

SEMINARIAN PRAYER BOOK  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

2006

OUR  
FAVORITE PRAYERS



COMPILED BY  
THE SERRA CLUB OF NORTHWEST ATLANTA

A PRIEST, ABOVE ALL,  
IS  
A MAN OF PRAYER.

St. John Vianney

## FIRST MASS

Boyhood dreams of long ago  
Saw an altar fair,  
Consecrated, trembling hands  
Lifted there in prayer.

And those dreams have led me on  
Dreamlike though they seemed.  
Now, dear friend, thank God with me  
I am what I have dreamed.

Other dreams have I today,  
Bright in spite of fears,  
That this human heart may be  
Christ like through the years.

Think of me then, when you pray,  
That this dream may come true.  
Bowed before God's holy throne  
In prayer, I'll think of you.  
Amen.

FR. BRIAN HIGGINS  
VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

LOVELY LADY DRESSED IN BLUE

*ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN*

Lovely Lady dressed in Blue,  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little Boy,  
Tell me what to say!  
Did you lift Him up sometimes,  
Gently on your knee?  
Did you sing to Him the way my  
Mother does to me?  
Did you hold His hand at  
night?  
Did you ever try telling  
stories of the world?  
Oh! And did He cry?

Do you think He really cares  
if I tell Him things -  
Little things that happen?  
And do angels wings make a noise?  
And can He hear me if I speak low?  
Does He understand me now?  
Tell me - for you know?  
Lovely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little Boy!  
And you know the way.

FR. BRIAN HIGGINS  
VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR, FATHER, WHO ARE IN HEAVEN  
HALLOWED BE THY NAME  
THY KINGDOM COME  
THY WILL BE DONE  
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US THIS DAY  
OUR DAILY BREAD  
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE  
WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US  
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION  
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.  
AMEN

TOM ZAHUTA

## SING OF JESUS

Sing of Jesus, Son of Mary  
In the home at Nazareth  
Toil and labor cannot weary  
Love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love He gave her  
Though He went forth from her side,  
Forth to preach and heal and suffer  
Till on Calvary He died.

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly  
Virgin Mother undefiled.  
Sing of God's own Son most holy  
Who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother.  
God the Lord Who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother  
takes our nature by His birth.

Sing of Joseph of Nazareth  
You are the man  
Last in the line that rose from David, King,  
Down through the royal generations ran,  
And end with Jesus Christ.  
Honor to you, so chosen by our God,  
Husband of Virgin Mary, you are first  
To show us Christian love.

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
Glory to the Three in One  
From the heart of blessed Mary  
From all the saints the Son ascends  
And the church the strain re-echoes  
Unto earth's remotest ends.

FIDEL BELLO

## PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS

Ineffable Creator, Who, from the treasures of Your wisdom, have established three hierarchies of angels, have arrayed them in marvelous order above the fiery heavens, and marshaled the regions of the universe with such artful skill. You are proclaimed the true font of light and wisdom, and primal origin, raised high beyond all things.

Pour forth a ray of Your brightness into the darkest places of my mind. Disperse from my soul the twofold darkness into which I have been born: sin and ignorance

You make eloquent the tongues of infants. Refine my speech, and pour forth upon my lips the goodness of Your blessing.

Grant to me keenness of mind, capacity to remember, skill in learning, subtlety to interpret, and eloquence in speech.

May you guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to completion.

You Who are true God and true Man, Who live and reign, world without end. Amen

JUAN ANZORA

## PRAYER BEFORE STUDY

Incomprehensible Creator, the true Fountain of light and only Author of all knowledge: deign, we beseech Thee, to enlighten our understanding, and to remove from us all darkness of sin and ignorance. Thou, who makest eloquent the tongues of those who lack utterance, direct our tongues, and pour on our lips the grace of thy blessing. Give us a diligent and obedient spirit, quickness of apprehension, capacity of retaining, and the powerful assistance of Thy holy grace; that what we hear or learn we may apply to Thy honor and the eternal salvation of our own souls. Amen.

