

THE WAYFARER'S PRAYER

God, you have guided your people throughout their history.
So now as pilgrim children we turn to you,
 searching for your image and for a place to rest.
Like a good friend, Lord, you are always with the poor.
You make yourself a travel companion to us wayfarers,
 to us the undocumented, the refugees, the migrants,
 pilgrims all who walk toward you.
You call us to be witnesses of your love and to be
 examples of our faith in whatever land receives us.
Lord, may the spirit of Pentecost be renewed.
May all peoples, races, and languages be one in communion.

*Youth and Migration Program of the Mexican Commission of Youth Ministry,
in Prayer Without Borders, page 51.*

Also found in:

The Catholic Youth Prayer Book, St. Mary's Press, 2007

PRAYER BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX

Most High glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me
true faith,
certain hope,
and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge,
that I may carry out your holy and true command.

St. Francis of Assisi (1205/1206)

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray,
Almighty, eternal just and merciful God:
Grant us in our lives that we may do for your
Sake alone what we know you want us to do,
And always what pleases you;
So that, cleansed and enlightened interiorly
And fired with the flame of the Holy Spirit
We may be able to follow in the footsteps
Of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
And so make our way to you, Most High,
By your grace alone,
You who live and rule in perfect Trinity

And simple unity,
And are glorified, God all-powerful,
Forever and ever.

Amen.

From the RITUAL of the Secular Franciscan Order

PRAYER FOR YOUTH

We offer to you, Loving God, the gifts and needs of youth.

Bless them with your guiding grace as they face the challenges and opportunities in their lives.

Touch their hearts with the gentleness of your love, that they may know they are valued and valuable beings.

Send your spirit of hope to their lives, that they may believe in themselves and know they are needed in this world.

Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike.

Guide us, as we continue to grow in appreciation of the many gifts of young people, in the ministry opportunities we offer to them, in the journey of faith we walk with them, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world.

We ask this in Jesus' name. [and through the intercessions of Saints Francis, Clare, Elizabeth and Louis.]
Amen.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville, TX

LEADERSHIP PRAYER

Leadership is hard to define.

Lord, let us be the ones to define it with justice.

Leadership is like a handful of water.

Lord, let us be the people to share with those who thirst.

Leadership is not about watching and correcting.

Lord, let us remember it is about listening and connecting.

Leadership is not about telling people what to do.

Lord, let us first find out what people want.

Leadership is less about the love of power
and more about the power of love.

Lord, as we continue to undertake the role of leader

let us be affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus.

Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow.
Let our greatest passion be...compassion.
Our greatest strength...love.
Our greatest victory...the reward of peace.
In leading, let us never fail to follow.
In loving, let us never fail. Amen.

*Office of Formation & Discipleship
Archdiocese of Atlanta*

A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lord Jesus Christ, grant me the gift of understanding.
Help me to understand the feelings of others, the desires of others, the goals of others.
At the same time, help me to understand myself in my actions and reactions.
Widen my vision beyond my own small world to embrace with knowledge and love the worlds of others.
Help me, Lord, to always see you at work in my own life and in the lives of others.
Bless me with insight, acceptance and love that is tempered by you who are all things to all.

Amen.

Mary Stronach, OFS ~ National Formation Workshop, August 22, 2020

O Lord our God,
in your mercy and kindness,
no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored.
You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer,
and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice,
we hear your voice telling us what is required,
"Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Mi 6:8)
Fill us with your mercy so that we,
in turn, may be merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism
so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities.
Strengthen our hearts
so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will.
Flood our path with your light
as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us,
O Lord, in our efforts,
for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

EMBRACING LOVE: A VOCATION PRAYER

Loving and generous God,
It is You who call us by name
And ask us to follow You.

Help us to grow in the Love
And Service of our Church
As we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage
Of Your Spirit as we make all things new.

Grant us faith-filled ministers
Who will embrace Christ's Mission
of love and justice.

Bless our faith community
By raising up dedicated, generous disciples
Who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Friars, Priests, Deacons,
[Secular Franciscans, YouFra] and Lay Ministers.

Open our hearts to hear Your call
And inspire us to know You better.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Friar Michael Lasky, OFM Conv.
[my additions]

Oh St, Francis, stigmatized on La Verna,
the world longs for you,
that icon of the crucified Jesus..
It has need of your heart,
open to God and to others;
of your bare, wounded feet,
of your pierced hands raised in supplication.
It longs for your voice so frail
yet forceful with the power of the Gospel.
Francis, help the people of this age

to recognize the evil of sin
and to seek purification from it in penance.
Help them to become free from the very structures of sin
that oppress today's society.
Rekindle in the consciousness of those in government
an urgent need for peace between nations and peoples.
Instill in young people your freshness of life
that is capable of withstanding the snares
of the many cultures of death.
To those injured by every type of evil
teach, O Francis, the joy of being able to forgive.
To all those crucified by suffering,
hunger and war,
reopen the doors of hope. Amen.

*Pope St. John Paul II (visit to Mt. La Verna in 1983)
Feast of the Stigmata, Sept. 17*

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the Harvest,
bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.
Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

Inspire all of your disciples to mutual love and giving---
for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

Instill those in religious life, Parish ministries, and families
with the confidence and grace to invite others to
embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

Unite us to Jesus
Through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you
in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace.

Amen.

Pope Francis

AN ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PRAYER

O God, Trinity of love,
from the profound communion of your divine life,
pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,

in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognizing him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each brother or sister
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves. Amen.

Pope Francis

*Given in Assisi, at the tomb of Saint Francis, on 3 October, Vigil of the Feast of the Saint, in the year 2020,
the eighth of my Pontificate.*

CHANGE ME LORD

Change me Lord.
As I flip over the calendar to a new year,
Let me flip over a new attitude in my life.

Change me Lord.
Help me to let go of the baggage that is
attempting to push its way into my future.

Change me Lord.
Let me see and believe in all the possibilities
that a new year and a new attitude can bring to my life.

Take my hands Lord.
Let my fingers never type or post words of division and hurt.
Renew my fingers to release words of hope, encouragement and love.
Let my hands never be a part of ill-will or a cause of discord.
Renew my hands to be used to bring comfort, friendship and aid to others.

Take my feet Lord.
Let my feet never lead to places of discouragement, despair or separation.

Renew my steps and lead me where I can share your love and hope in the world.

Take my eyes and ears Lord.

Let me never limit my mind to only what I think or hear.

Open my eyes and ears to see and hear the cries of those who need my help
within my small life and within the larger world.

Take my heart Lord.

Take my heart of stone and apathy.

Give me a heart so full of awe and love for what You have created
That I will burst forth from my cocoon to live fully in Your Spirit.

Take my life Lord.

Change me Lord.

Amen.

January 11, 2021

Kathy Taormina, OFS

FY/YA Commission SA

Queen of Peace Regional SA