

Wisdom from Above

A Collection of Prayers for the
Madonna University Community

S A P I E N T I A
D E S U R S U M

M MADONNA[™]
UNIVERSITY

First Edition

This Prayer book is dedicated to the Mother of God, our Madonna, whose fidelity and prayers bless our efforts, root us in our Mission, and continue to call us to be light, hope, and mercy to all who seek Christ and the Wisdom of God.

Prayer for the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

O God, Who did will that on this day
the blessed ever Virgin Mary,
the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit,
should be presented in the temple:
grant, we ask You,
that through her intercession,
we may be made worthy to be presented
in the temple of Your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
world without end. Amen.

*The Felician Sisters' central convent in Livonia is dedicated to the
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*








Embedded on the Madonna University seal are the Latin words *Sapientia Desursum* (Wisdom from Above), which often serves as the source of inspirational prayers. Prayers are appeals to God to express thoughtful and sincere requests or wishes. At Madonna, prayer has served as an impactful tradition. Madonna community members have generously contributed to this collection of prayers rooted in our Felician and Franciscan Heritage, prayers based on our Mission and Core Values, service prayers, prayers for peace and justice, interfaith prayers, prayers before games, and prayers before meetings.

This Madonna Prayerbook is intended to inspire and enhance the prayer life of our community, reflective of our University Mission and Core Values. Begin meetings, community events, athletic activities, and special occasions in prayer.

Dr. Connie Tingson Gatuz
Vice President for Student Affairs and Mission Integration



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Our Mission and Values

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Madonna University, a Catholic institution of higher learning, is to instill in its students Christian humanistic values, intellectual inquiry, a respect for diversity, and a commitment to serving others through a liberal arts education, integrated with career preparation and based on the truths and principles recognized within a Felician Franciscan tradition.

Our Franciscan Values

Respect for the Dignity of Each Person

Peace and Justice

Reverence for Creation

Education for Truth and Service



Prayers Rooted in

Our Franciscan and Felician Heritage

Prayers of St. Francis of Assisi

1. Prayer for Peace

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 with all my soul.
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 into eternal life.
Amen.

2. Prayer Before a Crucifix

Most high, glorious God,
Enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me Lord,
a correct faith, a certain hope, a perfect charity, sense
and knowledge, so that i may carry out your holy and
true command. Amen.

3. Praise to the Most High God

Lord God: you alone are holy,
you who work wonders!
You are strong, you are great,
you are the Most High,
you are the almighty King,
you, holy Father, King of heaven and earth.
Lord God: you are Three and you are One,
you are goodness, all goodness,
you are the highest Good,
Lord God, living and true.
You are love and charity, you are wisdom,
you are humility, you are patience,
you are beauty, you are sweetness,
you are safety, you are rest, you are joy,
you are our hope
and our delight,
you are justice, you are moderation
you are all our wealth
and riches overflowing.
You are beauty, you are gentleness,
you are our shelter, our guard
and our defender,
you are strength, you are refreshment,
you are our hope.
you are our faith.
you are our love,
you are our complete consolation,
you are our life everlasting,
great and wonderful Lord,
all-powerful God, merciful Savior. Amen.

4. Canticle of Creatures

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.
Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright,
precious and fair.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.
Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and pure.
Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You my Lord
through our Sister, Mother Earth
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and
herbs. Praise be You my Lord through those who grant
pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
By You Most High, they will be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no-one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will.
No second death can do them harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks,
And serve Him with great humility.

5. Greeting the Virgin Mary

Hail Lady, holy queen,
Holy Mother of God.
Mary, you are virgin made Church
Chosen by the most holy Heavenly Father
And consecrated by Him
With his most holy beloved Son
Together with the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit.
You in whom there was and is
Every fullness of grace and all that is good.
I greet you, his palace.
I greet you, his tent.
I greet you, his house.
I greet you, his clothing.
I greet you, his handmaid.
I greet you, his Mother.
And I greet all you holy virtues
Which through the grace and light of the Holy Spirit
Are infused into the Hearts of the faithful
So that from being unfaithful, they may make them
faithful to God. Amen.

6. Salve Regina

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life our
sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor
banished children of Eve; To thee do we send up our
sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy
toward us and after this out exile show unto us the
blessed fruit of they womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O
sweet Virgin Mary!

V-Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God
R-That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ. Amen.

7. Blessing of St. Francis

The Lord bless you and keep you.
May He show His face to you and have mercy.
May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace.
The Lord bless you.

8. Prayer on Entering a Church

We adore You, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all Your churches throughout the world,
and we bless You,
because by Your holy Cross,
You have redeemed the world.

9. To Jesus in the Eucharist

Every day He humbles himself,
Just as he did when He descended
From the royal throne
Into the Virgin's womb,
Every day coming to us in humble appearance,
Every day descending from the Father's bosom
Into the hands of the priest over the altar.
Just like the holy apostles
To whom he revealed himself in true flesh,
So He shows himself to us in the form
Of consecrated bread.
As they with their own eyes saw his body,
And yet with the eyes of faith,
Believed that he was God,
So we, seeing the bread that it is His most holy Body
And Blood, living and true.
In this way the Lord is always present
Among the faithful.
As He said himself, "Behold I am with you
For all times even to the end of the world."

Prayers of St. Clare of Assisi

1. I Come, O Lord

I come, O Lord, unto Your sanctuary to see the life and food of my soul. As I hope in You, O Lord, inspire me with that confidence which brings me to Your holy mountain. Permit me, Divine Jesus, to come closer to You, that my whole soul may do homage to the greatness of Your majesty; that my heart, with its tenderest affections, may acknowledge Thine infinite love; that my memory may dwell on the admirable mysteries here renewed every day, and that the sacrifice of my whole being may accompany Thine.

2. Blessing

What you hold may you always hold.
What you do, may you always do and never abandon.
But with swift pace, light step and unswerving feet,
so that even your steps stir up no dust,
Go forward, the spirit of our God has called you.