CARLOS VARGAS

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*ST. AUGUSTINE*

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work too may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

NICHOLAS G. AZAR II

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

Angel sent by God to guide me  
Be my rock and walk beside me  
Be my guardian and protect me  
On the path of life direct me.

Amen

CALLING TO MY VOCATION PRAYER

*UNKNOWN*

through the same Spirit I may know my true  
vocation in life and may have the grace to follow it  
faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NICHOLAS G. AZAR II

## A PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

*BLESSED CHARLES DE FOUCAULD*

Father,  
I abandon myself into your hands;  
Do with me what you will.  
Whatever you may do, I thank you:  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me,  
And in all your creatures.  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul;  
I offer it to you  
With all the love of my heart,  
For I love you, Lord,  
And so need to give myself,  
To surrender myself into your hands,  
Without reserve,  
And with boundless confidence,  
For you are my Father.

JAIME D. RIVERA-CORTIJO

A STUDENT'S PRAYER  
*ST. THOMAS AQUINAS*

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all being, graciously let a ray of Your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding. Take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of sin and ignorance. Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion.

I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ROBERTO HERRERA CASTANEDA  
DAN KETTER

## PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

DEACON YUEN CABALLEJO

## THOUGHTS IN SOLITUDE

*THOMAS MERTON*

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

BEN MCCORMACK

PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS  
BEFORE RECEIVING COMMUNION

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth.

Lord, in Your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness. May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation. May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's body and blood, and its reality and power.

Kind God, may I receive the body of Your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary and so be received into His mystical body and numbered among His members. Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive your beloved Son under the veil of a Sacrament, may I one day see Him face to face in glory who lives and reigns with you for ever. Amen.

JIM FLANAGAN

## PRAYER OF ST. BONAVENTURE AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

Pierce, O most sweet Lord Jesus, my inmost soul with the most joyous and healthful wound of Your love, with true serene and most holy apostolic charity, that my soul may ever languish and melt with love and longing for You, that it may yearn for You and faint for Your courts, and long to be dissolved and to be with You. Grant that my soul may hunger after You, the Bread of Angels, the refreshment of holy souls, our daily and super substantial bread, having all sweetness and savor and every delight of taste.

Let my heart ever hunger after and feed upon You, upon whom the angels desire to look, and may my inmost soul be filled with the sweetness of Your savor; may it ever thirst after You, the fountain of life, the fountain of wisdom and knowledge, the fountain of eternal light, the torrent of pleasure, the richness of the house of God; may it ever compass You, seek You, find You, run to You, attain to You, meditate upon You, speak of You and do all things to the praise and glory of your name, with humility and discretion, with love and delight, with ease and affection, and with perseverance unto the end.

May You alone be ever my hope, my entire assurance, my riches, my delight, my pleasure, my joy, my rest and tranquility, my peace, my sweetness, my fragrance, my sweet savor, my food, my refreshment, my refuge, my help, my wisdom, my portion, my possession and my treasure, in whom may my mind and my heart be fixed and firm and rooted immovably, henceforth and forever.  
Amen.

JIM FLANAGAN

## OFFERING

Father, I abandon myself into Your hands.

Do with me what You will.

Whatever You may do, I thank You.

I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only Your will be done in me  
and in all Your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into Your hands

I commend my soul.

I offer it to You

With all the love of my heart.

For, I love You, Lord,

And so I need to give myself,

To surrender myself into Your hands

Without reserve and with boundless confidence.

For You are my Father.

DEACON RAFAEL CARBALLO

## PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of gentleness and mercy, I, an unworthy sinner, fly to you, with sentiments of confidence and love. I beg you, who stood close to your most beloved Son, as He hung upon the cross, graciously to remain near me, a miserable sinner, and near all priests who throughout the whole church, will offer Holy Mass this day.

By your gracious favor help me to offer a sacrifice which is worthy and acceptable in sight of the Most High and undivided Trinity.  
Amen

JIM LACCETTI

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from Christ's side, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me.

Within thy wounds, hide me.

Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.

From the malicious enemy defend me.

