

Prayer Service

Called To Compassion

Introduction This service deals with the upcoming Triduum and the virtue of compassion. It reminds catechists that Jesus had much to be angry at his followers for, but he offered compassion and forgiveness. A "compassionate" catechist reaches out to every child, not just to the "good" ones, and offers compassion and forgiveness as Jesus did.

To Prepare Place on your prayer table a Bible (open to Luke 23:34) and a votive candle.

DRE or Leader: Jesus, beloved Savior, walk with us as we now reflect on your final hours with your disciples. You gave them everything and still they abandoned you. Yet you continued to love them, support them, and forgive them. Teach us how to offer this same compassion to those we teach. We ask this in your holy name...

All: Amen.

DRE or Leader: As you sat at table with your disciples on Holy Thursday, knowing what was in their hearts, you nevertheless gave them the gift of yourself. In spite of their weaknesses, you pledged to be with them always.

Reader One: As you hung on the cross on Good Friday, all but the disciple John had fled. Your friends, your disciples, had scattered in fear and panic, and yet you cried out from the cross, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing."

Reader Two: As you lay in the tomb, at rest from pain, from the hatred of your enemies, and from the faithlessness of your followers, God raised you up as a

pledge of your promise to be with us always. God's compassion came to the "fullness of life" in you.

All: Jesus, dearest Savior, call us to compassion. May we respond to your presence with joy.

Reader One: When we feel betrayed by the behavior of those we teach...

All: Jesus, dearest Savior, call us to compassion. May we respond to the presence of your Holy Spirit with joy.

Reader Two: When a "problem" child needs our special attention, love, and forgiveness...

All: Jesus, dearest Savior, call us to compassion. May we respond to the presence of your Holy Spirit with joy.

Reader One: When we are weary and feel that we can't go on in our ministry to your children...

All: Jesus, dearest Savior, call us to compassion. May we respond to the presence of your Holy Spirit with joy.

Reader Two: When our hearts are cold and unforgiving toward any child in our class...

All: Jesus, dearest Savior, call us to compassion. May we respond to the presence of your Holy Spirit with joy.

DRE or Leader: Let us pause now in silence to reflect on ways that we personally need the compassion of Jesus in our lives as catechists.

Pause for two minutes or so.

All: Jesus, dearest Savior, / may we answer your call / to be compassionate catechists. / May we respond to your invitation / to teach with kindness and compassion. / Be with us now and always. Amen.