3. Behold, Hold and Enfold

I behold the Lord
I see His outstretched hands
I see the blood from His wounds.
I see the love in the eyes of Jesus.
I see His gracious acceptance of me.
Jesus has come out of the tomb –
He still has the scars, but now they are glorious,
with the glory of heaven.
Still looking at the Lord, I reach out and touch Him.
I hold the Lord – and I am held in His love.

Love enfolds
It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me.
I am secure in the Lord.

I can look out, now, through the Lord's eyes.
I can see the world as He created it, in His mercy,
I can see my sisters and brothers with His love,
and I can worship the Father through the eyes of the Son
in the Love of the Holy Spirit.

4. God Chooses Poverty

O Blessed Poverty! Whoever loves you and embraces you
Finds eternal riches for themselves.

O holy Poverty! To those who possess you and desire you,
God promises the kingdom of heaven and offers in an
indescribable way

Everlasting glory and the life of the blessed.

O sweet Poverty! It was you who our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who holds sway over heaven and earth, chose to embrace
above everything else.

In fact he said: "Foxes have lairs, the birds of the air have
nests, but the Son of Man
has nowhere to lay his head."

When in fact he Christ rested his head on his breast it was
to render his last breath.

If therefore so great a Lord,
descending into the womb of the Virgin,
Wished to appear to the world as despised, poor and
needy, so that men may become rich through him
In heavenly goods, then exult and raise up your hearts
filled with great happiness and spiritual joy.

5. The Glory of the Heavenly Kingdom

If you suffer with Him you will also reign with Him; if
you cry with Him, you will also laugh with Him;
If with Him you die upon the cross, you will possess
with Him the heavenly dwelling with the splendour of
the saints, and your name will be written in the Book of
Life and be famous among men.

Thus you will receive for all time and for all eternity the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven, instead of short-lived earthly honor.

You will share eternal riches rather than perishable ones, and you will live forever.

Draw to yourself, by humility, the strength of the faith and the arms of poverty, that incomparable treasure, hidden in the field of this world and human hearts, with which you may buy for yourself the One, who from nothing created all things.

6. The Mirror of Eternity

Bring your eyes before the mirror of eternity; bring your soul into the splendour of glory;

Bring your heart before Him who is the image of the divine substance, and transform yourself entirely

By means of contemplation into His divine image.

Then you too will experience that which is reserved solely for His friends, and you will taste that secret sweetness which God Himself has reserved from the beginning for those who love Him.

Without even giving a second glance at the seductions which, in this restless and fallacious world,

Entrap the blind who give their hearts to it, love Him with all of yourself He who for your love gave all of Himself.

7. O Glorious Saint Clare

God has given you the power of working miracles continually, and the favor of answering the prayers of those who invoke your assistance in misfortune, anxiety, and distress; we beseech you, obtain for us from Jesus, through Mary, His Blessed Mother, what we beg of you so fervently and hopefully, if it be for the greater honour and glory of God and for the good of our souls. Amen.

Saint Clare: Pray For Us.

8. Be Our Light

Blessed Saint Clare, whose very name means light, illumine the darkness of our minds and hearts so that we might see what God wishes us to do and perform it with a willing and joyful heart. Before your birth, a Heavenly voice foretold that you would be a light illuminating the world. Be a light to us in the sorrows and anxieties of this earthy life, and lead us into the eternal light of our home in Heaven. Amen.

9. Intercession

God of mercy, You inspired Saint Clare with the love of poverty. By the help of her prayers may we follow Christ in poverty of spirit and come to the joyful vision of Your glory in the Kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

10. Healing

O Blessed Saint Clare, your life shines like a beacon and cast its light down the ages of the Church to guide the way of Christ. Look with compassion on the poor and humble who call on you for help. As you bow before your Eucharistic Lord in Heaven, speak to Him of my afflicted body and my broken spirit. Ask Him to heal me and to wash away my sins in His precious Blood. Great Servant of Christ, remember the needs of my family and all those I pray for. Defend us from everything that would threaten our Holy Catholic faith. Hear the cry of the poor and make it a song of intercession, rising from your poor heart to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, our Healer, our Savior, and our Lord. Amen.

Prayers to/of St. Felix of Cantalice

1.

St. Felix, it was said that your begging sack was as bottomless as your heart. Pray that we may give lavishly of ourselves to others. St. Felix, you rebuked corrupt officials, preached on the street, urged young people to repentance and conversion. Pray for the New Evangelization, that it will successfully gather all the elect into the service of God. St. Felix, you garnered so many alms with your begging that the mayor of Rome asked your order if the city could borrow you to gather food during a famine. Pray that the efforts of all Christians may bear much fruit for the glory of God. Amen. St. Felix of Cantalice, pray for us!

2.

“Every creature in the world will raise our hearts to God if we look upon it with a good eye.”

-St. Felix of Cantalice

3.

a. Almighty God, you gave Saint Felix to the Seraphic Family and to the Church as an example of evangelical simplicity and innocence of life. Following his example, may we strive to love and joyfully follow Christ alone, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

b. O God, who gave Saint Felix to the Church and to the Franciscan Family as an example of gospel simplicity and innocence of life, grant, we pray, that, following in his footsteps, we may, with joy, love and follow only Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

4.

“Deo Gratias!” (Thanks be to God!).

St. Felix of Cantalice offered this thank you to all who contributed to the needs of the Friars and the poor, he said this so often that he was known as Brother Deo Gratias.

5.

God, our Father, we thank you for the graces you bestowed on your servant St. Felix of Cantalice during his lifetime. Bless us, as we strive to imitate his service to the poor, his commitment to prayer, his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and his love for the Eucharist. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

6.

Humility and Charity: In relations with his confrères, St. Felix was a model of humility and charity. He accepted rebukes from others with sincere cheerfulness and gratitude. He was a kind, considerate and agreeable companion. The genuineness of his humility and charity was most evident in his zeal for the spiritual welfare of his fellow friars. Let us pray in imitation of St. Felix that we treat others with consideration and kindness.

7.

