

Year Dedicated to Consecrated Life



Prayer Service for Open House

Welcome and Introduction

Please join us now in our prayer based on the stated threefold purpose for this *Year of Consecrated Life*:

to look to the PAST with **gratitude**;
to live the PRESENT with **passion**; and
to embrace the FUTURE with **hope**.

Opening Song

*Look to the PAST with **gratitude***

Reader: From Pope Francis' letter to religious

Moment of Silent Reflection:

We now take a moment to remember those men and/or women religious whose lives have enriched us throughout the years, and give thanks to God.

(If a smaller group, you may want those present to mention names aloud.)

All Respond:

Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger,
thank you for following the Spirit within you
to courageously, and with deep faith,
respond to the urgent educational needs of your time,
always preferring the poor, and educating with a world vision.

You struggled for unity within our international community.
Grace our SSND family today, to faithfully discern and live your spirit
of unity within diversity in these challenging times.
We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

*Live the PRESENT with **passion***

Reader: From Pope Francis' letter to religious

Moment of Silent Reflection: (play soft music, if you like)

**As co-partners in Jesus' mission, let us all reflect silently:
How passionate is my love for Jesus and for living His Way of Life?**

All Respond in the words of Blessed Theresa:

"Focus your gaze and your heart steadfastly on Jesus."
"Follow the star in your heart. It will certainly lead you to Jesus."

"Now I am in Jesus!
Jesus may do with me what He wants;
I trust Him.
'Remain in me, as I remain in you.'
On Him will I build."

*Embrace the FUTURE with **hope***

Reader: In the words of Pope Francis

Response:

Prayers through the Intercession of Blessed Theresa: (on separate
paper for leader) – Respond to each with:

Blessed Theresa, intercede for us !

Magnificat - (optional)

Antiphon: "God has helped us wondrously until now;
neither will God abandon us in the future." (Mother Theresa – letter
#5032) (if used, pray a Magnificat of choice)

Closing Prayer:

Faithful God, You promised to be with us always.

In deep faith, we stand at the gate of tomorrow,
trusting You to lead us day-by-day into the future.

Grace us to embrace fully and passionately each present moment,
where You are waiting to meet us.

Thank You for the SSND tree planted by Your servant, Blessed Theresa,
And for its growth throughout the world during these 180+ years.

Stir in us Your hopes, visions and dreams for a new tomorrow –
for a world awakened to You in our midst.

Keep our hopes high even as we face obstacles that may arise in our path,
knowing that You will always be there.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song