

Prayer Gathering for 16th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Father of Compassion,
You refused to keep a distance from us when you saw us wandering and afraid.
Your Son came to walk with us through the pain of life and companion us in our fear.
Help us to be willing to reach out with his generous love to show mercy to those in need.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.”
When have you felt so overwhelmed by the demands and expectations placed on you that you wanted to somehow “escape”?

“When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.”
The compassion Jesus felt when he saw the crowd was stronger than his need to eat and rest in that moment. What does that make you think of from your own life?

POSTED RECENTLY

*“If, in the middle of your prayer,
a person in need knocks on your door
and interrupts your conversation with the LORD,
know that you are leaving God for God.
Go first, and return later to your prayer.”*

St. Louise de Marillac
Founder, Daughters of Charity



DISCUSSION

“Know that you are leaving God for God.”
**How have you encountered God by sitting alone and praying?
How have you met God by helping someone in need?**

“If, in the middle of your prayer, a person in need knocks on your door and interrupts your conversation with the LORD...”
Many of us have felt the temptation to allow other people’s needs to consistently take priority over our own. Is that what God is asking of us here? If not, how do we find balance?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church may be known as a safe haven for all who seek God; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That our leaders may take their inspiration not from their colleagues or members of their party, but from the Good Shepherd; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the extreme rains and the excessive drought that plague our earth may relent; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we will be willing to take measures in our daily lives to consume and throw away less so the climate may stabilize; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may grow in reverence for all the life that God has created, in every one of its stages of growth and development; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That our we may be blessed with wisdom as we change the way we imagine parish structures in light of our reality; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those suffering illness may be spared from suffering; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That our connections with those who live with God in glory may flourish... ..
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 here, 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 the book of the prophet Jeremiah

*“Woe to the shepherds
who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture,”* says the LORD.

Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,
against the shepherds who shepherd my people:

*“You have scattered my sheep and driven them away.
You have not cared for them,
but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.*

*I myself will gather the remnant of my flock
from all the lands to which I have driven them
and bring them back to their meadow;
there they shall increase and multiply.*

*I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them
so that they need no longer fear and tremble;
and none shall be missing,”* says the LORD.

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD,
*“When I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;
as king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.
This is the name they give him: “The LORD our justice.”*

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them,

*“Come away by yourselves
to a deserted place
and rest a while.”*

People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