

Prayer Gathering for 23rd Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

Generous God,
You know how we're made: how easily we can be hurt, how often we're at fault.
Help me to have the courage to tell others directly when a wound has been inflicted
and to respond humbly when it is I who is in the wrong.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"The one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

Evidently, when we are acting from pure love, we need follow no other rule.
When have you *thought* you were acting out of love, but upon later reflection
realized you were mistaken? If not you, when have you witnessed this in your life?

"If [someone] sins against you, go and tell him/her his fault between you and her/him alone."

We are instructed to go to the person directly and not to first tell anyone else.
If they apologize, this guideline suggests we tell no one. Why don't people *do* that?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

What is the difference between “venting” and “gossiping”?
What is morally permissible?

Has anyone ever come to you to correct you or to tell you that you hurt them?
How did you respond? What have you learned from such an encounter?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That Pope Francis and Bishop Ed may lead and teach with the clarity and love of Jesus;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That elected officials may speak directly, truthfully, kindly and fairly; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer

That when we have wronged someone, we will respond with humility and seek to make amends;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That all students will fall in love with learning; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer

That all of us will make caring for the Earth among our top priorities when we decide what to
buy; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That the sick and the dying may make a peaceful transition to our true home;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That by offering and receiving forgiveness we may bring more joy to the world;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from a letter from St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

The commandments,

“You shall not commit adultery;

you shall not kill;

you shall not steal;

you shall not covet,”

and whatever other commandment there may be,

are summed up in this saying, namely,

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love does no evil to the neighbor;

hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“If your brother sins against you,
go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.*

*If he does not listen,
take one or two others along with you,
so that ‘every fact may be established
on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’*

If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.

*If he refuses to listen even to the church,
then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.*

*Amen, I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

*Again, amen, I say to you,
if two of you agree on earth
about anything for which they are to pray,
it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.*

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 18