



## **CATHOLIC CHARITIES 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY PRAYER SERVICE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Leader:** Catholic Charities became home to a unified Parish Social Ministry in the 1990's. Parish Social Ministry assists and supports parish communities in integrating the Church's social mission into parish life. Parish Social Ministry works with parishes in identifying and training new leaders in the Church's social tradition. It teaches and convenes people around critical social issues so that they may reach out in charity to those in need, advocate for justice, organize to build a community of values, and build solidarity across societal barriers. Parish Social Ministry offers a diverse array of programs that reflect the entire range of the Church's social mission and meets the needs of parishioners.

### **Reader 1:** A Reading from Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. To announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn.

### **Leader:**

As we gather in your Spirit, O Lord, we reflect on our society – its inequities, oppression, and poverty. We ask for insight to understand the needs of your people today, so that we might begin to grasp the complexity of the situations that face us, and yet realize that among that complexity is the simplicity of human need. Help us to know that the poor have a right to dignity and the oppressed a right to freedom.

### **ALL:**

**For the spirit of the Lord is upon us, because the Lord has anointed us to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to announce the year of the Lord's favor.**

### **Leader:**

Lord, we believe that through the gift of your Son, our human nature shares in Your dignity. Help us to see that when people suffer indignities – poverty, joblessness, injustice – all of us suffer. Enlighten us to live and act so that through us, those who suffer can come to know the dignity you intended for us all.

**ALL:**

**For the spirit of the Lord is upon us, because the Lord has anointed us to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to announce the year of the Lord's favor.**

**Reader #2: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

**Leader:**

Our response will be: "Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world"

**Leader:** The test of every institution or policy is whether it enhances or threatens human life and human dignity. We believe people are more important than things. (U.S. Catholic Bishops)

**ALL: "Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world."**

**Leader:** It is a strict duty of justice and truth not to allow fundamental human needs to remain unsatisfied, and not to allow those burdened by such needs to perish. It is also necessary to help these needy people to acquire expertise, to enter the circle of exchange, and to develop their skills in order to make the best use of their capacities and resources. (Pope John Paul II)

**ALL: "Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world."**

**Leader:** Every fundamental right imposes a corresponding obligation. Those who claim their own rights but neglect to carry out their respective responsibilities, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. (Pope John XXIII)

**ALL: "Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world."**

**Leader:** Our tradition calls us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response. (U.S. Catholic Bishops)

**ALL: "Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world."**

**Leader:** Work is more than a way to make a living; it is an expression of our dignity and a form of continuing God's creation. (U.S. Catholic Bishops)

**ALL: “Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.”**

**Leader:** The ultimate injustice is for a person or group to be treated actively or abandoned passively as if they were non-members of the human race. (U.S. Catholic Bishops)

**ALL: “Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.”**

**Leader:** We are called to transform our hearts and social structures to renew the face of the earth. (U.S. Catholic Bishops)

**ALL: “Lord, help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.”**

### **SALT AND LIGHT PRAYER**

**ALL:**

**Send your spirit upon us, O Lord!**

**And anoint us for your mission.**

**Send us, Lord:**

**To bring glad tidings to the poor,**

**Food to the hungry,**

**Shelter to the homeless.**

**To proclaim liberty to the captives,**

**Peace to those at war,**

**Solidarity with the peoples of the world.**

**To restore sight to the blind,**

**Hope to the hopeless,**

**Perspective to those in power.**

**To release those in prison,**

**Liberate those bound by fear,**

**Loosen the bonds of prejudice.**

**And to announce a time of favor from you, Lord Most High.**

**Help us to be salt and light for your kingdom.**

**AMEN.**