

TO SOW
IS TO
LOVE.

Leaflet - 5

Global Prayer Hour



Each year, in Africa, in Asia, in South America, in Europe and in Oceania, Christians are invited to unite for the Global Prayer Hour for the mission of evangelization. We invite you to plan this hour of missionary prayer and make it a place in which children, young people and elderly people can experience a deep communion with peoples, cultures and specially the most vulnerable people in the world. United with all peoples, let's pray so that the Word of God sowed within our hearts, may allow us to open ourselves to brotherhood and solidarity with the Churches of Asia, Africa, Oceania, South America and Eastern Europe.

Preparation

- World Mission Sunday poster for 2014
- World Mission Sunday prayer for 2014: you can obtain it through your parish or via the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (in francophone Canada) by calling this number (514) 844-1929 or by emailing at secretariat.oppf@opmcanada.ca
- Small grain-shaped card and some pencils
- Images of Saints: one from each of the five continents

Introduction

Together, let's prepare ourselves in front of the Lord so that we may be able to discover the sprouts of life in our life and our Church. In a moment of silence, let's pray and ask him to become sowers of the Good News.

Now, let us welcome the Word of God by listening to this passage from Mark's Gospel. (Mk 4:1-20)

"Again Jesus began to teach beside Lake Galilee. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it. The boat was out in the water, and the crowd stood on the shore at the water's edge. He used parables to teach them many things, saying to them: "Listen! Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. Then, when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants, and they didn't bear grain. But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants sprouted, grew, and bore grain: some had thirty grains, others sixty, and others one hundred."

And Jesus concluded, "Listen, then, if you have ears!"

When Jesus was alone, some of those who had heard him came to him with the twelve disciples and asked him to explain the parables. "You have been given the secret of the Kingdom of God," Jesus answered. "But the others, who are on the outside, hear all things by means of parables, so that, 'They may look and look, yet not see; they may listen and listen, yet not understand. For if they did, they would turn to God, and he would forgive them.'"

Then Jesus asked them, "Don't you understand this parable? How, then, will you ever understand any parable? The sower sows God's message. Some people are like the seeds that fall along the path; as soon as they hear the message, Satan comes and takes it away. Other people are like the seeds that fall on rocky ground. As soon as they hear the message, they receive it gladly. But it does not sink deep into them, and they don't last long. So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. Other people are like the seeds sown among the thorn bushes. These are the ones who hear the message, but the worries about this life, the love for riches, and all other kinds of desires crowd in and choke the message, and they don't bear fruit. But other people are like seeds sown in good soil. They hear the message, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred."

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Contemplation

By meditating the Word of God that we have just heard, let's take a few minutes to open, in faith, our interior senses in order to hear the words, the gestures and the attitudes of Jesus resonate within us. Let us establish a relationship with Jesus, here and now.

- By using our memory and our imagination, let us imagine the places, the characters, the noises and the conversations. (A moment of silence)
- Let's take the time to imagine that we are present at the scene seated with the disciples. (A moment of silence)
- Let ourselves be touched inwardly by the environment, the mood and the emotions experienced by the characters. Let's awake our heart to the presence of God, of Jesus.
- Let's think about our place in relation to Jesus, as well as the emotions that we feel in his presence. (A moment of silence)
- Let us take a few minutes to "speak to God" as one may speak to his friend.
 - What do I feel like telling God or Jesus or any other character from the scene?
 - God invites me to have a friendship with him. I am called to experience an encounter with him with all that I am and all that makes up my life.
 - What is it about this Word that brightens my life? How does this Word brighten my life today? What does it invite me to?
- Let us offer those callings to the Lord.

Following a moment of silence

- Form small groups of 3 or 4 persons in order to share the fruits of this moment of prayer (5 minutes)
- Invite each participant to write a word, a phrase or a prayer on the small grain-shaped card

Community gesture

- Place the card in front of the altar where lie the Word of God and a candle.

Universal prayers

Let us pray for Africa through the intercession of Saints Josephine Bakhita and the Uganda Martyrs.

Lord, we see that peace and justice efforts are being made, but often, we are helpless witnesses of the dramas, the violence and the poverty that are experienced in Africa. Open our ears, our eyes and our heart to the beauty, to the human and spiritual wealth of the African continent. May Africa be for us the witness of hope for a new world. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for Asia through the intercession of John Yi Yun-il (farmer, father, catechist and Korean martyr), as well as Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and the 119 companions.

Lord, the Christians of Asia are called to engage in a dialogue with other religious and spiritual traditions in a respectful manner and also to communicate the joy of the Good News. In India, they help the poorest people, in China and Burma they work so the rights and dignity of the human person are respected. May those witness of faith allow us to rediscover the centrality of spirituality within our lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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Let us pray for Europe through the intercession of Saints Benedict, Cyril and Methodius and Saint Catherine of Siena.

Lord, Europe is one and, at the same time, she is plural. We pray so she doesn't forget and reject the Christian Faith. Through the intercession of her Patron Saints, may she be a sign of unity and peace among peoples of the continent and those from around the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for Oceania through the intercession of Saint Peter Chanel.

Lord, we give you thanks for your Spirit's work that allowed Oceania to become a land in which the Christian Faith is the foundation of society. Be blessed for the presence of missionaries who continue to proclaim the Word of God despite the attacks against Faith and the Church. Grant the Christians of those mission lands Faith and Hope in order to serve dialogue and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for America through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Joseph and Saint Rose of Lima.

In this time of the New Evangelization and the Permanent Mission, let us pray for the people living on the American continent. Lord, support our efforts to build a world of welcoming and solidarity, in truth, justice and love. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Missionary prayer

God the Father, I want to thank you for your Word sowed within my heart.
Jesus, I want to become your messenger. Increase my faith so that I may be able to look at the poorest of my brothers and sisters and discover your presence.
Teach me your hope in order to sow around me grains of forgiveness and joy, of happiness and peace, of friendship and solidarity.

Grant me the ability to love as you love, to forgive as you forgive and to live according to your love. Today and always, Amen

Our Father

Final Blessing