

Preparing the Prayer of the Faithful

During the Prayer of the Faithful, the assembled people join in prayer for the needs of their community and all humanity. The petitions should be for all people who have a special need. They are “we” prayers more than an “I” prayers. This means that the petitions are written to include special intentions in a way that touches many people. For instance, instead of “I pray for my Aunt Jane, who is sick,” a more appropriate form is, “We pray for Jane Smith and for all those who are sick, that they be healed and touched by God’s peace.”

The response is a way to lift our prayers to God. It is a request. We ask God to do something special. The response can be a way to reflect a special meaning in the liturgy. The response can be said or sung.

Typical responses include:

- *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- *Christ, hear us.*
- *Guide us, O God.*
- *Be near us, God.*
- *Loving God, help us and guide us.*
- *Strengthen us, O God.*

The order of the petitions follows a pattern.

We pray for the needs of the Church, including leaders and all the community.

We pray for public leaders of nations and those leaders in our community.

We pray for the salvation of the world.

We pray for special needs.

We pray for our local community.

The Prayer of the Faithful Worksheet

Prayer Introduction

Read by the presider. The introduction and closing can be composed or chosen from the sample formulas for the Prayer of the Faithful in the *Roman Missal*).

Prayer Response (choose a response for the Prayer of the Faithful)

Compose a petition for each category, and repeat the response.

Prayer 1: For the Church

Response

Prayer 2: For public leaders

Response

Prayer 3: For the salvation of the world

Response

Prayer 4: For special needs

Response

Prayer 5: For our local community

Response

Concluding Prayer

Read by the presider (see Prayer Introduction on page 1 of this handout)