

Prayer Reflection in Preparation for Journeying to City of Saints
(For use outside of Liturgy)

Introduction:

We come together today to pray, and to share our faith. That may mean something a little different to each of us. To be open to the prayers of one another is one way that we are a community. Our journey is a journey with and for others - the people we live with, the people we pass on the street, the people we call Friends. Our words, our actions, even our thoughts - begin a ripple of faith that we can pass on to help bring about the Kingdom of God.

Invitation to Prayer:

Leader: Let us begin

All: We invite our God to be with us now, as we pray for and with one another.

Reflective listening: "Companions on the Journey" by Cary Landry or another appropriate contemporary song

Litany and Ritual:

Leader: Let us name our companions on the journey.

All: We are companions with (one by one each person will call out the names of those attending conference)

Leader: Let us pray for one another here present and for those in our hearts who could not be here today.

All: We pray for all our companions.

Leader: Let us be thankful for all the love and service we receive from our companions.

All: We are thankful for our companions.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:43-47

Reflection:

Luke reminds us that many miracles and wonders were done as the disciples traveled together in love and companionship. We too, have the power to work miracles and wonders. We too can find strength and courage in prayer. Let us take a minute and think about and thank God for those gathered here. In the silence of your heart, think about a time you spent with them and be thankful for that time. Think about how their lives have influenced your own, and how your life may be an instrument for someone else.

Leader: Let us share for a few minutes the stories of the companions on our journey. Share how they have been - or we may be a 'ripple' in the great ocean of our faith. (allow time for sharing)

Closing Prayer:

We are thankful for all whose paths we have crossed, all the lessons, the joy, the sadness. We pray for our companions, those we've met, and those we will meet. We pray for them, and for their families, for love, happiness and good health. Amen

Commissioning and Blessing for Pilgrims to City of Saints
(within the Eucharistic Liturgy)

Commissioning and Blessing at Mass

Before the final blessing, the pilgrim leader introduces the event and pilgrimage and what the pilgrims have been doing to prepare. He or she then introduces the pilgrims as follows:

Our parish is sending the following adult pilgrims to guide, learn and celebrate with our youth:

List Names

Our high school students who will join with their peers in great friendships and discoveries:

List Names

Blessing of Pilgrims

After the pilgrims are introduced and standing before the congregation the priest goes to aisle, facing pilgrims.

To Pilgrims:

My brothers and sisters, you have been preparing for this journey to the City of Saints Conference. In doing so, you have been participants in a journey or pilgrimage that can change your life. Bow your heads and receive God's blessing.

To Congregation: Please extend your right hand in blessing over these pilgrims.

All-powerful and merciful God,
you reign from your throne of service.
Help these, our sisters and brothers, to continue their
Pilgrimage as they journey from their homes.
Show them the way of service to each other and those they meet.
Help them understand and appreciate all they encounter.
Under your protection let them reach their destination
and come home at last, to a welcoming and loving community.
May God and His heavenly Saints remain constantly at your side
and guide your journey in ways that are pleasing to all.
May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Amen

Prayer & Litany for a Safe Journey

Lord, be our guide and our protector on the journey we are about to take. Watch over us. Protect us from accidents. Save us from danger. Keep us free from harm to body and soul.

Lord, support us with your grace when we are tired. Help us be patient in any trouble which may come our way.

I pray that I will safely reach my destination, and that returning safe and sound, I will find my family in good health.

Keep us always mindful of your presence and love. Blessed are you, Lord our God, you who hear our prayers. Amen

In all our travelling

ALL: May your footsteps guide us

In our journeying during the conference

ALL: May your footsteps guide us

Within our group

ALL: May your footsteps guide us

In our leisure time together

ALL: May your footsteps guide us

In difficult situations and conflict

ALL: May your footsteps guide us

As we stumble on the way

ALL: May your footsteps guide us

In the travelling of our faith

ALL: May your footsteps guide us

As we place our trust in you

ALL: May your footsteps guide us



In all our travelling, Lord, may it be your footsteps in which we place our feet.

In the name of God I go on this journey. May God the Father be with me, God the Son protect me, and God the Holy Spirit be by my side. *Amen.*

Journey Litany Prayer

God is the beginning and the end of our pilgrimage. Let us call on God with confidence, saying R. Lord, be our companion on our journey.

Father all-holy, of old you made yourself the guide and the way for your people as they wandered in the desert; be our protection as we begin this journey, so that we may return home again in safety. We pray to the Lord. R.

You have given us your only Son to be our way to you; make us follow him faithful and unswervingly. We pray to the Lord. R.

You gave us Mary as the image and model for following Christ; grant that through her example we may live a new life. We pray to the Lord. R.

You guide your pilgrim Church on earth through the Holy Spirit; may we seek you in all things and walk always in the way of your commandments. We pray to the Lord. R.

You lead us along right and peaceful paths; grant that we may find peace in our pilgrimage. We pray to the Lord. R.

For these and all the prayers we hold in our hearts we pray. R.

Prayer of Blessing

All-powerful God,

you always show mercy toward those who love you and you are never far away from those who seek you. Remain with your servants on this holy pilgrimage and guide their way in accord with your will. Shelter them with your protection by day, give them the light of your grace by night, and, as their companion on the journey, bring them to their destination in safety.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Concluding Rite

Leader: May the Lord guide us and direct our journey in safety.

All: Amen

Leader: May the Lord be your companion along the way.

All: Amen

Leader: May the Lord grant that the journey you begin, relying on him, will end happily through his protection.

All: Amen