cross from the Liturgy

#### *Opening hymn*

- L. “The reason why Christ died for our sins, once for all, the just man for the sake of the unjust, was that he might lead you to God... Christ suffered in the flesh: therefore arm yourselves with his same mentality. Those who have suffered in the body have broken with sin. You are not to spend what remains of your earthly life on human desires but on the will of God. Rejoice in the measure that you share Christ’s sufferings. When his glory is revealed, you will rejoice exultantly” (1 Pet 4:1-2,13).

#### **First Station:**

#### **Jesus is condemned to death**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
*(Genuflect or bow)*
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “They demanded with loud cries that Jesus be crucified, and their shouts increased in violence. Pilate then decreed that what they demanded should be done. He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown in prison for insurrection and murder, and delivered Jesus up to their wishes” (Lk 23:23-25). *(kneel/pause)*

- L. When he was made to suffer, he did not counter with threats,
- A. Instead, he delivered himself up to the One who judges justly (*1 Pet 2:23*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father in heaven, the love of your Son led him to accept the sufferings of the cross, that his brothers and sisters might glory in new life. Help us to embrace the world you have given us, that we may transform the darkness of its pain, into the life and joy of the resurrection. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (*Fifth Sunday, Lent, II*)

**Second Station:**  
**Jesus accepts the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Upon him was the punishment that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following one’s own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all” (*Is 53:5-6*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. God did not spare his own Son.
- A. But handed him over for the sake of us all (*Rm 8:32*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. “Almighty, ever-living God, you have given the human race, Jesus Christ, our Savior, as a model

of humility. He fulfilled your will, by becoming man and giving his life on the cross. Help us to bear witness to you, by following his example of suffering, and make us worthy to share in his resurrection. We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen. (*Passion Sunday I*)

**Third Station:**  
**Jesus falls the first time**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. "I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard: my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; he is near, who upholds my right" (*Is 50:6-8*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. I hear the whispers of the crowd, that frighten me from every side.
- A. But my trust is in you, O Lord, I say: You are my God" (*Ps 31:13-15*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. All-powerful God, by the suffering and death of your Son, strengthen and protect us in our weakness. May the sacrifice of Christ, your Son, bring us to eternal life. This we ask through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen. (*Monday, Holy Week*)

**Fourth Station:**  
**Jesus meets his afflicted Mother**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Simeon said to Mary his mother: This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed, and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare” (*Lk 2:34-35*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. Come, all you who pass by the way, look and see,
- A. Whether there is any suffering like my suffering, which has been dealt me (*Lam 1:12*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Lord, hear the prayers of those who turn to you in their sorrows. As we honor the compassionate love of the Virgin Mary, may we see in our sufferings a share in the sufferings of Christ, for the good of the Church. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen. (*Sept. 15, Communion*)

**Fifth Station:**  
**The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Jesus said to his disciples: Anyone who wishes to come after me, must deny one’s very self, take up the cross, and begin to follow in my footsteps.

Whoever would have one's life will lose it, but whoever loses one's life for my sake, will find it" (Mt 16:24-25). (*kneel/pause*)

L. Anyone who does not take up the cross and follow me,

A. Cannot be my disciple (*Lk 14:27*).

L. Let us pray.

A. Merciful Father, fill our hearts with your love, and keep us faithful to the Gospel of your Son. Give us the grace to rise above our human weakness. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (*Friday, Third Week of Lent*)

### **Sixth Station:**

#### **Veronica wipes the face of Christ**

L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. "There was in him no stately bearing, to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem" (*Is 53:2-3*). (*kneel/pause*)

L. Hide not your face from me; your presence, O Lord, I seek.

A. You are my helper; cast me not off (*Ps 27:8-9*).

L. Let us pray.

A. Lord, come to us; free us from the stain of our sins. Help us to remain faithful to a holy way of life, and guide us to the inheritance you have promised. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Thursday, Fifth Week of Lent*)

**Seventh Station:  
Jesus falls a second time**

L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. "Even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrong-doing is always ready at hand. My inner self agrees with the law of God, but I see in my body's members another law at war with the law of my mind... What a wretched man I am! Who can free me from this body under the power of death? All praise to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (*Ro 7:21-25*). (*kneel/pause*)

L. Be not far from me, for I am in distress;

A. Be near, for I have no one to help me (*Ps 22:11*).

L. Let us pray.

A. Father in heaven, form in us the likeness of your Son, and deepen his life within us. Send us as witnesses of Gospel joy, into a world of fragile peace and broken promises. Touch the hearts of all people with your love, that they in turn may love one another. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen (*Eighth Sunday, II*)

**Eighth Station:**  
**Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Jesus said to his disciples: Blessed are you who are weeping; you shall laugh. Blessed shall you be when people hate you, when they ostracize you and insult you and declare your name as evil because of the Son of Man. On the day they do so, rejoice and exult, for your reward shall be great in heaven” (*Lk 6:21-23*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.
- A. Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves (*Ps 126:5- 6*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Lord, may the suffering and death of Jesus, your only Son, make us pleasing to you. Alone we can do nothing, but may his perfect sacrifice, win for us your mercy and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen. (*Passion Sunday, prayer over gifts*)

**Ninth Station:**  
**Jesus falls the third time**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

- L. "All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads saying, He relied on the Lord; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him" (*Ps 22:6-8*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. O Lord, my heart throbs, my strength forsakes me;
- A. The very light of my eyes has failed me.
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father, in your plan of salvation, your Son Jesus Christ accepted the cross, and freed us from the power of the enemy. Increase our faith in its saving power, and strengthen our hope in the life it promises. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Wednesday, Holy Week*)

**Tenth Station:**  
**Jesus is stripped of his garments**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. "You must lay aside your former way of life, and old self which deteriorates through illusion and desire, and acquire a fresh, spiritual way of thinking. You must put on that new man created in God's image, whose justice and holiness are born of truth" (*Ep 4:22-23*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own,
- A. Christ is living in me.

L. Let us pray.

A. Father, you have taught us to overcome our sins by prayer, fasting and works of mercy. When we are discouraged by our weakness, give us confidence in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Third Sunday, Lent I*)

**Eleventh Station:  
Jesus is nailed to the cross**

L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life in him. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die, but may have eternal life" (*Jn 3:14-16*). (*kneel/pause*)

L. They have pierced my hands and my feet,

A. I can count all my bones (*Ps 22:17f*).

L. Let us pray.

A. Father, look with love upon your people, the love which our Lord Jesus Christ showed us, when he delivered himself to evil people, and suffered the agony of the cross. Grant this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Holy Thursday, Chrism Mass*)

**Twelfth Station:**  
**Jesus dies on the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Your attitude must be that of Christ. Though he was in the form of God, he did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself, and took the form of a slave, being born like a man. He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that he humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!” (*Ph 2:5-8*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him.
- A. We know that his death was death to sin, once for all: his life is life for God. So we too must be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus (*Ro 6:8-11*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Almighty and eternal God, you have restored us to life by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ. Continue this healing work in us. May we who participate in this mystery never cease to serve you. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen. (*Good Friday*)

### **Thirteenth Station:**

#### **Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Cry out to the Lord; mourn, O Daughter Zion! Let your tears flow like a torrent day and night; let there be no respite for you, no repose for your eyes. Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord” (*Lam 2:18*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. Tears are upon her cheeks,
- A. With not one to console her (*Lam 1:2*)
- L. Let us pray.
- A. God of mercy, receive the prayers we offer in praise of your name, in memory of the sorrows of the Mother of Jesus. While she stood beside the cross of her Son, you gave her to us as our loving mother, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Liturgy, September 15*)

### **Fourteenth Station:**

#### **Jesus is laid in the tomb**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much

fruit. The one who hates the life in this world preserves it to life eternal” (*Jn 12:23-25*). (*kneel/pause*)

- L. You will not suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption;
- A. You will show me the path of life, fullness of joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever (*Ps 16:10-11*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. God our Father, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world, and brought us the gift of reconciliation, by the suffering and death he endured. Teach us, the people who bear his name, to follow the example he gave us; may our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Fourth Sunday of Lent, II*)

### **Concluding Prayer**

- L. “The right hand of the Lord has struck with power. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
- A. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes” (*Ps 118:16,17,22*).
- L. Let us pray.
- A. Father, help us to be like Christ your Son, who loved the world and died for our salvation. Inspire us by his love, guide us by his example, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Fifth Sunday of Lent I*)

## 406.2 Way of the Cross from Scripture

### *(Opening hymn)*

- L. “Who is this that comes in crimsoned garments, arrayed in majesty, marching in the greatness of his strength?”
- A. “It is I, I who announce vindication, I who am mighty to save.”
- L. “Why is your apparel red, and your garments like those of the wine presser?”
- A. “The wine press I have trodden alone, and of my people, there was no one with me. I looked about, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that there was no one to lend support.”
- L. “The favors of the Lord I will recall, the glorious deeds of the Lord.”
- A. “Because of all he has done for us; for he is good to the house of Israel” (*Is 63:1-3,5,7*).

