**2021 Diocesan Pastoral Congress**

**A Prayer Service for Discipleship** (Prayer Template)

This service may be adapted. It can be led by a Priest, Deacon or Lay Person.

Call to Prayer

**Presider O God, your love ignites our hearts, captures our imaginations, shapes our dreams, and awakens possibilities.**

All Help us, God, to enkindle in others a sense of hope that transformation is possible. Amen.

Gathering Song

Suggested Hymns: Open My Eyes Lord / Abre Mis Ojos /

Vayan al Mundo / Go Out to the World

Pescador de Hombres / Lord, You Have Come

Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo / We are the Body of Christ

O Love of God / Amor de Dios

Opening Prayer

**Presider God of good news,**

**make us your servants**

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

**May we be heralds of your message,**

**that all may find hope in the One you sent.**

**For Christ is Lord for ever and ever.**

All Amen.

Reading

Reader 1 From Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel*: If indeed “the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics, the Church, cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.” *(Evangelii Gaudium, #183, quoting Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, #28).*

Reader 2 From Pope Benedict XVI in God is Love: The mission of the lay faithful is therefore to configure social life correctly, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their respective competences and fulfilling their own responsibility *(Deus Caritas Est, #29).*

Reader 1 From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person *(#1913)*.

Reader 2 From the words of Christ himself when he proclaims: “You are the salt of the earth. . . You are the light of the world. . . your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5: 13, 14, 16).

(Sacred Silence)

Intercessions

**Presider The path to seeing with the eyes of the heart is discovered in the journey of discipleship. It is not an easy journey but an ongoing effort to live the gospel with integrity. We pray, O God, that you would inspire us and equip us to respond to your call to live out our faith in your world.**

Reader That we might take seriously our call, working together to remake those flawed systems and structures in which injustice is found. We pray:

All Father of all, inspire us to act according to your will.

Reader That we might be leaven, healing what is broken and sanctifying the world. We pray:

All Christ our brother, make us leaven in the world.

ReaderThat we might respond to our own human dignity and the dignity found in all other persons by participating in public life in order to protect all life and promote the common good. We pray:

All Spirit of life, move us to participate in promoting the common good.

ReaderThat we might work to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger and clothe the naked in our local, national and global communities. We pray:

All Triune God, make us salt and light in the world.

**Presider Loving God,**

**we turn to you in our need,**

**knowing that you hear us and respond to our prayers.**

**we offer them in the name of Jesus your Son,**

**who is Lord forever and ever.**

The Lord’s Prayer

*In these or similar words*

**Presider Let us pray the words our Savior taught us,**

**Our Father …**

Blessing

**Presider The Lord be with you.**

All And with your Spirit.

**Presider**

**May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,**

**make you always holy and pure in his sight,**

**pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory,**

**and teach you with the words of truth;**

**may he instruct you in the Gospel of salvation,**

**and ever endow you with fraternal charity.**

**Through Chris our Lord.**

All Amen.

Presider **And may the blessing of almighty God,**

**the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,**

**come down on you and remain with you for ever.**

All Amen.

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If a Lay Leader is presiding this blessing is used.

**Leader May the Lord bless us,**

**protect us from all evil**

**and bring us to everlasting life.**

All Amen.