Poverty: In love with poverty like his Father St. Francis, St. Felix contented himself with the barest essentials of life. His habit and cloak were so patched that it was difficult to find a piece of his habit's original cloth. His room was furnished with only a board which served as his bed and a small table on which he carved little wooden crosses for distribution to benefactors and friends. Let us pray in imitation of St. Felix that we sincerely strive to live a simple lifestyle.

8.

Joy: Severe though the life of St. Felix may appear, it was filled with genuine happiness which radiated on all within the friary. His austerities were only a means of attaining union with God, and they were made light and sweet by grace obtained from the sacraments and prayer. Everywhere he went, he spread the gospel of joy. Let us pray in imitation of St. Felix that we strive to serve the Lord and each other always with a joyful heart.

9.

Gratitude: The love which burned in St. Felix's heart and the special graces bestowed on him make the story of his forty years in Rome more like that of an apostle than that of a humble lay brother soliciting alms for his community. He preached a silent sermon by his joy and charity. Kind and courteous toward all, he thanked all with a sincere "Deo Gratias" for both good and ill treatment. Let us pray in imitation of St. Felix that we be grateful to God for all the graces bestowed on us.

10.

Compassionate Heart: The compassionate heart of St. Felix had a special predilection for the poor and the sick. With the permission of his superiors, he shared the alms he solicited with the needy. On Sundays and holy days, he would visit the sick and the poor in the hospitals or in their homes, comforting them with kind words and distributing the little wooden crosses he had carved. Let us pray in imitation of St. Felix that we have compassion especially for the elderly, ill, and those who are lonely.

11.

Love of Nature: The son of poor but deeply religious peasants, St. Felix spent his childhood tending sheep and cattle on a farm. Like St. Francis of Assisi, he was reverently in love with all creation. The sun, the moon, the stars, birds and flowers, all quickly evoked a sympathetic response from his sensitive soul.

Let us pray in imitation of St. Felix that we come to appreciate the gifts of nature, and that we do all we can to preserve the environment for future generations. Take time to enjoy God's gifts of nature and say, "Deo Gratias."

Prayers to/by Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

1.

God, our Father, you graced Blessed Mary Angela with a living faith and boundless love which she manifested in complete surrender to your divine will. By her prayers and witness may we strive to seek, to accept, and to fulfill your will in all circumstances of our lives. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Prayer in honor of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

2.

"I wish you especially the love with which Jesus loved us; so that your every step, every deed, every suffering may be an act and proof of that love, so that you might be able to say, 'I live, now not I, Christ lives in me.'"

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

3.

“Allow me to love you forever, to suffer for you forever, if it be your will. I only want to live in your love, to be yours forever, and to praise your Divine Will forever.”
Amen.

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

4.

“To love is to give. And what? Everything that love demands. Give it quickly, without regret, joyfully, desiring only that more should be demanded of us. Never be satisfied with that what we give if we are able to give more.”

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

5.

“May the Blessing of St. Francis accompany you everywhere and at every moment; may he sanctify all your endeavors; may it fill you with his spirit. ... Do not be satisfied with only wearing his habit externally, but above all, put on his spirit.”

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

6.

“I entrust you to the special care of the Most Blessed Virgin, so that she will not leave you for a moment, but that she will inspire you and bless you at every step, and obtain for you graces so that you may become a great saint.”

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

7.

“Draw me to yourself, O Lord, because without you I will not come to you. . . . Tell me, O Lord, what obstacle stands in the way of my possessing you, of being perfectly united with you? What separates me from you? I have given myself completely to your service; I have given you my heart.”

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

8.

“Tell me, O Lord, what I should do? On what road will I meet you and see you? I will go there and I will do everything you will demand of me.”

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

9.

“Remember that I am always at your service, that there is no sacrifice I would not make for you, and that I will consider myself most fortunate if I can be of use to you in any way. Be assured that even from a distance my heart will watch over you, and that I will try to prevent any evil insofar as I can.”

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

10.

O Lord,
You are mine forever. I will never separate myself from you nor from the thorny cross-filled road which leads me to you. I will never fear anything because you are my Light. You will not allow hell to prevail over me; through you, I will conquer my enemies. Amen.

Words of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska



Prayers Based on Our *Mission and Values*

Opening Prayer for the Academic Year “We Build with Living Stones.”

God of grace and light,
Found anchored within the structures of humanity,
You cannot be contained,
But You, Provident God choose to dwell in hearts and communities.
Glance lovingly upon our administration, faculty and staff gathered
here today as we begin this academic year.
We seek your blessings upon us, your living stones, the foundation
of Madonna University.

May your grace deepen our connection to one another, so we
create bridges of opportunity for the students entrusted to us for
academic, athletic, artistic and spiritual educational experiences
and proficiencies.

May your grace fit us together into a living structure that respects
the diversity of each one, while simultaneously calling us to seek
greater unity through our mission and values, rooted in the charm
of St. Francis of Assisi and Blessed Mary Angela.

Help us all, this day, to be living stones,
and not stumbling blocks,
Dreaming dreams, promoting peace
and living gloriously the joy and kindness
Of a faith that exemplifies everything we are called to be.
We make this pray in faith,
through our cornerstone Jesus. Amen

The Road Ahead

Written by Thomas Merton and submitted by Patrick Weisgerber

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am following
your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right
road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to
be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you
are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my
perils alone.

Amen.

