



**MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY**

**ONLINE PRAYER BOOK**

*Initiated by Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM, a committee was formed to begin work on a prayer book specifically designed for the Mercyhurst University community. University Chaplain Fr. Jim Piszker was recently given leadership of the project. It was decided that rather than publishing a physical prayer book, a digital version would be most easily accessible and appropriate for the needs of our university community. If successful, the prayer book may be printed in a physical form at a later date.*

The Mercyhurst University Campus Ministry team is pleased to bring Sister Lisa Mary's vision to fruition with the following digital prayer book.

**From the Sisters of Mercy:  
Prayer for a Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy**

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to \_\_\_\_\_ and free us to challenge and uproot \_\_\_\_\_ from our society, our world and ourselves. This we pray: AMEN

Examples for filling in the above blank:

- ...to see the need to sustain all life on earth and ... uproot divisive attitudes
- ...to address dangers to climate and environment
- ...to see the reality of racism
- ...to understand and address the plight of migrants
- ...to acknowledge the rights and equality of girls and women

**Prayers for the Elimination of Racism**

Good and gracious God, You love and delight in all people, we stand in awe before you, knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life. Let us see the multicolored manifestations of Your Light within the differences among cultures and races. Open our hearts and minds to celebrate the similarities and differences among us. We commit ourselves to act for the cause of racial harmony, and we trust in your Presence in our Neighbor. May all peoples live in peace.

AMEN.

**Prayer for Nonviolence**

O God of Compassion and Peace, let us surrender to your presence with us, and open our hearts to your grace, as we humbly ask you to shower upon us the manifold blessings we need to be a peaceful people. Bless us with courage to embrace nonviolence in our everyday lives, especially when we are tempted to think of violence as the only solution. Give us the courage to face our own complicity that allows violence to continue in our own hearts and in our world, the insight to dig out the roots of violence inherent in our 21st century, and the tenacity to stay committed to shaping a more peaceful, nonviolent world for all your people. O good and gracious God, source of all life, all creation is charged with your Divine Energy. Grant us a new realization of your Kingdom among us. Amen.

**The Suscipe of Catherine McAuley (Prayer of Surrender to God)**

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.  
Teach me to cast myself entirely  
into the arms of your loving Providence

### **Prayer by Thomas Merton**

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.

### **For our Student Body:**

Generous God, guide and protect our students. Direct this academic year with a realization of our hope for them, that their studies contribute to their growth and maturity and that their campus involvement might awaken and deepen their love of Mercyhurst and increase their capacity to give service Beyond the Gates. May they be a blessing to Mercyhurst and bring the university energize, confidence and hope. Amen.

### **Prayer for a New School Year**

Spirit of God, fill our hearts with a desire to seek truth and rejoice in beauty.  
Help us to know what is pleasing to you and to understand what is right and good in your sight.  
Give us the spirit of learning that we may please you by our thoughts and love you in your creation.  
Give all teachers your constant encouragement and guide them in their good work.  
Spirit of God, make us effective witnesses of your truth to all whose lives we touch. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.  
Amen.

*Unknown*

### **For our students in the health care area:**

A Blessing for Caregivers  
May you see with tender eyes  
The wounds of those before you.  
May you hear with well-tuned ears  
The unspoken needs of those whose voices are muted.  
May you hold with gentle hands  
The bodies and the spirits of those you care for.

May the beauty of soul,  
The strength of spirit,  
The wholeness of being  
Lead you, inspire you  
And let you know your own beauty of soul,  
Strength of spirit,  
Wholeness of being.

May you know that  
As you care for others,  
God cares for you, sees you,  
Holds you tenderly.  
Amen.

*From the Catholic Health Association of the U.S.*

### **A Blessing of Healing Hands**

Yours are the hands that touch lives.  
Yours are the hands reaching out with compassion,

Taking time to show care, swiftly taking action.

Yours are the hands gently touching your patients.

You touch families, too.

Yours are the hands that show you care.

You lift the hearts of those who suffer.

Your hands celebrate the joy of healing.

Your hands bless all they touch with the spirit of compassion,

Thank you for sharing your abundance and gifts,

For touching lives and lifting spirits.

Blessings and thanks for the many works of your hands.

May your hands bring healing to all those you touch.

With an anointing, the blessing said is

"May God bless your hands for healing."

*From the Catholic Health Association of the U.S.*