### **First Station:**

#### **Jesus is condemned to death**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
*(Genuflect or bow)*
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. At midnight Jesus said to the Father: “You can do all things. Spare me this cup! No, not what I will but what you will” (*Mk 14:36*). It was the will of the Father to lay upon him the guilt of us all (*Is 53:6*). Standing before Pilate, he accepts from him

the condemnation decreed by God in Paradise for the guilty, suffering and death. (*Gn 2:17*) (*kneel/pause*)

- L. "Just as by the disobedience of the one, the many were constituted sinners."
- A. "So also by the obedience of the one, the many will be constituted holy" (*Ro. 5:19*).  
*(Hail Mary... may be added at this point at each station.)*
- L. "To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (*1 Tim 1:17*).
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

### **Second Station: Jesus carries his cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. "Anyone who wants to be my follower, must renounce oneself and shoulder the cross; to be a follower of mine. Why, the one who would save the life shall lose it; but the one who freely parts with the life for the sake of the Gospel will save it in the end. Clearly, what does it profit, if you gain the whole world and forfeit your life in any case? Or what price can anyone pay to purchase life forever?" (*Mk 8:34-37*). (*kneel/pause*)

- L. “If anyone is ashamed of me and my message before this sinful generation,
- A. The Son of man, in turn, will be ashamed of that person when he returns wrapped in his Father’s glory and escorted by his holy angels” (*Mk 8:38*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Third Station:  
Jesus falls the first time**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of sufferings, accustomed to infirmity. One of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted” (*Is 53:3-4*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. “Because Christ suffered in his body, you on your part should arm yourselves with the same ideal.
- A. Those who have suffered in the body have broken with sin, so that during the time left for them in this life they no longer should live according to the lusts of people but according to the will of God” (*1 Pet 4:1-2*).

- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Fourth Station:**  
**Jesus meets his Mother and ours**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Little children, let no one mislead you. One who leads a holy life is holy just as God is holy. Whoever commits sin, springs from the devil because the devil has sinned from the very beginning. The Son of God made his appearance for the purpose of destroying sin, the work of the devil” (1 Jn 3:7-8). Yet if anyone should commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy One” (1 Jn 2:1). (*kneel/pause*).
- L. “My children, bear patiently the anger that has come from God upon you. Fear not but call upon him. He who brought this upon you will remember you.
- A. As your hearts have been disposed to stray from God, turn now ten times the more to seek him. He will, in saving you, bring you back enduring joy” (Ba 4:25-29).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...

L. Christ was obedient unto death.

A. Even to death on the cross.

**Fifth Station:**  
**Simon carries the Cross for Jesus**

L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. “Those who belong to Christ have crucified their flesh with its passionate cravings. If we live by spiritual ideals, let us conduct ourselves by these ideals. Help bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfil the law of Christ. As for me, God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world” (*Ga 5:24f and 6:2,14*). (*kneel/pause*)

L. “Therefore, let us go to him outside the camp, bearing the same reproaches as he.

A. Here indeed we have no lasting city, but we are in search of that city that is to come” (*Heb 13:13f*).

L. To the King of the ages,

A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...

L. Christ was obedient unto death.

A. Even to death on the cross.

**Sixth Station:**  
**Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “When Christ, high priest of the messianic blessings, appeared, he entered once for all through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made by human hands, that is, not of earthly origin. It was not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood that was the means of his entering the Holy Place and securing eternal redemption. Now if the blood of the goats and calves results in outward cleansing, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through his eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our own conscience from lifeless deeds and fit it for the worship of the living God?” (*Heb 9:11-14*). (*kneel/ pause*)
- L. “Therefore, brethren, we have confident access to the Holy Place, thanks to the blood of Jesus, by following the new and living path which he has opened for us through the veil, I mean, his flesh.
- A. So let us draw near with a sincere heart, with our hearts purified from an evil conscience” (*Heb 10:19-22*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Seventh Station:**  
**Jesus falls the second time**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “On all sides we are hard pressed, but by no means trapped. We are thrown down, but by no means destroyed. We carry about with us in our bodies at all times the condemnation of Jesus to death, so that in these same bodies of ours the living power of Jesus may become evident” (2 Co 4:8-10). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. “We preach a crucified Christ: to the Jews certainly a stumbling block and to the Gentiles an absurdity.
- A. But to those who are called, Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Co 1:22-24).
- L. To the King of the ages.
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Eighth Station:**  
**Jesus consoles the weeping women of  
Jerusalem**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

- L. “Since we have a great high priest, who has penetrated the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to the faith we profess. We do not have a high priest, who is incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses. He has experienced them all, just as we, yet without sinning. Let us therefore confidently draw near to God’s throne, the source of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to aid us when we need it” (*Heb 4:4-16*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. “If we go on sinning willfully after having received the full knowledge of the truth, nothing is left but a dreadful expectation of judgment, a fierce fire which will devour God’s adversaries.
- A. How severe will be the punishment of those who trample underfoot the Son of God and outrage the Spirit who bestows grace! It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (*Heb 10:26-30*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

### **Ninth Station:**

#### **Jesus falls the third time under the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

- L. “While we were still helpless, Christ, at the appointed time, died for us wicked people. God proves his love for us, because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (*Ro 5:6f*). “He died for all, in order that they who are alive may live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them” (*2 Co 5:15*). (*kneel/pause*).
- L. “Therefore, let your conduct be guided by love, as Christ also loved us.
- A. And delivered himself for us an offering to God, a sacrifice that has an agreeable fragrance” (*Ep 5:2*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Tenth Station:  
Jesus is stripped of his garments**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Put to death the passions which belong to earth; rid yourselves of all these vices: anger and passionate outbursts, malice, abusive language, and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old self with its deeds and put on the new, which is being progressively remolded after the image of its Creator and brought to deep knowledge” (*Col 3:8-10*). (*kneel/pause*)

- L. “Rejoice in your sufferings, and what may be lacking to the sufferings of Christ,
- A. Supply in your flesh for the benefit of his body which is the Church” (*Col 1:24*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Eleventh Station:  
Jesus is nailed to the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “We know that our old self has been crucified with Christ, in order that the body enslaved to sin may be made powerless and that we may no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who is dead, is once for all without sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him, since we know that Christ, having risen from the dead, will die no more. Thus you too must consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (*Ro 6:6-11*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. “With Christ I am nailed to the cross. It is now no longer I who live but Christ lives in me.
- A. And the life that I now live in the flesh, I live in the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me” (*Gal 2:20f*).

- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Twelfth Station:  
Jesus dies on the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “The soldiers came and broke the legs, both of the one and of the other, that were crucified with him. When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs, but one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water” (*Jn 19:32f*). “He it is who came to make us victors by purifying and redeeming us, by the outpouring of the Spirit. He made victory possible for us not merely by the water of baptism but both by the water and by his blood” (*1 Jn 5:6*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. “Be of the same mind as Christ Jesus, who, though he is by nature God, did not consider his equality with God a condition to be clung to, but emptied himself by taking the nature of a slave, fashioned as he was to the likeness of men and recognized by outward appearances as a man.
- A. He humbled himself and became obedient to death: yes, to death on a cross” (*Phil 5:6-9*).

- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Thirteenth Station:  
Jesus is laid in his mother's arms**

- L. We adore you, O Christ. and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. "Those who are led by the Spirit of God, are the children of God. Now you have not received a spirit of bondage so that you are again in fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption as children, in virtue of which we cry 'Abba! Father!' But if we are children, we are heirs also: heirs indeed of God and joint heirs with Christ, provided, however, we suffer with him that we may also be glorified with him" (*Ro 8:14-17*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. "My little children, we know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brethren. One who does not love, abides in death.
- A. We know what love is from the fact that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. We too ought to lay down our lives for our brethren. Little children, let us not love merely in word or with the tongue but in action, in reality" (*1 Jn 3:14-18*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

**Fourteenth Station:  
Jesus is laid in the tomb**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. “Let us eagerly throw ourselves into the struggle before us and persevere, with our gaze fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfect embodiment of confidence. He, in view of the joy offered him, underwent crucifixion and contempt of its disgrace, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God’s throne. Meditate on him who in his own person endured such great opposition at the hands of sinners; then your souls will not be overcome with discouragement” (*Heb 12:2-3*). (*kneel/pause*)
- L. “I count everything loss in comparison with the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord.
- A. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I count them as rubbish that I may gain Christ. I would share in his sufferings, in the hope that, if I resemble him in death, I may somehow attain to the resurrection from the dead” (*Phil 3:8,9,11*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Christ was obedient unto death.
- A. Even to death on the cross.

## Conclusion

- L. “If then you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above; not on the things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you shall appear with him in glory” (*Col 3:1-4*).
- L. To the King of the ages,
- A. The immortal, invisible, and only God, ...
- L. Let us pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

## 406.3 Way of the Cross for Suffering Humanity

### *(Opening hymn)*

- L. Lord Jesus Christ, you have saved us through the torments of your passion and cross. Now you reign forever in the glory of the Father. But your members are still suffering on earth, fighting their way towards their celestial home. In your Mystical Body you are in agony, you carry your cross, you are put to death until the end of the world.
- A. Heavenly Father, accept the sufferings of the Mystical Body of your beloved Son which we offer you today, so that all people may be redeemed by his Precious Blood.
- L. For the victims of wars.
- A. We ask you, hear us.

- L. For the sick, the poor, the exploited.
- A. We ask you, hear us.
- L. For those who are starving, especially in some parts of Africa and Asia.
- A. We ask you, hear us.
- L. For those who despair because they do not know you.
- A. We ask you, hear us.
- L. For those who are persecuted for their faith.
- A. We ask you, hear us.
- L. You are the Lord of mercy. We pray to you, grant that all who experience the mystery of the cross on earth may win the glory of the resurrection in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.
- A. Amen.