Our Lord's Prayer in Aramaic (Syriac)

Prayer submitted by Dr. Asaad Istephan

ܐܒܘܢ ܕܒܫܡܝܘܐ

Abun dbašmayo

Our father

ܢܬܗܩܕܐܫ ܫܡܟܗ

Nethqadaš šmokh

Hallowed be Thy name

ܬܝܬܗ ܡܠܟܘܬܗ

Tithe malkuthokh

Thy Kingdom come

ܢܗܘܐ ܫܝܘܢܟܗ

Nehwe sebyonokh

Thy will be done

ܝܟܢܘ ܕܒܫܡܝܘܐ ܘܦܒܪܐ

ykano dbašmayo oph bar'o

On earth as it is in heaven

ܗܒ ܠܢ ܠܗܝܡܘ ܕܫܘܢܘܢܢ ܝܘܡܝܢܘ

Hab lan laħmo dsunqonan yowmono

Give us this day our daily bread

ܘܫܒܘܩ ܠܢ ܗܘܒܝܢ ܘܗܬܘܝܢ

Wašbuq lan ħawbayn waħtohayn

And forgive our debts

ܝܟܢܘ ܕܘܦ ܗܢܢ ܫܒܘܩܢ ܠܗܝܘܒܝܢ

ykano doph ħnan šbaqan lħayobayn

As we have forgiven our debtors

ܠܐ ܬܘܠܝܢ ܝܗܘܝܢܘܢܐ

Lo ta`lan Inesyuno

Lead us not into temptation

ܐܠܘ ܩܫܘ ܠܢ ܡܢ ܒܝܫܘܬܐ

Elo pašo lan men bišo

But deliver us from evil

ܡܝܦܘܠ ܕܕܝܠܟܗ ܗܝ ܡܠܟܘܬܗ

Mejul ddilokh hi malkutho

For Thine is the Kingdom

ܘܩܘܘܬܗ ܘܡܫܘܒܘܬܗ

Whaylo wtešbuhto

Power and the Glory

ܠܘܠܐ ܡܠܝܢܐ

L`olam `olmin

For ever and ever

ܐܡܝܢ

Amin

Amen

Some branches of the Eastern Church still use the Syriac language in their liturgy, which is very close to the Aramaic spoken by Jesus. "Our Lord's Prayer" in Syriac exists in several versions. The prayer in Syriac is called "Aboon D' Bashmayo."

A Prayer to Invite Openness and Understanding in the Face of Difference and Intolerance

Prayer submitted by Terri Slaughter

Heavenly Father, I (we) ask that You help me (us) to model Your patience. I (we) ask that Your Word stand as a reminder that I am (we are) called by You to love and serve, not to judge.

I (we) humbly ask that You help me (us) be joyful that You have granted me (us) this day to be better, stronger, and wiser (through others) (together).

I (we) ask that You help me (us) to accept difference as the clear representation of You as the Creator of all and everything in this grand universe.

Because I (we) know that conflict is a natural part of my (our) imperfection, I (we) look to You to navigate me (us) through it with the wisdom and grace that only You can impart.

Finally, I (we) ask that You share Your precious gifts of patience and peace with all (present here and any others requiring Your Holy respite).

All this I (we) pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Blessings on Administration, Faculty and Staff of Madonna University

Prayer submitted by Sister Mary Ann Smith, CSSF

God our Father, we ask your special blessings upon the Administration, faculty and staff who are represented here today. Fill them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit as a source of guidance in their words, actions and

decisions this Academic year. Help them to be role models and mentors to those they work with and especially our students here at Madonna University. Empower them with the graces needed to be your disciples carrying on your work with wisdom, truth and light.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Students and Teachers

Prayer written by Jesse Cox

Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us. Look upon our campus and let us enjoy learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help us persevere in our studies and give us the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon our teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that students and teachers alike may follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the giver of wisdom and faith, so that all may be equipped to be servant leaders of God's people.

We make this prayer to our compassionate God, whose power and love make us competent for the tasks that lay before us, and whose grace and mercy call us to be committed to making the world a more just and equitable place. Let the faithful say Amen! Amen!
Amen!

Commencement Prayer

Prayer submitted by Dr. Deborah Dunn

Let us pray—
Loving and Gracious God,

Let our hearts be filled with gratitude on this joyous occasion in thanksgiving for all the gifts, blessings, and love you have bestowed upon these graduates and the Madonna University community.

We thank you Lord — for Madonna University, its founding order, the Felician Sisters, and all those who came before us.

Believing in You — they created the foundation for this wonderful place of learning, personal formation and growth that we enjoy today.

Lord we thank you for the leadership of Madonna University, the Board of Trustees, our President Sister Rose Marie, our Provost Dr. Ernest Nolan, the Vice Presidents, Deans, University Administration and staff who guide our university endeavors.

Lord we thank you for the faculty – who share their knowledge, who mentor and inspire our students to learn, to become and to serve.

Lord, we thank you for the families, and friends who have sacrificed, supported and cared for these graduates as they began, progressed and now have completed their education.

Lord, we thank you especially for our graduates, for their hard work, and their commitment to their chosen fields and professions and for being part of the Madonna University family.

Father, we now ask for your blessing — on these proceedings, and on the graduates we honor today.

Bless these graduates — that they may feel Your divine guidance in their lives and that they may identify and engage with those they serve, and through this be transformed to live more fully in You.

We ask these things in the name of the Lord, Amen, Amen.

Prayer for Commencement In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi

Prayer submitted by Dr. Jane Linahan

Praised be you, my Lord, through all your creatures. Praise be to you through Brother Sun, through Sister Moon, through Brother Wind, through Sister Water, through Brother Fire, and through our Sister, Mother Earth. Praise be to you through all our sisters and brothers with whom we share the precious gifts of life and of love.

We praise you and thank you for our lives, for our loved ones, and for bringing us to this moment. On this day of joy and gratitude, we hold before you in love all those who have walked with us on this journey, especially our parents, friends, professors, coaches, advisors, and mentors.

Thank you for the knowledge we have been privileged to learn, that has challenged us to work hard and brought out the best that is in us. Thank you for the experiences we have had, the discoveries we have made, the friends we have learned to cherish, the triumphs that have marked our progress, the mistakes that have helped us grow. Thank you for all the ways that you have nurtured our growth into thinking, caring human persons.

We pray for wisdom, compassion, and courage as we go forward in hope to embrace our future. May we always find your beauty in the world around us, and especially, in the eyes of every person that we meet. With your grace, may we perform our work faithfully and with integrity. May we live and love, laugh and cry, with our loved ones, colleagues, and neighbors – and help one another grow into the full measure of all that we can be. May we ever be mindful of those who do not share in the abundance with which we have been blessed, that we may dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice and peace, and leave this world a better place than we found it. May we love you by loving one another.

We pray that you be with us as we go forth this day, to serve, wherever we are needed, and to give the very best that is in us, every day of our lives. Amen.

