

Praying Together for Hearts on Fire
Dominican Retreat House



“Jesus, shine through me and be so in me that
every person I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.”
John Henry Cardinal Newman

STANDING

In the name of the Father ...

L: Father, we gather together in the name of our Precious Lord, Jesus Christ, to surrender our burdens to you. In the presence of all the angels and saints, we ask to be open to what He wants us each to hear in the presence of one another. We seek Your love and gracious kindness through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

L: Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in them the fire of Your Love.

L: Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And You shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord,

All: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

L: Let us pray together with the faith of our sister in Christ, St. Teresa of Avila.

All: Let nothing trouble me.
Let nothing frighten me.
All things are passing;
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
He who possesses God lacks nothing:
God alone suffices. Amen.

L: Let us pray together as our brother in Christ, St Augustine of Hippo, prayed.

All: “Speak that I may hear, O Lord; my heart is listening; open it that it may hear You, and say to my soul: ‘I am your salvation.’” Amen.

L: As we turn to Scripture, Lord, open our hearts. Breathe among us. Quiet our troubles. Settle our spirits, and open our hearts. Permit our blindness to see. Permit our deafness to hear.

All: Lord, we draw close to you. Our hearts revealed with wounds from our own sins and, long ago, from sins committed against us. Deliver us from the lingering wounds. Heal our unbelief. Let us grow in trust that You will not abandon us. You will not leave us for lost. Show us Your heart, where we are engraved by Your love. We ask this in the name of Your Son and Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

R1: Call upon me in time of distress; I will rescue you, and you shall glorify me.¹

All: Lord, You call for broken hearts as the most precious of sacrifices. Who here has not had their heart broken? Who here has not cried out to You? Now we offer our hearts. Create miracles and beauty. Use our sacrifice of tears and confusion, grief and perseverance to work Your wondrous deeds. Amen.

R2: Love the Lord, all you his faithful ones! The Lord keeps safe those who are constant but more than requires the proud. Take courage and be stouthearted, all you who hope in the Lord.²

¹ Psalm 50: 15-16, Saint Joseph Edition of The Holy Bible. Catholic Book Publishing Company: NY, NY 1963.

² Psalm 32:24-25

All: Lord, draw close and listen to whispers we sometimes pray with faint hearts. Hear our weeping that no words can express. Stir our broken hearts with Your Spirit. Kindle in our hiding places the warmth of Your gentle Presence. Teach us, who have known so little safety, to rest in Your Heart. Amen.

R3: You put gladness into my heart, more than when grain and wine abound. As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep, for You alone, O Lord, bring security to my dwelling.³

All: Lord, lift from our hearts the heavy burden of memories. Make our faces bright with Your glory. Bless our sleep with Your dreams for us. Come into our hearts which can still weep. Remake our brokenness into a gift for the wounded world which Your beloved Son, our Lord, died to save. Amen.

R4: Tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagles' wings and brought you here to Myself. Therefore, if you hearken to My Voice and keep My covenant, you shall be My special possession, dearer to Me than all others.⁴

All: Lord, be near. You have led us from self-doubt and painful memories through a desert crossing in recovery. Lift us up to fly free, higher than wrongdoers we have known, past and present. Bring us to abundant life in You, and draw close so our spirits can be inspired to sign with the angels in joy. Amen.

R5: Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the eternal God, Creator of the ends of the earth. He gives strength to the fainting, for the weak He makes vigor abound. Though the young faint and grow weary, and they stagger and fall, they that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.⁵

All: Lord, help us rely on Your promises of old. Make us strong in Your heart. Lift us up on Your Spirit. Grant us rest and relief in becoming of one heart

³ Psalm 4:8-9

⁴ Exodus 19:4-5

⁵ Isaiah 40:28-31

with You, Lord, that our broken hearts may receive a portion of the joy our sacrifice tonight offers You. Heal our disbelief. Amen.

Please stand.

R7: Come to Me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest, for My yoke is easy, and My burden light.⁶

All: Help us, Lord, to surrender our burdens to You. Keep our hearts open to Your abundant gifts of joy and peace. Let us be little cups overflowing from the Fount of Providence, Your Sacred Heart. Teach us how to carry our portion of Your Love into a thirsty world. Amen.

R8: And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth: Whom the world cannot receive, for it beholds Him not, neither knows Him. But you will know Him, for He will abide with you, and shall be in you.⁷

All: Lord, renew our trust in Your promises of old, for You are the Father Who keeps all His promises. Help us recognize Your Spirit at work in us. Show us how to serve as Your Spirit at work in our world. Amen.

L: Lord, we thank you for the abundant blessings You shower on us. We thank you for the gift of each other, for this gathering place, for making a good work to serve Your purpose of what was once meant for evil. We ask a special blessing for Bishop, who is with us in Your Spirit, and for all those who have made tonight possible. We commend to Your gracious kindness all those whom we love who cannot join us tonight. We gather these petitions spoken aloud and the prayers hidden in our hearts and surrender them all to You with confidence, in the name of Your beloved Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

⁶ Matthew 11:27-30

⁷ John 14:15-17

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven

All: Hail Mary, full of grace

L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ...

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart.

Teresa Hartnett founded and works with Spirit Fire, which promotes Christ-centered restorative justice for adults, families and faith communities wounded by child abuse. Spirit Fire offers spiritual mediation, pastoral training and survivor partnerships to inspire and energize Catholic and all other Christian ministries. For our resources and services, see SpiritFire.Live today.