** *Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States***

***Prayer and Penny Week 2013***

**Prayer Service for Young Missionaries**

The Apostles knew how much their efforts to tell of the Good News of Jesus depended on the prayer of others. Throughout Scripture, we are reminded how often they intentionally sought out the prayerful support of other followers. In the same way, we can support the work of missionaries by holding them in our prayers. This prayer service offers students and families the opportunity to do just that.

Music will greatly enhance this service. Begin with a gathering song, and conclude with a song. Consider selecting songs that speak of faith and belief. Some options include *Increase Our Faith*, by David Haas; *The Summons*, by John Bell; *We Walk By Faith*, by Henry Alford; and *Feed My Lambs,* by John Angotti.

The Profession of Faith comes from the lyrics to a song entitled *Do You Believe/Certainly Lord*, by David Haas. You may pray this as a spoken call and respond or consider using the song, which is available for download <http://www.giamusic.com/> or at iTunes.

**Introductory Prayer**

*We begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

*Let us pray:*

*Jesus, our model of faith,*

*You show us all that is good and right*

*And You teach us to follow Your ways.*

*Help us to always be seeking You as we grow in our faith.*

*Grant us the courage to share Your message with all those we meet.*

*Give to us, Lord Jesus, humble hearts.*

*Give to us, Lord Jesus, hearts for serving, especially those in need.*

*Inspire all of Your followers to carry Your love to all people.*

*Move us to bring Your message of hope to all ends of the earth.*

*Make us disciples of truth, love, hope, joy and faith.*

*We ask this through Your good and faithful name.*

*Amen.*

**Proclamation of the Word**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (10:46-52)

They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.” And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have pity on me.” Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage; get up, he is calling you.” He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man replied to him, “Master, I want to see.” Jesus told him, “Go your way; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

**Sharing**

Invite participants to take a few quiet moments to reflect on the Gospel. Then invite them to share or journal on the following questions:

* How do you claim your faith?
* How is your faith strengthened daily?
* How do you share your faith with others?

**Profession of Faith**

Pope Francis tells us, “Faith is God’s precious gift, which opens our mind to know and love him. He wants to enter into relationship with us and allow us to participate in his own life in order to make our life more meaningful, better and more beautiful. God loves us! Faith, however, needs to be accepted, it needs our personal response, the courage to entrust ourselves to God, to live his love and be grateful for his infinite mercy. It is a gift, not reserved for a few but offered with generosity.” *Papal message for World Mission Sunday 2013*

Let us embrace this faith. Let us affirm our faith as we pray:

Do you reject old Satan?

*All:* Certainly, Lord.

And all his works?

*All:* Certainly, Lord.

And all his empty promises?

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly, Lord.

He’s the Father of sin,

*All:* Certainly, Lord

he is the prince of the darkness

*All:* Certainly, Lord

Do you reject old Satan?

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly Lord

Do you believe in God

*All:* Certainly, Lord

The Father Almighty

*All:* Certainly, Lord

Created Heaven and Earth

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly Lord

Do believe in Jesus?

*All:* Certainly, Lord

His only Son

*All:* Certainly, Lord

And of the Virgin Mary

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly, Lord

He was crucified

*All:* Certainly, Lord

Bowed his head down and died

*All:* Certainly, Lord

But He rose on Easter

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly Lord.

He is seated at the right hand

*All:* Certainly, Lord

Of the Father

*All:* Certainly, Lord

Do you believe in Jesus?

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly, Lord.

Do you believe in God’s Spirit?

*All:* Certainly, Lord

In the holy catholic church?

*All:* Certainly, Lord

In the communion of saints?

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly, Lord

Can God forgive sin?

*All:* Certainly, Lord

Can God raise the dead?

*All:* Certainly, Lord

Can God give life everlasting?

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly, Lord.

Church, this is our faith.

*All:* Certainly, Lord

We are proud to profess it.

*All:* Certainly, Lord

In Jesus Christ.

*All:* Certainly, certainly, certainly Lord

**Prayers of the Faithful**

Ever mindful that our God is present, faithful and true to our needs and those of the world, let us bring our needs before Him. Our response is *Lord, give us greater faith, and hear our prayer*:

We pray for all leaders, those in the Church, those in governments and other institutions. We pray that they answer the essential call to care for the poor and vulnerable among us, and in all places throughout the world.

We pray for all missionaries, those near and far, that God will continue to bless their work, and that through their service and example they might make Jesus known to others.

We pray for our school/parish community; that we may be witnesses without fear in our homes, our schools, our communities, our country, and our world.

We pray for all missionaries who have sacrificed their lives in the service of God and to the poor, that they may be raised to new life with Christ.

We pray for those missionaries who minister in challenging and often dangerous environments. May they be of strong faith, and serve as a continual sign of hope for those they serve and care for.

God of justice, God of kindness, God of love, we pray these prayers knowing that you are all powerful and that all things are possible in you.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.*

*Our Father… For the kingdom, power, and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

**Closing Prayer**

*Ever faithful God,*

*You call us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus each and every day.*

*Hold us in your love, and grant us strength to be faithful to Your ways.*

*May we work fervently to grow in our faith, and to share that faith with all the world.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

*Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing:*

*May you always devote yourself to prayer,*

*being watchful and thankful.*

*And may God open a door for His message,*

*so that you may proclaim the mystery of Christ clearly and always.*

*May God, bless you,*

*the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*



PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

Society for the Propagation of the Faith • Missionary Childhood Association• Society of St. Peter Apostle

222 N. Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-587-3945• *www.phillymissions.org*