

Renewing the Church in Manville

Prayer Service: September 24, 2012

Presider: God, come to our assistance.

All: *Lord, make haste to help us.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, Holy Spirit the Animator of our lives, hear the groanings of all creation as it longs for fulfillment and our amazement at the possibilities you open to us as disciples.

Men: Hear the prayers of your people – the great groaners,
 who often try too hard
to say what cannot be said,
 to express what cannot be expressed,
to do perfectly what will always remain unfinished.

Women: Take our hearts and shake them from complacency.
 Turn our thoughts and energies toward kingdom-building.
Show us how to be sensible as well as imaginative,
 servants as well as lovers,
co-workers as well as friends.

All: May we rejoice in our brokenness,
in the wonderfully incomplete world which is ours,
which is us, which is yearning for you.

Presider: God our Creator, give us strength to commit ourselves to do your work. God our Savior, come again to reveal once and for all the fullness of your reign. God the Spirit, inspire us – bring us to the task with wisdom and humor, so that we may be filled with hope and vision

All: Blessed are you, Lord our God, forever and ever! Amen.

SCRIPTURE (PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6, 8-11)

I thank my God whenever I think of you, and every time I pray for you all, I always pray with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the very first day up to the present. I am quite confident that the One who began a good work in you will go on completing it until the Day of Jesus Christ comes. For God will testify for me how much I long for you all with the warm longing of Christ Jesus; it is my prayer that your love for one another may grow more and more with the knowledge and complete understanding that will help you to come to true discernment, so that you will be innocent and free of any trace of guilt when the Day of Christ comes, entirely filled with the fruits of uprightness through Jesus Christ, for the glory and praise of God.

REFLECTION (REV. MSGR. JOSEPH CELANO)

PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

All:

*Good and gracious God,
all that we have comes from your hands
and we give You praise!
We have entered into a new time
in the Renewing the Church in Manville process
and we seek your guidance and wisdom
as we discern a proposed structure for your Holy church.
In your love send forth your Holy Spirit
to your people and your ministers.
Open our hearts to hear your words.
Transform our minds to see possibilities,
help us to be visionaries and prophets.
Lead us to a vision that will strengthen the Church in Manville.
May we always be a sign of faith, hope and charity,
a refuge where all are welcomed in Jesus' name.
Lord Jesus, calm our fears, dispel all bitterness and anxiety.
Bring us together as a Church,
so we may be of one mind and one spirit,
working for the growth of your Kingdom.
O Triune God, we place ourselves in your hands.
May all our decisions be for your glory!*

Amen.

INTERCESSIONS (RESPONSE: Lord, hear our prayer)

We pray for ourselves: that in all we do we may start afresh from Christ, contemplating the face of Jesus, we pray to the Lord...

We pray for unity: that through a recommitment to prayer, we may be of one mind and heart in Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord...

We pray for the grace of repentance: that we will have the courage to ask for forgiveness and seek to heal our divisions, we pray to the Lord...

We pray for holiness: that by cultivating the many gifts of the Spirit and seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus we may witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Lord...

CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God, give us the fortitude to endure change, courage to step forward unafraid, wisdom to make good decisions, love and zeal to serve your people well, and insight to recognize that apart from you we can do nothing.

Life giving God, sustain us as we attempt to build and grow, knowing that your call comes with the promise of fidelity. Keep us faithful reminding us always that whatever we do, we do in you, with you and through you.

We thank you, faithful God, for your loving and constant care. AMEN.