

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

January 2014

“Serve with humility”

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our prayer service in preparation for Catholic Education Week in May of this year.

Our theme for January is: *Serving in the Love of Christ – Serve With Humility.*

Optional: Please join in our opening song...

SUGGESTED OPENING SONGS:

Were I the Perfect Child of God – Tony Alonso & Michael Mahler

Servant Song – Donna Marie McGargill, OSM

The Servant Song – Richard Gillard

Here I Am, Lord – Dan Schutte

OPENING PRAYER: A prayer for humility

Let us begin by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray...

Loving God,

Give us the humility...

- to realize that we don't know everything,
- to admit our mistakes,
- to recognize our needs,
- to welcome advice,
- to accept correction when we've done wrong,
- to show sympathy instead of discouraging others,
- to build others up instead of tearing them down,
- and to see the best in everyone, rather than their worst.

This we ask you in Jesus' name.

(Adapted from a prayer by William Barclay)

And now, let us be attentive to God's word.

READING: Luke 12:22-31

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens; they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn and yet, God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And can any of you by worrying, add a single hour to your span of life? If then, you are not able to do small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so

clothes the grass of the field which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith. And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Where do I need to become more humble in the way I treat people around me?

How can I remember to ask God for help in everything I do?

OPTIONAL READING:

In his homily on the feast of St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuit order to which Pope Francis belongs, the Holy Father said the following words about humility:

“Humility makes us aware every day that it is not **we** who build the Kingdom of God, but rather it is always the grace of the Lord that acts in us; humility that urges us to give ourselves not in service to ourselves or our ideas, but in the service of Christ and the Church ...”

~Pope Francis Homily, July 31, 2013

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION:

How do we serve Jesus in one another in our homes and in our Catholic schools?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Loving God,
teach us the wisdom of humility,
that we might learn to rely on your help in everything.
Teach us to see with your eyes,
to act in your ways,
to love and to serve as followers of Jesus.
We make this prayer to you in His name.
Amen. +

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONGS:

To Be A Servant – David Haas

Be God's – Danielle Rose

Take My Hands – Sebastian Temple

Give Me Ears to Listen – Timothy R. Smith

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