Morning Prayer for a New Year of Ministry

Call to Prayer: Pope Francis once said: “The Gospel teaches us that the Spirit of Jesus can bring new life to every human heart and can transform any situation, even apparently hopeless ones. Jesus can change everything. This is the message that you are called upon to share with the people around you.”

The past six months have dramatically impacted our lives in so many unique ways. Like the disciples gathered in the Upper Room after Good Friday, we have known fear, insecurity, grief, isolation, the pain of injustice, and the reality of being “locked inside.” The sickness of the body, that is COVID 19, along with the sickness of soul, that is the pandemic of racism, have also offered us an opportunity to rediscover our priorities and to remember what is really most important.

Like the disciples, Jesus wants so much to penetrate the “locked doors” of our hearts and fill us with His Easter PEACE; a PEACE that is both a gift to receive and a challenge to share that PEACE with others who are hurting.

As we begin a new year of ministry with our students, their families, and one another, let us commit ourselves to living our IHM Charism of Love, Creative Hope, and Fidelity, by being true PEACEMAKERS. Through us, may the Holy Spirit ignite in the hearts of
all whom we serve the desire to recreate our world in peace and harmony. Let us not only provide a safe and healthy environment for enthusiastic learning, but also a “holy ground” of welcome, respect, compassion, and justice.

Leader: Peace be with you.
All: And with your spirit. Glory be to the Father...

Opening Hymn: Christ be Our Light - Verses 2 and 5

Antiphon: “Go therefore, make disciples of all nations.” Mt. 28:19

Pray Antiphonally: The Canticle of Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord 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 captives and release to prisoners.

To announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God to comfort all who mourn.

To give them the oil of gladness in place of mourning, a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.

Glory be to the Father...
Antiphon: “Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” Mt. 5:9

Pray in Unison: The Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving, that we receive. It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen. Glory be to the Father...

Reading: Gospel of John: 20:19-21

Silent Reflection

Commitment to Peacemaking

Leader: Jesus taught us the Two Great Commandments: to love God with our whole heart, mind, body, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. As His devoted disciples, let us renew our love for the God of Peace, pledge to be His Peacemakers and to energize others to be Peacemakers this year.
We pray together, pausing after each intercession:

**Touch**

**Forehead:**  *Saturate my mind, Lord, with wisdom and knowledge, that I may teach as You did.*

**Touch Eyes:**  *Give me Your vision, Lord, that I may see Your face in my colleagues, as well as the children and parents I encounter.*

**Touch Ears:**  *Open my ears, Lord, that I may hear Your voice in the cry of the poor. Teach me to listen to and to notice all who are in need of Your love and compassion.*

**Touch Mouth:**  *Grant me the courage, Lord, to always share the truth with kindness and patience and to speak up for those who are suffering from injustice in any form.*

**Touch Hands:**  *Empty my hands of any selfishness, Lord, and fill them with generosity, joy, and gratitude.*

**Touch Heart:**  *Help me to love You and my neighbor, Lord, more and more each day.*
**Closing Prayer:** Let us conclude our prayer by asking Our Lady, Queen of Peace to show us how to live in peace and to educate ourselves and others for peace.

*Hail Mary...*

**Closing Hymn:** Peace is Flowing Like a River - Verses 1,2,3

“May God bless us with every grace we need
to act justly,
love tenderly,
and
walk humbly
like Jesus, with the Gospel as our guide.”

*Give Us This Day - 7/7/20*