And bid me come unto Thee.

That I may praise Thee with Thy saints

And with thy angels

Forever and ever.

Amen.

BRIAN LOREI

PRAYER FOR HUMILITY

*CARDINAL RAPHAEL MERRY DEL VAL*

*O Jesus! Meek and humble of heart, hear me.  
From the desire of being esteemed, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being loved, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being extolled, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being honored, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being preferred, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being consulted, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being approved, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being humiliated, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being despised, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of suffering rebukes, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being calumniated, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being forgotten, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being ridiculed, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being wronged, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being suspected, deliver me, 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 that 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 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 become as holy as I should,  
Jesus Grant me the grace to desire it.  
Our lady of Humility, pray for us.*

WILLIAM HAO

MEDITATIVE PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

*-Psalm 86*

Show me Lord Your Way  
So that I may walk in Your Truth.  
Guide my heart to fear Your name.

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*The Jesus Prayer*

Oh Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
Have mercy upon me a sinner.

---

*True Presence*

You are God  
You are Jesus  
You are King  
Oh Lord

NICHOLAS G. AZAR II

PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY  
*ST. IGNATIUS*

Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve You as You deserve;  
To give and not to count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the wounds  
To toil and not to seek the rest,  
To labor and not to ask for reward,  
Save that of knowing that I do Your will.

DEACON YUEN CABALLEJO

## THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

*Say the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Apostle's Creed on the first three beads of the Rosary.*

*Say on "Our Father" beads:* Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

*Say on "Hail Mary" beads:* For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Repeat for all five decades.

***CONCLUDE WITH:***

*Say 3 times:* Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

***CLOSING PRAYER:***

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion --- inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

CRISTO CARACHURE

## ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

I give myself and consecrate to the Sacred heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, my person and my life, my actions, pains and sufferings, so that I may be unwilling to make use of any part of my being other than to honor, love and glorify the Sacred Heart. This is my unchanging purpose, namely, to be all His, and to do all things for the love of Him, at the same time renouncing with all my heart whatever is displeasing to Him. I therefore take You, O Sacred Heart, to be the only object of my love, the guardian of my life, my assurance of salvation, the remedy of my weakness and inconstancy the atonement for all the faults of my life and my sure refuge at the hour of death.

Be then, O heart of goodness, my justification before God the Father, and turn away from me the strokes of His righteous anger. O heart of love, I fear everything from my own wickedness and frailty, but I hope for all things from Your goodness and bounty.

Remove from me all that can displease You or resist Your holy will; let your pure love imprint Your image so deeply upon my heart, that I shall never be able to forget You or to be separated from you. May I obtain from all Your loving kindness the grace of having my name written in Your heart, for in You I desire to place all my happiness and glory, living and dying in bondage to You.

Amen

DEACON YUEN CABALLEJO

## LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

*CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN*

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all being, graciously let a ray of Your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding. Take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of sin and ignorance. Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

I have realized that whoever undertakes to do anything for the sake of earthly things or to earn the praise of others deceives himself. Today one thing pleases the world, tomorrow another; and what is praised on one occasion is denounced in another.

Blessed are You my Lord and my God, for You are unchangeable for all eternity. Whoever serves You faithfully to the end will enjoy life without end in eternity. Amen

LUIS MERCADO

MY FAVORITE PRAYER  
(*Psalm 63:2-9*)

O God, you are my God, for You I long;  
For You my soul is thirsting.  
My body yearns for You  
Like a lifeless, dry land without water.  
So I gaze on You in the sanctuary,  
to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your love is better than life;  
My lips would speak Your praise.  
So I will bless You as long as I live;  
In Your name, I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as at a banquet  
My mouth shall praise You with joy.

On my bed I remember You.  
On Your glory, I ponder through the night  
For You indeed have always been my help;  
And in the shadow of Your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings to You;  
Your right hand steadfastly upholds me.

