Shared Reflection

Leader: Mother Teresa once said: “There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.”

As we each light our own candles, we remember the times that God has spoken to us through service. Please share a memory of a time when you found hope and light while serving the poor.

Leader: We close with a prayer prayed daily by Mother Teresa:

Reader 2: Help me speak your fragrance wherever I go. Flood my soul with your Spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come into contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!

Reader 3: Stay with me and then I will begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you; none of it will be mine. It will be You shining on others through me. Let me praise you in the way that you love best, by shining on those around me.

Reader 4: Let me preach to you, without preaching, not by words, but by example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears for you.

All: Amen

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

– Mother Teresa

Remembering Mother Teresa

Prayer Service

September 5, 2013

"If we pray, we will believe; If we believe, we will love; If we love, we will serve."

–Mother Teresa
Leader: Today we gather, to remember and to celebrate the legacy of Mother Teresa. She was a true witness of Christ’s love for the world, and an inspiration to people around the globe. We pray that we might learn to follow in her footsteps as we seek to care for our brothers and sisters who are in need. We ask God to be with us as we gather in prayer this evening.

Reader 1: A reading from the Book of Isaiah:

Isaiah 58:6-12

Release the constraints of impiety; relieve the burdens that oppress; freely forgive those who are broken; and break apart every burden. Break your bread with the hungry, and lead the destitute and the homeless into your house. When you see someone naked, cover him, and do not despise your own flesh.

Then your light will break forth like the morning, and your health will improve quickly, and your justice will go before your face, and the glory of the Lord will gather you up. Then you will call, and the Lord will heed; you will cry out, and he will say, “Here I am,” if you take away the chains from your midst, and cease to point your finger and to speak what is not beneficial.

When you pour out your life for the hungry, and you satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light will rise up in darkness, and your darkness will be like the midday. And the Lord will give you rest continually, and he will fill your soul with splendor, and he will free your bones, and you will be like a watered garden and like a fountain of water whose waters will not fail. And places that have been desolate for ages will be built up by you. You will raise a foundation for generation after generation. And you will be called the repairer of hedges, who turns the roadways into quiet places.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: This message from John Paul II was read at Mother Teresa’s funeral: “Mother Teresa of Calcutta understood fully this gospel of love. She understood it with every fiber of her indomitable spirit and every ounce of energy of her frail body. She practiced it with all her heart and through the daily toil of her hands, crossing the frontiers of religious and ethnic differences she has taught the world this lesson - it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Mother Teresa dedicated her life to the service of the poor – tonight we pray for all those who are in need. The response will be “Loving God, hear our prayer.”

We pray for those who are hungry and thirsty. Lord, give them the food and drink they so desperately need, and give those of us who have enough generous hearts so we can share what we have been given. We pray to the Lord:

As we seek peace for all, may we be open to let God’s own peace find us, in our hearts, in our homes, in our community and in our world. We pray to the Lord:

That we will be transformed by God’s grace in Christ Jesus, to live the Gospel and to be better caretakers of God’s creation, which supports all life and all the communities of the earth. We pray to the Lord:

We know that all life is sacred, and we pray that the dignity of life may be upheld at all times. Give us the courage to protect those who are most vulnerable. We pray to the Lord:

We pray in thanksgiving for the community that we have formed here. We ask that the Holy Spirit breathes life into all of our ministries and volunteer efforts. Use our hands and hearts to serve the needs of the poor and bring about justice here on earth. We pray to the Lord:

What other intentions should we pray for this evening?