



Relaunch Liturgy for Senior Schools



We invite partner schools to take a few moments as part of their first weblink to pray together to ask God to guide them in the partnership.

God looks down on the world – imaginative contemplation

Ask members of the group to take a few minutes to close their eyes and relax.

Focus on breathing – breathing in that which is good and positive and breathing out that which is negative or harmful.

Call to mind God's presence and ask God for the grace that each will need as part of Companions in Action.

Enter into the Vision of God – God looks down on the world with its messiness and heartache, its joy and vibrancy. Imagine! How does God see the world?

Imagine God's infinite love and care for the world.

Imagine God's love prompting Him to intervene by sending Jesus to our world in all its messiness.

What aspects of our world need God's healing?

Take a few minutes to dialogue with God or Jesus (choose which person of the Trinity) about His compassion for the world, His vision for the world.

When ready ask students to slowly open their eyes.

For background reading: <http://spex.ignatianspirituality.com/Commentary>

Introduction and Welcome

We gather together today, young people on two continents, separated by geography and culture. Yet, what unites us is far greater than our differences. We are members of the same community, the Christian community and the international network of Jesuit schools around the world.

Today we begin a journey together to learn about one another, to share our common humanity and to set forth as pilgrims on an adventure to bring God's love and compassion to those around us in all parts of the world.

We are a holy people, a royal priesthood, nations set apart.

Today we make a commitment to use our gifts and talents for the greater glory of God and the common good, to truly become men and women for and with others.

First Reading: Romans 8: 14-17 New International Version (NIV)

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

The Word of the Lord

The Psalm: Psalm 103 New International Version (NIV)

(NIV)

[may be said alternate locations]

**Bless the Lord my soul,
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe.**

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.
Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers,
and flashing fire your servant.

**You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than the mountains.**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys:
they flow in between the hills.
They give drink to all the beasts of the field;
the wild-asses quench their thirst.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing their song.

**From your dwelling you water the hills;
earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make the grass grow for the cattle,
and the plants to serve our needs.**

You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for its setting.
When you spread the darkness it is night
and all the beasts of the forest creep forth;
the young lions roar for their prey
and ask for their food from God.

**I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.**

[All together:] Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. **Amen**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord

Lighting of candles

(Schools may wish to use an already existing candle which has the school crest as a focal point or may choose to design a candle which represents their commitment to Companions in Action). An alternative would be to have all assembled light votive candles after the principle candle is lit.

Each Companion school selects a representative to light their candle. This symbolizes the partners' desire to serve and bring light to the world. This is followed by prayers of petition in which we ask for God's guidance and protection for the new partnership.

As the principle candle is lit the following is read:

Lord, we gather in your presence today, youth from diverse cultures and situations, but united in our common humanity and Christian identity. As we begin this Companions in Action partnership, we ask your blessing and your grace. Help us to act as agents of change in a world which cries out for your healing presence. Give us insight that we may discern your will and courage that we may witness to your love.

We ask the intercession of St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier whose lives of service and devotion have inspired generations to reach out to the those who are marginalized, those whose cultures are different and all who seek the Kingdom of God. Continue to inspire this generation that we too may lead lives of service, always embracing the Magis and going where the need is greatest.

We ask this though Christ Our Lord. Amen

Suitable music may be used at this juncture. Music Suggestion:

Matthew West: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8

Schools may also have students who would be able to play music while the candles are being lit.

Prayer of the Faithful

Lord, we pray for this partnership community. Help us to proceed with joy and creativity, always ready to discern your will and eager to be your light in the world.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, we pray for all who are involved in Jesuit works around the world. We pray especially for those who are involved in education and in promoting social justice. Help us to embrace our role as agents of change and give us the generosity of spirit to use our gifts and talents in your service.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, we pray for world leaders. Help them to understand their role as servants of the common good. Help them to put the welfare of others ahead of self-interest, ambition and power. Give them the skills to engage in positive dialogue and to foster attitudes of cooperation and an appreciation of shared humanity. Help them to foster hope, not fear.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, humanity has abused your creation and treated it as a commodity to be exploited, rather than as a precious inheritance. As part of Companions in Action help us to become true stewards of creation and to care for our common home. Help us to have the wisdom to change and the courage to express our views, calling our leaders to purposeful action.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the many in our world whose human dignity is ignored. We pray for those who are enslaved and exploited, those who are migrants and refugees, for those whose human rights are denied because of their gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. Help our world to recognise and hold in reverence the dignity of all your people.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.



A Pledge for the Builders of a New World

(read together by all participants)

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 hearts.

Amen

Closing Music: <https://youtu.be/CHV6BjuQOZO>

or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK6gY1tkJAw>



If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

St Teresa of Calcutta