**Prayers for**

**Spiritan**

**Boards of Management**



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**Rev. Claude-François Poullart des Places, C.S.Sp.**

From privilege to poverty, the life of Spiritan founder Claude-François Poullart des Places is an inspiring tale of transformation through the Holy Spirit.

In 1679, des Places was born into wealth and status as the son of a French aristocrat. He lived during the reign of Louis XIV and enjoyed the lavish lifestyle of a nobleman. His early education was with the Jesuits, which laid the foundation for his later entry into the seminary.

Then, on Pentecost Sunday 1703, he assembled a small band of impoverished fellow seminarians to form a community dedicated to the Holy Spirit, under the special patronage of Mary. The Holy Ghost Congregation was born. Their aim was to support students with little means on their way to the priesthood.

The intention was that these priests would in turn serve the poor people of rural France and people in missions overseas. Des Places was still a seminarian when he formed the group. He was ordained four years later at the age of 28.

While he was studying law at the Sorbonne in Paris, des Places was awakened to the extreme disparity of society’s needs. Living with the Jesuits, he became aware of the desperate living conditions of homeless boys and chimney sweeps. This opened his eyes—and heart. He was moved to help and used his allowance to provide food and shelter. He soon saw that the boys lacked education and spiritual nourishment as well. Des Places took it upon himself to teach skills and guide the children in their faith.

*“God is full of tender love for me and is anxious that I should not get lost; He has made it easy for me to find a path that would lead me back again to my duty and away from all those specious excuses that could help me avoid it. I believe that God will once again have pity on me if I return to him with all my heart. So now that God has filled me with this renewed confidence, I am going to search for the most direct path that will lead me back to him.”—Claude-François Poullart des Places, C.S.Sp.*

Des Places’ involvement with the street children deepened his faith and presented him with a struggle. Should he give up everything—a law career, wealth and a seat in Parliament—to help the poor? After much discernment and spiritual direction, des Places decided to enter seminary. He left his parents and their desires for their son’s distinguished career and went to study theology with the Jesuits. Des Places saw that many of his fellow seminarians were also struggling to meet their basic needs and again he sought a way to help.

After ordination, des Places continued to minister to his rapidly growing community. It was a short-lived assignment; two years later he died at the age of 30 and was buried in a pauper’s grave. His legacy lives on in the Congregation through its service to those in need. The Holy Ghost Fathers, or the Spiritans, became recognized by the Church for going places that no one else wanted to go and for living simply in deep faith.

**Venerable Francis Mary Paul Libermann, C.S.Sp**.

In 1848 Libermann brought personnel and a renewed spiritual energy to the Spiritans that transformed the Congregation. Those intervening years were a time of grace and of maturing, as Libermann became an advisor and confidant to many seminarians and others wanting to grow in the spiritual life. His own trials and painful experiences, as well as joys and perceived blessings, developed in him a great confidence in Providence and a sense of the Holy Spirit directing human affairs.

His approach of “practical union with God” helped him, and others, find the divine in the everyday and to face life with confidence and faith. His spirituality of responsiveness to the Spirit served Libermann well during the difficult period of organizing his Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and of gaining official permission from Rome to begin this apostolate to people of African descent.

Libermann’s followers viewed his being cured of epilepsy at this time and subsequent ordination as approbation from heaven on the mission of his “little band,” whose charismatic leader and visionary apostle he had become. Soon his growing group was asked by Rome to join the Spiritans, a much older religious community, legally and canonically established in France, but on hard times by the mid-1800s. They were working in France, North and South America, and the Far East.

Libermann recruited and educated missionaries, both lay and clerical. He negotiated with Rome and with the French government over the placement and support of his personnel.

*“Oh Divine Spirit, I want to be before you like a light feather so that your breath may carry me where it will and I may not offer the least resistance to it.” —Francis Mary Paul Libermann, C.S.Sp. “*

Libermann was a pioneer of strategies now recognized as a blueprint for modern missionary activity. He urged the Spiritans to “become one with the people” so that each group received and understood the Gospel in the context of their own traditions. Libermann’s zeal was so inspiring that when seminarians in France heard of the deaths of some of the first missionaries to West Africa, they lined up at his door to volunteer as replacements.

He exhausted himself in the process of leading his great enterprise, and died on February 2, 1852 before his 50th birthday. Surprisingly, Libermann himself never went overseas. Yet he inspired and empowered literally thousands of missionaries around the globe.

