

## **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.  
Give me  
right faith,  
sure hope  
and perfect charity.  
Fill me with understanding and knowledge  
that I may fulfill your command.

*St. Francis of Assisi*

## **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*