

JESUIT
MISSIONS



Companions in Action



Prayers for Companions

Compassion in Action

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

The following prayer is often attributed to St Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

A Companions in Action Prayer

Lord our God, creator of the universe,
you call each of us into being.

Each of us has our own gifts to share,
our own burdens to bear,
our own stories to tell,
and our own destiny to fulfill.

Help us to reach out each day to our sisters and brothers around the world in the
knowledge of your love and mercy.

Help us to be ministers of justice and reconciliation.

Help us to speak truth to power.

Help us to bring your peace in the midst of conflict and your grace in times of darkness.

Help us to be an ever a hopeful presence when confronted by the worlds' challenges.

Inspire us to be witnesses to your Good News in the world!

Amen



Canticle of the Creatures

St Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
all praise is yours, all glory, all honour,
and all blessing.

To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.
No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce
your name.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
through all you have made,
and first my lord Brother Sun, who brings
the day;
and through whom you give us light.

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his
splendour;
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All Praise be yours, my Lord, through
Sister Moon
and the stars; in the heavens you have
made them,
bright, and precious, and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
through Brothers wind and air, and fair
and stormy,
all the weather's moods,
by which you cherish all that you have
made.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through
Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through
Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten up the night.
How beautiful is he, how cheerful! Full of
power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through our
Sister
Mother Earth, who sustains us and
governs us,
and produces various fruits with coloured
flowers
and herbs.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
through those who grant pardon for love
of you;
through those who endure sickness and
trial.

Happy are those who endure in peace,
By You, Most High, they will be crowned.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through
Sister Death,
From whose embrace no mortal can
escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Happy those she finds doing your will!
The second death can do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give him
thanks
And serve him with great humility.



A Christian Prayer for Union with Creation, Pope Francis

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!
Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!
Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

A Prayer for our Earth, Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Fall in Love, attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ

Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.

A prayer for Being in the World, Alan Paton

O Lord,
grant that we may not be conformed to the world,
but may love it and serve it.
Grant that we may never shrink
from being instruments of your peace
because of the judgment of the world.
Grant that we may love you without fear of the world,
grant that we may never believe
that the inexpressible majesty of yourself
may be found in any power of this earth.
May we firstly love you
and our neighbours as ourselves.
May we remember the poor and the prisoner,
and the sick and the lonely,
and the young searchers,
and the tramps and vagabonds,
and the lost and lonely,
as we remember Christ,
who is in them all.

A Prayer of St Ignatius

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve you as you deserve;
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labour and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing that we do your will;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Pope Paul IV

Make us worthy, Lord,
To serve our fellow men and women throughout the world,
Who live and die in poverty and hunger.
Give them by our hands this day their daily bread,
And by our understanding love
Give peace and joy.

A prayer of St Ignatius

Keep your soul in peace.
Let God work in you.
Welcome thoughts that raise your heart to
God.
Open wide the window to your soul.



A pledge for the builders of a New World

Lord, into our hands is given
the care of this world,
and of all the people who are in it.
The knowledge and skills that we have
obtained
have given us the power to change many
things:
to build up, but also to destroy,
to develop, but also to degrade,
to love, but also to ignore.
We can bring almost everything into our
control,
and change the destiny and welfare of
every human being. We move forward
with a vision

of a planet where everyone finds a home,
and food, and a worthwhile life;
and where beauty, truth and freedom can
flourish.
We pledge ourselves
to use the knowledge and skills we have
obtained
for the benefit of others
and with the respect that we should have
for this planet Earth and all that is in it.
And now we pledge that our vision for a
better world for everyone
shall never fade from our minds,
nor be absent from our heart.

