



Prayers

Prayers by Jesuits

Anima Christi/Soul of Christ

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood
be my food and drink.
May your passion and death
be my strength and life.
Jesus with you by my side
enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek
be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love
which you offer,
But hold me safe
from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings
shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me
until that day comes,
When with your saints,
I may praise you forever.
Amen.

(prayer of Ignatius; trans., David Fleming, SJ)

A Morning Offering

O Jesus, I come before you
at the beginning of this day.
I gaze at your face,
I look upon your side
pierced by the lance.
Your wounded heart speaks to me
of God's love poured out for us.
Take, Lord, and receive my heart:
the words of faith that I speak,
the works of justice I would do,
my joys and sufferings.
When I come to the Eucharistic table,
gather my offerings to your own
for the life of the world.
At the end of the day,
place me with Mary, your mother,
and for her sake take me to your heart.
Amen.

(from a vocation card, Maryland Province Jesuits)

A Prayer for Spiritual Freedom

O Spirit of God, we ask you to help
orient
all our actions by your inspirations,
carry them on by your gracious
assistance,
that every prayer and work of ours
may always begin from you
and through you be happily ended.
(prayer used by Jesuits to begin and end classes)

Live Eternally in Me

So act, good Jesus,
that, in my relationships with whatever
neighbor
and in all I do for the furthering of your
Father's glory and the salvation of
others,
I form myself on your pattern;
That I be a genuine reflection of your
moderation,
gentleness, humility, patience,
graciousness,
tireless zeal, in a word, of all your
virtues;
and, in order to engrave them in my soul,
live eternally in me.
(Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ)

Prayer for Detachment

I beg of you, my Lord,
To remove anything which separates
Me from you, and you from me.
Remove anything that makes me
unworthy
Of your sight, your control, your
reprehension;
Of your speech and conversation,
Of your benevolence and love.
Cast from me every evil
That stands in the way of my seeing you,
Hearing, tasting, savoring, and touching
you;
Fearing and being mindful of you;
Knowing, trusting, loving, and
possessing you;
Being conscious of your presence
And, as far as may be, enjoying you.
This is what I ask for myself
And earnestly desire from you. Amen.
(prayer of Blessed Peter Faber, SJ)

Prayer for Generosity

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
Teach me true generosity.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.
To give without counting the cost,
To fight heedless of wounds,
To labor without seeking rest,
To sacrifice myself without thought of
any
reward
Save the knowledge that I have done
your will.
Amen.
(Attributed to Ignatius Loyola)

Draw Me into Your Friendship

Lord Jesus, from the start
you invite ordinary people to come
to where you live.
When they come, you welcome them
and call them to labor and rejoice with
you.
You are the most beautiful among all
men,
and I hardly believe you want me for
your
friend.
You are powerful, Lord.
Draw me more and more into your
friendship
and lead me along the way you took with
friends.
(Joseph Tetlow, SJ)

Center of Our Hearts

O God, what will you do to conquer
the fearful hardness of our hearts?
Lord, you must give us new hearts,
tender hearts, sensitive hearts,
to replace hearts that are made of
marble and of bronze.
You must give us your own Heart, Jesus.
Come, lovable Heart of Jesus.
Place your Heart deep in the center of
our hearts
and enkindle in each heart a flame of
love
as strong, as great, as the sum of all the
reasons
that I have for loving you, my God.
O holy Heart of Jesus, dwell hidden in
my heart,
so that I may live only in you and only
for you,
so that, in the end, I may live with you
eternally in heaven. Amen.
(St. Claude La Colombiere, SJ)

Personal Prayer of Pedro Arrupe

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now
with new eyes,
To discern and test the spirits
that help me read the signs of the times,
to relish the things that are yours,
and to communicate them to others.
Give me the clarity of understanding
that you gave Ignatius.
(Pedro Arrupe, SJ)

Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in
everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate
stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to
something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability –
and that it may take a very long
time.
And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually—
let them grow,
let them shape themselves,
without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today
what time
(that is to say, grace and
circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you
will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling
yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

(Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ)

