



A Gathering of Brothers

Prayer Service

Opening Prayer

God, you who make all things new in Jesus
and who calls us to Brotherhood, give us, we pray,
a greater awareness of your love for all people,
and a confidence in the action of your grace in us and in your church.

Inspire us with a greater sensitivity to the poor and oppressed. Awaken our
hearts to the challenges of our calling
to live as Brothers to all in need of your love.

Fill us with the power of your Spirit.
This we ask in Jesus Christ, who lives among us as brother and savior. **Amen**

Gathering Song: Whatsoever You Do

Refrain: *Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.*

When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;
When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink,
Now enter into the home of my Father.

Refrain

When I was homeless, you opened your door;
When I was naked, you gave me your coat.
Now enter into the home of my Father.

Refrain

When I was weary, you helped me find rest;
When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears.
Now enter into the home of my Father.

Refrain

When I was little, you taught me to read;
When I was lonely, you gave me your love.
Now enter into the home of my Father.

Refrain

When in a prison, you came to my cell,
When on a sick bed, you cared for my needs.
Now enter into the home of my Father.

Refrain

Reading: 1 Cor. 12:4-14

There are different gifts but the same Spirit, there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another the power to express knowledge. Through the Spirit one receives faith; by the same Spirit another is given the gift of healing, and still another miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another power to distinguish one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues, another that of interpreting the tongues. But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts, distributing them to each as he wills.

The Body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. It was in one Spirit that all of us, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. Now the body is not one member, it is many.

Intercessions:

Leader: **Let us give thanks to God who has called us to a life of brotherly service. We joyfully proclaim...**

- We praise you; we glorify you; we give you thanks.

You call us all to be your companions and to journey in freedom and love...

- help us to be generous, supportive and challenging in our relationships with one another.

You invite us to let go of all things in order to possess you...

- enable us to recognize that attachment to you is commensurate with our attachment to all our sisters and brothers.

You give us life in abundance and we return it to you...

- assist us to nurse the sick with gentleness, to teach our youth with kindness and to comfort the oppressed with compassion.

The lives of our founders bore witness to your love for all...

- guide us in our own commitment to that witness of love.

Please add any additional intentions...

Reflections on Brotherhood

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: participate deeply, in the sacramental life of the Church. Such participation is a reminder to Brothers of the basic mystery that we are the sacrament of Jesus the Brother.

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: perform a variety of ministries within the Church. As men in touch with our times, we possess the freedom to continue the saving works of Jesus.

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: appreciate the working of the Spirit in the world and in the lives of men and women. We walk with them as together we effectively discern creative means of furthering God's kingdom.

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: minister to persons as one like them. We do not stand apart from our brothers and sisters; we stand with them.

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: comfort all people in their pain and loneliness of existence. There is ultimately no division between the Brother in ministry and those who stand in need of ministry

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: empower the marginalized and the powerless, and struggle with them in the achievement of freedom.

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: proclaim passionately, in word and deed, the prophetic utterance of a God who continuously calls us to hope.

Leader: **To Brother is to . . .**

Group: let go of possessions, role expectations, and even reputation in our freedom to care for the earth and it's people. Our arms are not raised in a defensive posture or to build a shell around ourselves. Rather, our arms are free to embrace and make whole, bodies that are broken, communities that are fragmented. We freely give away what we have received as gifts.

Closing Prayer

O God, you inspire in our hearts a dream for a better world, where we can live in love and freedom.
We give you thanks for those who keep the vision alive and ask you to help us keep our eyes on Jesus, who is our way of accomplishing the task you have given to us as Brothers.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, Lord of Love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
Opening to the sun above:
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy surround you,
Earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Praising you eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our brother,
Let your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.