



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Diocese of Wilmington

For 180 years - A legacy of caring service

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 180TH ANNIVERSARY

SETON CENTER PRAYER SERVICE

INTRODUCTION:

Leader: The Sisters of Charity opened the Seton Center, located in a low-income area of Princess Anne, Maryland, in 1983 to meet the needs of the rural poor. The staff at the multi-purpose neighborhood community center work to identify and respond to those needs affecting the activities of daily living for local residents, the Hispanic community, and the area's migrant farm workers. The founders of Seton Center continue to serve the program, and the Sisters of Charity are now joined by Catholic Charities staff. Seton Center's services include providing assistance for basic living expenses, such as rent and utility payments, making available nutritious food through three distinct distribution programs, offering clothing and household goods at low cost at a thrift shop, encouraging health promotion advocacy, offering information and referral services, and supplying case management services.

Reader 1: Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times; praise shall be always in my mouth.

My soul will glory in the Lord that the poor may hear and be glad.

Magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, who answered me, delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God that you may be radiant with joy and your faces may not blush for shame.

In my misfortune I called, the Lord heard and saved me from all distress.

The angel of the Lord, who encamps with them, delivers all who fear God.

Learn to savor how good the Lord is; happy are those who take refuge in him.

Fear the Lord, you holy ones; nothing is lacking to those who fear him.

The powerful grow poor and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who among you loves life, takes delight in prosperous days?

Keep your tongue from evil, your lips from speaking lies.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The Lord has eyes for the just and ears for their cry.

The Lord's face is against evildoers to wipe out their memory from the earth.

When the just cry out, the Lord hears and rescues them from all distress.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, saves those whose spirit is crushed.

Many are the troubles of the just, but the Lord delivers from them all.

God watches over all their bones; not a one shall be broken.
Evil will slay the wicked; those who hate the just are condemned.
The Lord redeems loyal servants; no one is condemned whose refuge is God.

Leader: Our response will be “**Renew in us Your Spirit**”

Leader: We thank you for the staff at the Seton Center whose lives are visible signs of your love and a blessing to others. Give us courage to follow their example. We pray,

All: Renew in us Your Spirit

Leader: We thank you for the clients of the Seton Center for they show us the face of Jesus each and every day. We pray,

All: Renew in us Your Spirit

Leader: We thank you for showing us that all we are and all we have are gifts from you. And that these gifts from you, Lord, are meant to be shared. Show us the joys of generosity. We pray,

All: Renew in us Your Spirit

Leader: Good and gracious God, we thank you for the wonder of all that you have bestowed upon us. You give us eyes to see your presence, ears to listen to your voice, mouths to speak your name, hands to help those in need. Help us to continue to use the gifts you give us in service to others.

All: AMEN

Reader 2: A reading from the Gospel of John

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.

The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when he had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Leader: Let us pause a few moments for silent reflection.

All:

At the heart of silence is prayer.

At the heart of prayer is faith.

At the heart of faith is life.

At the heart of life is service.

-Mother Theresa