

## Prayer Gathering for 26<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of All That Lives...**

**you are the maker and Father of us all.**

**Help us to let go of our need to be right, our hunger to be heard, our apathy about peace.**

**Make us aware of our sister and brotherhood with each one of your children,**

**and open our hearts to the belovedness of everyone you have made.**

**We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

Young man: *"Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."*

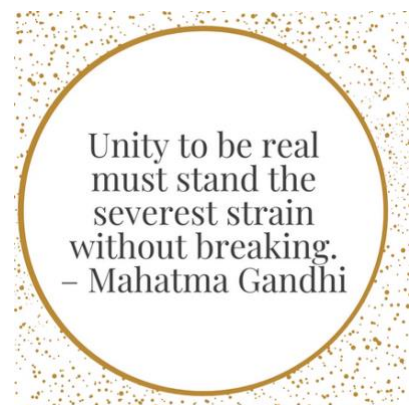
Joshua: *"Moses, my lord, stop them."*

**How do you react when you hear someone speaking the truth and find out that he or she is not a Catholic or not a Christian? Or from a political party you don't support? How does it make you feel to hear the truth coming from "outside our camp"?**

Jesus: *"Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."*

**Jesus didn't need people to be a part of his team or have membership in a particular religion in order to praise them. How does this attitude speak to us today when our political divisions are so deep and bitter?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

**Many of us lament the divisions in our culture and believe that other people should change so the problem can be overcome.**

**Aware that we are powerless to change the actions of others, what have we ourselves done that has helped to overcome some of the divisions we face?**

**What more could we do?**

LITANY

When we are convinced that we alone see the whole picture...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When our anger threatens to swallow our kindness...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When we speak confidently about matters we cannot be certain about...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When looking right starts to matter more than having it right...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When we want to win more than we want to be kind and virtuous...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When our goal is “winner take all”...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When our frustration signals that “just this once, the end justifies the means”...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When we take some delight in the anguish of our opponents...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When we keep making light of serious matters...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

When we assume that unity is someone else’s job...

**Let us remember that you love them too.**

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 Numbers

The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses.

Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses,  
the LORD bestowed it on the seventy elders;  
and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied.

Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad,  
were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp.  
They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent;  
yet the spirit came to rest on them also,  
and they prophesied in the camp.

So, when a young man quickly told Moses,  
*"Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp,"*

Joshua, son of Nun,  
who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said,  
*"Moses, my lord, stop them."*

But Moses answered him,  
*"Are you jealous for my sake?  
Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets!  
Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"*

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time, John said to Jesus,

*"Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."*

Jesus replied,

*"Do not prevent him.*

*There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.*

*For whoever is not against us is for us.*

*Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward...*

*If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire.*

*And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.*

*And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna..."*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Mark, chapter 9*