**First Station:**  
**Jesus is condemned to death**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
*(Genuflect or bow)*
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. O Lord, Judge of the living and the dead, you accepted to be judged and condemned by your sinful creatures. We carry to you the sufferings of the numberless innocent persons who undergo unjust accusations and are condemned. We also pray you to forgive those who commit injustice.  
*(pause)*

L. Christ, Advocate of the innocent,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. You were condemned to death,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. Holy strong, immortal God,

A. Have mercy on us.

**Second Station:**  
**Jesus takes up his cross**

L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. Lord Jesus Christ, you sustain heaven and earth by your word. "You have borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows." We bring to you the sufferings of the countless poor in the world. We also ask you to forgive the rich who close their hearts to the misery of the poor. (*pause*)

L. Christ, bent under the yoke of the cross,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. You carried the sins of the world,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. Holy, strong, immortal God,

A. Have mercy on us.

**Third Station:**  
**Jesus falls under the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, true man and true God, you were crushed under the weight of the cross. We bring to you the sufferings of the sick and the bereaved, overwhelmed by sorrow. We pray you, forgive those who live in scandalous luxury and pleasure. *(pause)*
- L. Savior of the distressed,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Lord Jesus, you fell under the cross.
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Holy, strong, immortal God,
- A. Have mercy on us.

**Fourth Station:**  
**Jesus meets his afflicted mother**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, most obedient Son of the most loving of mothers, you accepted to grieve her heart to bring about our salvation. We carry to you the sufferings of countless mothers and pray you, forgive their faithless and prodigal sons and daughters. *(pause)*

- L. Christ, our consolation and strength,  
A. Have mercy on us.  
L. For the sake of your sorrowful Mother,  
A. Have mercy on us.  
L. Holy, strong, immortal God,  
A. Have mercy on us.

**Fifth Station:**

**Simon of Cyrene is forced to take up the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.  
L. Lord Jesus Christ, to whom all power in heaven and earth belongs, you were abandoned and despised by all. We carry to you the crosses of the infirm, of the crippled, of all those who are abandoned and despised by people. We also ask you to help in their despair those who complain against God. *(pause)*  
L. Christ, you carry our cross,  
A. Have mercy on us.  
L. You call us to share your cross,  
A. Have mercy on us.  
L. Holy, strong, immortal God,  
A. Have mercy on us.

**Sixth Station:**  
**Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the most merciful Father, you accepted Veronica's loving reparation for the ignominies inflicted by sinners. We carry to you the sacrifices of those who willingly help those who suffer in hospitals, prisons and orphanages. We also ask you to forgive those who ignore their neighbor's needs. (*pause*)
- L. Savior, forsaken in suffering,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. You accepted Veronica's compassion,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Holy, strong, immortal God,
- A. Have mercy on us.

**Seventh Station:**  
**Jesus falls a second time**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the Father created heaven and earth, you accepted to experience the depth of human weakness. We carry to you the sufferings of all the exploited who

live in conditions unworthy of the children of God. We also ask you to forgive those who exploit them and fail to recognize the evil they do. Bring about their conversion. (*pause*)

- L. Christ, you were beaten and tortured,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. For our sake, you were thrown into the dust,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Holy, strong, immortal God,
- A. Have mercy on us.

**Eighth Station:**  
**Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of all, you accepted the obstinate refusal of people to receive you. We carry to you the sufferings of missionaries who find many hearts closed to your call. We also ask you to have pity on those who reject your love. (*pause*)
- L. Christ, the only hope of sinners,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. You have chided false piety,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Holy, strong, immortal God,
- A. Have mercy on us.

**Ninth Station:  
Jesus falls a third time**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd, sent to the lost sheep, you accepted to fall a third time that we may always rise again from our sins. We carry to you the sufferings of those who have fallen into sin. We also ask you, forgive those who despise others in their own self-righteousness. (*pause*)
- L. Christ, Savior of the weak and the heartbroken,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. You fell three times and rose again,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Holy, strong, immortal God,
- A. Have mercy on us.

**Tenth Station:  
Jesus is stripped of his garments**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, splendor of the Father, you were exposed to the sarcasm of sinners. We carry to you the sufferings of those who have been robbed of their innocence and those who are exposed to danger. We also ask you, forgive those who shamefully expose themselves. (*pause*)

L. Christ, honor of the dishonored, wealth of the bereaved,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. You suffered nakedness, robbery and shame,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. Holy, strong, immortal God,

A. Have mercy on us.

**Eleventh Station:  
Jesus is nailed to the cross**

L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. Lord Jesus Christ, King of the angels, by obedience to your Father, you willed to be nailed on the Cross. We carry to you the sufferings of the bed-ridden who have abandoned all hope of recovery. We also ask you, have mercy on all criminals who are condemned to expiate for their offences. *(pause)*

L. Christ, suspended between heaven and earth,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. Obedience to the Father nailed you to the cross,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. Holy, strong, immortal God,

A. Have mercy on us.

**Twelfth Station:  
Jesus dies on the cross**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, you died on the Cross that we may live. We carry to you the sufferings of the whole world. Through your blessed Passion may they be changed into the fruits of eternal salvation. We also pray you, change the hearts of those who refuse your redemption. (*pause*)
- L. Christ, obedient unto death,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Christ, conqueror of death,
- A. Have mercy on us.
- L. Holy, strong, immortal God,
- A. Have mercy on us.

**Thirteenth Station:  
The body of Jesus is placed  
in the arms of his mother**

- L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Virgin Mary, you were placed in the arms of your mother. We carry to you the sufferings of all mothers bereaved of

their children. We also pray you, forgive those who shamefully abandon their wives or husbands and their children. (*pause*)

L. Christ, victor over death,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. You who rested in the arms of your Mother,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. Holy, strong, immortal God,

A. Have mercy on us.

**Fourteenth Station:  
Jesus is laid in the tomb**

L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world, we bring to you the sufferings of those who are groping in the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief. Enlighten their minds and convert their hearts, that they may recognize in you the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
(*pause*)

L. Christ Jesus, death is the passage to life,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. You call all people to life eternal,

A. Have mercy on us.

L. Holy strong, immortal God,

A. Have mercy on us.

## Concluding Prayer

L. Lord Jesus Christ, obedient Servant of God, you became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, the Father has highly exalted you. He raised you from the dead and exalted you at his right side in the glory of heaven. We adore your cross, we praise and glorify your Resurrection. By the wood of the cross joy came into the whole world. We praise your cross.

A. Because in your cross is life and resurrection.

L. In your cross is salvation, in your cross is strength, in your cross is victory.

A. In your cross is hope, in your cross is forgiveness.

L. In your cross is justice, in your cross is freedom.

A. In your cross is peace, in your cross is reconciliation.

L. Lord Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross,

A. Draw all people to yourself.

L. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you have given us Jesus Christ, our Savior as the model of humility. He fulfilled your will by becoming one of us, and giving his life on the cross. Help us to bear witness to you, by following his example of suffering for the good of the whole world, and make us worthy to share in his resurrection. This we ask you through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

*(Concluding hymn)*

## **406.4 A New Way of the Cross**

*In 1987, the Vatican authorized the following biblical Way of the Cross as an alternative to the traditional form. After the reading from the Bible, there should be a pause for personal reflection and prayer.*

### **First Station:**

#### **The Last Supper** (*1 Co 11:23-26*)

I received from the Lord what I handed on to you, namely, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, ‘This is my Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ Every time, when you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes!”  
(*pause*)

### **Second Station:**

#### **The Garden of Gethsemane** (*Mt 26:43-48*)

Going back again, Jesus began to pray in the same words. Once again he found them asleep on his return. They could not keep their eyes open, nor did they know what to say to him. He returned a third time and said to them, “Still sleeping? Still taking your ease? It will have to do. The hour is upon us. You will see that the Son of Man is to be handed over to the clutches of evil men. Rouse yourselves and come along. See! My betrayer is near.” Even when he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, made his

appearance accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs; these people had been sent by the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. The betrayer had arranged a signal for them, saying, "The man I shall embrace is the one; arrest him and lead him away, taking every precaution." (*pause*)

### **Third Station:**

#### **Jesus in the Court** (*Mk 14:60-64; 15:1*)

The high priest rose to his feet before the court and began to interrogate Jesus: "Have you no answer to what these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent; he made no reply. Once again the high priest interrogated him: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Then Jesus answered: "I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." At that the high priest tore his robes and said: "What further need do we have, of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What is the verdict?" They all concurred in the verdict "guilty," with its sentence of death... As soon as it was daybreak the chief priests, with the elders and scribes (that is, the whole Sanhedrin), reached the decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. (*pause*)

### **Fourth Station:**

#### **The Scouring and Crowning with Thorns**

(*Mt 27:27-30*)

The procurator's soldiers took Jesus inside the praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him

in a scarlet military cloak. Weaving a crown out of thorns they fixed it on his head, and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock him by dropping to their knees before him, saying, "All hail, king of the Jews!" They also spat at him. Afterward they took hold of the reed and kept striking him on the head. *(pause)*

### **Fifth Station:**

#### **The Receiving of the Cross** *(Mk 27:31)*

Finally, when they had finished making a fool of him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucifixion. *(pause)*

### **Sixth Station:**

#### **The Fall**

It is known from tradition that Jesus fell several times on the way to Calvary. *(pause)*

### **Seventh Station:**

#### **Simon of Cyrene** *(Mk 15:21)*

A man named Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, was coming in from the fields, and they pressed him into service to carry the cross. *(pause)*

