

PRAYER TO BECOME GOD'S INSTRUMENT

ALL:

O, my heavenly Father,
I give all of my life to you
in the name of Your Son,
my Lord Jesus Christ, and through
the power of Your Holy Spirit.
I have heard You calling me,
and I choose to follow
where Your Son leads me.
I want to help others find their way
into Your kingdom.
I want to serve others
so that they can experience Your love.
Use me.
Use the hurts and sufferings I've endured.
Use the talents, the resources,
the time, the experiences,
the spiritual growth and everything else
You have given me.
Use me.
Help me to love all people unconditionally
to reveal Jesus to others through me.
Help me to grow in my desire to love
all people.
Today, and every day, help me to decrease
so that You may increase in me.
Help me to love purely, humbly,
and generously.
Show me how to receive more of Your love
so that I have more love to give.
Heal me of every obstacle
that holds me back from serving You.
I give You permission to change me.
Here I am, Lord,
I want to do Your will.
Amen.



Mystagogy Retreat

“Gifted and Sent”

Catechist: A reading from 1 Peter 5:5b-11.

Beloved, clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another.

ALL: It is not humility that keeps us silent when we see injustices, abuses, and the mistreatment of others. It is selfishness. It is the desire to protect ourselves from the Way of the Cross.

Catechist: For God opposes the proud but bestows favor on the humble.

ALL: God has no hands but our hands, He has no voice but our voice. He opposes the proud through us.

Catechist: So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you.

ALL: Though we may be rejected and criticized for speaking up when others are put down, God will honor our efforts to take a stand against injustices. God will raise us up every time we are crucified for what is right and holy and true. After all, it is only His opinion of us that really matters.

Catechist: Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

ALL: Our true enemy is not the persons we stand up to in the name of justice, it is the evil one, and Christ wants to rescue those who are the hands and voices of injustice and He wants to rescue those who are the targets of injustice. God has no hands but our hands, He has no voice but our voice.

Catechist: Resist the Devil, steadfast in faith, knowing that your brothers and sisters throughout the world undergo the same sufferings.

ALL: It is not humility that keeps us silent when we see injustices, abuses, and the mistreatment of others. It is the sin of selfishness. It is evil of protecting ourselves from the Way of the Cross.

Catechist: The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory through Christ Jesus will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little. To Him be dominion forever. Amen!

(Lights a candle.)

We have reached the end of the time spent together in training and faith formation, and now you are being sent forth to do the work that the Lord Jesus Christ is calling you to do. All those who say yes to this calling, please stand up.

(Catechist lights one or two neophytes' candles, who spread it to others.)

Catechist: I congratulate you on choosing to accept the call to go forth in the mission of Christ. Please show your commitment to this by answering the following questions with your "YES":

Scripture says in Matt. 28:18-20: Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Be assured, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Do you believe that Jesus is speaking to you, asking you to go forth from here and make disciples wherever you He sends you?

Response: YES!

Catechist: Just before He ascended to heaven, Jesus said to the disciples: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Is it your desire today to receive this power?

Response: YES!

Catechist: And to be Christ's witness wherever you go?

Response: YES!

Catechist: Jesus told His disciples to love one another the way He has loved us. Will you evangelize by the way you give God's love to one another, caring for others, serving others, and listening to the needs of others?

Response: YES!

Catechist: In December of 1990, Pope John Paul II wrote *Redemptoris Missio* – The Mission of the Redeemer – in which he said:

"I wish to invite the Church to renew her missionary commitment... For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others! It is in commitment to the Church's universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support."

Do you accept your responsibilities in the Church's universal mission, and do you agree to accomplish this task in collaboration with the Church community, working toward unity with a spirit of cooperation, obedience to authority, and Christ-like, servant-style leadership with those under your authority?

Response: YES!

Catechist: Let us pray together the
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