Libermann was a visionary, a missionary, a profoundly spiritual man who has affected the course of history in the last 150 years. His influence and that of his Spiritans, in the Church and in the emerging world (including our own country since the late 19th century), has been inestimable.

Libermann faced incredible obstacles, yet patiently accepted his trials and tribulations with great inner peace and tranquillity. May God bless the Spiritan Congregation, and all of us, through the intercession of Venerable Francis Libermann. And may his spiritual teaching of Practical Union with God through the Holy Spirit bring us closer to the path of holiness in our daily lives.

# Preparing the Prayer Meeting

# Consider an appropriate structure that will involve members participating in the meeting. The structure may include some of the following considerations below. Any option or number of options from below may be used in the prayer.

* 1. A short period of silence at the beginning of the meeting. ...
  2. Choose a Spritan Prayer/Opening prayer/Reflection from below…
  3. A short passage from the bible. ...
  4. Reflections/or participative prayers
  5. A moment of silence to remember people who have been recently bereaved (optional)
  6. Final prayer



# Spiritan Prayers /Reflections

COME HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the light of the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who before ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, grant the same Holy Spirit to me, that He may perfect in my soul the work of Your grace and Your love.

Grant me: · the Spirit of WISDOM, that I may despise the perishable things of this world, and aspire only after the things that are eternal;

· the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth;

· the Spirit of COUNSEL, that I may ever choose the surest ways of pleasing God and gaining heaven;

· the Spirit of FORTITUDE, that I may bear my cross with You, and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation;

· the Spirit of KNOWLEDGE, that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints;

· the Spirit of PIETY, that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable; and

· the Spirit of FEAR, that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.

Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your spirit. – Amen –

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIFE AND ACTION

The Human Heart, Soul and Mind “A ship has sails and rudder; the wind blows into the sail, getting the ship to proceed as it should, so it advances by its sails and takes its general direction.

Yet this direction could be too vague and could lead the ship astray at times. So there is the rudder, to guide it exactly in its due course without straying in any way.

Your soul is the ship, your heart represents the sail, the Holy Spirit is the wind; He blows into your will and your soul goes forward, proceeding towards the goal God proposes for it.

Your mind is the rudder to prevent you, in the strength and vivacity of the movement given to your heart, from departing from the straight line determined by the divine goodness.’  
*Venerable Francis Mary Paul Libermann, C.S.Sp.*

SPRIITAN CALLED TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY

We have been called in Christ to live out our Spiritan calling in community. “To bring the apostolic life – for which Spiritan life is intended – to its perfection, to assure the continuance and the development of the works in which it engages and to foster the holiness of its members, the Congregation has adopted life in community as its founding principle. Its members shall all live in community at all times” *(Rule of 1849; N.D.X,454). (SRL 27)*

**Various Opening Prayers**

1. Lord,

We ask you to bless us as we gather, united in our efforts to work together for the good of our school community.

Help us to always be open to the Holy Spirit and guided by your loving presence among us.

Give us the grace to follow in the footsteps of your only Son Jesus,

to be selfless and true,

Lord hear our prayer.

Amen.

1. ***Gracious God,***

***We come together tonight as a group united by a common bond.***

***Enable us to make the right decisions,***

***Empower us to do your Holy will,***

***Enlighten us to the gifts and talents of each other.***

***Gracious God,***

***We acknowledge your constant presence among us.***

1. Holy Spirit,

We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed upon each one of us.

Help us to use our wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe for your good and for the good of our school community.

Holy Spirit, we are filled with your presence and our hearts are open.

1. ***God our Father,***

***You sent Your only Son Jesus to live among us.***

***He showed us how to live,***

***He showed us how to love,***

***He showed us how to learn from the goodness that spills out of actions grounded in that love.***

***Give us the grace to walk as Jesus walked***

***And to reflect Your love in our respect for each other as we work together for the good of our school community.***

***We ask this in Jesus’ name,***

***Amen.***

1. Father, we ask you to be us as we gather in this meeting space,

We ask you to help us leave the matters of our day behind,

And open our ears and hearts to the issues we are about to explore.

Grant us the courage and wisdom to do your holy will, Amen.



“Missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity”- Evangelii Gaudium15

**Various Prayers**

1. **That I May Serve You**

You asked for my hands   
that you might use them for your purpose.   
I gave them for a moment,   
then withdrew them, for the work was hard.   
You asked for my mouth   
to speak out against injustice;   
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.   
You asked for my eyes   
to see the pain of poverty;   
I closed them, for I did not want to see.   
You asked for my life   
that you might work through me.   
I gave a small part, that I might not get ‘too involved’.   
Lord, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you   
only when it is convenient for me to do so,   
only in those places where it is safe to do so and only with those who make it easy to do so.   
Father, forgive me, renew me,   
send me out as a usable instrument   
that I might take seriously   
the meaning of your cross. *(Joe Seremane)*

1. **Hope**

*Reader: We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to believe that history continues open to the dream of God and to human creativity.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to continue affirming that it is possible to dream a different world, without hunger, without injustice, without discrimination.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to be a courier of God and a courier of men and women of good will, tearing down walls, destroying borders, building bridges.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to believe in the revolutionary potential of faith, Is to leave the door open so that the Spirit can enter and make all things anew.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to believe that life wins over death.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to begin again as many times as necessary.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to believe that hope is not the last thing that dies.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to believe that hope cannot die, that hope no longer dies.*

*We believe that:*

**All: To have hope**

*Reader: Is to live.*

**All: Amen**

***““It is the night of the cross, of privation, of interior darkness, where***

***the senses have no part to play and are worthless and dead. It is the time***

***to live by faith, but a faith full of hope in the divine goodness, and at the***

***same time full of fear and distrust of self, in all gentleness and peace. This***

***is an excellent night, for souls are brought to perfection in it and through it, and little by little they shed their abundant faults.”***

***—Francis Mary Paul Libermann***

1. **My Prayer Today**If you give me a fish, I will eat once.   
   If you teach me to fish,   
   I will eat for the rest of my life.   
   If you are thinking a year ahead, sow seed.   
   If you are thinking a year ahead, plant a tree.   
   If you are thinking a hundred years ahead, educate the people.   
   By sowing seed, you will harvest once. By planting a tree, you will harvest tenfold. By educating the people, you will harvest for ever.
2. **Prayer of St Francis of Assisi**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.   
   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.
3. ** Prayer for Peace**Violence never again!   
   War never again!   
   Terrorism never again!   
   In God’s name,   
   may all religions bring upon   
   justice and peace,   
   forgiveness, life and love.   
   *(Pope John Paul II)*
4. **A Prayer for Christian Unity**Ever-present and faithful God,   
   unite your people who believe in Jesus.   
   Make us one.   
   Heal our divisions.   
   Forgive our sins against one another.   
   Teach us to forgive one another.   
   Help us to earn from one another.   
   Gather us together around the Risen Jesus.   
   Increase our understanding.   
   Make us grow in respect.   
   For what unites us is greater than what divides us,   
   and our witness is greater in unity than in division,   
   and your call is greater than all our differences.   
   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,

**Amen.**

1. **A Prayer for Church Unity**Open our hearts, God, to your vision of peace,   
   where our jealousies vanish because we are whole, and our pride falls away because we are healed.   
   Open our hearts, God, to your vision of peace,   
   and inspire our work as we make it real.   
   In Jesus’ name.
2. **A Prayer for Church Leaders**We pray that all of our Church leaders will have the gifts of the Holy Spirit, those same gifts that we received at Confirmation:   
   *Wisdom*The gift of seeing things as God sees them.   
   *Understanding*The gift of understanding how to love God and others as Jesus did.   
   People in our community show us how to do this.   
   *Right judgement*The gift of knowing what to do in a difficult situation.   
   *Courage*The gift of courage to carry out what we know to be right, despite opposition.   
   We also get courage from watching people in our own community who have   
   the courage to do the right thing.   
   *Knowledge*The gift of knowing and loving God our Father and Jesus by learning more about them through listening to the Word of God and through observing other Christians and the world around us.   
   *Reverence*The gift of loving and reverencing God as Jesus did. Jesus shows us how to do this through the example of his life.   
   *Wonder and Awe in God’s presence*The gift of knowing the holiness of God and recognising how essential this is for our lives.

