

# PRAYING TOGETHER

## In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

- May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

- Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## A moment of silence

## A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (3:16-21)

‘In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.’

## Words of our Founder:

‘The joy I wish you, that which must be the faithful companion of our work, is the joy of heart, the joy of pure conscience, the joy of a servant who loves his master and who rejoices in working for him. It is the joy of vocation which makes us feel at home wherever the Lord sends us. It envies nothing, desires nothing, regrets nothing, because it has only one desire in the world: to do what God wishes and nothing else’.

## Sharing

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## A moment of silence

## A reading from the Book of Jeremiah (29: 11-14)

‘Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you, Yahweh declares, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. When you call to me and come and pray to me, I shall listen to you.

When you search for me, you will find me; when you search wholeheartedly for me, I shall let you find me, Yahweh declares. I shall restore your fortunes and gather you in from all the nations and wherever I have driven you, Yahweh declares. I shall bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.’

## Words of our Constitutions and Laws:

1. We are a community of Christ’s disciples, bonded together by common response to his command to proclaim the Kingdom of God: ‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation’ (Mk 16,15).
2. Our aim is to be an effective response to the missionary vocation of the Church, chiefly among Africans and people of African origin.
5. As missionaries, our personal growth in Christ is inseparably linked to our participation in his mission.
9. We have a special concern for those who are not yet evangelized. We are particularly sensitive to the cause of the most abandoned, the poor, the oppressed.

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## A moment of silence

## A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (6:5-8)

‘Then I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh Sabaoth.’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in its hand a live coal which it had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this it touched my mouth and said: ‘Look, this has touched your lips, your guilt has been removed and your sin forgiven.’

I then heard the voice of the Lord saying: ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I, send me’.

## Words from our Constitutions and Laws:

26. Our living and working together help us to be more aware that we are at the service of a task which, despite our most generous commitment and most advanced techniques, transcends our human capabilities. Together we discover, in prayer and contemplation, the source and the principal agent of all evangelization - the Holy Spirit. It is the same Holy Spirit who urges us to pray, to give witness to the Gospel and to serve those to whom we are sent.

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## A moment of silence



## A reading from the Gospel of John (15: 1-7)



‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are clean already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.



Remain in me, as I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, unless it remains part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.



I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a branch -- and withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire and are burnt.



If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for whatever you please and you will get it’.



## Words of our Founder:

‘O mon Dieu, vous connaissez mes intentions! Soyez, je vous en supplie, ma consolation et ma recompense. Vous connaissez aussi ma faiblesse, ô mon Dieu; ne permettez pas que le trouble s’empare de mon âme, et secourez-moi dans la tentation. Bienheureuse Vierge Marie, et vous mes bons anges, secourez-moi dans le besoin où je me trouve de paix intérieure, de renoncement à moi-même, de complet anéantissement’.



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## A moment of silence

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah (49: 5-6, 16)

‘And now Yahweh has spoken, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and to re-unite Israel to him;-I shall be honored in Yahweh's eyes, and my God has been my strength.

He said, 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of earth.'

Look, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands, your ramparts are ever before me’.

## Words of our Founder:

‘Voici les résolutions spéciales que j’ai prises à la fin de cette retraite:

1. Etre missionnaire du fond du coeur
2. Ne rien négliger pour faire avancer l’oeuvre de Dieu.
3. Saisir toutes les occasions de prêcher la sainte parole.
4. Enfin, et c’est là que j’implore surtout votre bénédiction, ô mon Dieu, employer tous mes moyens, toutes mes forces, toute mon étude, à contribuer à la formation d’un clergé indigène’.

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## A moment of silence

## A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (12:9-16)

‘Let love be without any pretence. Avoid what is evil; stick to what is good.

In brotherly love let your feelings of deep affection for one another come to expression and regard others as more important than yourself.

In the service of the Lord, work not halfheartedly but with conscientiousness and an eager spirit.

Be joyful in hope, persevere in hardship; keep praying regularly share with any of God's holy people who are in need; look for opportunities to be hospitable.

Bless your persecutors; never curse them, bless them.

Rejoice with others when they rejoice, and be sad with those in sorrow.

Give the same consideration to all others alike. Pay no regard to social standing, but meet humble people on their own terms. Do not congratulate yourself on your own wisdom’.

## Words of our Founder:

‘Love, patience, kindness: Caritatem, patientiam, mansuetudinem! Let this be our provision for our journey when we return to our christians; let this be our missionary baggage. Let us use it always, and especially when we will have to exercise our zeal as father and as pastor with those who are already children of God. With these three virtues, we will have unfailing success, less brilliant perhaps, less consoling to our nature, but unfailing.’

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## A moment of silence

## A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (12:1-3)

‘I urge you, then, brothers, remembering the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, dedicated and acceptable to God; that is the kind of worship for you, as sensible people.

Do not model your behavior on the contemporary world, but let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God -- what is good and acceptable and mature.

And through the grace that I have been given, I say this to every one of you: never pride yourself on being better than you really are, but think of yourself dispassionately, recognizing that God has given to each one his measure of faith’.

## Words of our Founder:

‘Avons-nous souvent considéré que la parfait devotion consiste à faire en tout la volonté de Dieu: *Père... que votre volonté soit faite*, et que la volonté de Dieu à notre égard à tout instant est que nous fassions bien les oeuvres les plus communes, les grandes oeuvres étant nécessairement rares, ne convenant pas toujours et à tous, et ne présentant que dans quelques circonstances de la vie?’

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