

A LEADER'S 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 it 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 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.***

A Board Member's Prayer

I have been asked to serve, Lord, and I have agreed.

Help me to know my fellow board members: their gifts, their concerns, their lives. I am doing your work, Lord, and love for me and for them is, above all, personal.

Help me to welcome conflict as a sign of the diversity in this board, as an opportunity to reach for creative solutions. Help me to recognize this diversity as a sign of your capacity to love us all and help me to cherish it as a great strength.

Help me to approach issues with an open, inquiring mind, free from prejudice, with my spirit depending on yours for the strength to make hard decisions.

Help me to listen: to know when and to whom I should listen.

Help me to learn to use my gifts to promote, through thoughtful discussion, important concerns in our Catholic Community.

Help me develop my skills as a peacemaker to know how and when to mediate, to conciliate, to negotiate.

Help me to enjoy doing your work and to remember your promise: whenever two of us are gathered in your name, you are with us.

Sit with me now.

Amen.

Litany of Humility

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being loved, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being extolled, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being honored, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being praised, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being preferred to others, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being consulted, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being approved, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of being humiliated, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of being despised, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of suffering rebukes, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of being calumniated, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of being forgotten, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of being ridiculed, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of being wronged, Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the fear of being suspected, Deliver me, O Jesus.

That others may be loved more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I set aside, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and I go unnoticed, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be preferred to me in everything, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

Amen.

Litany in Honor of Women

Leaders: We have experienced the Risen Christ as did the first disciples and we, too, cannot help but share what we have heard and seen. Let us now ask God for the support we need to fulfill our mission as bearers of the good News as we take our inspiration from the lives and ministry of some of the great women disciples of Jesus.

Response: Empower us, Lord!

Leaders:

- Like Mary, Mother of Jesus, may our yes to God Shine forth in every dimension of our lives, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Mary of Magdala, who proclaimed Jesus' resurrection, may we proclaim the Good News with joy and courage, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Priscilla, co-worker of Paul, may we use our gifts and energies to build Christ's Church, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Agnes, virgin and martyr, may our love of god be more important to us than life itself, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Bridgid, abbess and scholar, may our wise sharing of his truths lead many people to God, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Clare of Assisi, may we detach ourselves from material concerns to serve god single heartedly, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Catherine of Siena, may we give enlightened leadership for the growth of the Church and the reign of God, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Joan of Arc, may we speak and act with courage against the evils in our world, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Teresa of Avila, may our spiritual life flow from a deep and intimate union with God in prayer, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Elizabeth Ann Seton, may we live out our commitment to Christ through works of charity and service, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Frances Xavier Cabrini, may we welcome the stranger with Christ's caring love until there are no more strangers, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, may we respond with love to the image of Christ in the sick and suffering, the lonely and abandoned, we pray (*Response*)
- Like Sr. Thea Bowman, may we see all people of every race and nation as children of the one Father and love and affirm them as our sisters and brothers, we pray (*Response*)
- Like the great women whom we have known personally-our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, godmothers-may we live out our firm belief in the Lord's promises until they are fulfilled, we pray (*Response*)

Leader: Father, your Son's resurrection calls all people to a new and glorious life in you. Grant that we may bring this Good News to everyone through lives of joyful witness and impassioned service. We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

(Courtesy of the Paterson Diocesan Council of Catholic Women)

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly wisdom,

You have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor.

Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

O Mother of Good Counsel, Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church,

Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son.

May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation, and compassion for all God's Children.

May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come.

Amen.

Many additional prayers can be found on the NCCW website at

<https://www.nccw.org/prayer/>