

GRIST

Diocese of New Ulm Social Concerns Office August & September, 2011

Prayers for Meetings

God, accompany us.
Help us to be an honor to the Church.
Give us the grace to follow Christ's word,
 to be clear in our task
 and careful in our speech.
Give us open hands and joyful hearts.
Let Christ be on our lips.
May our lives reflect a love of truth
 and compassion.
Let no one come to us and go away sad.
May we offer hope to the poor,
 and solace to the disheartened.
Let us so walk before God's people,
 that those who follow us
 might come into his kingdom.
Let us sow living seeds,
 words that are quick with life,
 that faith may be the harvest
 in people's hearts.
In word and in example
 let your light shine in the dark
 like the morning star.
Do not allow the wealth of the world
 or its enchantment
 flatter us into silence as to your truth.
Do not permit the powerful, or judges,
 or our dearest friends
 to keep us from professing what is right.

Alcuin of York

O gracious and holy Father,
 give us wisdom to perceive you,
 intelligence to understand you,
 diligence to seek you,
 patience to wait for you,
 eyes to see you,
 a heart to meditate on you,
 and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Benedict

Guide us by your wisdom.
Correct us with your justice.
Comfort us with your mercy.
Protect us with your power.

We offer you, Lord,
our thoughts: to be fixed on you;
our words: to have you for their theme;
our actions: to reflect our love for you;
our sufferings: to be endured
 for your greater glory.

We want to do what you ask of us:
 in the way you ask,
 for as long as you ask,
 because you ask it.

Lord, enlighten our understanding.
Strengthen our wills.
Purify our hearts.
And make us holy. *Pope Clement XI*

O God, let the healing grace of your love,
so transform us that we may play our parts
in the transfiguration of the world
from a place of suffering, death and corruption
to a realm of infinite light, joy and love.
Make us so obedient to your Spirit
that our lives may become living prayers
and witness to your unfailing presence.

Martin Israel

From the cowardice
 that dare not face new truth,
from the laziness
 that is contented with half truth,
from the arrogance
 that thinks it knows all truth,
good Lord, deliver us.

Kenyan Prayer

O God, give us grace to walk humbly.
Save us from pretension
 and every arrogant folly.
You have made us, and not we ourselves.
Help us to remember the limits
 of our power and our wisdom,
but help us, also, to do our duty
 within the limits
 of our power and our wisdom.

Reinhold Niebuhr

Lord, broaden our thoughts,
make them clearer,
and bring them nearer to the truth. *Origen*

Holy Spirit, be with us. Enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength to know your will,
 to make it our own,
 and to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom;
 support us by your power;
 for you are God,
 sharing the glory of Father and Son.
You desire justice for all:
 enable us to uphold the rights of others;
 do not allow us
 to be misled by ignorance
 or corrupted by favor.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
 and keep us faithful to all that is true.
Help us to temper justice with love,
 so that all our decisions
 may be pleasing to you,
 and bring us the inheritance
 promised to good and faithful servants.
You live and reign with the Father and the Son,
 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer said before every
 session of the Second Vatican Council*

Grant us, O Lord,
 to know what is worth knowing,
 to love what is worth loving,
 to praise what delights you most,
 to value what is good in your sight,
 to hate what is offensive to you.

Do not let us judge by what we see,
 nor pass sentence
 according to what we hear,
 but to judge rightly
 between things that differ,
 and above all to search out
 and to do what pleases you,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thomas a Kempis

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts,
 which no unworthy affection
 may drag downwards.
Give us unconquered hearts,
 which no tribulations can wear out.
Give us upright hearts,
 which no unworthy purpose
 may tempt aside.
Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,
 understanding to know thee,
 diligence to seek thee,
 wisdom to find thee,
 and a faithfulness
 that may finally embrace thee.

St. Thomas Aquinas

As we begin our time together
 we place ourselves
 in the presence of God –
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We thank God for the gift of life,
 our faith and vocation.
We pause to remember
 that we are not here for ourselves,
 that the work we do
 has been entrusted to us for a time,
 and that all we are and have
 is God's gift.

We pray that all we say and do here,
 may bring honor to God
 and be for the good of those we serve
 both now and in eternity, as we pray:
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.

Unknown