Prayer for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Prayer submitted by Patrick Waters

I invite you, Holy Spirit of God, to fill me (us) with your presence.

Help me (us) become more open to your influence and guidance as I (we) seek to be able to more clearly and freely respond to you.

Help me (us) lay aside my (our) preconceptions of what I (we) think you want for me (us) in this time of seeking your will.

Grant me (us) those special gifts necessary to understand fully, to judge wisely, to have the fortitude to stay the course you define, and yet to remain guided by the same love that you have for me and all my brothers and sisters.

Equip me (us) with everything necessary to accomplish your mission in very practical ways that put flesh on those guiding values and principles by which you desire me (us) to proceed.

I (we) offer back to you any and all of my (our) work and success, as I (we) proceed with the knowledge that it is only in and through you that I am (we are) going to produce and build anything that will last through the tests of time.

May you be glorified in everything that I (we) think, say and do. May you be the conscious source of the mending of our relationships as we proceed in our weakness toward fulfilling your will.

And may I (we) be strengthened by your infinitely loving presence within us and among us. Amen.

Madonna University Student Promise Prayer

Prayer submitted by Dr. Cam Cruickshank

Gracious God, thank you for calling us to work in higher education, our employment at Madonna University, and our ability to influence the lives of others in a positive way through values-based education.

Please help us live up to our promise to our students and their families:

Help us provide a caring community, where faculty, staff, and administrators genuinely care about student success.

May we be able to develop a personalized educational experience for every student that is uniquely crafted to match their educational, career, and life goals.

Let us demonstrate the values of Saint Francis, Saint Clare, and Saint Felix in everything we do; help us to be welcoming to those of various backgrounds, religions, and cultures.

Remind us Lord, of the important of providing service to others, through our curricula, our gestures, service learning, and the good work our graduates perform in their communities.

Most of all, we pray that you continue to be ever-present in our lives, and that we are able to learn and grow with you, and in your spirit.

Amen.

Sandwich Prayer

Prayer submitted by Thomas Laabs

Mary, help me, Mary.

When Tom was little and had troubles, his mother taught him what she called the 'Sandwich Prayer:' "Mary, help me, Mary." Being young, it was easy to remember; and to this day, it truly gives him peace. You can never be too old.

Prayer for Beginning of the School Year

Prayer submitted by Sr. Nancy Jamroz, CSSF

Loving and Merciful God,

As we - Administration, Faculty and Staff - begin a new school year, we ask you to grant us three things:

- 1) Wisdom from above
- 2) Hearts prepared to welcome our students and all who will be part of our year
- 3) A passion for living our mission and Franciscan values

First, Wisdom from above! We begin with renewed enthusiasm and look forward to teaching and learning the lessons of life that will fill this year. Keep us open to your blessings.

Second, hearts prepared to welcome our students and all who will be part of our year: help us work together to help students – and each other – who aren't thriving, to have courage to say what needs to be said, to find tools and knowledge on how and when to speak love and strength when they feel weak. We are shaping the future in small – yet incredibly important – ways every day. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of learning and for having each other as companions on this learning journey.

And third, a passion for living our mission and Franciscan values: With the inspiration of our mission and heritage we rekindle our efforts to instill in ourselves and students Christian humanistic values, intellectual inquiry, a respect for diversity, and a commitment to serving others through our education and careers based on the truths and principles within our tradition.

May the way we show Respect for the dignity of each person and Reverence for creation, help make our world brighter and better. May our thoughts, words and actions, be marked by justice and peace, by love and joy.

We make our prayer in your name and in the name of Mary our Mother, our Madonna. Amen.

Lenten Prayer

Prayer submitted by Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, CSSF

Loving and merciful God we come in thanksgiving and praise for the blessings you give us each day and each season. Thank you for our family, our friends and in

a special way our Madonna family. Bless us all with wisdom from above, bless our students with energy and endurance; bless our administration, faculty and staff with generosity in serving all who come to us; bless our alumni, benefactors, families and friends with peace and goodness. May we continue to live our Felician-Franciscan mission and values in our daily actions and decisions.

As we continue our Lenten journey, help us reinforce the lessons of compassion and mercy that we hear in your Word. Increase our faith that we can be instruments of healing and hope to those who are carrying heavy burdens at this time in their lives.

As we come together, help us to leave with uplifted spirits and rededicated hearts to do our part in making Madonna University a place where every person enthusiastically encourages each other to apply their knowledge and skills in meaningful service around the world – improving the lives of others, while excelling in their own professions and living a meaningful and happy life.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus and His Mother, Our Madonna. Amen!

Holiday Gathering of Alumni & Friends

Prayer submitted by Sister Mary Ann Smith, CSSF

As we gather together this evening, we call upon you, God of heaven and earth to be with us as we begin this Advent season and our journey to Bethlehem and the birth of our Lord and Savior.

To you O Lord we bring our lives troubled, scarred and broken.

We ask you to accept us in our human frailty. We ask you to take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you loved. We ask you to take away our sense of pride and show us the meaning of humility. Please take away our blindness and help us to see all through your eyes. Take away our greed and teach us how to give as you gave. Let us truly become a gift to all we meet each day of our journey through life.

Let us be the light that brightens the darkness that surrounds us; the light that kindles warmth and good cheer to all people in need.

We cannot make this journey alone; we are unable to transform our lives without your assistance and so as we walk this path on our journey to Christmas we ask you, God of Love, to take us by the hand. Help us to always keep love in our hearts, on our lips, and in our hands this Advent and Christmas season. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation

Prayer submitted by Tracey D. Durden

Heavenly Father, you are the creator of all and I believe that you will change us. Touch us, great God whose touch transforms us. Give us your great hand to guide us, restore us and make us whole. Show us love and compassion that we may treat others in the right way. Transform us in service to you and others. Bless us this very day and days to come, O Lord, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Thank You, Lord

Prayer submitted by Dr. John Critchett

In a world that changes each day before our eyes, thank you, Lord, for the sun that comes up every day, and the moon that comes out each night. They remind us that there is a sweet rhythm to life, and that some things can always be counted on.

