

Prayer before the IFCA meeting 23 February 2024

Sign of the Cross

Introduction to the prayer

Eternal Father, you give us this new day as a garden to cultivate. We thank you for this night's rest. We have regained our strength to serve you better throughout this day, which we place in your hands. We want to listen to your Word, so that it may enlighten us and guide us.

Gospel according to St Luke, chapter 9, 1-6

^a He summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,

2and he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal [the sick].

3He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey,^{*} neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic.

4Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there.^b

5And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet^{*} in testimony against them."^c

6Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Spirit of wisdom, strength, understanding, discernment and fear of the Lord, come down upon us and fill our hearts, minds and souls. Guide and enlighten them. May all our actions, words and thoughts be inspired by you. Accompany us and help us on our Lenten journey. Inspire and guide us in all our actions; give us a clear vision of what we must do and the strength to accomplish it.

Our Father...

Most Holy Virgin Mary, we greet you and ask for your intercession. We also abandon ourselves to you with confidence, be our Companion during our meeting today. Stay with us, pray for us and with us for the continual descent of the Holy Spirit on the world and especially on us at this time. You, the gateway to heaven, accept our petitions and present them to your son who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Hail Mary....

FINAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you have chosen us to work in your vineyard, to bring it to life. You have called us to serve our brothers and sisters in charity.

Open our eyes to the needs and aspirations of the smallest and most wounded.

Open our minds to your word, that it may be our light.

Open our hearts to love, so that a new ardour and a new fire may be born in us all.

We count on you, Lord, to live this meeting in brotherhood and mutual respect.

We entrust the presidency of this meeting to your Holy Spirit. May he be our guide, our counsellor.

Lord, we want to be authentic witnesses to your message, artisans of a new world. We want to live out this mission in the humility of a good and faithful servant.

Holy Spirit, enlighten us. Amen