HENRY ATEM

## THE CANTICLE OF MARY

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For He  
has looked upon His handmaid's lowliness;  
Behold, from now will all ages call me  
blessed. The Mighty One has done great  
things for me, and Holy is His name. His  
mercy is from age to age to those who fear  
him. He has shown might with His arm,  
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He  
has thrown down the rulers from their  
thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry  
He has filled with good things; the rich He  
has sent away empty. He has helped Israel His  
servant, remembering His mercy, according to  
His promise to our fathers, to Abraham and  
to His descendants forever.

RICARDO BOTELLO

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
*POPE JOHN PAUL II*

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of the true God and Mother of the Church, who from this place reveals your clemency and your pity to all those who ask for your protection, hear the prayer that we address to you with filial trust and present it to your Son Jesus, our sole redeemer.

Mother of Mercy, teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you who come to meet us sinners we dedicate on this day all our being and all our love. We also dedicate to you our lives, our work, our joys, our infirmities and our sorrows. Grant peace, justice and prosperity to our peoples, for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are, Our Lady and Mother. We wish to be entirely yours and to walk with you along the way of complete faithfulness to Jesus Christ in His Church. Hold us always with your loving hand.

Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we pray to you for all the bishops that they may lead the faithful along paths of intense Christian life, of love and humble service of God and souls. Contemplate this immense harvest and intercede with the Lord that He may instill a hunger for holiness in the whole people of God, and grant abundant vocations of priests and religious, strong in the faith and zealous dispensers of God's mysteries.

Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Blessed Virgin Mary, protect our families so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children.

Our hope, look upon us with compassion, teach us to go continually to Jesus; and if we fall help us to rise again, to return to Him by means of the confession of our faults and sins in the Sacrament of Penance which gives peace to the soul.

We beg you to grant us a great love for all the holy sacraments, which are, as it were, the signs that your Son left us on earth.

Thus, most holy mother, with the peace of God in our consciences, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace which come to us from your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

ROBERTO HERRERA CASTANEDA

PRAYER OF ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Let nothing trouble you.  
Let nothing frighten you.  
Everything passes.  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all.  
Whoever has God  
Wants for nothing.  
God alone is enough.

WILLIAM HAO

## THE ANGELUS

V: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

R: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit

Hail Mary...

V: Behold the Handmaid of the Lord

R: Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V: And the Word was made flesh

R: And dwelt among us

Hail Mary...

V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God

R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of  
Christ

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy  
grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation  
of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of  
an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to  
the glory of His resurrection. Through the same Christ,  
our Lord. Amen.

JOSHUA ALLEN

## THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious  
Virgin Mary, that never was it  
known that anyone who fled to  
thy protection, implored thy  
help, or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided. Inspired by  
this confidence, I fly unto thee, O  
Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To  
thee do I come, before thee I  
stand, sinful and sorrowful. O  
Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in  
thy mercy hear and answer me.  
Amen.

JOSHUA ALLEN

## DAY IS DONE

DAY IS DONE, BUT LOVE UNFAILING DWELLS EVER HERE;  
SHADOWS FALL, BUT HOPE PREVAILING, CALMS EVERY FEAR.

LOVING FATHER, NONE FORSAKING,  
TAKE OUR HEARTS OF LOVE'S OWN MAKING,  
WATCH OUR SLEEPING, GUARD OUR WAKING,  
BE ALWAYS NEAR

DARK DESCENDS, BUT LIGHT UNENDING SHINES THROUGH OUR NIGHT.

YOU ARE WITH US, EVER LENDING NEW STRENGTH TO SIGHT.

ONE IN LOVE, YOUR TRUTH CONFESSING,  
ONE IN HOPE OF HEAVEN'S BLESSING,  
MAY WE SEE IN LOVE'S POSSESSING  
LOVE'S ENDLESS LIGHT

EYES WILL CLOSE, BUT YOU, UNSLEEPING, WATCH BY OUR SIDE.

DEATH MAY COME IN LOVE'S SAFE KEEPING; STILL WE ABIDE.

GOD OF LOVE, ALL EVIL QUELLING,  
SIN FORGIVING, FEAR DISPELLING,  
STAY WITH US, OUR HEARTS INDWELLING;  
THIS EVENTIDE.