In a world where people sometimes say and do hurtful things, there are also random acts of kindness, which remind us of the good that we all can do, if only we would think of others before ourselves. Thank you, Lord for this.

In a world where relationships can be as fragile as a frost-bitten rose, somewhere, unexpectedly, someone may say “I love you.” This reminds us of your love for us. Thank you most of all for this, Lord, for it is love which gives our lives purpose and redemption.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Prayer submitted by Tracey D. Durden

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.
Come to us, remain with us,
and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength
to know your will,
to make it our own,
and to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.
You desire justice for all;
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favor.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name, may we temper
justice with love,

so that all our discussions and reflections may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants. We ask this of You who live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

From page 191 of the Book of Blessings. This prayer was used before every session of the Second Vatican.

Hail Mary Prayer

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



Service Prayers

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus
through You we humbly beg our merciful God
to send the holy Spirit of grace on the Faculty, Staff and
Students of Madonna University,
that God may bestow upon us the sevenfold gifts.
May God send us the gift of wisdom,
which will make us relish the Tree of Life
that is none other than Yourself;
the gift of understanding, which will enlighten us;
the gift of counsel,
which will guide us in the way of righteousness;
and the gift of fortitude,
which will give us the strength to vanquish
the enemies of our sanctification and salvation.
May the Lord impart to us the gift of knowledge,
which will enable us to discern Your teaching
and distinguish good from evil;
the gift of piety,
which will make us enjoy true peace;

and the gift of fear of the Lord,
which will make us shun all iniquity
and avoid all danger of offending Your Majesty.
To the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
be given all glory and thanksgiving forever.
Amen.

Prayer as We Continue Serving

Lord, you call us to your service
and continue your saving work among us.
May your love never abandon us.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer For Active Good Works

God of love, bring us back to you,
Send your Spirit to make us strong in faith
and active in good works.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Hearts to Serve

God of mercy,
unite your Church in the Holy Spirit
that we may serve you with all our hearts
and work together with unselfish love.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer For Our Work

Father, may everything we do
begin with your inspiration,
and continue with your saving help.
Let our work always find its origin in you,
and through you reach completion.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Good Samaritan Prayer Written as a Haiku

Prayer submitted by Dr. Kevin Eyster

Dear Lord
Guide us in being
Good Samaritans, doing
the right thing, always.
Amen.



Prayers for *Peace & Justice*

A Prayer Of Indigenous Peoples, Refugees, Immigrants, & Pilgrims

Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
we come before you as many parts of a single body.
People drawn from every tribe, every nation, every language;
some indigenous—peoples of the land; some refugees,
immigrants, pilgrims—people on the move; some hosts, some
guests, some both hosts and guests; all of us searching for an
eternal place where we can belong.

Creator, forgive us. The earth is yours and everything that is in
it. But we forget. In our arrogance we think we own it. In our
greed we think we can steal it. In our ignorance we worship it.
In our thoughtlessness we destroy it.

We forget that you created the earth to bring
praise and joy to you. That you gave it as a gift, for us to
steward, for us to enjoy, for us to see more clearly your beauty
and your majesty. Jesus, save us.

We wait for your kingdom. We long for your throne. We hunger for your reconciliation, for that day where people from every tribe and every tongue will gather around you and sing your praises.

Holy Spirit, teach us. Help us to remember that the body is made up of many parts, each one unique and every one necessary. Teach us to embrace the discomfort that comes from our diversity and to celebrate the fact that we are unified, not through our sameness, but through the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Triune God, we love you. Your creation is beautiful. Your salvation is merciful. And your wisdom is beyond compare.

We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Collect for Refugees and Immigrants

Prayer submitted by Jesse Cox

Heavenly Father,
from whom every family on earth derives its name,
have mercy on all those who sojourn in this world.
As you sheltered your Son Jesus
who fled from the tyranny of Herod,
so now provide new homes for all those who flee the
violence of this age
that they may know the peace of Christ.
Grace your people with hearts of welcome
and lives of courage
through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Immigrants

Our God, you have given us in your word the stories of persons who needed to leave their homelands—Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses.

Help us to remember that when we speak of immigrants and refugees, we speak of Christ.

In the One who had no place to lay his head, and in the least of his brothers and sisters, you come to us again, a stranger seeking refuge.

We confess that we often turn away. You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled with events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies.

You have shown us through the modeling of Jesus how we are called to relate to persons from different nations and cultures.

You have called us to be teachers of your word.

We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts to the challenge and invitation to model your perfect example of love.

Amen.

A Prayer of Peace and Reconciliation

Written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the

life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Every Step Toward the Goal of Justice

Written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. Without persistent efforts, time itself becomes an ally of the insurgent and primitive forces of irrational emotionalism and social destruction. This is not time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.

A New Revolution

Prayer written by Jesse Cox

Gracious God,
Prepare me for a new revolution,
one which places truth above profit,
integrity above interest rates,
and compassion before compensation.
Place Your light and wisdom within me and give me
Your courage, strength and determination.
Give me new eyes and ears—finely tuned

to recognize your presence and your divinity in each person, situation and moment:
In the homeless I see each day;
In those discouraged when seeking jobs;
and in those stuck in negative ways of thinking.
In gratitude for those who make a living from the earth—
—help me develop a greater reverence for our earth.
Create in me a greater solidarity among people.
May humanity be less divided by gender, race, class,
orientation and religion—
and be more united because of justice, equality and
reverence for one another.
For the reign of God to come, we pray, Amen.

Serenity Prayer

Written by Reinhold Niebuhr

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.
Amen.

Letter to a Young Activist

Written by Thomas Merton

Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on, You may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no worth at all, if not perhaps, results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results, but in the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself. And there, too, a great deal has to be gone through, as gradually you struggle less and less for an ideal, and more and more for specific people. The range tends to narrow down, and it gets more real. In the end, it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything.

