

## PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE MISSIONS

*This prayer service may be adapted to your particular school/parish needs. You may choose to begin with a procession to enhance the service. The leader is preceded by two candle bearers and students bearing a globe and other symbols related to the Missions. Perhaps you may wish to include a basket containing specific pledges of prayers and sacrifices.*

### **INTRODUCTION – LEADER**

Lord, you sent us Your only Son Jesus to save us and to show us how to love one another. Today, as we gather for a special celebration, we remember Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all that we do. With the help of the Holy Spirit, teach us how to share our faith with all people so that they may find hope in Your Son, Jesus. We join our minds, hearts and voices in prayer.

### **OPENING SONG – ALL**

*Gather Us In*, Marty Haugen, © GIA Publications, Inc.

**LEADER:** In remembrance of our Baptism, we begin our prayer as always, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**OPENING PRAYER:** God, our Father, hear us as we ask for Your loving help for all those who have not heard the "Good News" of Your Son, Jesus, or experienced His love. Holy Spirit, touch our hearts so that we may have the courage to proclaim our Catholic faith with children all over the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

### **READING: John 14:15-27**

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**LEADER:** *By our Baptism, we have the responsibility to share in the mission of bringing the love of Jesus to those in need. Help us in our commitment of sharing the gift of faith and offering prayers, sacrifices and love so that other children will come to know Jesus and His great love. Also, help us to learn from the children we help and allow them to touch our hearts.*

**LEADER:** *Will you remember each day in prayer your sisters and brothers who suffer from hunger, disease, homelessness, and the effects of war and violence in our world?*

**ALL: I will.**

**LEADER:** *Will you pray for children who do not know Jesus so that someday, with God’s grace, they may ask to be baptized in His name?*

**ALL: I will.**

**LEADER:** Let us join our hands as we say the Lord’s prayer

**ALL: *Our Father...***

**LEADER:** Let us ask Mary’s intercession to help us be missionaries of her Son by our actions and through our prayers and sacrifices.

**ALL: Hail Mary...**

**SUGGESTED PETITIONS:** *Let us still and quiet our souls as we offer our prayers to our Father:*

- For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, and our bishops, that their missionary spirit may touch our hearts, *we pray to the Lord.*
- That we may lead others to Christ by the example of our lives, *we pray to the Lord.*
- That the suffering of children of the world, especially those in Southeast Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq and those affected by Hurricane Katrina, may come to know the love and hope of Jesus in their daily lives, *we pray to the Lord.*
- That by learning about Jesus and His “Good News” children throughout the world may experience an end to suffering and fear, *we pray to the Lord.*
- For our own intentions...*we pray to the Lord.*

**LEADER:** Father, creator of all, we thank You for all You have given us, especially Jesus Who is with us always. Let our sacrifices, prayers and concern for all children be a sign of Your continuous love for the world.

**ALL: Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG:** *(optional)*