FIDEL BELLO

SCRIPTURE ON VOCATION, DISCERNMENT, PRIESTHOOD  
*OLD TESTAMENT*

- § Gen 12:1-4 Call of Abram: Leave your country, your family, and come...
- § Exo 3:1-6, 9-12 Call of Moses: I shall be with you...
- § 1 Sam 3:1-10 Call of Samuel: Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening
- § 1 Kgs 19:16, 19-21 Call of Elisha: Elisha rose up and followed Elijah
- § Isa 5:6-8 Call of Isaiah: Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?
- § Isa 42:6-7 "I have called you...I have grasped you by the hand to open the eyes of the blind"
- § Isa 43:3 "I have called you by name, you are mine
- § Isa 45:4 "I have called you by your name...though you knew me not"
- § Isa 49:1 "The Lord called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name."
- § Jer 1:4-10 The call of Jeremiah
- § Jer 20: 7-9 Response of Jeremiah: It seemed like a fire burning in my heart
- § Jer 29: 11-14 "I know well the plans I have in mind for you"
- § Hos 2:21-22 "I will espouse you in fidelity..."

SCRIPTURE ON VOCATION, DISCERNMENT, PRIESTHOOD  
*NEW TESTAMENT*

- § Mt 9: 35-38 The harvest is rich but the laborers are few
- § Mt 19: 16-30 The Rich Young Man
- § Mk 1:16-20 The Call of the first disciples
- § Mk 3:13 The Mission of the Twelve: “He summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him”
- § Mk 10: 17-27 Go and sell everything you own and follow me
- § Mk 10:28-30 You will be repaid a hundred times over
- § Lk 1:26-56 The Annunciation: Mary’s call
- § Lk 14:25-33 Any who do not carry their cross and come after me cannot be my disciple
- § Jn 1:35-51 The call of the first disciples: “Come and see”
- § Jn 10:2-3 “the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out”
- § Jn 15:9-17 You did not choose me; no, I chose you
- § Rm 1:6 “among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ”
- § Rm 8:28 “all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose”
- § Rm 11:29 “For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable”
- § 1 Cor 1: 26-31 “Not many of you were wise...Rather God chose the foolish...”
- § Gal 1:15 “God, who from my mother’s womb, had set me apart and called me through his grace”
- § Eph 1: 3-14 “To be holy and spotless and to live through love in His presence”
- § Php 3: 10-14 “to know him and the power...forgetting what lies behind...”
- § 1 Pt 2:9-10 “God has called you out of darkness into his own marvelous light”

SUB TUUM PRAESIDIUM

*PRAYED BY PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN THE  
THIRD CENTURY*

SUB TUUM PRAESIDIUM CONFUGIMUS,

SANCTA DEI GENETRIX.

NOSTRAS DEPRECATIONES NE DESPICIAS

IN NECESSITATIBUS,

SED A PERICULIS CUNCTIS LIBERA

NOS SEMPER,

VIRGO GLORIOSA ET BENEDICTA.

AMEN

WE FLY TO YOUR PATRONAGE

O HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.

DESPISE NOT OUR PETITIONS

IN OUR NECESSITIES,

BUT DELIVER US FROM ALL DANGER,

O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED VIRGIN.

AMEN

OMAR LOGGIODICE

## PRAYER OF OSCAR ROMERO

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

TONY UCEDA

MEDITATION FROM THE BOOK OF  
THE PROPHET MALACHI 1:6 - 2:9

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. You say, 'How have we despised thy name?' By offering polluted food upon my altar. And you say, 'How have we polluted it?' By thinking that the Lord's table may be despised. When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that no evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that no evil? Present that to your governor; will he be pleased with you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. Oh, that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire upon my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and the food for it may be despised. 'What a weariness this is,' you say, and you sniff at me, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD. Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished; for I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name is feared among the nations.

