

PRAYER CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF LEADERSHIP

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us during this day
All: To strengthen and guide us in all our undertakings.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:
Lord Jesus, by your example you taught us to serve one another without counting the cost. Your kingdom is not one of this world, but rather one where those who are greatest must think of themselves as the least. Your leadership did not seek power and acclaim. Rather, your authority was gentle, persuasive, and pastoral. Inspire us for the ministry of leadership in our parish, that we might put your people's needs ahead of our own and direct every decision and action to the fulfillment of your mission here on earth. We pray this in your name, Jesus Christ, one God with the Father and the Spirit, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

READING

Reader: A reading from the letter of Peter (I Peter 5:1-4)

So I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed. Tend the flock of God in your midst, overseeing not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

All: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

After a minute or two of silence to consider the message of these words addressed to pastoral leaders, share responses to these questions:

What words or phrases "speak" to you today?
What is this reading proclaiming to the parish pastoral council?

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us gather our prayers now for the needs of the parish and especially this for ourselves as council members. Our response will be: Make us leaders, true leaders of your flock.

Enkindle a deep desire in us for spiritual growth in our lives and in the life of our parish, we pray

Give us an infectious enthusiasm for the future of our parish, we pray

Grant us wisdom as we gather our parishioners and make decisions about parish directions, we pray

Unite us as we seek consensus on what you desire for our parish, we pray

Teach us trust and openness to your truth as we speak and listen to one another, we pray

Help us stimulate the generosity of your people by empowering them to assume responsibility for the tasks to which you call this community, we pray

Bestow on us your creative Spirit and flexibility in our work with people and ideas, that your mission be accomplished in our midst, we pray

Leader: Let us pray, united as brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus and as he taught us: Our Father ...

Now let us move into the work for which we have gathered. May God – the creative Father, the compassionate Son, and the inspiring Spirit – bless us in all we do this day.

All: Amen.

At the conclusion of, the meeting pray as follows:

Leader: We thank you, Jesus, our servant leader and true shepherd,
that you have called us to share the ministry of leadership.

All: We rejoice that you have entrusted to each one of us
gifts and talents for the service of this parish and your Church.

We thank you for your confidence in us despite our limitations,
and ask that you make up for what is lacking in our sincere efforts.
Help us discover your purpose and direction for our parish community,
and keep us always mindful of the mission you have set before us.

Teach us to be leaders after your own heart.
Let us look with your eyes, hear with your ears,
walk in your steps and decide according to your will.
Help us stand in the midst of your people
as examples the whole flock can follow.

We praise and bless you with gratitude for the gift of Baptism
and the call to mission in service of your Church and the world.
We thank you, Jesus, our servant leader and true shepherd,
that you have called us to share the ministry of leadership.

Amen.