### **Eighth Station:**

#### **The Women of Jerusalem** *(Lk 23:27-31)*

A great crowd of people followed him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over him. Jesus turned to them and said: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves

and for your children. The days are coming when they will say, 'Happy are the sterile, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' If they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?" *(pause)*

**Ninth Station:**  
**The Stripping of His Garments**  
**and the Crucifixion** (*Lk 23:33-34*)

When they came to the Skull Place, as it was called, they crucified him there and the criminals as well, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." They divided his garments, rolling dice for them. *(pause)*

**Tenth Station:**  
**The Good Thief** (*Lk 23:39-43*)

One of the criminals hanging in crucifixion blasphemed him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us." But the other one rebuked him: "Have you no fear of God, seeing you are under the same sentence? We deserve it, after all. We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." He then said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." And Jesus replied, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise." *(pause)*

### **Eleventh Station:**

#### **Mary and John beneath the Cross** (*Jn 19:25-27*)

Near the cross of Jesus, there stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there, with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, there is your son." In turn he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care. (*pause*)

### **Twelfth Station:**

#### **The Death of Jesus** (*Lk 23:44-46; Jn 19:28-30*)

It was now around mid-day, and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon with an eclipse of the sun... Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (*Lk*). After that, Jesus realizing that everything was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, "I am thirsty." There was a jar there, full of common wine. They stuck a sponge soaked in this wine on some hyssop and raised it to his lips. When Jesus took the wine he said, "Now it is finished." Then he bowed his head, and delivered over his spirit (*John*). (*pause*)

### **Thirteenth Station:**

#### **The Laying in the Tomb** (*Mt 27:57-60*)

When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea arrived, Joseph by name. He was another of Jesus' disciples, and had gone to request the body of Jesus. Thereupon Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen and laid it in his own new tomb which had been hewn

from a formation of rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. (*pause*)

**Fourteenth Station:**  
**The Resurrection** (*Mt 28:1-6*)

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene came with the other Mary to the tomb. Suddenly there was a mighty earthquake, as the angel of the Lord descended from heaven. He came to the stone, rolled it back, and sat on it. In appearance he resembled a flash of lightning while his garments were as dazzling as snow. The guards grew paralyzed with fear of him and fell down like dead men. Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: "Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised. Come and see the place where he was laid." (*pause*)

## 406.5 Short Way of the Cross

### *(Opening hymn)*

Lord, grant me your Spirit to understand the meaning of your passion and the depth of your love in dying for me. Teach me to die to my passions and wayward inclinations and live with you for God.

In union with the Virgin Mother, let me retrace your steps on the way to Golgotha, and by her intercession win the grace of closer conformity to your will.

### **First Station: Jesus is condemned to death**

L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.

*(Genuflect or bow)*

A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

L. The giver of life is sentenced to die, to die like a criminal, on a cross. It was the most unjust judgment of all times. Yet, at Gethsemane, Jesus had made up his mind. He accepted the sentence with equanimity. *(pause)*

L. Lord,

A. Grant me the grace to face things squarely. Let me tremble only at the sight of spiritual and eternal death.

*(Hail Mary, optional).*

**Second Station:**  
**Jesus carries the cross**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. A cross was placed on your shoulders, an ugly, heavy cross. But you accepted it without complaint, out of love for us. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Let me carry my cross willingly and joyfully. When I find it heavy, let me remember how you carried your cross for love of me.

**Third Station:**  
**Jesus falls the first time**

- L. We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. The cross was too heavy. You collapsed under its weight. But then you stood up, picked up your cross, and went on. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. When I fall, make me humble enough to acknowledge my failure, and strong enough to pick up my cross once more, and to go on.

**Fourth Station:  
Jesus meets his Mother**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. What a place for Mother and Son to meet! Both knew it was on the way to agonizing death. And yet, what peace of mind, what resignation to God's will! (*pause*)
- L. Lord,
- A. Wherever I am, make me an instrument of peace, and instrument of unity and love.

**Fifth Station:  
Simon helps Jesus to carry the cross**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. You were weak, and could not carry the cross. When help was offered, you humbly accepted it with gratitude. (*pause*)
- L. Lord,
- A. Help me get rid of stupid pride which makes me unwilling to accept from others the help I need.

**Sixth Station:**  
**Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. A spontaneous act of kindness shown to you is met with a sign of appreciation and gratitude. And in return, you imprint your holy features deep in her heart. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Grant me never to forget to be grateful for the favors shown me. Just a smile or a “thank you” is often sufficient.

**Seventh Station:**  
**Jesus falls the second time**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. You fall again on the dusty, dirty road. Like the first time, you quietly stand up and continue on. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Let me never blame others for my mistakes and failures, but humbly admit my shortcomings, help me to carry my cross daily with renewed strength.

**Eighth Station:**  
**Jesus meets the holy women**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Those are the friends who cared for your temporal needs, and they are loyal to the end. In your greatest sorrow you always have a word for others.  
*(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. You told us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. May I learn to forget myself and think of the needs of others!

**Ninth Station:**  
**Jesus falls the third time**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Once more you are on the hard ground, and no pity is shown you. Yet, you remember that millions of others depend on you to go on; and you rise and go on. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. When I am discouraged and feel like saying: 'What's the use'?, remind me to ask myself: what would have happened to me if Jesus had said: What's the use!

**Tenth Station:**  
**Jesus is stripped of his garments**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. They make you stand there, stripped, in shame, and dishonored. And you, God's sacrificial lamb, offered your shame for me who so shamelessly offend you by sin. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Help me strip myself of anything that makes me look more like one of this world than a child of God.

**Eleventh Station:**  
**Jesus is nailed to the cross**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Big, ugly nails went through your hands and feet. But on your lips were only words of forgiveness. What an example you give me, my Savior! *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Make me understand how dear to your Father is reconciliation, and grant that I really mean it when I say: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

**Twelfth Station:**  
**Jesus dies on the cross**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. The supreme act of love: to die for sinners when they were still your enemies. And we are those sinners. It was your Father's will and you accepted it, willingly, generously, joyfully. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Teach me the value of suffering out of love: from suffering comes joy, from self-denial, happiness and peace; from death, life.

**Thirteenth Station:**  
**Jesus is taken down from the cross**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. You allowed yourself to be placed wherever it pleased your friends to lay you. How often I am unwilling to come down from the throne I have built for myself; thinking myself more dedicated, more intelligent than others. *(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Let me be willing to be at the disposal of others, and to cooperate with their wishes. For it is you who are training me and perfecting me through them.

**Fourteenth Station:  
Jesus is laid in the sepulcher**

- L. We adore you. O Christ, and we praise you.
- A. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L. Like the good seed, you were placed in the ground, and you produced abundant fruit: Resurrection and life for you and for us. Death is not the end of everything but merely the passage to real life.  
*(pause)*
- L. Lord,
- A. Teach me to bury my past life in the grave with you, and let me rise to the newness of the Christ life, to live henceforth for the glory of your Heavenly Father.

**Concluding Prayer**

- L. Lord, we have followed you on the way of the cross, in union with your beloved Mother. May she stand by us in every trial, especially at the hour of our death.
- A. By her holy intercession, grant us renewal in the Spirit, so that from now on we may be motivated only by love of God that manifests itself in good deeds to our fellow men and women. Amen.
- L. For the intentions of the Holy Father: (one Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be).

## **407. Inter-faith Prayer Services**

### **407.1 Inter-faith Prayer Service - I**

*(A. Poruthur SVD)*

#### ***Introduction by a Catholic Leader***

The Catholic Church has come a long way in its relationship with people of other faiths. The Second Vatican Council of the Catholic Church states its position very clearly in the following words: “The Church urges... prudently and lovingly, through dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions, and in witness of Christian faith and life, to acknowledge, preserve, and promote the spiritual and moral good found among these people, as well as the values in their society and culture” (*Vat II N.A.2*)

Vatican II accepted a positive approach to the religions of the world as normative for the whole Catholic Church.

1. “All Christians must therefore be committed to dialogue with believers of all religions, so that mutual understanding and collaboration may grow; so that moral values may be strengthened and God may be praised in all creation. Ways must be developed to make this dialogue become a reality everywhere, but especially in Asia.” (*Radio message, Pope John Paul II in Manila*)
2. “The fruit of dialogue is union between people and union of people with God who is the source and revealer of all truth and whose spirit guides people in freedom only when they meet one another in all honesty and love” (*Message of Pope John Paul II to India, 1999*).

It is in this spirit that we pray with people of different faiths seeking to reach the Divine in a common search during our earthly pilgrimage. During such occasions as these we try our best not to enter into any polemics and avoid having any discourse by various participants. Out of respect for Buddhism we shall not address the prayer to any personal god as it is not part of their belief.

## **Readings from Different Sacred Scriptures**

*(to be read preferably by a representative of the respective religion. After each reading have a moment of reflective silence.)*

### **1) Hindu Scriptures**

The Self is not known through discourse, splitting of hairs, learning however great. He comes to those whom He loves; takes their bodies as His own. Blunderers, charlatans, weaklings, cannot attain the Self.

