

Regional Gathering - Saturday, January 11, 2025

## **BLESSING PRAYER**

**Gathering Song:** “The Best of Ourselves” by Monica Brown

Offering the best of ourselves, surrendering all that we are.  
Opening our hearts in faith and trust to the more we can become,  
through your grace, in your love, O most Sacred One.  
Through your grace, in your love, O Gracious God.

**Scripture:** Matthew Chs. 3 and 4

Jesus was led by the Spirit of God to a life of preaching and service, to the giving of himself in sacrifice. Jesus Christ sends that same Spirit upon everyone who is baptized in his name. For we have all gone down into the water of Christ and have all been anointed to bring Good News and be true disciples. We have all received his Spirit. This is not a Spirit of timidity or fear, but a bold Spirit of life, truth, joy and grace. With Jesus we undertake this journey, knowing that he is with us and his Spirit can never fail.  
The Word of God.

**Prayer of Blessing:**

Bless the members of our community with the **Spirit of Fidelity** that we may proclaim to all the vision which brought us into being.

Bless the members of our community with the **Spirit of Courage** that dares to search deep within, where the Spirit dwells and the fires of vision burn, so that we may never tire of seeking new ways to proclaim our collective call to discipleship.

Bless the members of our community with the **Spirit of Wisdom** that embraces leadership as a shared responsibility of service, that holds sacred our joint mission of fostering justice, freedom and human dignity.

Bless the members of our community with the **Spirit of Wholeness** that we may know it is in our sacred ministry together that we are found by the God we seek.

Bless the members of our community with the **Spirit of Prophecy** that challenged by the diversity in our midst, we may transcend our own limitations and fears, and finding God in one another, we may bear fruit that will last.

Bless us all with the **Spirit of Wonder and Awe** that we may enjoy the beauty of our future.

**Concluding Prayer:** Loving God, let your word enlighten our minds, liberate our spirits, and advise our hearts. Let this time together be a time of new energy. Bestow upon us your gifts of grace, insight and understanding. Help us realize that the fullness of service is achieved through the combined efforts and gifts of us all. United with your Song and Spirit, may we move together in bringing light, hope and joy to our world. Amen.