

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**  
**November 19, 2022**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**ALL:**

God our Father, if I could trace back through the last two thousand years, marking out routes from Jesus himself and then through people whose faith has touched others and so reached me, I would be astounded by the individuals I would encounter.

I give thanks, Father, for all those people over two thousand years who have inspired others and played their part in passing on to generation after generation the living heritage of their faith. I pray, Father, that I may grow in your faith and love through good times and bad. Amen.

**Colossians 3:15-17**

**Reader:** And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**ALL:**

Thank you, God.

Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives,  
thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us.

Thank you that your Word teaches us the power of gratitude.

Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times,  
strengthening us for your purposes.

Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us.

Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are,  
for all that you do, for all that you've given.

Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh.

Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy.

We love you and we need you, this day and every day.

We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Leader:** Lord, You are the God who creates beautiful friendships. We pray for our friends.

**ALL:** They are such a blessing in our lives.

**Leader:** We are excited about the incredible things you are doing

**ALL:** *for us and through us* each day.

**Leader:** Thank you for molding us, preparing us,

**ALL:** and positioning us to fulfill our destiny.

**Leader:** Thank you for teaching us & counseling us

**ALL:** so that we may walk in obedience and holiness to your calling in our lives.

**Leader:** Thank you for your comfort

**ALL:** that we may be refreshed and strengthened.

**Leader:** Thank you for your promise

**ALL:** that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives.

**Leader:** May we more fully receive your peace

**ALL:** for daily life into our hearts each day.

**ALL:** In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

### **Closing Prayer:**

**ALL:**

We are grateful for the treasure of loved ones

whose hearts of openness and acceptance

have encouraged us to be who we are.

We are grateful for their faithfulness,

for standing by us when our weaknesses stood out,

for being there when we were most in need,

and for delighting with us in our good days and our joyful seasons.

We are grateful for the ongoing process of becoming who we are,

for the seasons within, for the great adventure of life

that challenges and comforts us at one and the same time.

We are grateful for the messengers of God - people, events, written or spoken words –  
that come to us at just the right time and help us to grow.

We are grateful for God calling us to work with our gifts,

grateful that we can be of service and use our talents in a responsible and just way.

Faithful God, you have lavished us with love.

On our difficult days help us to remember that you are

a refuge for those who need shelter, a comfort for those who feel empty and poor in spirit.

On our joyful days fill us with a deep sense of thanksgiving

as we experience your everlasting love.

Help us to share your graciousness with all those who need a touch of Your love. Amen.

### **PRAYER TO CLOSE THE MEETING:**

**Leader:** As we remember this month all those who are no longer with us, let us pray:

**ALL:**

God our Father, Your power brings us to birth,

Your providence guides our lives,

and by Your command we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,

their lives change but do not end.

I pray in hope for my family, relatives and friends,

and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ, Who died and now lives,

may they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away.

Unite us together again in one family, to sing Your praise forever and ever.

Amen.

**Leader:**

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all your faithful people,  
grant to the souls of all our faithful departed mercy, light and peace.  
Lord, we pray that those we love, who have gone before us in faith,  
may know your forgiveness and the blessings of everlasting life,  
in company with Mary and with all the saints and angels.

**Remembrance**

**ALL:** We can shed tears that they are gone,  
or we can smile because they have lived.  
We can close your eyes and pray that they'll come back,  
or we can open your eyes and see they have left.  
Our hearts can be empty because we can't see them,  
or we can be full of the love we shared.  
We can turn our back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
or we can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.  
We can remember them and only that they're gone,  
or we can cherish their memory and let it live on.  
We can cry and close our minds, be empty and turn our backs,  
or we can do what they would want - smile, open our eyes, love and go on.

**ALL:**

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer:  
Grant them your peace; let perpetual light shine upon them;  
and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