*“Lord, You were looking for me and I was running away. You gave me reason, but I refused it…How loveable you are, my saving God! You do not want my death but only my conversion…You love me, Lord, and You give me so many signs of Your love…For a long time you have wanted to speak to my heart but I did not want to listen…I have not come here to defend myself, I have come to let myself be conquered.” —Claude-François Poullart des Places, C.S.Sp.,*

1. **Reflection on Growing in Faith**The Holy Spirit guides and inspires the Church community and unites us with the Risen Jesus. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist together make us members of the Church. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, they nourish and celebrate our union with Jesus. The gift of the Holy Spirit is particularly celebrated in Confirmation, when we are reminded of the various gifts that we already possess. We are encouraged to continue along the way that Jesus shows us in the Eucharist and that first began in Baptism.
2. Pope Francis’ Mission prayer

Heavenly Father,  
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ  
rose from the dead,  
he commissioned his followers  
to “go and make disciples of all nations”  
and you remind us that through our Baptism  
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
to be courageous and zealous  
in bearing witness to the Gospel,  
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,  
which is still very far from completion,  
may find new and efficacious expressions  
that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples  
to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever. Amen.

1. **Our Goal**It is not enough to conquer hunger   
   or put an end to poverty.   
   Our goal must be to build a world —   
   a world developed to the full,   
   so much so, that all men and women,   
   no matter what their race or creed,   
   can live a truly human life.   
   Our goal must be, for every man and woman, a life set free from all oppression.   
   Our goal must be, for every man and woman, a life strong enough   
   to master nature, and be free.   
   Our goal must be   
   a world where liberty is real,   
   a world where Lazarus   
   can sit at the rich man’s table.   
   *(Saint Pope John Paul II)*
2. **In Jesus of Nazareth**In Jesus of Nazareth, we see the person we are called to become. In Jesus of Nazareth, we see how God has committed himself to us. In Jesus of Nazareth, we see how we can completely belong to God. in Jesus of Nazareth, we see how much freedom and humanity, how much courage and self-forgetfulness a person can possess.   
   In Jesus of Nazareth, we see that there is a future for each and every one of us.   
   In faith, we will recognise him in every person.   
   In hope, we will overcome sin and death.   
   In love, we will rest with him forever.
3. **Discipleship   
   ‘**Sendme.’   
   But where, Lord? Send me to do what?   
   To bring peace where there has been pain in a person had not noticed along my daily path.   
   To help turn doubt into faith in a person with whom I work with and spend time..   
   To bring joy to a life filled up with sadness. ‘Send me.’ Send me next door into the next room, to speak somehow to a human heart beating alongside mine.   
   Send me to bring joy where there is none.
4. **Prayerful Reflection**Sometimes there are signs,   
   and faith grows.   
   Other times no signs.   
   Signs of faith come simply — the helping hand when times are rough,   
   the beauty of a flower which lifts the spirit,   
   the moment of peace in prayer,   
   the closeness of God in ritual, the faith shared in community.   
   We can be amazed sometimes   
   at the ways we find faith strengthened.   
   Memories of family faith,   
   hymns sung that remind us of God,   
   and images filling the mind,   
   like our bodies being surrounded by light.   
   Jesus seems to expect that faith will be always   
   questioning yet hopeful,   
   that there will be times when only faith guides us,   
   and creates a trust that is strong but seems distant.   
   Always caring — our God,   
   even when it seems he sleeps.   
   Always the call — which we do not sleep   
   through others’ tough moments.   
   And the openness to welcome and look for faith,   
   blowing like the wind, gently or loudly,   
   always a gift gratefully awaited and received.   
   *(Fr Donal* Neary)
5. **Happy are those...**Happy (blessed) are those who consider the poor;   
   the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.   
   The Lord protects them and keeps them alive.   
   *(Psalm 41:1-2)*Happy (blessed) are those whose way is blameless,   
   who walk in the law of the Lord.   
   Happy (blessed) are those who keep his decrees,   
   who seek him with their whole heart.   
   *(Psalm 119:1-2)*

*“We come little by little to act no more by our own movement. It is the Spirit who then does everything in us, and gradually we are filled with the Spirit in all our activity. Our activity becomes wholly divine because it is the Spirit of the Lord alone who carries it out within us.” —Francis Mary Paul Libermann*



1. **Faith**Father,   
   cause my faith to grow   
   so that through all the circumstances of my lie I can, in my struggle   
   feel your presence and your love with me.