He is found by those who are pure, daring and cautious. As rivers lose name and shape in the sea, those who are wise lose name and shape in God, glittering beyond all distance. *(Upanishad)*

They are superior who with their minds restrain the senses and engage in the discipline of work with all their powers, not anxious for results. *(Gita)*

Fullness here. Fullness there. Fullness comes from fullness. Take fullness from fullness, the remainder is fullness. May there be peace and peace and peace everywhere. *(Upanishad)*

## ***Sanskrit Chant from Upanishad***

*Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu  
Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.*

*Meaning:* May all people be well. Let there be peace!  
(*Silence*)

## **2) Buddhist Scriptures**

By degrees a wise person, little by little, from time to time, should remove one's own impurities, as a smith removes the dross of silver. As rust sprung from iron, eats itself away when arisen; even so the wise person's own deeds lead the transgressor to states of woe.  
(*Buddha Dhamma*)

## ***Sanskrit Chant from Buddha Dhamma***

*Buddham Sharanam gachami,  
Dhammam Sharanam gachami,  
Sangham Sharanam gachami!*

*Meaning:* I am proceeding towards the Enlightened One, trusting in his moral code, and in the company of his faithful ones. (*Silence*)

## **3) Tao Scriptures**

The greatest Virtue is to follow Tao and Tao alone. The Tao is elusive and intangible. Oh it is intangible and elusive, and yet within is image. Oh, it is elusive and intangible, and yet within is form. Oh, it is dim and dark, and yet within is essence. The essence is very real, and therein lies faith. From the very beginning until now its name has never been forgotten. Thus I perceive creation. How do I know

the ways of creation? Because of this! Therefore wise people embrace the One and set an example to all. Not putting on a display, they shine forth. Not justifying themselves, they are distinguished. Not boasting, they receive recognition. Not bragging, they never falter. They do not quarrel, so no one quarrels with them. Therefore the ancients say, "Yield and overcome." Is that an empty saying? Be really whole, and all things will come to you. (*Silence*)

#### **4) Sufi Scriptures**

"I am neither Christian, nor Jew, nor Gabr, nor Muslim. I am not of the East, nor of the West, nor of the land, nor of the sea; I am not of Nature's mint, nor of the circling heavens. I am not of India, nor of China, nor of Bulgaria, nor of Saqsin; I am not of the kingdom of Iraq, nor of the land of Khorasan. My place is the Placeless, my trace is the Traceless. 'Tis neither body nor soul, for I belong to the soul of the Beloved. I have put duality away, I have seen that the two worlds are one, I seek one, I know one, I see one, I call one." (*Jalaluddin Rumi*) (*Silence*)

#### **5) Christian Scriptures**

The Christian knows that "God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (*1Tim 2:4*) and that in this effective will of God all are called to become heirs of the kingdom. God continually bears witness to his nature and love for all people (*Act 15:8*).

Readings from the Bible for Prayer and Reflection: (*Any of the following could be used: Act 17:22-30; Mk 9:38-40; Jn 4:7-26*). These texts show that God is active

beyond the boundaries of the church to reveal himself and guides all people in union with him and with one another.

*Song: 'Whatsoever you do...' or another suitable hymn.*

## **6) Mahatma Gandhi's Words on Seven Social Sins**

*(Read with pauses)*

Politics without principle.. Pleasure without conscience... Wealth without work... Knowledge without character... Commerce without morality... Science without humanity... Worship without sacrifice.

## **7) Judaism, Psalm 139:1-17**

O Lord you search me and you know me...

### ***Conclusion***

*Short prayers/reflections by three or four participants*

*(Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi for peace could be sung as a recessional hymn, or another suitable chant.)*

### ***Final Words of Blessing***

“May the Lord bless you and take care of you;  
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;  
May the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.”

Peace, Peace, Peace (*Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.*)

## **407.2 Inter-faith Prayer Service II**

*(A. P. Anbu SVD)*

### *Opening Hymn*

### *Introduction*

L. Human life is a web of relationships. We constantly relate with others - consciously or unconsciously, whether we enjoy it or deny it. It is an inescapable reality. Religion is one of the oldest and most important social institutions, through which human beings relate with the people of their own religion and those of the other. Different religions were founded at different times and places to answer questions regarding the realities beyond nature. Religions are the structured responses we give to the revelation of God. They give meaning to human existence and assist people from birth to death and beyond.

Nevertheless, it is a paradox that the religions that were founded to bring peace and unity have become the cause of violence and division of society. Yet, we cannot do away with religion or create one single religion because it is a sociological and psychological need of society to have different religions. As the nature of understanding differs from people to people, we need different religions to explain the same God in different ways. Therefore, all religions are definitely relevant. Today we are grateful to the universal God for bringing us together to pray for people of various religions that all may be one as

human beings. Let this simple and strong step we take now be a cause of safeguarding and fostering social justice, moral values, peace, and freedom.

*(A representative of each religion may be invited to read the Scripture and commentary on it.)*

## **Sikhism**

*A reading from the Sacred Book of Sikhism:*

“There is only one God who manifests himself ceaselessly throughout his creation in diverse forms, features and colors. God is the truth that exists among us. His divine essence or word of God is more powerful than the truth. God is without fear and without hate. God is unborn and uncreated. God is beyond time. God is self-existent. Eventually God is the guru for all religions and in this way becomes knowable to people.” *(Silence)*

*Commentary:* Guru Nanak is the founder of Sikhism. He is the one who inspired the people to believe in one God. Sikhism is a way of life. It is a God-given gift. Sikhism is the name for living a truthful life according to the word of God. They believe in one God who is creator and sustainer of the universe. Thus, the Sikh scripture speaks more of happiness and union with the supreme soul as one of the aims of life. One needs to fight against all material wealth in order to gain inner happiness in life. Sikhism stands for human liberty, equality and fraternity. It believes in universal brotherhood, universal peace and prosperity with commitment to selfless service to the entire human race. Let us pray that this continuation of goodwill and universal peace may live long in the lives of all religious-minded people. *(pause)*

## **Islam**

*Introduction:* Islam is the youngest of the major religions of the world. Yet, it is the fastest growing religion. Islam is primarily a response to God, a way to encounter the creator and do the will of God on this earth. The noteworthy teachings of Islam are brotherhood and alms giving, Zakat as it is called. Sarojini Naidu says, "Islam is the first religion that presented Democracy, for in the mosque the poor farmer and king kneel down side by side and proclaim 'Allaha Akbar'. In Islam, all humanity is one vast brotherhood, with God as their creator and master who looks upon them all as equal." This sense of goodwill compels every Muslim to live a life of simplicity and give a portion of their income for the welfare of the poor and the needy. This same virtue is clearly mentioned in the Holy Quran.

### *A reading from the Holy Quran, Ch. 2:177.*

"It is not righteousness that you turn your faces to the East and the West; but righteous is the one who believes in Allah and the Last Day and the angels and Scripture and the Prophets; and gives wealth, for love of Him, to kinsfolk and to orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and to set slaves free; and observes proper worship..... and those who keep their treaty when they make one, and the patient in tribulation and adversity and time of stress. Such are they who are sincere. Such are the God-fearing."

## *Prayer*

L. Let us pray.

A. God of the universe, founder and sustainer of all religions, we are grateful to you for the beautiful religion of Islam and all the Muslim brothers and sisters. We are proud that we can learn many virtues from your revealed holy Quran. Today we also pray for the whole world particularly for the well-being of the Muslim community. As your humble servant and prophet, Mohammad was a man of peace and joy. We pray for the fostering of the same in this broken world. May all of us together work for peace, joy, freedom of all human beings, especially among the Muslims.

## **Hinduism**

### *Sanskrit Chant:*

*“Om... Asato ma satgamaya  
Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya  
Mrtyor ma amritamgamaya...”*

*(Brihadaranyaka Upanishad 1.3.28)*

*Meaning:* “O! God, I bow to you.  
Lead me from the unreal to the Real,  
From darkness to Light,  
And from death to Immortality.”

*Introduction:* The word Hindu comes from ‘sindu’ which is the name for the river ‘Indus’ in north-west India. Hinduism is a faith-oriented significant way of life, for most people of India. Hinduism is one of the most ancient living religions. It is more of a family of religions than a single religion. Hinduism does not have a historical founder and Hindus often refer to it

as the eternal religion as it is based on the eternal principles. The Vedas are the fountain heads of Hinduism. The systematic philosophical construction of Hinduism today is the result of the efforts and spiritual insights of the ancient Rishis, Gurus and sages of India.

Hinduism holds the view that all religions are equal. It accepts all sorts of religious faiths, all forms of worship and all kinds of rituals, customs and traditions. Historically, classical Hinduism spoke of equality of all religions under the roof of the same one God. From this, we can say that all religions are working for the same purpose.

We need to understand that traditional Hinduism has always been the most tolerant, patient and welcoming of all religions. Thus, genuine Hinduism not only believes in peace, love, brotherhood, forgiveness and harmony but also believes that we humans are children of God.

Now let us listen to a reading from the *Bhagavat Gita* (Ch. IV: 4 & 5)

“Whenever there is decay of *dharma* and rise of *adharma*, I embody myself, O Bharata. I am born, age after age, for the protection of the good, for the destruction of the wicked and for the establishment of *dharma*.”

*Commentary:* The central message of this passage is about the establishment of *dharma*, the duty to maintain right order, which in turn is related to peace that the world is longing for. Gita rightly explains that it is only when we are governed by *dharma*, that we can experience that external peace in ourselves, in our families, communities, society and country at

large. Thus, Gita urges every one of us gathered here “to be Dharma conscious and work for that eternal cause.” (pause)

## **Buddhism**

### ***Sanskrit Chant:***

*Buddam Sharanam Gachami.*

*Dhammam Sharanam Gachami.*

*Sangam Sharanam Gachami.*

*Meaning:* I am proceeding towards the Enlightened One, trusting in his moral code, and in the company of his faithful ones.

