

LITANY FOR PARTICULAR MINISTRIES

O God, show us clearly the heart of your kingdom.

We will march in the face of distress and contrary winds. Teach us how to dispense with unnecessary things. Lead us forward without fear, that each may fulfill his or her calling simply, surely, and steadily.

Almighty God, you called us into the church, and from among us chose leaders to direct us in your way.

We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you for those who have the gifts to serve in leadership positions in congregations, and as chaplains.

We thank you for calling us to community:

We ask for your presence in a special way for Brother Servant Joseph, and for our newly elected Council. We are grateful for their willingness to be led by you as they provide leadership for community. Bless each member of community who endeavor to demonstrate what it means to serve you.

God of life, you fill the world with beauty.

Bless your servants who make art and music for your people, that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty. Thank you for those who with trained skill can paint, shape, or sing your truth; for the compelling excitement of drama. Thank you for those who preserve our storehouses of collected knowledge, and for those who offer that knowledge to students.

We have pledged to show your mercy to the world, especially to those who are abused, neglected and forgotten.

We are grateful for those who bravely go into the places of darkness and fear; showing your love in the midst of human need. Do not let them be discouraged, but make them brave and glad and hopeful in your word.

You call us to be instruments of your healing:

For those who are called to bind up the wounded and the broken-hearted; for nurses, doctors and other medical professionals, for psychiatrists and psychologists, for spiritual directors and good listeners, for those who in their caring demonstrate the extravagance of your love and grace, we offer our grateful thanks.

O God, enlarge our hearts that they may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love.

Stretch my heart that it may take into it all those who are hurting and alone, all those who are not lovely in the world's eyes. Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing and teach the generosity that welcomes strangers and shares possessions with joy. Give me the care that strengthens the sick; move me to share in the quest to set the prisoner free.

Thank you, Lord, for coming to us, for calling each of us to ministry.

For the gift of your Spirit, for redeeming us and commissioning us to be your children and your servants, your vessels and vehicles, for a part in extending your kingdom in this world, we are deeply grateful.

**In your grace and mercy, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.**