

Closing Prayer Service

NOTE: Each participant will need an index card and a pen or pencil.

INTRODUCTION

LEADER: As we gather to conclude our CRS Helping Hands event, let us pause and call to mind our brothers and sisters around the world who suffer from hunger.

Pause for a moment of silent reflection.

Now, let us pray that all members of our human family might receive their daily bread, using the words our Savior taught us.

Recite The Lord's Prayer together.

READING: JOHN 21:15-17

LEADER: Let us listen to a reading from the Gospel, according to John.

READER: When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." [Jesus] said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Pause for a moment of silent reflection.

OFFERING

LEADER: Jesus repeatedly asks Peter to feed his sheep and he continually asks the same of us. Take a moment to reflect on how you will continue to answer Jesus' call to feed his sheep after you leave this gathering. On your index card, write down one small step you will take to continue fighting global hunger or a prayer intention for our brothers and sisters living in poverty. After a couple of minutes, someone will collect them and we will offer up our commitments and prayers as a community.

Allow participants a few minutes to reflect and write their commitments. Then, ask someone to collect the index cards in a basket and place them at the front of the gathering for all to see.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

LEADER: As Jesus tells Peter, we show our love for God by caring for our neighbors. Let us bring our petitions before God, asking that he grant us the grace to build greater networks of love and solidarity.

READER: Our response is, Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who hunger, both in our own communities and around the world, that they might find strength and nourishment. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

READER: We pray for all world leaders, that they might work to realize every person's right to proper nutrition. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

READER: We pray for all Church leaders, both ordained and lay, that they might act on the Eucharistic call to feed our hungry brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

READER: We pray for all of us gathered here today, that God may grant us the grace to uphold the commitments we've made and to answer Christ's call to feed his sheep as many times as he asks. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

READER: We pray for all of the petitions that we hold in the silence of our hearts.

Pause.

We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

LEADER: Bread of Life,
we thank you for nourishing us with your love
and we take seriously your command to feed others
as we have been fed.
Bless us as we go forth from this place,
give us the grace to carry out the commitments we've made
so that we might continue to answer your call
and be life-giving bread to others. Amen

Let us close by offering one another a sign of Christ's peace.

End with a sign of peace.