

# Parish Meeting Prayer: Go and Make Disciples

By Fr. Jason Blahnik

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Now let us close our eyes and place ourselves in the mindful presence of God. Calmly reflect on this truth: God is in everything and everywhere, and there is no place or thing in this world where there is not his very real presence, so that like the birds wherever they fly always find air, just so wherever we are, we find God present.<sup>1</sup> King David wrote, "If I climb up to heaven, you are there; and if I go down to hell, you are there."<sup>2</sup> Reflect on God's presence. [*Silence to Reflect*] Together let us pray:

**All:** O my heart, my heart, God is truly here.<sup>3</sup>

**Leader:** Together let us invoke our Lord and God:

**All:** Do not reject me, O my God, from before your face, and do not take the favor of your Holy Spirit from me.

"Let your face shine upon your servant,"<sup>4</sup> and "I will consider your wonders."<sup>5</sup>

"Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law: and I shall keep it will all my heart."<sup>6</sup>

"I am your servant, grant me understanding."<sup>7</sup>

**Leader:** Holy Mary, Our Lady of Good Help.

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Francis Xavier, patron of our diocese.

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert name of your parish here*), patron of our parish.

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** The following Scripture passage, often called "The Great Commission" will be read three times. Reflect on God's word. What words speak to you? What images come to mind? Where does your heart rest?

**Reader:** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him;

but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."<sup>8</sup>

*The Reader Pauses After Each of the Three Readings to Allow Reflection*

**Leader:** Where did your heart rest in this reading?

*The Leader Begins by Sharing Where Their Heart Rested. The Leader Then Facilitates Sharing. But No One is Required To.*

**Leader:** We have listened to God's Word, let us now bring to Him our prayers.

Let us now pray for the needs of the world. We pray for the Church, for our Holy Father Pope Francis, for our Bishop David, for all the staff of the Department of New Evangelization, that they may grow in holiness, boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and compassionately serve those in need. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We pray for all leaders, especially our parish leaders that they may do the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, and surrender their will to His. We pray for a strengthening of the culture of Christian witness and of life, for true justice for all people, for the dignity of marriage and family life, that every Christian may exercise charity out of love of Jesus and for the protection of religious freedom in our nation and throughout the world. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We pray for all believers, that they may grow in their love of the Lord Jesus Christ and of His Church and by their life and witness draw others to Our Lord Jesus through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We pray for those who are not practicing their faith especially those in our families and amongst our friends. We pray especially for an increase in those coming to Holy Mass. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We pray that all people may come to know the saving power of God's love and mercy in their lives. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**All:** Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

**All:** "You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.' For he will rescue you from the snare of the fowler, from the destroying pestilence. With his pinions he will cover you, and under his wings you shall take refuge; his faithfulness is a buckler and a shield. You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day; not the pestilence that roams in darkness nor the devastating plague at noon. Though a thousand fall at your side, ten thousand at your right side, near you it shall not come. Rather with your eyes shall you behold and see the requital of the wicked because you have the Lord for your refuge; you have made the Most High your stronghold. No evil shall befall you nor shall affliction come near your tent, for to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. Upon their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the asp and the viper; you shall trample down the lion and the dragon. Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will deliver him and glorify him; with length of days I will gratify him and will show him my salvation."<sup>9</sup> Amen. (Psalm 91)

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

1 Saint Francis de Sales. Introduction to the Devout Life. Translated by Rev. John-Julian, O.J.M. Part II. Chapter 2.

2 Psalm 138:8

3 Saint Francis de Sales. Part II. Chapter 2.

4 Psalm 30:17.

5 Psalm 118:18.

6 Psalm 118:54.

7 Psalm 118:125.

8 Matthew 28:16-20

9 Psalm 91.