

## Call To Pray In A Pandemic



Gracious God, you are calling us on this Lenten journey to see anew, to name new realities and to act with integrity and justice. Give us the courage to not only take time to reflect on your presence in our current reality, but also to share with one another our thoughts, our anxieties, our joys, our wonderings as well as our “What ifs...” On our journey help us to become servant leaders, to “think big,” to reverence the earth, to be builders, not destroyers, to be conserving creators and not poisoning consumers, to proclaim hope in the face of darkness; and to be one with God who finds joy in sharing this earth with us. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* Joshua 1:9

Ever-present God, we know You are here...but we have never been here before. Here where there is so much uncertainty, where circumstances change for each of us, for the whole of the earth, in just seconds. We sit on edge wanting the latest information on this advancing virus, yet we are on an overload of words and warnings. You bid us to breathe. Deeply ~ slowly. You bid us to listen in the silence for the only Word that brings hope in all of this chaos. O God, guide us to drop our thoughts, our breath, deep into the well of Your heart, to drink of Your endless compassion, mercy and promise. Guard our hearts and minds from endless wonderings and sensationalisms. You are here. We place our fears into Your cupped hands and trust, knowing that perfect Love casts out all fear. Transform this time of obedient seclusion into a pilgrimage of returning to the Source of our being ~ a sabbath time of coming to know the Love that created us from the beginning of time. Lord, to whom shall we go? We pray, wrap us in eternity and stir us with the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may rest in the Love that restores all things. Abba, grant us Your peace. **Amen**  
-Nancy Severin, Province VI President

### **The Prayer of The Order**

O Eternal Father, you have sent us your Son to teach us things pertaining to your heavenly Kingdom. Give your blessing to our Order wherever it may be throughout the world. Grant that we, your Daughters, ever may discern your truth and bear the cross through the battles of our earthly life. Give us strength to overcome temptation and the grace to work to spread your Kingdom and to gather your scattered sheep within your fold. Pour out upon us the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit that we may always remember it is your work we are called to do, that all we think, do or say may be pleasing in your sight. We ask it all For His Sake, our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Many times, throughout history God's people were challenged and each and every time God was with his people and gave them strength. Let us praise God using the words that keep us strong:

*"Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of God, weep, and say, "Spare, O God, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "Then God was stirred to concern for the land and took pity on the people."*  
Joel 2:15

*"Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."* Isaiah 35:4

*"According to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear."* Haggai 2:5

*"David said (further) to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and act. Do not be afraid or dismayed; for the Lord GOD, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished."* 1 Chronicles 28:20

*"Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust and not be afraid.  
The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense,  
he has become my salvation."* Isaiah 12:2

*"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD."* Jeremiah 1:8

*"But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."* Matthew 14:27

*"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever."* Revelation 1:17-18

### **Prayer for a Pandemic**

May we who are merely inconvenienced  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.  
May we who have no risk factors  
Remember those who are vulnerable.  
May we who have the luxury of working from home  
Remember those who must choose between their health or  
paying their rent.  
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when  
their schools close  
Remember those who have no options.  
May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those who have no safe place to go.  
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the  
economic market  
Remember those who have no margin at all.  
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home.  
As fear grips our country  
Let us choose love.  
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms  
around each other  
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor.

**AMEN**

**-Cameron Wiggins Bellm**

### **Motto of The Order**

“For HIS SAKE  
I am but one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
What I can do, I ought to do.  
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.  
Lord, what will you have me do?”

### **Litany for Pandemic**

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, we pray for those who have died of the coronavirus; for those who are sick, and for those who are afraid of getting sick.

***Be the shepherd of your people, O Lord, we pray.***

In the midst of such uncertainty, we wonder how to keep ourselves, our families, our companies and our churches afloat in a time of economic meltdown.

***Give us today our daily bread.***

We pray for the millions who are laid off from work, and for those who must continue to work because they provide essential services.

***We ask you to protect us all.***

We pray for first responders, doctors, nurses and all who work in health care. We pray for all who are confined to hospitals, nursing homes and institutions – and for family members who are not allowed to visit. We pray for those who are responsible for public health decisions, that they will be guided by science and duty, not ideology or politics.

***You are the greatest healer, O Lord.***

Lord, have mercy on our public officials. Guide them to create appropriate policies; give them wisdom and good judgment; help them put humanity first, that the people may follow their guidelines and take into account the safety of everyone in all we do.

***Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.***

Lord, help us guide our children and our parents through this emergency with cheerfulness, optimism and faith. Help us to lay aside our fears and to focus on the needs of others; where we can be helpful, let us act on their behalf, even if only from a distance.

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

We turn to you, O Lord, for we have no other help and we know you are sufficient. You are the very power of love, of health and healing, of protection and mercy.

***Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting. Amen.***

*(Please add your own intercessions, supplications and thanksgivings here.)*

## Psalm 23

1The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
2He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
3he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
4Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff —  
they comfort me.  
5You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

Lord we ask your presence with us this day. When normally we gather and hug and clutch hands and enjoy each other's company we now must keep our distance and communicate by phone and electronics. Lord we are grateful that we have these technologies and can continue to hold each other up during this stressful time. We ask that you be with each one of us as we go about our daily lives helping us to fulfill our vows of prayer and service. Help us to do what we can for others and remind us that you are with us, in our lives, in our joys and in our fears. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

*“Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 24-25*