## MALACHI—CONTINUED

And now, O priests, this command is for you. If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; indeed I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung upon your faces, the dung of your offerings, and I will put you out of my presence. So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may hold, says the LORD of hosts. My covenant with him was a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him, that he might fear; and he feared me, he stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in your instruction. "

S. JOSEPH MANGUNO

## MORNING OFFERING

Lord Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you all of my prayers, joys, works, and sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the World, and for the intentions of the Holy Father Benedict XVI. To Jesus through Mary, Amen.

TIM GALLAGHER

PRAYER

*ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA*

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own.

Whatever I have or hold, You have given me. I restore it all to You and surrender it wholly to be governed by Your will.

Give me only Your love and grace and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.

MICHAEL SILLOWAY

## PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

*EXCERPTS*—WILLIAM BARCLAY

Grant, O God . . .

That we may never lose the way through our self-will, and so end up in the far countries of the soul;

That we may never abandon the struggle, but we may endure to the end, and so to be saved;

That we may never drop out of the race, but that we may ever press forward to the goal of our high calling;

That we may never choose the cheap and passing things, and let go the precious things that last for ever;

That we may never take the easy way, and so leave the right way;

That we may never forget that sweat is the price of all things, and without the cross, there cannot be the crown.

So keep us and strengthen us by your grace that no disobedience and no weakness and no failure may stop us from entering into the blessedness which awaits those who are faithful in all the changes and the chances of life down even to the gates of death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUAN JOSE TERAN SANCHEZ

PRAYER OF ST. IGNATIUS

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous:  
Teach me to serve You as You deserve.  
To give, and not to count the cost,  
To fight, and not to heed the wounds,  
To toil, and not to seek for rest,  
To labor, and not to ask reward  
Excepting that of knowing that I do  
Your Holy Will

ANDREW SMITH

## PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS MORE

Good Lord, give me the grace, in all my fear and agony, to have recourse to that great fear and wonderful agony that Thou, my sweet Savior, hadst at the Mount of Olivet before Thy most bitter passion, and in the meditation thereof, to conceive ghostly comfort and consolation profitable for my soul. Almighty God, take from me all vainglorious mind, all appetites of mine own praise, all envy, covetousness, gluttony, sloth, and lechery, all wrathful affections, all appetite of revenging, all desire or delight of other folks' harm, all pleasure in provoking any person to wrath and anger, all delight of exprobatation or insultation against any person in their affliction and calamity. And give me, good Lord, a humble, lowly, quiet, peaceable, patient, charitable, kind, tender, and pitiful mind with all my works, and all my words, and all my thoughts, to have a taste of Thy Holy, Blessed Spirit. Give me, good Lord, a full faith, a firm hope, and a fervent charity, a love to the good Lord incomparable above the love to myself; and that I love nothing to Thy displeasure, but everything in an order to Thee. Take from me, good Lord, this lukewarm fashion, or rather key-cold manner of meditation, undo this dullness in praying unto Thee. And give me warmth, delight and quickness in thinking upon Thee. And give me Thy grace to long for Thy holy sacraments, and especially to rejoice in the presence of Thy very blessed body, sweet Savior Christ, in the holy sacrament of the altar, and duly to thank Thee for Thy gracious visitation therewith, and at that high memorial, with tender compassion, to remember and consider Thy most bitter passion. Amen.

ALEX SAENZ

## FOR THE RETURN TO THE CHURCH

Remember, O Mother of God, that thou art the refuge of sinners, remember that God has given thee power to bring about the conversion of even the most wretched sinners. Thou knowest to well the great value of an immortal soul, for it was redeemed by the Blood of thy Divine Son, hear my prayer and bring back to the Church (N. N.). Too long now, has he neglected his immortal soul. All that has been done for him has been in vain. If thou dost not come to his assistance, he will go from bad to worse.

Obtain for him an effectual grace that he may be moved and brought back to God and his duties. Send him, if necessary, temporal calamities and trials, that he may enter into himself and put an end to his wayward life.

