

## Option I – Page 1 or Option II – Page 5

### 2021 DIOCESAN PASTORAL CONGRESS MORNING PRAISE (Prayer Template)

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

#### INVITATORY

**Presider** O God come to my assistance.

All Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

#### GATHERING HYMN

Suggested Hymns: This Day God Gives Me  
Faith of Our Fathers  
Prayer of Saint Francis / Oración de San Francisco  
Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo / We are the Body of Christ

#### PSALM 33

2-5, 11, 20

Reader The Lord is our help and our shield.

**R/.** The Lord is our help and our shield.

Reader Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;  
on the ten-stringed lyre offer praise.  
Sing to him a new song;  
skillfully play with joyful chant. **R/.**

Reader For the LORD's word is upright;  
all his works are trustworthy.  
He loves justice and right.  
The earth is full of the mercy of the LORD. **R/.**

Reader But the plan of the LORD stands forever,  
the designs of his heart through all generations.  
Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people chosen as his inheritance. **R/.**

Reader Our soul waits for the LORD,  
he is our help and shield.  
For in him our hearts rejoice;  
in his holy name we trust. **R/.**

All            Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
                  and to the Holy Spirit.  
                  As it was in the beginning,  
                  is now and will be for ever. Amen.

R/.            The Lord is our help and our shield.

READING

Romans 10:9-15

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

For the scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION ON READING (Optional)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH  
*(May be recited or sung)*

Luke 1:68-79

**Presider      Let us serve the Lord in holiness all the days of our life.**

All            Let us serve the Lord in holiness all the days of our life.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
Born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

All Let us serve the Lord in holiness all the days of our life.

#### INTERCESSIONS

*R/. God, of life, hear our prayer.*

**Presider Proclaiming the Good News at work and at home, let us pray that the grace of Jesus Christ will be abundant for us and for all people in need.**

Reader For ordained ministers and church workers, we pray: *R/.*

Reader For members of parish councils and school boards, we pray: *R/.*

Reader For volunteer catechists, youth ministers and liturgists, we pray: *R/.*

Reader For coordinators of social ministries and activities for social justice: *R/.*

Reader For parents and grandparents, who are the chief catechists of their children: we pray: *R/.*

Reader For all who serve the Church with love and commitment, we pray: *R/.*

Reader For those who serve the sick and dying, we pray: *R/.*

Reader For those who hold the dead before God in prayer, we pray: *R/.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*In these or similar words*

**Presider**      **With longing for the coming of God's kingdom,  
let us offer our prayer to the Father: Our Father . . .**

**BLESSING**

**Presider**      **Lord God,  
source of all wisdom and knowledge,  
you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us  
and to proclaim his message of faith, hope and love to all.  
As catechists and evangelists, strengthen your people  
that they may teach by word and witness the truth  
which comes from you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**All**            **Amen.**

**Presider**      **May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.**

**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.**

**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.

Reader That 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.

Reader That 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.