Blaze Within Me

Written by Desiderius Erasmus

Lord Jesus Christ,
The world's true sun,
ever rising, never setting,
whose life-giving warmth
engenders, preserves,
nourishes and gladdens
all things in heaven and on earth:
shine in my soul I pray,
scatter the night of sin,
and the clouds of error.
Blaze within me,
That I may go my way without stumbling,
Taking no part in the shameful deeds
Of those who wander in the dark,
But all my life long
Walking as one native to the light.

Prayer During Martin Luther King Observance

Written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Submitted by Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, CSSF

In July 1965, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior said: “I have a dream today!”

Quoting the prophet Isaiah in the Hebrew Scriptures, he continued – “I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; “and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.”

This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

“Let me say finally that we must all maintain faith in the future. As we struggle to make justice a reality we do not struggle alone, but God struggles with us...So I can say more than ever before, ‘We shall overcome!’”

We come to you God as people of faith, people of hope
AND DEEP IN OUR HEARTS committed to make this
dream come true.

Help us to stand up for the good, the right:

In situations when conflicts demean our
respect for each other,

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

When people are threatened by hatred and violence,

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

If we see a brother or sister being bullied or treated unjustly

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Doing all we can to ensure all people have access to food,
shelter, housing and education,

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Working for justice and peace and obliterating injustice,
discrimination and racism WE SHALL OVERCOME!

We ask you, O God, to help us make our dream come true.

We ask you, O God, to make us strong, loving and faithful
enough to live our prayer and to truly believe that in the face
of injustice and evil,

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

We say it, we pray it, we sing it:

WE SHALL OVERCOME (3X) SOMEDAY!

OH DEEP IN MY HEART, I DO BELIEVE, WE SHALL
OVERCOME SOMEDAY!

AMEN!



Interfaith Prayers

Prayer for the Mother Who Gave Birth (Jewish Tradition)

Prayer submitted by Nan Gelman

מִי שֶׁבָּרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ,
 אֲבָרְכֶם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב,
 שָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה, רַחֵל וְלֵאָה,
 הוּא יְבָרֵךְ אֶת [name] בֶּן/בַּת [parents]
 בְּעִבּוֹר שְׁעָלָה/שְׁעָלָתָה
 לְכַבּוֹד הַמָּקוֹם, וְלְכַבּוֹד הַתּוֹרָה.
 בְּשִׁכְרֵי זֶה הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא
 יִשְׁמְרֶהוּ/יִשְׁמְרֶהָ
 וְיַצִּילֶהוּ/וְיַצִּילֶהָ
 מִכָּל צָרָה וְצוּקָה וּמִכָּל נֶגַע וּמַחֲלָה,
 וְיִשְׁלַח בְּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה
 בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדָיו/יְדֶיהָ,
 עִם כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְנֹאמַר: אָמֵן.

Translation: May the one who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, bless everyone, since we have come up to the Torah in honor of God and Torah. May we merit from the Holy One of Blessing protection, rescue from any trouble or distress, and from any illness, minor or serious; may God send blessing and success in his/her every endeavor, together with all Israel, and let us say, Amen.

Bodhisattva Prayer for Humanity

Prayer submitted by Nan Gelman

May I be a guard for those who need protection
A guide for those on the path
A boat, a raft, a bridge for those who wish to cross the
flood
May I be a lamp in the darkness
A resting place for the weary
A healing medicine for all who are sick
A vase of plenty, a tree of miracles
And for the boundless multitudes of living beings
May I bring sustenance and awakening
Enduring like the earth and sky
Until all beings are freed from sorrow
And all are awakened.

*Shantideva, Indian Buddhist sage 700 A.D. Prayer performed
each morning by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.*

I Am Peace (A Buddhist Meditation)

Prayer submitted by Jesse Cox

I am Peace
Surrounded by Peace.
Secure in Peace.
Peace protects me.
Peace supports me.

Peace is in me.
Peace is mine-All is well.
Peace to all beings.
Peace from all beings.
I am steeped in Peace
Absorbed in Peace.
In the streets, at our work,
Having Peaceful thoughts,
Peaceful words, peaceful acts.

An Islamic Prayer for Peace

From the U.N. Day of Prayer for World Peace

In the Name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful:
Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us
and made us into tribes and nations that we may know
each other, not that we may despise each other.

If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline
towards peace, and trust in God, for the Lord is one that
hears and knows all things.

And the servants of God Most Gracious are those who
walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address
them, we say, "Peace."

Interfaith Prayer

Prayer written by Jesse Cox

God of All Nations,
You live in community and in intimacy with all people-
Your presence is revealed in the stories, rituals and
names the tribes and nations of the earth call You! You
are the Great Spirit, Jehovah, Emmanuel, Allah, God of
Hosts and the Merciful One. Your grace and Your love
extend from the beginning of time until this present
moment. You abide with us and shepherd us in times of
joy and during times of great trial.

We are all indigenous; we all come from a place and a people. Many are immigrants, traveling to another land in the hopes of a better life. Some were enslaved and while in chains built wealth for others. Yet in their hearts they never forgot their birthright and yearned to be free. Our common humanity links us as one people and race even when we fail to see Your divinity in the diversity of Your creation.

The earth is our home. Everything You give us is gift. Help us to appreciate our gifts by opening our hearts and minds to all who see violence, repression, hopelessness and a paucity of life giving options. May we welcome the stranger, the immigrant, the pilgrim and the other as our sister and brother. The prophet Isaiah 54: 2 reveals God's words from the Hebrew Scriptures, "Enlarge the site of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, do not hold back. Lengthen your ropes and drive your stakes deep."

Your great work is creation, unity, compassion, inclusiveness and love. Commission us to continue the good work you have begun in us so that we may build the 'Beloved Community' Dr. King so often spoke of in his work of peace and justice. Help us to lead to by example. May we set the bar high, open our arms wide and build our fences low—so we may see and embrace those who come to us in need. May we reverence the divinity in all! May your reign come upon us doing justice for all! Amen.