**Hope**Father,   
give me the hope   
which has seen things at their worst, and refuses to despair;   
which is able to fail and try again; which can accept disappointment and sorrow and find joy in the hope of Resurrection.   
**Love**Father, increase my love.   
Help me to love people as you love them. Teach me what love really is,   
how much it costs   
and the courage needed to achieve it, today, tomorrow and for the rest of our lives.



1. **Gníomh Creidimh**A Dhia liom,   
   creidim ionat   
   agus i ngach a mhúineann d’Eaglais Naofa   
   mar gur tusa a dúirt agus go bhfuil do Bhriathar fíor.   
   Is tusa an Críost, Mac Dé beo.   
   Is tú mo Thiarna agus mo Dhia.   
   A Dhia, creidim, méadaigh ar mo chreideamh.
2. **Pentecost**Father of love,   
   help us to hear the Good News of our faith.   
   The Spirit is alive!   
   Breathe, people of God,   
   breathe the fresh winds of the Spirit.   
   Taste, people of God,   
   taste the quenching waters of God’s love.   
   Touch, people of God,   
   touch the heat of God’s passion for justice.   
   Give us this grace through Christ our Lord.
3. **Prayer of Saint Peter**These are some of the words of Peter, apostle of Jesus:   
   I have seen his greatness with my own eyes.   
   He has travelled our roads   
   telling us about a new life   
   He has called us   
   out of darkness   
   to lead us into his wonderful light.   
   And we followed him.   
   And you, too,   
   try not to forget   
   that God has chosen you   
   and has called you.

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1. **A Missionary Prayer: ‘Deeper’**Let me try a little harder,   
   let me pray a little more.   
   Let me go a little farther   
   than I’ve ever gone before.   
   Let me sing instead of sighing   
   as I pass beneath the rod.   
   Let my life burn out for others   
   Less of self and more of God.
2. **I Have a Mission**God has made me for a special reason.   
   Something has been given to me,   
   which God has given to no one else.   
   I have my mission.   
   I may not know everything about it now;   
   but one day I will look back on life and see what it was.   
   God has not created me for nothing.   
   No matter who or what I am, I can never be put away.   
   Even if I am sick or unwell, I can do God’s work.   
   God’s plans always work out.   
   God knows the right thing.   
   My friends may be gone.   
   The only people around me may be strangers.   
   I may feel depressed.   
   I may worry about the future.   
   Still God knows what is right.   
   So, I will trust in God.   
   *(based on a prayer by John Henry Cardinal Newman)*
3. **Images of God**Mother Mary, sit at my side and teach me how to name God.   
   Show me names that are;   
   broad enough, to let God dwell in them;   
   high enough, to let hope grow through them;   
   deep enough, to include all of God’s children.   
   Teach me names that heal and inspire,

names that set captive hearts free.   
Teach me the names of God that will reach those I love,   
and give them new life.

1. **Reflection on a Christian World View**Creator God,   
   you created each one of us and our world.   
   Let us embrace the challenge of respecting and caring for all of creation. Loving God,   
   you have invited us into a deep and loving relationship with you. Grant us the grace to be always open to your healing love. Living God,   
   you sent your only Son to show us the strength of your love. Forgive us for not always responding to this truth.   
   Saving God,   
   through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have granted us eternal salvation.   
   Let the Holy Spirit empower us on our faith journey.
2. **Reflection**There is an old Christian tradition   
   that God sends each person into this world   
   with a special message to deliver,   
   with a special song to sing for others,   
   with a special act of love to bestow.   
   No one else can speak my message,   
   or sing my song,   
   or offer my act of love.   
   They are entrusted only to me.   
   According to this tradition, the message may be spoken, the song sung, the act of love delivered   
   only to a few,   
   or to all the folk in a small town,   
   or to all the people in a large city,   
   or even to all the people in the whole world.   
   It all depends on God’s unique plan for each person.   
   God’s love has been wrapped up in each one of us.   
   We must deliver our message.   
   We must sing our song.   
   We must bestow our act of love.   
   All these are gifts for us, from God.   
   *(John Powell SJ*
3. **I Believe...**I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.   
   I believe in love even when it is not around me.   
   I believe in God even when God is silent.   
   *(Found written on a concentration camp wall)*

Prayers 1 – 26 Various Sources

1. **Christmas**

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**Keeping Watch in the Night**

Shepherds   
keeping watch in the night   
close to the grassy slopes.   
at home in the darkness,

a listening presence

in the midnight emptiness.