*Introduction:* Lord Gautama Buddha founded Buddhism. After years of wandering and contemplation, at last he got enlightenment while meditating under the Bodhi tree. Buddhism is a religion, which does not believe in God, but it is not against God.

It says that the World is full of sorrows and desire is the cause of all-evil. Buddhism teaches four Noble Truths:

1. Human life is full of Misery.
2. The cause of this Misery is human desire.
3. Misery can be overcome by controlling desires.
4. Desires can be controlled by following the eight-fold path. This path consists of Right Faith, Right Resolve, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Living, Right Effort, Right Meditation and Right Enjoyment.

Lord Buddha preached that emancipation from the cycle of birth and re-birth, that is Nirvana, can be attained by a path of self-purification and by following the eight-fold path. Buddhism is essentially a religion of kindness, humanity and equality. It attaches little importance to rituals and ceremonies. Compassion and service are the two central values of Buddhism. Compassion is a feeling of service in action. Today we remember the Buddhists all over the world and in a special way the suffering Buddhists in Tibet and elsewhere.

L. Let us pray together the Buddhist Prayer for Peace:

A. May all beings everywhere, plagued with suffering of body and mind, quickly be freed from their illnesses. May those who are frightened cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free. May the powerless find power, and may people think of befriending one another. May those who find themselves in a trackless, fearful wilderness - the children, the aged, the unprotected - be guarded by beneficial celestials, and may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.

## **Christianity**

*Introduction:* Just like Buddhism, Christianity centers on the person of its founder, Jesus Christ, but probably more than Buddhism and any other religion. Christianity identifies itself with its founder in such a way that to be a Christian is to say with St. Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live in the Son of God who loved me and gave his life for me" (*Ga 2:20*).

*Reading from the Sermon of Jesus Christ on the Mount  
(Mt 5:3-10)*

Blessed are those who know they are spiritually poor:  
the kingdom of heaven belongs to them!  
Blessed are those who mourn: God will comfort them.

Blessed are those who are humble; they will receive  
what God promised!

Blessed are those whose greatest desire is to do what  
God requires: God will satisfy them fully!

Blessed are those who are merciful to others: God  
will be merciful to them!

Blessed are the pure in heart: they will see God.

Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be called  
the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because they  
do what God requires: the kingdom of heaven  
belongs to them!

*(Pause or a hymn)*

*Commentary:* The implications of the kingdom of God are explained by Jesus especially in the 'Sermon on the Mount.' It spells out the new set of values and new understanding of life, which Jesus Christ has stressed. It puts religion where it belongs, in the heart rather than in external laws. The goodness of every person is born within, in one's inner heart, in honesty, sincerity, compassion, purity and prayerful contact with God. Secondly, Jesus taught all to trust in God fully and never to give in to a sense of despair and frustration in life. God is 'Our Father'. Finally, Jesus insisted that the whole of religion is summarized in two commandments: "Love the Lord your God with

all your heart, with all your soul, and with your entire mind, and love your neighbor as yourself” (Mk 12:30-31).

- L. Let us pray for all Christians, especially those in our country. May God bless them to be true witnesses of love. Let us pray together, the universal prayer, which Jesus Christ taught his disciples:
  - A. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil Amen.

## **Jainism**

*Introduction:* Jainism represents an ancient faith having its roots in the prehistoric past. It is called Jainism from the fact that its adherents follow the jina—the one who has conquered his self. This ancient faith was restored and reformed by Mahavira the 24th Tirtankara. Jains are usually welcoming and friendly toward other faiths and often help with inter-faith activities. An example of this is that several non-Jain temples are administered by Jains. They have contributed to Asian philosophy, art, architecture, science, and to Gandhi’s non-violent movements. Quietly and austere, Jainism has preserved its way of life through two and half thousand years or more. Like Buddhism, Jainism presents a religion without God. Jainism emphasizes self-realization and non-violence.

*A Reading from Mahavira's Sutakrtanga (1/1/4/10)*

The essence of all knowledge consists in not committing violence.

The doctrine of 'ahimsa' is nothing but the observance of equality, i.e. the realisation that just as I do not like misery, others also do not like it.

*Bhagavati aradhana, 797 states:*

To kill any living being amounts to killing oneself. Compassion to others is compassion to one's own self.

Therefore, one should avoid violence like poison or a thorn that causes pain.

Thus does the Kevala Jnani, the highest knowledge seeker, cultivate an attitude of equality towards all living beings, mobile and stationary, and attains equanimity. One should treat all beings with equanimity and none with enmity. (*Silent pause*)

*Commentary:* As reality can be viewed from different sides Jainism does not consider that its faith seeking is the only absolute truth. It respects other teachings and faiths.

The path of perfection is the same in all times, past, present and future. Jains believe that sainthood is there where there is true self-knowledge. This self-knowledge helps one to practice non-violence and brotherhood and feels empathy with the other. It inspires all to say: "Deep within my heart I feel voices whispering to me."

A true Jain is one who, by cultivating equality towards all living beings, can attain equanimity.

Thus does the seeker of truth attain his goal, the 'Kevala Jnana' or the highest knowledge because if there is a goal, there is an achievement.

*(Inspirational Hymn)*

“Deep within my heart I feel voices whispering to me, words that I can't understand, meanings I must clearly heed.” *(or any other hymn)*

### ***Conclusion***

L. Kazi Nazrul Islam, a noted poet of Bangladesh has emphasized the equality of religions and religious scriptures in his poem “On Equality.” According to him a person's heart is the universal temple of all the gods. There is no temple or 'kabaa' greater than the heart of a person. The only need is to search for the Almighty within. Therefore he says:

“Of Equality I sing:  
Where all barriers and differences  
Between man and man have vanished,  
where Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and  
Christians have mingled together.

Of Equality I sing:  
What are you - a Parsi, a Jain, a Jew?  
Or a Santal, Bhil or Garo?  
A Confucian or a follower of Charvak the  
atheist?  
Go on, say more.

Yet friends, be whatever you may please,  
Whatever books and manuscripts you may  
carry

On your sides or on your back or shoulders -  
Be it the Quran, the Puranas, the Vedas,  
Vedanta,  
the Bible, Tripitaka, Zend-Avesta, Granthsahab,  
and whatever you may read of these as you  
please;  
yet why this vain labor,  
this driving of an anger into your brain?  
Why this haggling as in a shop?

Fresh flowers are blooming along the way!  
Within you are all the books, the wisdom of all  
ages.  
And you need only to open wide your soul  
To find all the scriptures there.”

Thus the poet asks us to give importance to the life around us and to experience true brotherhood rather than merely limiting ourselves to the scriptures and the structures of the religions.

We thank all who have made this time of reflection a fruitful one by your presence.

As a sign of expressing oneness and love for the universal brotherhood let us now share peace with the exchange of flowers (*or any other similar gesture*).



Bl. Maria Helena



Bl. Josepha H. Stenmanns

# Part Five

## Following the Word: Inspirational Texts

### 501. Prologue to the SVD Constitutions

*God's loving grace has gathered us from various peoples and continents into a religious missionary community dedicated to the Divine Word and named after him The Society of the Divine Word.*

God so loved the world that he sent his only Son. The Word became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth to reveal the Father's name and to proclaim the kingdom of his love. He made this love, which is limitless, visible in a sinful world by his unconditional devotion to all, especially those in need. Through his death and resurrection he opened the way to the Father for all who believe in him. By the outpouring of his Spirit the glorified Lord formed the new people of God as a sign of salvation for all. Christ continues his mission in his people: to bring the good news to all nations and proclaim the Father's liberating and unifying love. The Holy Spirit repeatedly raises up communities which place themselves at the disposal of the church to help accomplish its missionary task.

In response to the call of the Holy Spirit and the needs of peoples, St. Arnold Janssen founded our Society as a missionary community. We see our special dedication to the Divine Word and his mission expressed in our name. His life is our life, his mission our mission. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we follow

him, glorifying the Father and bringing the fullness of life to others. Wherever the church sends us, we are to proclaim the Gospel so that all peoples may walk in the way of salvation, freed from the darkness of sin by the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace. Missionary work is, therefore, the end and aim of our Society. All our activities, diverse though they be, are ultimately intended to help the church fulfill its missionary task.

We perform our missionary service one in mind and heart with the Divine Word who offers us a living example of loving dedication to the Father and selfless service of others. We follow the Lord on the path of the evangelical counsels and bind ourselves to his person and his service by the vows of consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty and apostolic obedience. In this way we join together to form a missionary religious community. We propose to make the goodness and kindness of God visible in our life and service. As a community of brothers from different nations and languages, we become a living symbol of the unity and diversity of the church. Our communion with the Lord and with one another is strengthened and deepened by celebrating the Eucharist, by attentively listening to the word of God and by praying together in the joy of the Holy Spirit.

*The purpose of formation and government in our Society is the growth and strengthening of our vocation and the focussing of all our efforts on our one missionary goal.*

## 502. Following the Word - Passing Over

“The Word became flesh,  
he lived among us, and we saw his glory.  
From his fullness we have, all of us, received -  
grace following upon grace” (*Jn 1:14,16*).

**We are called** by the Father,  
His Word to see and hear and feel,  
His Word to read and share,  
in openness to the guiding Spirit,  
to do the will of our Father  
to be disciples - chaste, poor, obedient,  
immersed in the life of the Trinity.  
Called, like St. Arnold,  
to imitate the Word made flesh  
in self-emptying,  
to follow Jesus Christ  
through cross and resurrection,  
in suffering and joy.

