



## Relaunch Liturgy for Primary 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.

### Imaginative contemplation - God looks down on the world

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

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 The Message (MSG)

So, don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is let go of it and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

### The Word of the Lord



## The Psalm: Psalm 103 The Message (MSG)

*To be read as a litany by young people in the two locations.*

**O my soul, bless God. From head to toe, bless his holy name. O my soul, bless God. Don't forget a single blessing. He forgives your sins, every one! He heals your diseases, every one!**

He redeems your life from hell, he saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy, a paradise crown! He wraps you in goodness, beauty eternal. He renews your youth. You are always young in his presence.

**GOD makes everything come out right; he puts victims back on their feet. He showed Moses how he went about his work, opened up his plans to all Israel.**

GOD is sheer mercy and grace; not easily angered, he's rich in love. He doesn't endlessly nag and scold, nor hold grudges forever. He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, nor pay us back in full for our wrongs. As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is his love to those who fear him.

**And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins. As parents feel for their children, GOD feels for those who fear him.**

He knows us inside and out, keeps in mind that we're made of mud.

Men and women don't live very long; like wildflowers they spring up and blossom, but a storm snuffs them out just as quickly, leaving nothing to show they were here.

**GOD's love, though, is ever and always, eternally present to all who fear him, Making everything right for them and their children as they follow his Covenant ways and remember to do whatever he said. GOD has set his throne in heaven; he rules over us all. He's the King!**

So, bless GOD, you angels, ready and able to fly at his bidding, quick to hear and do what he says.

Bless GOD, all you armies of angels, alert to respond to whatever he wills. Bless GOD, all creatures, wherever you are— everything and everyone made by GOD.

**And you, O my soul, bless GOD!**

**Together:**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and 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 through Christ Our Lord. Amen

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

Matthew West: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndG0IX8](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 be joyful and creative, always ready to do your will and 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. Help us 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 their people. common good. Help them to foster hope, not fear.*

*Lord, hear us.*

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Lord, help us to become true stewards of creation and to care for our common home.*

*Lord, hear us.*

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*We pray for the many in our world whose human dignity is ignored. Help our world to stand up for the dignity of all 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**

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

**St Teresa of Calcutta**

