



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Diocese of Wilmington

For 180 years - A legacy of caring service

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 180TH ANNIVERSARY

CASA SAN FRANCISCO PRAYER SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Responding to the needs of the rural poor, and especially migrant farm workers, Franciscan Sisters established Casa San Francisco in an unpretentious home in Milton, Delaware in 1981. Ten years later, Casa joined the Catholic Charities family of services. Today, Casa continues to offer comprehensive social services to the most vulnerable in its community – the homeless and hungry. Through the emergency shelter, food programs, and holiday gift programs, Casa San Francisco provides assistance to over 1,700 households each year.

Reader 1: Almighty and ever-living God, Your will for humanity is that none should be lost, that all should be saved and find their home in You. Your son, Jesus, came among us in poverty and simplicity, to show us the inherent dignity of each human life, and to reveal Your special love for the poor.

We thank You for entrusting to our care Your precious ones known in the face of the homeless. Bless all those who have shared life together with us at Casa San Francisco dedicated to serving those in need. As we joyfully celebrate the miracles we have witnessed in our midst, help us to rededicate ourselves to continue to extend Your loving hand to all those who come our way.

No one is a stranger to You, and no one is ever far from Your loving care. In Your kindness watch over all those who find themselves without food or shelter, who have been separated from the support of family, who have lost their way and are seeking a place to call home. Bring them safely to us that we might welcome them and serve them, so that they might renew their strength and with Your help find hope for the future.

Bless the work of our hands so that our service to others will continue to build Your kingdom of peace and justice in our world. We make this prayer to You, O God, who have created us, saved us, and made us whole.

- Adapted from CCUSA

Reader 2: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”

Then the righteous will answer him and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?”

And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Leader: Please respond, “God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”

All: God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

Leader: So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths, even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken by the violence.

All: God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

Leader: There is a river that brings joy to the city of God, to the sacred house of the Most High. God is in that city, and it will never be destroyed; at early dawn, he will come to its aid.

All: God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

Leader: The Lord Almighty is with you; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come see what the Lord has done. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

All: God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

Leader: Let us pray for those who are homeless in our community and in our world:

All: Shelter us, O Lord, and give us the compassion and knowledge to help others in their search for shelter.

Protect us, O Lord, from darkness, and give us the wisdom and skills to protect others who live in unsafe and unhealthy housing and long for the light.

Bless us, O Lord, with homes that make comfort and joy realities for our families, and give us the grace to ensure this for all. AMEN.