Sent by Jesus, **We leave**.  
Together as brothers from many cultures,  
we pass over to be with others,  
offering and receiving good news,  
with respect, understanding, compassion, and love.

Led by the Spirit, **We enter**.  
Joyfully, full of hope,  
we serve, share, and become one with all people,  
especially with those on the frontiers of our faith,  
and the margin of society.  
And so we witness, and help to build  
a loving communion of all humanity, and  
a communion of humanity  
with the Triune God who loves us.

*(XIII General Chapter 1988,  
Following the Word, No. 1, p. 44)*

### 503. Following the Word - Paschal Mystery

“Make your own the mind of Christ Jesus:  
Who, being in the form of God,  
did not count equality with God  
something to be grasped.  
But he emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave, becoming  
as human beings are; and being in every way  
like a human being, he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
And for this God raised him high...” (*Ph 2:5-9*).

To follow the Lord means to be with him and to be sent by him (*Mk 3:14*). As his disciples we participate in his Paschal Mystery, we have a share in his suffering and joy, in his cross and resurrection.

As disciples we are with the Lord. We sit at his feet and listen to him, meditate on his word, share his solitude and his silence, pray with him to the Father and share the Passover meal with him. We follow him along the way of the evangelical counsels. As we try to be like him we discover a need for constant conversion. We strive that our selfishness might give way to living for others and with them; that our love of comfort might give way to the joyful commitment to Christ and those dear to him; that our desire to control might give way to the contemplative appreciation of the presence of God in all things and every situation.

As apostles we are sent out by the Lord. We carry on his mission of proclaiming in words and deeds the arrival of the reign of justice, peace and joy. But like Jesus, we are also exposed to the rejection, suffering and conflicts which are experienced whenever the Reign of God is proclaimed effectively. We are

confident, nonetheless, that any share we have in the cross will lead us on to resurrection.

*(XIII General Chapter 1988,  
Following the Word, No. 1, p. 51)*

## **504. Four Fundamental Conversions**

*(From a presentation by Superior General, Fr. Antonio M. Pernia SVD in Indore, 2007)*

“His life is our life, his mission our mission” (*SVD Prologue*) Our mission is but a sharing of the mission of the Divine Word, the ‘*Missio Dei*’. We will be able to do this only if we also make his life our life. The call to conversion today is a call to make his way of mission our way.

### **(1) From Activism to Contemplation**

Often we act as if mission depends more on our efforts than on God’s grace and so we often fall into the danger of activism - that is, of thinking that the best way to do mission is to become effective in what we do. At times we have explained away the mystery of God, rather than trying to lead people into this very mystery through signs and symbols in respectful dialogue. We are urged to give priority to *being missionary over doing missionary things. (pause)*

Lord, help us to see the world through your eyes, under your gaze, where enemies become friends, separating walls become open doors, strangers become brothers and sisters, borders become bridges, diversity leads not to differences but to unity. Only then will our mission truly bear fruit.

Lord have mercy...

## **(2) From Individualism to Collaboration**

Often we think that we are the only ones called to mission - whether as an individual or as a Society. 'Rugged individualism' has long been a description of the SVD missionary. We do our work, and do it well, but it is our work and no one else's. Another missionary is only a nuisance or a hindrance to our work. '*Missio Dei*' implies that mission is larger than what each one of us or our Society can do. It is even larger than what all of us together can do. By collaborating we are saying that mission is the Lord's in the first place and that the primary agent of mission is his Spirit. *(pause)*

Lord, help us to be true collaborators with you, being attuned, through contemplation, to fulfilling your holy will. Lord, help us to promote a collaborative attitude in mission.

Lord have mercy...

## **(3) From Conquest to Dialogue**

Often we have tried to evangelize through power and arrogance, thus trampling on people's traditions and culture. We have regarded other religions and cultures as in error or demonic, seeing ourselves with the moral obligation to conquer and replace these religions. The Lord has been in dialogue with all peoples from the beginning. Other religious and cultural traditions contain 'seeds of the Word' or 'rays of the Light'. Often we have judged other religions as evil or totally in error. Often we have failed to respect others who differ from us and had little regard for them as a partner- in-dialogue. *(pause)*

Lord help us to evangelize from a position of lowliness and humility and not to seek power - economic, cultural, technological, or even media power, but rather only the power of the Word and of the Spirit; the power of love which is manifested in self-giving. Help us to realize that mission is yours and not ours.

Lord have mercy...

#### **(4) From *only* evangelizing to *also* being evangelized**

Often we have done everything as missionaries in a paternalistic way, seeing ourselves as the only and exclusive bearers of the good news and the people, as the object. We think of ourselves as the preacher who proclaims the truth, the people as the ones who need conversion. We need to realize that the Spirit is at work in the people being evangelized as well as in each of us, that mission is a two-way exchange of gifts between ourselves and the people with whom we work. *(pause)*

Lord, grant that we may be ready to give and receive, to evangelize and be evangelized to speak and to listen. Grant that we may learn to walk with the people and respect the pace of the people's walking, to change and be changed, to form and be formed to invite to conversion and be converted ourselves. And above all; that we may facilitate rather than block the ongoing dialogue between you and your people.

Lord have mercy...



Bl. Louis Mzyk, Bl. Aloysius Liguda,  
Bl. Gregory Frackoowiak, Bl. Stanislaus Kubista

# APPENDIX

## Appendix I. Methods of Reading the Bible

1. **Continuous Reading:** Reading three or four chapters every day, paying attention to special words, motifs and symbols.
2. **Attentive Reading:** Reading the same text, repeatedly, aloud or silently, answering the questions, Who? What? Where? When? How? Why? Reading the passage in different translations or in different languages; writing out the text; looking up all the cross-references. Paying special attention to the elements that refer to the spread of the Word, mission, dialogue etc.; paying attention to the cultural aspects. Jotting down insights, discoveries, questions and challenges for action.
3. **Prayerful Reading** in four steps : Reading, Meditation, Prayer, and Contemplation which leads to action.
4. **Liturgical Reading:** As done in the liturgical assembly, where the Word of God is proclaimed and celebrated for us to be nourished by both the Word and the Sacrament.

(Recommended in *Year of Divine Word Missionaries Reading the Bible*, 2005)

## **Appendix II. Methods of Bible Sharing**

### **I. The Lumko Seven-Step Method** (*South Africa*)

1. We invite the Lord. Will someone, please invite Jesus in a prayer?
2. We read the text.
3. We pick out words and meditate on them. Each one reads them aloud twice.
4. We keep silence for... minutes and allow God to speak to us.
5. We share what we have heard in our hearts.
6. We discuss any task which our group is called to do.
  - a) Report on previous task
  - b) Which new task has to be done? Who is doing What and When?
7. We pray together spontaneously. We end with a prayer/hymn which all know.

### **II. The Dzogbegan Ten-Step Method** (Togo)

1. Sing a Psalm/Hymn
2. Prayer of invocation.
3. Read the text aloud and then silently.
4. We study the text:
  - a) examine the context - what comes before and after the passage;
  - b) background: people, places, customs;

- d) important or recurring words, ideas and phrases;
  - e) examine the biblical thought vis-à-vis African/ local culture.
5. We look at the text comprehensively in the light of the entire Bible:
    - a) the book in which the passage is found;
    - b) What light does extra-biblical literature throw on the passage?
  6. What is the Church's understanding of the passage? Its liturgical usage?
  7. Let us read the text again aloud and then summarise the message.
  8. Sharing: Let us apply the text
    - a) to our own personal life and concrete situation;
    - b) Let us find a **Word of Life** and memorise it.
    - c) What possible **Action** flows from the text (personal and communal)?
  9. Concluding Prayer: psalm, prayer of intercession, prayer about the message.
  10. Hymn based on the biblical message (if possible).

### III. The Vigan Method (Philippines)

#### Opening Prayer or Song

##### First Step

- *Reading the text:* One member reads it aloud.
- *Silence* for about three minutes. Each chooses a word, phrase or verse which strikes personally.
- *Sharing* of the word, phrase or verse only.

##### Second Step

- *Reading:* another member reads the same text aloud.
- *Silence* for about five minutes. Each one listens intently to God's personal message to him/her.
- *Sharing of the Word for me with the others:* The group members share what they have heard in their hearts, trying to use only the first person singular (I, me, my).

##### Third Step The Word demands a Response.

- *Reading:* After all have shared, another member reads the text aloud for a third time.
- *Silence and personal answer to the Word:* In silence each one tries to find an answer to the personal Word of God, for instance, expressing trust if the Word was a promise.
- *Sharing of the personal prayer response:* Each one expresses aloud his/her answer to the Word, so that it may be confirmed through the "Amen" of the others.

**Conclusion:** A prayer of praise/thanks, a song, or the Lord's Prayer.

## IV. The Korean Method

### In the Large Group:

1. Greeting: Leader: "By the light of the Word;"  
All respond: "And the Spirit of grace" (or another).
2. *Opening Prayer*: Sign of the Cross; spontaneous prayer by the leader.
3. *Reading the text*: Aloud; each one taking one verse.

The leader disperses the group into twos (dyads) as dialogue companions and indicates when to gather again.

### In Small Units of Two:

1. *Mutual greeting*: One partner: "By the light of the Word;"  
the other: "And the Spirit of grace."
2. *Paying attention to the breath and the text, the Spirit and the Word*:
  - Breathe deeply, calmly, meditatively, attuning yourself to the "Spirit breathing in you."
  - Read the text in silence.
  - Let yourself be touched by one word, symbol, idea.
3. *Listening to the Word - listening to your companion*:
  - Share your "bread for the day" with your companion, taking turns.
  - Listen with an open heart, pass no judgment.