Thou, O Most Merciful Mother, hast converted so many sinners at the intercession of their friends; be then, also moved by my prayer and bring (N. N.) to a true conversion of heart that he may return to his Father's house and again partake of the Bread of Life for God's greater honor and glory and his own salvation. Amen

THE MOTHER OF A PRIEST

## BLESSED MOTHER TERESA'S PRAYER

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. *Forgive them anyway.*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. *Be kind anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. *Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. *Be honest and sincere anyway.*

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. *Create anyway.*

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. *Be happy anyway.*

The good you do today will often be forgotten. *Do good anyway.*

Give the best you have and it will never be enough. *Give your best anyway.*

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. *It was never between you and them anyway.*

## FOR A SON IN THE PRIESTHOOD OR STUDYING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

LORD JESUS, ETERNAL PRIEST, BESTOW ON MY SON A FULLNESS OF YOUR PERFECTION AND STRENGTH. REMEMBER THAT HE HAS FORSAKEN ALL THINGS TO GIVE HIMSELF ENTIRELY TO YOU. IN HIS HOURS OF LONELINESS AND DISCOURAGEMENT, BE CLOSE TO HIM, THAT HE MAY NOT FAIL IN HIS SACRED DUTIES. BLESS HIS LABORS WITH ABUNDANT FRUIT FOR SOULS. MAY ALL HIS CONTACTS WITH OTHERS BRING THEM AND HIM CLOSER TO YOUR MOST SACRED HEART.

GIVE HIM A SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING HEART THAT HE MAY RESTORE PEACE AND BRING CONSOLATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN INTO SIN. GIVE HIM A GENEROUS HEART THAT HE MAY SHARE THE SORROWS AND SUFFERINGS OF OTHERS AND BE FORGETFUL OF HIS OWN. GIVE HIM A STRONG HEART THAT HE MAY BE EVER PURE IN THE MIDST OF A SINFUL WORLD. KEEP ALWAYS HOLY HIS ANOINTED HANDS, WHICH ARE PRIVILEGED TO TOUCH YOUR SACRED BODY, THAT THEY MAY NEVER WORK TO YOUR DISHONOR. MAY HIS LIPS, WHICH TOUCH YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD, NEVER BE THE INSTRUMENT OF SIN.

AND IF EVER, LORD, THROUGH WEAKNESS HE SHOULD FAIL, THEN LIFT HIM GENTLY IN YOUR SACRED HEART. REMEMBER THAT THE WORLD'S POSSESSIONS ARE NO LONGER HIS AND THAT HE HAS NOTHING LEFT BUT YOU. GRANT THAT EACH PRECIOUS HOST TO BE CONSECRATED AT HIS HANDS MAY BRING HIM CLOSER TO YOU.

JESUS, MEEK AND HUMBLE OF HEART,,,,,,, MAKE HIS HEART LIKE UNTO YOUR VERY OWN!

THE MOTHER OF A PRIEST

## NOTES

## NOTES

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many, many thanks to the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Atlanta for their time and efforts in making this little book of prayers possible. Through their dedication and efforts, we have been given a glimpse of the future of our Catholic Church in Atlanta and the men who will serve us as her priests.

We thank also Archbishop Wilton Gregory and former Archbishop John F. Donoghue for their leadership, dedication and support of the Vocations Program in the Atlanta Archdiocese. Under their direction, Atlanta has been blessed with many holy and faithful seminarians who will soon become the new generation of Atlanta's shepherds.

Last but not least, we thank our Vocations Director, Father Brian Higgins. His strong leadership and good example has been instrumental in the formation of our young men, and his tireless efforts in seeking out and promoting vocations to the priesthood in our archdiocese has made Atlanta one of the most successful dioceses in the country in attracting priestly vocations.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*God, our Father, we turn to You in this time of great need. We trust in Your loving kindness and ask You to hear the prayers we offer for Your Church. Through Your grace, we seek men and women willing to generously offer their lives to You in the priesthood and religious life, for You inspire and bring to fulfillment every good intention.*

*Bless and guide those who are discerning Your call to holiness and service. Give them courage, steadfast love and a spirit of charity as they seek to respond faithfully to You.*

*We offer this prayer for the Archdiocese of Atlanta and for the whole Church in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who is Lord for ever and ever.*



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ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

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