Prayers

Before Games

Intrapreneurship in Professional Sports and Entertainment

Written by Ron Wade, Director of Marketing for the Detroit Tigers

God, Creator of all that is good, we thank you for all that you have done for us. We recognize that it is not by chance that we are here on this earth at this time and place. You have created us to be your ambassadors, to live and work in such a way as to draw others to you. This evening we are gathered to learn what it really means to be an “Intrapeneur.” In essence, your Son was the best example. As an “intrapeneur,” we are called to embrace the work that is ours, whether it is studying for a degree, playing a sport, an instrument, acting on the stage, working in a factory, office or at home. If we truly look upon everything we do as essential to the whole, we begin to see that everything done well is critical to the success of the whole. Regardless of what we do or what titles we have we all are capable of dreams and visions of what might make us or things or places where we live and work better for all. As we journey along lives way, we must constantly stay focused on the ultimate goal.

Distractions will come but we must push them aside to realize our potential. What is important is that all of us regardless of age demonstrate the love of God as we use the special gifts and talents which have been given to us. We need to begin each day radiating an inner confidence and courage and we must end each day knowing we have taken as many steps as possible bringing us closer to our ultimate goal. Amen.

This prayer was originally for the McManus Series for Madonna University on March 22, 2016.

Before and After a Game

“Gracious God, let the efforts of our minds and bodies be fruitful, that we may perform in a way glorious to You. May the time we spent preparing shine today as a testament to You. Keep our hearts open and our bodies safe from harm. Amen.”

“Dear Father, may we compete with Your heart shining through ours. May we push ourselves to be what You tell us we can be. May we have kindness in our hearts, mindfulness in our souls, and endurance to finish. Keep us and our competitors safe from harm, and let our actions be a testament to your glory. Amen.”

“Dear Father, we thank You for our safety and pray healing for our injured.”

If victorious:

“We praise You for our victory, and thank You for guiding us through our heated feelings when we felt wronged.”

If defeated:

“Help us, Father, with the pain we feel now and guide us to the knowledge You taught us today through the result.”

“Help us to honor You and our teammates and competitors with our actions in all things. Amen.”



Prayers

Before Meetings

Opening Faculty Meeting Prayer

Prayer submitted by Dr. Deborah Dunn

What a privilege and honor it is to be with you to offer the opening prayer this year.

As I reflect on the start of another school year and all the excitement, expectation, and anticipated exhaustion, I thought it might be good to focus our thoughts on gratitude, renewal, and our hopefulness as we begin another school year.

In the spirit of our values of

- Respect for the dignity of each person
- Peace and justice
- Reverence for creation and
- Education for truth and service

Let Us Pray together:

Lord – let the spirit of our values and the warm welcome of The Madonna University community be felt by our new

students, returning students, faculty, administrators, staff, and guests. *We pray to the Lord:*

All: Lord Hear our prayer

Let Madonna University and its academic programs be centers for sound learning, research, and discovery as we seek to promote the common good. *We pray to the Lord:*

All: Lord Hear our prayer

Bless the faculty with wisdom, inspiration, knowledge, and understanding as they teach and learn with their students. *We pray to the Lord:*

All: Lord Hear our prayer

Bless our students with insight, creativity, and patience to pursue their studies. And Bless and enlighten our students with the desire to pursue knowledge for truth and service. *We pray to the Lord:*

All: Lord Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit be with us today as we begin our deliberations for the new academic year, bring us together in your spirit to use our varied gifts and talents effectively for the good of our students, colleges and the university.

Amen.

Meeting Prayer 1

Prayer submitted by Dr. Deborah Dunn

Blessed Are You, Lord Our God

Blessed ARE YOU, Lord our God,
maker of the universe and Father of all,

We ask that you guide the members of this meeting today
and help them to serve our students and all members of
Madonna University community through their work.

Bring success to their work
and reward them for the good they do.

Amen!

Meeting Prayer 2

Prayer submitted by Dr. Deborah Dunn

Father in Heaven!

Bless us as we gather today for this meeting.

Guide our minds and hearts so that we will work for the
good of our community, and help all your people.

Teach us to be generous in our outlook, courageous in
face of difficulty, and wise in our decisions.

Amen.

Prayer for Alumni Gathering

Prayer submitted by Sister Mary Ann Smith, CSSF

God of all, we gather here tonight, grateful for the presence of the Spirit in our lives' at this particular moment in time...

We thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed on those present with us today. We thank you for the opportunity to gather and share time with alumni, administration, faculty, staff, benefactors and friends of Madonna University. We thank you for instilling in us the Franciscan Values we hold so dear.

At this time of much turmoil and unrest, let us concentrate on the value of respect and dignity for all. Let us be advocates at home, at work, in our church and in our neighborhoods promoting acceptance and appreciation for the uniqueness of all people. We ask this in your name.

Amen.

Prayer for a Meeting or Gathering

Prayer submitted by Sister Mary Ann Smith, CSSF

God, Creator of all that is good, we thank you for all that you have done for us. We recognize that it is not by chance that we are here on this earth at this time and place. You have created us to be your ambassadors, to live and work in such a way as to draw others to you.

If we truly look upon everything we do as essential to the whole, we begin to see that everything done well is critical to the success of the whole. Regardless of what we do or what titles we have we all are capable of dreams and visions of what might make us or things or places where we live and work better for all. As we journey along lives way, we must constantly stay focused on the

ultimate goal. Distractions will come but we must push them aside to realize our potential. What is important is that all of us regardless of age demonstrate the love of God as we use the special gifts and talents which have been given to us. We need to begin each day radiating an inner confidence and courage and we must end each day knowing we have taken as many steps as possible bringing us closer to our ultimate goal. Amen.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Connie Tingson-Gatuz

Vice President for Mission Integration and Student Affairs

Claire Ofiara

Director, Diversity and Inclusion

Dr. Andrew Domzalski

Co-Director, Catholic Studies and Interfaith Dialogue

Sister Nancy Jamroz, CSSF

Co-Director, Catholic Studies and Interfaith Dialogue

Jesse Cox

Director, Campus Ministry

Taihea Hurst

Graphic Designer, Marketing Department

Rachel Eaton

Student Intern, Marketing Department

Published by
Madonna University

June 2021



madonna.edu