## **In the Large Group:**

1. Greeting: Leader: "By light of the Word;"  
All: "And the Spirit of grace."
2. Reading: All read the text aloud - even if the translations or languages are different.  
Before starting: - breathe deeply three times.  
- think of a person for whom you would like this text to become good news.
3. Share your *companion's* word for the day, not your own insights.
4. Closing prayer: The members in turn formulate a short prayer of thanks, petition, intercession, etc. Then together pray the "Our Father."

## **V. A Latin-American Method** (*Carlos Mesters*)

At the beginning of the meeting

1. Pray for the light of the Holy Spirit.
2. Check if everyone has completed their assignment from the last meeting.

### **I. Starting from today's reality**

1. Verify that the chosen theme is really appropriate today.
2. Use specifically chosen questions to deepen the conversation.

### **II. Studying and meditating on the text**

1. Read the text.
2. Study the text:
  - a. Do a close reading of the text (*literary level*).
  - b. Look at the situation of the text's community (*historical level*).
  - c. Look for the message of the text (*theological level*).

### **III. Celebrating the Word**

1. Share in a spirit of thanksgiving the insights and energy gained.
2. Articulate the commitment discovered and made during the study.
3. Sing or pray an appropriate psalm - other prayers can be added.

### **Prepare the next meeting**

1. Choose the theme.
2. Choose the text and prepare the questions.
3. Distribute assignments.

## **Appendix III. Three Optional Methods of Meditation**

### ***A. Benedictine Method: Adapted from Lectio Divina***

Step 1. Prayerfully read a Bible text e.g. Mt 19:21 - *Lectio*.

Step 2. Pray to God to understand the message - *Oratio*.

Step 3. Make reflections, based on the message - *Meditatio*.

Step 4. Mentally repeat some key words of the text - *Delectatio*.

Step 5. Have a dialogue with Jesus about the text. "He looks at me and I look at him." - *Contemplatio*.

Step 6. Make resolutions on the steps to be taken for concrete life-situations - *Actio*.

### ***B. Ignatian Method : Adapted from 'Spiritual Exercises'***

Step 1. Say an opening prayer and read a Scripture text e.g. Jn 1:35-39.

Step 2. Make a mental composition of the scene in the text, answering questions with who, what, when, where, why, and how.

Step 3. Motivate yourself and set the goal: What do I expect to happen as a result of the meditation?

Step 4. Role play in the mind the manner in which each character in the text responded.

Step 5. Calculate well and find out the central message of the text.

Step 6. Have a colloquy - a conversation with Jesus about the ways in which the message can be applied to life.

Step 7. Conclude the meditation, thanking Jesus for the experience and say a prayer.

### **C. An Asian Method<sup>®</sup>**

Step 1. Sit prayerfully with erect back and neck, looking at one point and become aware of God's presence, in the environment, in the senses and the elements - *Zen*.

Step 2. Offer to God the seven centers of energy in the body - *Yoga*.

Step 3. Detach the mind from distracting sensations and desires - *Vipassana*.

Step 4. Re-live the experience of Holy Communion while mentally repeating inspirational words from Holy Scripture and send vibrations of communion and goodwill to all - *Mantra and Communion*

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<sup>®</sup> Adapted from Zen, Yoga, Vipassana and Mantra, as demonstrated on the VCD, *Dhyan Sadhana*, published by Satprakashan, Indore, India

**Appendix IV. Prayers and Chants  
of Non-Christian Origin  
(*Bhajanamrtam II*)<sup>@@</sup>**

**A. Rabindranath Tagore's Poems (*Gitanjali*)**

***1. There Are Numerous Strings***

R/ There are numerous strings in your lute,  
Let me add my own among them.

Then when you smite your chords,  
My heart will break its silence,  
And my heart will be one with your song. R/

Amidst your numberless stars  
Let me place my own little lamp. R/

In the dance of your festival of lights,  
My heart will throb and  
My life will be one with your smile. R/

---

<sup>@@</sup> The VCD on meditation, the audio CD and the music notation for the lyrics of *BHAJANAMRTAM II* (Nectar of Devotional Songs) is available at: Satprakashan, Banwarkua P.O. Indore - 452 001, INDIA

Email: [sskin@sancharnet.in](mailto:sskin@sancharnet.in)

Fax: 0091-731-2475731

Phone: 0091-731-2363733, 2475744

## ***2. Accept me, my Lord***

R/ Accept me, my Lord, accept me for this while,  
Accept me, my Lord.

Let those orphan days that passed  
Without thee be forgotten. R/

Only spread this little moment  
wide across thy lap,  
holding it under thy light. R/

I have wandered in pursuit of voices  
that drew me, yet led me nowhere. R/

## ***3. This is my Prayer***

R/ This is my prayer to thee, my Lord:  
Strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart.

Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and  
sorrows. R/

Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in  
service. R/

Give me the strength never to disown the poor  
or bend my knees before insolent might. R/

## ***4. Let thy love play***

R/ Let thy love play upon my voice  
and rest on my silence.

Let it pass through my heart  
into all my movements. R/

Let thy love like stars  
shine in the darkness of my sleep,  
and dawn in my awakening. R/

Let it burn in the flame of my desires  
And flow in all currents of my own love. R/

### ***5. I have come***

R/ I have come to thee  
to take thy touch before I begin my day.

Let thy eyes rest upon my eyes for a while. R/

Let me take to my work  
the assurance of thy comradeship, my friend. R/

Fill my mind with thy music  
to last through the desert of noise. R/

## **B. Sanskrit Chants and Poems**

*(adapted from Upanishads, Buddha Dhamma and other traditional non-sectarian Asian sources)*

### **Sanskrit Lyrics**

#### **1. Asatoma**

*Asatoma Sat gamaya  
Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya  
Mrtyorma Amrtam gamaya  
Om shanti, shanti, shanti.*

#### **Meaning:**

Lead me from the unreal to the Real.  
Lead me from darkness to Light.  
Lead me from death to Immortality.  
Let there be peace, peace, peace.

#### **2. Hei Bhagawan**

*Hei Bhagawan, tava naam  
Gunjata asthi sakala jagati,  
Gagane pavane vane upavane  
Kala kala nirjhareshu tava naam*

#### **Meaning**

O God, the whole world echoes with your name.  
The sky, the wind, the forest, every little garden,  
Even the gurgling springs,  
resound with your name!

### **3. Loka samastha**

*Loka samastha sukhino bhavantu  
Om shanti, shanti, shanti.*

#### **Meaning:**

May all people be well.  
May there be peace, peace, peace.

### **4. Om Jagadishwara**

*Om Jagadishwara sadapi chinmaya  
Jagadishwara vande.  
Om paripoojita parapatma  
Anavaratam vande*

#### **Meaning:**

Salutations to the God of the universe.  
Salutations to the eternal Wisdom.  
Homage and adoration to the  
most revered Spirit, for ever and ever.

### **5. Vande Sacchidanandam**

*Vande Sacchidanandam, vande.  
Bhogi lanchita, yogi vanchita  
Charama padam, vande, vande  
Parama purana paratparam  
Poornam akhanda paravaram,  
Trisanga suddham asanga  
Buddham durvedam vande.*

#### **Meaning:**

I adore the eternal Being, Intelligence and Bliss.  
Despised by the worldly, desired by the ascetic,

O! Highest Goal! I adore You!  
The most Ancient one, supreme and sublime,  
Full, indivisible, transcendent and immanent,  
I adore You!  
Trinity in one pure unrelated unity,  
Self-conscious, inscrutable, I adore You!

### **6. Om Bhurbhuvaswaha**

*Om Bhurbhuvaswaha  
Tat savitur varenyam  
Bhargo devasya dhimahi  
Dhiyo yo nah prachodayat  
Om shanti, shanti, shanti.*

#### **Meaning:**

Salutations to the Word, the Creator  
Of the world, the heavens and the beyond.  
As we meditate on the supreme Brightness,  
May the divine Giver of Life illumine our minds.  
Let there be peace, peace, peace.

### **7. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**

*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (3) bhavantu  
Sarva loka mangalam (3) bhavantu  
Sarva jiva sukham (3) bhavantu  
Sarva loka mangalam bhavantu.*

#### **Meaning:**

May the whole world become like a family.  
May all people be well.  
May all beings be well.  
May all people be well.

## **8. Om guhayaam**

*Om guhayaam  
nihataya namah.*

### **Meaning:**

I bow to the One  
Who is dwelling in the cave (*of my heart*).

## **9. Om! Poornamadah**

*Om!  
Poornamadah Poornamidam  
Poornat Poornam udachyate  
Poornasya Poornam adaya  
Poornam ev avashishyate  
Om! shanti, shanti, shanti.*

### **Meaning:**

Homage to you !  
Fullness there, Fullness here,  
Fullness proceeds from Fullness.  
When Fullness is deducted from Fullness,  
What remains is only Fullness!  
Homage to you! Peace, Peace, Peace!

## **10. Om! Sarvesham**

*Om!  
Sarvesham poornam bhavatu  
Sarvesam mangalam bhavatu.  
Sarve bhavantu sukhinah  
Sarve santu niramayah  
Sarve bhadrani pashyant  
Ma kaschid, dukkhabhag bhavet*

**Meaning:**

Homage to you !

May all be perfect.

May there be prosperity for all!

May all be happy!

May all be free from illness.

May all see good things.

May none ever become sad.

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