



A Journey Through Lent

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God

Prayer *(together):*

Lord Jesus,
You are the Father's presence of light and healing to the world.
You opened the eyes of the blind;
You cured those in physical distress;
You freed those in emotional bondage;
You filled the world with hope and love.
You promised to give us your Holy Spirit of love and light and healing.
Draw us ever deeper into your Spirit,
So that we might see in faith with God's eyes,
Love with God's power;
Hope with God's dream;
Touch hearts with God's healing love.
Deepen our willingness to surrender in trust to God's providence,
And bring us, through the intercession of our Founder,
to the fullness of union with you.
We make our prayer in Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hymn: "I Have Loved You" *(or another appropriate hymn)*

Reflective reading: As we read, notice the word, phrase or idea that strikes you. You will be invited to share this with the community after this section, if you wish. (Reading in choirs or as individuals - adapted from the 2014 Rule):

1. By following Jesus Christ, and by faithful response to the call of the Spirit and charism of our Founder, we consecrate ourselves to God to procure His glory by fulfilling “together and by association” our apostolic ministry of education.

2. The purpose of our Institute is to provide young people, and especially the poor, with a human and Christian education, in accordance with the ministry entrusted to us by the Church.

1. By the fraternal character of our community life, and our active and disinterested presence among those we serve, we bear witness to the possibility of true brotherhood among people and nations.

2. The spirit of our Institute is a spirit of faith which leads us to look upon everything with the eyes of faith, to do everything in view of God, and attribute all to God.

1. By faith, we assess all the realities of life in the light of the Gospel. By faith, we find God in our work, in our concerns and in our joys.

2. By faith, we learn to discern in every event, in every person, and especially in the poor, a sign and a call of the Spirit.

Pause for at least one minute for reflection.

1. By faith, as cooperators with Jesus Christ, we dedicate our whole life to the building of the Reign of God through the service of education. By faith, we abandon ourselves, like our Founder, to God’s guidance.

2. The spirit of faith inspires us with an ardent zeal to serve those entrusted to us and to work with those who share this aim.

1. Commitment to the apostolate is an integral part of our consecration to God. The spirit of the Institute implies that we are imbued with zeal inspired by the life and teachings of our Founder.

2. In order to enter into and live according to the spirit of our Institute, we constantly seek sustenance in the Word of God, which we study, meditate on, and share with one another.

1. We have a very profound respect for Sacred Scripture, and especially for the Gospel which is our first and principal Rule.
2. Through a spirit of prayer and attention to the presence of God, we are always ready to listen to the Holy Spirit, who increasingly reveals to us the truth.

Pause for at least one minute for reflection.

1. By striving continually to achieve interior purity and self-mastery, we seek, as far as it is possible, to perform all our actions by the guidance of God, by the movement of his Spirit, and with the intention of pleasing him.

2. Our lifelong commitment to one another and to the educational service of the poor defines the specific nature of our Institute.

1. To those who share our educational mission, we witness the dignity and splendor of a commitment to education, to concern for young people and especially the poor.

2. Our specific contribution to the shared mission lies in our consecration to the Most Blessed Trinity, lived out in community.

1. Our total gift of ourselves to young people is a special sign of God's own fidelity to them.

2. We strive to integrate within ourselves the constitutive dimensions of our vocation: consecration to God as lay religious, the apostolic ministry of education, especially among the poor, and community life.

Pause for at least one minute for reflection.

Sharing: You are invited now to share one of the quotes from the *Reflective Reading* that particularly struck you. Briefly mention also what makes it so important to you.



Scripture Reading (*short pause between each reading*):

Reader 1: “If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured.” Jesus turned around and said, “Courage, your faith has saved you. Go in peace.” (Matthew 9:20-22) (*Pause*)

Reader 2: “Your sins are forgiven.” “Who is this who even forgives sins?” But he said, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” (Luke 7: 48-50) (*Pause*)

Reader 3: They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying:
“Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!” “Go show yourselves to the priests.” As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, returned, and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. Then he said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” (Luke 17: 11-18) (*Pause*)

Intercessions: **Our Response:** *Grant us your Spirit, O Lord.*

Leader: Enliven our faith, Lord,
so that we may be healed and may heal the troubled hearts of others. **R.**

L: Deepen our trust in your love, Lord,
so that we may surrender our entire lives into your providence. **R.**

L: Sustain in us the confidence, Lord,
that you hold us carefully in the palm of your hand. **R.**

L: Expand our hope in the truth, Lord,
that it is in you that we live and move and have our being. **R.**

L: Let us know more fully, Lord,
that you are Love and that nothing can separate us from you. **R.**

L: Empower us, Lord, to fill this day with acts of faith and zeal. **R.**

(Add your own personal intentions)

Leader: Our Father. . .

Leader: Let us go in peace to share our faith by our love.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Live Jesus, in our hearts.

Response: Forever.