Shepherds   
keeping watch in the night.   
terrified by a voice   
not heard before,

Not supposed to be there

Shepherds   
keeping watch in the night,  
alarmed by powerful light,   
up-ending their security

but they did not run away   
they stayed in the dark   
and listened,   
stretched their ears   
to the unknown voice

and the voice said:

‘do not be afraid.  
stay in this dark place

and listen.   
I have wonderful news:

the Hoped-for-One,   
the Birthing you’ve longed for   
has come, oh yes, has come!’

the watchers of the night,

the keepers of the Inner Longing,

enchanted by music of the skies,

hurried on midnight feet

and found the One who waited

unlike what they’d expected

and surprisingly beautiful,

all those night watches,

and the deep Inner Longing,

now they knew,

now they knew.

Joyce Rupp

1. **A Prayer for Wisdom**

We bless you, Lord, for your Spirit within and among us.   
We bless you for the listening that you nourish in each of us, enabling us to see beyond our own perspectives,   
enabling us to appreciate and understand one another,   
enabling us to hear your Spirit speaking to us   
through the words and wisdom of one another.   
We bless you for blessing us   
along the path of discernment.

1. **Open to Spirit**Lord, fill our minds and hearts with your Spirit.   
   May we be open to whatever your Spirit is saying to us.   
   May we be open to your Spirit speaking to us   
   through the words and wisdom of one another.   
   Heal us from our presumptions and blindspots   
   lest we be hindered from hearing your Word.   
   Bless us along the path of discernment.   
   Glory be …
2. **As A Team**

Just as a single body   
is made up of many members,   
each with a different function,   
so it is with us;   
though we are many,   
we are one body in Christ,   
all of us linked one to another.   
We have a variety of different gifts   
and each of us has been graced by the Spirit in a particular way, for the good of all   
to one is given prophetic vision,   
to another, the gift of serving,   
to another, teaching,   
to another, encouraging,   
to another, the gift of a generous spirit, to another, speaking with wisdom,   
to another, the gift of bringing healing, to another, faith,   
to another, helping others,   
to another, compassion,   
to another, the gift of being cheerful   
So, let us use our gifts, for the good of all; and we will be building up   
the Body of Christ.   
*(from Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4)*

1. **We Bless You, O God**

We bless you, 0 God,   
for how dignified we feel when somebody listens to us.

We thank you, 0 God,   
for times when we have blessed others with a listening ear.

We praise you, 0 God,   
for listening to the cries of your people.

Through our ministry and the ministry of many others, make us a listening community

where each person is noticed,   
where each voice is heard,   
where each gift is appreciated,   
where each one comes to know that you are a listening God.

Bless our group with the gift of listening.   
May we listen and hear what each other is saying.   
May we step into each other’s shoes and see things from there.   
May we hear the wisdom of the Spirit in each other’s voices.   
Glory be … Amen.



**Together** Father, breathe your Spirit   
upon your people who do your work.   
Grace us, we pray, with   
a new sense of your mystery,   
a new experience of your presence,   
a new commitment to your Gospel,   
a new dedication to your kingdom.   
May your Spirit be our inspiration   
and may our work contribute to   
the coming of your reign.   
Amen.

1. **Easter Prayer**Lord, Easter begins now   
   and ‘now’ means me as I am   
   and not as I might ideally be.   
   Easter dawns on me as I am;   
   it dawns on my fear as well as my confidence,   
   on my failed as well as my successful self,   
   on my confusion as well as my clarity.   
   May Easter come gradually to birth in me;   
   may its light reach into my darkness;   
   may its life reach into my death.   
   May I allow Easter to dawn in me;   
   may I be expectant, passionate for its coming;   
   may I be patient, acknowledging its pace;   
   may I be confident, sure of its power.   
   For our church, which confidently proclaims   
   the good news of Easter,   
   that Easter’s dawn may penetrate its clouds and mist   
   and break through wherever it experiences   
   gloom and disappointment.   
   For all who are confused or disappointed   
   through the circumstances and experiences of their lives,   
   that others around them, with a sense of Easter,   
   may rekindle their trust in the light.   
   Glory be …

Prayers 28 – 34

Donal Harrington ‘Prayer Reflection for Group Meetings’.

